

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

DIRECTORATE OF CONFERENCE AND PROTOCOL

DIRECTION DES CONFERENCES ET DU PROTOCOLE

Internal Memorandum

FROM: Director, Conference & Protocol

TO: Ag. Director, Communications


REF: ECW/D-CP/IM.18/07/bsb

Date: 25th January, 2018

Subject: **Transmission of Final Report of 17th Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. (Lomé, 20th January 2018)**

Please find herewith, in two Community Languages, duly signed by the Chairman of Council, original Final Report of the 17th Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers for storage and archiving.

Thank you.


Olukemi Robinson-Atabuh
Director of Conference & Protocol
25/01/18

cc: President of the Commission
Vice President
Commissioner, General Administration & Conference
Chief of Staff to the President
Ag. PPO Library and Documentation

COMUNIDADE DOS ESTADOS DA
AFRICA DO OESTE

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF WEST AFRICAN STATES



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

ECW/CM/LXXVII

Original: French

SEVENTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LOME, 20 JANUARY 2018

REPORT

ECOWAS Commission
Lome, January 2018

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The seventeenth extraordinary session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held in Lome, on 20 January 2018 at the headquarters of EBID in the Togolese Republic to review proposals for allocation of statutory positions, which had been submitted by the ECOWAS Commission.

2. Member States present at the meeting include:

- Republic of Benin
- Republic of 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. Republic of Cabo Verde did not participate in the meeting.

4. The President of the Commission, the President of EBID and other experts of the Commission and EBID took part in the deliberations.

5. H.E. Jean Claude Brôu, Minister of Industry and Mines of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, President designate of the Commission, also took part in the deliberations.

II. OPENING SESSION (Remarks by President of the Commission and Chairperson of the Council)

6. The President of the Commission, H.E. Marcel A. de Souza, after welcoming members of Council, thanked the President of EBID for offering to host this meeting and providing all the facilities needed for the meeting.



7. Recalling the conclusions of deliberations of the 52nd ordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Abuja on 16 December 2017, during which H.E. Minister Jean-Claude Brou was appointed to the office of President of the Commission, Mr. de Souza indicated that the allocation of statutory appointments was a difficult and complex exercise. He therefore urged Council to deliberate in a communal spirit and cohesion in order to reach a consensus.

8. In his opening address, H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration of the Togolese Republic, and Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, extended a warm welcome to the participants. He also reiterated the urgent need to achieve and implement the institutional reform.

9. He further reiterated that the purpose of the meeting is to review the proposals for allocation of statutory positions as submitted by the Commission and urged Member States to agree on the allocation criteria and formulate concrete and progressive recommendations, before declaring the meeting duly open.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU


10. The elected bureau is made up of:

President	-	Togolese Republic
Rapporteur	-	Federal Republic of Nigeria
Rapporteur	-	Republic of Guinea Bissau

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

A. OPENING CEREMONY

- i. Introduction of the Chairperson of Council, H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey
- ii. Remarks by H.E. Marcel A. de Souza, President of the Commission
- iii. Appointment of Bureau
- iv. Adoption of the draft agenda and work programme



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B. CLOSED-DOOR SESSION

- v. Memorandum on texts relating to modalities for the allocation of statutory positions to Member States
- vi. Proposals for allocation of statutory positions

- vii. Deliberations
- viii. Report of the mission to Guinea Bissau
- ix. Adoption of Report
- x. Closing session

V. OUTCOMES OF DELIBERATIONS

Item 1: Presentation and review of the proposal for allocation of statutory positions submitted by the Commission.

11. The Commission outlined the criteria for allocation of statutory positions as set out in different Community texts, particularly Supplementary Act A/SA.14/12/12 on the modalities for the allocation of statutory positions and Decision A/DEC. 1/6/06 relating to the ECOWAS Commission, submitted the following proposal for allocation of statutory positions to the Council of Ministers. These criteria include:

- a. An equitable, transparent and predictable rotation system for statutory positions in all Community institutions, based on the alphabetical order of Member States (Article 3 (4), Decision A/DEC.1/6/06, Article 14 paragraph 1 of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 du 17 February 2012) ;
- b. The Member State to which the position of Commission President or Head of Institution is allocated, can only occupy a statutory position in another Community institution; Member States shall not be allocated more than one statutory position in the same institution (Article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 of 17 February 2012) ;
- c. In addition, countries which do not comply with texts governing the Community Levy shall not be allocated statutory positions (Article 2 (1) of Decision A/DEC.1/06/06);

