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**PROTOCOL A/P.1/7/87 ON CULTURAL
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

CONSIDERING Article 49 of the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States on co-operation in social and cultural matters.

GUIDED by:

- the Cultural Charter of Africa,
- the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO, at its fourteenth session in Paris in 1966,
- the Inter-Governmental conference on Cultural Policies in Africa, organised by UNESCO with the co-operation of the Organisation for African Unity in Accra in 1975,
- the World Conference on Cultural Policies organised by UNESCO in Mexico in 1982;

CONVINCED that culture is a fundamental dimension of development, of which economic growth is only one aspect and that the integration of cultural factors in development strategies will ensure a well-balanced development, and further, that development, when rooted in the culture of the peoples concerned, and a part of their system of values, will emancipate them from any form of economic, social and cultural dependency;

MINDFUL of the need to establish a form of cultural co-operation which will make it possible to take into account the cultural aspect of projects within the framework of regional development plans and strategies, and to foster a sense of belonging to the same cultural community;

ARE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING:

PART I

Basic Principles

ARTICLE 1

The Member States and the Community undertake:

- (a) to promote the cultural identity of their respective peoples, cultural identity being understood as a dynamic process of continuity, creativity and approaches to innovation which is different in each population;
- (b) to establish between each other, for their mutual enrichment, and with a view to creating a spirit of dialogue and exchange a cultural co-operation, based on mutual respect of differences.

ARTICLE 2

In pursuing this objective, constant attention is given to taking socio-cultural factors into account in the definition, implementation and evaluation of projects of common interest, on the adaptation of technology and in the transmission of knowledge, as to safeguard the structural cohesion of each population and their social evolution.

PART II Definitions

ARTICLE 3

For the purposes of the present Cultural Framework Agreement, terms are defined as follows:

1. **"Treaty"**: The Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States.
2. **"Community"**: The Economic Community of West African States.
3. **"Member State(s)"**: Member State(s) of the Community.
4. **"Authority"**: Authority of Heads of State and Government established by Article 5 of the Treaty.
5. **"Council"**: ECOWAS Council of Ministers established by Article 6 of the Treaty.
6. **"Executive Secretariat"**: The Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS established by Article 8 of the Treaty.
7. **"Agreement"**: The Cultural Framework Agreement.
8. **"Region"**: The geographical area of West Africa, covered by the Community.
9. **"Regional Co-operation"**: Co-operation planned or taking place, either:
 - between two or more Member States.
 - or between one or more Member States on the one hand and one or more neighbouring non-Member States on the other hand.
10. **"Inter-regional Co-operation"**: Co-operation planned or taking place:
 - between one or more African regional organisations whose Member States are also Members of the Community,

- between one or more Member States and States from other regions,
 - between one or more Member States and from other regions.
- 11 **"Regional Project"**: A project that is the object of regional co-operation.

PART III

The Objectives

ARTICLE 4

The major objectives of the Agreement are as follows:

- 1 Improvement of the populations standard of living and social progress through the development of creativity.
- 2 Regional integration by means of community development which takes into account the specific socio-cultural realities and aspirations of the Member State population while at the same time responding to their fundamental needs and integrating their economic and cultural dimensions.
- 3 The creation of Community awareness upheld by a sense of belonging to the same cultural Community which is founded on historical, linguistic and geo-political links. Affirming the presence of, and thus both safeguarding and promoting the specific cultural identities of the Member States and of the Community they form, through international exchanges and the reinforcement of regional bilateral co-operation and the development of inter-regional co-operation.

PART IV

Areas of Application

ARTICLE 5

1. In the domain of cultural co-operation of the Community, Member States shall conduct integrated programmes which involve appropriate activities in education, training and research, science and technology, information, and communication, and cultural productions.

- 2 These integrated programmes shall be linked to other sectors of co-operation envisaged by the Treaty. The aim being to foster the self advancement of the people, and to stimulate their abilities of adaptation and creativity. Their projects shall take into account the cultural identities and the social and economic realities of the Member States.

