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SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND ORDINARY SESSION, 01 - 13 DECEMBER 2025

**MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON THE DRAFT 2026
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY BUDGET.**

- Abuja, from 09 December 2025 -

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The ECOWAS Parliament convened in plenary on Tuesday, 09 December 2025, during its 2025 Second Ordinary Session in Abuja, to receive the presentation of the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget by the Chairperson of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC). Pursuant to Rule 22, paragraph 2, and Rule 52, paragraph 1 (iii) of the Rules of Procedure of the Sixth Legislature, the Plenary thereafter transformed into a Committee of the Whole for the detailed consideration of the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget.
2. Honourable Fanta CONTÉ presided over the deliberations on the presentation by the Chairperson of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) of ECOWAS on the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget.

Attendance

3. A total of forty-three (43) Members of Parliament participated in the deliberations of the Committee of the Whole. In addition to the Honourable Members, the following officials were in attendance and contributed to the proceedings:
 - The Bureau of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC)
 - Officials of the ECOWAS Commission
 - Officials of the ECOWAS Parliament

Structure

4. The report summarises the presentations and deliberations of the meeting, highlights the key points, and puts forward recommendations based on the debates. It was structured as follows:
 - i. Opening
 - ii. Meeting Proceedings
 - iii. Closing

I. OPENING

5. The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole and Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Fanta CONTÉ. She expressed appreciation to Honourable Members for their readiness to engage in the scrutiny of the draft budget submitted for consideration. She further conveyed sincere gratitude to the Chairperson of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and his delegation for their availability to participate in the deliberations, as well as to the officials of both the ECOWAS Commission and the ECOWAS Parliament for their valuable presence. Hon. Zakaria Dauda NYAMPA and Hon. Carlos Alberto DOS SANTOS TAVARE served as Rapporteurs to the Committee of the Whole, provided support to the Chairperson throughout the proceedings.
6. In her subsequent remarks, the Rt. Honourable Speaker recalled the relevant legal provisions governing the Parliament's budgetary functions, notably Articles 9(1a), 11(1), and 17 of the Supplementary Act, which relate respectively to the mandatory referral of the Community Budget to Parliament, the requirement for Parliament to render its opinion on the budget, and the scope of Parliament's budgetary powers. She also drew attention to Council Regulation C/REG.4/05/17, which outlines the calendar and procedures for the consideration and adoption of the Community

Budget, thereby guiding the conduct of the deliberations before the Committee of the Whole.

ADOPTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

1. The Meeting's Work Programme was adopted as follows:
 - a. Presentation by the Chair of the ECOWAS Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) on the Report on the Consolidated 2026 Draft Budget of the Community.
 - b. Deliberations on the presentation.
 - c. Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Resolution of the Parliament on the Consolidated 2026 Draft Budget of the Community.
 - d. Adjournment

II. MEETING PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTATION

CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AFC) ON THE 2026 DRAFT CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY BUDGET

7. On 9 December 2025, the Chairperson of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) presented to the Committee of the Whole a summary of the Committee's Report arising from its 38th Meeting, which was convened from 2 to 8 December 2025.
8. The Report provided an overview of budget performance as of 31 October 2025, presented the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget, and outlined projections for the 2027 and 2028 financial years, in accordance with the requirements of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Budget Performance as of 31 October 2025

Income

TABLE 1: COMMUNITY INCOME IMPLEMENTATION AS OF 31st OCTOBER 2025

Chapters	2025 Approved Budget (UA)	Actual Income 31 October 2025 (UA)	Actual Income (%)
Community Levy	184,129,418	79,857,266	43.37%
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	210,044,596	49.55%

9. The revenue performance for the 2025 financial year as of 31 October 2025, based on the approved budgetary provisions and the actual income received. The analysis shows that total projected revenue for the year amounted to UA 423,889,851, against

which UA 210,044,596 had been realised, representing an overall performance rate of 49.55 per cent.

10. Community Levy collections, which remain the principal source of financing for the Community Budget, recorded UA 79,857,266 against an approved estimate of UA 184,129,418, translating to a performance of 43.37 per cent. Year-End Bank Balances performed at 35.59 per cent, with UA 23,543,508 collected out of the projected UA 66,161,142. Arrears of Community Levy registered a comparatively higher performance rate of 50.21 per cent, with UA 37,650,339 realised against the budgeted UA 74,987,116.

11. In addition, Other Income yielded UA 194,097 out of UA 550,000, representing 35.29 per cent. Income from External Sources showed the strongest performance, having recorded UA 68,799,386 against an approved allocation of UA 98,062,175, representing 70.16 per cent. The Committee noted these trends as indicative of the need for strengthened revenue mobilisation and enhanced compliance mechanisms across Member States to ensure the attainment of projected income targets.

Expenditure

TABLE 2: COMMUNITY EXPENDITURE IMPLEMENTATION AS AT 31st OCTOBER 2025

Chapters	2025 Approved Budget (UA)	Actual Expenditure 31 October 2025 (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	423,889,851	206,625,615	48.75%

12. The expenditure implementation under the 2025 Approved Budget as of 31 October 2025. Out of the total appropriation of UA 423,889,851, the sum of UA 206,625,615 had been expended, representing an overall budget execution rate of 48.75 per cent.

13. Expenditure under the Institutions accounted for the largest share of the budget, with UA 194,097,985 utilised out of an approved allocation of UA 364,588,656, reflecting a performance rate of 53.24 per cent. Statutory Obligations recorded an expenditure level of UA 3,388,849 against the approved figure of UA 13,799,638, representing 24.56 per cent utilisation.

14. Special Programmes and Interventions, which include targeted and time-bound initiatives of the Community, registered an execution rate of 18.02 per cent, with UA 4,536,416 spent out of the allocated UA 25,175,994. Similarly, Peace and Security interventions recorded an expenditure of UA 4,602,365 against an approved budget of UA 20,325,563, resulting in a performance rate of 22.64 per cent.

CONTENT OF THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026

15. The Draft Consolidated Community Budget for the year 2026, as recommended by AFC, is balanced in income and expenditure at UA 411,724,082, i.e., a decrease of

UA 12,165,769 representing -2.87% when compared to the approved consolidated Community budget of 2025 of the sum of UA 423,889,851. Below is the breakdown.

TABLE 3: 2026 AFC RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT UA
Total of Institutions	346,719,826
<i>Commission</i>	<i>214,885,034</i>
<i>Parliament</i>	<i>19,117,648</i>
<i>Court of Justice</i>	<i>16,978,496</i>
<i>WAHO</i>	<i>79,080,975</i>
<i>GIABA</i>	<i>9,411,459</i>
<i>Office of the Auditor General</i>	<i>7,426,215</i>
Statutory Obligations	14,001,231
Special Programs/Interventions in Member States	31,303,025
Peace and Security	19,700,000
TOTAL	411,724,082

DELIBERATIONS

16. The Chairperson, Honourable Fanta CONTÉ, speaking on behalf of the Committee of the Whole, commended the Chairperson of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and his delegation for the comprehensive presentation of the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget. She acknowledged the diligence demonstrated in preparing the budget documents and expressed appreciation for the clarity provided during the initial briefings.
17. Following extensive deliberations on the draft budget, Members of Parliament expressed strong concern regarding its late submission for parliamentary scrutiny. They recalled that, in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 1, on the Procedure for Opinion under the Supplementary Act relating to the Enhancement of the Powers of the ECOWAS Parliament, referrals from Community Institutions must be transmitted to Parliament at least fifteen (15) days before the commencement of its Sessions. Members emphasized that adherence to this requirement is essential to allow for thorough and timely legislative consideration.
18. Members further raised reservations regarding the low budget performance recorded by Community Institutions as of 31 October 2025. They attributed the under-implementation largely to persistent non-compliance by Member States with the provisions of the Community Levy Protocol, noting that such shortcomings continue to undermine the effective execution of Community programmes and activities. Members further highlighted the need for clearer justification of increases in specific programmes, as well as a better understanding of how the proposed budget responds

to pressing regional challenges, such as insecurity, migration, and youth unemployment, and aligns with the Community's strategic priorities.

