

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifty-third Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held at the La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra from 16 to 18 January 2005.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Guinea Bissau
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Niger
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Togolese Republic

3. The following ECOWAS specialised and partner institutions were also represented at the meeting:

- The ECOWAS Parliament
- The ECOWAS Court of Justice
- The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)
- The ECOWAS Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- The ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank (ERIB)
- The West African Health Organisation (WAHO)
- The West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)
- The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre
- The Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA)
- The African Development Bank (ADB)
- The World Bank
- The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- The UEMOA Commission

4. A full list of participants is attached to this report.

II) OPENING SESSION

5. Welcome remarks were made by Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and Dr Kofi Konadu Apraku, Minister of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD of the Republic of Ghana, Chairman of Council, who declared the session open. The full texts of the speeches are attached as an annex to this report.

III) **ELECTION OF BUREAU**

6. The bureau for the meeting was elected as follows:

- Chairman: Republic of Ghana
- Rapporteurs: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Republic of The Gambia.

IV) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME**

7. The agenda for the session was adopted as follows:

1. Opening Session
 - i) Opening Remarks
 - ii) Election of Bureau
 - iii) Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme
2. Consideration of the Executive Secretary's Annual Report
3. Consideration of the Financial Controller's Annual Report
4. Consideration of the External Auditors Report:
 - The Executive Secretariat
 - The Court of Justice
 - The ECOWAS Parliament
 - The West African Health Organisation
5. Implementation status of tasks assigned to the Executive Secretariat.
6. Consideration of the ratification status of the ECOWAS revised Treaty, Protocols and Conventions.
7. Consideration of the report of the sixth meeting of Ministers of Energy.
8. Consideration of the report of the third meeting of the Transport, Communication and Tourism Commission.
9. Consideration of the report of the third meeting of Ministers of Civil Aviation in West and Central Africa on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro decision.
10. Consideration of the report of the fifth meeting of Ministers of Telecommunications.

11. Consideration of the report of the Convergence Council.
12. Consideration of the report of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission.
13. Consideration of the memorandum on modalities for the implementation of the provisions of protocol A/P.1/8/94 on the Community Parliament.
14. Consideration of the memorandum on the implementation status of the ECOWAS initial plan of action against trafficking in persons.
15. Consideration of the memorandum on the implementation of NEPAD Infrastructure Projects in West Africa.
16. Consideration of the memorandum on the ECOWAS Common Agriculture Policy.
17. Consideration of the report of the ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of the Performance of Statutory Appointees.
18. Consideration of the memorandum presenting a progress report on negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between West Africa and the European Union.
19. Consideration of the memorandum on the organization of the 4th ECOWAS trade fair in Lagos.
20. Consideration of the memorandum on the creation of free trade area and the introduction of a common external tariff
21. Consideration of the draft agenda of the twenty-eighth ordinary summit of Heads of State and Government
22. Any other business.
23. Adoption of Report.
24. Closing ceremony.

Item 2: Consideration of the Executive Secretary's Annual Report

8. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary, Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas submitted a comprehensive report on the functioning of the Community in 2004. The annual report with the theme ***West African Integration Perspectives –***

Searching for a New Development Model indicated that, in spite of the adverse effects of the Ivorian crisis, the regional economy registered a growth rate of about 4% per annum. This positive growth resulted from favourable commodity prices as well as an improved management of the national economies. The report cautioned, however, that in the light of the rapid population growth, much stronger economic growth was required to achieve the objective of eradicating poverty in West Africa. The Executive Secretary suggested that the strong pursuit of a regional approach and concerted action by Member States would ensure rapid development and enable West African countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

9. The annual report raised the fundamental problem of the failure of Member States to translate the regional approach into an appropriate national policy framework. The report therefore urged that regional integration should be seen as a top national priority: government business should be organised and conducted with the primary objective of reflecting and meeting the obligations of the ECOWAS integration agenda. The institutional arrangements at the national level should ensure a centralised approach and an effective coordination of ECOWAS, NEPAD and national development issues.

10. The report highlighted the ECOWAS success at re-orienting the integration programmes to create a strong synergy with NEPAD objectives and plans of action. The significant progress made in the areas of infrastructural development and good governance (both political and economic) had received strong support from the international donor community. The report also highlighted the emphasis that ECOWAS had put on capacity building at both national and regional levels. It proposed that greater effort should be made to meet the challenge before us, over the next few years, of getting West Africa to function as an integrated economy. By the end of 2007, not only should the free trade area have been consolidated, but a common external tariff regime should also have been established. The harmonisation of macro-economic policies should have been achieved, paving the way for the adoption of a single currency regime. The Executive Secretary pointed out similar sectoral targets that had been set in the drive toward the establishment of a West African economic and monetary union.

11. On the issue of regional peace and security, the annual report stressed that the lingering political instability plaguing the region was adversely affecting the performance of the regional economy and the business environment. The Executive Secretary therefore strongly appealed to all Member States to develop a culture of tolerance, understanding and good neighbourliness. He stated that this would engender greater solidarity, sacrifice and regional commitment required for eliminating conflicts in the region.

12. Council congratulated the Executive Secretary on the quality and exhaustiveness of the report presented. Following a general discussion of the many points raised in the annual report, Council decided to conduct a detailed discussion on the issues under the relevant specific items on the agenda of the session.

Item 3 : Consideration of the Financial Controller's Report

13. The Financial Controller, Mrs Nellie Taylor, presented an exhaustive interim report on the finances of the Community institutions for the nine-month period ending 30th September 2004. The report indicated significant improvement in the income of the Community. Total income increased from UA31.2 million in 2003 to UA 48.8 million during the nine months ending 30th September 2004; this was 97% of the budgeted income for the year. However, there were problems in accessing some of the levy proceeds located in the Central Bank accounts due to restrictions imposed by Member States or difficulties in converting local currencies or in receiving bank statements.

14. By contrast, expenditures recorded only 32% level of execution during the nine-month period. The low level was due mainly to late disbursement of funds from the Community levy bank accounts and the restrictions placed on access to the Community levy accounts. UA 15.8 million had been committed by the end of September 2004 against unrestricted funds of UA 37.1 million in the Central Bank accounts. Noting that administrative expenditure accounted for 86% of the total expenditure for the period, the report recommended that the management of disbursement of funds should be improved to give priority to programmes and maintain a right balance between programmes and administrative costs. It suggested that a breakdown of the annual budget into quarterly periods would assist management in deciding where expenditures should be directed.

15. The Financial Controller recommended that the Secretariat should establish an effective system for the transfer of funds on a timely and regular basis. Member States should hand over the Community levy accounts without any restrictions to allow the Secretariat to take full control and management of the accounts. She proposed the creation of a well-equipped treasury unit within the Finance Department to manage the Community levy accounts.

16. Concerning contribution arrears from Member States, the UA 43.5 million still due indicated very little progress. The Financial Controller made a strong appeal to Member States to meet their outstanding commitment to the Community. She invited the Executive Secretariat to enter into agreements with the Member States concerned on payment schedules to clear the arrears by 2010, in accordance with the decision of Council.

17. The report of the Financial Controller revealed that the management of the finances of both the Court of Justice and Parliament was adversely affected by the lack of approved organisational and administrative arrangements. The report therefore urged that their organisation charts should be regularized quickly through a submission to Council for approval. The report stated that the personnel records of ECOWAS institutions needed to be improved and updated; similarly it urged that the computerisation of not only the accounting system but also the human resources information system should be completed as soon as

possible. The Financial Controller urged that compliance with staff regulations and recruitment procedures should be enforced to achieve fair treatment among staff members and greater efficiency in the execution of their functions.

18. In conclusion, the Financial Controller noted that income had improved during the period and that better financial management of resources had been realized. However, she mentioned that there was still a lot more to be done, namely:

- (i) Member States should apply the Community levy protocol correctly;
- (ii) Member States with contribution arrears should enter into an agreement with the Executive Secretariat for the payment of outstanding contribution arrears by December 2010;
- (iii) Funds should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities laid down;
- (iv) Institutions should improve the management of budget and cash flow.
- (v) The Executive Secretariat should put in place an efficient treasury unit and an accounting system for the management of the Community levy.
- (vi) The Executive Secretariat should complete the computerisation of the accounting system, and replicate same in the other ECOWAS Institutions.
- (vii) The system of recording Staff information should be improved and the human resources information system computerised;
- (viii) The Executive Secretariat should expedite the setting up of a Donor financial management unit to improve the management of donor funds.
- (ix) The financial regulations and accounting procedures should be updated and submitted to Council for approval.

19. Council congratulated the Chairman of Council and his delegations on the measures taken to enhance the implementation of the protocol on the Community levy. In a similar vein, Council expressed its appreciation to the Member States cited in the report for the correct application of the Community levy. All the Member States which were not implementing the said protocol correctly were enjoined to do so without further delay.

20. Council called on all the institutions of the Community to establish an effective system for the efficient management and utilisation of the proceeds of the Community levy. Council agreed on specific measures to be immediately undertaken as part of the process of improving the functioning, administrative and financial management procedures of the Community Parliament.

21. The institutions of the Community were urged to give preference to the implementation of Community priority programmes. They were also directed to strictly comply with the hierarchy of the decision making bodies. The Departments of Finance of all the institutions, especially the ECOWAS Parliament, should be provided with sufficient qualified staff, and should also computerise all their operations.

22. The Executive Secretary and the Financial Controller should propose, at the next session of Council, concrete solutions to the issues raised in the report of the Financial Controller. The Financial Controller was directed to present her report to the Administration and Finance Commission in future, to provide its members with adequate information for the consideration of draft budgets.

23. The Council of Ministers commended the Financial Controller for the quality of her report and took note of it.

- **Specific Case of the Parliament**

24. In addition to the afore-mentioned observations, the Council of Ministers directed the Executive Secretariat to submit to the next session of Council, in collaboration with the Community Parliament, a draft organisation chart of the Parliament clearly indicating the separation between the administrative and political structures.

25. The Council of Ministers reaffirmed that the ECOWAS Executive Secretary was the overall head of the Institutions of the Community and directed him to work together with the Financial Controller in order to set up an internal audit and accounting documentation system.

Item 4: Consideration of the External Auditors Report

26. The External Auditors of the Community, Coopers, Lybrand, and Dieye presented the financial statements of the Executive Secretariat, the Court of Justice as at 2003, and those of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) for the period between 2000 and 2003.

