

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

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37TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS
OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, 16 February 2010

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States was held on 16 February 2010 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, under the chairmanship of **His Excellency Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, Acting President, Commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairman of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

2. The following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives were present at this session:

- His Excellency **Dr Thomas Boni YAYI**
President of the Republic of Benin

- His Excellency **Blaise COMPAORE**
President of Faso

- His Excellency **Pedro PIRES**
President of Cape Verde

- His Excellency **Prof. John Evans ATTA MILLS**
President of the Republic of Ghana

- His Excellency **Malam Bacai SANHA**
President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau

- Her Excellency **Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF**
President of the Republic of Liberia

- His Excellency **Dr. Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN**, GCON
Acting President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of
the Federal Republic of Nigeria

- His Excellency Maître **Abdoulaye WADE**
President of the Republic of Senegal

- His Excellency **Ernest Bai KOROMA**
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

- His Excellency **Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE**
President of the Togolese Republic

- Her Excellency **Aja Dr Isatou NJIE-SAIDY**
Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia
- His Excellency **Youssouf BAKAYOKO**
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- His Excellency **Dr Badara Aliou MACALOU**
Minister of Malians in the Diaspora and African Integration
of the Republic of Mali

3. His Excellency **Saïd DJINNIT**, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation for West Africa and H.E. Professor Ibrahima FALL, African Union Special Envoy to Guinea also participated in this 37th Session as an Observer.

4. The Heads of State and Government wished **H.E. Umaru Musa YAR'ADUA**, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria quick recovery. They also welcomed **H.E. Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN**, Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

5. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2009 Annual Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the Report of the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, the Report of His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on Regional Transport and Energy Infrastructure, the Report of the Mediation and Security Council and the Reports of the ECOWAS Facilitators in Guinea and Niger. They also listened to presentations by the Prime Minister of Niger as well as the spokesperson for the Coordination of Forces for Democracy and Republic (CFDR), representing the opposition coalition.

6. Reaffirming their commitment to deepening the West African integration process, the Heads of State and Government adopted the major recommendations made in the various reports presented and subsequently conducted a detailed analysis of the following specific issues:

West African Economic Performance

7. The Authority expressed concern over the devastating effects of the global financial meltdown on the economic performance of the region. To this end, the Authority invited Member States to take necessary measures not only to enhance their structural reforms and economic and financial recovery measures but also to

pursue efforts towards liberalising their economies and promoting activities in the private sector. In addition, Member States were exhorted to make adequate provisions for the ratification of ECOWAS protocols and ensure their effective application. The Heads of State and Government also urged the ECOWAS Commission to intensify its efforts towards the realisation of the common market through notably the acceleration of priority integration projects.

8. Hailing H. E. Lula Da Silva, President of Brazil for his commitment to the consolidation of South-South Cooperation, the Authority supported the idea of Cape Verde regarding the holding of an ECOWAS-Brazil Summit in Cape Verde. It urged Member States to participate in the proposed Summit and invited the ECOWAS Commission to work closely with the Authorities in Cape Verde to ensure its success.

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

9. The Authority commended the efforts of the region in the negotiation on the text of the Agreement. However, concerned by the recurring divergent views, the Heads of State and Government underscored the need for the two regions (West Africa and EU) to reach consensus without further delay, particularly on the development dimension, the inclusion of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Community Levies (CL and CSL) in the tariff dismantling process as well as the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) clause and the non execution clause in the text of the Agreement.

10. Furthermore, concerning the Market Access Offer, the Authority urged both sides to quickly agree on the level of liberalisation for West Africa that would facilitate the conclusion of the EPA. Consequently, to ensure that the region adopts a liberalisation programme that does not jeopardise its development, the Authority appealed to the EU side to demonstrate the required flexibility with respect to the trade liberalisation and the duration of the transition period.

11. Reiterating its firm commitment to make the EPA Development Programme the major sustaining instrument in the development dimension of the EPA, the Summit appealed to the EU side to ensure the mobilisation of the requisite optimum resources to finance the programme. The EU side was therefore requested to present a financing plan for this programme before the conclusion of the Agreement. The Authority underlined the central aspect of the development dimension to the negotiations and emphasised that EU's commitment in this regard should be binding and concrete.

Energy and Transport Programmes

12. The Heads of State and Government took note of the major developments in the implementation of the Development and Financing Fund for the transport and energy sectors in the ECOWAS region (FODETE-ECOWAS). After congratulating **H.E Laurent Gbagbo**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on the quality of his report and his unrelenting commitment to ensure that these sectors become a relevant catalyst for deepening of the West African integration process, the Summit approved the relevant recommendations of the report.

13. The Authority specifically urged the Member States to take ownership of this process, with the direct and continuing involvement of the Ministers of Energy, Transport, Finance. It further urged the ECOWAS Commission and other structures committed to the process (EBID, ADB, PPDU), to harmonise their efforts with a view to completing the initial activities required for the effective creation of the Fund. The Summit re-affirmed its confidence to **H.E. Laurent Gbagbo**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and requested him to continue his coordination role in the development of the regional infrastructural networks and to ensure a synergy with the ECOWAS-NEPAD projects.

Regional Policy on Agriculture and Environment

14. The Summit noted with satisfaction the signing of the Regional Pact which has made ECOWAP a unique reference framework for all interventions and the coordination of assistance in the agricultural sector. To consolidate this partnership framework for effective implementation of ECOWAP, the Heads of State and Government urged the Commission to accelerate the establishment of the regional fund and the operation of the proposed institutional mechanism in this regard. They also encouraged ECOWAS Member States to complete their respective national roundtables and initiate the process for the preparation of their agricultural investment operational plans.

15. Concerned with the issue of climate change, the Authority recognised the need for an ambitious and concerted global response. The Authority encouraged continuation of the talks on this issue of critical interest at the international level, in order to bring lasting solutions to this challenge, and mandated the Commission to accelerate the adoption of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan aimed at reducing West Africa's vulnerability.

Regional Peace and Security

16. Despite some remarkable improvement in the security situation, the Summit expressed concern with the relapse in the democratic process of the region. The Heads of State and Government urged Member States to comply with the various

protocols on peace and security and mandated the ECOWAS Commission to intensify efforts to support Member States in this process.

17. Reviewing recent developments in the political and security situation, the Heads of State and Government arrived at the following observations and decided as follows:

18. **Guinea Bissau**, The Authority assured **H.E. Malam Bacai Sanha**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau of its support in the implementation of measures to enhance good governance, control impunity and drug trafficking. The Authority also agreed to facilitate the mobilisation of resources to support reforms in the security sector, provision of basic social services and capacity building of economic structures. The Authority urged the ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with the African Union, to finalise the modalities for assistance to the Government of Guinea Bissau in the implementation of these initiatives.

19. The Summit commended the European Union's initiative for an International Donors Conference (IDC) in the first quarter of 2010 aimed at mobilising the necessary resources for the socio-economic development of Guinea Bissau. The Authority exhorted the international community to give full support to this collective effort in order to assist the new Government to bring peace and stability to Guinea Bissau. The Summit directed the Commission to liaise with the Government of Guinea Bissau and the EU with a view to convening the IDC no later than April 2010.

20. **Guinea**. The Authority hailed the signing of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration of 15 January 2010 as a positive and critical step in the effort to restore constitutional order and end the crisis in Guinea. The Heads of State and Government praised the Guinean stakeholders for their maturity and commended the productive mediation efforts of **H.E. Blaise Compaore**, President of Faso and ECOWAS Mediator, for the significant breakthrough in the crisis. They encouraged him to continue with his mediation effort in order to ensure a successful transition.

21. The Heads of State and Government called for speedy implementation of this Declaration, commended the nomination of Acting President, **General Sekouba Konate** and the appointment of the Prime Minister of Transition, **Jean-Marie Dore**, creation of a National Transition Council and formation of the transition Government. The Heads of State and Government urged all stakeholders in the transition process to cooperate with the transition authorities in order to continue this process, especially the finalisation of preparations for the holding of free and transparent elections within the 6-month deadline as stipulated in the Declaration. They also expressed satisfaction on the take-off of a joint ECOWAS/AU/UN cooperation mission to support the reform measures undertaken in the defence and security sector by General Lamine Cisse.

22. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for members of the National Transition Council, Head of the Transition Government, members of the CNDD, Prime Minister and members of the Government of National Unity as well as serving members of the defence and security forces not to be candidates in the next elections.

23. The Authority expressed its strong commitment to the mobilisation of international support for the comprehensive post electoral reforms of the defence and security sector, urgent socio-economic assistance and revitalisation of the Guinean economy. To that end, the Summit appealed to the International Community and the technical and financial partners to support Guinea for a successful transition, institutional reforms and rapid economic recovery.

24. The Heads of State and Government took note of the positive role being played by the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G) and expressed the hope that it would continue to support Guinea through the transition

25. The Heads of State and Government directed the President of the Commission to review the travel ban imposed on some Guineans following the 28 September 2009 massacre and to come up with a revised list targeting only those found to have been directly involved in the massacres, or to be impeding the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration.

26. **Cote d'Ivoire.** The Heads of State and Government urged all political stake holders in Côte d'Ivoire to take appropriate measures to continue with the peace process in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and complementary agreements. Consequently, the Authority urged the facilitator and all political stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire to pursue dialogue with a view to rapidly resolving outstanding issues relating in particular to the finalisation of the electoral list and the fixing of a firm date for the said elections.

27. The Authority lauded the diplomatic efforts of **HE Blaise Compaore**, President of Faso and Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, for the progress made so far and urged him to continue his mediation efforts.