Education and Training

ARTICLE 6

The Community shall support Member States in restructuring and adapting their education systems to their socio-cultural situations and value systems, this involves particularly regional projects of the following kinds:

- 1 Educational renewal, reforms in teaching or in the system of education.
- 2 The integration of education and training with development activities with a view to making better use of human resources.
- 3 Comparative studies of the educational systems of two or more Member States with a view to harmonising them, differences and complementarities.
- 4 Inter-university exchange of teachers, students and the administrative personnel of schools and universities.
- 5 Introductory and advanced training in the principal languages of communication and the official languages of the Community.
- 6 Literacy programme, particularly for rural populations with special emphasis on women in order to further their participation in education and development.
- 7 Training of rural workers to improve their qualifications and increase their ability to meet the needs of agricultural expansion and master the new appropriate technologies.
- 8 Occupational retraining and professional training of teachers, trainers, workers in the different sectors of development with a view to improving and renewing human resources.
- 9 The production of teaching aids for secondary and higher education establishments and for professional training centres.

- 10 Training of specialists in video communication and in educational equipment, supported by the establishment of sound libraries to facilitate the gathering of oral traditions and the intensive use of local languages for organising popular participation in development.
- 11 The Organisation of teaching seminars and workshops for the evaluation of experiments in different areas of training.

Science and Technology Research

ARTICLE 7

The Community and its Member States on the one hand and the Member States among themselves on the other, shall co-operate closely, according to their needs, in planning and carrying out scientific and technological research programmes in sectors of activity which contribute to the social and economic progress of the countries and their populations, particularly in such areas as environment and natural resources, industry and energy, health and nutrition, agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing and medicine and pharmaceuticals.

ARTICLE 8

The research projects shall take into account the real needs and living conditions of the populations concerned and aim to catalyse and sustain integrated national and regional development by:

- 1 The reinforcement or establishment of pure and/or applied institutions to serve the region.
- 2 Co-operation in integrated research programmes between universities and appropriate institutions.
- 3 The training of scientists, auxiliaries and technicians for research.
- 4 The strengthening and establishment of networks for exchanging scientific and technological information and documentation.
- 5 Showing the value of local technologies, identifying new sources of adaptable foreign technologies and adapting appropriate technologies.
- 6 The reinforcement or establishment of research and documentation on cultural development.
- 7 The establishment of "Centres of Excellence" in the Community within the existing universities, and the institution of Science Prizes for original work by citizens of Member States, which make a significant contribution to regional development.

- 8 The organisation of seminars on methodology, symposia and meetings to encourage co-operation among researchers and through the exchange of information, to make them corporately responsible for the growth of the Community's scientific capital, etc.

Cultural Industries and Cultural Productions

ARTICLE 9

To promote local creativity and technology in Member States actions shall be taken to develop cultural productions, and to improve their structures and mechanism namely cultural industries.

ARTICLE 10

Cultural Industries in the context of this agreement are the complex of existing structures and technological mechanisms together with the cultural goods they help to produce on an industrial scale such as audio-visual: audio-visual productions, artisan products, books films, records, cassettes, graphics and post-cards etc.

ARTICLE 11

Recognising that cultural industries make effective use of their human resources and strengthen their cultural and economic autonomy Member States and the Community shall promote these through national and regional projects such as:

- 1 The establishment or strengthening of regional and sub-regional production units for radio and television receivers.
- 2 The production and distribution of teaching material and equipment for audio-visual information popularisation.
- 3 Co-operation by nationals of several Member States of films, cultural programmes and documentaries for radio and television.
- 4 The establishment or improvement of production and distribution centres for gramophone records, cassettes, films, books, etc.
- 5 The establishment or strengthening of centres for promoting local crafts, and the improvement of traditional craft technologies.
- 6 The periodical organisation of a fair for the cultural industries, and of special fairs, for crafts, books, etc.
- 7 The organisation of periodical meetings of specialists from the Member States on the commercialisation of cultural products and the problems arising from this in relation

to preserving the national culture heritage of each country.

- 8 The promotion of traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia.

Cultural Tourism

ARTICLE 12

The Member States and the Community, aware of the contribution that Tourism can make to economic and social development are agreed on establishing forms of co-operation, such, as to make it possible to avoid the negative effects of exogeneous tourism on certain areas and populations of the country concerned, through the development of cultural tourism.

ARTICLE 13

In the context of the present Agreement, Cultural Tourism is understood as the voluntary movement of citizens of the Community within Member States, both within theirs as well as in others, with the aim of knowing more about their socio-cultural realities and establishing relations between individuals and groups in accordance with the objectives of the Community. In this regard the Community shall undertake:

- 1 An annual regional programme of cultural tourism for youths, school children and university students, workers and women.
- 2 Organisation of study trips to Member States for citizens of the Community responsible for national development projects which could be of importance to regional integration.
- 3 Training programmes and refresher courses for tourism personnel.

ARTICLE 14

Laws shall be made for the protection of cultural heritage by regulating the circulation of cultural goods among Member States to a non-Member State.

Cultural Exchange

ARTICLE 15

Member States and the Community, in order to fulfill the aims of the present Agreement, shall encourage the promotion of cultural exchanges through:

- 1 Bilateral cultural exchange between Member States and cultural diffusion within the

Community.

- 2 Meetings and exchanges between artists, Community leaders, producers, scientists, intellectuals, youths, women, cultural associations, workers, etc.
- 3 The organisation every three years, of a Regional Festival of Culture.
- 4 The organisation of cultural events in Member States, which will be of interest to several Member States at the same time, for example: shows, exhibitions, forums, fairs etc.
- 5 Exchange, in the form of fixed term loans, of rare or unique cultural goods from one Member State to another.
- 6 The exchange of programmes and cultural broadcasts between radio and television centres, media libraries and audio-visual production centres in the Member States.

ARTICLE 16

- 1 In order to develop cultural exchange and foster a fairly wide distribution of cultural productions of Member States within the Community, Member States shall provide facilities for the diffusion of original cultural products, in particular by allowing them to benefit from the exchange regulations defined by the Treaty for the liberalisation of exchanges. To this end, the list of priority cultural products and cultural industries will be decided upon by the Council.
- 2 Similarly the Community shall, in order to promote more balanced exchanges between Member States and the industrialised countries, develop inter-regional co-operation which will facilitate the distribution of cultural products from the Community in other regions.

Means and Conditions of Implementation

ARTICLE 17

The financial means for implementing the Agreement are expected mainly from the following sources:

- 1 The normal budget of the Community;
- 2 The Compensation and Development Fund of the Community;
- 3 Special voluntary contributions from Member States, as well as various gifts and legacies from Member and non-Member States, foundations, organisations, private individuals and associations, etc.
- 4 The sale of various products;
- 5 The retention of five (5) per cent, instituted by decision of the Council, of the net proceeds from cultural events organised under the auspices of the Community;
- 6 Loans contracted from international sources of financing;
- 7 Any other source approved by the Council.

ARTICLE 18

In keeping with the spirit of the Treaty, the Agreement will enhance bilateral co-operation between Member States, assists in carrying out national projects and support regional projects in so far as they fulfill one or more of the following criteria:

- 1 A project geared towards cultural complementarity and which can contribute to the process of economic integration at the regional level.
- 2 A project linked to existing regional cultural plans and programmes.
- 3 A project requiring an institutional multilateral framework for its implementation.
- 4 A project designed and located in only one country which may be of interest to neighbouring Member States.
- 5 A project in which two or more Member States participate, even if this does not involve the installation of any physical structures in a given country.
- 6 A project which includes co-ordinated national sub-projects within a multinational institutional structure linking sub-projects with different characteristics resulting from separate investments.