27. Council approved the certified financial statements of the Executive Secretariat and the Court of Justice for 2003, and those of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) for the period between 2000 and 2003.

28. Council endorsed all the recommendations of the External Auditors on the financial statements of these institutions as at 31 December, 2003 and directed them to improve on their internal control mechanisms.

29. Furthermore, Council urged all the Member States concerned to fully comply with the provisions of the protocol on the Community levy; especially the provision on the direct transfer of resources of the levy into a special account domiciled at their central banks, and the direct access of the Executive Secretariat to the account. Council also noted that the External Auditors had

certified the accounts of all the institutions of the Community, except those of the Parliament.

30. Council also made specific recommendations relating to the following institutions:

- **The Executive Secretariat**

31. The Executive Secretariat was directed to take the following appropriate measures:

- assessment, entry of gifts in kind into the accounting books of the Executive Secretariat
- presentation of the current account of projects, highlighting their balances
- speedy preparation and transmission to donors, of progress reports on externally funded projects

- **The Court of Justice**

32. The Court of Justice was directed to computerise its accounting procedure and to work out the severance pay for its statutory appointees.

- **West African Health Organisation (WAHO)**

33. WAHO was directed to implement the recommendations of the External Auditors, especially those relating to:

- the treatment of fixed assets
- separation allowance
- use of ECOWAS standardised administrative and financial forms
- the posting of the commitments inherited from the former institutions
- the opening of foreign currency accounts
- special health fund
- dependency allowances
- deduction at source, of the income tax of locally recruited staff and its payment to the tax authorities

ECOWAS Parliament

34. The Council of Ministers directed the Community Parliament to prepare new financial statements for the year 2003. These statements should be submitted to a fresh audit by the External Auditor, adopting mutually agreed guidelines. The Council of Ministers also directed the ECOWAS Parliament to submit all its financial statements to the External Auditors for a comprehensive audit.

Item 5: Implementation status of tasks assigned to the Executive Secretariat

35. The Executive Secretariat presented a memorandum on the implementation of the twenty-nine tasks assigned to it during the fifty-second session of the Council of Ministers. The memorandum indicated that all the tasks had either been completed or initiated as on-going activities, except the proposed high-level visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to discuss the settlement of that country's debt to the Community in the form of arrears of contribution.

36. Council took note of the presentation and requested the Executive Secretariat to undertake as soon as possible the proposed mission to Mauritania.

Item 6: Consideration of the ratification status of the ECOWAS revised Treaty, Protocols and Conventions

37. In its presentation, the Executive Secretariat indicated that the tables on the status of ratification by countries were circulated to all Member States, as directed by Council at its fifty-second session. It was explained that since the last session of Council in July 2004, only Niger and Senegal had submitted new instruments of ratification to the Secretariat; this information had been duly reflected in the tables presented for the consideration of Council. Council was informed that Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone were the only countries which had completed the questionnaires sent to Member States on the ratification of ECOWAS protocols and conventions.

38. During the ensuing deliberations, Council expressed deep concern at the slow pace of ratifications which delays the entry into force and effective implementation of protocols and conventions. Council urged all the Member States which had not yet done so to send the completed questionnaires to the Executive Secretariat without further delay.

39. Council urged the Secretariat to implement the other components of the programme for promoting the ratification of the Community acts; particular attention was drawn to the missions to Member States for the purpose of engaging a dialogue with the officials responsible for the ratification procedures, discussing the difficulties which hold up the ratification and notification of the instruments of ratification to the Executive Secretariat, and proposing concrete measures that had succeeded elsewhere in reducing such delays.

Item 7: Consideration of the report of the sixth meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Energy

40. The Secretariat presented the report on the meeting of ECOWAS Energy Ministers, members of the Steering Committee of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP), held in Dakar on 5th October 2004. The Ministers adopted the revised Master Plan for the development of electricity generation and transmission, the implementation strategy and the corresponding expenditure plan. The Master Plan also includes the establishment of the regional electricity sector regulation programme.

41. The Master Plan includes 14 priority transmission projects for WAPP, requiring a total investment of US\$1.269 billion (in 2004 prices). Total investment in generation and transmission is estimated at \$US16 billion of which about \$9 billion will be required in the first and second phases (2004 – 2011). Financing priorities include new hydroelectric infrastructure planned for development in the framework of the OMVG (Kaleta and Sambangalou) and the OMVS (Felou and Gouina) projects.

42. The Council of Ministers adopted the proposal for the establishment of the project for the development of a regional regulatory body for the electricity sector of Member States. Regional regulation will increase power trading, reduce the cost of generation, and facilitate participation by private capital.

43. In the light of the above, Council recommended to the Authority of Heads of States and Government the adoption of the revised master plan and the project for the establishment of a regional regulatory body for the electricity sector. The Ministers welcomed the commitments announced by the WAPP donors in Dakar on October 2, 2004. They commended in particular the USAID, the French Development Agency, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and France for their firm commitment to support WAPP development.

Item 8: Consideration of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Commission

44. The Secretariat presented the report on the Third Meeting of Transport, Communication and Tourism Commission held in July 2004. Taking into account the Commission's recommendations, Council urged Member States to put in place national corridor facilitation committees and endorsed the establishment of Regional Facilitation Committee for the coordination of the activities of the national facilitation committees.

45. On the regulation of Coastal shipping in West Africa, Council acknowledged the need to regulate coastal shipping in West Africa. Council therefore, adopted the recommendation of the Commission and recommended a draft Decision on the matter to the Authority of Heads of State and Government for approval.

Item 9: Consideration of the report of the third meeting of Ministers of Civil Aviation in West and Central Africa on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro decision

46. The Executive Secretariat presented the report of the meeting of Ministers of Civil Aviation in West and Central Africa held in Libreville from 29 November to 1 December 2004. The above ministerial meeting reviewed the implementation of the Yamoussoukro decision on the liberalisation of air transport in the two regions. The presentation placed emphasis on the following recommendations of the meeting of the Ministers of Civil Aviation:

- Adoption of the proposals contained in the country assessment report on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (appropriate enabling national legislation, operational and administrative autonomy of civil aviation administrations, regional safety projects, establishment of regional airlines and integrated air services);
- Preparation of a Draft common air transport economic regulation;
- Air transport liberalisation project activity report (2001 – 2004);
- Regional COSCAP Projects – the three sub-regional aviation safety projects;
- Concerted effort at resource mobilisation and coordination of project implementation.

47. After deliberations, Council adopted the following course of action:

- Establishment of an air transport unit within the ECOWAS Secretariat and the recruitment by January 2006, of one staff member and subsequently another member of staff in 2007;
- Provision of counterpart funding to complement donor support in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision in the region;
- Review of the endorsed common air transport economic regulations through the appropriate ECOWAS organs for adoption and application by Member States.

48. Council urged Member States which had not yet done so to:

- Proceed with the creation of a Civil Aviation Authority vested with financial and operational autonomy to ensure efficient exercise of their functions;
- Take legislative measures to incorporate the text of the Yamoussoukro Decision at national level, and to repeal all national policies, laws and bilateral agreements not consistent with the Decision. Meanwhile, restrictive provisions in such policies, laws or agreements should not be enforced;
- Give continued support to resource mobilisation and coordination of the implementation of aviation safety projects (COSCAP) in Member States.

Item 10: Consideration of the report of the fifth meeting of Ministers of Telecommunications

49. The memorandum presented the activities on the development of regional telecommunications, particularly on regional GSM roaming and telecommunication policy harmonisation in order to establish a common liberalised telecommunications market in West Africa to promote regional integration. These activities were reviewed at a meeting of the ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Lomé on 13th August, 2004.

50. The Council of Ministers endorsed the creation of the Technical Group on GSM Roaming as well as its structure and composition. They also endorsed the roadmap for the implementation of GSM roaming in West Africa and the creation of a common telecom market in West Africa by December 2006.

51. The Council of Ministers endorsed the action plan for the implementation of the harmonisation model and noted that the study for the utilisation of the Special Fund for Telecommunications was underway. The Council of Ministers mandated the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development to ensure that the study was concluded within six (6) weeks. In the light of the above, Council recommended to the Authority of Heads of State and Government the approval of the decisions relating to regional GSM roaming and harmonisation of telecommunications policies in West Africa.

Item 11: Consideration of the report of the Convergence Council

52. The Executive Secretariat presented the outcome of the meeting of the ECOWAS Convergence Council held in Accra on 14 January 2005. The Convergence Council reviewed the status of convergence of the macro-economic policies of ECOWAS Member States. While observing the marginal improvement in the country performances during the first six months of 2004 compared with the corresponding period in 2003, the Convergence Council stressed the need for significant macro-economic convergence under the economic and monetary integration process. Particular attention was drawn to the problems of fiscal dominance and high inflation which are characteristic of the region and recommended that future efforts should be directed at achieving sustainability of fiscal positions.

53. The meeting reviewed the status of capital and financial account liberalisation in ECOWAS Member States. It was agreed that current account liberalisation needed to precede capital account liberalisation. The meeting stated that all Member States needed to accede to Article VIII of the IMF. It was stressed that a minimum amount of capital account liberalisation needed to be achieved as a basis for the monetary integration.

54. Concerning the issue of nominal exchange rate of national currencies, the Convergence Council recommended that a framework for possible interactions and consequences on pooling fixed and flexible exchange rates needed to be put in place. Council observed that substantial technical issues still needed to be

addressed. It recommended advised that the capacities of the regional institutions (ECOWAS and WAMA Secretariats) should be strengthened. It was in this context that the Convergence Council urged that WAMA be restructured in line with current realities.

55. The Convergence Council urged that the harmonisation of statistics should be pursued more vigorously in order to enhance the comparability of country data. In that regard, the Convergence Council urged that the national statistical agencies be upgraded and adequately endowed in Member States. All Member States were called upon to show greater commitment to the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme to give concrete meaning to the regional integration process. It strongly recommended that ECOWAS Ministers of Trade should create a regular regional forum where experiences on the implementation of the ECOWAS customs union could be reviewed and relevant measures adopted to enhance the development of intra-regional trade.

56. Council took note of the report and directed the Executive Secretariat to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Convergence Council. in collaboration with WAMA.