28. **Niger.** The Heads of State and Government commended **General Abdulsalami A. Abubakar** for his tireless mediation efforts in Niger. The Authority of Heads of State and Government regretted the limited progress made in the Inter-Nigerien Dialogue started on 21 December 2009 under the facilitation of **General Abdulsalami A. Abubakar**, former Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS Mediator. It urged the two parties to show greater flexibility and put the interest of the country above all other considerations in order to end the current impasse and quickly return the country to constitutional legality.

29. To consolidate this mediation effort, the Heads of State and Government endorsed the resolution of the African Union urging dialogue as the instrument to achieve political consensus in order to end the crisis. The Summit encouraged the mediator to continue with his efforts and requested the African Union to complement the work of **General Abdulsalami A. Abubakar** in the spirit of the close cooperation existing between the two Institutions by designating a Special Envoy on Niger. **H.E. Maître Abdoulaye WADE** President of the Republic of Senegal accepted to avail himself to the mediation process for consultation.

30. **Togo.** The Summit took note of the forthcoming Presidential election originally scheduled for 28 February 2010 but which has been postponed to 4 March 2010 due to some technical challenges. It welcomed the deployment of an ECOWAS civilian-military election observer mission as an important confidence building measure and the commitment of ECOWAS to the consolidation of democracy. Preoccupied by the need to build on the gains of national reconciliation resulting from the inter-Togolese dialogue, the Heads of State and Government appealed to all stakeholders involved in the electoral process to take necessary measures to ensure a peaceful environment for the organisation of free, transparent and credible election which respects constitutional provisions. The Summit congratulated the Facilitator and all political stakeholders for their commitment in this regard.

31. Reaffirming its determination to fight against terrorism, the Authority unreservedly condemned the terrorist attack perpetrated against the Togolese national football team on 8 January 2010 at the 27th edition of the African Cup of Nations. It conveyed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of Togo, in particular the families of the victims of the attack. Regarding the suspension of Togo from the next two editions of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) tournaments, the Heads of State and Government expressed regret at the CAF decision and launched an earnest appeal to it to review its decision and to resolve this issue, taking into account traditional African values of compassion and humanity. They directed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to work closely with the President of the West African Football Union (WAFU) to bring this matter up at the next meeting of the CAF Executive Committee in Lubumbashi, DRC, on 19 February 2010 with a view to lifting the ban on Togo to enable it to take part in the draw for CAF 2012, scheduled for 20 February 2010.

Institutional matters

32. The Authority expressed satisfaction at the significant appointment of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, **Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas** as Secretary General of the ACP Group. The Heads of State and Government heartily congratulated Dr. Chambas for the outstanding achievements recorded in the region

during his term of office, particularly the impressive and brilliant contribution he made in opening new ECOWAS integration avenues. To ensure continuity and proper functioning of the Commission, the Summit appointed **Ambassador Victor Gbeho**, a national of Ghana, as the President of the ECOWAS Commission until the end of December 2010.

33. Regarding the rotation of the President, the Vice President, and Commissioners of the ECOWAS Commission, the Heads of State and Government directed the President of the Commission to present a proposal on the modalities of rotation at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers which, in turn, will present its report to the next Summit of the Authority in June 2010.

34. The Heads of State and Government commended the Government of Liberia for acceding to the Protocol between the Member States of WAMZ and viewed it as a positive step towards the monetary union.

Election of Chairman of the Authority

35. The Heads of State and Government elected Dr. Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN, GCON, Acting President of the Republic of Nigeria as Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for a one-year term.

36. The Heads of State and Government decided to implement their earlier decision A/DEC.27/01/06 on the rotation of the chairperson of ECOWAS. In that regard, they directed the Commission to propose a clear calendar of rotation, which shall take into account the alphabetical order of Member States to be presented to the next Summit of the Authority in June 2010 and to come into effect from December 2010.

37. The Heads of State and Government paid glowing tribute to **His Excellency Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua**, GCFR, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Chairman of ECOWAS for showing great qualities of a Statesman, his total and ready disposition to the ECOWAS cause and positive contribution to the consolidation of the regional integration process, and to the entrenchment of democratic culture in West Africa.

38. They expressed their deep gratitude to His Excellency **Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, GCON, Acting President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the generous and African hospitality accorded them during their stay in Abuja.

39. The Authority wished the peoples of Nigeria and other Member States of the region good health, joy and prosperity in the 50th anniversary celebration of their independence.

40. They also expressed their appreciation to the ECOWAS development partners for their constant support toward the attainment of ECOWAS objectives and the keen interest shown in the development of the West African region as well as the consolidation of regional peace and security.

41. The next Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government will be held at a date to be communicated after consultation with the current Chairman of the Authority.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010

THE AUTHORITY

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

VOTE OF THANKS

The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep gratitude to His Excellency **Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, GCON, Acting President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the generous and African hospitality accorded them during their stay in Abuja. The Authority wished the people of Nigeria people good health, joy and prosperity in the 50th anniversary celebration of their independence.

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