**COMISSAO DA CEDEAO**



**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY** **COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

**OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**

**NINETY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Abuja, 13 December 2024

**REGULATION** **C/REG.** **3/12/24 ON** **ECOWAS Digital Sector Development Strategy**

**THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,**

**MINDFUL** of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

**MINDFUL** of Articles 27, 32 and 33 of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, on science and technology, and communication and telecommunications;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.1/01/07 on the harmonization of policies and regulatory framework of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.2/01/07 on access and interconnection of networks and services in the ICT sector;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.3/01/07 on the legal regime applicable to network operators and service providers;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.1/01/10 on Personal Data Protection within ECOWAS;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.2/01/10 on Electronic Transactions within ECOWAS;

**MINDFUL** of Directive C/DIR.1 /08/11 on Fighting Cybercrime within ECOWAS;

**MINDFUL** of the Revised Supplementary Act A/SA.1/12/17 on universal access and universal service;

**MINDFUL** of the Directive C/DIR.1/01/2021 Relating to the adoption of the Regional Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Strategy;

**MINDFUL** of the Directive C/DIR.2/01/2021 adopting the Regional Policy for Critical

Infrastructure Protection in ECOWAS;

**CONSIDERING** the need to promote a vibrant digital ecosystem by lowering the cost and expanding the access of connectivity, services, and applications, and guaranteeing their universal accessibility, interoperability, quality and security;

**CONSIDERING** **ALSO** the need to foster an inclusive society and economy, that bridges the digital divide in telecommunications/ICT usage and provide equal access and opportunities for everyone, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, age or abilities.

**CONSIDERING THEREFORE** that ECOWAS will actively promote and enable digital transformation across various aspects by rethinking ICT infrastructures to enhance their ~~make them more~~ resilience to climate change~~, advance scientific exploration, sustainable utilization of Earth and space resources~~, and ensure these benefits are accessible to all;

**RECOGNIZING**the need to ensure the effective implementation of priority ICT projects in the next five years to contribute to the creation of an open and competitive common market for the sector and transform the ECOWAS region into an active player in the Global Information Society;

**EMPHASIZING**, the need to position ICTs as a driving force for economic growth and inclusion, pursuing efforts to build a single digital market for a future of shared and sustainable prosperity in ECOWAS region.

**DESIROUS** of adopting ECOWAS Digital Sector Development Strategy 2024-2029

**ON THE RECOMMENDATION** of the 19th Meeting of Ministers in charge of Telecommunications, ICT and Digitalisation of ECOWAS Member States held in Cotonou, from 2-4 October 2024;

**UPON THE OPINION** of the ECOWAS Parliament at its Second Ordinary Session held in Abuja from the …... …………... 2024.

**ENACTS:**

**ARTICLE 1: ECOWAS DIGITAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2024-2029**

TheECOWAS Digital Sector Development Strategy 2024-2029 attached as an annex is hereby adopted.

**ARTICLE 2: PUBLICATION**

1. This **REGULATION C/REG. 3/12/24** shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Commission within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.
2. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within same time frame.

**ARTICLE 5: ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This **REGULATION C/REG. 3/12/24** shall enter into force upon its Publication.

# DONE IN ABUJA, THIS 13TH OF DECEMBER 2024

**………………………………………**

**H. E. AMB. YUSUF MAITAMA TUGGAR (OON)**

**FOR THE COUNCIL**

**THE CHAIRPERSON**