



**FORTY SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF  
HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENT**

Yamoussoukro, 27 – 28 February 2013

**DECISION A/DEC.1/02/13 RELATING TO THE GRANTING TO  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE,  
FULL MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL  
ACTION-GROUP AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING IN WEST  
AFRICA (GIABA)**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,**

**MINDFUL** of Articles 7, 8, and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty as amended establishing the Authority of Heads of States and Government and defining its composition and functions;

**MINDFUL** of Article 58 of the said Treaty on Regional Security;

**MINDFUL** of the Protocol relating to the Mechanism, on Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security of 1999 which amongst other vital issues, underscores the need for a fight against transnational crimes such as Money Laundering;

**MINDFUL** of Article 7 of the Treaty which gives the Authority the responsibility for general direction and control of the Community and for the determination of its general policy;

**MINDFUL** of Decision A/DEC.9/12/99 of the Authority establishing the Inter Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA);

**RECALLING** Decision A/DEC.6/12/00 adopting the Statutes of GIABA;

**MINDFUL** of Article 3 of the Revised Statutes of GIABA membership of other African States to GIABA by application and through adherence to the Statutes of GIABA;





**RECALLING** that GIABA's primary responsibility is to undertake measures to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the ECOWAS Community and that GIABA has over the years attained the status of a Financial Task Force (FATF) style Regional Body;

**ALSO RECALLING** that United Nations Security Council UNSC had adopted a number of Treaties and Resolutions on money laundering and financing of terrorism (AML/CFT);

**RECOGNIZING** the limited capacity of individual countries to fight money laundering due to the nature, complexity and international scope of the problem;

**AWARE** therefore of the need for a robust and strategic cooperation among States of the Region and the global Community to effectively tackle the menace of money laundering as a whole and Terrorism-Financing;

**HAVING BEEN INFORMED** of the application of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe for full membership to GIABA;

**UPON THE RECOMMENDATION** of GIABA Ministerial Committee adopted on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 endorsing the membership application of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to GIABA;

**MINDFUL** of the fact however that membership to GIABA does not confer on this country membership to ECOWAS;

**DESIROUS** of ensuring that GIABA is provided with all the resources it requires by way of international cooperation for a successful combat against the laundering of the proceeds from crime and the financing of terrorism;

**ON THE RECOMMENDATION** of the Sixty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers which took place in Abidjan from 30<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012;





## DECIDES

### Article 1

The status of full membership to the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) is hereby granted to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

### Article 2

1. All ECOWAS decisions relating to Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) shall henceforth be binding on the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.
2. The status of Membership granted to the country obliges it to comply with Article 15(b) of the Revised Statutes of GIABA of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 in relation to the payment of an annual contribution to GIABA;

### Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the official journal of the Community by the ECOWAS Commission within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in the National Gazette thirty (30) days after notification by the Commission.

DONE AT YAMOUSSOUKRO, THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY  
2013

H.E Mr. ALASSANE OUATTARA

CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY