

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CONAKRY, 25 - 26 MAY, 1983

FINAL REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ECOWAS Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session from 25th to 26th May, 1983, in the "2 Octobre" Conference Hall of the "Palais du Peuple" in Conakry, the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

2. The following Member States were represented at this session :

- BENIN
- IVORY COAST
- GHANA
- GUINEA
- GUINEA BISSAU
- UPPER VOLTA
- MALI
- NIGER
- NIGERIA
- SENEGAL
- SIERRA LEONE
- TOGO

The following Organisations were also represented at this session as observers :

- African Development Bank (ADB)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The List of Participants is attached to this Report.

II. OPENING SESSION

3. The current Chairman of the Council, Dr. MAMOUNA MALICK TOURE, Honourable Minister of External Trade of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea welcomed the Honourable Ministers, delegates and observers on behalf of the People and the Democratic Party of Guinea and also on behalf of the Supreme Leader of the Guinean Revolution, President AHMED SEKOU TOURE.

4. The Honourable Minister recalled that at the last Council meeting held from 5 to 8 May, 1983, in Conakry, the decision was taken to convene this extraordinary session with the aim of considering those issues which had not been completely resolved because of insufficient information and the absence of certain documents.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

5. The following Bureau was elected:

Chairman	-	Guinea
Rapporteur	-	Togo

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. The draft Agenda presented by the Executive Secretariat was amended and adopted as follows:

1. Election of Bureau
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Consideration of Report of Committee of Governors of Central Banks
4. Consideration of Report of Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports
5. Telecommunications Project - Negotiations between Fund and Upper Volta
6. Consideration of draft Decision on the Adoption and Implementation of a single Trade Liberalisation Scheme for Industrial Products originating from Member States of the Community
7. Consideration of Agenda for the meeting of the Authority
8. Any other matters.

V. RESULTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Consideration of the Report of Governors of Central Banks
(Item 3)

7. After presentation of this report by the representative of the Chairman of the Committee of Governors, the Council took note of the said report and invited the Central Banks, West African Clearing House and African Centre for Monetary Studies to submit their observations on the studies prepared before June 30th 1983.

Consideration of the Report of the Meeting of the Conference
of Ministers of Youth and Sports (Item 4)

8. In considering the report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of ECOWAS, Council reaffirmed its desire to see the youths of ECOWAS actively involved in the activities of the Community. To this end, it was decided that the youths of Member States should be brought together in a sub-regional organisation integrated within ECOWAS structures. In accordance with the resolution of the 15th April 1983 of the Extraordinary Conference, Council endorsed the Decision to organise the ECOWAS Games in Benin at a more appropriate time.

9. Council also requested all Member States to give their moral and financial support to this Conference whose objectives are praiseworthy and consolidate the existing relations between the peoples of Member States.

10. Furthermore, to ensure harmony in the running of Institutions, Council requested that the relations between the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports, its Permanent Secretariat and the Executive Secretariat be examined by the Executive Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

11. The Report on this study shall be submitted to the November 1983 session of the Council of Ministers.

12. Council heard a presentation by the PanAfrican Youth Movement on the organisation of the second Youth Festival from 22 to 31 August 1983 in Tripoli (Libya). To this end, Council decided to make an appeal to all Member States to invite their Youth Organisations to participate in this Festival the aim of which is to strengthen African unity.

13. Council also heard a presentation by the representative of the JRDA (Youth Movement of the Democratic African Revolution). Following this presentation, Council re-affirmed its decision to ensure that the youths of ECOWAS are organised into a sub-regional body.

Telecommunications Project - Negotiation between Fund and Upper Volta (Item 5)

14. The Managing Director of the Fund presented a report to Council on the results of the negotiations carried out with the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta on the loan for financing the Upper Volta section of the ECOWAS telecommunications priority programme. On the basis of the positive results obtained, Council expressed its satisfaction with this matter.

Consideration of the draft Decision on the adoption and Implementation of a single Trade Liberalisation Scheme for Industrial Products Originating from Member States of the Community (Item 6)

15. This Draft Decision emanates from Resolution C/RES.3/5/83 dealing with this subject which had already been adopted by Council at its Thirteenth Session held from 5 to 7 May, 1983 in Conakry. The draft Decision was adopted after an amendment to Article 11, which now becomes Article 10; the amended Article reads as follows:

"Technical arrangements may eventually be made by the appropriate Technical Commissions without any further delay in the application of the single trade liberalisation scheme."

The Upper Volta delegation reserved its position on the draft Decision.

Consideration of the Draft Agenda for the Authority (Item 7)

16. The draft Agenda for the Authority which was submitted by the Executive Secretariat was adopted after amendment and is attached to this Report as an appendix.

Any Other Matters (Item 8)

17. Under this Item, two issues were raised:

(i) The Chairperson of the West African Sub-regional Committee for the integration of Women in Development requested that her Organisation be granted observer status in ECOWAS. Council acceded to this request.

