

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT

BANJUL, 28 - 30 MAY 1990

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its Thirteenth Ordinary Session in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia from 28 to 30 May, 1990, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Captain Blaise COMPAORE, Chairman of the Popular Front, Head of State, Head of Government of Burkina Faso.

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

- His Excellency Captain Blaise Compaoré
Chairman of the Popular Front,
Head of State,
Head of Government,
Burkina Faso.
- His Excellency Albaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara,
President of the Republic of The Gambia.
- His Excellency General Lansana Conté,
Chairman of the National Military Redemption Committee,
Head of State and President of the Republic of Guinea.
- His Excellency General Joao Bernardo Vieira,
President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau,
Secretary-General of the PAIGC.

- His Excellency General Moussa Traore,
Secretary-General of the Democratic Union of the Malian
People,
President of the Republic of Mali.
- His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida,
President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of
the Federal Republic of Nigeria.,
- His Excellency Major General Joseph Saidu Momoh,
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- Honourable Aliou Mahimidou
Prime Minister, representing the Head of State of the
Republic of Niger.
- Honourable Théophile Nata
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,
representing the President of the Republic of Benin.
- Honourable Adriano de Oliveira Lima
Minister of Public Works, representing the President of
the Republic of Cape Verde
- Honourable Simeon Ake
Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President
of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Honourable Dr. Obed Yao Asamoah
PNDC Secretary for Foreign Affairs, representing the
Head of State of the Republic of Ghana.
- Honourable Dr. Elijah E. Taylor
Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, representing
the President of the Republic of Liberia.
- Honourable Hasmi Ould Didi
Minister of External Affairs, representing the
President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- Honourable Seydina Oumar Sy
Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President
of the Republic of Senegal.

- Honourable Yeovi Adodo
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,
representing the President of the Togolese Republic.

3. Attending the Thirteenth Session as observers were:

- The Secretary-General of the ACP Group
- The Executive Secretary of the West African Clearing House (WACH)
- The President of the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce (FWACC)
- The President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD)
- The Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
- The Representative of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- The Representative of the President of the African Development Bank (ADB)
- The Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)
- The Representative of ECOBANK
- The Representative of the World Bank
- The Representative of the Islamic Development Bank
- The Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- The Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

- The Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- The Representative of the Pan African News Agency (PANA)

THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE
DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVE

- 4 In reviewing the economic situation in West Africa, the Authority of Heads of State and Government noted that the situation continued to be a source of great concern. In spite of the various reform programmes being implemented by Member States since the 1980s to reverse the negative effects of the economic crisis, the Authority noted that the increasing deteriorating terms of trade and the heavy debt burden had disrupted national development programmes and brought about the lowering of living standards.
- 5 Member States were demonstrably manifesting a strong determination to address the structural causes of the crisis through their commitment to the pursuance of the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme, the Lagos Plan of Action and the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and individual national economic reform programmes.
- 6 While acknowledging the need for reform through structural adjustment, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that such efforts should aim at combining the short-term objectives of the reform programmes with long-term development imperatives in order to ensure sustained and durable economic growth.
- 7 Recent events on the international economic scene, particularly the changes which were occurring in Eastern and Central Europe and increased economic cooperation in Western Europe culminating in the 1992 single European market were bound to have profound effects on the West African economy. The Authority was convinced that taken individually, the economies of the sub-region were extremely fragile and uncompetitive and would therefore not benefit fully from the possibilities open to non-EEC countries in the common market of Europe 1992.

8. The Heads of State and Government, therefore, reaffirmed their pledge to strengthen and revitalise ECOWAS in order to ensure the development of West Africa through collective self-reliance. Member States also agreed to accord the highest priority in their national development programmes to the implementation of Community Acts and Decisions.

FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND PERSONS

9. In compliance with the provisions of the Supplementary Protocol on the Right of Residence signed in 1986, and which is now in force, the Authority adopted a common Residence Card for all Community citizens. This card gives Community citizens the right to reside in the territory of any Member State of the Community.
10. In order to facilitate the free movement of Community citizens throughout the Community, the Authority urged each Member State to print and issue to its citizens, without further delay, the ECOWAS Travel Certificate. It also called on Member States to establish and intensify programmes for educating and sensitising their immigration and border officials on the provisions of the Protocols on free movement of persons, disseminate information among their citizens and set up public enlightenment campaigns.
11. To further facilitate the free movement of goods, especially now that the trade liberalisation scheme has been successfully launched, the Authority adopted a Supplementary Convention establishing a guarantee mechanism for inter-state road transit of goods. The Convention aims at ensuring that inter-state road transit of commercial goods is covered by a single guarantee from the customs office at the port of departure to the customs office of destination.
12. Convinced that free movement of persons is a fundamental basis for Community building, the Authority adopted a Supplementary Protocol on the Implementation of the Third

Phase (Right of Establishment) of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment and urged all Member States to expedite the ratification of this Protocol.

ECONOMAS MONETARY COOPERATION PROGRAMME

13. The Authority reaffirmed the commitment of the Community to full monetary integration. The Authority reviewed the level of implementation of the monetary cooperation programme adopted in 1987 and approved a time-table for the application of measures to achieve by 1994, the creation of a single monetary zone as envisaged in the monetary cooperation programme.
14. The Authority mandated the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the ECONOMAS Committee of Governors of Central Banks of Member States, to ensure adherence to the time-table and prepare annual progress reports on the implementation of the programme for consideration by the Authority.

RATIONALISATION OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN WEST AFRICA

15. The Authority recognised the urgent need to rationalise the large number of intergovernmental organisations in West Africa. In this context, the Authority decided that there shall be a single economic community in West Africa for the purpose of inter-regional integration and the eventual establishment of the African Economic Community envisaged in the Lagos Plan of action.
16. In order to achieve this objective in the quickest possible time, the Authority called on every Member State to adopt and implement all necessary measures to strengthen and consolidate ECONOMAS with the aim of making it the sole economic community in West Africa. Member States were therefore urged to pay their contributions promptly, ratify all outstanding Conventions and Protocols speedily and effectively implement all Community Acts and Decisions.

17. The Executive Secretary was directed to prepare a flexible and pragmatic scheme of rationalisation of integration efforts in the sub-region, including practical modalities and a time-table for implementation

THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

18. The Authority took note of the rapidly changing international and political landscape that was redrawing and redefining international relations. It commended the study commissioned by the Secretariat on the possible effects of Europe 1992 on West Africa and stressed that the most appropriate strategy and solution that the Community and its Member States should adopt in relation to the new challenges posed by these changes, was to demonstrate a greater commitment to immediate implementation of Community Acts and Decisions as a means of strengthening the West African economy and enable the sub-region withstand the adverse effects of Europe 1992.
19. The Authority called on Member States to consult among themselves more regularly and harmonise their approaches to and strategies for dealing with all international economic issues, with a view to adopting a common front and enhance their negotiating positions. For this purpose, the Executive Secretary was directed to take all necessary measures to ensure the establishment and effective functioning of a sub-regional consultation mechanism.
20. The Authority further directed the Executive Secretary to continue to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Single European Act and propose the necessary adjustments to ECOWAS co-operation programmes in the relevant sectors in order to take account of the effects of Europe 1992 on the Community and its Member States.

REVIEW OF THE ECOWAS TREATY

21. Considering the dramatic changes taking place on the world scene and the need for the Community to modify its own strategies with a view to accelerating progress in the integration process in the sub-region, the Authority mandated the Executive Secretary to set up a Committee of Eminent Persons in the sub-region, both within and outside

governmental circles to undertake a review of the ECOWAS Treaty with particular reference to the legislative powers of the Authority, the financing of the budgets of the Institutions and the decision-making procedures of the Authority and the Council. The Executive Secretary should endeavour to report to the decision-making organs as early as practicable

LAGOS COMMITTEE OF ECOWAS AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS

22. The Authority took note of the report of the first Meeting of ECOWAS Foreign Ministers and adopted its recommendations. It recognised and approved the establishment of the Committee of ECOWAS Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Nigeria and requested the committee to work with the Executive Secretariat in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Community.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

23. The Authority reviewed the inadequate support given by the international community to Africa under UN-PAAERD against the growing economic recovery and development needs of the sub-region. The Authority noted that recent global events, especially the dramatic economic and political changes in Europe, will increase the marginalisation of the countries of the sub-region unless specific measures were taken to safeguard West African interests. To this end the Authority made an urgent appeal to the international community, and to the EEC and its member countries in particular, to appreciate the serious development challenges facing West Africa and provide adequate support to supplement the economic recovery and reform efforts of West African states.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING MEDIATION COMMITTEE

