ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

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NINETY-FIFTH (95TH) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Abuja, Nigeria. 10th – 12th December 2025

FINAL REPORT

ECOWAS Commission
Abuja, December 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninety-Fifth (95th) Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 10th to 12th December 2025.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- Republic of Benin
- Republic of Cabo Verde
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Liberia
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Togolese Republic

3. The following ECOWAS Institutions and Specialised Agencies were also represented:

- ECOWAS Commission
- ECOWAS Parliament
- Community Court of Justice
- ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)
- Office of the Auditor General
- Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)
- West African Health Organisation (WAHO)
- West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)
- West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)

4. A list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. OPENING SESSION

5. In her welcome remarks, the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu welcomed all participants on behalf of H.E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to the 95th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. She conveyed the sincere appreciation of the Government and people of Nigeria for their presence and continued commitment to regional cooperation, as well as dedication to the ECOWAS vision of peace, security, and shared prosperity for the region.

6. She acknowledged that the year 2025 marked a significant and historic milestone in the Community's journey. ECOWAS commemorated its Golden Jubilee with year-long celebrations across Member States, commencing with the launch ceremony in Accra, Ghana, continue with the commemorative ceremony held in Lagos, Nigeria where the ECOWAS Treaty was first signed in 1975 and planned to conclude with the closing event to be held in Togo.

7. These commemorations offered an opportunity to reflect deeply on the Community's achievements over the past five decades: the establishment of free movement, significant trade and economic integration frameworks, regional peacekeeping leadership, improved cooperation in critical sectors from health to infrastructure, and ongoing efforts to address the problems of insecurity in the region. These accomplishments stand as a powerful testament to the vision of the founders, who understood that West Africa's greatest strength is forged through unity, solidarity, and collective progress.

8. She emphasised that at the heart of ECOWAS lies the aspiration for economic integration that delivers tangible benefits to Community citizens, and therefore, called for acceleration deepening intra-regional trade, strengthening value chains, facilitating investments, and creating opportunities for the over 400 million people, especially the young people of 25 years and below who constitute about 65% of the population. She then concluded her remarks by wishing the participants fruitful deliberations.

9. In his welcome address the President of the Commission, H.E. Dr Alieu Omar Touray, warmly welcomed all participants to the Ninety-Fifth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. He also expressed deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm reception and all the facilities made available for the successful holding of the Session. He equally extended appreciation to the Chair of Council for facilitating the work of Council and for providing all the necessary support towards the organisation of the Session.

10. Continuing his address, he highlighted the agenda items to be considered by the Session, noting particularly the financial situation of the West African Power Pool that is currently suffering from debts owed by national electricity companies and expressed the hope that that Member States will help with the recovery of the debts owed to the Power Pool.

11. He informed Council that the Commission was moving forward with the operationalisation of the ECOWAS Business Council and confirmed that Alhaji Aliko Dangote has accepted to serve as the pioneer Chairperson of the Council, in recognition of his extensive experience in doing business within the Community and across the African continent. He stated that through the ECOWAS Business Council, the Commission hopes to bring the private sector actors around the table to discuss regional economic integration and development. He further noted that the idea of promoting intra-regional investment is gaining traction in Member States and several investment fora were held in different Member States in 2025.

12. He concluded his statement by wishing all participants fruitful deliberations.

13. In his opening address, H.E. Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone and current Chair of ECOWAS Council of Ministers, on behalf His Excellency, Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, the government and people of Sierra Leone extended fraternal welcome to all participants at the 95th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

14. He underscored that the year 2025 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding Fathers' vision, articulated through the Treaty of Lagos, to promote economic integration across all sectors and to advance the goal of collective self-sufficiency among Member States. He stated that it was imperative for Member States to demonstrate a robust commitment to the promotion and enhancement of trade within the sub-region by utilising existing mechanisms to foster greater regional economic collaboration.

15. Continuing his address, he noted that presently ECOWAS stands at a pivotal juncture, as the region is confronted with intricate challenges, including unconstitutional alterations of government, security threats, terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organised crime, illicit trafficking, and recurring and communal conflicts. He stressed that it is self-evident that no single nation can address these challenges in isolation; rather, they require enhanced cooperation and mutual understanding among our Member States.

16. He further stated that the return of unconstitutional change of governments continues to represent one of the region's most grave challenges. The Community must therefore uphold a policy of zero tolerance towards military coups or any breaches of constitutional governance.

17. He concluded his address by urging all participants in the 95th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council Ministers to approach their deliberations with renewed dedication, optimism, and a spirit of cooperation and determination.

18. He thereafter declared the Ninety-Fifth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers open and wished participants fruitful deliberations.

19. The full texts of Speeches are attached as Annex II to this Report.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

20. The following Bureau was elected:

- Chairperson - Republic of Sierra Leone
- Rapporteurs - Republic of Cabo Verde

- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Senegal

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

21. The following agenda was adopted:

I. OPENING CEREMONY

- Welcome remarks by Host Minister, **H.E, Amb. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu**, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Statement by President of the ECOWAS Commission, **H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray**
- Opening remarks by the Chair of Council, **Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba**, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone .

II. CLOSED DOOR SESSION

- Meeting called to order by the Chair of Council
- Election of Bureau
- Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

i. Presentation and consideration of the President's 2025 Annual Report on the State of the Community
ii. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum presenting Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 31st October 2025
iii. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum presenting Report on the Level of Implementation of Provisions of the Community Levy Protocol by Member States
iv. Presentation and consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 94th Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers to Community Institutions
v. Presentation and consideration of the Final Reports of the Extraordinary Meeting on Vacancies resulting from Disengagement of levels D and P5 Staff from AES Countries and recruitment related matters, and 38th Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee
vi. Presentation and consideration of the Auditor General's 2025 Annual Report
vii. Presentation and consideration of Summary of the Reports of the 60th, 61st and 62nd Meetings of the ECOWAS Audit Committee
viii. Presentation and consideration of Report of the 4th Meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee
ix. Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on ECOWAS Member States' Applications for International and Regional Statutory Positions
x. Presentation and consideration of Report of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Allocation of Statutory Positions

