

## ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

## AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

ABUJA, 7 - 9 JULY, 1987

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its Tenth Ordinary Session at Abuja, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 7th to 9th July, 1987.

Present at the Summit were the following Heads of State and Government and/or their accredited representatives:

- His Excellency, General Mathieu KEREKOU,  
Chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin,  
President of the Republic,  
Head of State,  
Chairman of the National Executive Council,
- His Excellency, Captain Thomas SANKARA,  
Chairman of the National Revolutionary Council,  
President of FASO,
- His Excellency, Mr. Aristides Maria PEREIRA,  
President of the Republic of CABO VERDE,
- His Excellency, Mr. Felix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY,  
President of the Republic of COTE D'IVOIRE,
- His Excellency, Alhaji Sir Dauda K. JAWARA,  
President of the Republic of THE GAMBIA,

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

ABUJA, 7 - 9 JULY, 1987

FINAL COMMITTEE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government  
Economic Committee of West African States  
Fourth Ordinary Session at Abuja, The Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Held from 7 to 9 July, 1987

Present at the Summit were the following Heads of State and Government and of their respective States:

- His Excellency General Abdulsalam Abacha, Chairman of the National Executive Council, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- His Excellency General Ibrahim Babangida, Chairman of the National Executive Council, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- His Excellency General Abdulsalam Abacha, Chairman of the National Executive Council, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- His Excellency General Abdulsalam Abacha, Chairman of the National Executive Council, Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Captain Thomas Sankara, Chairman of the National Revolutionary Council, Republic of Burkina Faso

His Excellency Mr. Aristide René Togo, President of the Republic of Togo

His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal

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- His Excellency, General Moussa TRAORE,  
President of the Republic of MALI,
  
- His Excellency, Major-General Ibrahim Badamasi BABANGIDA  
President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA,
  
- His Excellency, General Gnassingbe EYADEMA,  
Founder Chairman of the Togolese People's Rally,  
President of the TOGOLESE Republic,
  
- For the Republic of SIERRA LEONE,  
Honourable Salia JUSU-SHERIF,  
Second Vice-President, representing  
His Excellency, Major-General Dr. Joseph Saidu MOMOH,  
President of the Republic of SIERRA LEONE,
  
- For the Republic of NIGER,  
Honourable Hamib ALGABID,  
Prime Minister, representing  
His Excellency, General Seyni KOUNTCHE,  
Chairman of the Supreme Military Council,  
Head of State of the Republic of NIGER,
  
- For the Republic of GHANA,  
Honourable Alhaji Mahama IDDRISU,  
P.N.D.C. Member and Minister of Defence, representing  
His Excellency, Flight-Lieutenant Jerry RAWLINGS,  
Chairman, Provisional National Defence Council,  
Head of State of the Republic of GHANA,
  
- For the Republic of GUINEA,  
Honourable Commandant Korfala CAMARA,  
Permanent Secretary of the Ruling Military Committee,  
representing  
His Excellency, General Lansana CONTE,  
Chairman of the Military Committee for National  
Recovery,  
President of the Republic of GUINEA,

- For the Republic of GUINEA BISSAO,  
Honourable Mr. Carlos CORREIA,  
Member of the Political Bureau of the PAIGC,  
Member of the State Department Responsible for Rural  
Development and Fisheries, representing  
His Excellency, General Joao Bernardo VIEIRA,  
President of the Republic of GUINEA BISSAO,

For the Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA,  
Honourable Dia-El-Hadj ABDERRAHMANE,  
Member of the Military Committee for National  
Salvation and Minister of Commerce and Transport,  
representing  
His Excellency, Colonel Maouiya Ould Sid Ahmed TAYA,  
Chairman of the Military Committee for National  
Salvation,  
Head of State of the Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA,

- For the Republic of SENEGAL,  
Honourable Mr. Abdourahmane TOURE,  
Minister of Trade, representing  
His Excellency, Abdou DIOUF,  
President of the Republic of SENEGAL,

- For the Republic of LIBERIA,  
Honourable Mrs. Amelia WARD,  
Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs,  
representing  
His Excellency, Dr. Samuel Kanyon DOE,  
President of the Republic of LIBERIA.

Attending the Session as observers are:

- The President of the African Development Bank,  
The President of the Islamic Development Bank,
- The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission  
for Africa,
- The President of the West African Development Bank  
(BOAD),

for the Republic of CHINA (TAIWAN)

Representative Mr. Carlos GARRALA

Member of the Political Bureau of the Party

Member of the State Department responsible for

Development and Education, representing

His Excellency, General José Antonio VILLA

President of the Republic of CHINA (TAIWAN)

for the Islamic Republic of MALAYSIA

Honorable Dja-Ei-Hadi ANSERRAHMAN

Member of the Military Committee for National

Education and Minister of Commerce and Transport

representing

His Excellency, Colonel Hassanudin bin Hassan

Commander of the Military Committee for National

Education

Head of State of the Islamic Republic of MALAYSIA

for the Republic of SENEGAL

Honorable Mr. Abdou TOURE

Member of the State, representing

His Excellency, Major DIOUF

President of the Republic of SENEGAL

for the Republic of LIBERIA

Honorable Mrs. Anella WARD

Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs

representing

His Excellency, Dr. Samuel Kanyon WILSON

President of the Republic of LIBERIA

Attending the Session as observers are:

The President of the African Development Bank

The President of the Islamic Development Bank

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission

for Africa

The President of the West African Development Bank

(BOARD)

- The Executive Secretary of the West African Clearing House,
- The Executive Secretary of the West African Rice Development Association,
- The Executive Secretary of the African Groundnut Council
- The Secretary General of Mano River Union,
- The President of ECOBANK,
- The Representative of the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce,
- The Representative of the Panafrican News Agency,
- The Representative of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO),
- The Representative of the West African Economic Community (CEAO),
- The Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP)
- The Representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, (UNCTAD)
- The Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, (UNIDO)
- The Representative of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO)
- The Representative of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, (FAO)

In declaring the Tenth Session of the Summit open, the Chairman of the Authority and host Head of State, Major General Ibrahim Badamasi BABANGIDA, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, welcomed most heartily all His brother Presidents and delegates to the new Federal Capital of Abuja. The address of the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority dwelt on the economic challenges facing the Community and its Member States. President BABANGIDA informed the Authority of the setting up of a Technical Aid Corps by the Nigerian Government and called for a similar scheme to be established at the sub-regional level through which ECOWAS Member States could make technical and other manpower available to each other. He also proposed the setting up of ECOWAS Secondary Scho



in all Member States to promote bilingualism. The Chairman also proposed the setting up of a Council of Ministers of External Affairs of Member States to deal with other problems and issues that are of a political and social nature.

The President of the Republic of The Gambia, Sir Dauda K. JAWARA, also made a speech during the opening ceremony in which he reviewed some of the West African initiatives to find lasting solutions to the economic problems of the sub-region.

In these opening statements, Their Excellencies drew attention to the unfavourable international economic environment which continues to thwart the development aspirations of the Member States of the Community. Their Excellencies welcome the discernible changes, within the sub-region and elsewhere in Africa, in the approach to the economic problems facing national economies. Instead of the earlier ad hoc austerity measures designed to correct short-term disequilibria, it was pointed out that there are now well-structured programmes to guide the economic recovery efforts of Member States. Particular reference was made in this connection to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986 - 1990 (APPER), the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme for West Africa, and the Abuja Statement issued in June, 1987, at the end of the ECA-sponsored International Conference on the Challenge of Africa's Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development.

Their Excellencies observed that an in-depth analysis of recent development confirm the absolute need for pursuing with vigour the ECOWAS objective of economic integration and reliance on the resources of the sub-region for achieving balanced and sustainable growth and development. It was emphasised that only the adoption of appropriate reform policies can lay the foundation for the economic and social transformation necessary for the elimination of ignorance, poverty and backwardness from the West African society. In this regard, the importance of developing the resources in the rural and agricultural sectors was emphasised.



Their Excellencies applauded the efforts of the Community in initiating co-operation programmes for developing the transport and communications infrastructures and for promoting the free movement of persons, goods and services. They particularly welcomed the progress recorded on the preparations towards the creation of a single monetary zone in West Africa. Their Excellencies called for greater commitment to ECOWAS and urged for total support of the Community trade liberalisation programme and the rationalisation of West African inter-governmental organisations for an effective integration of the sub-region.

The Authority heard a message of solidarity on the occasion of its Tenth Session from the current Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), His Excellency, Denis NGUESSO, President of the Republic of The CONGO. The message was contained in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority.

The Executive Secretary's report on the activities of the Community was read and noted by the Authority.

1. Launching of West African Economic Recovery Programme

The ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme for West Africa was launched by the Chairman of the Authority during this Session. In His launching address, President Ibrahim BABANGIDA highlighted the main features of the Programme and stressed the need to mobilise domestic resources for its implementation. He also called on the international community and financial institutions to give maximum support to the implementation of the Programme in line with their commitment under the UN-PAAERD.

The Programme concentrates on the rural sector with particular emphasis on food and agricultural production, rehabilitation of physical infrastructures and viable industrial units, and the improvement of the management of national economies. This Programme consists of short-term policy reform measures and a set of projects to be implemented over the 1987 - 1989 period by both the Community and its Member States.

Their Excellencies applauded the efforts of the Commission in initiating co-operation programmes for developing the economic and administrative infrastructures and for promoting the local content of persons, goods and services. They particularly commended the progress recorded in the preparation of the National Development Plan for the period 1967-1970 and the Nationalization of West African Inland Governmental Enterprises as an effective instrument of the development process.

The Secretary took a message of solidarity on the occasion of the death of the late Chief of State of the Republic of Nigeria (General Yakubu Gowon) and expressed his condolences to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Nigerian Inland Waterways Corporation.

The Executive Secretary's report on the activities of the Corporation was read and noted by the Authority.

1.1.1. Inland Waterways Development Programme

The West African Inland Waterways Programme for West Africa was launched in 1964. The Chairman of the Authority during this period in his opening address, President Ibrahim Babangida, emphasized the main features of the Programme and stressed the need for the rapid development of the inland waterways in the sub-region. He stated that the programme was designed to provide a means for the development of the inland waterways in the sub-region and to provide a means for the development of the inland waterways in the sub-region.

The programme envisaged the development of the inland waterways in the sub-region through the construction of new and improved inland waterways and the improvement of the management of inland waterways. The programme consists of short-term policy reform measures and long-term measures to be implemented over the 1987-1993 period by both the Authority and the member States.

During the launching ceremony of the Economic Recovery Programme, His Excellency General Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the Togolese Republic made a statement in which he emphasised the need to develop new approaches to the debt crisis in order to find appropriate and lasting solutions. President EYADEMA also strongly urged ECOWAS Member States to implement the Acts and Decisions of the Community and invited Member States to do everything possible to ensure the complete success of the Economic Recovery Programme.

Speeches were also made by Professor Adebayo ADEDEJI, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Babacar N. NDIAYE, President of the African Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Baba MOUSSA, President of West African Development Bank (BOAD) and by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). In these statements, ECOWAS Member States were congratulated for developing a collective approach to the challenge of economic recovery and for translating the continental programme contained in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986 - 1990 (APPER) into a well focussed sub-regional programme of concrete policies and projects. The speakers indicated the readiness of their institutions to assist in the implementation of the Economic Recovery Programme.

2. Progress towards a Sub-regional Monetary Zone

The Authority adopted the ECOWAS Monetary Co-operation Programme which envisages the creation of a Single Monetary Zone in West Africa on a gradual and pragmatic basis. The Programme involves the adoption of adjustment measures for the harmonisation of the monetary and fiscal policies of Member States, leading eventually to the introduction of a common currency to be issued by a common monetary authority.

3. Enhancement of ECOWAS Fund resources

After confirming the authorised capital of the ECOWAS Fund to be \$500 million, the Authority decided the fifty

million dollars (\$50,000,000) second tranche of the called-up capital of \$100 million due for payment by Member States. The remaining four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000) was also declared callable. The Authority directed that the management of the ECCWAS Fund should study the possibility of restructuring the Fund and opening up its equity capital to the participation of institutions and non-Member States of ECOWAS.

4. Common Approach to Member States' External Indebtedness

The Authority resolved to adopt in the spirit of the Abuja Statement, a common front in the Member States' approach to debt negotiation with industrialised countries. They also requested massive assistance to enable ECOWAS Member States to implement their economic recovery programmes.

5. Establishment of West African Health Organisation (WAHO)

The Authority adopted and signed the Protocol establishing the West African Health Organisation. The new Organisation is the outcome of the merger of the two existing health institutions in the sub-region namely, the Organisation for Co-operation and Co-ordination of the Fight against Endemic Diseases (OCCGE) and the West African Health Community (WAHC). The Authority emphasised that this development is in line with the desire to rationalise all Inter-Governmental Organisations of the sub-region so as to make sub regional co-operation less expensive and more effective.

6. Creation of West African Women's Association (WAWA)

The Authority adopted the statutes creating the West African Women's Association (WAWA). The establishment of the Association forms part of the Community's programme to mobilise all sections of the West African population for the socio-economic integration of the sub-region.

7. ECOWAS Cultural Framework Agreement

A Community framework agreement aimed at regulating cultural co-operation within the sub-region was adopted by the Authority.

8. Construction of Community Headquarters

The foundation-stone laying ceremony for the construction of the Headquarters of the Community was performed at ASOKORO District in Abuja by the Chairman of the Authority. The occasion was marked by the planting of trees by Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegation of all sixteen Member States. The Authority expressed its satisfaction with the progress being made on the construction of the Head Office Building of the ECOWAS Fund in Lome, after the laying of the foundation stone in November, 1986, by His Excellency, General Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the TOGOLESE Republic.

9. Relations between Member States

The Authority noted with satisfaction efforts made by Member countries towards normalizing relations between them. The Authority expressed its firm commitment to fostering good neighbourliness and a spirit of solidarity, since these are a vital requirement for the building of the Community. The Authority once again urged Member States to translate into reality, the Community Protocol on Non-Aggression so as to ensure peace and stability in the sub-region.

10. Election of Chairman

The Authority elected Nigeria as its Chairman for the year 1988.

11. Venue and Date of Next Meeting

The Authority decided to hold its Eleventh Session in Lome, Togolese Republic, in 1988, at a date to be communicated later.