19. Members sought further clarification on the persistent accumulation of arrears by Member States, the measures being undertaken to improve compliance, and the expected impact of revenue shortfalls on programme implementation. The Committee was also asked to provide updated country-by-country data on outstanding community levy obligations, as well as detailed information on external funding sources, including grants and partner contributions.
20. Members also reflected on the institutional role of Parliament, emphasising the need to strengthen its budgetary powers, improve internal committee functioning. They stressed that inadequate participation undermines the quality of parliamentary oversight. Members called for improved coordination, greater respect for parliamentary processes, and the inclusion of detailed appendices outlining special programmes and country-specific interventions. The Commission was urged to address these concerns and provide the necessary clarifications to support a more rigorous and credible budgetary review process.
21. In response to the issues raised, the Bureau of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), together with representatives of the ECOWAS Commission, provided clarifications and technical explanations that addressed the concerns of Members satisfactorily. Their interventions contributed to a more informed understanding of the constraints surrounding budget execution and the measures being undertaken to improve compliance and performance.

CONCLUSION

22. The Members, after deliberation on the 2026 Draft Consolidated Community Budget and the explanations provided by the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), and the ECOWAS Commission team, the draft Consolidated Community Budget for the 2026 fiscal year is balanced in revenue and expenditure at the sum of UA **411,724,082**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. Arising from the deliberations on the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget, the Members made the following recommendations:
24. The Committee of the Whole recommended that the Plenary issue a **Favourable Opinion** for its adoption as presented.
25. The Committee also underscored the need for the ECOWAS Commission and all Community Institutions and Organs to strengthen the timely implementation of programmes and activities that advance economic development within Member States. To this end, the Parliament was encouraged to intensify its advocacy efforts aimed at promoting full compliance by Member States with the Community Levy Protocol. Parliament is additionally expected to collaborate closely with the AFC, leveraging its administrative mandate, to engage Member States in fulfilling their obligations under the Protocol.

26. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that Parliament, working jointly with the ECOWAS Commission, sustain and deepen ongoing efforts to enhance the mobilization of the Community Levy at both the technical and managerial levels. It was proposed that high-level missions be deployed to selected Member States, particularly to address persistent challenges relating to the remittance of Levy proceeds, as well as issues concerning the reconciliation of assessments and deposits.

iii. **CLOSING**

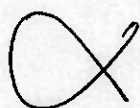
27. The closing session of the meeting featured a vote of thanks delivered by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, the Honourable **Fanta CONTÉ**. The Speaker expressed profound appreciation to Honourable Members for their active and constructive participation in the deliberations on the 2026 draft Consolidated Community Budget. She further extended her admiration and gratitude to the Bureau of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and the officials of the ECOWAS Commission for their commitment, availability, and the clarity of the presentations and responses provided on the draft 2026 Consolidated Community Budget. In the same vein, she acknowledged the sustained support of the Management and Staff of the Parliament, as well as the invaluable contributions of the language services support throughout the proceedings.
28. Thereafter, the meeting of the Committee was formally adjourned, and the Committee of the Whole was duly dissolved.

Done In Abuja, on this day of 09 December 2025

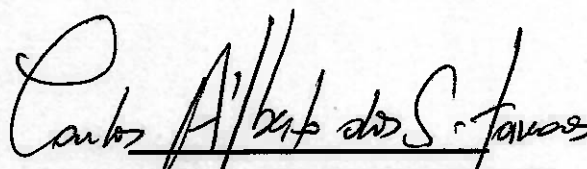
For the Committee of the Whole



Honourable Fanta CONTÉ
Chairperson



Zakaria Dauda NYAMPA
Rapporteur



Carlos Alberto DOS SANTOS TAVARE
Rapporteur