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**THIRTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT
Sal, 2 July 2010**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States was held on 2 July 2010 in Sal, Republic of Cape Verde, under the chairmanship of **H.E. Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, GCFR President, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairman of the 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 **Blaise Compaore**
President of Faso
- His Excellency **Pedro Pires**
President of the Republic of Cape Verde
- His Excellency **Laurent Gbagbo**
President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- 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 **Amadou Toumani Toure**
President of the Republic of Mali
- His Excellency **Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR**
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
- Her Excellency **Dr Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy**
Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia

- His Excellency **Jean Marie Ehouzou**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Benin

 - His Excellency **Koffi Essaw**
Minister, Special Adviser to the President of the Togolese Republic
3. His Excellency **Saïd Djinnit**, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation for West Africa and His Excellency Professor **Mr Soumaila Cisse**, President of the UEMOA Commission and His Excellency Professor Ibrahima Fall, Special Envoy of the African Union to Guinea also participated in this 38th Session as Observers.
4. The Heads of State and Government observed a minute's silence in memory of the late President **Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua** who passed away on 5 May 2010. The Authority paid glowing tribute for his leadership role in the entrenchment of democratic principles and good governance as well as in the consolidation of the integration process in West Africa. The Authority also congratulated **H.E. Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR** President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on his inauguration and the commitment he has shown in maintaining regional peace and stability as Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.
5. The Authority acknowledged the oath by **HE James Victor Gbeho**, President of the ECOWAS Commission and authorised him to go forth and carry out his duties.
6. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2010 Interim Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the Report of the 64th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, the Report of the 27th Meeting of the Mediation and Security Council. The Summit adopted the major recommendations made in the various reports presented and subsequently deliberated in detail on the following specific issues:

West African Economic Performance

7. The Authority noted the partial recovery of regional growth during the first half of 2010. It urged Member States to continue their efforts in consolidating these gains notably through the strengthening of economic reforms, acceleration of macroeconomic convergence and taking ownership of regional programmes by translating them into national development plans.
8. Welcoming the significant results achieved in the implementation of sectoral programmes, the Heads of State and Government were particularly pleased with the

coordination efforts that have been undertaken to come up with a progressive, comprehensive and coherent approach for the implementation of ECOWAP. To this end, they urged the ECOWAS Commission and Member States to continue to work towards finalising the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP), the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan and the institutional framework for the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP.

9. The Authority also examined the elements of competitiveness in the region and emphasized the need for investments in infrastructure, transport and energy sectors. To this end, the Summit reiterated its gratitude to **H.E. Laurent Gbagbo**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire for his coordination role in the development of regional infrastructure. In particular, the Heads of State and Government called on Member States for the effective implementation of the Regional Road Transit and Transport Facilitation Programme and urged the ECOWAS Commission and other structures involved (EBID, ADB etc.) in the establishment of the Development and Financing Fund for the Transport and Energy sectors in the ECOWAS region (FODETE-ECOWAS), to accelerate the process.

10. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government adopted the West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP) to enable the region to diversify its productive capacity and have a concentrated, integrated and competitive regional industrial fabric. To this end, they directed the ECOWAS Commission to take all necessary steps to implement WACIP and its Plan of Action.

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

11. The Authority stressed the need for early conclusion of an Agreement with the EU within the context of a larger dimension of economic development. This will allow the West Africa region to find the uniqueness of its trade regime vis-à-vis Europe. It stated that this conclusion is essential to a compromise on market access, adequate financing for the EPA Development Programme (EPADP) and resolution of persistent points of divergence.

12. Consequently, the Heads of State and Government asked the negotiators from both regions to agree on a market access offer based on a trade opening rate that safeguards the region's tax revenue and development capacity. They re-affirmed the need to conserve the independent resources of regional organisations and then stressed the sufficient and appropriate level of the EPADP financing, which is the main tool of the EPA development dimension.