Item 12: Consideration of the report of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission

57. The report of the thirty-second session of the Administration and Finance Commission (AFC) addressed, among other matters, the following issues:

- Status report on the implementation of the Community Levy
- Solidarity Fund
- Creation of a Department of Conference Services
- Status report on the Katampe project
- Lease of office accommodation for the Executive Secretariat
- Payment of a responsibility allowance to the accounting staff of the Community Institutions
- Adoption of the new salary scale and the new Staff Rules and Regulations of the Community
- Budget of the Community Institutions for 2005.

58. After the deliberations, the Council of Ministers adopted the recommendations of the AFC and made specific observations on the following items:

- EBID was directed to take part in all the stages of the studies to be undertaken for the establishment of the Solidarity Fund.
- the Fund will be managed by EBID.

59. Council directed the Executive Secretariat to:

- submit to the next session of the AFC, a coherent and functional proposal for the full restructuring of the Secretariat, taking due account of the necessary internal reorganisation. To this end, a sub-committee was set up to carry out this assignment;
- strengthen, in the interim, the capacity of the Department of Administration to enable it carry out the different functions needed for conference organisation.

60. Council considered the status report on the Katampe staff housing project and urged the Executive Secretariat to pursue negotiations with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a view to finding a solution to all the problems impeding the continuation of the project.

61. In addition, Council approved a budget of N 201 319 273 or UA 1 000 000 for the rental of a building to serve as an office for the Executive Secretariat.

62. Council approved the payment of responsibility allowances to the accountants of the Community institutions in line with the provisions of Article 039 (5) of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure. The rates are as follows:

- Professional staff 15% of basic salary
- Accounts clerks 10% of basic salary

63. After noting that the existing salary scale of the Community institutions dated back to 1983, Council approved a new salary scale and new Staff Rules and Regulations for the Community institutions.

64. Council approved the following salary and education grant increases:

- Basic salary
 - Executive Secretary 10%
 - Other statutory appointees 5%
 - Directors and Professionals 15%
 - G and M 12%

- Education grant

Statutory appointees and professionals

- University US\$ 3 000
- Secondary and Primary US\$ 2 500

Category G and M

- University US\$ 2 000
- Secondary and Primary US\$ 800

65. Council approved the budgets of the following institutions:

Budget of the Parliament

66. Council adopted the budget of the ECOWAS Parliament balanced out in the amount of UA 8,223,293.

Budget of the Court of Justice

67. Council adopted the budget of the Community Court of Justice balanced out at UA 4,321,720.

WAHO Budget

68. Council adopted the budget of WAHO balanced out in the amount of UA 5,418,864.

Budget of the Gender Development Centre

69. Council adopted the balanced budget of the Gender Development Centre in the amount of UA 716,985.

Budget of GIABA

70. Council adopted the balanced budget of GIABA in the amount of UA 150,000.

Budget of the Youth Development Centre

71. Council stressed that the grant given to the Centre was very low in view of the importance of youth activities in the development and integration of member States. In this context, Council directed the Executive Secretariat to make adequate budgetary allocation for the proper functioning of the centre. Council requested Burkina Faso to liaise with the Executive Secretariat with a view to ensuring that the budget allocation to the Centre could be increased to at least UA200,000.

Budgets of Permanent Representations in Member States

72. After approving the creation of five (5) Permanent Representations in member States, Council adopted a budget in the amount of UA900 000 for their operations. However, in view of the importance of the tasks assigned to the representations, Council decided that their status be up-graded to that of Heads of Diplomatic Missions with the salary scale of a Director. The Executive Secretariat was directed to make provisions for the financial implications of this decision.

Budget of the Executive Secretariat

73. Council adopted a balanced budget of the Executive Secretariat in the amount of UA 57, 418,224. Of this amount, UA33, 682,423 should be sourced from the Community Levy, UA1, 500,000 from contribution arrears, UA181,075 from miscellaneous income, and UA22,054,726 from external funding.

Item 13: Consideration of the Memorandum on modalities for the implementation of the provisions of Protocol A/P.1/8/94 on the Community Parliament

74. This item was withdrawn.

Item 14: Consideration of the Memorandum on Implementation Status of the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons

75. The Executive Secretariat in its presentation, highlighted implementation of activities aimed at addressing the criminal justice responses to this practice in Member States, identifying Member States' responses to the plan of action and constraints to a more effective implementation of the plan.

76. During the ensuing discussions, Council acknowledged the need to adopt a regional approach and urged all Member States to intensify their efforts at implementing the plan and all the relevant international conventions. Member States were requested in particular, to enact national legislation ensuring the criminalisation of the trade so that offenders would be apprehended and punished. It stressed the importance of ratifying the ECOWAS conventions on extradition and on mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Item 15: Consideration of memorandum on the implementation of NEPAD Infrastructure Projects in West Africa

77. In the memorandum presented by a consultant on the Executive Secretariat on behalf of the Task Force, it was recalled that the ECOWAS extraordinary summit with the President of the World Bank on NEPAD directed that a task force on infrastructure projects should be created. The main assignment of the task force was to identify operational "bottlenecks" and impediments to project definition, preparation and overall management. On the basis of its findings, the task force was to make concrete recommendations to improve implementation processes and mobilisation of resources using best-in-class practices. The membership of the task force established by the Executive Secretariat is made up of the following institutions: ECOWAS Secretariat, UEMOA Commission, World Bank, African Development Bank, NEPAD Secretariat, IFC, EU and the private sector.

78. In his presentation, the Consultant identified and elaborated on the impediments to project implementation at two levels namely the project development level and project implementation level. Consequently, the task force recommended that activities relating to sectoral policy formulation,

harmonisation and programme development be removed from project development and implementation. It was also recommended that in support of these activities, ECOWAS should establish a regional infrastructure project development and implementation unit, with the assistance of the ADB, the World Bank and other donors.

79. In his contribution, the Executive Director of the World Bank, Mr Paulo Gomez, applauded the Secretariat for this initiative and reiterated the support of the World Bank in the implementation of the recommendations of the task force.

80. Council expressed its appreciation to the development partners which were giving such strong support to the implementation of NEPAD in West Africa and welcomed the proposals made by the project preparatory task force.

81. At the end of the discussions on the presentation, Council adopted the following recommendations:

- Establishment of a Project Development and Implementation Unit (PDIU) equipped with required skills and funding;
- Development in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB), dedicated funding pool for harmonisation/programme development;
- Development in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other partners, a regional infrastructure development fund.
- Encouragement of greater transparency in the implementation of NEPAD programmes and better coordination of efforts between the States, ECOWAS, the African Union and all the institutions concerned.

Item 16: Consideration of the memorandum on the ECOWAS Common Agriculture Policy

82. The memorandum presented by the Executive Secretary recalled that the adoption of a regional agricultural policy was a statutory requirement under the ECOWAS Treaty (article 25). The Executive Secretariat had therefore, in collaboration with the relevant regional and international institutions, formulated a draft policy to achieve:

- Sustainable regional food security and rational management of the natural resources in Member States;
- Decent remuneration for agricultural operators;
- Expansion of agricultural trade, on a sustainable basis, at both regional and global levels.

83. The memorandum drew attention to the main components of the draft policy. It noted that the policy covered the areas of agriculture, livestock, fishery, forestry and natural resources management. The draft policy had the following sections:

- Overall and specific objectives;
- Guiding principles of subsidiarity, proportionality, complementarity, regionality, solidarity, partnership and dialogue and progressivity;
- Axes of intervention: improvement of productivity and competitiveness of agriculture, implementation of the intra-Community trade regime, and adaptation of the external trade regime
- Financing instruments (establishment of an agricultural development fund), monitoring and evaluation instruments, and technical cooperation.

84. The Executive Secretariat therefore, invited Council to review and recommend for the adoption of the ECOWAS Authority, the draft regional agricultural policy which had been endorsed by ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture on 8 January 2005 at Cotonou.

85. Council commended the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat for the achievement and for adopting a participatory approach, which involved the stakeholders concerned including public administrations, the private sector, professional agricultural organisations, civil society, inter-governmental organisations (UEMOA, CILSS, OMVS, etc), international organisations (FAC, FIDA, etc) and development partners.

86. Council recalled the importance of agriculture in meeting the food needs of the people, creating employment, fighting poverty within the context of the implementation of NEPAD and in the negotiation of multilateral trade agreements (WTO, EPA).

87. It recommended to the Authority of Heads of State and Government, the adoption of the Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAP).

Item 17: Consideration of the reports of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of the Performance of Statutory Appointees

a) The Meeting of 13 – 14 September 2004

88. The report of this Committee, which was presented by its Chairman, recommended the criteria and procedure for evaluating the performance of Statutory Officers. The report also dealt with a memorandum from the Executive Secretariat on the renewal of the terms of office of some of its statutory officers.

88. Following deliberations, Council adopted the report with the following recommendations:

- Council reaffirmed its regulation No.C/Reg.3/7/96 of July 1996 providing for annual evaluation of the performances of all statutory officers;

- Council removed the Executive Secretary, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament from the list of Statutory Officers to be evaluated;
- For the evaluation of the performance of the Judges of the Community Court of Justice, there should be created an independent technical committee comprising four Chief Justices appointed on rotational basis from Member States which do not have appointees in the court;
- Evaluation should be carried out at the following four levels: self-evaluation of the individual statutory officer, the head of the institution concerned, the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee and the decision by the Council of Ministers;
- The evaluation on all relevant statutory officers rendered by the head of the institution shall be presented for the assessment of the Executive Secretary;
- The adoption of a set of 13 evaluation criteria ranging from general knowledge and managerial skills to the sense of responsibility as well as leadership qualities;
- The evaluation scale ranges from 1 to 3, where 1 depicts non-recommendation for renewal of appointment on grounds of poor performance, and 3, recommendation for appointment in the event of the post being reallocated to the Member State;
- The overall assessment of appointees should be done at five levels A to E, representing "Outstanding" and "Unsatisfactory" performances, respectively;
- The scoring criteria were adjusted as follows: "A" (Outstanding) was adjusted from "35 – 40" to "31 – 40"; "D" (Barely satisfactory) from "15-20" to "16-20", and "E" (Unsatisfactory) from "13-14" to "13-15";
- Evaluation exercise should be concluded by 31 October every year;
- Council decided that since three Statutory Officers at the Executive Secretariat were serving the second terms for their respective countries, their positions should be declared vacant at the end of their current respective tenures and allocated to other eligible Member States. The positions in question are:
 - The Deputy Executive Secretary (Administration & Finance);
 - The Deputy Executive Secretary (Integration Programmes);
 - The Deputy Executive Secretary (Policy Harmonisation).

90. The Ad-hoc Committee deliberated at length on filling the three positions at the Executive Secretariat and recommended as follows:

- i) Taking into account countries that have no position in any institution and are implementing the Community levy, the following countries shall be allocated positions: Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone.
- ii) The Committee recommended to Council to allocate the third position to either Benin, Côte d'Ivoire or Togo, taking into account the following factors:

- the fact that Côte d'Ivoire is at the end of the tenure of second term of its statutory position at the ERIB (19 February 2005)
- Benin and Togo have never occupied any statutory posts at the Executive Secretariat.

91. The Committee further recommended that:

- i) The Executive Secretary should provide clear guidelines for countries allocated the position, emphasising core competences required for the positions, qualification and prior experience of the applicants;
- ii) Member States should endeavour to put forward for selection, highly qualified persons who can bring added value to the Secretariat;
- iii) Member States should act with dispatch to present their nominations to the Executive Secretariat no later than the end of February 2005 in order for the necessary action to be taken to fill the positions by end of March 2005;
- iv) The Executive Secretariat should make relevant proposals for consideration on the possibility of sub-dividing the Departments of Finance and Administration, the creation of research and Policy Analysis and Conference Bureaux.

92. Council was unable to reach a consensus on the allocation of the 3 vacant statutory positions. In the circumstance, Council decided to refer the matter to the Heads of State and Government for their decision.

93. Council mandated the Executive Secretariat to present to it at its next session, proposals on the increase in the number of statutory positions at the Secretariat, to ensure the presence of all member States at that level, as is the case in certain regional organisations.

b) The Meeting of 15 and 17 January 2005

94. Following the presentation of the report of this meeting, Council approved the appointment of Mrs Obla Victoria Ojeka-Eje, who had the highest score in the interview to the post of Administrative Secretary of GIABA. Council also approved the appointment of Mrs Ndeye Elisabeth Diaw with the highest score at the interview, to the post of Deputy Administrative Secretary of GIABA.

Item 18: Consideration of the memorandum presenting a progress report on negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between West Africa and the European Union

95. The memorandum which was presented by the Executive Secretariat gave an account of the meeting on 21 and 22 September 2004 of the Contact Group, which was attended by the ECOWAS Secretariat, the UEMOA Commission and

the European Commission. The memorandum also reported on the regional seminar from 23 to 25 September 2004 on the validation of the impact studies in the priority areas of agriculture, non-agricultural goods, market access, trade-related issues, and trade in services. Similarly, there was a report on a regional workshop on principal elements and techniques of trade negotiation, which was held on 27 and 28 September 2004.

96. The memorandum presented the outcome of the meeting of the Technical Support Committee on 25 and 26 November 2004, which deliberated on the selected eight themes and the corresponding technical thematic groups created to assist with the preparation of regional negotiating positions. The thematic groups would, in addition, define a strategy for the formulation of regional policies on the themes where necessary and identify the resources required for strengthening the regional capacity for the implementation of these policies.

97. In a similar vein, the memorandum provided information on a meeting of the Regional Negotiating Committee, including the following points:

- The current status of negotiations and future prospects;
- Modalities for the formulation of a reference framework for the EPA negotiations;
- The 2005 work schedule;
- Capacity building and improvement of competitiveness in West Africa;
- Modalities for the functioning of the Task Force;
- Drawing up the list of studies to be undertaken.

98. The Regional Negotiating Committee also discussed the formation of joint (West Africa-European Union) technical thematic groups, and decided on the following five groups:

- Free trade area, customs union and trade facilitation;
- Standardisation, quality control and related services, SPS measures and TBT;
- Other trade-related issues;
- Investment and services;
- Sectoral analysis: agriculture, fishery, non-agricultural goods and handicrafts.

99. Council took note of the progress report presented and directed the Executive Secretariat to pursue the negotiations, with the clear objective of concluding a regional EPA that would be an instrument for the development of West Africa.

Item 19: Consideration of the memorandum on the organisation of the 4th ECOWAS Trade Fair in Lagos

100. The Executive Secretariat informed Council of the offer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair at Lagos from 22 to

29 October 2005. The proposed regional fair would form part of the programme for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Community.

101. Council accepted the offer and expressed its gratitude to Nigeria. It recommended to the Authority of Heads of State and Government the adoption of the draft decision relating to the organisation of the ECOWAS Trade Fair as attached as an annex to this report.

Item 20: Consideration of the memorandum on the creation of a free trade area and the introduction of a common external tariff

102. The memorandum presented by the Executive Secretariat provided information on progress made regarding the establishment of a customs union in West Africa. The memorandum recalled the directive of the ECOWAS Authority which invited all Member States to ensure the immediate application of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme, and which requested the extension of the CET of UEMOA to all ECOWAS countries after impact studies had been conducted. Progress made since January 2004 included the participation of some Member States which were previously not applying the scheme. The Executive Secretariat organised, with the support of the European Union, regional seminars to sensitise and encourage public officials, the different economic operators and civil society to be involved in the process.

103. The memorandum asserted that the introduction of the ECOWAS common external tariff would mark an important step toward the creation of the customs union. During the past year, the Executive Secretariat assisted the non-UEMOA countries (particularly Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) with the preparatory activities contained in the road map for the creation of an ECOWAS customs union. A national committee created in each country had coordinated the impact studies, national validation workshops and the preparation of reports stating country positions on specific issues. The memorandum noted that implementation of the road map had just commenced in Liberia and was delayed in Cape Verde.

104. A regional meeting of experts held in Accra on 28 and 29 July 2004 reviewed the country reports. The meeting proposed that the ECOWAS CET should be introduced in January 2005, with a three-year transition period to enable Member States effect the necessary adjustments; this would ensure uniform and effective application of the common external tariff as from 1 January 2008. However, since the country reports of Ghana and Nigeria had not been finalised by the end of December 2004, this proposal of the experts might have to be reconsidered.

105. Council took note of the progress made by the Executive Secretariat. Member States were urged to take all possible measures to ensure the effective implementation of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme. The non-UEMOA Member States were invited to accelerate the process of formulating and adopting the ECOWAS common external tariff, in conformity with the directives of

the ECOWAS Authority, which requested the extension of the UEMOA-CET to all the ECOWAS Member States after impact studies had been conducted.

Item 21: Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the twenty-eighth ordinary summit of Heads of State and Government

106. Council reviewed the draft Agenda submitted by the Executive Secretariat and recommended it to the Authority of Heads of State and Government for consideration.

Item 22: Any other business

a) The Gambia's offer for ECOWAS Chairmanship

107. The Gambian Secretary of State confirmed the interest of The Gambia to present herself for Chairmanship of ECOWAS. He also indicated the readiness of The Gambia to do her utmost to maintain the momentum created under Ghana's Chairmanship.

b) Clarification on EBID Statutory Positions

108. Responding to the request of Burkina Faso for clarifications on the recent decision, which was taken by the Board of Governors of EBID despite the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the Chairman explained that the Board of Governors had set up a committee to recruit a consultancy firm to evaluate the performance of the three Statutory Appointees of EBID.

c) Payment for attendance of Ministers at ECOWAS meetings

109. On the issue of the request of Member States for the Secretariat to take charge of the cost of participation of Ministers at ECOWAS meetings in order to promote higher participation of Ministers at these meetings, it was decided that the amount of the Community Levy to be allocated to Member States should be reduced to 4.5% to enable the Secretariat have the additional resources to pay for participation of Ministers at meetings.

d) Dismissal of the Director of Administration

110. Nigeria raised the issue of the dismissal of the Director of Administration and called on the Chairman to impress on the Secretariat to temper justice with mercy. The Chairman, in reply, informed the meeting that following advice he sought from the Attorney-General of Ghana, it was explained to him that as Chairman he did not have the authority to intervene because the officer concerned had not exhausted all avenues available.

111. The Executive Secretary on his part, explained that being a legal issue, he would seek the advice of the legal department in line with the need to ensure due process and respect for ECOWAS Rules and Regulations.

e) **Issue of Payment of Salary and allowances to Speaker of Parliament**

112. The issue of payments of salaries and allowances without the relevant decision of the Community Authorities was raised in the reports of the External Auditors and the Financial Controller.

113. Council requested its Chairman to write to the Speaker of Parliament requesting the latter to explain the anomalies. The Financial Controller was also to be written to, requesting her to document the allegations by specifying how much had been paid, when such payments started and how approvals were obtained for such payments.

f) **Administrative Set-up of the ECOWAS Parliament and the ECOWAS Court of Justice**

114. Council directed the Executive Secretariat to examine, in collaboration with the two institutions, the current political and administrative set-up of the ECOWAS Parliament and the Community Court of Justice with a view to proposing the most efficient administrative system that would ensure that the Speaker and the Judges concentrate on their core legislative and judicial functions.

g) **Work Methods at ECOWAS Meetings**

115. Council decided that henceforth, documents requiring Council's decisions should be separated from documents for information only. Priority should be given to issues requiring the decision of Council.

116. Also, the Secretariat was entreated to cut down on lengthy agenda for meetings which resulted in long meetings which proved to be inefficient and burdensome.

h) **Presentation by the West African Civil Society Forum**

117. In a presentation, a representative of the West African Civil Society Forum recalling a 1996 Council decision on the formation of the forum aimed at involving civil society organisations in ECOWAS affairs. He outlined some of the recommendations of a public forum held at Accra from 10 to 13 January 2005. Among these were a call for the curbing of the spread of small arms, advocacy for free and fair elections to empower the citizenry and a request for the upgrading of the annual West African Civil Society Forum to the status of an ECOWAS statutory meeting.

118. Council noted the presentation and directed the Executive Secretariat to carefully study the presentation with a view to making appropriate recommendations to Council.

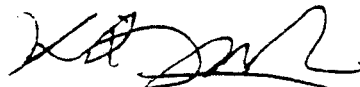
Item 23: Adoption of Report

119. This report was adopted after amendments.

Item 24: Closing Session

120. In his closing remarks, Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku thanked his colleagues for their active participation in the deliberations, and declared the Fifty-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers closed.

