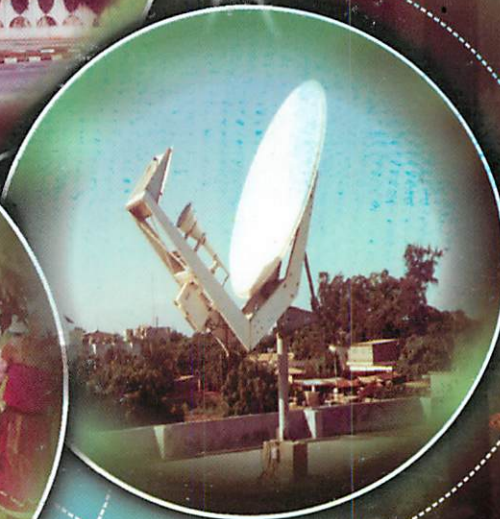




ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

ECOWAS

INFORMATION BROCHURE



Edition 2002

INFORMATION BROCHURE

INTRODUCTION

ECOWAS is the Economic Community of West African States. ECOWAS was established on 28th May, 1975, in Lagos, Nigeria. ECOWAS is composed of the following is West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinee, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. ECOWAS headquarters is in Abuja, Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES

To promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to ensure economic growth, foster relations among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent.

ECOWAS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- equality and interdependence of Member States
- inter-state co-operation
- solidarity and collective self-reliance
- harmonisation of policies and integration programmes
- Non-aggression between Member States



The Bank For West Africa



THE COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE

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- maintenance of regional peace, stability and security
- peaceful settlement of disputes
- respect, promotion and protection of human rights
- promotion and consolidation of democracy
- Accountability, economic and social justice.



■ ECOWAS BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

INSTITUTIONS

- the Authority of Heads of State and Government,
- the Council of Ministers,
- the Executive Secretariat,
- the Community Parliament,
- the Community Court of Justice
- the Economic and Social Council (to be established),
- ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID),
- ECOWAS Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
- ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank (ERIB),
- West African Monetary Agency (WAMA),
- West African Monetary Institute (WAMI),
- West African Health Organisation (WAHO),
- The Specialised Technical Commissions.



The Community
Parliament in Session

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Trade, Immigration and Customs

Creation of a Free Trade Area

- elimination of customs duties and taxes of equivalent effect on goods and approved products
- removal of non-tariff barriers on trade of goods within Member States
- harmonisation of trade liberalisation scheme between ECOWAS and UEMOA
- establishment of the Automated Systems of Customs Data (ASYCUDA)
- implementation of Community Levy

Trade Promotion

- organisation of two ECOWAS Trade Fairs (1995 and 1999)
- creation of Trade Opportunities Management Systems (TOPS)

Free Movement of Persons

- abolition of visa
- right of residence and establishment
- removal of road blocks and security check points
- introduction of ECOWAS Passport
- harmonisation of Customs documents, regulations and formalities



HOTEL INFRASTRUCTURES
FOR TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT



FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND GOODS

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ROAD NETWORK FOR A SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION

Tourism

- Development of hotel classification system for West Africa

Monetary and Financial Matters

- harmonisation of economic and fiscal policies
- facilitation and liberalisation of payments
- circulation of ECOWAS Travellers' Cheque
- establishment of ECOBANK
- establishment of the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)

Transport

- establishment of ECOMARINE
- construction of the trans-coastal (from Lagos to Nouakchott) and of the trans - sahelian highways (from Dakar to N'Djamena), a total of 9000 km of road and 11000 km interconnecting roads to open up land-locked countries
- establishment of ECOWAS Brown Card insurance scheme
- Standardisation of transport legislation in Member States



PROMOTING TRADE

ECOWAS

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Agriculture

- establishment of seed production centres in nine Member States
- establishment of eight cattle breeding centres in three Member States
- control of animal diseases
- publication of "Pesticides Bulletin" on the use of risk-free pesticides
- Introduction of ECOWAS Transhumance Certificate



■ A SEED PRODUCTION CENTRE

Industry

- ECOWAS Industrial Master Plan
- 64 projects at the Investors' Forum, now being implemented

Energy

- Master Plan for development of the means of energy production and interconnection of electricity grids
- adoption of an Energy Charter Treaty

Environment

- ban on movement and deposit of toxic wastes within ECOWAS Member States
- control of the spread of floating weeds



■ INTERCONNECTION OF
ELECTRICITY GRIDS



FRUITS FOR
EXPORT

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Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Affairs

- award of two ECOWAS Prizes of Excellence in African Pharmacopeia (1997) and Literature (1999)
- creation of the Forum of Associations Recognised by ECOWAS (FARE)
- creation of socio-professional organisations (women, youth, journalists, sports, economic operators, etc.)
- institutionalisation of the ECOWAS African Wrestling Tournament

Health and Drug Control

- creation of a single West African Health Organisation (WAHO)
- adoption of harmonised laws on drug control
- establishment of ECODRUG Fund