13. Taking note of the announcement of an amount of 6.5 billion Euros by the EU as available resources for financing the EPADP over the period 2010-2014, the Authority underscored the need to mobilise additional resources and their allocation to meet the region's priorities and make them available for all West African countries.

Regional Peace and Security

14. The Heads of State and Government reviewed the recent political and security situation in the region, including the process for the consolidation of democracy in Member States. Commending the progress made in some Member States, the Authority, however expressed concern on the fragility of some democratic processes, violation of constitutional legality in some Member States, not much progress realised in the fight against impunity, in particular in Guinea Bissau, including the resurgence in drug trafficking. To this end, the Heads of State and Government made the following observations and decided as follows:

15. **Guinea Bissau:** The Authority was deeply concerned with the appointment of Major General Antonio Indjai, who was formerly Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Staff and initiator of the events of 1st April 2010 in his capacity as the Chief of Armed Forces Staff of Guinea Bissau. The Guinea Bissau authorities should create the necessary environment to allow for the mobilization of the international community to support the crucial Security Sector Reform Programme (SSRP).

16. Consequently, while reaffirming its support for **H.E. Malam Bacai Sanha**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, the Authority urged him to create favourable conditions that would enable ECOWAS to resume its efforts at mobilising bilateral and multilateral partners to support Guinea Bissau in the effective take-off of the SSRP.

17. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government requested the ECOWAS Commission to commence the prompt establishment of a mechanism for ensuring the safety of republican institutions. They also insisted on the need to extend this arrangement to the security of witnesses identified by the national commission of inquiry on the March 2009 assassinations to ensure that this national commission of inquiry finalises its activities.

18. In order to curb the resurgence of the drug scourge in the region, the Authority also urged the ECOWAS Commission to explore, in collaboration with the European Union and relevant technical partners, all the possible synergies for the speedy and immediate implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on drug trafficking organized crime and drug abuse. To this end, it envisages imposing sanctions against those identified as members of the drug network and/or terrorism.

19. The Heads of State and Government supported the holding of an International Conference of technical and financial partners during the second half of 2010. The Conference is aimed at mobilising the necessary resources to implement these reforms and the socio-economic development of Guinea Bissau.

20. **Guinea:** The Authority hailed the efforts of the Guinean politicians for the creation of transition institutions for the restoration of constitutional legality. It commended the organization of the first round of presidential election held on 27 June in a peaceful and calm environment. The Summit commended the crucial role played by **General Sekouba Konate** and the transition institutions set up for this purpose.

21. Taking note of the report of the joint ECOWAS-AU-UN mission on the Security Sector Reform (SSR), the Authority urged the ECOWAS Commission, in consultation with the African Union and the United Nations, to expedite the effective implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

22. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their gratitude to **H.E. Blaise Compaore**, President of Burkina Faso and ECOWAS Mediator in Guinea for his ready disposition and significant role in the successful transition in Guinea. They also invited him to support this transition process to the end.

23. They also commended the commitment of their colleague presidents and all other partners in the international community involved in the Guinea International Contact Group without whom it would have been impossible to attain the level of progress made. The Authority urged them to continue to support this process.

24. **Cote d'Ivoire:** As part of efforts to ensure the successful transition and political stability of the country, the Heads of State and Government stressed the need to hold credible, free and transparent elections by the end of 2010. Welcoming the commitment of **H.E. Laurent Gbagbo**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to hold the said elections within the time limit, the Authority urged all the political actors to agree on a clear date in this regard. It also urged the Ivorian authorities and all stakeholders to work towards the expeditious completion of the final voters' register in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and Supplementary Agreements.

25. To consolidate the progress made in the reunification of the country and guarantee safe elections, the Authority also urged all armed groups involved in the "Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)" operations to comply with them promptly in accordance with the said agreements.

26. The Heads of State and Government lauded the stabilizing role played by the Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, **H.E. Blaise Compaore**, President of Faso and urged him to continue his mediation efforts to consolidate the reconciliation process and the effective holding of inclusive and credible elections in Cote d'Ivoire before the end of 2010.

27. **Niger:** The Authority appreciated the measures taken by the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy (CSR) and the creation of other transition institutions and which contribute to the return to constitutional legality in that country. To demonstrate its support for efforts made in this regard, the Authority decided to authorise Niger to participate in observer capacity in ECOWAS meetings at the ministerial level, with effect from today until 1st March 2011, when the country is expected to return to constitutional rule.

28. Taking note of the date of 26 December 2010 fixed for the first round of the presidential election, the Heads of State and Government urged the transition authority to ensure strict compliance with the transition timetable and the concerted and inclusive

implementation of the tasks assigned in accordance with the rule of law and political rights of all the concerned parties.

29. The Authority also exhorted the International Community to join efforts with those of the region and the United Nations so as to provide the needed support not only to conduct the transition process, including the organization of a referendum and the various scheduled elections to alleviate the suffering of the people of Niger who are hit by famine. The Authority also expressed gratitude to **General Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd)** for his role as Mediator in bringing the crisis in Niger to a close.

30. **Togo:** The Summit expressed its satisfaction with the organization of a presidential election in Togo on 4 March 2010, which was credible, free and peaceful. The Authority congratulated **H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe** on his outstanding re-election and then pledged its support for his efforts towards the consolidation of democracy in Togo. While hailing the open-mindedness he displayed towards the majority of Togolese politicians, through the formation of an all-inclusive unity government, the Heads of State and Government encouraged him to continue his efforts for the conclusion of national reconciliation and meeting the expectations of Togolese citizens.

31. The Heads of State and Government lauded the facilitation efforts of **H.E. Blaise Compaore**, President of Faso.

32. The Authority urged all Member States to strengthen the existing institutional frameworks in order to respond, in a general manner, to the challenges linked to human and arms trafficking and trans-border crimes, amongst others.

Institutional matters

33. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to apply a rotational system that will give priority, among other criteria, to alphabetical order, transparency, equity and predictability in the allocation of statutory positions in Community Institutions.

34. The Authority decided to put in place a 5-member Ministerial Committee made up of Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and placed under the authority of the current Chairman of ECOWAS, in order to continue discussions on the establishment of

such a system. The recommendations of the Committee will be submitted to the Authority during an extraordinary session before the end of the year.

35. The Summit approved the calendar for rotation of the Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government as well as the modalities for the rotation that have been defined based on alphabetical order, Community interest, and responsibilities as related to the Office of Chairman of the Authority. The Heads of State and Government recalled that the entry into force of this rotational system shall be with effect from December 2010.

36. To strengthen the effectiveness and dynamism of Institutions of the Community, the Summit finally approved the Rules of Procedure for some Organs of the community notably the Authority of Heads of State, the Council of Ministers and the Commission. It also urged all the Institutions to continue their efforts towards improving performance in Community management and institutional reforms.

37. The Heads of State and Government paid glowing tribute to **H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, GCFR President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Chairman of ECOWAS for his ready disposition and positive contribution to the consolidation of the regional integration process.

38. They also expressed their deep gratitude to **H.E. Pedro Verona RODRIGUES PIRES**, President of the Republic, to **H.E. José Maria PEREIRA NEVES, Prime Minister** and the Government of Cape Verde, for the generous and African hospitality accorded them during their stay in Sal. The Authority wished the people of Cape Verde good health, joy and prosperity in the 35th anniversary celebration of their independence.

39. 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 SAL, THIS 2ND DAY OF JULY 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 **H.E. Pedro Verona RODRIGUES PIRES**, President of the Republic, to **H.E. José Maria PEREIRA NEVES, Prime Minister** and the Government of Cape Verde, for the generous and African hospitality accorded them during their stay in Sal. The Authority wished the people of Cape Verde good health, joy and prosperity in the 35th anniversary celebration of their independence.

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