



ECOWAS COMMISSION
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54TH SESSION OF THE MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

**Welcome Statement by the ECOWAS
Commission President; DR. Oumar Alieu
TOURAY**

Abuja, 18TH June 2025

- **Your Excellency, Chair of Mediation and Security Council, Amb. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar**
- **Excellencies Members of the Council**
- **Heads of ECOWAS institutions, Commissioners**
- **Dear Colleagues, staff of ECOWAS institutions**
- **Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. It is an honour to welcome you to this 54th Ordinary session of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council (MSC) at the Ministerial level. On behalf of the Management and Staff of ECOWAS Institutions, I would like to thank you for your individual and collective commitments to our organisation and to the course of peace, security and stability in our region. This session is holding at a critical juncture in the evolution of our Community. ECOWAS is 50 years old, and it is still standing as an integrated and viable regional Community notwithstanding some challenges.
2. For over 25 years, the Mediation and Security Council has contributed immensely to the security and stability of our region, through its numerous sessions. Therefore, in celebrating the Golden Jubilee, we must recognize the contribution of this august body to the Community. Let me therefore use this opportunity say Happy Golden Jubilee!

Your Excellencies,

3. During this session, we will be presenting to you the political and security situation in the region, including trends and developments, update on the transition process in Guinea and the negotiation process between ECOWAS and Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. We will be updating you on maritime security in our region as well as terrorism and transnational organized crime. We will also be presenting the outcome of the assessments of our Missions in the Gambia and Bissau.

Your Excellencies,

4. We are also making progress in strengthening the regional peace and security architecture. In this regard, we will be presenting to you the

memoranda on the ECOWAS Standby Force Logistics Concept and the ECOWAS Logistics Depot Policies; the Supplementary Act relating to the West African Police Information System (WAPIS) Regional Platform; updates on the establishment of National Early Warning and Response centres, responses to the humanitarian situation in the region, as well as the implementation of measures against money laundering and financing of terrorism in the region. These memoranda outline the key activities of the institutions on strengthening further the instruments of our response to peace and security challenges in region.

Your Excellencies,

5. Let me briefly state that on the exit of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, we have successfully changed the narrative, after some difficult time over the last two years. We have started direct talks towards safeguarding the community achievements and building a realistic, fruitful future cooperation in various areas including security and development. We have improved our communication to mitigate the effects of mis and dis information and have put in place mechanisms to project our views to the world. This is significant as fake news have contributed to the complications of our security and political environment in recent years.

Your Excellencies,

6. As you will see in the report of the missions of the Special Envoy on Counterterrorism, no littoral State is safe from the onslaught of terrorist groups, particularly in the absence of a regional framework for intelligence sharing and regional kinetic force. Meanwhile, the demand by Member States to carry out an assessment of the impact of our proposed fund mobilisation strategy for financing the activation of the regional counterterrorism force on their economies has delayed this process. We would, therefore, respectfully crave the indulgence of this August body to critically examine this matter by considering the potential and actual cost of inaction to counter the terrorist menace on our economies and on the wellbeing of our citizens.
7. Furthermore, the multipolarity of the world is presenting a huge challenge to our integration agenda. We are currently faced with geostrategic and geopolitical interferences in our region. We must therefore stay united

and handle this development with great care. We take note of the sustained commitment that you have continuously demonstrated in your respective States for the good of the Community, especially in view of the evolving challenges confronting the region. This will go a long way in contributing to the realization of the ECOWAS vision of a unified, peaceful, democratic, prosperous and stable West Africa for the benefit of all segments of our regional community.

8. In this regard, I am convinced that by your presence and robust engagement with the items on the agenda, we will have informed and constructive recommendations, which will be scaled up for the attention of the Heads of State and Government.

Your Excellencies

9. Before I conclude, allow me to commend the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) for the excellent collaboration with the Commission. The PRC, led by its Chair of the Ambassadorial MSC, His Excellency Musa Nuhu, has been dynamic, notably in extending its cooperation and collaboration with the African Union Peace and Security Council. I thank you for this initiative of strengthening the subsidiarity between the AU and ECOWAS and for establishing policy cohesion between the two bodies.
10. In closing, let me again express our appreciation for your sustained commitment and support to the Community in view of our current circumstances. Indeed, history will judge you kindly for your contribution to making ECOWAS a stable, peaceful and united Community.
11. I thank you for your kind attention.