DONE AT ACCRA THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



DR KOFI KONADU APRAKU

CHAIRMAN

FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES
ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Fifty-Third Session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.1/01/05 APPROVING THE WORK PROGRAMME OF
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

HAVING CONSIDERED the Work Programme of the Executive Secretariat for the 2005 Financial Year proposed by the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The Work Programme attached hereto, is hereby approved and shall be executed by the Executive Secretariat during the 2005 Financial Year.

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Council. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL



Fifty-third Session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.2/01/05 APPROVING THE WORK
PROGRAMME OF THE WEST AFRICAN HEALTH
ORGANISATION FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

HAVING CONSIDERED the Work Programme of the West African Health Organisation for the 2005 Financial Year proposed by the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The Work Programme attached hereto, is hereby approved and shall be executed by the West African Health Organisation during the 2005 Financial Year.

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Council. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005

DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.3/01/05 APROVING THE BUDGET OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budget of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the Executive Secretariat proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the Executive Secretariat for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **Fifty-seven million four hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred and twenty-four Units of Account (57 418 224 UA)** is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Thirty-three million six hundred and eighty-two thousand four hundred and twenty-three** Units of Account (**33 682 423 UC**) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **One million five hundred thousand** Units of Account (**1 500 000 UA**) shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **One hundred and eighty one thousand and seventy-five** Units of Account (**181 075 UA**) shall be derived from other sources.
4. Another amount in the sum of **Twenty-two million fifty-four thousand seven hundred and twenty-six** Units of Account (**22 054 726 UA**) shall be derived from external funding.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005.


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.4/01/05 APROVING THE BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 13 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.2/8/94 defining the composition, functions, powers and organisation of the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budget of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the Community Parliament proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the Community Parliament for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **Eight million two hundred and twenty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-three** Units of Account (**8 223 293 UA**) is hereby approved.

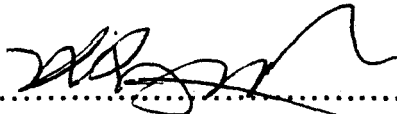
ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Seven million four hundred and sixteen thousand three hundred and sixteen** Units of Account (**7 416 316 UA**) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **Seven hundred thousand** Units of Account (**700 000 UA**) shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **One hundred and six thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven** Units of Account (**106 977 UA**) shall be derived from other sources.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST

Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.5/01/05 APROVING THE BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 15 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Community Court of Justice;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.1/7/91 defining the composition, functions, powers and organisation of the Community Court of Justice;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budget of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the Community Court of Justice proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the Community Court of Justice for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **Four million three hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty** Units of Account (**4 321 720 UA**) is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Three million eight hundred and ninety thousand eight hundred and seventy-three** Units of Account (**3 890 873 UA**) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **Four hundred thousand (400 000 UA)** Units of Account shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **Thirty thousand eight hundred and forty-seven** Units of Account (**30 847 UA**) shall be derived from other sources.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST

Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.6/01/05 APROVING THE BUDGET OF THE WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.2/7/87 relating to the creation of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO);

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budgets of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the West African Health Organisation proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the West African Health Organisation for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **five million four hundred and eighteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-four** Units of Account (**5 418 864 UA**) is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Three million two hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine** Units of Account (**3 252 929 UA**) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **Four hundred thousand** Units of Account (**400 000 UA**) shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **Two hundred and three thousand and fifty-nine** Units of Account (**203 059 UA**) shall be derived from other sources.
4. Another amount in the sum of **One million five-hundred and sixty-two thousand eight hundred and seven-six** Units of Account (**1 562 876 UA**) shall be derived from external funding.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third Session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.7/01/05 APPROVING THE AUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE 2003 FINANCIAL YEAR**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditor for the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

MINDFUL of the Authority Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 dated 10th December 1999 appointing the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dièye as External Auditors of the Community;

MINDFUL of Authority Decision C/AHSG/DEC.1/2/2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers & Lybrand and Dièye as external auditors of the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.10/07/04 relating to the extension of the term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dièye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions beyond their tenure of 30th June 2004;

CONSIDERING the Contract Agreement between ECOWAS and Coopers Lybrand and Dieye defining the conditions of engagement of the External Auditors dated 26 February 2000 ;

HAVING EXAMINED the report of the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye on the financial statements of the Executive Secretariat for the 2003 Financial Year;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Audited Financial Statements of the Executive Secretariat attached hereto for the 2003 financial year is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time-frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL



Fifty-third Session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.8/01/05 APPROVING THE AUDITED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE 2003 FINANCIAL YEAR**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditor for the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

MINDFUL of the Authority Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 dated 10th December 1999 appointing the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors of the Community;

MINDFUL of Authority Decision C/AHSG/DEC.II/2/2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as external auditors of the Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING the Contract Agreement between ECOWAS and Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye dated 26 February 2000, defining the conditions of engagement of the External Auditors;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.10/07/04 relating to the extension of the term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dièye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions beyond their tenure of 30th June 2004;

HAVING EXAMINED the report of the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye on the financial statements of the Court of Justice of the Community for the 2003 Financial Year;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Audited Financial Statements of the Court of Justice of the Community attached hereto for the 2003 financial year is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time-frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST

Fifty-third Session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.9/01/05 APPROVING THE AUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE WEST AFRICAN HEALTH
ORGANISATION FOR THE 2000, 2001, 2002
AND 2003 FINANCIAL YEARS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditor for the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

MINDFUL of the Authority Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 dated 10th December 1999 appointing the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors of the Community;

MINDFUL of Authority Decision C/ AHSG/DEC.1/2/2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as external auditors of the Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING the Contract Agreement between ECOWAS and Coopers Lybrand and Dieye defining the conditions of engagement of the External Auditors dated 26 February 2000 ;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.10/07/04 relating to the extension of the term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dièye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions beyond their tenure of 30th June 2004;

HAVING EXAMINED the report of the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dièye on the financial statements of the West African Health Organisation for the 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 Financial Years;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Audited Financial Statements of the West African Health Organisation attached hereto for the 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 financial years is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time-frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th - 18th January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.10/01/05 ADOPTING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONDUCT OF A STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECOWAS SOLIDARITY FUND

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the decision of the thirty-second session of Council held in Abuja on 16 and 17 July 2004, directing the Executive Secretariat, in collaboration with the other institutions of the Community, to draw up the terms of reference for the conduct of a study on all aspects of the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund;

CONSIDERING the report of the twenty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission which, having considered the report of the meeting between the Executive Secretariat and the other institutions to address this issue, agreed on the need to undertake a study on the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund;

DESIROUS of adopting the terms of reference for the conduct of the study on the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund and the modalities for the conduct of the study;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The attached terms of reference for the conduct of the study on the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund are hereby adopted.

ARTICLE 2

1. The study shall take due account of the vocation of the Fund which is to mobilise and allocate resources earmarked for facilitating development and reducing socio-economic imbalances within the ECOWAS Community.
2. The study shall be carried out by a consultancy firm or a consultant selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the ECOWAS tenders code.
3. The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development shall be involved in all stages of the preparation of the study, under the supervision of the Executive Secretariat, which will report back to Council.

ARTICLE 3

The resources of the Fund shall be lodged with the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development

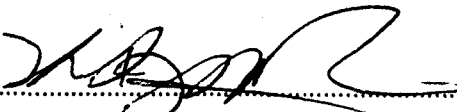
ARTICLE 4

The cost of the study referred to in article 1 above, shall be charged to the budget of the Executive Secretariat for 2005.

ARTICLE 5

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST

Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.11/01/05 ON THE PAYMENT OF A
RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE TO ACCOUNTANTS AND IMPREST
HOLDERS/CASHIERS OF THE ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 039 of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the ECOWAS institutions which stipulates that accountants and imprest holders/cashiers may be paid an allowance which may be determined by the Council of Ministers according to the level of their responsibilities;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that accountants and imprest holders/cashiers who effect payments are exposed daily to the risk of loss or deterioration of funds, assets and documents;

CONSIDERING that measures which can directly affect the personal assets of accountants and imprest holders/cashiers may be taken against them in the event of the loss or deterioration of funds referred to above occur;

EQUALLY CONSCIOUS of the need to protect accountants and imprest holders/cashiers against insolvency in the event of their being held financially responsible for the reasons indicated above;

DESIROUS of according the accountants and imprest holders/cashiers the benefits granted to them under the terms of Article 039 of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the ECOWAS institutions, and, for this reason paying an allowance to the accountants and imprest holders/cashiers of the Community Institutions;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The payment of an allowance to accountants and imprest holders/cashiers of ECOWAS institutions is hereby authorised.

ARTICLE 2

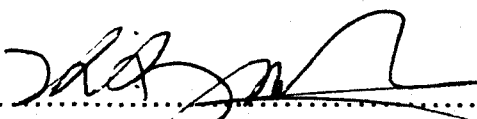
The allowance referred to in Article 1 above shall be calculated as follows:

- i) 15% of basic salary for professional staff;
- ii) 10% of basic salary for General Service and Auxiliary staff.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Konadu Apraku', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.12/01/05 INCREASING THE SALARIES
OF STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 9 of the 1999 ECOWAS Staff Regulations relating to the staff categories of the ECOWAS institutions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC. 2/11/89 adopting an elongated salary scale for staff of the ECOWAS institutions;

CONSIDERING that the constant rise in the cost of living in the Member States hosting the headquarters of the ECOWAS institutions and the prolonged stagnation of staff salaries at the same level have substantially eroded their purchasing power;

DESIROUS of raising the present rates of salaries in order to render them commensurate with the status of the beneficiaries, and befitting of the staff of an international organisation, and improve their standard of living thereby;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

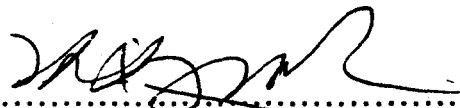
The salaries of the staff of the ECOWAS institutions are hereby increased for the following categories of staff at the following rates:

- Executive Secretary +10 % of basic salary
- Other Statutory Appointees + 5 % of basic salary
- Other professionals +15% of basic salary
- General & Auxiliary service staff +12 % of basic salary

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.13/01/05 INCREASING THE LEVEL OF
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROVIDENT FUND OF
STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 9 of the 1999 ECOWAS Staff Regulations on the staff categories of the ECOWAS;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 40 of the said ECOWAS Staff Regulations requiring permanent staff members in the professional and locally recruited staff categories to adhere to the Staff Provident Fund, and determining the constitution of said fund;

CONSIDERING that the low level of the contribution to the Provident Fund inevitably erodes the benefits accruing to staff on retirement from the service of the Community;

CONSIDERING that this erosion, when measured against the backdrop of the ever-increasing cost of living in the Member States impoverishes members of staff while their financial requirements remain substantial;

DESIROUS of maintaining a proper standard of living for its staff in order to enable them live decently after their retirement from the service of the Community;

DESIROUS, to this end, of increasing the contributions to the Provident Fund by increasing the contribution of the employer to said fund;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The contribution of the employer to the resources of the Provident Fund is hereby increased from 12.5% to 14% of the basic annual salary of the staff members, out of a total of 20% of staff basic annual salary that makes up the resources of the Provident Fund, whilst the contribution of the staff member is 6% of staff basic annual salary.