24. The Authority expressed concern over the incidence of disputes and conflicts among some Member States which have had a disruptive effect on normal life within the Member States concerned and on the smooth functioning of the

Community. Recalling the provisions of the Protocol on Non-Aggression of 22 April 1978 and with a view to ensuring that peace and harmony reigned within the sub-region, and encouraging the amicable settlement of inter-state disputes, the Authority established a Standing Mediation Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the Member State which is the current Chairman of the Authority and four others. The composition of the committee shall be reviewed every three years. The Authority decided that for the first triennium, the Committee shall be composed of the Chairman of the Authority (The Gambia), Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Togo.

REVISION OF CO-EFFICIENTS OF CONTRIBUTION
BY MEMBER STATES

25. The Authority approved a new set of co-efficients of contribution by Member States to the budgets of the Institutions of the Community. It decided that these new co-efficients shall come into force from 1 January, 1991. The Authority also decided that in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol on the Budget of 1976, the co-efficients of contributions should be reviewed every three years.

ECOWAS INFORMATION POLICY AND PROGRAMME

26. The Authority took note of the first meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Information. The Authority also noted with satisfaction the decision of the Council of Ministers to take steps towards the adoption of an ECOWAS Information Policy and Programme. The Authority, stressing the important role of information in the sub-regional integration process, and the need for a more organised system of gathering, processing and disseminating information in the sub-region, directed the Executive Secretary to expedite action on the formulation of the proposed Community Policy and Programme.

27. The Authority urged Member States to promote the transmission and exchange of news and programmes on ECOWAS. In this regard, each Member State should ensure that, with immediate effect, its official media (press, radio and television) devote about 20 per cent of its news content to highlighting in a positive manner the activities of ECOWAS, its Member States and Institutions. The private media should also be encouraged to do likewise. Each Member State was called upon to adopt and strengthen the teaching of ECOWAS in the curricula of its educational institutions. Private sector entrepreneurs should also to be encouraged to invest in the media industry and in the manufacture of goods for use of information and telecommunications.

MEASURES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

28. The Authority adopted measures to be applied against Member States who are in arrears of contributions to the budgets of the Community Institutions and the capital of the Fund.

RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS

29. Noting that not all Member States had ratified all Protocols and Conventions as was decided at the Ouagadougou Summit last year, the Authority urged the Member States concerned to complete the ratification of all outstanding Conventions and Protocols not later than 31 December 1990. The Authority directed the Executive Secretariat to report to all Member States on the status of ratification by 31 January 1991.

THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA

- 30 The Authority expressed its concern over the current situation in Liberia. Reaffirming the provisions of the Protocol on Non-Aggression adopted on 22 April 1978, the Authority called on all the parties concerned in the conflict to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to put an end to the unnecessary destruction of life and property. Acknowledging the announcement by the Government of Liberia of its intention to call early elections, the Authority appealed to all the parties concerned to accept the holding of elections in order to return the country to peace and harmony among its citizens.

THE AFRICAN CHILD

- 31 The Authority adopted a resolution on the survival, protection and development of the African Child.

ALLOCATION OF THE POST OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

- 32 The Authority noted that the term of office of the External Auditor would expire on 31 December 1990. The Authority approved the recommendation of the Council of Ministers and allocated the post of External Auditor to the Republic of Mali which was requested to nominate three firms, one of whom will be recommended by the Council of Ministers for appointment by the Authority.

ELECTION CHAIRMAN

- 33 The Authority elected the Republic of The Gambia as Chairman for the year 1990/1991.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

- 34 The Authority accepted the kind invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to hold its Fourteenth Session in Abuja on 28 May 1991.

VOTE OF THANKS

- 35 The Authority warmly commended and congratulated the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency Captain Blaise Compaoré, Chairman of the Popular Front, Head of State, Head of Government of Burkina Faso for successfully piloting the affairs of the Community during the year 1989/1990, and for infusing a sense of dynamism in the process of implementation of Community Acts and Decisions.
- 36 The Authority expressed its sincere gratitude to His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of The Gambia and to the entire Gambian Government and people for the very warm and truly African welcome extended to all delegations and for the excellent facilities made available to ensure the success of its meetings.

DONE AT BANJUL THIS 30TH DAY OF MAY, 1990