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AFRICA DO OESTE

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
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**SEVENTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Accra, 19th – 20th June 2014

FINAL REPORT

ECOWAS Commission
Accra, June, 2014

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers was held from 19th to 20th June, 2014 in Accra, Republic of Ghana. The meeting, which was attended by Ministers in-charge of ECOWAS Affairs and Finance, was chaired by Honourable Hanna Serwaa Tetteh (Ms.), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana and Chairperson of Council.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- Republic of BENIN
- BURKINA FASO
- Republic of CABO VERDE
- Republic of COTE D'IVOIRE
- Republic of The GAMBIA
- Republic of GHANA
- Republic of GUINEA
- Republic of GUINEA BISSAU
- Republic LIBERIA
- Republic of MALI
- Republic of NIGER
- Federal Republic of NIGERIA
- Republic of SENEGAL
- Republic of SIERRA LEONE
- TOGOLESE Republic

3. The following institutions and specialized agencies of ECOWAS were also represented:

- ECOWAS Commission;
- ECOWAS Parliament;
- Community Court of Justice;
- Office of the Financial Controller;
- West African Health Organisation (WAHO);
- Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA);
- ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Agency (ERERA);
- ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development.

4. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

5. In her opening address, the Chairperson of Council, Honourable Hanna Serwaa Tetteh (Ms.), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, welcomed all participants to the 72nd Ordinary Session of Council in Accra, Ghana. She also congratulated the new Commissioners of the enlarged ECOWAS Commission, the Financial Controller as

well as the new Director-Generals and Deputy Director-Generals of the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA).

6. She then expressed the hope that the expansion of the membership of the Commission and the new appointments would bring about efficiency in administration and accelerate our integrative agenda.

7. Referring to the ongoing democratisation process in Guinea Bissau, the Honourable Minister on behalf of Council, congratulated the people of Guinea-Bissau for successfully electing a new President in the person of His Excellency Jose Mario Vaz and assured them of ECOWAS continued commitment to assist them on the path of democracy and economic development.

8. With regard to the security situation in the sub region, she indicated that the growing threats of Al Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM) and the Sahel region have become real in our sub region, particularly in Northern Mali and surrounding countries. She noted that the activities of the extremist group, Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria also pose grave danger not only to the security of the country but to the whole of our sub region and indeed the entire African continent.

9. In this regard, Honourable Tetteh urged Council to redouble their efforts, including intelligence sharing, with a view to tackling the growing menace of these terrorists and their supporters by, among other things, identifying their source of funding and taking pragmatic steps to stop it.

10. With regard to the situation in Mali she urged the people of Northern Mali, to redouble their efforts to dialogue with their government as provided for by the Ouagadougou Accord.

11. Referring to the Integration process, she urged Member States to accelerate the implementation of the various protocols relating to Free Movement of Persons, Goods and Services as there was no way we could achieve our goals without our community citizens, goods and services freely moving across our respective frontiers. In the same vein she invited Member States to organize sensitization workshops on ECOWAS and the Regional Integration process for public sector workers and urged them to ensure that the ECOWAS Malaria Elimination Program receives the needed support.

12. In conclusion, she solicited the cooperation of Council Members in critically and selflessly scrutinizing the documents before them to enable them make informed decisions for the betterment of our Community. On that note, she wished them fruitful deliberations.

13. Taking the floor, the President of the Commission, H.E. Mr. Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, on behalf of the Commission and of the other ECOWAS Institutions, expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Ghana for the warm reception accorded participants and the excellent facilities placed at their disposal



for the smooth deliberations of Council. He also extended warm congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana on her appointment as Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, following the appointment of His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, as Chairman of the Authority.

14. While referring to the swearing-in ceremony for seven (7) new Commissioners and seven (7) new Judges for the Court of Justice, he wished the new Chair of Council every success in her new assignment and assured her of his full cooperation and that of all Community Institutions in the discharge of her duties. On behalf of the ECOWAS Institutions, he also congratulated and wished the new Judges and Commissioners a successful tenure.

