

16

ECW/CM.XXII/2

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LAGOS

SEPTEMBER, 1987

INTRODUCTION

By normal practice, reports on the activities of the Community start off with a review of developments in the world economy, the effects of these on the sub-region and suggestions on how to accommodate adverse changes or exploit any opportunities offered. Since the last annual report, which was presented to Council in July, 1987, the period has been too short for any significant changes to occur in the performance of the world economy.

For the West African countries, the international economic scene continued to be gloomy and the task of effecting a recovery of their economies remained a daunting one. Commodity prices have stayed depressed and the need for significant increases in net inflow of capital as well as debt relief continued to be felt. In this regard, the individual initiative over the past few months of some donor countries and financial institutions to alleviate the debt burden of some Member States and other African countries is a welcome development. It is important, however, that an organised and co-ordinated approach to the crushing problem of indebtedness is adopted by the Community (see below on this issue).

It is gratifying to note that the current activities being undertaken by the Community as part of the programme for the recovery of the West African economy coincide with the areas receiving world attention: agriculture, infrastructure, trade, energy etc... This should encourage us to strive even harder, to do everything necessary to fully take advantage of the priority being given to Africa's economic needs and to ensure that the efforts of the international community are well directed.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY, 1987 MEETINGS

The current Community Work Programme was affected to an extent by some of the decisions taken and directives issued by Council and the Authority during the July, 1987, Statutory Meetings. Therefore, since the last session of the Council of Ministers, the efforts of the institutions of the Community have been concentrated on carrying out these directives and such assignments under the regular programmes as had been initiated earlier on. In what follows below, an account is rendered of the progress made within the three months covered by this report.

Trade Liberalisation

During the July, 1987 meetings, Council expressed its dissatisfaction with the continued inability of the Community to make any progress with the implementation of the single trade liberalisation scheme for the sub-region. In conformity with the directives given at the end of the last Abuja meetings, the Executive Secretariat sent reminders to Member States, to expedite the establishment of national working groups to study problems related to the implementation of the liberalisation scheme. Member States have also been sent the relevant background documents on the trade liberalisation scheme to facilitate the task of the working groups. The Executive Secretariat is holding itself in readiness to organise a meeting of these national working groups to ensure proper co-ordination and consistency of their final reports. It is expected that this exercise will lead to proposals for eliminating problems hampering the trade liberalisation scheme, and the adoption of a new date for the effective take off of the scheme. The commitment and active participation of Member States in this review of the scheme cannot be overstated.

In line with the above directive, the Community was successful in convening the sixth tripartite meeting between the Secretariats of CEAO, ECOWAS and MRU in August in Lome. These co-ordination meetings, which had been interrupted since March, 1983, have provided the forum for examining the technical differences between the three trade liberalisation schemes and

../..

proposing possible solutions for adoption by the respective decision-making organs of these three West African integration groupings. While the meeting may be said to have further improved relations among these institutions, the overall results only confirmed the fact that the solution to problems of co-existence is not technical or administrative but essentially political. The report of the tripartite meeting is being submitted to the appropriate technical commission.

ASYCUDA Programme

Three different aspects of the ASYCUDA Programme received attention during the review period. A short course was organised in Freetown in July, 1987, to get Statistics and Customs officials of the English-speaking Member States acquainted with the ASYCUDA system. Because of the poor attendance, it is planned that another demonstration session will be organised in Lome during the June, 1988, statutory meetings for this group of countries which are a little behind the other Member States in the installation of the ASYCUDA System.

In response to complaints received from one of the Member States already operating the ASYCUDA System, and in conformity with the directive of Council on this issue, an evaluation team is now visiting these countries, namely Cape Verde, Mali, Mauritania and Togo. The team will also visit Côte d'Ivoire which has a modern computerised data collecting set-up different from ASYCUDA. The report of the evaluation team is expected to identify all the existing problems with the ASYCUDA Programme, propose solutions and also examine the means whereby this general ECOWAS system could be made compatible with other modern national systems. Meanwhile, a seminar on ASYCUDA was organised in Paris from 27 July to 2 August, 1987 by ECOWAS and UNCTAD.