(ii) On the issue of payment of contributions by Member States to the operational budgets of Community institutions raised by the Executive Secretary, Council, once more, made an appeal to Member States to honour their financial obligations.

VI. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

18. The Council of Ministers decided to hold its next meeting in Conakry (People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea) in November 1983.

VII. CLOSING SESSION

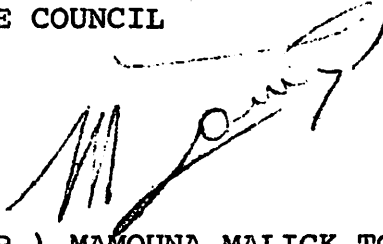
19. The Chairman of the Council, Dr. MAMOUNA MALICK TOURE, congratulated Council members for the satisfactory results obtained during this session.

VIII. ADOPTION OF REPORT

20. This Report was adopted.

DONE AT CONAKRY, THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 1983 IN
ONE SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH
LANGUAGES BOTH TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

FOR THE COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mamouna Malick Toure', written over a horizontal line.

HONOURABLE (DR.) MAMOUNA MALICK TOURE
THE CHAIRMAN.

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CONAKRY, 25 - 26 MAY, 1983

VOTE OF THANKS

The Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers meeting in Conakry from 25 to 26 May, 1983, wishes to express its profound gratitude to His Excellency AHMED SEKOU TOURE, Supreme Leader of the Revolution, Secretary-General of the Party-State, President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, to the Government and People of Guinea for the authentically African hospitality and for the facilities, human as well as material, placed at its disposal for the success of its deliberations.

THE COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CONAKRY, 25 - 26 MAY, 1983

C/RES 3/5/83 RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE TRADE LIBERALISATION SCHEME FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS ORIGINATING FROM MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of the request for derogation from the application of the provisions of Article 20 of the ECOWAS Treaty made by CEAO and MRU;

CONSIDERING that the provisions of Article 20 on the most favoured nation treatment enjoins each ECOWAS Member State to extend any tariff concessions granted to a third State to other ECOWAS Member states;

CONSIDERING Decision No. C/DEC 3/11/81 of 26 November, 1981 on studies to be undertaken for the harmonisation of trade liberalisation mechanisms of ECOWAS, CEAO and MRU;

MINDFUL of the results of the deliberations of the meetings of Experts and Chief Executives of the three organisations held in Ouagadougou on the 4th and 7th March, 1983;

MINDFUL of the difference in the objectives of the Treaties of CEAO and ECOWAS;

MINDFUL of the difficulty of harmonising the liberalisation schemes of the two Organisations as a result of these divergencies;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 12 and 13 of the Treaty establishing ECOWAS;

CONSIDERING that, in order to avoid delays in the implementation of the Trade Liberalisation Programme, a strong political decision needs to be taken at the highest level as regards the objectives of the Community;

CONSIDERING the need for solidarity among Member States to work together towards the creation of a Customs Union;

CONSIDERING the imperative need for applying a single Trade Liberalisation Scheme within the sub-region;

HEREBY RESOLVES TO PROPOSE TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

1. To make a strong appeal to the appropriate Authorities of CEAO to merge the aims, aspirations and programmes of CEAO with those of ECOWAS with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and facilitating total solidarity towards the creation of the Customs Union and Economic Integration envisaged under the ECOWAS Treaty;
2. To give the appropriate mandate to the Executive Secretariat to commence, without delay, a programme of implementation of existing decisions among those Member States that subscribe to the ideals and objectives set out under requisite decisions already adopted;
3. To request all Member States to implement the Trade Liberalisation Scheme of ECOWAS in respect of Originating Industrial Products with the following modifications.

I. TRADE COOPERATION OBJECTIVE

In view of the various disparities existing among the countries of the sub-region, total Trade Liberalisation without

the rectification of such disparities would adversely affect certain countries without promoting trade or enhancing the economic development of the sub-region. However, because of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, it is necessary to retain the ultimate objective of Customs Union within the sub-region if West Africa is to respect the provisions of the Continental Programme.

II. TRADE LIBERALISATION SCHEME

(a) Rules of Origin

The equity participation ratio should be modified as follows :

May 1983	:	20%
May 1986	:	40%
May 1989	:	51%

The earlier ratio it will be recalled was as follows:

May 1981	:	20%
May 1983	:	35%
May 1989	:	51%

(b) Classification of Countries

The countries of the sub-region should be classified into three groups using cumulatively the following criteria :

- the level of industrial development
- the importance of customs revenue in the national budget of the Member States
- problems resulting from lack of accessibility (i.e. transportation problems pertaining particularly to island and land-locked countries).

It is proposed that for the purpose of sub-regional trade, the countries of the sub-region should be classified as follows:

- GROUP I : CAPE-VERDE, GUINEA-BISSAU, THE GAMBIA,
UPPER VOLTA, MALI, MAURITANIA and NIGER
- GROUP II : BENIN, GUINEA, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE and TOGO
- GROUP III : IVORY COAST, GHANA, NIGERIA AND SENEGAL

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF PRODUCTS

The following criteria were agreed upon for the selection of priority industrial products which should be subjected to an accelerated tariff elimination.