15. In addition, the President of the Commission recalled the fate of the young girls who were kidnapped and held hostage in Chibok, Nigeria by the Boko Haram group. In memory of some of the girls who lost their lives in the terrorists den, he sympathized with the bereaved families and reiterated ECOWAS' condemnation of violence as a means of fighting a cause. He also reaffirmed the organization's determination to ensure that necessary measures are taken to end terrorism in our region so that peace, security and stability may reign for the harmonious development of our people.

16. Commenting on the peace and security that has since returned to Northern Mali, he expressed satisfaction with the advent of a new era in Guinea Bissau with the forthcoming assumption of office of President-elect His Excellency José Mario VAZ. He commended ECOWAS' unflinching support for Guinea Bissau which has made it possible for the country to conduct a successful political transition.

17. Referring to Council's directives at its 71st Ordinary Session and their implementation by the Commission, the President highlighted some efforts made which included the Signing of the Treaty on the Abidjan-Lagos Highway via Accra, Lomé and Cotonou, and the launch of the Niamey/Cotonou section of the Cotonou-Niamey-Ouagadougou-Abidjan network on 7 and 8 April 2014. He also pointed out the progress made in the implementation of a Regional Action Plan on Air Transport and the feasibility study for a Regional Aircraft Leasing Company as well as the implementation of the Programme on Joint Border Posts.

18. In addition, he mentioned other achievements made, such as the adoption of the road map for the establishment of the CET - a Community initiative aimed at improving the application of the trade liberalization scheme - the implementation of the ECOWAS monetary cooperation programme, the EPA negotiations with the European Union, the Sahel Strategy, food security and sovereignty programmes, improvement of environmental governance and human development promotion and, lastly, malaria control.

19. In conclusion, and in the hope that at this Council session important decisions will be taken that will advance the cause of the organization in its efforts towards integration, he wished the Council of Ministers successful deliberations.

20. The full texts of speeches are attached to this report.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE SEVEN (7) NEW JUDGES OF THE COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE

21. The President of the Commission introduced the seven (7) newly appointed Judges of the Community Court of Justice who were sworn in by His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government on Wednesday, 18th June, 2014. They are as follows:-

1.	Maria Do Ceu Silva Monteiro	President of the Court
2.	Friday Chijoke Nwoke	Vice President of the Court
3.	Jerome Traore	Dean of the Court
4.	Yaya Boiro	Judge
5.	Micah Wilkins Wright	Judge
6.	Hameye Foune Mahalmadane	Judge
7.	Alioune Sall	Judge

III. SWEARING-IN OF SEVEN (7) NEW COMMISSIONERS

22. Following the introduction of the new statutory appointees by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the President of the Community Court of Justice Maria Do Ceu Monteiro Silva administered the oath of office on the seven (7) Commissioners of the ECOWAS Commission. They are:

▪ Commissioner for Education, Science & Culture	-	Dr. Jean-Pierre Ezin
▪ Commissioner for Telecommunications & Information Technology	-	Dr. Isaias Barreto Da Rosa
Commissioner for Industry & Private Sector Promotion	-	Mr. Kalilou Traore
▪ Commissioner for General Administration & Conferences	-	Mr. Stephen Nartey
▪ Commissioner for Energy & Mines	-	Mr. Morlaye Bangoura
▪ Commissioner for Human Resources	-	Mr Joao Jose Silva Monteiro
▪ Commissioner for Social Affairs & Gender	-	Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow

23. Prior to the swearing in ceremony of the new Commissioners, the President of the Commission drew the attention of Council to the fact that there is no provision for the swearing in of Heads of Institution, their Deputies and the Financial Controller in the existing legal texts of the Community. He therefore recommended the amendment of the relevant legal texts to cater for the taking of oath of the Heads of Institution, their Deputies and the Financial Controller at the next session of Council. Council endorsed the recommendations thereafter.

24. Council congratulated the new Commissioners and urged them to perform their duties with utmost diligence and integrity.

