



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Inaugural Session of the Ministerial Dialogue on Cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Alliance of Sahel States (AES)

Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 17th October 2026

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) held an introductory and exchange meeting in Dakar on 17th October 2026 with a view to laying the foundation for their cooperation. The ECOWAS delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Cheikh Niang, Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers and Minister of African Integration, Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad. The AES Confederation delegation was led by His Excellency Mr Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, and Chair of the Ministerial Steering Committee of the AES Confederation. The Session was co-chaired by the Heads of Delegation.
2. The Parties welcomed the spirit of fraternity, mutual respect, and openness that prevailed throughout the discussions, recalling the deep historical, socio-cultural, and economic ties that unite their peoples.
3. Considering these longstanding bonds, the Parties agree that their future relations must be guided by the principles of good neighbourliness, respect for sovereignty, dignity, and the well-being of West African populations.
4. Following their consultations on 22nd May 2025 in Bamako, Republic of Mali, the Parties exchanged views on areas of common interest around which the ensuing discussions may be structured.
5. The Parties affirm their willingness to achieving a cooperation framework that is balanced, realistic and preserves the interests of their peoples.

6. The Parties express to establish joint thematic working groups to undertake technical consultations with the aim of developing a Cooperation Framework Agreement between ECOWAS and the Confederation of the AES. The outcomes of their work shall be submitted to the Ministers for their consideration before their next session.
7. The date and venue of the next meeting will be determined following consultations through diplomatic channels.
8. The Parties express their profound gratitude to H.E. Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar FAYE, President of the Republic of Senegal, current Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, and the Government and people of Senegal, for their warm hospitality and their steadfast commitment to integration in West Africa.

Done in Dakar, on 17th October 2026, in French, English, and Portuguese, with all three texts being equally authentic.

**For the Economic Community of West
African States (ECOWAS)**



**His Excellency Mr. Cheikh Niang,
Minister of African Integration,
Foreign Affairs and Senegalese
Abroad, (Chair of the ECOWAS
Council of Ministers)**

**For the Confederation of the Alliance
of Sahel States (AES)**



**His Excellency Mr Karamoko Jean-
Marie Traoré, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Burkina Faso, (Chair of the
Ministerial Steering Committee of the
AES Confederation)**