Concerning the central Community Computer Centre at Lome, the recruitment procedure for employing four experts was started during the period. In addition, orders were placed for the purchase of some of the equipment needed by the Centre. It is gratifying to note also that the problem of getting adequate space for the Centre moved nearer to a satisfactory solution when the Togolese administration authorised the hiring of premises for the Centre.

Indirect Internal Taxation

A report was produced in 1984 on a study of the indirect internal taxes in force in Member States. This study was undertaken within the framework of the harmonisation of the systems of taxation within the sub-region. It has become necessary to revise and up date the report in order to put forward concrete proposals for harmonising these indirect internal taxes. So far, only one Member State has responded to the Secretariat's request, made since April, 1987, for the relevant information. Reminders are being sent to Member States, appealing for better co-operation.

In another related exercise, the Secretariat has appealed to Member States for guaranteeing goods in transit. There has been no response from any Member State since the request was made in April, 1987. The purpose of this project is to develop a harmonised guarantee mechanism for transit goods. This is a very necessary component of the principle of free movement of goods across national borders being pursued by the Community. It is hoped that the Secretariat will enjoy better co-operation from Member States in this and other areas.

ECOWAS Trade Forum

Preparations have been underway for the holding of a second ECOWAS Trade Forum in Ouagadougou at the beginning of 1988. The first was held in September, 1983, in Abidjan during which the proposal was made to organise such a forum every other year. The theme for the proposed Second Trade Forum is: "Development of Intra-Community Trade".

The Trade Forum is designed to bring together economic operators, government policy-makers and ECOWAS Officials for the exchange of information, discussion of major policy issues affecting intra-West African trade, and thinking out ways of increasing trade and general economic interaction within the sub-region. During the proposed Forum, there will be a presentation of various aspects of the Community's trade promotion programme, such as harmonisation of national trade fairs, packaging and labelling of products and identification of surplus exportable agricultural products.

Participation in UNCTAD VII

As indicated in my last Report to Council, ECOWAS had been participating in the various preparatory meetings organised by countries of the Third World, in anticipation of UNCTAD VII. These preparations culminated in the position paper adopted by the Group 77 at its April, 1987, meeting in Havana, which contained proposals of the Third World countries on the major items on the UNCTAD VII agenda. Deliberations at the Seventh Session in Geneva last July proved that UNCTAD continues to provide an appropriate forum for the international community to discuss and find solutions to the trade and development problems of the developing countries.

During the UNCTAD VII Session, the continuing economic difficulties of the Third World were reviewed against the overall trends in the global economy. Particular attention was given to the disturbing external debt situation in developing countries and the need for an increased inflow of financial resources to support their recovery and structural adjustment programmes. At the end of the Session, further progress had been made towards the implementation of the Common Fund for the Integrated Programme for Commodities, with the promise by a few more countries to ratify the agreement establishing the Fund. The case was strongly put for expediting the preparatory work towards the establishment of an additional compensatory financing facility - to compensate developing countries for their short fall(s) in commodity export earnings.

Development of Tourism

The first meeting in March, 1987, of West African Tourism Organisations was commented upon in my July, 1987, Report to Council. The results and proposals of that meeting have been submitted to Member States for their observations. A second meeting, scheduled for the end of this year, is under preparation and will consider the reactions of Member States and specific measures to be taken in the establishment of the Association of National Tourism Administrations. ECOWAS participated in the 16th African meeting of the World Tourism Organisation which was held in Algiers in June, 1987.

It would be recalled that a decision had been taken to create a Division of Tourism at the Executive Secretariat for the development and promotion of tourism in West Africa. Proposals are being submitted to the present session of Council through the Committee of Finance Experts, on the establishment of this Division.

Immigration Matters

The Community has entered the second year of the second phase of its Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, which deals with the Right of Residence. The Executive Secretariat continued to monitor the rate of implementation of the Protocol during the period. It was observed that the Code of Conduct, which was signed in July, 1985, and is designed to guide and facilitate the application of the Protocol has not been ratified by Member States. On the contrary, these various administrative and financial obstacles to the free movement of Community citizens within the sub-region identified in the previous reports, are still very much in evidence and constitute a source of harassment to the ordinary travelling citizen. It is obvious that the Community has to do more to get all the government officials involved to embrace the idea that West African citizens are to move freely and reside anywhere within the sub-region without let or hinderance.

One main factor that needs to be attended to during this Right of Residence phase of the Immigration Co-operation Programme is the harmonisation of the different national Residence Permits or Cards. A tour of Member States was conducted during the review period to collect the relevant information needed in the study of the subject. It is intended that examples in other regions will also be considered before finalising proposals for the adoption of a harmonised Residence Card. The results of this study will be presented to the appropriate technical commission before June, 1988.

Money and Payments

Since the Conakry decision in May, 1983, by the Authority of Heads of State and Government to create a single monetary zone in West Africa, a series of studies have been conducted on how to translate that decision into reality. The last Abuja statutory

meetings formed an essential part of this process since the Authority adopted the recommendations of the ECOWAS Ministers of Finance on a number of key issues examined in the Phase II Report of the monetary studies. During the review period, a start was made on the preparatory measures to be undertaken in the course of the five-year transitory period of the programme adopted by the Authority. In this regard, the details of the work programme for the 1987/88 period have been worked out. The search for funds needed for financing the programme was started in earnest; the contacts made include the IMF, World Bank, EEC and the CFTC. The process of establishing the Interim Co-ordination Committee of the programme has also been initiated, the draft work programme of the Committee has been elaborated.

Agricultural Programme

The Agricultural Development Programme adopted by the Community in 1986 includes the taking of an inventory of the agricultural and natural resource potential of the sub-region. This study has just been completed and is to be submitted to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission during the November, 1987, meetings. The Report on this study reviews the food and agricultural situation in the sub-region, outlining the characteristics of the different ecological zones before a survey of the food crop, livestock and fishery sub-sectors. Proposals are then made on possible ways of stepping up agricultural and food production, and developing the sector in general. It is expected that the adoption of these proposals will contribute to halting the decline of this vital sector and initiate the process of renewed growth and development.

A regular Community co-operation activity in the agricultural sector which recorded some progress is the development of Community centres for the production of improved seeds and cattle breeding stock. The consulting firm engaged earlier to produce feasibility studies on the selected centres already in operation completed the studies during the period under review. The draft reports have been deposited at the Executive Secretariat for review. The revised reports should soon be ready for despatch to Member States, in preparation for a consideration of the findings and recommendations by the appropriate technical commission. The procedure for engaging other West African consultants to undertake the feasibility studies on the remaining selected centres has been set in motion.

A major preoccupation of most Member States is the problem of deforestation and desert encroachment. The Community Afforestation Decade Programme that was adopted in 1983 is to help combat this menace. The programme calls for a review of progress every three years. Submissions of national progress reports have already been received from most Member States and it should be possible to hold a review meeting on national afforestation programmes at the end of this year, as scheduled. A summary report on the status of implementation is being prepared in readiness for the proposed meeting.

Sub-Regional Control of Water Hyacinth

The problem of the Water Hyacinth (EICHHORNIA GRASSIPES) as a weed invading and blocking water-ways in a number of Member States was brought to the attention of Council during the July, 1987, meetings at Abuja. The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat was given the mandate to assist in developing a coordinated approach to the control of the weed and to identify possible sources of funding. The necessary measures were taken during the review period to send a fact-finding mission to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria to gather information on the incidence of the water hyacinth in these Member States. On the basis of the data collected, the Secretariat will proceed to draw up a sub-regional co operation programme for the control of this weed.

Transport Programme

As indicated in previous reports, the Community's drive towards the development of a first class Trans-West African Highway linking all the capitals of Member States, is being thwarted by the lack of funds. In order to enhance the chances of obtaining external assistance, it has been decided to prepare a comprehensive document on what remains to be done on the two arteries (the Trans-Coastal: Lagos-Nouakchott and the Trans-Sahelian: Dakar-N'Djamena). This report, which would include engineering studies on the uncompleted sections, will be presented to potential donors for their consideration. Meanwhile, a search has been initiated for financial assistance in the preparation of the project report.