IV. ELECTION OF BUREAU

25. The following bureau was elected:

- Chairman - Republic of Ghana
- Rapporteurs - Republic of Cabo Verde
- Republic of Niger

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

26. The following agenda was adopted:

a) Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Address by the Host Minister, Chairman of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers
- Statement by the President of the ECOWAS Commission

b) Presentation of the seven (7) New Judges of the Community Court of Justice

c) Swearing-in of New Statutory Appointees

d) Election of Bureau

e) Adoption of Draft Agenda and Work Programme

ITEMS FOR DECISION

f) Presentation and Consideration of the 2014 Interim Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission

g) Presentation and Consideration of Report on Institutional Reforms

- h) Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 71st Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers
- i) Presentation and Consideration of the Financial Controller's 2013 Final Report
- j) Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 15th Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee
- k) Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 45th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government

ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT

- l) Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the Ministers in Charge of Security and Integration
- m) Presentation and Consideration of the Report of Meeting of Ministers in Charge of the ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP)
- n) Any Other Business
- o) Adoption of Report
- p) Vote of Thanks
- q) Closing Ceremony

VI. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

Items for Decision

Item 5: Presentation and Consideration of the 2014 Interim Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission

27. The 2014 Interim Report was presented by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO. The Report gave a comprehensive account of the status of implementation of the Community Work Programme from November 2013 to May 2014 and outlined key challenges and prospects for the region for the remainder of 2014 and beyond. It also assessed recent socio-economic developments in West Africa within the context of the international economic environment and highlighted potential challenges, prospects and the way forward for the West African economic integration process.

28. The presentation noted that the region recorded an economic growth rate of 6.3 percent in 2013 with a forecast of 7.1 percent for 2014. This is in contrast to the forecast of 4.8 percent and 3.6 percent growth rates expected for the African and Global economies respectively.

29. Concerning the implementation of the Community Work Programme during the period under review, the President noted the significant achievements recorded by all the Community Institutions and Agencies in spite of the challenges faced in some parts of the region. On economic and monetary integration, he highlighted the decision of the Heads of State and Government during their 44th Ordinary Session held in Yamoussoukro in March 2014 that the 2020 deadline be respected and that a revised roadmap of activities be designed to ensure the realization of the monetary integration goal within the specified time-frame.

30. On the issues of intra-regional trade, the establishment of a Customs Union and the EPA Negotiations, the President indicated the consensus reached at the May 2014 Extraordinary Summit in respect of the Economic Partnership Agreement between West Africa (ECOWAS + Mauritania) and the European Union and the efforts made to address the remaining technical issues before signing of the Agreement. With respect to the CET, modalities have been put in place to ensure smooth take-off of the new tariff regime on 1st January 2015.

31. With respect to the free movement of persons, rights of residence and establishment, he stated that the 44th Ordinary Summit adopted the roadmap presented by the President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Blaise Compaore.

32. With respect to the development of natural resources in the region, he stated that the Commission had continued its efforts to promote food security and sovereignty, environmental protection and sustainable development in the region. He also provided information on the status of human development issues as well as efforts made to eliminate malaria in West Africa.

33. The President gave a comprehensive report on the activities relating to the development and implementation of infrastructure programmes in the region. On energy, he stated the support given to three member States - The Gambia, Mali and Sierra Leone – for the implementation of the emergency programme for power supply at a total cost of US\$108 million. In addition, he discussed ECOWAS' efforts at boosting intra-regional transport including road and air transport. On road transport, he stated that a Treaty of the Abidjan-Lagos Highway was signed by the Presidents of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo at the margins of the 44th Ordinary Summit of March 2014.

34. The President also gave an update on the appointment of new Commissioners, Financial Controller, Heads of ECOWAS Institutions and Judges of the Community Court of Justice. On recruitment into the 52 priority positions in the Commission and nine positions funded by the development partners (Spanish Fund, EU, Sweden and DANIDA), he informed Council that forty-two (42)

candidates were successful and that they are expected to assume duty in July 2014.

