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FORTY SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abidjan, 30 November – 2 December 2012

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.3/12/12 RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ECOWAS QUALITY POLICY (ECOQUAL) AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty as amended, establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its functions and composition;

MINDFUL of Article 26 of the *said* ECOWAS Treaty, which states that Member States shall agree to harmonise and coordinate industrialisation policies, with a view to promoting industrial development and the integration of their economies;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 26 paragraph 3 of the said Treaty and in particular paragraph L, which urge Member States to adopt joint standards and adequate quality control systems in order to create a solid base for industrialisation and enhance collective autonomy;

MINDFUL of Supplementary Act A/SA.07/02/10 of 2 July 2012 adopting the West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP);

CONSIDERING that one of the objectives of ECOWAS is to promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa.

CONSIDERING that of the ten (10) regional programmes linked to the specific objectives, strategies and activities of the West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP), the priority programme is based on Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) or Quality Infrastructure (QI);

CONSIDERING that within the framework of its integration programme and on the basis of extensive consultations, ECOWAS has prepared the Regional Quality Policy which reflects the needs of Member States;

CONVINCED that this policy provides crucial basis for the harmonisation or development of national quality policies, which will guide the establishment of quality infrastructure in Member States that are suitable, efficient and of internationally accepted standards;

EMPHASIZING the need, in the framework of the adoption of the Regional Quality Policy, to take into account the differences in the legal systems, the administrative structures and technological development of Member States of the Community;

DESIROUS of adopting an ECOWAS Quality Policy that seeks to establish a framework for the development and functioning of quality, suitable, relevant and efficient infrastructure, in order to facilitate intra-regional and international trade, protect the consumer and the environment and promote sustainable economic development;

ON THE PROPOSAL of the Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Quality Assurance held in Niamey (Niger) on 19 October 2012;

RECOMMENDS that the Authority of Heads of State and Government adopt the draft Supplementary Act here attached relating to the adoption of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) and its implementation framework;

DONE AT ABIDJAN, THIS 2nd DAY DECEMBER 2012

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H.E. CHARLES KOFFI DIBY

CHAIRMAN

FOR COUNCIL