xi. Presentation and consideration of Outcome of the 2nd Extraordinary GIABA Ministerial Committee Meeting: Items for Consideration and Information of Council and the Authority
xii. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum presenting the Final Report of the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers on the Adoption of the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa
xiii. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on the Regulation on Public Debt Management within ECOWAS
xiv. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on the Directive on Public Accounting in ECOWAS
xv. Presentation and consideration of Final Report of the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Defence on the modalities for Funds Mobilisation for the Activation of the Regional Force against Terrorism
xvi. EBID Board Resolution- Resolution No.RES.1/06/25/CGE/EBG/BIDCC/EBID/13 Relating to safeguarding the interest of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) in the context of the withdrawal of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) from ECOWAS
xvii. Memorandum relating to the recommendation of the Ministerial meetings on the review and validation of the draft harmonised Supplementary Act and Arbitration Rules for the Community Court of Justice – ECOWAS.
xviii. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on the Refund of Pension contributions of nationals of the three countries that withdrew from ECOWAS
xix. Presentation and consideration of Draft Agenda of the 68th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

xx. Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on Status of Implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme
xxi. Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme Task Force on the Implementation of Intra-Community Trade Regulations by Member States
xxii. Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme
xxiii. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum providing an update on the critical financial situation of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP): *Outstanding 2025 Contributions – Following the submission made to the Heads of State*
xxiv. Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on Agricultural, Livestock and Food Security Outlook for 2025/2026 in the Sahel and West Africa

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

xxv. Items tabled for consideration.

REPORT ADOPTION

xxvi. Any Other Business

CLOSING CEREMONY

xxvii. Vote of Thanks

xxviii. Closing Remarks

V. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

22. Before considering the Agenda items tabled for the 95th Ordinary Session, Council met in a restricted closed-door session on withdrawal of delegated authority and the replacement of the Commissioner for Internal Services of the Commission and took **Decision No. C/DEC. 1/12/25.** The Report of the restricted closed-door session forms part of the records of this Council.

23. On the margins of the Council of Ministers session, Liberia and the ECOWAS Commission signed the Headquarters Agreement for hosting the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (CDJS/ECOWAS). This Agreement signed by **H.E. Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Liberian government, and by **Dr. Omar Alieu Touray**, President of the ECOWAS Commission, constitutes the formal conclusion of the Agreement between ECOWAS and the Republic of Liberia.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item 1: Presentation and consideration of the President's 2025 Annual Report on the State of the Community

24. The President reported that at the Continental level, African economies have remained resilient, growing by 4.1 percent in 2025, compared to 3.6 percent recorded in 2024. Inflation of 18.4 percent recorded in 2024, further dropped to 12.9 percent in 2025 and is expected further drop to 11.3 percent in 2026.

25. At the level of ECOWAS economies, 2025 witnessed resilience, despite the numerous internal and external shocks. The region recorded a 4.6 percent growth in 2025, compared to 4.3 percent recorded in 2024. The trend is expected to continue in 2026 with a regional growth rate of 5.0 percent. This Economic performance in the region could be attributed by the implementation of reform measures aimed at expanding fiscal space and fostering growth across all sectors, particularly in the extractive industries.

26. The report finally provided an update on developments in the areas of political stability, peace and security; Customs Union; Monetary Union; humanitarian issues; external relations and

diplomatic engagements; as well as the activities of other Community Institutions, including the ECOWAS Parliament and the Community Court of Justice.

27. Council commended the President for the 2025 Annual Report on the State of the Community, and made the following observations:

a. Noted the ratification of the AfCFTA Protocol by eleven (11) ECOWAS Member States, and reasons provided by the Republic of Benin regarding their non-ratification of the AfCFTA Protocol.
b. Noted the challenges of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), with the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from ECOWAS.
c. Noted the progress made in the completion of the Technical Studies for the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway project and acknowledged the interest of partners to support the mobilisation of investment financing for the construction and operation of the flagship Corridor project. Council also noted the progress made on the preparation of the Praia-Dakar-Abidjan Corridor.

28. Council approved the 2025 Annual Report on the State of the Community and the recommendations contained therein.

Item 2: Presentation and Consideration of the Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 31st October 2025

29. The Commission presented a report on the financial situation of the Community as of 31st October 2025. The presentation recalled that the 93rd Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers, held in Abuja, on 12th and 13th December 2024, considered and approved a 2025 Community budget of UA 423,889,851, including a supplementary allocation for the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

30. The budget was mostly funded by proceeds from the Community Levy, which accounted for over 43% of total projected revenue and remained the principal source of the Community's financial resources. On the expenditure side, the largest share (86%) was to be allocated to the Community Institutions.

31. Overall income realised by the Community by 31 October 2025 stood at UA 213,007,634, representing 50.3% of the annual target. Expenditure reached UA 206,625,615, or 48.75% of the approved budget, reflecting the effect of limited liquidity on implementation capacity.

Table 1: 2025 Community Income Implementation as at 31st October 2025

Chapters	2025 Approved Budget	Actual Income (UA)	Actual Income (%)
Community Levy	184,129,418	82,820,305	44.98%
Year-End Bank Balances	66,161,142	23,543,508	35.59%
Arrears of Community Levy	74,987,116	37,650,339	50.21%
Other Income	550,000	194,097	35.29%
Income from External Sources	98,062,175	68,799,386	70.16%
Total Income	**423,889,851**	**213,007,634**	**50.25%**

Table 2: 2025 Community Expenditure Implementation as at 31st October 2025

Chapters	2025 Approved Budget	Actual Expenditure (UA)	Actual Exp. Rate (%)
Institutions	364,588,656	194,097,985	53.24%
Statutory Obligations	13,799,638	3,388,849	24.56%
Special Programmes & Interventions	25,175,994	4,536,416	18.02%
Peace & Security	20,325,563	4,602,365	22.64%
Total Expenditure	**423,889,851**	**206,625,615**	**48.75%**

32. Council endorsed the report and expressed concern about the financial situation of the Community and the low rate of mobilisation of funds. Council also tasked Management of the Commission to ensure equity in the allocation of approved budget resources taking into consideration costed workplans and seasonality of programmes and activities of Community Institutions.

Item 3: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum presenting Report on the Level of Implementation of Provisions of the Community Levy Protocol by Member States

33. The Commission presented a report on the level of implementation of provisions of the Community Levy Protocol by Member States from 1st January to 31st October 2025, in line with Supplementary Act A/SA.1/12/21.

34. The Community Levy remains the principal financing instrument of the ECOWAS budget, supporting institutions, agencies and programmes across the region. To ensure compliance, the Commission undertook a series of monitoring activities, including technical evaluation missions to ten Member States—to examine the accuracy of assessments, the timeliness of transfers, the consistency of reporting, and adherence to the rules governing exemptions and exclusions. Although no high-level missions took place during the year, the Commission continued dialogue with non-compliant Member States.

