



**Mini-Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government Of
Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria and
Senegal**

Abuja, 10 September 2011

Final Communiqué

1. The Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal met in a Mini-Summit in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria on 10 September 2011 under the auspices of H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, Chairman of the Authority, to review the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia.
2. They expressed deep concern with the security situation along the corridor between the two Member States and within Liberia, characterised by criminal activities of non-state armed groups, by the presence and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), and by the plight of refugees, returnees and internally-displaced persons (IDPs).
3. Having reviewed the potential impact of the situation on the forth-coming elections in Liberia, particularly in the light of the tensions generated recently, and the probability of the armed groups being used to perpetrate violence and disrupt the elections;

The Mini-Summit:

- i. Commended the role being played by the United Nations Missions to stabilise the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia;
- ii. Urged the United Nations to intensify joint UNOCI-UNMIL monitoring and control of the common border zone between the two countries. To that end, requested the UN to provide additional technical assistance to the peace-keeping Missions.
- iii. Resolved to continue to work closely with the UN in line with the UNSC Resolution 2000 (2011), with a view to creating the requisite environment for the conduct of peaceful, free, fair and credible elections on 11 October 2011.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the Heads of State instructed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to convene a meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff (CDS) and Chiefs of Police of the six Member States in Monrovia on Tuesday, 13 September, 2011 to assess the security threats in the area, and particularly to the electoral process in Liberia, and to make recommendations. They further instructed him to follow up this meeting with a meeting of the CDSs of the fifteen Member States to finalize the recommendations.

5. The Heads of State tasked representatives of the Mini-Summit to meet with the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Ban Ki Moon, with a view to urging greater UN security efforts in the region, as well as expressing the desire of the Mini-Summit for greater ECOWAS-UN cooperation, in this regard.

6. With regard to the forth-coming elections in Liberia, the Mini-Summit emphasized to all the stakeholders in Liberia that it is determined to ensure peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections in that country. To that end, it appealed to them to cooperate in achieving the objective by putting the interest of Liberia above sectional considerations.

7. The Heads of State reiterated that ECOWAS would not tolerate any acts of incitement and provocation during the electoral process, or refusals of the

outcomes of free and fair elections. In this respect, they declared zero tolerance for any attempt to oppose the verdict of the ballot box.

8. The Heads of State instructed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to deploy a Special Envoy to Liberia to cover the period of the elections. They equally authorized him to lead a joint ECOWAS-UNOWA Mission to Liberia to interact with all the stakeholders, with a view to ensuring a peaceful and credible electoral process.

9. With regard to the Humanitarian Situation, the Mini-Summit Instructed the President of the Commission to intensify ECOWAS efforts, in collaboration with the relevant UN Agencies, at mobilising assistance for the refugees and IDPs along the common border and facilitating the return and resettlement of refugees and IDPs.

10. The Heads of State expressed deep appreciation to H.E. Goodluck Eble Jonathan, Chairman of the Authority and the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm welcome accorded them and the facilities put at their disposal for their successful deliberations.

Done at Abuja this 10th day of September 2011

The Heads of State