.../...

Related to the Highway Network programme is the creation of road corridors that would serve as inter-connecting links between the coastal and Sahelian highways and thus link the land locked Member States to the coast. This has been code-named the West African Transport Corridor Project and the Community is developing it in close collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). During the review period, a joint ECA/ECOWAS mission visited some Member States for a physical evaluation of the projects.

Since the transfer of the Higher Committee on Land Transport (CSTT) from the Entente Council to ECOWAS, the Secretariat convened its first meeting in April, 1987, in Lome. The Executive Secretariat has been working on integrating and transforming on-going CSTT projects into the Community transport co-operation programme. Some of the projects already under consideration are:

- the establishment of a West African Road Transport Unit;
- reactivation of the training of conductors;
- proper organisation of urban transport in all the big cities in Member States.

During the review period, discussions were held with the appropriate Division of the ECA Secretariat on the co-ordination of railway projects in West Africa. It is expected that, for the immediate future, attention will be focused on preparations towards the implementation of three railway links namely Togo-Burkina Faso-Niger-Mali Railway, Conakry-Kankan Railway (with possible extension to Bamako), and Tema-Akosombo Railway (as part of a proposed rail, lake and road link between Ghana and Burkina Faso). Contacts were maintained with the Vienna Institute for Development and the Indian Government in connection with the execution of the railway programme.

The Community had showed concern over the poorly developed nature of a coastal shipping service for the sub-region by commissioning a study to determine possible approaches to the problem. As a follow-up of the recommendation that the establishment of a coastal shipping line should be encouraged, the Community continued with its efforts to interest the private sector in the project. Meetings were held with the Ministerial Maritime Council for West and Central African countries and indigenous shipowners of the sub-region.

Concerning air transportation, steps are being taken towards the revision of the earlier studies that were undertaken to ensure the establishment of a more integrated sub-regional air transport service. The study is expected to come out with a number of options which will be presented to the chief executives of the major existing airlines in West Africa.

Communications Programme

Gradually and steadily, the Community has been implementing the projects identified under Phase A and B of the INTELCOM Programme which derives from the continental PANAFTEL programme and is for the establishment of a modern telecommunication network within the sub-region. It is expected that by the end of October, 1987, both phases would have been completed and the projects would be ready for commissioning. The projects involved are:

INTELCOM I

Phase A

Projects

1 - Microwave links

- i) Sikasso - Korhogo
- ii) Ouagadougou - Bolgatanga
- iii) Fada Ngourma - Porga
- iv) Sokoto - Birni N'Konni

2 - Telephone exchanges

- i) Exchange of Po
- ii) Exchange of Orodara
- iii) Exchange of Kayes

.../...

3 - Local line plants

- i) Po
- ii) Orodara
- iii) Bougouni

Phase B

Microwave links projects

- 1 - Kaolack - Banjul
Banjul - Ziguinchor
Ziguinchor - Cacheu
- 2 - Tabacounda - Kedougou
Kedougou - Mali (Guinea)

In addition to improving the physical facilities of the sector, the Community is involved in improving the technical competence of the personnel of national telecommunications departments. A study is under way to ascertain the training needs of Member States in this field and questionnaires have been sent out to elicit the relevant information. It is essential that all Member States submit their completed questionnaires to enable the Community design an appropriate training programme. An appeal is therefore being made to those Member States that have not as yet done so to despatch these completed questionnaires to the Secretariat as soon as practicable.

Another matter that calls for the immediate attention and co operation of Member States concerns the new telephone tariffs that have been proposed. Member States have been written to for their reaction to the new rates proposed by the special technical group for the Inter State telecommunications networks. Meanwhile, one more co-ordination meeting was organised in August jointly by the Secretariat and the Fund for Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo. These meetings are to determine problems confronting countries in the smooth operation of these inter-state links and to co-ordinate approaches for solving the problems and develop a common strategy for the maintenance of the links.

.../...

It is proposed to organise a seminar by the end of the year on the Technical and Commercial Management of Telecommunications Services. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is sponsoring the seminar which is expected to bring together the management personnel in the telecommunications administrations of Member States and to acquaint them with managerial techniques in their field.

