



**SIXTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

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DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

1. The Sixty-First Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held on 3 July 2022 in Accra, Republic of Ghana, under the Chairmanship of **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana**, and Chair of the Authority.
2. The following Heads of State or their duly mandated representatives participated in the Summit:
 - **H.E. Alassane OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
 - **H.E. Adama BARROW**, President of the Republic of The Gambia;
 - **H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa AKUFO-ADDO**, President of the Republic of Ghana;
 - **H.E. Umaro Sissoco EMBALO**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau;
 - **H.E. George WEAH**, President of the Republic of Liberia;
 - **H.E. Mohamed BAZOUM**, President of the Republic of Niger;
 - **H.E. Macky SALL**, President of the Republic of Senegal;

- **H.E. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE**, President of the Togolese Republic;
- **H.E. Yemi OSINBAJO**, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- **H.E. Aurelien AGBENONCI**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Benin;
- **H.E. Rui Alberto de Figueiredo SOARES**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cabo Verde;
- **H.E. Frances Virginia ANDERSON (Mrs)**, High Commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the Republic of Ghana;

3. The Summit was also attended by:

- **H.E. Dr Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN**, ECOWAS Mediator for Mali, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- **H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou**, ECOWAS Mediator for Burkina Faso, former President of the Republic of Niger.
- **Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, President of the African Union Commission.
- **Mr Jean-Claude Kassi BROU**, President of the ECOWAS Commission.
- **Mr Abdoulaye DIOP**, President of the UEMOA Commission.
- **Mr Mahamat Saleh ANNADIF**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).
- **Mr El Ghassim WANE**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Mali and Head of MINUSMA.

4. At the opening ceremony, H.E. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of ECOWAS Commission delivered a statement followed by the opening statement by **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana** and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government who delivered the opening address.

5. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2022 Interim Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the Reports of the 48th Ordinary Meeting of ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, the 88th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, the Special Reports on the ECOWAS Single Currency

Programme as well as on the Obstacles to the Free Movement of Goods on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor.

6. They commended the quality of the reports and the relevant recommendations contained therein.
7. Reaffirming their commitment to deepening the integration process in West Africa, the Heads of State and Government, after deliberations, endorsed the main recommendations contained in the different reports, and then considered the following specific issues:

A. ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY

8. The Authority reaffirms its commitment to the promotion of peace, security, and stability in the region as prerequisites for the economic integration and development of the region.
9. **On the political situation in the region**, the Authority took note of the reports of **H.E. Dr Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN**, ECOWAS Mediator for Mali, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and **H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou**, ECOWAS Mediator for Burkina Faso, former President of the Republic of Niger. It also took note of the report on the political situation in Guinea presented by **H.E Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana and Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. The Authority commended the Mediators for the quality of the reports and their commitment towards finding lasting solutions to the crisis in Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso.
10. **On Mali**, the Authority has been informed by the Mediator on the transition evolution. It takes note of the promulgation of a new electoral law on 24th June 2022 which establishes the single election management body, **Agence Indépendante de Gestion des Elections (AIGE)**, among others.
11. The Authority also takes note of the transition timetable submitted by the Transition Authority which provides for a duration of 24 months from 29 March 2022. The timetable provides details of the steps that would lead to elections and the restoration of civilian rule, notably the constitutional reform. The Heads of State and Government decide to maintain dialogue with the Transition authorities, through the ECOWAS Mediator for Mali.

12. On the basis on the above, the Authority decides to lift the following sanctions:

a. The economic and financial imposed on 9 January 2022:

- The closure of the land and air borders between ECOWAS Member States and Mali;
- The suspension of all commercial and financial transactions between ECOWAS Member States and Mali;
- The freezing of the assets of the Republic of Mali domiciled in the Central Banks and Commercial Banks of all ECOWAS Member States;
- The freezing of the assets of public and parastatal enterprises of the Republic of Mali domiciled in commercial banks of all ECOWAS Member States;
- The suspension of all financial assistance and transactions in favour of Mali by ECOWAS Financial Institutions, particularly EBID and BOAD.

b. The recall for consultations by ECOWAS Member States of their Ambassadors accredited to Mali.

13. The Authority decides to maintain:

- the suspension of Mali from the ECOWAS decision-making bodies;
- the individual sanctions against individuals and groups.

14. The Authority establishes a joint monitoring and follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the transition timetable with agreed benchmarks and whose reports on progress made would guide further decisions of the Authority on the lifting of the remaining sanctions.

15. The Authority reaffirms that in conformity with paragraph 25 of the African Union Charter, the commitment made to ECOWAS by the transition authorities, and with the Transition Charter, no member of the transition authority can be a candidate to the elections organised for the return to constitutional order.

16. The Authority calls on the International Community to provide humanitarian assistance and support to the transition process in Mali particularly for the preparation of the election.

17. **On Burkina Faso**, the Authority acknowledges the progress made by the Mediator in his preliminary engagements with the stakeholders during his initial mission to Burkina Faso.
18. The Authority welcomes the proposal by the Transition Authorities for the establishment of a joint Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism with ECOWAS to accompany the Transition process.
19. The Authority welcomes the release of President Roch Marc Christian KABORE and takes note of the new proposed timetable set at 24 months from 1st July 2022.
20. On the basis of the above, the Authority decides:
 - to lift the economic and financial sanctions adopted on 25 March, 2022;
 - to uphold the suspension of the country from all ECOWAS decision-making bodies.
21. The Authority calls on the International Community to provide humanitarian and security support to Burkina Faso.
22. **On Guinea**, the Authority reiterates its position on the unacceptability of the 36-month transition timetable announced by the Guinean Authorities.
23. The Authority takes note of the decision of the Transition authorities to open a national dialogue which commenced on Monday 27th June 2022 under the auspices of the Prime Minister.
24. The Authority takes note of the renouncement of Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas as the ECOWAS Mediator to Guinea. Consequently, the Authority appoints **H.E. Yayi BONI**, former President of the Republic of Benin as the new ECOWAS Mediator to Guinea.
25. The Authority request the Mediator to work with the Transition Authorities to arrive at an acceptable transition timetable for the transition latest by 1st August 2022. After this deadline, economic and financial sanctions will be enforced as well as targeted sanctions.
26. The Authority decides to uphold the suspension of Guinea from all ECOWAS decision-making bodies.

27. The Authority decides to remain seized on the situation in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali.
28. **On the review of the 2001 ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance**, the Authority commends the ECOWAS Commission on the progress recorded during the on-going discussions among Member States. The Authority urges the ECOWAS Commission to continue its engagement with Member States and calls on Member States to work towards building consensus that would contribute to deepening democracy and ensuring political stability in the region.
29. **On the ECOWAS mandated peace support operations**, the Authority welcomes the deployment of the Support to the Stabilisation Mission to Guinea Bissau and calls on Guinea Bissau political and security actors to facilitate the fulfilment of the mandate of the Mission. The Authority commends the troops and police contributing countries made up of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal for their contribution to the peace and stability in the region.
30. **On terrorism in the region**, the Authority remains concerned with the recurrence of terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria and the expansion to Benin and Togo. The Authority strongly condemns these attacks and expresses solidarity with the affected Member States and populations. The Authority welcome the on-going support, through the 2020-2024 Plan of Action, to strengthening the operational and logistical capacities of the forces in the frontline countries and promoting development programmes and humanitarian support in the affected areas.
31. The Authority reaffirms its determination to combat relentlessly the scourge of terrorism. To that effect, the Authority reiterates its call on Member States to fulfill their pledges on the voluntary contributions into the dedicated fund to support the implementation of the 2020 – 2024 Action Plan.
32. **On maritime safety and security**, the Authority commends Member States for the improvement of the situation and enhanced coordination which consolidates the safety and security improvement observed in the ECOWAS maritime domain. It welcomes the sustained efforts from the Commission towards the full operationalization of the entire ECOWAS Maritime Security Architecture.



33. The Authority adopts the Supplementary Act on the Transfer of Persons suspected of piracy and associated property and/or evidence as a mean to strengthen the gains made so far in securing the ECOWAS maritime domain.
34. The Authority invites all ECOWAS Member States to ratify the Lomé Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa.
35. **On the humanitarian situation**, the Authority reiterates its concern over the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the region resulting from terrorist attacks, food crisis, armed banditry, farmer/herders clashes and natural disasters. In that regard, the Authority directs the Commission to reinforce its supports to the vulnerable populations in its programme.

B. ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

36. The Authority welcomes the economic resilience within the Community with the expected growth of real GDP by 4.8% in 2022 against 4.2% a year earlier in West Africa. It took note of the state of macroeconomic convergence in 2021 and the outlook for the current year, while expressing concerns about the negative impact of the Russo-Ukrainian crisis on the economies of the region, in particular on the cost of living.
37. In this regard, the Authority urges Member States to intensify the mobilization of financial resources to support efforts for the structural transformation of national economies, job creation and reduction of external dependence.
38. With a view to promoting macroeconomic convergence within ECOWAS, Authority instructs the Commission to strengthen the implementation of the mechanism for the multilateral surveillance of the economic and financial policies of Member States, in collaboration with WAMA, the WAEMU and WAMI.

C. ON THE SINGLE CURRENCY

39. The Authority commends the Ministerial Committee in charge of the ECOWAS Single Currency Program for its efforts for consensual solutions for the pending issues in the context of the creation of the ECO. It took note of the continued implementation of the roadmap for the launch of the ECO. With a view to promoting the smooth transition to ECO, the Authority instructs the Ministerial

Committee to work to achieve consensus on all the outstanding issues.

40. Furthermore, the Authority, after commending the efforts made by regional institutions to achieve a legal framework regulating payment and settlement systems within ECOWAS, adopted the additional Act on the the legal framework of the ECOWAS Payments and Settlement System (EPSS).