35. The missions revealed persistent shortcomings. Many Member States have not fully complied with Articles 5 and 6 of the Act, granting exemptions that fall outside the approved framework. Most Member States also failed to provide complete and timely assessment and bank statements. Furthermore, lodgements of CL proceeds remain inconsistent across the region. Out of twelve reporting Member States, two (2) made no payments, three (3) lodged funds irregularly, one (1) made regular payments of low amounts and only six (6) complied with the required monthly deposit schedule. As a result, cash flow for the Community continues to be constrained.

36. In financial terms, assessments for January–October 2025 totalled UA 90,573,456, while actual lodgements reached UA 117,507,605. However, these figures must be interpreted cautiously because of incomplete reporting.

Table 3: Community Levy Proceeds at 31st October 2025

MEMBER STATE	ARREARS DEPOSIT [A]	CURRENT YEAR LEVY DEPOSIT [B]	TOTAL [A + B]
	(UA)	(UA)	(UA)
BENIN	257,543	-	**257,543**
BURKINA FASO	-	-	-
CAPE VERDE	387,813	-	**387,813**
COTE D'IVOIRE	18,277,597	28,063,258	**46,340,855**
GUINEA	5,062,027	-	**5,062,027**
GUINEA BISSAU	72,147	229,815	**301,962**
GAMBIA	-	1,401,230	**1,401,230**
GHANA	-	31,136,539	**31,136,539**
LIBERIA	2,157,683	-	**2,157,683**
MALI	48,175	-	**48,175**
NIGER	-	-	-
NIGERIA	-	-	-
SENEGAL	10,240,425	10,852,431	**21,092,856**
SIERRA LEONE	740,613	913,994	**1,654,607**
TOGO	406,316	7,259,999	**7,666,315**
TOTAL	**37,650,339**	**79,857,266**	**117,507,605**

UA1 = US$1.326
UA1 = Xof 804.089

37. The report identified key challenges, including persistent diversion of CL proceeds through national treasuries, ineligible deductions before transfer to ECOWAS accounts, repeated

delays in transmitting assessment and bank statements, incomplete data, and a widespread granting of undue exemptions.

38. Council endorsed the report and expressed deep concern about the low rate of mobilisation of Community Levy proceeds and the consistent non-payment by some Member State. In this regard, Council endorsed AFC's recommendations regarding Member States' obligation for the timely remittance of Community Levy proceeds to ECOWAS.

39. Council also recommended to the Authority, the need to consider some form of sanctions for persistent non-payment of Community Levy, while acknowledging and encouraging compliant Member States. Council also commended the recent commitments by Benin, Cabo Verde, Liberia and Nigeria on the repayment of Community Levy arrears. Furthermore, Council tasked the Commission to follow-up with the agreed timelines for the payment of arrears.

Item 4: Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 94th Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers to Community Institutions

40. The Commission presented the status of implementation of the tasks that were assigned by the 94th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to the ECOWAS Commission, Institutions and Specialised Agencies.

41. Council took note of the very detailed presentation on the implementation update of tasks assigned. In order to properly track the implementation or completion of past, or outstanding tasks, Council tasked the Commission to establish a proper tracking system to ensure all outstanding tasks are completed.

Item 5: Presentation and consideration of the Final Reports of the Extraordinary Meeting on Vacancies resulting from Disengagement of levels D and P5 Staff from AES Countries and recruitment related matters, and 38th Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee

42. The final reports of the Extraordinary Meeting on Vacancies resulting from Disengagement of levels D and P5 Staff from AES Countries and recruitment related matters, and the 38th Meeting of the AFC were presented by the Chairperson of the AFC bureau.

43. After the presentation and the deliberations that ensued, Council commended the AFC for the quality of its report and approved the recommendations from its extraordinary meeting on the vacancies resulting from the departure of the P5 Staff and Directors from the AES Countries.

44. Council also authorised the Commission to proceed with the identification of the critical positions affecting the core functions of the Institutions and fill them as soon as possible regardless of the stage of their recruitment or the completion of the job evaluation exercise.

45. Regarding the Report of the 38th Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee, Council approved the 2025 budget of the ECOWAS Community balanced in income and expenditure in the amount of **UA411,724,082**. The approved budget was as follows:

Table 4: Draft 2026 budget of the ECOWAS Community

DESCRIPTION	AFC RECOMMENDATION
	UA
Chapter I – Institutions	346,719,826
Chapter II – Statutory Obligations	14,001,231
Chapter III – Special Projects	31,303,025
Chapter IV – Peace and Security	19,700,000
TOTAL	**411,724,082**

UA1 = US$1.325
UA1 = Xof 808.414

Table 5: Sources of Funding for draft 2026 budget of the ECOWAS Community

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (UA)	% OF BUDGET
Community Levy	195,850,000	48
Year-End Bank Balances	64,771,758	15.7
Arrears of Community Levy	54,561,004	13
Other Income	538,450	0.3
External Funding	96,002,869	23
TOTAL	**411,724,082**	**100**

UA1 = US$1.325
UA1 = Xof 808.414

46. Council also adopted the recommendations made by the AFC, especially regarding cost-cutting measures and the efficient use of Community resources by institutions, as well as the mandatory requirement of all Community Institutions, including the Office of the Auditor General, financed from the Community Levy, to present their budgets to the President of the Commission for consideration by the Budget Arbitration Committee and onwards submission to the Administration and Finance Committee and Council.

47. Council also took note of the assurance of the President of the Commission to examine the petition presented by Nigeria regarding the interview conducted for the position of Director, Early Warning, which was submitted by one of its citizens, through established ECOWAS Internal Procedures, in order to ensure equity, fairness and transparency in the process.

Item 6: Presentation and Consideration of the Auditor General's 2025 Annual Report

48. The Auditor General (AG) presented the 2025 Annual Report to the Council of Ministers. The Report covered an overview of the Office of the Auditor General of ECOWAS Institutions and an update on the implementation of the OAG's 2025 work plan covering operational and programme performance audits.

49. Council commended the Auditor General for the quality of the report and approved all the recommendations contained therein.