ARTICLE 2

Only permanent staff members in the professional staff category and M and G categories shall be covered by the provisions of Article 1 of this Regulation.



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.14 /01/05 RAISING THE EDUCATION
ALLOWANCE PAYABLE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF
THE STAFF OF THE ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the ECOWAS Staff Regulations on the staff categories of the ECOWAS institutions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 26 of the ECOWAS Staff Regulations on dependency allowances, which also determine the education grant payable for dependent children;

MINDFUL of Decision C/REG.11/89 granting an education grant for the children of locally-recruited staff;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.16/12/00 adopting an education grant for the staff of the ECOWAS institutions;

CONSIDERING that the present education grant paid to the staff of ECOWAS are inadequate, and fail to take into account the factors of inflation, the steady increase in education fees in the different categories of institutions of learning, and the capacity of the staff to cope with it;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13 to 18 December 2004.

ENACTS

Article 1

The education grant payable for dependent children of staff members is hereby increased for the different categories of institutions of learning as follows:

- **Statutory Appointees and Professional Staff:**

- Universities: \$3,000 per dependent child;
- Secondary and Primary Schools: \$2,500 per dependent child.

- **G and M Staff**

- Universities: \$2,000 per dependent child;
- Secondary and Primary Schools : \$ 800 per dependent child.

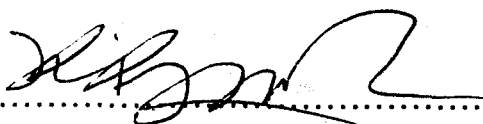
Article 2

The education grant referred to in Article 1 above shall be payable for every dependent child up to a maximum of four children.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.15/01/05 RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF
REVISED RATES FOR THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR
STAFF AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES ON MISSION FOR THE
COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/Dec.6/7/91 on the adoption of per diem Rates applicable within Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING that the existing per diem rates are presently inadequate due to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations;

DESIRING to ensure that the beneficiaries of these allowances are provided with an acceptable level of comfort while on official duties on behalf of the Community;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, 13th - 18th December 2004.

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The following "Daily subsistence Allowance" rates (Per Diem) are hereby adopted for Staff and other representatives on mission for the Institutions of the Community.

ECOWAS DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE
RATES FOR COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

	West Africa, Latin America	East and southern Africa, Middle East	Japan and South Korea Asia	Europe North America*
Ministers Parliamentarians Heads of Institution	243	266	455	385
Other Statutory Appointees	221	247	422	358
Directors	204	228	390	330
Professional Staff and Consultants	170	190	325	275
General Service Staff	145	162	276	234
Auxiliary Staff	123	133	234	199

* United States, Canada and Mexico

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days after signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.16/01/05 RELATING TO THE RENEWAL OF LEASE AGREEMENTS ON THE RESIDENCES OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT IN ABUJA AND THE LEASING OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR STAFF MEMBERS

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

CONSIDERING the uncompleted construction of vital additional works for the Executive Secretariat Staff Quarters at Katampe, Abuja which may not be completed by the end of the year 2005;

NOTING the fact that the Staff Quarters at Katampe even upon completion, will not accommodate the staff of the Secretariat in view of the expanding staff strength brought about by the on-going Staff recruitment exercise;

CONSIDERING the need to renew some leases in 2005 and to acquire additional residential accommodation for the newly recruited staff of the Executive Secretariat;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that office accommodation has to be provided for newly recruited Staff of the Secretariat by renting office complexes within Abuja.

AWARE of the need to make funds available to the Executive Secretariat for these purposes;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second Meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 13 December to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

An amount of Five hundred and twenty-six thousand, One hundred and four Units of Accounts (UA 526 104) is hereby granted for the acquisition and renewal of the leases for the residences of staff of the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja.

Article 2

An amount of Four hundred and seventy-three thousand, nine hundred and forty-two Units of Accounts (UA 473 942) is hereby granted for the leasing of office accommodation

Article 3

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the official journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall be published in the national gazette of each Member State within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.17/01/05 ADOPTING THE NEW ECOWAS PRINCIPLES FOR STAFF EMPLOYMENT AND REVISED ECOWAS STAFF REGULATIONS

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the Staff Rules and Staff Regulations of ECOWAS adopted by Regulation C/REG 4/12/99 of the Council of Ministers on 7th December 1999;

NOTING the inadequacies in the aforementioned Staff Rules and Regulations, which have undermined proper administration and effective personnel management;

DESIRING to ensure that the guiding principles for ECOWAS Staff employment are in consonance with the principles applicable in other similar international organizations and that the Staff Regulations are modern and also reflect the rules of international public service;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, 13th - 18th December 2004.

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The new Principles for Employment for Staff of the Economic Community of West African States are hereby adopted and are attached as an annex to this Regulation.

ARTICLE 2

The Revised ECOWAS Staff Regulations are also hereby adopted and are attached as an annex to this Regulation.

ARTICLE 3

The "Principles for Staff Employment" and the "Revised ECOWAS Staff Regulations" shall respectively replace and supercede the previous ECOWAS Staff Rules and Staff Regulations.

ARTICLE 4

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days after signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....

DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.18/01/05 RELATING TO THE CREATION,
WITHIN THE ECOWAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, OF A UNIT
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAD
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.9/12/99 relating to the approval of the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat to make it more operational to pursue the objectives of ECOWAS and NEPAD in order to meet the expectations of Member States.

RECALLING that the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat has been appointed as NEPAD's focal point in West Africa within the framework of the emerging African Union and has called upon the various organisations of the Community to endow it with the resources needed for the execution of its assignment;

RECALLING ALSO the Accra March 2004 Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS which was attended by donor agencies and which identified priority programmes necessary for accelerated development of ECOWAS within the framework of NEPAD;

NOTING the lack of progress in the implementation of the regional infrastructure projects and the dearth of qualified human resources within ECOWAS for the implementation of NEPAD projects at the desired pace;

AWARE of the need to establish within the Executive Secretariat, a Unit for the Development and Implementation of NEPAD Infrastructure Projects;

CONSIDERING the directives of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, held in Accra in March 2004;

UPON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Task Force in the acceleration of NEPAD infrastructure projects in West Africa;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

A Project Development and Implementation Unit (PDIU) is hereby established at the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat for the NEPAD infrastructure projects.

ARTICLE 2

The Project Development and Implementation Unit shall be staffed by a team of not more than five (5) professionals with proven expertise in public/private partnership in development and implementation of infrastructure projects of NEPAD.

ARTICLE 3

The Unit shall:

- i. be charged with the development and implementation of NEPAD infrastructures projects;
- ii. develop with development partners, a dedicated funding pool for policy harmonisation and project preparation;
- iii. establish, in collaboration with development partners, a regional trust fund for investment in infrastructure development;
- iv. carry out any other task which may be assigned by the Executive Secretariat

ARTICLE 4

The Executive Secretariat shall take all the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 5

This regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal within the same period.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

CHAIRMAN
FOR THE COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16 – 18 January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.19/01/05 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN AIR TRANSPORT UNIT WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT OF ECOWAS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 32(i)(g) of the said Treaty that mandates the promotion and development of regional air transportation services and the merger of national airlines in order to promote their efficiency and profitability;

AWARE of the need to facilitate free movement of persons and goods within the Community and to interconnect the capitals of Member States as a means of encouraging regional collaboration and integration.

MINDFUL of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision relating to the Liberalization of air transport market in West and Central Africa;

RECALLING that the Yamoussoukro Decision aims at facilitating access to air transport markets in Africa;

ALSO RECALLING Decision A/DEC.6/12/03 under which an Action Plan was adopted for the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and article 3 of that Decision that assigned the Executive Secretariat with the responsibility of monitoring implementation of measures within the plan;

AWARE of the need to establish a permanent unit within the Executive Secretariat that would facilitate its monitoring responsibility and ensure the sustainability of the air transport liberalisation programme;

MINDFUL of Article 10 3(f) of the ECOWAS Treaty that empowers Council to approve the organizational structure of the Institutions of the Community;

DESIRING to create a unit within the Executive Secretariat to monitor the air transport liberalisation programme;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation held in February 2003;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

An internal air transport unit is hereby approved for establishment within the Transport Division of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS.

ARTICLE 2

The Executive Secretariat shall, through the unit, monitor and coordinate all activities implemented by Member States within the framework of the air transport liberalization programme.

ARTICLE 3

Subject to the approval of the required budgetary allocation, the Executive Secretariat shall undertake all necessary measures for the establishment and limited staffing of the unit.