D. ON FOOD CRISIS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND BUILDING FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE IN WEST AFRICA,

41. The Authority took note of:
 - a. the mitigation measures and the strengthening of the resilience of food systems in West Africa in the context of the current food crisis;
 - b. the adoption of the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy and the ECOWAS Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy;
 - c. Regulations on the Regional Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses as well as the five regional animal health strategies.

E. ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

42. The Assembly took note of the adoption by the Council of the Gender Transformative Human Capital Development Strategy (HCD), 2022-2032, which is part of the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Integrated Human Capital Development (HCD) 2030 Strategy.

F. ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHERS REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMMES

43. Regarding the promotion of the Private sector, the Authority took note of the adoption by the Council of Ministers of:
 - a. the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Charter 2021-2030 as well as the ECOWAS strategy to promote the competitiveness of MSME at national and regional level
 - b. Harmonized Stock Standards (FDHS 093:2020) to harmonize the current practices of stock manufacturers;

c. ECOWAS Directive on the Labelling of Electrical Appliances

44. **Concerning the infrastructure development**, the Authority adopts Supplementary Act XXX/06/22 amending Supplementary Act AS.17/02/12 relating to axle load control in the ECOWAS region
45. **With regard to education and science**, the Summit welcomes the deliberation of the jury concerning the Support Program for Research and Innovation (PARI) 2021 to award the prize to the Consortium led by Dr. Bernadin Jean Robert Klotoe, integrating universities from Benin, Cabo Verde, Ghana and Nigeria.
46. **Concerning obstacles to intra-community trade** on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor, the Authority welcomes the achievements by the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS), Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas. It instructs the Council to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Task Force.
47. **Concerning Climate Change**, the Authority appoints **H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of the Republic of Ghana, as ECOWAS Champion of Climate Change. He is in charge, notably, of facilitating advocacy to Member States and technical and financial partners for resources mobilisation, as previously agreed, for the implementation of ECOWAS Climate Actions. The advocacy would also be done for equitable energy transition.
48. **Concerning Culture**, the Authority appoints **H.E. Patrice Talon**, President of the Republic of Benin, as Champion for the return of Cultural Goods/Artefacts to West Africa. He is in charge of facilitating advocacy to States, organisations and other entities with a view to facilitate and accelerate the return of cultural goods and artefacts of ECOWAS Member States.

G. ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY ACT ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT AND DECISION-MAKING BY ECOWAS STATUTORY BODIES

49. The Authority adopts the Supplementary Act on the Classification of Matters and Modes of Decision-Making by ECOWAS Statutory Bodies aimed at improving the decision-making process relating to the subject matter.

H. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

50. In compliance with the Decision taken during its sixtieth Ordinary Session held on 12th December 2021, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, relating to the appointment of new statutory appointees of ECOWAS Institutions, the Authority of Heads of States and Government took note of the end of tenure of the statutory appointees on the 30th June 2022.
51. To that end, The Gambia which was allocated the position of President of the ECOWAS Commission, proposed the candidature of **Dr. Omar Alieu Touray**. The Authority approves the appointment of **Dr Omar Alieu Touray** as President of the ECOWAS Commission for a four-year term with effect from 11th July 2022.
52. Regarding the other statutory positions allocated to Member States, the Authority endorses the appointment for a four-year term as follows:

Statutory Position	Member State	Recommended Candidate
Vice President	Togo	Ms. Damtien Tchintchibidja
Commissioner for Internal Services	Nigeria	Prof. Nazifi Abdullahi Darma
Commissioner for Political Affairs Peace and Security	Ghana	Dr. Abdel-Fatau Musah
Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture	Cote D'Ivoire	Ms. Massandjé Touré-Litse
Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy & Digitalisation	Niger	Mr. Sediko Douka
Human Development and Social Affairs	Senegal	
Auditor-General	Guinea Bissau	Mr. João Alage Mamadú Fadiá
Director-General of GIABA	Liberia	
Director General WAHO	Benin	

53. The Authority directs the President of the Commission to take appropriate measures towards the assumption of duty of the appointees nominated by 11th July 2022 and the finalization of the recruitment to fill the outstanding positions by 20th July 2022.

54. The Heads of State and Government warmly congratulates **Jean Claude Kassi Brou** and expresses their full satisfaction for his competence and leadership qualities, as well as the services he has rendered to the Community. Furthermore, the Authority commends alongside the President of the Commission, all the statutory appointees for the conviction, dedication, and efficiency with which they carried out the Community's activities and programmes over the entire period of their tenure.
55. The Authority expresses its immense gratitude to **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of Ghana and Chairman of the Authority for his untiring efforts in the promotion and deepening of the integration process in West Africa. The Authority wishes to thank him for his readiness and especially for his remarkable leadership in steering the region's affairs for the last two years.
56. The Summit decides to elect **H.E Umaro Sissoco EMBALO**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau as Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government for a one-year term.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT SUMMIT

57. The Heads of State and Government decide to hold the next Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria at a date to be confirmed.

Done, this 3rd Day of July 2022

THE AUTHORITY