35. On the issue of promotion of good governance, peace and security, the President noted the efforts of the Community leadership to conclude the transition programme in Guinea Bissau, following the successful completion of the legislative and presidential elections and the election of H.E. José Mário VAZ as President of the Republic; and commencement of works on the formulation of the post-electoral support strategy for Guinea Bissau. In addition, efforts were made to continue the support for stability in Mali and address the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria culminating in the holding of Accra Summit on the Security Situation in Northern Mali and Northern Nigeria on 30 May 2014.

36. Lastly, the President highlighted the areas in which concerted efforts would be deployed to deepen the regional integration and development processes. The areas include member States' full compliance with the Community Levy protocol, promotion of economic diversification policies, consolidation of peace and security, acceleration of the conclusion of the EPA negotiations and infrastructure development.

37. After the presentation, Council while congratulating the President of the Commission on the quality of his report, made the following observations and recommendations:-

- (i) There is need for the recapitalisation of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID). In this regard, Council directed the Commission to work with EBID and make specific recommendations to Council at its next session;
- (ii) Member States are slow in the implementation of Community Protocols/Conventions. Efforts must be made to accelerate the level of implementation of Community initiatives to speed up the integration process;
- (iii) There is need for the abolition of Resident Permits and an introduction of an ECOWAS Biometric ID Card to improve on Free Movement of Goods and Persons;
- (iv) There is need for greater cooperation and coordination in respect of security matters with a view to developing a mechanism to access funds to improve on security in the sub-region;
- (v) The low level of Intra-regional Trade is a cause for concern especially in the light of the Customs Union that takes effect from January, 2015. In this regard, Intra-regional Trade needs to be further developed;
- (vi) ECOWAS Commission should develop a concrete action plan with performance indicators for the realisation of the various Community objectives.

38. Council adopted the Report thereafter.

Item 6: Presentation and Consideration of Report on Institutional Reforms

39. In presenting the report on the Institutional Reforms, the ECOWAS Commission recalled that at its 66th Ordinary Session, held from 17th to 19th August, 2011, Council directed the Commission to initiate the process of engaging a suitable Consulting Firm to undertake a reform exercise of all ECOWAS Institutions, and propose ways that would make them more effective and efficient with particular reference to the financial and human resources management and other related procedures. This directive was re-echoed in 2012, by Council, when the current management team assumed office.

40. They reported that progress had been made in carrying out Council's directive, despite a number of challenges and invited Council to consider the report, and to take the necessary decision where applicable, to advance the institutional reform process and outcome.

41. The Commission then highlighted the approach and the various steps taken to ensure a transparent, fair and rigorous process in the identification and recruitment of Consultants, which resulted in the engagement of Maxwell Stamp Plc., a reputable firm based in the UK, which began work 1st July 2013.

42. The Commission further reported that as an approach, activities and their associated outputs were grouped into three inter-related and inter-linked phases as follows:

- Phase I concentrates on organizational and structural issues with focus on compartmentalization and delegation of functions and reporting lines;
- Phase II is mostly concerned with business processes, evaluation and design. It also concentrates on the identification and specification of appropriate and adequate skill-mix to man the reformed structures;
- Phase III deals with implementation issues and the required strategies and action plan to effect the approved recommendations.

43. The Commission also stated that the Consultants had completed their work on Phase I, and have begun preliminary work on Phase II. Pertinent issues raised in the report were discussed with the consultants and suggestions made with respect to the restructuring and re-alignment of departments, divisions and units in the various institutions would need to be further studied by relevant stakeholders including Member States, before their final endorsement.

44. At the end of their presentation, and with a view to establishing ownership of the reform exercise and to ensure the necessary political will and Member States' buy-in, the Commission made the following recommendations for Council's consideration and subsequent approval:

- (i) The proposed restructured organizational framework of the Commission, to allow for the effective operation of the expanded Commission;
- (ii) The existing structures of all other ECOWAS Institutions remain as they currently are, pending the final decision of Council on the most desirable structure of all Community Institutions; and
- (iii) A Five-Member State "Institutional Reform Committee" be established to validate the three reports of the Consultants as and when they become available, and submit to Council recommendations for its consideration and approval.

45. Following the deliberations, Council adopted the report of the Commission as follows:-

- The proposed restructured organizational framework of the Commission, to allow for the effective operation of the expanded Commission;
- The existing structures of all other ECOWAS Institutions remain as they currently are, pending the final decision of Council on the most desirable structure of all Community Institutions;
- Recommendation (iii) above amended as follows:- "Instead of a five (5) member Committee, Council decided to devote enough time at its next meeting to consider in plenary the recommendations of the Consultants.

Item 7: Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 71st Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers

46. The Commission presented a report on the implementation status of tasks assigned to the ECOWAS Community Institutions by the Council of Ministers at its 71st Ordinary Session held in Abidjan from 16th to 17th December, 2013. The report covered the following eleven (11) key areas:

- Council so recommended the establishment of an ECOWAS Radio and Television Broadcasting Service;
- Concerning the implementation of the Community Levy Protocol by Member States, the reports of monitoring visits undertaken by the Subcommittee of the Community Levy Management Committee during the period to some member states revealed a number of issues that need to be addressed by the member states. The follow up visits by top management, with the support of Council, recommended to be conducted to discuss major outcomes of the technical missions with

- member states to get their commitment in improving compliance should be undertaken;
- Review of the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee, Renewal of External Auditor's contract (KPMG) and End of tenure of current Audit Committee members and appointment of new ones, namely Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Togo;
 - Council requested the Commission to provide regular information on implementation of opening the Special Representation Office in New York;
 - The 71st Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers approved the establishment of an ECOWAS office in New York from 2014;
 - Council requested the Commission to present the Memorandum on the Draft Regulation developed by the ECOWAS Energy Experts at their meeting held in Dakar, Senegal, from 24th to 26th July, 2013, proposing that Electricity Operators in Member States contribute about 30% of ERERA's budget during the transition period to the Ministers of Energy before representing it to Council;
 - On the Draft Supplementary Act on the Enhancement of the Powers of the ECOWAS Parliament, Council requested the Parliament to provide more details, especially, with regards to the financial implications including the responsibility for the cost as well as the sharing of responsibilities with the ECOWAS Court of Justice. Council further directed the Parliament to provide details with respect to the duties of the enhanced Parliament and its relation with other ECOWAS institutions. It also requested the review of the mandatory referral and better definition of the modalities for co-decision with the Council of Ministers
 - Council requested the Commission to provide details on the implementation and progress of the quality programme;
 - Council directed the ECOWAS Commission to lead in the urgent and speedy implementation of the recommendations of the establishment of an ECOWAS Investment Guarantee and Insurance Agency;
 - Update on Recruitment into the 52 critical positions

47. After deliberations, Council adopted the report subject to the following:-

- Parliament should make concrete proposals for the Enhancement of Powers of the Parliament both in terms of financial implications and relationships with other Institutions and resubmit same to Council through the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) at its next session for a final decision;
- All recommendations and suggestions by Member States may be forwarded to AFC for incorporation in their deliberations at their next meeting.



Item 8: Presentation and Consideration of the Financial Controller's 2013 Annual Report

48. This 2013 final report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2013, and covers community institutions, which have been allocated financial resources from the Community Levy and other sources by the Council of Ministers for the 2013 budget year. These Institutions include the ECOWAS Commission, the Community Parliament, the Community Court of Justice, the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) and the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). Being Agencies attached to Commission, budgets for the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC), the Water Resources Coordination Centre (WRCC) and ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (EYSDC), have been subsumed into that of the ECOWAS Commission. Similarly the budgets of the Offices of the Financial Controller and the Chief Internal Auditor are aggregated with that of the Commission.

49. The Council of Ministers at its 69th ordinary session approved a total budget of UA 495,889,567 for the community institutions as well as other authorised special operations in member states for the year 2013. This overall approved budget was partitioned into four broad thematic segments as follows: Community Institutions, Agencies and Offices; UA 192,223,052 marking a 15% increase over the 2012 amount of UA 167,319,510. Statutory Obligations; UA 7,877,588, Interventions in Member States UA 25,402,347, and Regional Peace and Security; UA 270,386,581.

50. The budget was to be funded from community levy of UA 143,383,192, reserves of UA 110,892,644, community-levy arrears of UA 210,424,285, Member States contribution arrears of UA 4,177,690, donor funds of UA 26,862,370 and miscellaneous income of UA 149,386. With this structure, about 95% of budget funding was expected to come from community's own resources and 5% from the donor contributions.

51. At the end of the year under review, total income recorded was UA 294,349,481, representing 59% of the budgeted annual income. Of this total income, community levy accounted for UA 127,024,496 whilst reserves accounted for UA 160,326,116. Together these two budget lines constitute 98% of total receipts for the year. From the reserves and levy received, UA 123,508,448 or 43% was disbursed to finance programmes and activities of Community Institutions. The Gambia and Niger paid-up a total of UA 587,516 to redeem their outstanding contribution arrears during the period under review. It is worth reporting that Niger has completely liquidated its contribution arrears. Donor grants received over the same reporting period amounted to UA 6,249,105 representing 23% of budgeted grant, whilst miscellaneous income recorded UA 162,249 as received, exceeding budgeted target by 9%.

52. The Commission again initiated measures to address issues relating to returns on community levy assessment, collection and deposit. It is expected that the affected member states would respond appropriately to the overtures of the

Commission so that all identified problems may be resolved, to ensure that the principal funding source of the community is secured.

53. – As regards outstanding contribution arrears, it is appropriate to emphasise that, there is only one and a half years remaining for the deadline set by the Council of Ministers for the final settlement of all such arrears to elapse, i.e. by 31 December 2015. The following four (4) countries: Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Guinea Bissau are yet to take any firm action to settle their respective outstanding indebtedness in this regard. The affected member states are invited to consider revising the rate of the community levy upward in order to raise the required funds to liquidate these arrears to the community, as has already been successfully done by Togo, Liberia and recently Niger. The Gambia had made efforts in progressively redeeming its arrears.

54. In relation to the year's overall expenditure, a total amount of UA 155,434,657 was expended during the period, representing 31% of the total approved expenditure budget for the year. The apparent low execution rate is explained by the large proportion of the peace and security budget of UA 270 million, which was only minimally disbursed at 7% during the entire year. Overall programme expenditure recorded UA 65,843,644, being 60% of the budgeted amount. Administrative expenditure recorded UA 57,183,114 or 84% whilst amount spent on governing bodies was UA 7,848,635, against a budget of UA 11,509,502. Other expenditure stood at UA 1,853,885, against a budget of UA 2,691,684. At the close of year 2013, an amount of UA 36,869,415 was committed as staff costs representing 87% of the staff expenditure budget and 37% of total expenditure incurred during the year.

55. As regards the ECOWAS staff pension scheme, the Board of Trustees has opened a bank account into which institutions have started transferring their hitherto accumulated contributions. The recruitment of a pension consultant to assist the Board in setting up and operating the scheme is on schedule. Nonetheless, it is still strongly recommended that the staff pension launching process be quickened further, to enable scheme's operationalization as soon as practicable.

56. There was a combined total of UA 39,209,100 in various bank accounts of community institutions at the end of the period under review. This figure includes staff separation allowances. Significantly, it also includes funds of UA 3,965,483 (Naira 932.3m), released for the Community Parliament as grant by the Nigerian Government. Total donor grant balances stood at UA 31,402,529. Community Levy amounts lodged into designated accounts with central banks of member states totaled UA 115 m.

57. At the end of his report, nine (9) recommendations were made for the consideration of the Council of Ministers.

58. Council commended the Financial Controller on the quality of his report.

59. In the deliberations that ensued, Council directed the Commission to follow-up with Member States with a view to ensuring compliance with the implementation of the Community Levy Protocol. Council also expressed grave concern about the issue of expenditure being incurred by the ECOWAS Parliament without vetting by the Office of the Financial Controller as required by extant Community Regulations. In this connection, Council directed the Commission to look into the issue and report back to Council at its next Session.