Gender issues

- creation of the West African Women's Association
- adoption of an ECOWAS Gender Policy

Education

- establishment of the Decade of Education in West Africa (DEWA)
- Adoption of the ECOWAS Protocol on Education and training



FINISHED PRODUCTS
OF INDUSTRIES
IN THE SUB-REGION



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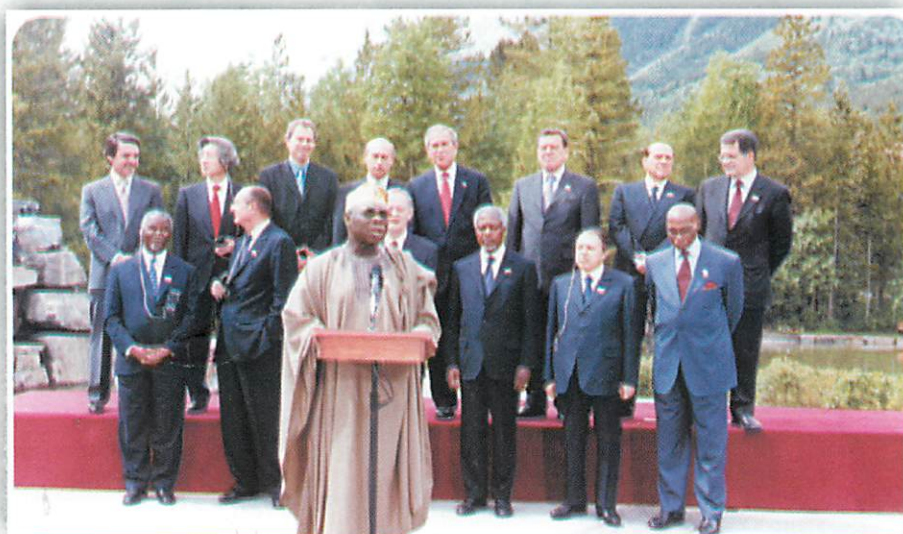
■ INTELCOM 1 PROGRAMME
TO LINK PEOPLE AND
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

*Telecommunications

- connection of West African capitals by automatic telephone, telex and telefax links through the Intelcom I Programme
- creation of the Lomé Telecommunications Centre

*Peacekeeping and Good Governance

- adoption of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, Peace and Security
- adoption of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance



■ ECOWAS AND THE ACTUALISATION OF NEPAD

WAS



Preserving Regional
Peace For Total
Integration

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- creation of a West African peacekeeping force called ECOMOG
end of eight-year civil war and organisation of democratic elections
in 1997 in Liberia
- restoration of peace and security in Sierra Leone
- contribution to the return of peace in Guinea Bissau
- declaration of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and
Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa
- destruction of weapons in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali,
Niger and Nigeria.
 - mutual assistance in criminal matters
- adoption of the Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption

Fight Against Crime

- establishment of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against
Money Laundering (GIABA) in Dakar



ARMED FORCES CHIEFS WORKING FOR PEACE



NO TO CRIME

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PROSPECTS

- institutionalising of ECOFEST (ECOWAS Festival of Arts and Culture)
- interconnection of railway lines
- harmonisation of ECOWAS maritime regulations
- harmonisation of telecommunications policies and establishment of regional regulatory body
- establishment of a common regional liberalised telecommunications market
- implementation of Intelcom II Programme: digitalisation of inter-state link using new technologies and provision of new services
- energy distribution via the West African Power Pool
- construction of a gas pipeline
- creation of a borderless zone
- creation of a single monetary zone
- harmonisation of economic and financial policies
- harmonisation of the on value-added tax
- harmonisation of commercial laws
- rationalisation of IGOs
- extradition



A Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution



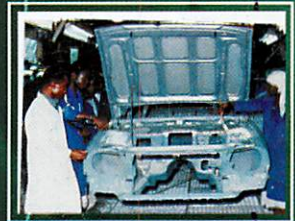
■ GAS PIPELINE PROJECT FOR WEST AFRICA (GAZODUC)

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- adoption of ECOWAS Convention on the Recognition of Equivalence Degrees, Certificates and Other Qualifications
- introduction of a single tourist visa
- establishment of observatories on bad practices along West African corridors
- construction of joint border posts
- creation of an ECOWAS Radio/Television

CHALLENGES

- consolidation of democracy and reinforcement of good governance
- consolidation of regional peace and security
- sustainable economic development
- eradication of poverty
- greater involvement of the private sector in integration activities
- Greater involvement of civil society and women in integration programmes
- industrialisation of the region
- protection of the environment
- ensuring of food security in the sub-region.



Towards The Industrialisation
Of The Sub-Region



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FAIR**

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**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
60, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria
P. M. B. 401, Abuja, Nigeria.
Tel: (234-9) 3147647 - 4137649, 3147427 - 3147429
Fax: (234-9) 3147646 and 3147662
E-mail: info@ecowasmail.net Web site: www.cedeao.org**