Item 7: Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 60th, 61st and 62nd Meetings of the Audit Committee

50. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee presented the Summary of the 60th, 61st and 62nd meetings. The report provided an overview of the Committee's deliberations and the key subject matters addressed, as outlined below:

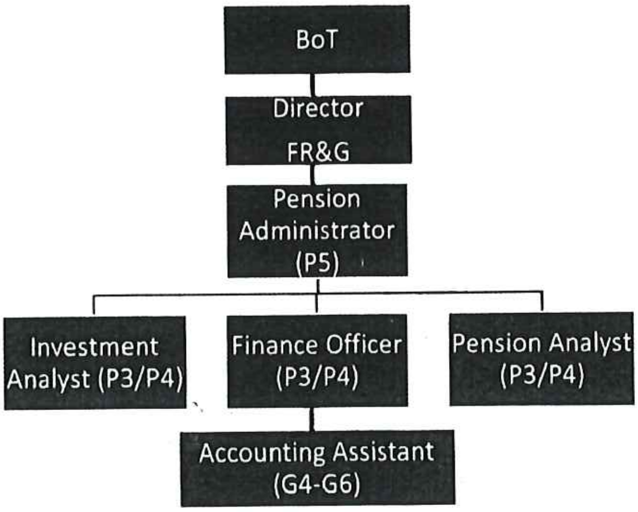
a. 2025 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General
b. Implementation of Audit recommendations
c. Staff Recruitment and Statutory Appointees' Performance Appraisal
d. Strengthening leadership Accountability through 360-degree feedback
e. Integration of the Performance Management System into ECOLink
f. Strengthening workforce agility through fixed contracting
g. Strengthening ECOWAS Cybersecurity and AI Governance
h. Building digital competencies for strategic oversight
i. Cybersecurity and AI Risk Inclusion in the Annual Plan
j. Technical Cooperation Arrangement between ECOWAS Staff Joint Pension Fund (ESJPF) & CRRAE-UEMOA

51. After the presentation and the deliberations that ensued, Council approved the report and the recommendations contained therein, with the following exceptions:

a. Concerning deadline for recruitment, Council extend the December 2025 to June 2026.
b. Concerning strengthening leadership accountability through the 360 feedback, Council noted the merit of this initiative but cautioned the feasibility of its implementation, especially for larger number of stakeholders in the ECOWAS context.

c. Concerning remote working, Council noted that Management will determine its appropriateness taking into account work functions and culture of the organisation.

52. The Council of Ministers also endorsed the proposed organogram for the ESJPF as follows:



Item 8: **Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 4th Meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)**

53. The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) as an Advisory Organ of the Council of Ministers, held its fourth (4th) meeting on 1 December 2025 at the ECOWAS Commission, to deliberate on matters extending beyond peace and security, finance, and administration. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the PRC reviewed the Draft Agenda of the 95th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, together with the memoranda submitted for consideration.

54. Following the presentations, the PRC made the following recommendations and urged the Commission to: (i) convene a hybrid joint Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and Sectoral Ministers on the Single Currency (including Central Bank Governors); (ii) reactivate the Ad-hoc Ministerial Arbitration Committee on international statutory positions, with a view to expediting consensus where multiple Member States present candidacies; and (iii) provide the PRC with further information regarding the proposed Summit of the Future.

55. After the presentation and the deliberations that ensued, Council endorsed the report of the 4th Meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), and the recommendations. However, Council did not endorse the holding of hybrid joint Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and Sectoral Ministers on the ECOWAS Single Currency, considering that there

already exists a Convergence Council, comprising Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks, which is the most appropriate body to address the challenges related to the implementation of the ECOWAS single currency. Council also noted the clarification that the Ad-hoc Ministerial Arbitration Committee on international statutory positions will be convened when the need arises.

Item 9: Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on ECOWAS Member States' Applications for International and Regional Statutory Positions

56. The Commission recalled that to harmonise and give more chances to ECOWAS Member States' applications to vacant statutory positions in regional and international organisations, the ECOWAS Authority set up, in 2016, a 5-member Ministerial Committee, made up of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal. It requested Member States applying for these positions to submit their candidatures to the Chair of Council in order to come up with single candidatures for different positions and emphasised the importance for the Community to give full support to successful applicants.

57. The amended memorandum by Council provided information on requests for support from Member States for (i) positions that are yet to be filled as of 12th December 2025 and requests for support for (ii) positions that elections were held from 1st January to 12th December 2025.

58. For the year 2025, the Commission received in total 49 requests for support for vacancies from ECOWAS Member States, out of which ten (10) were successful - Member States got the positions - while 24 elections are yet to be held.

59. With respect to the 24 pending elections, Ghana has been recommended to the ECOWAS Heads of State as the sole candidate of West Africa for the position of Chairperson of the African Union, for 2027 term for which Guinea Bissau also expressed interest.

60. To facilitate its work, the Committee urged Member States to: (i) ensure the timely (at least 2 weeks before election) notification to the ECOWAS Commission of their applications, as well as their requests for the Community's support; (ii) provide accurate and complete information regarding the positions (i.e. CV translated in the ECOWAS official languages, election dates, etc.); and (iii) inform the Commission of the outcome of the election to facilitate reporting during ECOWAS statutory meetings.

61. Council took note of the amended Memorandum on Member States' applications for international positions, as Annex III to this Report.

Item 10: Presentation and consideration of Report of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Allocation of Statutory Positions

62. Council considered the report of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the allocation of Statutory Positions and commended the Committee for a thorough work and the quality of the recommendations.

63. Council agreed that the allocation of Statutory Positions should be guided by the criteria established in existing Community Texts, especially relating to compliance with the Community Levy Protocol. In this regard, Council agreed to allocate Statutory Positions as follows:

Table 6: Allocation of Statutory Positions (2026-2030)

S/N	POSITION	MEMBER STATES
ECOWAS Commission		
1.	President	Senegal
2.	Vice President	Nigeria
3.	Commissioner, Internal Services	Cote d'Ivoire
4.	Commissioner, Infrastructure, Energy & Digitalisation	Ghana
5.	Commissioner, Economic Affairs & Agriculture	Liberia
6.	Commissioner, PAPS	Sierra Leone
7.	Commissioner, Human Development and Social Affairs	Benin
Other Institutions		
8.	WAHO	Togo
9.	GIABA	Gambia
10.	OAG	Cabo Verde
Judges of the Community Court of Justice		
11.	Judge	Benin
12.	Judge	Gambia
13.	Judge	Liberia
14.	Judge	Nigeria
15.	Judge	Togo

64. In the spirit of solidarity among ECOWAS Member States, Council agreed to issue a Declaration in support of Ghana's sole candidacy for the position of the Chairperson of the African Union in 2027.

65. Council also agreed that in order to ensure the alphabetical rotational order is respected, following the Presidency of Republic of Senegal, the position of the President of the Commission will be allocated to the Republic of Liberia for the period of 2030- 2034, subject to being in good standing and meeting all the criteria for the allocation of the position of the President of the Commission.

66. Council also highlighted the need to comply with the provisions prescribed in Decision A/Dec.3/07/91 of July 1991 relating to the Selection and the Evaluation of Performance of the Statutory Appointees of the Community which include the following:

a. Member States shall, in all circumstances, advertise at national level, vacancies of statutory positions allocated to them.
b. Member States, during the internal evaluation of the candidatures, shall apply necessary measures including background check, aiming at ensuring the integrity and competence of their candidates.
c. Implement an appropriate performance management system for Statutory Appointees.

67. Council also underscored the need to review existing Community Texts on the allocation of Statutory positions in ECOWAS Institutions in order to provide more clarity to ensure more predictability for future rotations.

68. Finally, Council also tasked the Commission and the Community Court of Justice to recommend criteria for the appointment of Judges to the Court.

Item 11: Presentation and consideration of Outcome of the 2nd Extraordinary GIABA Ministerial Committee Meeting: Items for Consideration and Information of Council and the Authority

69. Council considered Memorandum ECW/CM/E95/12 on the outcome of the 2nd Extraordinary GIABA Ministerial Committee Meeting held on 19th July 2025 in Accra, Ghana, which deliberated on the applications for membership of GIABA by Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

70. Council noted that the GIABA Ministerial Committee had thoroughly reviewed the applications and found the three countries eligible for membership, recognising their strong political commitment to implement obligations required of GIABA members, including addressing deficiencies in their Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism/Countering Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) frameworks.

71. Council further noted that the 67th Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government did not direct GIABA to cease engagement with the three Sahel countries, thus allowing continued technical cooperation on AML/CFT/CPF matters.

72. After the presentation and the deliberations that ensued, Council recommended for the approval of the Authority, the admission of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger as members of GIABA

considering the technical and security implications context. Council also endorsed the following conditions.

a. Payment of Annual Membership Subscriptions: The three (3) countries shall pay their annual membership subscriptions as non-ECOWAS Member States in accordance with GIABA's financial regulations and subscription schedule;
b. Full Cooperation on AML/CFT/CPF Matters: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger shall commit to full cooperation and compliance with all obligations related to Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and Countering Proliferation Financing as provided for under the GIABA Statute;
c. Implementation of Remedial Measures: The countries shall demonstrate commitment to addressing all identified deficiencies in their AML/CFT/CPF frameworks through implementation of GIABA's recommendations and remedial action plans;
d. Participation in GIABA Activities: The countries shall actively participate in all GIABA technical cooperation programmes, mutual evaluations, and capacity-building initiatives.

Item 12: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum presenting the Final Report of the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers on the Adoption of the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa

73. The ECOWAS Commission submitted a memorandum on the report of the Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers on the Adoption of the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa (2024–2050), held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on 28th and 29th November 2024.

74. Council was informed that the Strategy provides an integrated regional framework to strengthen resilience against political, economic, social, and climate-related risks in ECOWAS Member States. It aligns with ECOWAS Vision 2050 and seeks to harmonise policies and programmes under a unified resilience concept.

75. It defines resilience as the ability of the ECOWAS Community to anticipate, prevent, absorb, adapt to, and recover from political, economic, social, and climate risks and shocks, as well as transform itself, leveraging on systems, economic opportunities, and social norms to promote peace, security, and sustainable development. Guided by this definition and recognising the highly diverse range of contexts and challenges in West Africa, the Strategy advocates for resilience building as a whole-of-society endeavour.

76. Furthermore, Council was informed that the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa (2024–2050) outlines four strategic pathways—Governance, Economy, Social Protection, and Environment—to guide regional efforts in building resilience. These pathways are derived from six thematic areas - good governance, peace and security, macroeconomics, gender equality and

social inclusion, livelihoods, social protection, and climate change and disaster risk reduction—as the analytical foundation for regional action.

77. Across these four core pathways, the Strategy offers a range of interlinked strategic actions for achieving resilience in West Africa. These actions—covering the short, medium, and long term—are critical instruments for achieving the goals outlined in the ECOWAS Vision 2050, the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and the resilience-related SDGs. It also outlines a multisectoral and systems-based approach to enable ECOWAS, Member States, civil society, and partners to act collectively.

78. Following the presentation of the memorandum, Council endorsed the report of the Ministers and adopted the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa (2024–2050).

Item 13: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on the Regulation on Public Debt Management within ECOWAS

79. The draft ECOWAS Regulation on Public Debt Management is anchored in the broader objective of implementing the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme and preparing for the launch of the ECO. To support a future common monetary policy, the regulation seeks to harmonise public finance frameworks across Member States. This harmonisation is intended to strengthen transparency in public financial management and enhance coordination of national budgetary policies, which are essential for regional macroeconomic stability.

80. The proposed regulation introduces binding minimum standards to unify debt management practices within the Community. It covers the legal and institutional frameworks for managing public debt, rules governing domestic and external borrowing, and the management of sovereign guarantees and contingent liabilities. It also mandates consistent approaches for conducting debt sustainability analyses and developing medium-term debt strategies, alongside comprehensive risk-management mechanisms addressing interest rate, exchange rate, refinancing, operational, and reputational risks. Provisions are also included to enhance transparency, accountability, inter-institutional coordination, and the development of regional debt markets.

81. The implementation of the regulation is expected to yield several benefits for ECOWAS Member States. It will help mitigate over-indebtedness risks and strengthen overall debt sustainability, thereby increasing investor confidence. The regulation will contribute to a more stable environment for monetary and economic integration by promoting transparent, standardised, and disciplined debt management practices. Additionally, it will build the institutional and technical capacity of national debt management entities and reinforce regional surveillance under the ECOWAS Convergence and Stability Pact.

82. The memo therefore recommends that the Council of Ministers adopt the draft regulation and urge Member States to integrate it into their national legal and institutional frameworks. It further calls on the ECOWAS Commission to coordinate implementation efforts, work closely with national authorities.

83. Following the presentation of the memorandum, Council deferred the adoption of the draft Regulation to their next session to enable further consultation and consideration.

Item 14: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on the Directive on Public Accounting in ECOWAS

84. The memo outlines the rationale for a new ECOWAS Directive on Public Accounting, developed as part of the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme and the roadmap toward launching the ECO currency. Harmonising public accounting frameworks across Member States is presented as essential for improving transparency, reliability, and comparability of public financial information. The directive is grounded in international standards, particularly IPSAS, to strengthen budgetary discipline and enhance results-based public financial management.