- (i) the products should be manufactured by industries established in the sub-region and must fall under the agreed priority industrial sectors.
- (ii) the said products should be given preferential treatment either because of social considerations (food, housing, health and hygiene) or economic considerations (contribution to industrialisation, job creation, value added or impact on the economies of the States of the sub-region).
- (iii) the products should satisfy in all case the rules of origin.

(c) THE PERIOD OF TOTAL LIBERALISATION OF TRADE

Considering the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action which envisages the setting up of an African Common Market by the year 2000 to be preceded by the setting up of sub-regional Common Market by the year 1990, a ten-year period with effect from May 1983 was decided upon for the total liberalisation of trade among the States of the sub-region.

(e) TIME TABLE FOR TARIFF LIBERALISATION

In the light of the above, the following schedule is proposed for the elimination of tariffs:

COUNTRY GROUP	PRIORITY INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	NON PRIORITY INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
G	P1	P2
G1: CAPE VERDE, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA-BISSAU, UPPER VOLTA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER	8 years on the basis of 12.5% reduction each year	10 years on the basis of 10% reduction each year
G2: BENIN, GUINEA, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, TOGO	6 years on the basis of 16.66% reduction each year	8 years on the basis of 12.5% reduction each year
G3: IVORY COAST, GHANA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL	4 years on the basis of 25% reduction each year	6 years on the basis of 16.66% reduction each year

Technical arrangements may eventually be made by the appropriate Technical Commission without any further delay in the application of the single trade liberalisation scheme.

III. SUPPORTING MEASURES FOR TRADE LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME

In order to reduce any possible adverse effects of the Trade Liberalisation Programme, the following supporting measures should be implemented.

SUPPORTING MEASURES

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

1. Compensation scheme
2. Determination of starting rates for tariff reduction
3. Establishment of a Non-Tariff Barriers' Liberalisation Scheme

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS

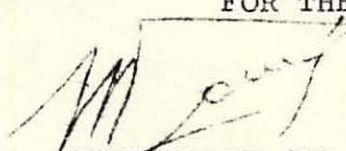
4. Establishment of a Common External Tariff
5. A study on alternative sources of budget financing for Member States
6. A study on the establishment of a West African Trade Development Bank.
7. A study on the establishment of an Export Credit Insurance system in West Africa
8. A study on the establishment of a West African Standards Board
9. A study on payments problems in intra-West African Trade
10. Working out a coordinated development programme for the sub-region.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

11. A study on Social and Economic Cost of Integration (problem of resource allocation).

DONE AT CONAKRY, THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 1983 IN ONE SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH LANGUAGES BOTH TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

FOR THE COUNCIL


HONOURABLE (DR.) MAMOUNA MALICK TOURE
THE CHAIRMAN.

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CONAKRY, 25 - 26 MAY, 1983

DECISION C/DEC 7/5/83 RELATING TO THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Article 6 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

CONSIDERING the decision of the United Nations establishing a Women's Decade from 1975 to 1985;

CONSIDERING UN Resolution 332-XIV of 27 March 1979 on the African Development Strategy;

CONVINCED of the need to integrate women in the process of development;

HAVING HEARD the paper presented by the Chairperson of the West African sub-regional Committee for the integration of Women in Development;

D E C I D E S

Article 1 : The West African Sub-regional Committee for the integration of Women in Development is hereby granted observer status within the institutions of ECOWAS.

Article 2 : This decision shall enter into force upon signature and shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community and in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT CONAKRY THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY 1983 IN ONE SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES BOTH TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

FOR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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DR. MAMOUNA MALICK TOURE
CHAIRMAN

COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DU CONSEIL DES MINISTRES
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CONAKRY, 25 - 26 MAI 1983
CONAKRY, 25 - 26 MAY 1983

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NOM/NAME	FONCTIONS ET ADRESSE / FUNCTION AND ADDRESS
<u>REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DU BENIN</u>	
JUSTIN GNIDEHOU	MINISTRE DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL ET DE L'ACTION COOPERATION
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GEORGES SEKLOKA	DIRECTEUR DES TRANSPORTS TERRESTRES
JEAN LABITE	DIRECTEUR ADJOINT DES ETUDES ET DE LA PLANIFICATION DU MINISTERE DES FINANCES
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<u>COTE D'IVOIRE</u>	
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HON. DR. ABDULAI O. CONTEH

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DE L'OUEST

ISSA DIOP

PRESIDENT DE LA F.C.C.A.O.

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I.O. ADEYALE	FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
DR. JAMES NTI	DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION)
JERRY A. EGHAGHA	DIRECTOR (ADMINISTRATION)
M.A. HAMIDOU	DIRECTEUR DES FINANCES
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