ECOWAS Secretariat continued its consultations with ASECNA on the possibility of updating the report on a technical study conducted earlier on aeronautical navigation in the sub-region. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has indicated its interest in this project which will improve air safety in West Africa. Negotiations will continue with ASECNA, ICAO and the ECOWAS Fund on the method for updating the study and the mode of financing the project.

Energy Programme

Progress was recorded on two items under the Community Energy Co-operation Programme during the period under review. The first item concerns the Energy Data Bank for the sub-region which is based in Dakar. It has been decided that the project which started as a six-country pilot scheme, should be extended to all Member States. Preparations were made during the review period to enable the Project Co-ordinator to tour four of the six pilot Member States concerned.

The second item refers to the Energy Conservation Programme. The Programme involves an audit of electricity generating plants, the introduction of energy saving facilities and techniques, and the training of personnel in energy conservation. The national energy audit incorporated in the Programme has been completed in Niger and Sierra Leone. The results are being circulated for the information of the other interested agencies. It is hoped that two more Member States will be covered during the course of 1988.

Economic Recovery Programme

Following the official launching of the Economic Recovery Programme during the last Summit of the Authority of the Heads of State and Government's meeting in Abuja, the search for financing

the programme was accelerated with financial institutions and donor - both at the sub-regional level and abroad. The projects in the programme are drawn from short term priority programmes of Member States in such critical sectors as drought, desertification and soil erosion control, plant and animal protection, crop and livestock production, road and communications infrastructure rehabilitation, agro-industrial enterprises and energy resources.

The Institutions of the Community have since then been pursuing vigorously the tasks assigned to them. In the first place, those components of the Recovery Programme to be executed at the Community level are being incorporated into the regular work programmes of both the Secretariat and the Fund. The modalities for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Programme have been worked out and are being set in motion. With respect to the Investment Programme, the ECOWAS Fund is currently planning to undertake missions to Canada, Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia in search of the financial resources needed to implement the Investment Programme.

As I indicated in my address at the launching ceremony, the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme signifies the readiness of our Community to embark on the implementation of a set of agreed joint measures, translating into specific West African terms programmes adopted at the continental level.

Rationalisation of IGOs in West Africa

In my last report to Council, I did mention that the second report of the study prepared by ECOWAS and ECA on the rationalisation of co-operation efforts in West Africa has been completed and that the report was to be studied by a joint meeting of national experts from Member States and West African Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs). A meeting was organised in Niamey, from September 21 to 24 and the conclusions and recommendations are being transmitted to Council for its consideration.

.../...

Social and Cultural Programme

The Executive Secretariat participated in the second Conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Youth and Sports, which was held in Monrovia on 24 and 25 September, 1987. The Conference examined and approved a sports programme for the 1988-1989 period, designed to bring the youths of the sub-region together to compete in a series of sporting activities. The relationship between the Ministerial Conference and ECOWAS was reviewed and a draft decision is to be presented to Council for adoption. The bi annual contribution of ECOWAS to the running of the Conference also was highlighted during this second session of the Conference.

At the end of the meeting, a new Executive Committee of the Conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Youth and Sports was elected, made up as follows:

Chairman:	Liberia
1st Vice Chairman:	Côte d'Ivoire
2nd Vice Chairman:	Guinea
External Auditors	Mali and Ghana
Secretary General	Burkina Faso,

Construction of Headquarters of Community Institutions

It would be recalled that the foundation stone for the Headquarters of the Community was laid in July during the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Abuja. A contract between ECOWAS and the winning contractor: Société Générale d'Entreprises (Nig.) Ltd., has been signed and construction work is expected to begin in December this year. Work on the construction of the ECOWAS Fund Head office in Lome is proceeding on schedule.

It has to be repeated, however, that further progress on the building of the permanent offices of the two institutions would very much depend on the timely contribution by Member States of the 40% of the total construction cost, as decided by the Authority. The rate of contribution has been rather slow and Member States are once more requested to endeavour to honour this obligation without further delay.

.../...

Appointments

During the review period, the Head of the Energy Division at the Executive Secretariat, recruited from the Republic of Guinea, assumed duty. Similarly, an Ivorian was appointed as an Assistant Projects Officer into the Department of Studies and Projects of the ECOWAS Fund.

A number of other candidates to fill vacant posts have been interviewed and letters of appointment will be issued to successful candidates before the year runs out.

Review of Staff Scheme and Conditions of Service

Following directives issued by Council, the two Institutions of the Community have been re-drafting the Scheme of Service for the Professional Staff of the Community. In addition, a review of various aspects of the conditions of Service has been going on. During the period, officials of the Executive Secretariat and the ECOWAS Fund completed the drafting or re-formulation of the following:

- a) Scheme of Service for all Professional Posts in the Executive Secretariat and ECOWAS Fund
- b) Policy on Conversion Rates for Staff Salaries
- c) Alternative Accommodation Policy for Professional Staff
- d) Revision of Per Diem Rates for ECOWAS Official Missions
- e) Policy on Settlement of Utility Bills of Residences of Statutory Appointees.

Proposals on these issues are being submitted to Council, through the appropriate technical expert bodies, for consideration and approval.

Financial Matters

In accordance with an earlier Council directive, the Executive Secretariat and the ECOWAS Fund have studied the issue of assessment of Member States contributions to the budgets

.../...

and other financial resources of the Community. A set of proposals are being submitted to the Finance Experts for their consideration. It is expected that appropriate recommendations will be adopted at the end of the Finance Experts meeting for presentation to Council.

The financial situation of the Executive Secretariat has been relatively good, compared to past years. This is as a result of the response to the appeal made by the Authority of Heads of State and Government at the July, 1986, Summit in Abuja, and also because of the devaluation of the Nigerian currency. Many countries have effected payment, and because the naira has fallen in value against the Unit of Account, we made a gain, not only in the amounts received, but also in terms of cash flow.

If contributions continue to come in at the same rate as in the last twelve months, the Secretariat may be able to place considerable sums of money in fixed deposit accounts, and later even envisage the possibility of reducing Member States contributions by drawing on its own reserve funds.

While we rejoice over this exceptionally good cash flow situation however, we must draw the attention of Council to the very high level of arrears of contributions. Contributions due from Member States on 31st August, 1987, amount to 13,279,819.24 UA, in other words, two and a half times the 1987 budget. The overall situation of these arrears is as follows:

- 1 State owes contributions for 1978, 1979, 1980
- 3 States owe contributions for 1981
- 3 " " " 1982
- 5 " " " 1983
- 5 " " " 1984
- 9 " " " 1985
- 13 " " " 1986
- 15 " " " 1987

This is not very satisfactory if the Community is to enjoy credibility in the outside world and operate normally

.../...

by implementing its work programme. The situation must be reversed. This is why we are appealing to all Member States to pay up their financial contributions regularly.

CHAPTER III

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1988

The coming year will be devoted to the implementation of the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme and programmes in selected priority areas. The emphasis will be on the consolidation of the Community and improvement of the effectiveness of economic co-operation in the sub-region. Mention should be made in this connection of the programmes adopted by the Community in the rural sector, transport, monetary co-operation and trade liberalisation. A start will also be made on the implementation of those proposals that Council will adopt concerning the rationalisation of economic co operation arrangements within the sub-region.

The Community Work Programme for 1988 is presented in detail along with the Executive Secretariat's budget proposals for 1988. What follows below are only the highlights of the Work Programme.

Economic Recovery Programme

The programme has been adopted and steps have been taken already to initiate its execution over the short term period of 3 years, as stipulated by the decision-making bodies of the Community. During the first full year of the Recovery Programme, particular attention will be paid to the implementation of general measures and the execution of the investment programme.

i) General policy measures : monitoring of policy reforms - organisation of a seminar on management of the sub-regional economy and assessment of anticipated results; organisation of meeting on external debt of Member States (issues of debt management, debt relief, strategy for negotiating new loans and external assistance...)

ii) Investment Programme: continuation of search for project sponsorship. Follow-up of financing negotiations between Member States and sponsors. Monitoring of execution of projects.

.../...