ARTICLE 4

This regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal within the same period.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

CHAIRMAN
FOR THE COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16 – 18 January 2005

REGULATION C/REG.20/01/05 ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FUNCTIONING, THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 6 and 13 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to the Institutions of the Community and the establishment of the Community Parliament, respectively;

MINDFUL of Article 19 (1) and (2) of the Treaty appointing the Executive Secretary as the Chief Executive and Legal Representative of the Institutions of the Community;

RECALLING, in particular, the provisions of Articles 10 (f) and 19 paragraph 3(g) of the said Treaty granting the Council power to approve the organizational structure of the Institutions and vesting other powers of an administrative and financial nature over the Institutions of the Community, on the Council of Ministers;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.25/12/01 adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in Dakar on 21 December 2001 relating to the rates of allowances payable to members of the Community Parliament;

DESIROUS of ensuring that immediate measures are employed to improve the administrative, financial and management procedures within the Parliament all within the framework of the on-going exercise relating to the enhancement of the powers of the Community Parliament;

AFTER CONSIDERING the reports of the Financial Controller and the External Auditors of the Community;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

1. The Executive Secretary with the assistance of the Financial Controller and the Secretariat of the Community Parliament shall prepare a draft Organizational Chart showing management and departmental positions, with clearly defined job descriptions, duties and lines of responsibility, for each post.
2. The draft Organizational Chart shall be submitted to the 54th Session of Council for approval.

ARTICLE 2

The Community Parliament shall respect the clear and separate distinction of functions and powers between its political wings (Speaker and Parliament Plenary Bureau) and the Community Decision-making bodies, comprising the Council of Ministers and Authority of Heads of State and Government, as well as between the Speaker, the Office of the Speaker on the one hand and the Secretariat of the Community Parliament headed by the Secretary-General on the other hand.

ARTICLE 3

1. The Community Parliament shall, before the 55th session of Council, recruit competent staff in the accounts and audit units of its Secretariat.
2. It shall ensure full computerization of its accounting system within the time-frame mentioned in paragraph 1 above.
3. It shall also regularize all disparities in the grading of staffing positions between the Community Parliament and other ECOWAS Institutions.

ARTICLE 4

The Community Parliament shall strictly apply the relevant texts of the Community, applicable to all other Community Institutions, which relate to the procedure for staff recruitment, grading, salary scale and daily subsistence allowances (per diem), at all levels, as well as all other allowances decided by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers.


ARTICLE 5

All Parliamentary rules of procedure and texts must be in conformity with the provisions of relevant Community texts.

ARTICLE 6

This regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal within the same period.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

CHAIRMAN
FOR THE COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers
Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**REGULATION C/REG.21/01/05 APPOINTING THE
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AND THE DEPUTY
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF GIABA**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its functions;

MINDFUL of Articles 17 and 18 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of Statutory Appointees of Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 establishing GIABA, and all other Community texts on GIABA;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/07/91 on the Selection and Evaluation of the performance of Statutory Appointees of the Institutions of ECOWAS;

CONSIDERING the need to ensure the proper operation of GIABA to enable it attain its objective of controlling money laundering and financing of terrorism;

DESIROUS of recruiting, in this context, technically competent and experienced officers;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of the Performance of Statutory Appointees, held in Accra on 16 and 17 January 2005;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

Mrs. OBLA VICTORIA OJEKA EJE is hereby appointed Administrative Secretary of GIABA for a period of four years with effect from the date of her assumption of duty.

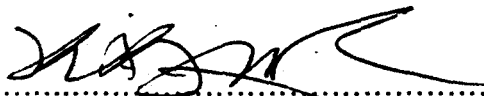
ARTICLE 2

Dr. NDEYE ELIZABETH DIAW is hereby appointed Deputy Administrative Secretary of GIABA for a period of four (4) years with effect from the date of her assumption of duty.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

CHAIRMAN
FOR THE COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers
Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.1/01/05 ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A REGIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ECOWAS
ELECTRICITY SECTOR PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A REGIONAL REGULATORY BODY**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the objectives of ECOWAS towards promoting economic cooperation and integration in West Africa in accordance with Article 26 of the ECOWAS Treaty, which stresses the importance of regional cooperation in industrial, scientific and technological fields in general, and cooperation in the energy sector, in particular;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/5/82 relating to the ECOWAS Energy Policy adopted by the Authority of the Heads of State and Government in 1982;

RECALLING regulation C/REG.7/12/99 on the adoption of a master plan for the development of energy production facilities and the interconnection of the electricity grids of the ECOWAS Member States;

AWARE of the need to coordinate the efforts of Member States to implement ECOWAS priority action plans in relation to the interconnection of infrastructures;

MINDFUL of Article 2 of the Decision A/DEC.5/12/99, which created a coordination unit consisting of the Energy Ministers and a Committee of Chief Executive Officers of the Member States electricity companies and defined their respective roles;

RECALLING the setting up of a regional electricity market entitled, the West African Power Pool (WAPP) aimed at promoting the realization of regional investments in terms of energy production and interconnection and grid systems;

ALSO MINDFUL of Decision A/17/01/03 relating to the adoption of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol in order to ensure free trade of energy and energy equipments and products between the Member States, to attract and protect private investment, and to ensure the protection of the environment and energy efficiency;

CONSIDERING that Article 31 of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol requires that the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Member States establish Regional Regulatory Bodies for energy systems, programmes and projects within the framework of implementation of the Energy Protocol;

RECOGNIZING that a regulatory entity for the electricity sector will address sectoral problems relating to development of interstate electricity exchanges and acceleration of sectoral reforms, contributing to the support of the development of common standards and dissemination of "good practices" among all actors;

RECALLING that the French Development Agency and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat signed agreement CZZ 3001 01 R on the provision of ₦5 million for the establishment of the Regional Regulatory Body;

NOTING that the West African Power Pool (WAPP) Technical and Institutional Working Groups' experts adopted the "Terms of Reference" for the establishment of the Regional Regulatory Body;

DESIROUS of establishing a Regional Regulatory framework for the electricity sector within the sub-region that would herald the eventual setting up of a Regional Regulatory Body;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of WAPP Steering Committee held in Dakar 5 October, 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the development of a Regional Regulatory framework for the ECOWAS electricity sector.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.2/01/05 RELATING TO THE ECOWAS REVISED MASTER PLAN FOR THE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY

The Council Ministers,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the objectives of ECOWAS towards promoting economic cooperation and integration in West Africa in accordance with Article 26 of the ECOWAS Treaty, which stresses the importance of regional cooperation in industrial, scientific and technological fields in general, and cooperation in the energy sector, in particular;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/5/82 relating to the Energy Policy of ECOWAS adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in 1982;

MINDFUL that the Heads of State and Governments, taking into account the ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan, adopted Decision A/DEC.5/12/99 establishing a regional electricity market – the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) project as a means of reducing the collective vulnerability of the member states to power shortages;

RECALLING that the Steering Committee of WAPP adopted in September 2000 in Lome, Togo, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the WAPP Project for the implementation of the Community energy program, creating also technical and institutional Working Groups of experts to coordinate the program;

ALSO RECALLING that in March 2001, in Dakar, Senegal, the Chief Executives of the National Power Utilities signed an inter-Utilities MOU in which they agreed to co-operate fully with the ECOWAS Secretariat towards achieving a common understanding of regional economies and optimal resource utilization strategies from both national and regional perspectives;

CONSIDERING that in November 2002, the "Meeting of WAPP Donors" requested the ECOWAS Secretariat to update the original ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan;

MINDFUL that the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of States and Government by decision A/DEC.17/01/03, adopted the ECOWAS Energy Protocol in order to ensure free trade of energy and energy equipments and products between the Member States, to attract and protect private investment, and to ensure the protection of the environment and energy efficiency;

MINDFUL that the WAPP Project is classified as a NEPAD "flagship project";

CONSIDERING that in response to the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat, the USAID funded consultants to perform a multi-faceted study of the ECOWAS Member States in order to: (i) re-assess the generation and transmission investment requirements over the period 2004-2020; (ii) analyse the operational stability of existing and proposed interconnected national power systems; and (iii) update the implementation strategy for WAPP priority interconnection line projects;

NOTING that the WAPP Technical and Institutional working group has validated a Revised ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan on the basis of studies performed by the consultant;

DESIROUS therefore of adopting a Revised ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of the WAPP Steering Committee held in Dakar October 5 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the Revised Master Plan for the Generation and Transmission of Electrical Energy, as well as the related implementation strategy and expenditure plan attached hereto.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005.



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.3/01/05 SETTING OUT THE LEGAL
REGIME FOR COASTAL SHIPPING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 32 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to Transport and Communications;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 relating to the Community Transport Programme, which seeks to coordinate and develop a modern and efficient transportation system within the sub-region;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.4/11/84 relating to Maritime Transport;

MINDFUL of Directive A/DIR/2/12/88 relating to the application of the Maritime Transport Programme;

CONSIDERING that the development of coastal shipping services has promoted growth in intra-Community maritime trade;

NOTING that this growth in coastal shipping services has not been followed up with the adoption of a regulation capable of promoting the judicious development and operation of maritime transport within the sub-region;

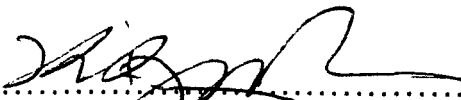
CONVINCED of the urgent need to fill this gap in coastal shipping services by preparing a regulation that is appropriate and suitable to maritime practices and customs;

UPON PROPOSAL by the third meeting of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Commission, held in Abuja from 26 to 28 July 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the Transformation of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports to the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Centre.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.4/01/05 CREATING ROAD TRANSPORT
AND TRANSIT FACILITATION AND CROSS-BORDER CORRIDOR
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN WEST AFRICA**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 32 of the said Treaty relating to transport and communications;

MINDFUL of the relevant provisions of Protocol A/P1/5/82 regulating inter-State road transport and Convention A/P4/5/82 on Inter-State Road Transit of Goods;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/SP1/5/90 establishing within the Community, a guarantee mechanism for inter-State road transit of goods operations;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 relating to the ECOWAS Common Transport Programme, and Decision A/DEC.2/5/81 relating to the Harmonisation of Road Legislations within the Economic Community of West African States;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.8./12/88 on the 2nd Phase of the Project aimed at opening up the landlocked Member States;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.3/8/94 establishing National Monitoring Committees for effective implementation of the ECOWAS decisions and protocols in the transport area.