- d. On exceptional grounds, Nigeria shall have a permanent position in the Commission but shall not occupy the same position on a permanent basis (Article 3 paragraph 2 of Decision A/DEC.1/6/06);
- e. No Member State shall occupy the same position for two consecutive terms (Article 3 paragraph 3 of Decision A/DEC.1/06/06);
- f. No Member State shall be allocated the position of Commission President nor Head of any other institutions, if one of its citizens is already Head of another Community institution (Article 7.1 of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 of 17 February 2012) ;
- g. In situations where there is a need for arbitrage in order to allocate statutory positions, countries whose nationals have in the past occupied top statutory positions, frequently and/or in several Community Institutions, shall not be given priority (Article 9 (a) of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 of 17 February 2012);
- h. In allocating positions, countries whose nationals have never or rarely occupied statutory positions, or have for a long time not occupied them, shall be given priority (Article 9 b of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 of 17 February 2012) ;
- i. Member States which aspire to the position of President of the Commission or Head of an ECOWAS Institution, shall automatically lose that right where the Member State does not apply the texts governing the Community Levy (Article 7.2(e) of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 of 17 February 2012);
- j. The President and Vice-President of the Commission shall not be nationals of Member States belonging to the same language group (Article 6 paragraphs 1 and 2 of Supplementary Act A/SP. 14/02/12 of 17 February 2012);

12. The Commission also presented a proposal for allocation of statutory positions to Member States, while taking the above criteria into consideration:

POSITION	MEMBER STATE
	1 March 2018-28 February 2022
President	Côte d'Ivoire
Vice-President	Sierra Leone
Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources	Guinea

Energy, Infrastructure and ICT	Senegal
Common markets, Custom, Trade and Industry	Togo
Macroeconomic policies	Ghana
Human development, Social Affairs and Gender	Cabo Verde
Political Affairs, Peace and Security	Benin
Internal services	Nigeria
WAHO	Liberia
GIABA	Mali
Court of Justice	Ghana
Court of Justice	Niger
Court of Justice	Guinea Bissau
Court of Justice	Gambia
Court of Justice	Nigeria
Auditor General	Burkina Faso

13. During the deliberations, members of Council underscored the need to have easily applicable criteria and clarify the importance accorded to each of the criteria set out in the Community texts. After the deliberations, members of the Council of Ministers reached an agreement on the allocation of the following positions:

POSITION	MEMBER STATE 1 March 2018-28 February 2022
President	Côte d'Ivoire
Vice-President	Sierra Leone
Energy, Infrastructure and ICT	Senegal
Common Markets, Customs, Trade and Industry	Mali
Macroeconomic policies	Ghana
Political Affairs, Peace and Security	Benin
Internal services	Nigeria
GIABA	Togo

Court of Justice	Guinea Bissau
Court of Justice	Cabo Verde

14. Guinea Bissau expressed concern about the fact that language differences are not taken into consideration at the Commission

15. Consensus was not reached on the proposal of allocation of other statutory positions. These include:

- a. Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources; proposed to Guinea but was **sought by Burkina Faso**;
- b. Human Development, Social Affairs and Gender; **sought by The Gambia and Niger**;
- c. Director-General of the West African Health Organization, proposed to Liberia and **sought by Nigeria (2nd position)**;
- d. The position of Auditor General: **proposed to Burkina Faso**, but which expressed interest in another position, that of Agriculture. **Moreover Ghana had expressed interest in the position of Auditor General (2nd position).**
- e. 4 positions of Judge at the Court of Justice: **proposed to Nigeria, Ghana, The Gambia and Niger, but who expressed interest in other positions.**

Recommendations:

16. At the end of the deliberations, the Council of Ministers decided to submit all the proposed allocations for consideration by the extraordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, which will be held on 27 January 2018 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on the sidelines of the African Union Summit.

17. It recommended the fostering of a communal spirit, cohesion and solidarity among Member States on matters of common interest.

18. The Council also stressed the need to henceforth ensure that minutes and reports of meetings and sessions at all levels are submitted, in order to trace decisions taken and the various positions expressed during meetings.

Point 2: Report of the mission to Guinea Bissau

19. The Chairperson of the Council of Ministers gave account of the mission he embarked upon on 17 and 18 January 2018 in Guinea Bissau, with the Minister of State, Chief of Staff of the President of the

Republic of Guinea Bissau, as part of monitoring the implementation of the Conakry Agreement.

20. He informed the Council that the findings of this mission will be presented to the extraordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, which will be held on 27 January 2018 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

Item 3: Other matters

21. No issues were raised under this item.

Item 4: Adoption of Report

22. The report was adopted after amendment.

Item 5: Closing ceremony

23. In his closing remarks, H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, thanked participants for their valuable contributions to the deliberations. He then declared the seventeenth extraordinary session of the Council duly closed.

DONE IN LOME, THIS 20TH JANUARY 2018

CHAIRPERSON

FOR THE COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Dussey', is written over a horizontal line.

H.E. PROF. ROBERT DUSSEY

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COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES
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Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers

Lome, 20 January 2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Members of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), having met at its extraordinary session in Lome, on 20 January 2018, express their profound gratitude to H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo and current Chairperson of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, to the government and people of Togo for their warm and brotherly reception given to the entire delegation.

DONE IN LOME, THIS 20TH JANUARY 2018

ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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