SECTORAL PROGRAMMES

Given the meagre resources of the Community, the level of priority accorded certain sectors is of great importance, as a judicious choice of activities to be undertaken would make for greater effectiveness. The following activities are envisaged for 1988:

Rural Development Programme

The activities proposed in this sector focus on increased agricultural production, total integration of agricultural, forestry, livestock breeding and fishery issues in rural development, and involvement of the rural areas in order to mobilise the people.

The following activities are envisaged:

i) Search for Financing of Selected Seed Production Centres and Cattle Breeding Centres

ii) Harnessing of Water and Agricultural Resources

installation and rehabilitation of village irrigation projects, construction of small dams for storage of running water.

iii) Support services for the development of food crops:

intensified control of insects, diseases and other pests, in collaboration with other sub-regional organisations (CILSS, OICMA). Promote co-operation in supply of agricultural inputs (improved cattle breeding stock, seeds, fertilizers). Establishment of sub-regional seed Committee and organisation of meeting of Agricultural Price Sub-Committee.

iv) Development of Livestock:

assess and promote programmes for construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure for water supply and grazing schemes : wells, bore-holes, drinking troughs, livestock pens, improvement of animal feed.

v) Harnessing of Fish Resources:

promotion of cottage fishing industry.

vi) Control of Water Hyacinth

.../...

Industrial Programme

The main activities in this area are aimed at the implementation of recommendations on the rehabilitation of existing industrial units and promotion of small and medium-scale industries as part of the Economic Recovery Programme.

The following activities are envisaged:

- i) Completion and follow-up of Industrial Inventory of the sub-region;
- ii) Finalisation of Master Plan for West African industrialisation;
- iii) Formulation of Industrial Training Programme - study on possibilities for co operation in industrial training;
- iv) Holding of next Dakar Industrial Forum.

Customs Programme

The activities to be undertaken will concentrate mainly on the implementation of the trade liberalisation scheme. They include:

- i) identification of obstacles facing Member States in the implementation of single trade liberalisation programme; proposals for effective take-off of scheme.
- ii) enlightenment campaign aimed at the effective implementation of Acts and Decisions establishing customs and statistical instruments of the Community and those relating to the intra-Community trade liberalisation programme.
- iii) study on legislation, rules and regulations in force in Member States with a view to the establishment of a Community guarantee system to cover inter-State road transit of goods.
- iv) continuation and development of the ASYCUDA System: automatic processing of customs and statistical data.
- v) revision of study on Indirect Internal Taxation Systems of Member States; proposals for harmonisation of Indirect Internal taxes.

../..

Trade Programme

- i) comprehensive study on potential for expansion of sub-regional trade in principal agricultural and industrial products;
- ii) Trade Information Service: collection, compilation and dissemination of information on West African marketable products;
- iii) continuation of programme for development and promotion of trade in traditional handicrafts;
- iv) harmonisation of the programming of trade fairs and similar events in West Africa;
- v) studies into obstacles affecting trade expansion and export financing.

Immigration Programme

- i) continuation of information and public enlightenment schemes in Member States, with a view to improved dissemination and correct implementation of the various provisions of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and of Establishment;
- ii) harmonisation of Residence Permits and Cards;
- iii) monitoring implementation of Second Phase of Protocol and Code of Conduct.

Money and Payments

Follow up and supervision of the various tasks identified under the adopted programme for the transition period towards the establishment of the single monetary zone. The main features of the activities for the year will be:

- i) establishment of Interim Co-ordination Committee;
- ii) monitoring implementation of country adjustment programmes.

Transport and Communications Programme

Action areas for the year 1988 in the Transport and Communications sector will be focused on the continuation of activities in Community Telecommunications projects and the construction of the Trans West African Highway Network.

Roads: The main activities here will be the follow-up to the technical and engineering studies on the remaining sections of the West African Highway network (Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Burkina Faso and Mali); preparation of documents to be submitted to potential donors.

Railways: Continuation of preparatory work aimed at identifying sources of funding for technical studies on agreed railway links in the sub-region.

Communications: The Community Telecommunications Programme is to be continued. This consists of:

i) improvement of existing inter-state links: study on viability for the improvement of existing links in order to increase reliability of services;

ii) improvement of aeronautical telecommunications network in the sub-region: preparation of technical documents for presentation to donors for financing of project;

iii) elaboration of training programmes for technicians and engineers of the sub-region in collaboration with Directors of Training Institutes and National Telecommunications authorities.

Energy Programme

The energy programme will continue to place emphasis on optimising the use of existing resources and installed capacity as well as developing new sources, especially in renewable forms of energy. Some of the elements of the Programme will be:

i) co operation in development and distribution of petroleum and natural gas;

ii) continuation of energy data bank and energy conservation/efficiency audit schemes;

iii) promotion of inter-connection of electric power grids of ECOWAS Member States; and

iv) co-operation in solar energy.

.../...

Social and Cultural Programme

- i) monitor and assist with merger of OCCGE and WAHC;
- ii) formulation of a Community Social Co-operation programme (covering labour, health and other areas);
- iii) continuation with Public Enlightenment Programme - establishment of Cultural Information Service;
- iv) creation of Association of West African Universities and Research Institutes;
- v) promotion of establishment of cultural industries.

Administrative and Institutional Issues

Action in the administrative and institutional areas will focus on the following main themes:

i) Rationalisation of co-operation efforts in West Africa

Follow up of the implementation of recommendations on the transitional period: initiate re-structuring of ECOWAS institutions; co-ordination of the modifications to the legal, administrative, financial bases as well as programmes of existing IGOs designated as specialised ECOWAS Agencies.

ii) Construction of Headquarters of Institutions of the Community

Construction work will be continued. Ensuring payment of Member States' contribution to the building of the headquarters.

iii) Monitoring Ratification and Implementation of Community Acts and Decisions.

C O N C L U S I O N

The November sessions of Council are traditionally devoted to the finances of the institutions of the Community. It is normal to assess the relevance of an action before committing more funds to such an endeavour. Since only a short time separates the last activity report and this one, there has not been much new development to report. However, it is possible and indeed appropriate to recall the significance of some of the programmes and concerns of the Community over the past twelve months.

The institutions of the Community presented to the November, 1986, session of Council details of an ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme for West Africa. It was also at that session that the framework for a regional industrialisation programme was adopted. The Community decided on the modalities for the establishment of a single monetary zone during the July, 1987, statutory meetings in Abuja. The ECOWAS Authority deplored the lack of progress towards the liberalisation of intra-Community trade and made a strong call for a serious examination of the factors leading to the stalling which is being experienced. Actions are to be taken both by the Executive Secretariat and Member States to find solutions. Another weighty issue countries of the sub-region have to contend with is the multiplicity of inter-governmental organisations and the maximisation of the contribution of sub-regional co operation to economic development. The issue has been looked at again in 1987 and Council will have to consider specific recommendations being made pertaining to the rationalisation of institutional arrangements for West African integration.

The foregoing reveals some of the serious matters that the Community has had to deal with and which are still pending. The past few years have been difficult times for the Member States and partly explain the slowness of progress being made by the Community. It may also be seen that some of the above issues are at the bottom of the ineffectiveness of economic co-operation in the sub-region. At a meeting such as the November Budget Session Council, where Member States are being called upon to make part of their meagre national resources available for running sub-regional co-operation programmes, it would be instructive to reflect on the support that has been given the Community in other areas to ensure effective sub-regional integration.

The real test of our commitment to sub-regional co-operation, to collective self-reliance and our belief in West African integration is on. This text is translated into the adoption and implementation of far reaching policy measures such as cited above. The Community Work Programme for 1988 - and the years which immediately follow that - will carry items such as a sub-regional recovery programme, the establishment of a common monetary zone, the creation of a free trade area (complete liberalisation of intra-Community trade) and the rationalisation of West African IGOs.

Voting money to support Community programmes, and making such money available to the Institutions, is important in itself. Of greater consequence, I venture to add, is believing in the objectives and programmes of the Community and doing everything possible to remove all subtle obstacles in the way of the Community. We need a functional ECOWAS to enhance the development prospects of Member States and I appeal to Council to strive to implement all the decisions that have been taken for the economic and social progress of our sub-region.