85. The regulation seeks to unify the principles, rules, and procedures governing public accounting within ECOWAS. It clarifies the roles and responsibilities of authorising officers and public accountants, ensures the integrity and transparency of budgetary and treasury operations, and introduces accrual-based general and analytical accounting using double-entry bookkeeping. It also strengthens internal and external control systems to reinforce accountability.

86. By implementing the directive, ECOWAS expects several benefits, including improved accountability and greater transparency in financial reporting. The harmonised framework will ensure the production of comparable and reliable public accounts, thereby enabling more accurate evaluation of public sector performance across Member States. Enhanced comparability of accounting and financial data is also identified as a key outcome.

87. Following the presentation of the memorandum, Council endorsed the Directive and tasked the ECOWAS Commission to support Member States in its domestication into national legislations no later than 31st December 2029.

Item 15: Presentation and consideration of Final Report of the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Defence on the modalities for Funds Mobilisation for the Activation of the Regional Force against Terrorism

88. In compliance with the instructions of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, the Commission organised the Meeting of Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Defence on the

modalities of mobilising resources for the activation of the Regional Force to fight terrorism in the ECOWAS region, on 29 August 2025 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

89. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the previous meeting of the Ministers of Finance and Defence held in June 2024, where two options for activating the ECOWAS Standby Force were considered, *viz*: a full 5,000-personnel Brigade costing approximately $2.61 billion, and a phased 1,650-personnel Brigade costing approximately $481.5 million.

90. It may be recalled that the Mediation and Security Council endorsed the recommendation by the meeting of Ministers of Finance and Defence in June 2024 for the Commission to conduct an impact assessment of proposals to increase the Community Levy to fund the deployment of the regional force to fight against terrorism. To that effect, the Commission held a meeting of Finance experts on 27 and 28 August 2025 to review the findings of a team of consultants recruited by the Commission to evaluate the socio-economic impacts of a Community Levy increase on Member States, backed with data to guide informed decision-making.

91. Subsequently, the report of the Finance Experts was submitted to the Ministers of Finance and Defence for their consideration. The Ministers took note of the presentation made by the Commission. They commended the Finance Experts for the quality of the report and took note of the concerns raised by the experts, including the following:

a. Implementing an additional Community Levy would constitute a serious burden on UEMOA Member States, who already have an existing 1.5% Community Levy (0.5% of ECOWAS Community Levy, 0.2% to the African Union, and 0.8% to UEMOA);
b. The need for any funding option to take into consideration the economic growth cycle and macro-economic status of Member States;
c. Take into account the already existing challenges in assessing and collecting the current 0.5% Community Levy, as well as difficulties in the remittance of Community Levy arrears;
d. Consideration of the current socio-economic challenges and financial constraints in Member States that limit their willingness to increase taxation;
e. The fluctuating and volatile nature of the GDP, as well as how the calculation of the GDP varies from country to country;
f. the exit of the AES States with its attendant impact that shrinks the expected resources through the Community Levy.

92. The Ministers, however, strongly stressed the need to overcome the economic and financial challenges facing the region and fulfil the instructions of the Authority to mobilise mandatory contributions to fund the deployment of the regional counterterrorism force. After extensive deliberations, the Ministers decided as follows:

a. Impose mandatory payment of outstanding Community Levy arrears and other arrears of assessed contributions, beginning immediately with 25% and raising payment to 58% by the end of 2026 to kickstart the 1,650-personnel Brigade for the first year.

b. Demand that Member States in arrears ensure full remittance of all arrears of the Community Levy and other outstanding contributions by 2027.
c. Impose full compliance with the provision of the Community Levy Protocol from 2026 by all Member States and put in place a sweeping mechanism for remittance of the Community Levy.
d. Apply full sanctions for failure by a Member State to comply with the Community Levy Protocol.
e. Mobilise resources from partners, including United Nations funds under UNSC Resolution 2719, and identify other innovative sources of funding.
f. ECOWAS Commission to propose an effective mechanism to ensure the collection and remittance of the Community Levy.
g. Any shortfall determined by the Commission in funding of the Force arising from the implementation of (a), (b), and (c) would be assessed to Member States in a fair and equitable GDP-weighed manner.
h. Resources for the counterterrorism force to be lodged and managed through the existing Regional Security Fund.
i. ECOWAS Institutions to rationalise overhead expenditures so that savings are made to fund the Force.

93. The Council of Ministers underscored the importance of the proposed funds mobilisation modalities to secure the needed financing to help the Community fight the existential threat posed by the terrorism. Council therefore adopted the report and noted the following:

a. Need for Member States to improve the remittance of Community Levy proceeds based on transparent assessment
b. There is the need to avoid any measure that would create additional burden on the economy of some countries, while ensuring transparency and equity
c. Commission to implement all the recommendations contained in the report to enhance mobilisation of resources.

Item 16: EBID Board Resolution- Resolution No.RES.1/06/25/CGE/EBG/BIDCC/EBID/13 Relating to safeguarding the interest of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) in the context of the withdrawal of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) from ECOWAS

94. The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) presented a memorandum on the Resolution of the Bank's Board regarding safeguarding the financing situation of the Bank. The Resolution recommended to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to give a special

dispensation that allows the Bank to continue its relations with the AES Countries, as well as maintain Staff from these countries in the Bank.

95. Council considered the request and noted the impact of EBID's operations on the ordinary citizens of the three AES Countries, as well as the interest shown by these countries to remain in EBID as shareholders. Council therefore recommended for the approval of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, the special dispensation as requested, but with the following observations:

a. The three AES Countries remain shareholders of EBID, in a non-regional Member status.
b. The Staff of EBID from the three countries should be maintained, since their countries remain as shareholders of the Bank.
c. The Community Levy contribution as interest subsidy to EBID should be exclusively used for the benefit of ECOWAS Member States.

Item 17: Memorandum relating to the recommendation of the Ministerial meetings on the review and validation of the draft harmonised Supplementary Act and Arbitration Rules for the Community Court of Justice (CCJ) – ECOWAS

96. The CCJ presented a Memorandum on the recommendation of the Ministerial meetings on the review and validation of the draft harmonised Supplementary Act and Arbitration Rules for the Community Court of Justice (CCJ).

97. The Supplementary Act consolidates and harmonises three existing Protocols on the Court adopted in 1991, 2005, and 2006, respectively, into a single coherent legal text. The objective is to resolve inconsistencies between English and French versions and to improve clarity and ease of reference. Additionally, the arbitration rules were developed to enable the Court to operationalise and effectively exercise its arbitration mandate, which it had so far been unable to do for want of the required texts.

