



**SIXTIETH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

Original: English

12 December 2021, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Sixtieth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held on 12 December 2021 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, under the chairmanship of **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana**, and Chair of the Authority.
2. The following Heads of State or their duly mandated representatives participated in the Summit:
 - H.E. **José Maria Neves**, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde;
 - H.E. **Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire;
 - H.E. **Adama Barrow**, President of the Republic of The Gambia;
 - H.E. **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of the Republic of Ghana;
 - H.E. **Umaro Sissoco Embaló**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau;
 - H.E. **Mohamed Bazoum**, President of the Republic of Niger;
 - H.E. **Muhammadu Buhari**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

H.E. **Macky Sall**, President of the Republic of Senegal

H.E. **Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

H.E. **Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe**, President of the Togolese Republic;

H.E. **Madam Mariam Chabi Talata**, Vice President of the Republic of Benin;

H.E. **Dee Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia;

H.E. **Piabié Firmin Grejoué N'do**, Ambassador of Burkina Faso to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Permanent Representative to the ECOWAS Commission.

3. The session was also attended by:

H.E. **Jean-Claude Kassi Brou**, President of ECOWAS Commission;

H.E. **Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and ECOWAS Mediator for Mali

H.E. **Mahamat Saleh Annadif**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa, and the Sahel (UNOWAS);

H.E. **Bankole Adeoye**, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace & Security, representing the President of the African Union Commission;

H.E. **Abdoulaye Diop**, President of the WAEMU Commission.

4. At the opening ceremony, H.E. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of ECOWAS Commission delivered a statement. **H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria** thereafter delivered a welcome statement followed by **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana** and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government who delivered the opening address.

5. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2021 Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, as well as the Reports of the 47th Ordinary Meeting of ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council and the 87th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.



6. They commended the quality of the reports and the relevant recommendations contained therein.
7. Reaffirming their commitment to deepening the integration process in West Africa, the Heads of State and Government, after deliberations, endorsed the main recommendations contained in the different reports, and then considered the following specific issues:

A. ADOPTION OF ECOWAS VISION 2050

8. In articulating appropriate responses to the multidimensional challenges of sustainable development of Member States and deepening integration in West Africa, the Summit adopted the ECOWAS Vision 2050 which aims, by 2050, *"A community of peoples fully integrated in a peaceful, prosperous region with strong institutions that respect fundamental freedoms and work for inclusive and sustainable development"*.
9. The Summit welcomes the participatory process that has presided over the development of this Vision, taking into account the deep aspirations of West African citizens. It endorses the strategic orientations articulated around five (5) fundamental pillars namely: (i) Peace Security and Stability; (ii) Governance and rule of law; (iii) Economic Integration and Interconnectivity; (iv) Transformation and Inclusive and Sustainable Development; (v) Social Inclusion.
10. Authority also instructs the President of the Commission to expedite the preparation of operational documents, including the medium-term strategic framework with appropriate plans, to accompany the implementation of the ECOWAS Vision 2050.

B. ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY

11. The Authority reaffirms its commitment to the promotion of peace, security, and stability in the region as prerequisites for the economic integration and development of the region.
12. **On the political situation in the region**, the Authority reiterates strong concerns on the transition processes in Guinea and Mali. In that regard, the Authority notes the absence of clear indicators leading to the restoration of constitutional order



in conformity with the Authority decisions.

13. **On Guinea, the Authority welcomes** the recent decision of the transition Authorities to allow former President Alpha Conde to return home free. The Authority was informed by the transition Authorities that the National Transition Council will be in place by end December 2021 and will propose a timetable. The Authority remains very concerned that three (3) months after the Coup d'Etat, a timetable for the return of constitutional order is yet to be issued. It urges the authorities of the National Transition Council to submit rapidly the timetable for the election to be held within the timeframe indicated. The Authority insists on the need to hold elections within the six (6) months period previously decided on. The Authority decides to maintain the sanctions initially imposed.
14. The Authority reiterate its will, to accompany the Guinean authorities for a successful transition.
15. **On Mali, the Authority took note** of an official communication of December 9th from Malian Authorities informing ECOWAS that the timetable for the election will be transmitted at the latest on January 31st 2022, which could be discussed with an ECOWAS mission. It also indicates that the electoral law for the single election organ (organe unique de gestion des élections) has been adopted by the Government and transmitted to the NTC. The communication also indicates that the new ECOWAS Representative has been approved. The Authority remains concerned by the slow pace of preparation of the election. The Authority remains also concerned over the risk for the region on the intervention of private security companies in Mali.
16. Consequently, the Authority decides:
 - ✓ the urgent need to respect the date of 27 February 2022 to hold election;
 - ✓ to uphold the sanctions already imposed;
 - ✓ if by end December 2021, no concrete progress is made in the preparation of the election, additional sanctions will be put in place starting 1st January 2022. These sanctions notably will include Economic and financial sanctions.
 - ✓ to send the Mediator on a mission to Bamako to inform the Malian Authorities of the decision taken.
17. The Authority further calls on the international community to support the



implementation of the sanctions on Guinea and Mali.

18. On **electoral processes** in the region, the Authority welcomes the successful conduct of presidential elections in Cabo Verde and in The Gambia. The Authority extends its warmest congratulations to His Excellency **José Maria Neves** for his election as President of the Republic of Cabo Verde and to His Excellency **Adama Barrow**, President of the Republic of The Gambia, for his re-election to the highest public office of his country and wishes them every success.
19. **On the security situation in the region**, the Authority remains concerned with the deterioration of the security situation in the Sahel, characterised by the recurrence of terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria and the expansion of the attacks in the coastal countries. The Authority strongly condemns these attacks and expresses solidarity with the affected Member States and populations.
20. The Authority reaffirms its determination to relentlessly combat the scourge of terrorism. To that effect, the Authority welcomes the recent conduct by some Member States of joint operations along the borders of frontline countries and directed the Commission to provide support for the planning and conduct of such operations within the framework of the implementation of the 2020 – 2024 Plan of action to eradicate terrorism in the Region.
21. The Authority further reiterates its call on Member States to fulfill their pledges on the voluntary contributions into the dedicated fund to support the implementation of the 2020 – 2024 Action Plan.
22. The Authority directs the ECOWAS Commission to **strengthen the operational and logistical capacities of the forces** in the frontline countries and stresses the need to strengthen the coordination of Member States' efforts in the fight against terrorism.
23. The Authority condemns the recent attacks in Burkina Faso that led to many casualties of both civilian and security personnel. It expresses its solidarity with the authorities of Burkina Faso and invites all stakeholders to dialogue.
24. **On maritime safety and security**, the Authority welcomes the recent improvement in the ECOWAS maritime domain largely due to the efforts deployed by each



Member State and the enhanced coordination among the various maritime actors. In that regard, the Authority reiterates its request to the Commission, in consultation with Member States, to ensure the full operationalization of the entire ECOWAS Maritime Security Architecture.

25. **On the ECOWAS mandated peace support operations**, the Authority welcomes the contribution of the ECOWAS Mission in The Gambia (ECOMIG) to the stabilization of the country. The Authority confirms the transformation of the Mission into a Police Mission from January 2022 for a period of one (01) year.
26. **On the humanitarian situation**, the Authority expresses concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the region resulting from terrorism, armed banditry, farmer/herders clashes and natural disasters. In that regard, the Authority directs the Commission to strengthen humanitarian interventions focusing on building community resilience and recovery.
27. The Authority also expresses concern over the food and nutrition crises facing some Member States and urges the Commission to initiate a coordinated response from all stakeholders and activate a regional solidarity mechanism to address this challenging situation.

C. ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

28. The Authority welcomes the economic recovery within the Community with the expected growth of real GDP by 4.1% in 2021 against a slight contraction of 0.8% in 2020. However, it expresses concerns over the rise of inflationary pressures.
29. The Summit urges the Member States to continue the implementation of sound economic policies likely to support inclusive, sustainable and job-creating economic recovery while insuring macroeconomic stability.

D. ON CREATION OF A MONETARY UNION

30. The Heads of State take note of the status of macroeconomic convergence within ECOWAS in the first half of 2021. They urge Member States to take the appropriate steps to comply with the provisions of the Macroeconomic Convergence and Stability Pact between ECOWAS Members States from 2022, through:

- a. The implementation of policies and measures allowing compliance with the macroeconomic convergence criteria;
 - b. The preparation and transmission to the ECOWAS Commission of Multi-year Macroeconomic Convergence Programmes.
31. The Authority takes note of the financial report of the Special Fund for financing the activities of the revised Roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency and directs the President of the Commission to strengthen collaboration with the Central Banks of the Community in view to ensuring adequate funding for the diligent implementation of the activities of the Roadmap for the launch of the ECO in 2027.

E. ON ECOWAS CUSTOMS UNION AND AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA)

32. The Authority reaffirms its commitment on the consolidation of the ECOWAS Customs Union and takes note of the legal texts adopted by Council of Ministers which are meant to improve the financing mechanism of the Community, enhance the fluidity of intra-community trade and strengthen the ECOWAS Customs Union. Therefore, the Summit adopts:
- ✓ The Supplementary Act laying down the conditions and modalities of application, monitoring and management of the Community Levy; and;
 - ✓ The Supplementary Act on ECOWAS Community Transit.
33. The Authority takes note of the status of ratification and implementation on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and commended efforts by Member States to present common positions facilitated by the ECOWAS Commission. In order to maintain the integrity of the Customs Union, they urged for the ratification of the Agreement and deposit of instruments of ratification by Member States which have not done so already.
34. The Summit adopts the Supplementary Act on the amendment of the Supplementary Act A/SA.2/12/08 on the establishment, powers and functioning of the ERCA aiming at clarifying, simplifying and ensuring the effective functioning of ERCA.

F. ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHERS REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMMES

35. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the reopening of Land borders in ECOWAS for the Free Movement of Persons and urge the Members States to:
- ✓ Implement the adopted ECOWAS Guidelines on the Harmonisation and Facilitation of Cross Border Trade & Transport and Mitigation of Health Risks in the ECOWAS Region on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Related Post-Recovery Actions;
 - ✓ Enhance the coordination, collaboration and cooperation through border agencies among Member States sharing contiguous borders;
 - ✓ Adopt the mutual recognition of PCR tests at borders;
 - ✓ Harmonise the validity periods of test results in Member States;
 - ✓ Provide equipment and facilities at all points of entry;
 - ✓ Reopen all ECOWAS land borders on 1st January, 2022
36. **Concerning obstacles affecting intra-community trade** on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor, Authority welcomes the upcoming ministerial meeting of the concerned Member States under the Chairmanship of the President of Burkina Faso and Champion of Free Movement, H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kabore.
37. The Authority welcomes the preparation of the **Master Plan for the development of regional infrastructure**, the implementation of which will ensure the promotion of regional integration, economic development and the competitiveness of the Region.
38. The Heads of States adopt the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Master Plan and took note of its accompanying Regulation and direct the Commission to ensure even distribution of projects amongst Member States and conduct periodic review of the projects in the master-plan.
39. The Summit welcomed the **ECOWAS Regional Public Private Partnership (PPP)** which will provide the platform to raise alternative and innovative financing for regional projects, as well as create an enabling and investor-friendly environment for the mobilization of private capital for regional infrastructure development and service delivery.
40. The Authority adopts the ECOWAS PPP Policy, takes note of its guidelines for

Regional Projects and directs the Commission to ensure its implementation.

41. The Authority takes note of the comprehensive **Strategic Framework for sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in ECOWAS Member States**, aiming to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty reduction in West Africa with a specific objective of improving regional fisheries governance in West Africa through better coordination of national fisheries policies.
42. The Authority also takes note of the **Strategy to Support Youth Employability in the Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral and Fisheries Sector to combat Urban Migration and Uncontrolled Immigration in the ECOWAS Region**, aiming to (i) create the greatest number of remunerative jobs for young people (men and women) in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, fisheries and in agri-food value chains and (ii) combating rural exodus and uncontrolled emigration in the ECOWAS.
43. The Authority expresses its concerns on **various environmental problems in West Africa** which hamper its social and economic development and are exacerbated by climate change, the effects and impacts of which are considerable in the Region.
44. To address this issue, the Authority adopts the **Declaration on climate change** and urges the Members States to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of fifteen (15) initiatives and actions already undertaken to strengthen climate governance at the regional level and ensure the energy transition.
45. The Summit takes note on a harmonized **Regional Road Safety Policy**, an Action Plan, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and a **Regional Road Safety Charter** to guide the coordinated and harmonised improvement of safety in the ECOWAS Region.
46. The Authority takes note of the **ECOWAS Regional Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** and the Elimination of all Violence against Women and Girls; and the ECOWAS Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment in the Workplaces and Educational Institutions.



G. ECOWAS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

47. The Authority presented the ECOWAS Excellence Award, adopted by Decision A/DEC.2/06/17 laying down the criteria and procedures for granting the ECOWAS Excellence Award. The ECOWAS Excellence Award seeks to recognize excellence and honour individuals or legal entities who, through their activities, initiatives, creativity and services, have immensely contributed to the promotion of regional integration, peace and socio-economic development in the ECOWAS region.
48. The ECOWAS Excellence Award was presented by His Excellency **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of the Republic of Ghana, and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to the following winners
- Mrs. Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, for the **Deserving Community Citizen Award**, in recognition of her contribution to peace in her country during the 2003 civil war. She is also co-recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Mrs. Tawakkoul Karman.
 - Professor Basile Kounouhewa of Benin for the **Science and Technology Award**, in recognition of the work done in the manufacturing of a disinfecting booth
 - Mrs. Loukou Akissi Delphine of Cote d'Ivoire, popularly known as Akissi Delta, director of a television production, for the **Arts (Cinema) Award**, in recognition of the quality and richness of her productions, which are broadcast and recognised in several ECOWAS countries
 - Mrs. Wetewete Liking-Gnepo of Cote d'Ivoire, known as Werewere Liking, self-taught and playwright, for the **Literature Award (Theatre)**, in recognition of the quality and richness of her artistic production recognised in several ECOWAS States;

H. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

49. In compliance with the Decisions taken by the Authority of Heads of State and Government during its Extraordinary Session held on 2nd February 2021, on Institutional reforms, **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, Chair of the Authority, submitted his report on reflections on the optimal structure and size of the new Commission and the other Institutions, and efforts to further streamline ECOWAS operating costs. The Authority commended **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo** for the quality of the report, and for the efforts deployed

towards achieving a consensual outcome.

50. The Authority notes that further consultations are needed to finalise the allocation of some of the statutory positions and decides to extend the tenure of office of current statutory appointees to end in June 2022.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT SUMMIT

51. The Heads of State and Government decide to hold the next Ordinary Session in Accra, Republic of Ghana at a date to be confirmed.
52. The Heads of State and Government express sincere appreciation to **H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of the Republic of Ghana, Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, for his leadership in steering the affairs of the Community.

Done, this 12th Day of December 2021



THE AUTHORITY