60. After deliberations, Council adopted the report and all the recommendations contained therein.

Item 9: Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 15th Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee

61. The final Report of the 15th meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Kodzo Alabo, Head of the ECOWAS National Unit in-charge of African Integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana. The report dealt mainly with the following issues:

- Presentation and Consideration of the Implementation Status of Tasks Assigned to Community Institutions;
- Presentation and Consideration of the Memorandum on the Visibility of Member States in ECOWAS Commission and Other Institutions;
- Presentation and Consideration of the Memorandum on Security of Community Institutions;
- Consideration of the Budget Performance of ECOWAS Institutions from January - 31st May, 2014

62. Following deliberations, Council reiterated its directives to the Commission to follow-up with Member States on the payment of Community Levy and Contribution Arrears to enable the Commission and other Institutions to execute their mandate.

63. Council also:

- Noted the comments on the representation of Member States in the Commission and the discrepancy in the figures relating to staff presented by the AFC and the Financial Controller and directed the Commission to provide the exact figures to Council at its next session;
- Stressed the need to determine the criteria for Member States' representation in ECOWAS Institutions and to find ways and means to improving the visibility of least represented Member States;

- Directed the Commission to find ways and means within the administrative framework of the Commission to deal with the issues of enhancing internal security without creating a new directorate;
- Directed the Commission to present the criteria in respect of the appointments of Permanent Representatives to the next session of Council.

64. Thereafter Council adopted the report.

Item 10: Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 45th Ordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government

65. The Commission presented the draft agenda of the 45th Ordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government. Council examined the agenda presented and adopted it thereafter

Items for Endorsement

Item 11: Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the Ministers in Charge of Security and Integration

66. The Commission presented the Report of the Meeting of the Ministers of Security, which held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 25th February, 2014. The purpose of the Meeting was to validate and adopt the draft supplementary Act on the proposed ECOWAS National Biometric ID Card and abolition of Residence Cards.

67. In their presentation, the Commission highlighted the commitment of Member States, as evidenced by the remarks of the Honourable Minister of Interior of Niger, Mr. Hassourni Masaoudou, in promoting the regional integration agenda and their willingness to accept partial severance sovereignty to attain this objective. The presentation also highlighted the importance of the free movement of Community citizens across our borders especially in the light of our objective towards the development of intra-regional Trade.

68. They further reported that the meeting considered and validated the following Supplementary Acts:

- Amending Paragraph 9 of Article I of Protocol A/SP/I/7/85;
- Amending Paragraph 8 of Article 1, Paragraph 1 and 2 of Article 3 and Paragraph 1 and 2 of Article 5 of Protocol A/P1/5/79;
- Repealing chapter III, Articles 5,6,7,8 and 9 of Protocol A/SP/I/7/86;
- Amending Decision A/DEC2/7/85 on the Establishment of a travel Certificate for ECOWAS Member States

69. They also reported that the Meeting mandated the ECOWAS Commission to:
- Conduct a sensitization programme in Member States to create awareness on the use of the ECOWAS National Biometric ID card and relevant provisions as contained in the supplementary Acts;
 - Harmonizes the mechanism in Member States for assessment of vehicles to ensure their road worthiness;
 - Produces specimens of the proposed ECOWAS National Biometric ID Card with relevant security features to be deployed by Member States.

70. After deliberations, Council while noting reservations expressed by some Member States in respect of the security and social challenges posed, endorsed the report and recommended it for adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Item 12: Presentation and Consideration of the Report of Meeting of Ministers in Charge of the ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP)

71. The Meeting of the Ministers in charge of the ECOWAS Community Development Programme was presented By Professor N'galadio Bamba, on behalf of the Honourable Madam Kaba Nialé, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Economy and finance of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

72. In his presentation of the report, he recalled the main objective of the CDP to provide the medium and long term development agenda of the West African Region, through the identification of a set of priority projects and programmes to be implemented.

73. The Ministerial meeting considered two main issues: the Formulation process and Regional Document of the CDP. The formulation process which is in four (4) phases, has enabled the Commission, in close collaboration with all stakeholders, to develop the Regional Document of the Programme, which is a practical response to the many challenges facing the region.

74. The Regional document focusses on four Priority areas as follows:
Priority Area 1 – Integration of peoples, governance and human development;
Priority Area 2 – Deepening of economic integration;
Priority Area 3 – Infrastructure Development and Wealth creation;
Priority Area 4 – Cooperation and Financing

75. He reported that a total of 242 priority projects have been identified at an estimated cost of \$28.4 billion, of which \$7 billion dollars had already been

mobilized leaving a balance of 21.4 billion to be mobilised.

76. Considering the importance of the document and its endorsement and recommendation to Council by the line Ministers of Member States, He requested Council to adopt and recommend its adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

77. After deliberations, Council adopted the report except for the creation of a new directorate. In this regard, Commission was directed to use the existing CDP Unit to work with the various Departments of the Commission.

Other Items

Item 13: Any Other Business

78. The ECOWAS Commission informed Council of the intention of the following Member States to present candidates for International positions as follows:-

- Republic of Senegal:
 - Mr **Makhtar Diop** to the position of the President of the African Development Bank (ADB) during the elections to be held in Abidjan, Republic de Côte d'Ivoire in May 2015 during the ADB Annual Assembly.
 - Barrister **Sidiki Kaba** to the position of President of the Assembly of States parties to the Rome Statutes of the International Criminal Court whose elections are coming up during the 13th General Assembly of States Parties scheduled for December 2014 in New York.
- Republic of Benin :
 - Mrs **Reine Alapini-Gansou** to the position of Judge at the International Criminal Court (one of the three positions reserved for Africa)
 - Mme **Dorothee Akoko Kinde-Gazard** to the position of Regional Director for World Health Organisation for Africa. Election for the Regional Director of WHO will come up during the 64th session of the WHO for Africa to be held in September 2014 in Bénin.

79. The Commission also informed that other competing candidatures to that of Benin to the position of Regional Director to WHO for Africa will be coming from Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana.

81. The Republic of Cabo Verde, as Coordinator for the sub-regional initiative on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, informed Council of the status of progress regarding the process. This process which includes six ECOWAS Member States (Cabo Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Sierra Leone) and Mauritania, was conducted with support from the Kingdom of Norway.

82. The approach is in line with the implementation of the Praia Declaration of 10 June 2014, in particular concerning the submission of the joint request made by the States Parties to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014. In that regard, Cabo Verde, on behalf of the Member States, called for Council's support to accompany this submission phase as well as its implementation process.

83. Council thanked the Kingdom of Norway and gave backing to this initiative.

84. Liberia re-echoed the importance of defining criteria for the appointment of candidates to ECOWAS Institutions, the need to assess all ECOWAS projects in Member States to determine their viability and to find ways of accessing funds to fight against terrorism.

Item 14: Adoption of the Report

85. This report was adopted after amendments.

Item 15: Closing Ceremony

86. On behalf of the Chairperson of Council, Honourable Hanna Serwaa Tetteh (Ms), Mr. Seth Terkper, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in his closing remarks, thanked Council members for their contributions during the deliberations and for the spirit of camaraderie, which prevailed during their session. Thereafter, he declared the Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of Council closed, and wished all participants safe journey back to their respective destinations. (Copy of closing remarks attached).

DONE AT ACCRA THIS 20TH DAY OF JUNE 2014



**HONOURABLE HANNA SERWAA TETTEH (MS)
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL
INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**CHAIRMAN
FOR: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**



SEVENTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Accra, 19th – 20th June 2014

VOTE OF THANKS

The participants at the Seventy-Second Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Accra, from 19th – 20th June, 2014 express their profound gratitude to His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairman of the Authority, and to the Government and people of Ghana for the warm African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Accra and for the facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

DONE AT ACCRA THIS 20th DAY OF JUNE, 2014

THE SESSION