ARTICLE 19

As the need arises and at the request of Member States, the Community will award scholarships or allowances to cover all or part of the cost of training courses, study programmes, travel for studies, etc, for citizens of Member States to enable them to visit Member States other than their own for training or information, or to visit non-Member States for this purpose.

The period for which the Community takes this responsibility cannot exceed 24 months.

ARTICLE 20

In view of its needs and according to the interest of their programmes, the Community will co-operate with centres or institutions of study, training and research for the implementation of some of its own programmes, by providing all or part of the cost involved, or by contributing to the implementation of the institutions programmes. In such cases these centres or institutions will play the role of executing agency of specific projects.

ARTICLE 21

Member States shall place at the disposal of the Community civil servants who are designated and requested for by the Community as consultants. The length of a consultant's services shall not exceed six months.

PART VI

Final Provisions

ARTICLE 22

Any dispute in the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by direct and amicable discussion, failing which the dispute shall be referred to the Council of Ministers who may report to the Heads of State and Government.

ARTICLE 23

- 1 This Agreement shall provisionally come into force upon signature by the Heads of State and Government, and finally into effect after being ratified by at least seven of the signatory States, in conformity with the constitutional laws of each Member State.

- 2 This Agreement together with all the instruments of ratification will be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Community who will transfer true certified copies of this document to all the Member States and notify them of the date for depositing the instruments of ratification.
- 3 Each Member State shall be informed by the Executive Secretary of the steps to be taken for the application of the Agreement.
- 4 Each Member State shall inform the Executive Secretariat of measures it has taken for the application of this Agreement.

This Framework Agreement was signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

IN FAITH WHEREOF WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) HAVE SIGNED THIS CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 9TH DAY OF JULY 1987 IN SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH LANGUAGES, BOTH TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC

Signed

H.E. COLONEL MATHIEU KEREKOU
President of People's Republic of BENIN

Signed

H.E. CAPTAIN THOMAS SANKARA
*Chairman of the National
Revolutionary Council
President of FASO*

Signed

H.E. MR. ARISTIDES PEREIRA
*President of the Republic of
CAPE VERDE*

Signed

**H.E. MR. FELIX HOUPHOUET
BOIGNY**
*President of the Republic of
COTE D'IVOIRE*

Signed

H.E. ALHAJI SIR DAUDA K. JAWARA
President of the Republic of GAMBIA

Signed

HON. ALHAJI MAHAMA IDDRISU
*Member PNDC and Minister of Defence
for and on behalf of the Head of State of the
Republic of GHANA*

Signed

HON. MAJOR KERFALLA CAMARA
*Permanent Secretary, Military Committee for
National Recovery for and on behalf of the
President of the Republic of
GUINEA*

Signed

HON. MR. CARLOS CORREIA
*Member of the Political Bureau of the PIAGC,
member of the State Department Responsible for
Rural Development and Fisheries, for and on
behalf of the President of the Republic of GUINEA
BISSAU*

Signed

HON. MRS. AMELIA WARD
*Deputy Minister, for and on behalf of the
President of the Republic of LIBERIA*

Signed

H.E. GENERAL MOUSSA TRAORE
President of the Republic of MALI

Signed

HON. DIA-EL-HADJ ABDERRAHMANE

Member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, Minister of Commerce and Transport, for and on behalf of the Chairman of the Military Committee for Salvation, Head of State, President of the Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA

Signed

HON. MR. HAMID ALGABID

Prime Minister, for and on behalf of the President of the Republic of NIGER

Signed

**H.E. MAJOR GENERAL IBRAHIM
BADAMASI BABANGIDA**

President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA

Signed

HON. MR. ABDOURAHMANE TOURE

Minister of Trade, for and on behalf of the President of the Republic of SENEGAL

Signed

HON. SALIA JUSU-SHERIF

2nd Vice President, for and on behalf of the President of the Republic of SIERRA LEONE

Signed

**H.E. GENERAL GNASSINGBE
EYADEMA**

President of the TOGOLESE REPUBLIC