RECALLING also Decision /DEC.13/01/03 relating to the implementation of the regional road transit facilitation programme;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.13/12/2001 relating to highways that contribute most to the promotion of intra-Community trade and inter-State movement;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.4/5/90 on the reduction of the number of road check-points in ECOWAS Member States;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.5/5/90 relating to the maximum permissible axle load and subsequent ones;

CONSIDERING that the proliferation of road check-points constitutes a real impediment to the harmonious development of trade in the region and to the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme;

CONVINCED that reduced non-tariff barriers in the region and reduced international transport costs will go a long way in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the main transport corridors in West Africa;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to realising the Community objectives that are consistent with those of NEPAD, especially in matters relating to cross-border corridor management and

simplification of formalities, procedures and documents on transport and trade, and improving information systems and the transit infrastructure;

AWARE that the realisation of such facilitation objectives requires the establishment of appropriate organs or structures;

CONVINCED that the creation of Cross-border Corridor Transport and Transit Facilitation Committees would enhance the smooth flow of road transport and transit, and facilitate the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Program that is long overdue;

UPON PROPOSAL by the third meeting of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Commission, held in Abuja from 26 to 28 July 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision creating Road Transport and Transit Facilitation and Cross-Border Corridor Management Committees in West Africa.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


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DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.5/01/05 ALLOCATING THE POSTS
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
ACTION GROUP AGAINST MONEY-LAUNDERING IN AFRICA
(GIABA) TO MEMBER STATES**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for the adoption of a sub-regional strategy that would protect the banking and financial systems of Member States from use by Criminal organizations for the purpose of laundering the proceeds from their criminal activities;

RECALLING our Decisions A/DEC.9/12/99 and A/DEC.6/12/00 establishing the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in Africa (GIABA) for this purpose and adopting the Statutes of this Agency respectively;

NOTING the administrative lapses of GIABA's structure, which affect its operational efficiency, thus diminishing all efforts at developing multilateral action against money-laundering;

MINDFUL of the need to find a remedy to them through human capacity building through the appointment of qualified statutory officers to fill the positions of the Administrative Secretary and the Deputy Administrative Secretary to steer the affairs of the agency and effectively discharge the mandate of GIABA.

DESIRING therefore to allocate these statutory positions to Member States of the Community;

AFTER CONSULTATIONS undertaken by the Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS with his peers;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision allocating the Posts of the Administrative Secretary and Deputy Administrative Secretary of the Secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in Africa (GIABA) to Member States.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


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DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.6/01/05 RELATING TO THE ADOPTION
OF AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES - ECOWAP**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Articles 2, 3, 5, 22, 23 and 25 of the said Treaty;

CONSIDERING the leading role of agriculture in the West African economy as well as the effects its development can have on the other sectors of activity;

CONSIDERING the importance of trade in agricultural produce in integrating the region into the international market;

CONSIDERING the overriding role of this sector, particularly through family farms, in reducing poverty and food insecurity at the family, national and regional levels, and the important agro-business related role that the private sector can play in creating jobs and improving productivity;

CONSIDERING the need to modernize agriculture in member ECOWAS States in order to increase productivity and agricultural supplies, meet the increasing food needs and create new jobs;

CONSIDERING the overriding role that agriculture plays in the development of the zone, in sustaining the vitality of the area, and in the management of natural resources and environmental conservation;

CONSIDERING the dominant position of women in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and the significance of these activities in the creation of wealth at both the microeconomic and macroeconomic levels, therefore necessitating their increased involvement in decision-making on policies, programmes and projects;

CONSIDERING the place accorded the agricultural sector on the one hand, and to the infrastructures conducive to the development of production and trade in agricultural produce, on the other hand, within the vision and priorities articulated at the continental level by NEPAD;

CONSIDERING the decision made by the Heads of State and Government in Yamoussoukro in May 2002, entrusting ECOWAS with the task of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of NEPAD in West Africa;

CONSIDERING the dynamics of cooperation between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, which seek to fully harmonise their strategies and policies in the sector, in order to integrate all ECOWAS member States;

FULLY AWARE of the difficulties encountered with national agricultural policies in improving producers' environment and making available to them the innovations, technologies or advice that they require, and the role regional cooperation can play in these areas;

JUDGING as particularly alarming, the environmental problems posed by agricultural development in a highly urbanized environment devoid of an improvement in the production systems despite the continued degradation of the forest cover and soil depletion;

CONVINCED that the disparities between the agricultural zones of the Community arising from agro-ecological constraints, their landlocked or insular nature, constitute an obstacle to the harmonious integration of the region at the economic, social and political levels;

RECALLING the commitment made in Maputo in July 2003 by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to allocate at least 10 % of national budgets to the development of the agricultural sector in order to improve productivity and reduce food insecurity;

UPON THE PROPOSAL of the Ministerial Meeting of the Agriculture and Food Commission of ECOWAS held in Cotonou on 8th January 2005 ;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the adoption of an Agricultural Policy for the Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAP.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.7/01/05 RELATING TO THE ORGANISATION OF THE FOURTH ECOWAS TRADE FAIR

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.5/5/82 relating to the programming of trade fairs;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.7/7/85 establishing a Consultation and Coordination Committee for the programming of trade fair and similar commercial events in ECOWAS Member States;

CONSCIOUS of the importance of trade fairs and exhibitions in the development of trade between Member States of the Community;

CONSIDERING that is the practice to organize ECOWAS trade fairs in Member States with the appropriate permanent infrastructure;

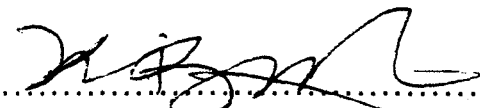
CONSIDERING that the previous trade fairs were held in Senegal, Ghana and Togo;

CONSIDERING the proposal to host the fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair made by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which, like the aforementioned countries, has permanent infrastructure for the organization of international trade fairs;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the organization of the fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.8/01/05 RELATING TO THE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
YOUTH AND SPORTS TO THE ECOWAS YOUTH AND SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 60 of the said Treaty which mandates Member States to cooperate in the full development and utilisation of their human resources;

MINDFUL ALSO of Article 61 of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides for the mobilisation of various sections of the population in order to ensure their effective integration and involvement in the social development of the region, and also provides for the promotion of youths organisations and professional associations as a means of ensuring mass involvement in the activities of the Community;

CONSIDERING the need to provide a permanent institutional framework within the Community through which issues relating to the Youths in the sub-region as well as to sporting activities could be developed and promoted;

NOTING that the establishment of such a framework will go a long way in ensuring the involvement of the Youths in the Community integration process;

RECALLING the role the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports had played in involving the youths of the sub-region in Community activities;

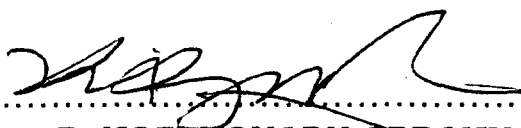
DESIRING to transform the said Conference into the Youths and Sports Development Centre;

UPON PROPOSAL by the First Meeting of the Human Resources, Information, Social and Cultural Affairs Commission held in Abuja, 29-31 March 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the Transformation of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports to the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers
Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.9/01/05 RELATING TO THE ADOPTION
OF A REGIONAL POLICY ON TELECOMMUNICATION AND
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL GSM ROAMING
IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 33 (2) (a) of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides that Member States shall develop, modernize, coordinate and standardize their national telecommunications network in order to provide reliable interconnection among Member States;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.2/12/99 on the improvement of telecommunications connectivity in ECOWAS Member States;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection between ECOWAS States using modern telecommunications systems is a prerequisite for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 21/5/80 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government establishing the special fund for telecommunications to accelerate development of telecommunication infrastructure in the sub-region;

CONSIDERING the Political will of Member States to create a single and harmonised market for telecommunications in the sub-region for the promoting of integration and economic development in the sub-region;

TAKING NOTE of the studies carried out on the harmonisation of telecommunications in the sub region and the options chosen at the fifth meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers in Lomé of harmonisation model of a centralised policy with individual national implementation mechanisms;

NOTING the increasing expansion of GSM networks to improve access to telecommunication facilities in the sub region;

NOTING that GSM at the sub regional level is both technically and financially viable, and also serves as a tool for integration in the sub region;

DESIRING to develop Regional GSM Roaming and Cross-border connectivity in the sub-region;

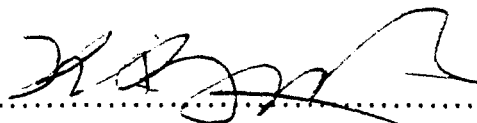
DESIRING also of adoption a Regional Telecommunications Policy;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the fifth meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Abuja on 27th February 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the Adoption of A
Regional Policy on Telecommunication and the Development of a
Regional GSM Roaming in the West African Region.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**



Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers

Accra, 16th – 18th January 2005

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.10/01/05 ESTABLISHING A
REGIONAL FUND FOR THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL
EXCHANGE**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.1/7/87 on the Cultural Framework Agreement for the Economic Community of West African States signed in Abuja on 9 July 1987;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.4/11/96 adopting the ECOWAS Cultural development programme whose objectives include the strengthening and development of cultural exchanges and ensuring that the cultural dimension is adequately taken into account in the regional integration process;

MINDFUL of the Decision A/ DEC.6/01/03 adopting a plan of action to strengthen and revitalize cooperation between the Member States in cultural affairs, with the NEPAD framework;

CONSIDERING that the lack of financial resources prevents artists from promoting their works, interacting with one another, or exchanging experiences;

CONSIDERING that the establishment of an integrated regional cultural area which will promote creativity, centres of excellence, the circulation of cultural goods, and the development of cultural exchanges, requires resources which Member States are not always able to mobilize as and when required;

CONSIDERING that artists rarely have direct access to financing on terms favourable to them;

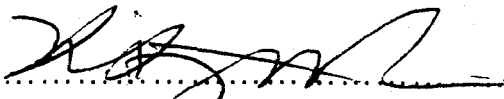
CONSIDERING the need to encourage inter-cultural dialogue, with a view to building a community identity through the integration of cultural actors in the sub-region into exchange networks;

DESIRING therefore to source adequate funds for this purpose;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision establishing a Regional Fund for the Promotion of Cultural Exchange.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005.



DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Accra, 16 – 18 January 2005

VOTE OF THANKS

The participants at the Meeting of the Fifty-third Session of the Council of Ministers holding their session in Accra from 16 to 18 January 2005 expressed their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Ghana for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations and the excellent facilities put at their disposal to ensure the success of the meeting.

DONE IN ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005

THE MEETING

**COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES
ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES**

**53rd Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers
53eme Session Ordinaire de Conseil Des Ministres**

Accra, 16 January/Janvier 2005

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Accra, January/Janvier 2005

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