98. Taking cognisance of the endorsement of the draft texts by the Ministers of Justice, Council adopted the Arbitration Rules and recommended the draft Supplementary Act harmonising the Court's Protocols, for the adoption of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Item 18: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on the Refund of Pension contributions of nationals of the three countries that withdrew from ECOWAS

99. The Commission presented a memorandum on the refund of pension contributions to Nationals of the three countries that withdrew from ECOWAS. The presentation recalled the directives of the Extraordinary Session held on 22nd and 23rd April 2025 concerning the refund of

pension contributions to Nationals of the three countries who are not eligible for retirement. While some staff were separated on 30 September 2025, others are due to leave by 15 April 2026. The Management of the Commission is therefore reviewing the modalities for these payments.

100. The ECOWAS Staff Joint Pension Fund (ESJPF), established under Council Regulation C/REG.17/11/11, regularly collects contributions of 14% from the employer and 6% from the employee for future pension benefits. Pension benefits are accessible only at the statutory retirement age (62 years) or early retirement from 55 years, in line with ESJPF Governing Rules. Out of 113 affected Staff Members, 31 are eligible for retirement, while 8 already departed before 30 September 2025, and 74 to depart in April 2026, are not eligible.

101. The Commission, however, noted that the current ESJPF Governing Rules do not provide for refund of contributions to departed staff in the case of withdrawal of their Member States from ECOWAS. Consequently, the 82 staff members from Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali who are not eligible for retirement cannot access their pension contributions made until statutory age of retirement.

102. The Management of the Commission therefore sought an exceptional waiver to Articles 8, 19, and 20 to permit refunds to the affected staff as follows:

a. Waiver on Article 8, 19, and 20 of the ESJPF Governing Rules to permit refund of pension contributions (both Employee and Employer) to staff members that are not eligible for early retirement or statutory retirement.
b. Approval to refund accordingly individual contributions (both employer 14% and employee 6%) already made into the Pension Fund Accounts.

103. The Commission clarified that financial implication of the requested payments is 3% of the current pension fund.

104. Council noted the Memorandum and granted its approval for the exceptional waiver to Articles 8, 19 and 20 of the ESJPF Governing Rules.

Item 19: Presentation and consideration of Draft Agenda of the 68th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government

105. The President of the Commission presented the draft agenda of the 68th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

106. Council noted that there will be dedicated discussions on the issue relating to the recent political situations in Guinea-Bissau and Benin. After some deliberations, Council adopted the draft Agenda with a few additions, as annexed to this report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 20: Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on Status of Implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme

107. The Commission presented a report on the status of the ETLS, highlighting some disputes related to ETLS-traded items under the provisions of the regional Scheme between some Member States. The report also noted a few diverging provisions between ECOWAS and UEMOA texts which impede the free movement of goods in the Community.

108. The presentation showed notable improvements in the implementation of the ETLS and highlighted the importance of this regional preferential trade regime which is essential to improved intra-regional trade among Member States. The Commission recalled the established provisions for the settlement of disputes available to resolve the grievances between Member States related to the free movement of goods within the Community.

109. The Commission also highlighted divergences in the rules of origin between ECOWAS and UEMOA, and the need for harmonisation of these rules to facilitate the movement of Community goods and promote regional integration. To this effect, the ECOWAS Commission will engage the UEMOA Commission on the collection of the latter's 'community solidarity levy' on Community goods exported from non-UEMOA ECOWAS Member States to UEMOA Member States.

110. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 21: Presentation and Consideration of the Memorandum of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme Task Force on the Implementation of Intra-Community Trade Regulations by Member States

111. The Commission presented a memorandum on the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Task Force on intra-regional trade and customs regulations by Member States. The presentation highlighted some key findings and achievements of the Task Force. The memorandum further noted that the tenure of the current members of the Task Force has come to an end.

112. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 22: Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme

113. The memorandum provides an update to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers on the progress made in implementing the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme during the second half of 2025. It reviews the status of activities under the 2021 Roadmap for launching the ECO and outlines progress in macroeconomic convergence, institutional readiness, exchange rate and monetary policy frameworks, and statistical harmonisation. It also presents the outcomes of the 12th Session of the ECOWAS Convergence Council held in August 2025.

114. The implementation of the ten-roadmap programmes for the launch of the ECO varied significantly. Notable achievements include a 60% completion rate for macroeconomic convergence activities, major statistical harmonisation milestones (66.7%), and steady work on monetary policy frameworks (50%). However, important institutional and legal preparations lagged at 34.8%, while financial integration (21.1%) and work on national/regional structures for the currency showed low progress. Some key activities, such as those linked to the formal launch of the ECO, have not yet commenced because prerequisite reforms were still pending.

115. On multilateral surveillance, ECOWAS and WAMA jointly prepared the first combined ECOWAS Macroeconomic Convergence Report for 2024, which the Convergence Council adopted in August 2025. Capacity-building activities were undertaken in several Member States to support the preparation of their multi-year convergence programmes, as guided by recent directives from the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

116. The 12th Convergence Council made several recommendations to accelerate progress toward monetary union. These include urging Member States to implement reforms to strengthen public finances, calling on WAMA and ECOWAS to fast-track legal instruments for the monetary union, revising cooperation on payment systems, and convening an extraordinary convergence meeting before the end of 2025. Council further underscored the need to review the distribution of financial contributions among Member States and to clarify the criteria for selecting the host country of the future Central Bank of West Africa.

117. Council took note of the memorandum on the progress of the Single Currency Programme.

Item 23: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum providing an update on the critical financial situation of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP): Outstanding 2025 Contributions – Following the submission made to the Heads of State

118. The Commission presented a memorandum on the critical financial situation of the West African Power Pool (WAPP). The memo recalled the decision of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads

of State and Government in June 2025, which directed the Ministers in charge of Energy of Member States to urgently ensure that Power Utility Members in their respective countries immediately pay their arrears to WAPP. This was endorsed by the Authority of Heads of States and Government, who also tasked the President of the Commission to follow up. After several high-level follow-ups by the President of the Commission and WAPP Management a recovery of an amount of approximately USD1.8 million was received between June and November 2025 representing 15.2% recovery for the period, showing a limited improvement with the current areas of US$9.3m, from the cumulative arrears of US$14 million as of 16th April 2025.

119. Consequently, the acute liquidity crisis, driven primarily by the accumulation of significant arrears in statutory contributions from its largest member utilities, therefore still persists. Nigerian and Ghanaian member companies alone owe a total of USD 7.5 million, an amount equivalent to WAPP's entire annual budget and representing 81% of all outstanding arrears, which stand at USD 9.3 million. This level of unpaid contributions has severely destabilised the financial situation of the organisation and placed it in a critically vulnerable position.

120. The persistence of these payment defaults has resulted in historically low recovery rates and now threatens WAPP's ability to meet its essential obligations, including payments to suppliers, the organisation of statutory meetings, as well as payment of staff salaries starting from December 2025. This financial pressure also jeopardises major strategic initiatives, such as the launch of the Regional Electricity Market and the full synchronisation of power systems across West Africa.

121. The presentation ended with the recent WAPP historic successful synchronisation of the power systems of all 15 West African countries (from Mauritania to Nigeria), on 8th November 2025.

122. Council took note of the memorandum and welcomed the financial support of **US$1,323,920.00** from the Commission as a loan to WAPP. Council also strongly urged Member States to ensure that their national Power Utilities make timely payment of their contributions and arrears to WAPP for sustained operations, considering its strategic importance to regional economic development.

123. Council also acknowledged the commitments made by Ghana and Nigeria in repaying their outstanding contributions.

Item 24: Presentation and consideration of Memorandum on Agricultural, Livestock and Food Security Outlook for 2025/2026 in the Sahel and West Africa

124. The 2025/2026 agropastoral season in the Sahel and West African countries was marked by (i) overall normal to above-normal rainfall in the Sahel countries, and normal to below-normal rainfall in the Gulf of Guinea countries, (ii) a relatively turbulent phytosanitary situation with

significant pest infestations on crops (892,210 hectares were treated out of 1,367,582 hectares identified as infested), (iii) generally satisfactory forage biomass development in the Sahelian, Sudano-Guinean and Guinean zones despite localised deficits, and good availability of water for livestock watering, although access remains limited or contentious in some border areas. Based on preliminary assessments, cereal production is estimated at 55.3 million tonnes for the 12 ECOWAS Member States, representing a 7.4% increase from the previous season and a 7.5% rise from the average of the last five years. Expected root and tuber production in Member States is estimated at 283 million tonnes, representing a 3.2% increase compared to the previous season and an 8.3% increase compared to the five-year average. Finally, the projected cereal balance shows a net surplus of approximately 3.6 million tonnes of cereals across Member States.

125. Following the Harmonised Framework analyses conducted in the Sahel and West African countries, the food and nutrition situation is expected to remain generally worrisome. In fact, for the period of October to December 2025, approximately 36.8 million people (9.6% of the analysed population) will require food and nutrition assistance, as well as livelihood support measures. This number could reach 47.5 million people (12.4% of the analysed population) during the next lean season between June and August 2026, including 2.5 million in emergency situations (Phase 4-Emergency of the Food Security Phase Classification). The most affected countries in the ECOWAS region are Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

126. As a matter of emergency, there is a need to take action to support Member States affected by food insecurity. In view of the above, the ECOWAS Commission will be able to draw on the response instruments at its disposal to mitigate the impact of the food crisis on the most vulnerable populations. In this regard, ECOWAS could consider mobilising part of the Regional Food Security Reserve stocks to support the food insecurity response plans of the countries most affected by food insecurity. These stocks will be replenished with funds allocated in the 2026 budget under the special project to support the Regional Food Security Reserve. Additionally, it will require mobilising the ECOWAS humanitarian fund to complement interventions through the ECOWAS Food Reserve, engaging stakeholders, and implementing specific mechanisms that enhance regional agricultural markets, help reduce prices, and remove non-tariff barriers (NTBs) through improved efficiency and collaboration.

127. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 25: Any Other Business

A. Petition by a Ghanaian Company in Nigeria

128. Ghana informed Council of a petition by a Ghanaian company owned by Sir Sam Jonah of Jonah Capital PLC, concerning alleged abuse and harassment in its business operations in Nigeria.

129. Council noted the concern raised and requested for additional information.

B. Petition of a Former Staff of Commission

130. Council noted the petition presented by Nigeria on behalf of Mr. Jonas Kugblenu Adunkpe, a pensioner who worked with the Commission from September 1990 to November 2020, concerning the payment of Salary Arrears and Pension.

131. Council noted the assurance of the President of ECOWAS Commission to examine the petition to ensure a logical conclusion to the matter.

C. Summit of The Future

132. Council noted the importance of the Summit of the future to communicate the positive achievements of ECOWAS, while encouraging a discussion on key issues. Council highlighted the need to re-orient public opinion about the ideals of ECOWAS, with a clear direction on the future of the Community.

133. Council recommended that the Summit should be a closed-door session and the outcomes communicated to the Press.

D. Presentation of Awards of Recognition for Liberia's Peace, Democracy & Stability

134. On the margins of Council, H.E. Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Liberia, presented awards to H.E. Olushegun Adjadi Bakari, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Benin, and Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, on behalf of the ECOWAS Commission, for their immense contribution to the restoration of peace, democracy, and stability in Liberia. Similar awards had also been presented to all other ECOWAS Member States, as well as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger during the 148th Independence Anniversary of Liberia and as part of ECOWAS' Golden Jubilee celebrations.

E. Schedule for the Recruitment of the New Set of Statutory Appointees (2026-2030)

135. The President of the Commission briefed Council on the schedule of activities for the recruitment of Statutory Appointees.

Item 26: Adoption of Report

136. The report was adopted after amendments.

Swearing-in of new Commissioner for Internal Services

137. Following the adoption of the report, the President of the Community Court of Justice, Justice Ricardo Cláudio Monteiro Gonçalves administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Habib Yaya Bappah as the new Commissioner for Internal Services for the remaining term of the current

Management of the Commission. The Chairperson of Council congratulated the appointee and wished him success in his new role.

Item 27: Closing Session

138. The Chairperson of Council, H.E. Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, in his closing remarks, thanked Council Members for their active participation and constructive contributions during the session. He reminded Council Members that the strength of ECOWAS lies in unity among Member States, which calls for a more coordinated approach for a collective response to Community challenges. He also emphasised the need to accelerate key regional programmes which will deliver positive impact to ECOWAS citizens, especially the youth. He concluded by thanking the ECOWAS Commission and other Institutions for their technical preparations and support which greatly improved the outcome of deliberations and agreed recommendations.

139. Thereafter, he declared the Ninety-Fifth Ordinary Session of Council closed.

DONE IN ABUJA, THIS 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

ALHAJI MUSA TIMOTHY KABBA
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL