



## SIXTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, 22 June 2025

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### FINAL COMMUNIQUE

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1. The Sixty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held on 22 June 2025 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, under the chairmanship of H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chair of the Authority.

2. Present at the Summit were the following Heads of State and Government or their duly mandated representatives:

H.E. **Patrice Talon**, President of the Republic of Benin

H.E. **Adama Barrow**, President of the Republic of The Gambia

H.E. **John Dramani Mahama**, President of the Republic of Ghana

H.E. General **Umaro Sissoco Embaló**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau

H.E. **Joseph Boakai**, President of the Republic of Liberia

H.E. **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E. **Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye**, President of the Republic of Senegal

H.E. **Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

H.E. **Leon Kacou Adom**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Ivorians Abroad of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

H.E. **Robert Dussey**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and

Togolese Abroad of the Togolese Republic

H.E **Belarmino Monteiro Silva**, Ambassador of the Republic of Cabo Verde to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Permanent Representative to ECOWAS

3. The session was also attended by:

H.E. **Omar Alieu Touray**, President of ECOWAS Commission

H.E. **Leonardo Santos Simão**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

H.E. **Bankole Adeoye**, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission

H.E. **Gado Mahamadou**, Commissioner in charge of Economic Policy and Internal Taxation of the UEMOA Commission

H.E. **Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, Chairperson of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme Taskforce

H.E. **Baba Kamara**, ECOWAS Special Envoy on Counterterrorism

4. The Authority takes note of the 2025 Interim Report on the state of the Community, the reports of the 54<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, and the 94<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

5. The Authority also takes note of the Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the ECOWAS Convergence Council, the report of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS) Task Force, the Report on the Transition in the Republic of Guinea and the report on engagements with the AES countries.

## **ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMMES**

### **On Economic Performance**

6. The Authority welcomes the encouraging economic prospects within ECOWAS and urges Member States to:

- a. Intensify domestic resource mobilisation and improve the efficiency of public spending in order to limit budget deficits and,

consequently, the use of debt;

- b. Maintain credible monetary policies to control inflation,
- c. Encourage private sector development through the implementation of structural reforms and investment in human capital and infrastructure; and
- d. Strengthen the Community's resilience to exogenous shocks, and promote inclusive and sustainable growth through deeper regional integration and economic policy coordination.

### **On monetary integration**

7. The Authority takes note of the ECOWAS Convergence Council decisions on the harmonisation of public finance frameworks and on the macroeconomic Multi-Year Convergence Programs (MCPs).

8. The Authority urges Member States to take the necessary measures to develop and submit to the Commission their MCP for the 2026-2030 period by 31 October 2025 and directs the Commission to provide an update at its ordinary session in December 2025.

9. The Authority also takes note of the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the regulatory texts within the framework of the harmonisation of statistical methods and practices within ECOWAS and urges Member States to expedite the full implementation of the regulation.

### **On Free Movement of Persons and Goods**

10. The Authority commends the efforts of the Chairperson of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme Task Force (ETLS) in his advocacy missions to Member States. However, the Authority deplores the persistence of numerous tariff and non-tariff barriers and directs for their total elimination along the Community's road corridors.

11. In order to improve the free movement of goods within the Community, the Authority calls for the full operationalisation of the Interconnected System for the Management of Goods in Transit (SIGMAT) across the region and instructs the Commission to support the Member States in implementing this recommendation.

12. The Authority commends the adoption of the ECOWAS Trade and

Investment Promotion Strategy and urges Member States to support its full implementation. Furthermore, the Authority calls upon the Commission to support Member States in the implementation of the Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area.

### **On Energy and electricity**

13. The Authority recalls the vision of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), and notes with deep concern the reported financial challenges being faced by WAPP primarily as a result of the non-payment of contributions by Member Power Utilities in ECOWAS Member States.

14. The Authority, therefore, endorses Council's recommendations and directed the Ministers in charge of Energy of Member States to urgently ensure that Power Utility Members in their respective countries urgently pay their arrears to WAPP. Furthermore, the Authority directs the ECOWAS Commission to work with the Management of WAPP and Member States to address the issue in a sustainable manner.

### **On ECOWAS Negotiation Mandate regarding the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from ECOWAS.**

15. The Authority endorses the recommendation of the Extraordinary Session of Council with respect to the appointment of a Chief Negotiator to lead the discussions with **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger** with a view to ensuring an orderly withdrawal process, safeguarding institutional and citizen interests, and minimising regional market disruption.

16. The Chief Negotiator will be assisted by a Ministerial Troika and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, along with a technical team and will work in line with the ECOWAS Negotiation Mandate.

### **ON DEMOCRACY, PEACE and SECURITY**

17. The Authority notes with satisfaction the continued adherence of Member States to Community values and principles on Democracy, Good Governance, and Dialogue, as demonstrated by the continuous conduct of inclusive, peaceful and credible constitutional, electoral and dialogue processes.

18. The Authority notes the ongoing processes to hold elections in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, and to complete the transition process in Guinea

by the end of the year. The Authority welcomes the efforts on the transition plan in Guinea, with a Referendum on the Draft Constitution scheduled for 21 September 2025 and the conduct of presidential and legislative elections by the end of the year. It further recognises the consultations among political stakeholders in Guinea Bissau towards agreeing on the framework for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 23 November 2025.

19. The Authority welcomes the progress made by stakeholders in Liberia in resolving the Speakership position of the House of Representatives. The Authority also commends the commitment of the parties in Sierra Leone to the full implementation of the Agreement for National Unity brokered by ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations, and the report of the Tripartite Committee on electoral systems and management bodies review. It encourages the three Moral Guarantors to continue monitoring progress in these confidence-building initiatives, in close collaboration with the country's Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC).

20. The Authority notes with concern the continued challenges to security and stability in the region, fuelled by the activities of Terrorist Armed Groups (TAGs) and Violent Extremists, as well as Intercommunal Violence, Transnational Organised Crime and Banditry. It condemns the recent terrorist attacks in Benin and Togo, as well as the continued threat to coastal countries.

21. The Authority commends the Commission for the support to Member States conducting elections in conformity with the relevant provisions of the 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. It directs the Commission to continue the support to ensure inclusive, credible and peaceful processes.

22. **On Côte d'Ivoire**, the Authority encourages the Ivorian authorities to ensure that the processes leading to the October 2025 Presidential election are transparent, credible, and peaceful in order to deepen democratic culture and stability in the country, in accordance with the laws of the country. In this regard, the Authority urges the Ivorian authorities and all stakeholders to preserve peace and stability of the country before, during, and after the elections through dialogue. To this end, the Authority directs the President of the Commission to expedite the deployment of a pre-electoral fact-finding mission to the country to ascertain the level of preparedness for the polls, as

well as further support needed to ensure a seamless process.

23. **On Ghana**, the Authority congratulates H.E. John Dramani Mahama on his investiture on 7 January 2025, as President of the Republic, following his victory in the December 2024 general elections. The Authority lauds Ghana on its maturing democracy and urges stakeholders in the country to continue to support efforts to further consolidate the democratic space, revamp the economy and expand the frontiers of inclusive governance to further strengthen the country's enviable democratic traditions and stability.

24. **On Guinea**, the Authority notes the new transition timelines set by the Guinean authorities for the return to Constitutional Order by the end of 2025. The Authority urges the authorities in Guinea to expedite the establishment of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee with ECOWAS to facilitate the implementation of the transition roadmap, including the preparation and submission of the financial and technical requirements to facilitate resource mobilisation. In this regard, the Authority directs the President of the Commission to urgently deploy a High-Level Political Mission to engage the Guinean stakeholders on all the political and organisational aspects of the transition, including the official dates for the presidential and legislative elections and the inclusivity of the process.

25. **On Guinea-Bissau**, the Authority takes note of the broad consensus on the date of 23 November 2025 for the conduct of both presidential and legislative elections as provided for in a Presidential Decree. The Authority urges the Bissau-Guinean authorities to maintain the date of the presidential and legislative elections provided for in the Presidential Decree and urges the government and all other stakeholders to create a conducive environment for a peaceful, credible, and inclusive process, respectful of all rights enshrined in the Constitution of Guinea Bissau. In this regard, the Authority directs the President of the Commission to remain engaged with all stakeholders in Guinea Bissau, in order to facilitate confidence and consensus building and to determine resource gap.

26. **On Liberia**, the Authority takes note of the resolution of the impasse in the House of Representatives and urges the Government and stakeholders to continue to deepen constitutional democracy through consensus-building and respect for the rule of law, and to ensure the strict maintenance of peace and stability to allow for its socio-economic development. The Authority



further urges the Government of Liberia to manage the lingering political tensions in a manner that ensures maximum social cohesion, whilst safeguarding adherence to the rule of law and respect for individual human rights. In this regard, the Authority directs the Commission to continue to accompany Liberia in forging consensus on measures to deepen democratic culture and good governance.

27. The Authority congratulates the Republic of Liberia on its election as a non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2026–2027.

28. **On Sierra Leone and Guinea Territorial Dispute**, the Authority takes note of the border dispute between Sierra Leone and Guinea as reported by the Commission to the Mediation and Security Council. The Authority calls for de-escalation of tension through dialogue and demilitarisation of the territory. The Authority urges the two Member States to use the Community conflict resolution mechanisms as a matter of urgency in order to settle the dispute peacefully. The Authority further directs the Commission to urgently deploy an assessment mission to the two Member States to ascertain the situation and to recommend measures for a peaceful resolution of the dispute. The Authority also commends the efforts deployed by H.E. General Umaro Sissoko Embalo, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau aimed at resolving the dispute between the two sisterly countries. The Authority encourages General Embalo to continue the facilitation.

29. Regarding the **Alliance des États du Sahel (AES)**, the Authority commends the exemplary diplomatic engagements of H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Council of the Togolese Republic and H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal and the vital diplomatic efforts of the Chairman of Authority, H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and H.E. John Dramani Mahama, in bridging differences between ECOWAS and the Member States of AES. The Authority also welcomes the outcome of the engagement by the President of the Commission with the Foreign Ministers of the three countries on modalities for ensuring a smooth separation while safeguarding the gains of regional integration in the interest of the people of the region.

### **On the fight against terrorism and other security threats**

30. The Authority strongly condemns the terrorist attacks in the region and

reaffirms its commitment to eradicating terrorist menace within the ECOWAS space. The Authority commends the continuous efforts by Member States in tackling insecurity and expresses condolences to the families of the victims of terrorism.

31. The Authority takes note of the report of the assessment missions undertaken by the ECOWAS Special Envoy on Terrorism, Ambassador Baba Kamara, to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The Authority commends him for his exemplary diplomatic engagements and encourages him to continue in his efforts towards addressing the scourge of terrorism in the region.

32. The Authority directs the President of the Commission to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, with a view to restoring trust and confidence between ECOWAS Member States and the three countries. The Authority also directs the President of the Commission to urgently convene a meeting on the modalities for effective cooperation in the fight against terrorism to enable a concerted and effective response to the terrorist threat to the entire West African region.

33. The Authority commends Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs and PCCs) for their pledges towards the activation of the Regional Counterterrorism Force. The Authority expresses concern about the slow pace of activation of the Standby Force and calls for decisive action. In this regard, the Authority directs the President of the Commission to expedite the meeting of ECOWAS Finance and Defence Ministers without further delay to agree on modalities for mobilising internal resources to ensure the speedy activation of the Force.

34. The Authority in the meantime further directs the Commission to provide financial assistance to Member States affected by terrorism for the acquisition of materials to fight terrorism, and to address the humanitarian situation arising from the influx of refugees and internally displaced persons within the region.

35. The Authority commends the Commission for the implementation of the West African Police Information Systems (WAPIS) and urges the Commission to ensure ownership, sustainability and the secure operations of the System. The Authority further endorses the Supplementary Act on the WAPIS regional platform.



## **On maritime security and safety in the ECOWAS Region**

36. The Authority takes note of the steps taken by the Commission in addressing the issues of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing within the Gulf of Guinea and its adverse effects on the region's blue economy. The Authority directs the Commission to facilitate the adoption of a regional and collective bargaining approach by Member States in negotiating fisheries agreements with third parties and tasks the Commission to engage partners on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing issues.

37. The Authority endorses the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly to host the Headquarters of the Combined Maritime Task Force in the Gulf of Guinea (CMTF-GoG).

## **On Peace Support Operations**

38. The Authority notes with satisfaction the assessment missions conducted by the Commission on the political, security, and financial impacts of the ECOWAS security missions in The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau and notes the impactful contribution of the two Missions in the stabilisation efforts in both Member States. The Authority expresses its appreciation to the Troops and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs) for their continued support to the effective conduct of the ECOWAS Peace Support Operations.

39. The Authority urges other Member States, who are yet to do so, to contribute troops and police to the two Missions to ease the pressure on current PCCs/TCCs.

40. The Authority notes the efforts by The Gambia to create a budget line to support its SSR programme and its commitment to implementing the 2017 SSR assessment report. The Authority further notes the continued support of the Missions to the Defence and Security Forces in both countries to curb the security challenges. In this regard, the Authority urges both Host Nations to meet their obligations regarding accommodation, office space, and other logistical support to the Missions.

41. Given the impactful support of the Missions to the Defence and Security Forces in both countries, the Authority directs the Commission to immediately take steps to readjust the Mandates of both missions (ESSMGB and ECOMIG) to further strengthen their effectiveness. The Authority decides to

extend the mandate of the ESSMGB for eighteen months, and that of ECOMIG for twenty-four months, from the end of their current mandates, as the final extension for both missions. Finally, the Authority directs the Commission to develop an exit strategy, including a drawdown and liquidation plan for both Missions.

### **On Humanitarian Situation**

42. The Authority commends the humanitarian efforts of the Commission and directs the President of the Commission to continue the Commission's implementation of a multi-pronged approach to strengthen its response and support to Member States to mitigate the worsening humanitarian and security challenges.

## **ON INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

### **On the End of Tenure of Statutory Appointees of the Community**

43. The Authority notes that the four-year, non-renewable mandate of the following members of the Management of Community Institutions is due to end on 14 July 2026, and that the term of office of two Judges of the Community Court of Justice will end on 31 October 2026:

- a. President of the ECOWAS Commission
- b. Vice President of the Commission
- c. Commissioner for Internal Services
- d. Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security
- e. Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture
- f. Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs
- g. Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation
- h. Auditor General of ECOWAS Institutions
- i. Director General, West African Health Organisation (WAHO)
- j. Director General, Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)
- k. Five (5) Judges of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice

44. The Authority takes note of the measures initiated by the Council of

Ministers towards the formation of a new management.

### **On the Relocation of Community Institutions**

45. The Authority recalls that as a result of the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from the Community, the following institutions and agencies will be relocated:

- a. West African Health Organisation (WAHO) – located in Burkina Faso
- b. ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (EYSDC) – located in Burkina Faso
- c. Water Resource Management Centre (WRMC)– located in Burkina Faso and;
- d. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) – located in Mali.

46. In order to give priority to Member States that currently do not host any ECOWAS Institution or Agency, as a means of promoting geographical balance, inclusivity, and equitable distribution of ECOWAS entities across the region and in line with the preamble of the ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.15/11/09 on the Hosting of Community Institutions and Agencies, the Authority endorses the reallocation of the Community Institutions and Agencies concerned as follows:

- a. ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (EYSDC) to Liberia
- b. Water Resource Management Centre (WRMC)– to Guinea
- c. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) – to Guinea-Bissau

47. The Authority decides to defer decision on WAHO until after further consultation.

### **Tribute and recognition**

48. The Authority pays warm tribute to H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and outgoing Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government for his exemplary leadership and outstanding commitment to regional and continental integration in steering the affairs of the Community.

49. The Authority reiterates its congratulations to H.E. John Dramani Mahama for his election as President of the Republic of Ghana, and who is attending the Ordinary Session of the Summit for the first time as Head of State since his election in December 2024.

50. The Authority further congratulates H.E. Joseph Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia for the election of Liberia as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term from January 2026.

### **On the election of the Chair of Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS**

51. The Authority elects **H.E. Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of **Sierra Leone**, as Chairperson of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS for a period of one year from June 2025.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT SUMMIT**

52. The date and venue of the Sixty-eighth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government will be communicated at a later date, and in line with the established calendar of meetings.

**DONE IN ABUJA THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2025**

**THE AUTHORITY**

