

**COMISSAO DA CEDEAO**

**ECOWAS COMMISSION**



**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

ECW/HSG/XLI/4

**FORTY-FIRST ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE AUTHORITY OF  
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

*Yamoussoukro, 28 – 29 June, 2012*

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**Report of the Eleventh Extraordinary Session  
of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eleventh Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to consider memoranda on the Allocation of Statutory Positions to Member States, Staff Recruitment and Institutional Reforms. The meeting, which was attended by Ministers in-charge of Ecowas Affairs and Finance, was chaired by H.E. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of Council.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- Republic of Benin;
- Burkina Faso;
- Republic of Cape Verde;
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Republic of The Gambia;
- Republic of Ghana;
- Republic of Guinea;
- Republic of Liberia ;
- Republic of Niger;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Republic of Senegal;
- Republic of Sierra Leone;
- Togolese Republic.

3. The following ECOWAS Institutions, Specialised Agencies and other ECOWAS Organs were also represented:

- ECOWAS Parliament;
- Community Court of Justice;
- ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID),
- West African Health Organisation (WAHO),
- Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA);
- ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre;
- ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE);

4. The list of participants is attached as an annex to this report.

## II. OPENING CEREMONY

5. The opening ceremony was marked by welcome addresses by H.E. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of Council, and H.E. Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, President of the ECOWAS Commission.

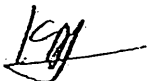
6. In his opening address, the Chairman of Council, H. E. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire welcomed all the delegations and thanked them for enhancing the session with their presence.

7. He informed members that it was in response to the burning issues in our sub-region and at the request of the current Chairman of ECOWAS, in consultation with the ECOWAS Commission, that they were being invited to jointly consider the specific issue of the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and those of the Extraordinary Session of the Mediation and Security Council. He also recalled that at the end of the Fortieth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 in Abuja, the Authority renewed the Commission's Management Team by appointing a new President of the Commission, a Vice-President and six new Commissioners for a four-year mandate.

8. He also recalled the crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau and the efforts deployed by the leadership of ECOWAS in resolving those crises (full text of speech is attached to the report).

9. In his opening address, the President of the Commission H. E. Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, expressed his gratitude to the Government and People of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm hospitality accorded the participants as well as the excellent facilities made available.

10. He recalled that this Extraordinary Session of Council was convened on the directive of the Authority of Heads of State and Government at its Fortieth Ordinary Session held in Abuja on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 to make recommendations for the allocation of the Community Institutions' statutory positions that remained to be filled and would be falling vacant in the near future.



11. He concluded by paying glowing tribute to H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, for his dynamic and wise leadership as well as for his unflinching support to the Community Institutions (full text of speech attached).

### III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

12. The following Bureau was elected:

- Chair - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Rapporteurs - Republic of Ghana
- Togolese Republic

### IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

13. The following agenda was adopted:

- a) Opening Ceremony
  - Opening Statement by the Host Minister, Chairman of Council
  - Statement by the President of the ECOWAS Commission
- b) Adoption of Draft Agenda and Work Programme
- c) Election of Bureau
- d) Items for Council Decisions
  - (i) Presentation and Consideration of the Memorandum on Staff Recruitment and Institutional Reforms
  - (ii) Presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> AFC's Recommendations on External Auditors' Fees
  - (iii) Presentation and Consideration of the Memorandum on the Allocation of Statutory Positions to Member States



- e) Adoption of Report
- f) Vote of Thanks
- g) Closing Session

## V. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

### Item 4: Items for Council Decisions

14. The President of the ECOWAS Commission introduced the items on the agenda, as follows:

- Memorandum on Recruitment and Institutional Reforms to Council;
- Presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> AFC's Recommendations on External Auditors' Fees;
- Memorandum on the Allocation of Statutory Positions to Member States.

#### (i) Presentation and Consideration of the Memorandum on Staff Recruitment and Institutional Reforms

15. The ECOWAS Commission presented a memorandum on Staff Recruitment and Institutional reforms to the 11<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers. In their presentation, the Commission requested:

- i. The removal of the restriction that consultants be recruited only outside the African region bearing in mind the need for objectivity, professionalism and quality work;
- ii. The exercise be conducted in two phases with respective interventions taken during each phase over a total period of 10 months after recruiting the Consultant as shown in Annex III;
- iii. The partial lifting of the recruitment freeze to allow recruitment of not more than 30 % of the required non-donor support staff as shown in Annex IV focusing attention on critical areas of needs and current staffing capabilities;

- iv. The freeze on the remaining 70 % to be lifted following the submission to and the acceptance of the review report by Council.

16. After deliberation on the contents of the memorandum, Council decided as follows:

- (a) Council reaffirmed its directive given at the 66<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council that a Consultant should be engaged to carry out an Institutional review on the administrative and financial management, policies and procedures of ECOWAS Institutions should be conducted.
- (b) The assignment is open to any Consultant within or outside ECOWAS Member States.
- (c) The Commission must submit the report of the Consultant so engaged to Council by the end of the year.
- (d) On the issue of lifting the embargo on recruitment in order to engage staff into critical positions, Council directed the Commission as follows:
  - The Commission should convene a meeting of Administration and Finance Committee which should hold before the Ordinary Session of Council scheduled to hold from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
  - A comprehensive memorandum should be presented to the meeting referred to above detailing the critical areas to be recruited into; those who are currently performing those functions, the cost implications for the intended recruitments, and the source of financing.
  - The submission should give primary consideration to the efficiency of the Commission.
  - The recommendations from the Administration and Finance Committee will inform Council's decisions on the lifting of the freeze on recruitment.

*FBI*

(ii) Presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> AFC's Recommendations on External Auditors' Fees

17. The Commission presented the 11<sup>th</sup> AFC's recommendations on External Auditors' Fees. However, this was not discussed as it did not feature on the original agenda and contravened rule 17 paragraph 7 of the rules of procedures of the Council of Ministers which states that "The Agenda of an extraordinary session shall comprise only the item(s) submitted for consideration in the request to convene the extraordinary session".

(iii) Consideration of the Memorandum on the Allocation of Statutory Positions to Member States

18. The President of the Commission recalled the decision of the meeting of the Authority of Heads of State and Government at its 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session which directed the Chairman of Council to convene a meeting to consider the allocation of Statutory Positions that have become and will be vacant in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

19. He also recalled the guidelines which were also adopted in Supplementary Act AISP.1402/12, specifically, Article 14 (3) of the Supplementary Act which gives the President of the Commission the duty of submitting proposals to the Authority through the Council for the allocation of Statutory positions.

20. After a lengthy deliberation, Council took note of the Memorandum of the President of the Commission, and in view of the difficulty in reaching a decision on the allocation of Statutory Positions, decided to defer deliberations on the issue to the Sixty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Council scheduled to hold from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Item 5: Adoption of Report

21. This report was adopted after amendments.



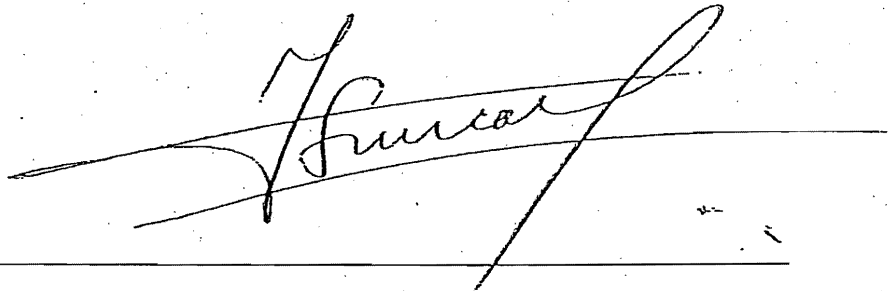
Item 6:        Vote of Thanks

22.    The vote of thanks is attached to this report.

Item 7:        Closing Session

23.    The Chairman of Council, H.E. Daniel Kablan DUNCAN, in his closing remarks, thanked delegates sincerely for their contributions and Community Institutions for their meticulous and concise presentation of the documents for deliberations. Thereafter he declared the Eleventh Extra-Ordinary Session of Council closed, and wished all participants safe journey back to their respective destinations.

DONE AT ABIDJAN, THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2012

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

H.E. DANIEL KABLAN DUNCAN

CHAIRMAN  
FOR COUNCIL



COMUNIDADE DOS ESTADOS DA  
AFRICA DO OESTE

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
OF WEST AFRICAN STATES



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

## **Eleventh Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers**

Abidjan, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

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The members of the Council of Ministers, meeting in Abidjan 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm and brotherly welcome extended them and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the successful conduct of their deliberations.

**DONE AT ABIDJAN, THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2012**

**THE COUNCIL**

