

ECW/HSG.II/7/REVI

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

DAKAR 28 - 29 MAY, 1979

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

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FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECCOWAS) held their annual meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 28th and 29th May, 1979.

The Meeting was attended by the following Heads of State and Government and accredited Representatives:-

H. E. Colonel Mathieu KERÉKOU
President of the People's Republic of Benin.

H. E. Mr. Aristides PEREIRA
President of the Republic of Cape Verde.

H. E. Alhaji Sir Dauda K. JAWARA
President of the Republic of The Gambia.

H. E. General Frederick William Kwasi AKUFO
The Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Ghana.

H. E. Mr. Luiz CABRAL
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

H. E. Mr. Felix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY
President of the Republic of Ivory Coast.

H. E. Dr. William R. TOLBERT Jr.
President of the Republic of Liberia.

H. E. General Moussa TRAORE
President of the Republic of Mali.

H. E. Lt. Col. Seyni KOUNTCHE
Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council
of the Republic of Niger.

H. E. General Olusegun OBASANJO
Head of the Federal Military Government, Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Nigeria.

H. E. Dr. Leopold Sedar SENGHOR
President of the Republic of Senegal.

H. E. Dr. Siaka STEVENS
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

H. E. General Gnassingbe EYADEMA
President of the Republic of Togo.

H. E. General A. Sangoule LAMIZANA
President of the Republic of Upper Volta.

H. E. Dr. Lansana BEAVOGUI
Prime Minister of the People's Revolutionary Republic of
Guinea.

H. E. Mr. Mohamed MOULAYE
Minister of Finance and Commerce of the Islamic Republic
of Mauritania.

The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Edem Kodjo, the President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Kwame Donkor FCRDQUOR, the Secretary General of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) Mr. Moussa Ngom, the Secretary General of the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) Mr. Sidi Coulibaly and the President of the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Djondo attended as observers.

The Authority expressed shock at the air disaster that befell the Mauritanian delegation on Sunday, the 27th on their way to the Summit. Both His Excellency President Leopold Sedar Senghor, in his welcome address and His Excellency General Olusegun Obasanjo in his capacity as the outgoing Chairman of the Authority, paid tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Dr. Ahmed Ould Bouceif. The Chairman of the Authority, on behalf of his colleagues and the entire Community expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the President, the bereaved families and the people of Mauritania for the tragic and untimely deaths of the Prime Minister and his entourage in the course of ECOWAS duties. A three minute silence was observed in their memory.

The Authority considered recommendations put before it by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers and took decisions in the following areas:

PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION OF BARRIERS TO TRADE

The Authority interpreted the provisions of Article 13.2 of the Treaty to cover both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. The Heads of State and Government then went on to formally declare May 28, 1979 as the beginning of the first two-year period of consolidation of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

RULES OF ORIGIN

The Authority amended Articles I and II of the Protocol on the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States. The amendment to Article I of the Protocol related to rectification of the French text of the definition of "Value Added" to conform with the English text. Article 2.1.C was amended by replacing "FOB Price" with "Ex-Factory Price before Tax".

The Authority further decided that for the implementation of the Rules of Origin, in-depth studies should be made within a two-year period in order to make it possible to put into effect Articles II.2, VII and VIII of the Protocol relating to the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States.

MOVEMENT OF PERSONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Authority signed and urged Member States to ratify and implement a Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment. The ratification of this Protocol, shall remove visa requirements in respect of Community citizens intending to stay for a maximum period of ninety days in another Member State. The Protocol stipulates that a phased-programme for effecting the Right of Residence and Establishment should be drawn up, taking account of the effects on Member States of the abolition of visas during the first phase.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Authority adopted a Programme for the Improvement and Extension of the Telecommunications Network within the Community and directed the Executive Secretary to propose ways and means of implementing the Programme.

DEFENCE PACT PROPOSALS

The Authority of Head of State and Government was informed of two drafts pertaining to the security of the Region which had been prepared by His Excellency, President Leopold Sedar SENGHOR, President of the Republic of Senegal and His Excellency President Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the Republic of Togo, respectively. The Authority expressed appreciation for the foresight and statemanship shown by the two Heads of State in taking this initiative. The Authority directed that the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and the Executive Secretary convene a meeting of a Technical Commission composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance and Economic Affairs as well as Chiefs of Defence Staff to consider the said documents and submit a harmonised draft Defence Pact to the next meeting of the Summit.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Authority ratified the appointment of Messrs. R. A. DILLSWORTH and Co. as the ECOWAS External Auditor.

SITUATION IN CHAD

The Head of State of Nigeria, His Excellency General Olusegun OBASANJO briefed the Conference on the mediation efforts being made by the neighbours of Chad and appealed for support of all Member States for their cooperation in the African peace efforts to bring comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the crisis. The Conference noted the effort of Nigeria, Niger and other neighbours of Chad with satisfaction and in commending their efforts urged all Chadians to abide by the Kano Agreement.

ECOWAS-ADB COOPERATION

The Authority of Heads of State and Government noted the decision taken by the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank in extending equity participation to non-African States.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

The Authority of Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction progress made so far in the building of the Community and expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary and his colleagues for their contribution towards this achievement. The Authority expressed its gratitude to His Excellency President Leopold Sedar SENGHOR, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Government and the people of Senegal for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to them and for the support given to the Executive Secretariat of the Community in the organization of this and other meetings.

VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Authority decided to hold its next annual meeting on 28th May, 1980 in Lome, TOGO.