

**DECISION A/DEC. 14/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL POLICY
ON TELECOMMUNICATION AND THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL GSM
ROAMING IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 33 (2) (a) of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides that Member States shall develop, modernize, coordinate and standardize their national telecommunications network in order to provide reliable interconnection among Member States;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.2/12/99 on the improvement of telecommunications connectivity in ECOWAS Member States;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection between ECOWAS States using modern telecommunications systems is a prerequisite for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 21/5/80 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government establishing the special fund for telecommunications to accelerate development of telecommunication infrastructure in the sub-region;

CONSIDERING the Political will of Member States to create a single and harmonised market for telecommunications in the sub-region for the promotion of integration and economic development in the sub-region;

TAKING NOTE of the studies carried out on the harmonisation of telecommunications in the sub region and the options chosen at the fifth meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers in Lome of harmonisation model of a centralised policy with individual national implementation mechanisms;

NOTING the increasing expansion of GSM networks to improve access to telecommunication facilities in the sub region;

NOTING that GSM at the sub regional level is both technically and financially viable, and also serves as a tool for integration in the sub region;

DESIRING to develop Regional GSM Roaming and Cross-border connectivity in the sub-region;

DESIRING also for the adoption of a Regional Telecommunications Policy;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers, held in Accra from 16th to 18th January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

A harmonised model for a centralised Regional Policy on Telecommunications with individual national implementation mechanisms is hereby adopted.

ARTICLE 2

Member States through the established ECOWAS technical group on GSM roaming, shall equally work towards the achievement of GSM roaming in WestAfrica.

ARTICLE 3

The Executive Secretariat shall take necessary measures to:-

- i support the work of the technical group by providing a platform for their meetings, and
- ii. promote cooperation between mobile operators towards setting up Roaming agreements.

ARTICLE 4

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time-frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2005


H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY