ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST, 1997

FINAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ABUJA, AUGUST 1997
I. INTRODUCTION

1. The forty-first session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held at the Executive Secretariat, Abuja, from 23 to 26 August, 1997.

2. The following Member States were represented at the meeting:

   - 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 of LIBERIA
   - Republic of MALI
   - Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA
   - Republic of NIGER
   - Federal Republic of NIGERIA
   - Republic of SENEGAL
   - Republic of SIERRA LEONE
   - Togolese Republic
3. The following organisations and institutions also participated in the meeting as observers:

- West African Women's Association (WAWA)
- West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)
- Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)
- Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
- African Centre for Monetary Studies (ACMS)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

A full list of participants is annexed to this report.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

4. The Nigerian Minister of National Planning, Chief Ayo OGUNLADE, welcomed Council members and their delegations to Abuja, on behalf of His Excellency, General Sani ABACHA, Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and on behalf of the Nigerian government and people. He drew the attention of Council to the crucial importance of regional integration to the socio-economic development of Member States. He emphasised the need for the provisions of the revised Treaty to be implemented, and the Executive Secretariat and the ECOWAS Fund to be restructured in order to accelerate the integration of West African economies.

5. The Minister highlighted the financial difficulties being faced by the Community Institutions due to the irregular payment of contributions. He expressed gratitude to
Member States which are up to date in their contributions to the budgets of the Institutions and appealed to all Member States to ratify and implement the protocol relating to the Community levy not later than the 1st of January 1998.

6. The Minister requested Member States to show greater commitment to regional integration by implementing Community decisions.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

7. A bureau was elected as follows:

Chairman: Federal Republic of NIGERIA
Rapporteurs: - Republic of GHANA
            - Republic of SENEGAL

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

8. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening Session (Chairman’s Opening Address, Election of Bureau, Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme).

2. Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the Executive Secretary.

3. Consideration of the report of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks.


7. Consideration of the Memorandum on the Report of the Ministers of Telecommunications on INTELCOM II.

8. Consideration of the Memorandum on the Report of the Meeting of the Coordinating Ministers on Drug Control.


15. Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

16. Any Other Matter.

17. Adoption of the Report.

18. Closing Session.

V. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

ITEM 2: Presentation and consideration of the report of the Executive Secretary

9. The Acting Executive Secretary, Mr. Mahamadou OUHOUMOUDOU, presented the annual 1996/1997 report on behalf of the Executive Secretary, who was unavoidably absent.

10. The report highlighted the considerable advances made in West Africa in the development of political institutions and the pursuit of economic reforms, as a result of
which the sub-region recorded an average real GDP growth rate of 4.3% in 1996, up from 4.1% in 1995.

11. The report noted that in order to achieve accelerated development in the years to come, West Africa should focus greater efforts on addressing the structural aspects of development, albeit without sacrificing macro-economic stability.

12. With regard to the execution of the Community work programme, the Executive Secretary reviewed activities carried out since the July 1996 summit held in Abuja. He cited in particular the meetings of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks, Ministers of Communications, Ministers responsible for security, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. He also elaborated on the harmonisation of economic and financial policies, cooperation programmes in the area of free movement of goods and persons, and sectoral production policies. The Executive Secretary also drew the attention of the meeting to the difficult financial situation facing the Community Institutions.

13. Addressing the issue of regional peace and security, the Executive Secretary expressed satisfaction at the restoration of peace to Liberia and the advent of a democratically elected government in that country. He however expressed regret at the events that took place in Sierra Leone at the end of May 1997 which have adversely affected political and economic stability in the sub-region.

14. He suggested measures which would need to be instituted in order to enhance prospects for West African integration. These include internal political and social stability, promotion of national economic development, and more active participation of Member States in Community activities.
15. The Executive Secretary concluded his report by reaffirming that regional integration remains the best strategy for sustained growth and lasting development of West African economies.

16. Council commended the Acting Executive Secretary for the quality of the report. Having discussed the issues raised therein, Council took note of the report and made the following observations and recommendations:

(i) Council requested the Executive Secretariat to qualify the view expressed in the report regarding the incompatibility between tariff reduction under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme and the increase in tax revenue under the structural adjustment programmes.

(ii) In order to strengthen the regional integration process, Council requested the Executive Secretariat to identify the obstacles impeding implementation of ECOWAS decisions in each Member State and make country-specific proposals.

(iii) Council acknowledged the importance of the private sector in the promotion of regional integration in West Africa. For this reason, the Executive Secretariat was urged to continue with measures already taken to encourage greater private sector involvement in the regional co-operation drive.

(iv) Council requested the Executive Secretariat to revitalise the Minimum Agenda for Action and called on Member States concerned to set up national committees to monitor the implementation of the programme, including reduction in the number of spot checks on roads.
(v) Council called upon the Executive Secretariat to submit, at each July session of Council, a mid-term report on budget execution.

(vi) Council expressed satisfaction at the loan agreement signed between the Executive Secretariat and the Federal Government of Nigeria for the construction of staff quarters. It expressed appreciation to the Federal Government of Nigeria for its assistance and exhorted the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to ensure that construction of the staff quarters is accelerated to enable the Institution move to Abuja.

(vii) Council directed the Executive Secretariat to communicate to Member States within two weeks, all the decisions with budgetary implications taken at the August 1997 statutory meetings, to enable Member States make the necessary provision in their national budgets.

(viii) The Executive Secretariat was requested to organise future meetings of Chiefs of Staff and Ministers of Foreign Affairs well ahead of the sessions of the Administration and Finance Commission and the Council of Ministers so that the financial implications of recommendations made at the various meetings can be taken into account in the budgets of the Community Institutions.

17. The head of the Senegalese delegation made a statement in which he recalled the increasing integration of the world economy. He underscored the need for the creation of a large regional bloc in West Africa that would save our countries from being marginalised on the political front and in the economic sphere. The Minister observed that the ECOWAS integration process was moving at snail’s pace and proposed
guidelines which might assist the Community to attain its objectives. As part of the measures aimed at re-vitalising the activities of ECOWAS, the Minister advocated the prioritisation of programmes, effective implementation of Community acts and decisions, more judicious use of financial resources, and restructuring and adequate funding of the Institutions. He appealed to ECOWAS to set up a more efficient institutional framework for regional integration in West Africa.

18. The head of the Sierra Leonean delegation, on behalf of His Excellency President Tejan KABBAH, expressed gratitude to ECOWAS and to the international community for the effort made to restore constitutional order to Sierra Leone. He appealed to Member States to be firm and to strengthen co-operation within the region in order to put an end to the Sierra Leonean crisis.

19. The head of the Liberian delegation thanked all ECOWAS Member States, on behalf of His Excellency, President Charles G. Taylor and the Government and people of Liberia, for their efforts which culminated in the establishment of a democratically elected government in Liberia. The Minister reiterated the determination of Liberia to participate more actively in the implementation of ECOWAS objectives. She appealed for assistance from ECOWAS and from the international community in consolidating the peace and in the task of national reconstruction.

20. The head of the delegation from Guinea stated that his country was interested in occupying the post of Executive Secretary for the second time, and sought Council support in this regard.
Presentation and Demonstration of the ECOWAS Trade Opportunities Management System

21. The ECOWAS Community Computer Centre presented the SIGOA-TOPS software developed in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC/UNCTAD/WTO) to promote awareness of trade opportunities in the region.

22. The Council of Ministers commended the Executive Secretariat on the development of the software which could facilitate the development of intra-Community trade.

ITEM 3: Consideration of the report of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks

23. The report of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks was presented by the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr. Paul OGWUMA, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Cherif BAH, Governor of the Central Bank of Guinea (BCRG) who was unavoidably absent. The report dealt mainly with the level of implementation of the ECOWAS monetary co-operation programme.

24. Council adopted the recommendations of the Committee of Governors, in particular, those concerning:

(i) the introduction of ECOWAS travellers’ cheques in November 1997; and
(ii) the establishment of a credit and guarantee fund in 1998 as a back-up to the WAMA payments settlement scheme.
25. Council called on the Committee of Governors to consider all the institutional aspects of the creation of the single monetary zone. Council further recommended to the Authority to constitute within its body, an Ad-hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government to lend the necessary political support to achieving the proposed ECOWAS single monetary zone by the year 2000.

ITEM 4: Consideration of the report of the Board of Directors of the Fund

26. Following the presentation of the report of the Board of Directors, Council took due note thereof and approved the recommendations concerning:

(i) the administrative procedures of the Fund;
(ii) the 1997 revised budget of the Fund;
(iii) the Fund’s placement policy;
(iv) replacement, recruitment and regularisation of staff;
(v) report of the investigation on the OSBI project;
(vi) negotiations between the African Solidarity Fund (FSA) and ECOWAS Fund concerning the dispute over the OSBI project;
(vii) the request for authorisation for the partial financing of the livestock breeding project in the Borgou region in Bénin;
(viii) approval of the audited accounts of the Fund for the 1996 financial year.

27. Council postponed taking a decision on the following proposals until its November session:

(i) lifting of the measure prohibiting the Fund from financing projects out of its own capital resources;
(ii) resolution of the impasse over the Fund’s equity participation in ECOBANK Transnational Incorporated (ETI);

(iii) the co-operation agreement between the FAGACE and ECOWAS Fund.

28. Council withheld approval of the Fund’s participation in the capital of the Regional Guarantee Fund for Private Investments in West Africa (GARI) until the outcome of the restructuring exercise.

29. The Council of Ministers called on the Managing Director of the Fund to expedite action on the recruitment of a Director of Finance before the budgetary session of Council in November 1997.

ITEM 5: **Examination of the Report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the enhancement of the financial resources of ECOWAS Fund**

30. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee presented the report of the Committee to Council.

31. Following this presentation, Council deplored the delay in the implementation of the project on the enhancement of the financial resources of the Fund. Council’s observations centred on the transformation of the Fund into a development finance institution different from what it is today.

32. In view of the need for an accurate assessment of the full implications of such a transformation, Council directed the Management of the Fund to commence preparations
to undertake a feasibility study on the proposed exercise, taking into account the objectives of development and regional integration. The Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee will supervise the conduct of the study and will present the terms of reference for the feasibility study at the November meeting of the Council of Ministers.

33. Council, after discussion of this issue, approved the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, particularly:

i) the need to pay up arrears prior to the opening up of the capital to non-regional members;

ii) the mandatory settlement of all arrears by Member States no later than 31 December 1998;

iii) the strict application, during the transitional period, of the provisions of Articles 25 and 26 of the protocol relating to the Fund with regard to the Board of Directors and procedures;

iv) the approval of the principle of transforming the Fund, taking account of the financing of development and regional integration;

v) the preparation of a feasibility study on the transformation of the Fund, taking into account its development and regional integration objectives;

vi) the adoption, during the transitional phase, of the organisational chart proposed by the ad hoc ministerial committee;

vii) the redeployment and reduction of staff, to ensure efficiency and eliminate redundancy; the exercise is to be carried out by the Managing Director, under the supervision of the ad hoc ministerial committee;

viii) the application of the schedule of implementation proposed by the Ad hoc ministerial committee;
ix) the appropriation in the Fund's annual budget of the sum of US $82,500 for staff training during the 1997, 1998 and 1999 financial years;

x) the financing of the supplementary budget referred to above from the arrears of contributions recovered; and

xi) the organisation of four (4) meetings of experts and member ministers of the committee, to facilitate the supervision of the restructuring exercise. The meetings will be financed from the "miscellaneous" item of the budget initially approved for the enhancement of the financial resources of the Fund.

34. The Senegalese delegation reserved its position on this paragraph.


35. Given that the provisions of the Treaty stipulate that decisions of the Council of Ministers shall be taken by consensus, Council took the following decisions:

a. Executive Secretary

36. The Authority of Heads of State and Government should initiate the appropriate procedure for his replacement, given his present poor state of health.
b. **The Other Statutory Officers**

37. Despite the extensive and intensive discussions Council was unable to reach a consensus regarding any of the statutory appointees. Council however made the following observations:

i) serious difficulties exist within the team at the Executive Secretariat in terms of organisation, leadership and coordination.

ii) there is a lack of cohesion within the management team at the Executive Secretariat, probably due to the absence of the Institution’s chief executive.

iii) a decision cannot be taken concerning the renewal or otherwise of the tenures of the statutory officers because of the non-availability of the relevant documents that would have informed such a decision.

38. The Council of Ministers therefore referred the matter to the Authority.

**ITEM 7: Consideration of the memorandum on the report of Telecommunications Ministers**

39. The memorandum presented on the report of the second meeting of Telecommunications Ministers dealt mainly with the ECOWAS “INTELCOM II” telecommunications programme.
40. The Council of Ministers recommended to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to approve the “INTELCOM II” programme. The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat was entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordinating and supervising the execution of the programme, in close collaboration with Member States.

41. Council called upon the Executive Secretariat to take into consideration private sector interests and the provisions of the WTO on trade in services during the implementation of the programme.

ITEM 8: Consideration of the report of the meeting of Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities.

42. The memorandum on the outcome of the conference of Ministers responsible for co-ordinating drug control activities was presented by His Excellency Ambassador Adamu MUHAMMED.

43. In his paper, he drew the attention of Council to the fact that West Africa is becoming one of the major centres for international trafficking of drugs (cocaine, hashish, heroin, etc.) despatched from Asia and Latin America to Europe and the United States of America.

44. In July 1996, the Authority of Heads of State and Government had expressed its political will to give fresh impetus to waging a more energetic and better co-ordinated war against the drug phenomenon in West Africa. The Praia conference adopted a political declaration and a plan of action as a concrete manifestation of this commitment.
45. The Ministers adopted the recommendation on the plan of action and the political declaration, and acknowledged the need to provide an initial grant to the regional Fund to be channelled into drug control activities. In view of the financial implications of the issue, Council requested the Secretariat to submit an appropriate memorandum to the Administration and Finance Commission.

**ITEM 9: Consideration of the Meeting of the Committee of Eminent Persons responsible for harmonisation of Commercial Law in ECOWAS**

46. The report of the first meeting of the Committee of Eminent Persons on the harmonisation of commercial law in ECOWAS was presented by the Chairman of the meeting.

47. The harmonisation of commercial law is designed to rationalise and enhance the legal environment within which enterprises operate, in order to provide local economic operators and all other investors with an appropriate level of legal and judicial security, the ultimate objective being to facilitate the establishment of business ventures beyond national territorial borders and attract foreign capital to the sub-region, thereby encouraging job creation.

48. The report identified aspects of commercial law to be harmonised, defined the methodology for the harmonisation exercise and enumerated the activities which the study would entail.
49. After discussions, and in view of the financial implications of the issues raised, Council requested the Executive Secretariat to submit the report of the meeting of Eminent Persons to the next meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission.

ITEM 10: Consideration of the report of the meeting of legal experts

50. The Chairman of the meeting of legal experts presented the report of the 7th meeting of legal experts from ECOWAS Member States held to consider the draft protocol amending the revised Treaty, the draft protocol on decision-making procedures, the draft tenders code, and the draft revised Staff Regulations.

51. Council took note of the recommendation of the legal experts to amend Articles 9(5), (6), (7), and 12(4) of the revised Treaty relating to the time frame for entry into force of Community decisions and regulations. Council recognised the pertinence of the recommendation because the time frame fixed in the Treaty is inappropriate in cases where decisions and regulations need to come into immediate effect upon signature.

52. However, Council did not adopt the recommendation because it could not reach an agreement as to who has the locus standi to propose amendments to the Treaty.

53. Council decided to postpone discussion on this and all related issues until after the meeting of the legal experts to be reconvened by the Executive Secretariat.

54. With respect to the Tenders Code, it was decided that the document produced by the team of three experts working on the matter should be examined by ECOWAS experts competent in this area.
ITEM 11: Consideration of the memorandum on the statement of financial contributions

55. The Executive Secretariat presented the memorandum on the status of financial contributions by Member States. The memorandum revealed that total arrears of contributions to the budget of the Executive Secretariat as at 22 August 1997 stood at UA 26 050 860.

56. Between 1 January and 22 August 1997, the Executive Secretariat received from Member States a total of UA 6 362 798. Out of this amount, UA 3 068 902 was in respect of contributions to the 1997 budget while the remaining UA 3 293 896 represented outstanding dues. Council commended Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria for being up to date in their contributions to the budget of the Executive Secretariat, and took note of promises by some delegations to pay.

57. Council made the following observations and recommendations:

i) arrears recovered should henceforth be paid into a separate account and used as directed by Council;

ii) expenditure committed with Council approval against income expected as contribution arrears should henceforth appear in the budget under “expenditure” while expected payments should appear under “income”;

iii) the Executive Secretariat should henceforth present a statement of expenditure along with the statement of contributions;

iv) the Executive Secretariat should submit quarterly financial statements to the Chairman of Council;
v) the Secretariat should submit a statement on debts owed by the organisation.

vi) the preparation of the summary statement should reflect the observations made with regard to the “arrears” column in the budget.

ITEM 12: Consideration of the memorandum on the status of ratification of the revised Treaty, protocols and conventions

58. This memorandum was presented by the Executive Secretariat. Several members of Council announced that their countries had ratified the revised Treaty and some protocols and conventions, and promised to forward the instruments of ratification to the Executive Secretariat. Council expressed satisfaction at the efforts Member States had been making in this regard.

ITEM 13: Consideration of the Memorandum on the report of the meeting on the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence.

59. The ECOWAS Prize is awarded to any person who distinguishes himself or herself as well as any institution that distinguishes itself in the field of science, technology and culture, literature and any other spheres of activity which may project the image of the Community positively.
60. On the recommendation of the Jury, Council proposed to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to award the 1997 Prize for Excellence in the area of African Pharmacopoeia to:

- Dr. Modou LO
  from the Republic of Senegal; and

- Professor Augustine O. OKHAMAFE
  from the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**ITEM 14: Consideration of the memorandum on the report of the Administration and Finance Commission**

61. The Chairman of the Administration and Finance Commission presented the report of the twentieth meeting of the Commission.

62. Council adopted the Commission’s report, subject to the following observations:

(a) **Tasks assigned to the Executive Secretariat**

63. Council requested the Executive Secretariat to work out with the Republic of Guinea the modalities for the recruitment of a Principal Officer Immigration, a quota post which had been frozen in application of sanctions.
64. Council postponed approval of the certified financial statements of the Secretariat until its November meeting when responses would have been provided to questions it had raised earlier. The report of the External Auditors should therefore be re-examined by the Administration and Finance Commission based on the information eventually obtained, including a statement of external funding received during 1996.

65. Council reiterated the importance of the Community levy as an answer to the financial difficulties facing the Community Institutions, and the need to apply it without delay. Council therefore proposed to the Authority to pass a resolution requesting the application of the Community levy as from 1 January 1998. This would imply the ratification of the relevant protocol before the end of 1997 and the inclusion of this levy in the 1998 budget of each Member State.

66. The Senegalese delegation reserved its position on this issue.

67. Council noted that the decision taken to freeze appointments and promotions had, in some cases, resulted in a situation which undermines efficiency at the Secretariat. To enable Council review this decision, the Secretariat should provide information on the current staff situation and submit a list of vacant posts. Each vacancy would then be considered to determine whether the embargo on that post could be lifted.
68. The two institutions were requested to study the possibility of recruiting Portuguese-speaking personnel, since the Member States concerned desired to have documents and interpretation in the Portuguese language.

(e) **Budget of the Second ECOWAS Trade Fair**

69. Council approved a budget of US $884,741.00 for the second ECOWAS trade fair and called on the Executive Secretariat to seek external funding from development partners.

(f) **Transfer of the Executive Secretariat to Abuja**

70. Council recommended that the Executive Secretariat should move to Abuja before construction work is completed on the staff residential quarters. Staff may be asked to move in stages in order to spread the cost of the exercise.

71. Council further requested the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on construction of Headquarters without delay in order to expedite action in this regard. The work should be entrusted to enterprises which can complete construction in the shortest possible time.

72. Council also recommended, that as far as possible, local materials should be used in the construction, to reduce the unit cost and hence allow more houses to be built from the same loan amount.
(g) Rationalisation of IGOs

73. Council called on the Secretariat to present a progress report on the study at its next session.

(h) Restructuring of the Secretariat following entry into force of the revised Treaty

74. Council requested the Secretariat to contact the ECA with a view to the speedy conclusion of the study on the restructuring of the Secretariat. The Secretariat was also requested to reflect on the matter internally and to present a memorandum on the issue to the next session of Council.

ITEM 15: Consideration of the draft agenda for the 20th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government

75. Council proposed the attached agenda for the consideration of the Authority.

ITEM 16: Any other Matter

76. Council requested the Executive Secretariat to reactivate the Committee of ECOWAS Ambassadors to give support to the activities of the Community Institutions.

77. Council directed the Executive Secretariat to improve upon the distribution of documents at meetings to enable each delegation obtain sufficient copies for its use.
ITEM 17: Adoption of Report

78. This report was adopted.

ITEM 18: Closing Session

79. The Chairman of Council, Chief Ayo OUNLADO expressed his entire satisfaction with the frank and useful contributions by all Members of Council during the session. The Minister said this openness enabled Council to resolve important issues and formulate appropriate recommendations for the consideration of the Authority. He expressed his appreciation for the positive spirit in which the two institutions of the Community took the critical review of their operations by Council.

80. The Chairman thanked his colleagues for the honour done him and his country by giving him the opportunity to serve the Community during the past one year. The Minister assured Council that he would ensure that Nigeria continues to give every support to ECOWAS and the West African integration process.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

[Signature]

CHIEF AYO OUNLADO
CHAIRMAN

FOR COUNCIL

Report of the Council of Ministers, August '97
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.2/6/88 and A/DEC.10/6/89 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the Study on Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.1/7/95 relating to the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund.

CONSIDERING the recommendation of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund held in Lome from 5 to 6 March 1997;
ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

a) The Management of the Fund is hereby authorised to undertake a feasible study on the transformation of the Fund taking into account the development and regional integration objectives of the Community.

b) The terms of reference of the study shall be prepared by the Management of the Fund and shall be submitted to the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee for consideration.

c) The draft transitional organigram of the Fund adopted by the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee is hereby approved as attached.

d) The proposal for re-deployment and reduction of staff numbers in order to enhance efficiency and eliminate redundancy is hereby approved. This is to be done by Management under the supervision of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee.

e) The implementation schedule recommended by the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee is hereby approved as attached.

ARTICLE 2

The additional budget amounting to US$82,500 (eighty-two thousand, five hundred United States Dollars) for staff training relating to the restructuring of the Fund is hereby approved. This amount shall be included on yearly basis in the operating budgets for 1998 and 1999.
ARTICLE 3

The Management of the Fund is authorised to convene four (4) meetings of Experts and Ministers of the Ad hoc Committee to facilitate the supervision of the necessary follow-up actions on the implementation of the restructuring exercise. These meetings shall be financed from the contingencies vote in the originally approved budget for the restructuring exercise.

ARTICLE 4

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It shall also be published within the same time frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997.

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the Recommendation of the Administration and Finance Commission on freezing of all new posts adopted by the Council of Ministers at its Thirty-sixth Session held in Lome from 15 to 17 December, 1994;

CONSIDERING the Recommendation of the Thirty-seventh Session of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Fund held in Abuja from 20 to 21 August, 1997;
ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The Management of ECOWAS Fund is hereby authorised to recruit two French/English Interpreters, one English/French Interpreter and a Cost Accountant in the Language and Accounting Divisions of the ECOWAS Fund, respectively.

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997.

HON. AYO Ogunlade
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
REGULATION C/REG.3/8/97 RELATING TO THE
REGULARISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SITUATION OF
ACCOUNTING CLERKS "G3" RECRUITED BEFORE NOVEMBER 1991

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.2/11/91 on the Adoption of the Scheme of Service for the Staff of the Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING the recommendation of the Thirty-seventh Session of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Fund held in Abuja from 20 to 21 August, 1997;
ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The Management of the ECOWAS Fund is hereby authorised to regularise, with effect from 1 January 1997, the administrative situation of the four (4) Accounts Clerks on grade “G3” who are already working at the Fund and reflect the change in their salaries in conformity with the new Scheme of Service for staff of Community institutions.

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It shall also be published by each Member State within the same time frame, in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997.

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST 1997

REGULATION C/REG.4/8/97 ON THE FINANCING
OF DRUG CONTROL ACTIVITIES

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

RECALLING the deep concern expressed by the nineteenth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government at the increase in drug trafficking and the related criminality;

WELCOMING the adoption, by the Conference of Ministers responsible for co-ordinating drug control activities, of a political declaration and a five-year regional plan of action to be implemented with effect from 1997;

CONSIDERING that the plan of action is designed for the implementation of concerted and co-ordinated strategies for crime prevention and repression, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;
AWARE that judicious implementation of the plan of action necessitates allocation of adequate resources;

CONVINCED of the need for the sub-region itself to undertake, in the area of drug and drug-related crime control, actions that can be encouraged and supported by the international community;

**ENACTS**

**Article 1**

Allocation of one hundred and fifty thousand (UA 150 000) units of account shall be granted to the Regional Fund for the financing of drug control activities.

**Article 2**

Member States shall give full support to the implementation of the plan of action by underpinning the activities of the inter-ministerial committees on drug abuse control.

**Article 3**

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for monitoring effectively the implementation of the political declaration and the plan of action and report to the Council of Ministers on the progress made, the difficulties encountered and the measures that should be taken to ensure the realisation of the objectives of the afore-mentioned declaration and plan.
Article 4

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Council. It shall also be published by each Member State within the same time frame, in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

HON. AYO OGINLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

REGULATION C/REG.5/8/97 RELATING TO THE CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF A SUBSIDY TO THE ECOWAS NATIONAL UNITS

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

CONSIDERING Resolution A/RES.1/8/94 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the payment modalities of financial obligations owed by Member States to the Institutions of the Community;

AWARE that Council gave approval in November 1989 to grant a subsidy to the national units of only Member States that were current with the payment of their contributions to the operational budget of the Executive Secretariat;

CONSIDERING that the granting of subsidy to the national units would enable them to acquire a minimum of equipment and material to make them optimally functional in carrying out their tasks of ensuring implementation of ECOWAS Programmes and decisions;

DESIRING to encourage Member States to pay up their arrears of contributions;

On the RECOMMENDATION of the Twentieth meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 15 to 19 August, 1997;
ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

A subsidy in the amount of ten thousand (10,000) Units of Account shall be granted to the ECOWAS national unit for each year of contributions settled by its Member State regardless of the date of settlement.

ARTICLE 2

The Executive Secretariat shall pay subsidies in respect of 1990 - 1996 financial years out of amounts recovered as arrears.

ARTICLE 3

The subsidy shall be channelled into the acquisition of machinery, equipment and materials required for the functioning of the ECOWAS national units.

ARTICLE 4

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council. It shall also be published within the same time frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26 DAY OF AUGUST, 1997.

HON. AYO AGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST, 1997

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.1/8/97 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN AD-HOC MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF
A SINGLE MONETARY ZONE BY THE YEAR 2000

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.6/5/83 of 30th May, 1983 relating to the proposed establishment of an ECOWAS Single Monetary Zone;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/87 of 9th July 1987 relating to the adoption of an ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme with the objective of establishing a Single Monetary Zone;

NOTING the significant macro-economic reform measures that have been made by many Member States to revitalise their national economies particularly, in the area of exchange control liberalization, the adoption of market determined exchange rates and reduction of fiscal deficits as well as inflation;

CONCERNED however by the slow pace of implementation of certain aspects of the Monetary Cooperation Programme;
DESIROUS of accelerating the implementation of sound economic management policies at national and regional levels required for the achievement of a viable single monetary zone by the target date of the year 2000;

ON THE PROPOSAL of the twenty-first Meeting of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks of Member States held in Conakry on 15 and 16 May, 1997;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Draft Decision establishing an Ad-hoc Monitoring Committee for the creation of a Single Monetary Zone by the year 2000.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

(DRAFT)

DECISION A/DEC. 18/97 ESTABLISHING AN AD-HOC MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF A SINGLE MONETARY ZONE BY THE YEAR 2000

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

RECALLING its decision A/DEC.6/5/83 taken in Conakry, on 30 May, 1983 relating to the commissioning of studies leading to the establishment of an ECOWAS Single Monetary Zone;

RECALLING further its decision A/DEC.2/7/87 of 9 July 1987 in Abuja on the adoption of an ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme with the objective of establishing a Single Monetary Zone;

COMMENDING the significant macro-economic reform measures that have been undertaken by many Member States to revitalise their national economies particularly in
the areas of exchange control liberalisation, adoption of market determined exchange rates, and the reduction of budget deficits and inflation;

EXpressing concern about the slow pace of implementation of certain aspects of the Monetary Cooperation Programme;

Desirous of accelerating the implementation of sound economic management policies at regional and national levels required for the achievement of a viable single monetary zone by the target date of year 2000;

On the recommendation of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23 to 26 August, 1997;

Decides

Article I: Establishment

An Ad-hoc Monitoring Committee of Heads of State and Government for the creation of a single monetary zone is hereby established.

Article 2: Composition

The Ad-hoc Committee shall be composed of the following Heads of State and Government:
- Current Chairman of the Authority;
- Current Chairman of Union Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (UEMOA);
Article 3 : MANDATE

The Ad-hoc Committee shall act on behalf of the Authority and is authorised to take all measures necessary to ensure the speedy and timely attainment of a single monetary zone.

Article 4 : POWERS

The Ad-hoc Committee shall:

(i) Establish a Ministerial and such other Technical Committees as it may consider necessary. The Ministerial Committee shall be composed of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks of Member States on the Ad-hoc Committee.

(ii) Receive and consider reports from the Ministerial and Technical Committees on progress being made in the establishment of the Single Monetary Zone.

(iii) Evaluate the performance of Member States towards fulfilling the convergence criteria agreed upon.

(iv) Make decisions to be observed by all Member States and issue directives to Member States concerned in order to correct any observed deviations from the macro-economic aggregate targets defined.

(v) Recommend assistance of relevant international organisations and donor agencies to facilitate compliance by Member States;
(vi) Propose new measures and orientations to enhance the achievement and functioning of a Single Monetary Zone.

(vii) Make recommendations on the readiness of Member States to enter into a Single Monetary Zone by the year 2000.

**Article 5 : FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

The Ad-hoc Committee of Heads of State shall meet at least every six months. One of the meetings shall precede the Annual Ordinary Session of the Authority, which shall consider the annual report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the ECOWAS monetary integration programme. The Ministerial Committee and other technical Committees shall meet as often as necessary.

**Article 6 : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Executive Secretary in collaboration with the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) Directorate shall provide every technical assistance needed, through the Ministerial Committee for the effective application of this Decision.

**Article 7 : PUBLICATION**

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Authority.
It shall also be published within the same time frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

H.E GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST 1997

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.2/8/97 RELATING TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF ECOWAS FUND

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decisions A/DEC.2/6/88 and A/DEC.10/6/89 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the Study on Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS FUND;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.1/7/95 relating to the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS FUND;

CONSIDERING the Report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the FUND;
RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY OF
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

To adopt the attached Draft Decision relating to the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS FUND.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
ABUJA, 28 - 29 AUGUST 1997
(DRAFT)

DECISION A/DEC....../8/97 RELATING TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE ECOWAS FUND

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decisions A/DEC.2/6/88 and A/DEC.10/6/89 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the Study on Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS FUND;

ON RECOMMENDATION of the Forty-First Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23 to 25 August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

(a) The payment of all arrears by Member States shall be a pre-condition for the opening up of the FUND's capital to non-regionals;
(b) Member States shall clear all payment of arrears before the end of December 1998;

(c) The Management of the FUND shall strictly apply, during the transitional phase, the provisions of Articles 25 and 26 of the Protocol relating to the FUND concerning the Board of Directors and the procedure of the Board of Directors;

(d) The principle of transformation of the FUND is hereby accepted. This transformation shall take into account the regional development and integration objectives.

Article 2

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State within the same time frame in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997

H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY
RECOMMENDATION C/REC.3/8/97 ON THE SECOND ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRIORITY PROGRAMME (INTELCOM II)

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

RECOGNISING that the INTELCOM I programme has fulfilled the expectations of the Member States;

RECOGNISING that it is necessary to implement the second ECOWAS telecommunications priority programme known as INTELCOM II;
RECOGNISING that direct interconnection of ECOWAS countries by modern and feasible telecommunications systems remains a cardinal condition for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of the institutional changes within the telecommunications sector which have led to the emergence of private operators;

NOTING the diversity of the technological standards applied in the installation of telecommunications infrastructures in the West African sub-region;

NOTING also the existence of short, medium and long-term telecommunications master plans in Member States;

CONSIDERING the need to have modern and reliable regional telecommunications network for the sustained economic development of West Africa;

On the PROPOSAL of the second meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Lome on 11 July, 1997;
RECOMMENDS

to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Draft Decision launching the Second ECOWAS Telecommunications Priority Programme (INTELCOM II).

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997.

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECOMOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

DRAFT

DECISION A/DEC.../8/97 LAUNCHING THE SECOND ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRIORITY PROGRAMME (INTELCOM II)

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;
RECOGNISING that the INTELCOM I programme has fulfilled the expectations of the Member States;

RECOGNISING that it is necessary to implement the second ECOWAS telecommunications priority programme known as INTELCOM II;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection of ECOWAS countries by modern and feasible telecommunications systems remains a cardinal condition for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of the institutional changes within the telecommunications sector which have led to the emergence of private operators;

NOTING the diversity of the technological standards applied in the installation of telecommunications infrastructures in the West African sub-region;

NOTING also the existence of short, medium and long-term telecommunications master plans in Member States;

CONSIDERING the need to have modern and reliable regional telecommunications network for the sustained economic development of West Africa;

On the PROPOSAL of the second meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Lome on 11 July, 1997.
On the RECOMMENDATION of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23 to 26 August, 1997;

DECADES

ARTICLE 1

The ECOWAS Telecommunications Priority Programme (INTELCOM II) attached to this Decision is hereby adopted.

ARTICLE 2

Member States shall:

- facilitate the signing of roaming agreements between themselves;

- in collaboration with the private sector, take necessary action to ensure realisation of ECOWAS objectives at the national level;

- take necessary measures to facilitate intra-community transit.
ARTICLE 3
An appeal is hereby made to the international community to give ECOWAS the necessary support in mobilising financial resources for the implementation of the programme.

ARTICLE 4
The Executive Secretariat shall ensure as well as monitor the implementation of the programme in close collaboration with Member States.

ARTICLE 5
This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Authority. It shall also be published within the same time frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997.

H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR AUTHORITY
A. The Convergence criteria for the INTELCOM II programme are as follows:

1. The Telecommunications Framework

   The following regulatory framework shall be in place in all Member States by the year 2000.

   - separation of postal and telecommunications services, and merging of national and international telecommunications branches;
   - separation of operations and regulatory functions. Establishment or strengthening of an independent regulatory body in conformity with the political, legal and administrative system of each country;
   - commercialisation of public enterprises which will then be granted full autonomy,
   - possible privatisation of the public operator with the state as a partner;
   - awareness on the part of operators that the sector has a mission to provide universal service.

2. Telephone Density

   Telephone density figures for ECOWAS are derived from average estimated density for the Member States.

   - 1 main line for 100 inhabitants by the year 2000, and 2 main lines for 100 inhabitants by 2005;
   - By the year 2000, 2.5% of the total number of main lines in the country
shall be located in the rural areas. The figure should be 5% by 2005.

- Shared lines (pay phones, telecentres etc) shall comprise 3\% of the total number by 2000, and 5\% by 2005.

3. **Full Digitalization of the Network**

- the level of digital switching shall be 90\% by 2000 and 100\% by 2005.
- the level of digitalized transmission shall be 95\% by 2000 and 100\% by 2005.
- the standard digital system to be employed shall be the European EI.
- synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) shall be introduced into the networks by 2005.

4. **Integrated Systems Digital Network (ISDN)**

- Basic access (144 kb/s) shall be available to 5\% of residential users by 2000;
- primary access (2.048 Mb/s) shall be available to 10\% of professional users by 2000;
- The ISDN shall be available in all member States not later than 2005.

5. **Intelligent Network**

- National networks shall include the minimal function “intelligent network” by the year 1997 and the integral function by 2005.
6. **Cellular Technology**

- All Member States shall operate cellular networks by 1999 at the latest;

- GSM shall be accepted as the digital standard for the entire community by 2005, and roaming agreements shall be signed by all States;

- Member states shall harmonise their positions with regard to GMPCS systems by the year 1998.

7. **Information Superhighway**

- Direct access to the INTERNET and Global Information Highway by all States not later than the end of 1998; minimum output 128 kb/s.

8. **Standardization of Telecommunications Hardware**

- Adoption and definition of standards in order to improve interconnection, uniformity and compatibility of national networks.

- Encourage limiting the number of systems of telecommunications equipment in each member State in order to facilitate the maintenance of the inter-State network.

9. **Industrialisation and Preferential Treatment for ECOWAS in the supply of equipment and services**

- Encourage local manufacturing of telecommunications equipment in Member States
- granting preferential community treatment for equipment produced wholly or partly in any member State.

B. The list of short and medium-term priority projects for the modernisation of inter-State links:

- digitalization of the Panaftel CIDA link;
- digitalization of the Kaolack-Banjul-Ziguinchor-Cacheu link;
- digitalization of the Tambacounda-Kedougou-Mali-Conakry link;
- digitalization of the Conakry-Freetown-Monrovia-Mt.Nimba-Abidjan-Accra
- digitalization of the Accra-Lome-Cotonou-Lagos coastal link
- commissioning of the Bissau-Conakry link
- digitalization of the following transversal links:
  - Bamako - Conakry
  - Bamako - Abidjan
  - Ouagadougou - Abidjan
  - Ouagadougou - Accra
  - Niamey - Sokoto - Ilorin - Ibadan - Lagos
  - Niamey - Maradi - Katsina - Abuja - Lagos
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST 1997

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.4/8/97 RELATING TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN WEST AFRICA

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

BEARING IN MIND the Organisation of African Unity’s Declaration and Plan of Action AHG/Dec.2(XXXIII) on the abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs in Africa;

BEARING IN MIND also the wish expressed in Abuja on 27 July 1996 by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to give impetus to waging a more energetic and better coordinated war against the drug phenomenon and related criminal activities in West Africa;

ALARMED at the disastrous social consequences of the abuse of narcotic drugs in the sub-region, particularly among the youth whose stable development is imperative for the progress of Member States and for the building of the Community;
CONSIDERING the enormous human and material costs of drug abuse and its pernicious effects on people's health, on the economies and financial systems of Member States, and on their fundamental social values;

AWARE of the fact that inadequate facilities in Member States often militate against the formulation of coherent multi-sectoral national policies which can effectively combat and eliminate illicit drug in the sub-region;

CONVINCED of the pressing need for a concerted and coordinated approach towards drug prevention and control as well as the resultant upsurge in criminal activities;

REAFFIRMING the responsibility assigned in this connection to the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDP);

DETERMINED to get Member States, through a Community Declaration, to prevent and combat the drug phenomenon and to prepare a practical and workable plan of action for the sub-region;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Political Declaration and Plan of Action on Drug in the African sub-region.

DONE AT ABuja, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

Twentieth Session of the Authority of
Heads of State and Government

Abuja, 28 - 29 August 1997.

(DRAFT)
RESOLUTION A/RES. /8/97 RELATING TO PREVENTION
AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE WEST AFRICAN
SUB REGION

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 the ECOWAS Revised Treaty of the Economic
Community of West African States establishing the Authority of Heads of State
and Government and defining its composition and functions;

BEARING in mind the Organisation of African Unity's Declaration and Plan of Action
AHG/Decl.2 (XXXIII) on the abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs in Africa;
BEARING in mind also the wish it expressed in Abuja on 27 July 1996 to give impetus to waging a more energetic and better coordinated war against the drug phenomenon and related criminal activities in West Africa;

RECALLING its acceptance of the offer made by the Government of Cape Verde to convene a ministerial conference to discuss all aspects of the drug problem;

ALARMED at the rapid spread of drugs not only within Member States also throughout the region;

AWARE that if urgent measures are not taken to effectively combat it, the drug phenomenon may hamper the development of Member States, adversely affect the standard of living of the people, and threaten human rights and fundamental freedoms;

NOTING with satisfaction the outcome of the deliberations of the Conference of Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in West Africa held in Praia from 5 to 9 May 1997 which discussed the spread of drugs and the resultant increase in criminal activities in West Africa;
NOTING also with satisfaction the United Nations Drug Control Programme's support and assistance to ECOWAS in the areas of prevention and control of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in the sub-region;

CONVINCED that the drug phenomenon can have destabilising and corruptive influences on social, economic and political institutions and so constitutes an increasing danger which requires a concerted response as well as increased and more effective cooperation among Member States;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23 to 26 August, 1997;

1. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Government of Cape Verde for hosting the Conference of Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in West Africa.

2. TAKES NOTE with satisfaction of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers.

3. APPROVES the Praia Declaration and Plan of Action attached to this Resolution and requests Member States to implement them diligently.
4. APPEALS to the United Nations Drug Control Programme to continue its support and assistance to Member States and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat so that they can effectively execute the tasks included in the Praia Declaration and Plan of Action.

5. DIRECTS the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat:

i) to monitor the implementation of the Praia Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

ii) to report to future sessions of the Authority on the implementation of this Resolution.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997.

H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION OF DRUG CONTROL ACTIVITIES
PRAIA 8-9 MAY, 1997

PRAIA POLITICAL DECLARATION

PRAIA, 9 MAY 1997
PRAIA POLITICAL DECLARATION

WE Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control in Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

ACTING on the commitment of Heads of State and Government to support the ideals encapsulated in the revised Treaty, within which is reaffirmed the establishment of ECOWAS;

BEARING in mind the wish expressed in Abuja on 27 July 1966 by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to give impetus to waging a more energetic and better coordinated war against the drug phenomenon and related criminal activities in West Africa;

RECALLING the acceptance by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government of the offer made by the Government of Cabo Verde to convene a ministerial conference to discuss all aspects of the drug problem:

MEETING in consequence, in Praia from 8-9 May 1997;

ALARMED at the rapid spread of drugs in all countries in the sub-region and the resultant upsurge in criminal activities;

AWARE of the disastrous social consequences of abuse of narcotic drugs in the sub-region, particularly among the youth whose stable development is imperative for the progress of Member States and for the building of the Community;

CONSIDERING the enormous human and material costs of drug abuse and its pernicious effects on people's health, on the economies and financial systems of Member States and on their fundamental social values;

AWARE also that inadequate facilities in Member States often militate against the formulation of coherent multisectoral national policies which can effectively combat and eliminate illicit drug use in the sub-region;

CONVINCED of the pressing need for a concerted and coordinated approach towards drug prevention, suppression, treatment and the reintegration of victims;

CONVINCED also that it is the high consumption and demand for illicit drugs that encourages and sustains drug production and trafficking;

CONSIDERING, in consequence, that Member States and the international community should take into consideration the interdependence between demand and supply of illicit drugs, and its effects;

REAFFIRMING the responsibility assigned in this connection to the United Nations' International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and recognising the need to formulate a multisectoral action plan to combat drugs;
DECLARE the unflinching resolve of our States to ensure full and speedy application of this Political Declaration and the attached sub-regional Plan of Action.
POLITICAL DECLARATION

1. We undertake to adopt as quickly as possible, the necessary legislative measures and to put in place rigorous effective operational instruments to protect the populations of Member States; without violating human rights and internationally-acknowledged basic freedoms;

2. We affirm our determination to establish and strengthen cooperation at sub-regional level in our effort to combat the scourge of drugs in all its ramifications;

3. We also affirm our resolve to accord priority in our countries to the war against drugs and to allocate the resources needed for this purpose;

4. We express our deep concern over the considerable increase in the illicit cultivation of cannabis, a development which will, in the long term, the agricultural economies of some of our States and undermine our credibility internationally. We also wish to express the same concern with regard to the illicit production of psychotropic substances;

5. We appeal to the international community for assistance in view of the increasing globalisation of drug trafficking with the attendant implications for our States which are being turned into unwilling transit points because of their geographical location and their inadequate facilities for control;

6. Fully cognisant of the new danger posed to our States by the laundering of ill-gotten money posed to our States and the enormous power wielded by those involved in the practice, we affirm our common determination to adopt the necessary measures to protect our national economies;

7. Aware of the shortcomings in our States with regard to the treatment of drug addicts, we undertake to instate appropriate facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. We shall deploy every effort to find ways of optimising local and sub-regional expertise in this domain and reducing the cost of such treatment;

8. Aware of the enormous resources needed for the treatment of drug users and concerned at the limited means available to our States, we undertake to encourage and facilitate by all means necessary any measures taken by non-governmental organisations, religious communities and other civil organisations in the areas of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.
9 Aware that demand stimulates supply, we undertake in order to combat drugs effectively, to deploy every effort necessary to halt the supply of drugs to the youth. We shall, in this connection, take appropriate measure to ensure more effective surveillance at land, air and sea borders and are determined to organise the relevant authorities more effectively to enable them arrest drug traffickers and confiscate their products.

10. Concerned at the alarming increase in the abuse of addictive legally-prescribed drugs in the sub-region, and we shall, with a view to reducing the demand for them, strive to dissuade the youth from resorting to them through sustained dissemination of information and training of adults. We shall endeavour also to evolve a common method of action to prevent the diversion of licit medicaments to illicit uses;

11. Convinced that the drug phenomenon can be effectively combated only where there is close and constructive cooperation among all the institutions involved, we exhort Member States to create the necessary environment for permanent dialogue among persons responsible for information dissemination, those involved in tracking down drug addicts, therapists and the authorities responsible for the prevention of drug abuse and supply;

12. Keenly aware that drug use poses a threat to the economic and social development of Member State and their institutions, we call upon the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), friendly countries, the entire community of donor agencies and non-governmental organisations to afford greater assistance to Member State particularly with regard to prevention, suppression, treatment and reintegration;

13. Recalling that in 1993, all countries in the sub-region worked together to produce a model harmonised national law against drugs with sub-regional level. We urge States which have not yet initiated their legislative process in this direction to do so without delay;

14. We call upon Member States yet to do so, to ratify forthwith ECOWAS Convention A/P1/7/92 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and ECOWAS Convention A/P1/8/94 on Extradition;

15. Convinced that the effective control of the drug scourge in our States calls for the establishment of dynamic, efficient interministerial committees, we urge our Governments to provide these commissions with the requisite manpower, material and financial resources. In particular, we ask Member State to ensure that coordinators remain at their post long enough to ensure continuity and to provide them with the means with which to accomplish their mission;

16. Convinced that reduction in the demand and high consumption of drugs in certain regions of the world will facilitate eradication of this scourge, we call on the United Nations to continue its efforts in this direction in areas of greatest consumption.

17. We request the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat to forge close cooperation links with the State interministerial committees in order to achieve better coordination of drug control activities in the sub-region;
In witness whereof we, Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in Member States of the Economic Community of West African States have signed this Declaration.

Done at Praia this 9th day of May 1997

in single original in the English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Regina GNACADJA-BADE
Technical Adviser
Pharmaceutical and Laboratory services
for and on behalf of the Minister of
Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs
of the Republic of Benin

Gomes MONTEIRO-SIMAO
Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Cabo Verde
State

Major Momodou BOJANG (rtd)
Secretary of State in charge of Internal
and Religious Affairs of the
Republic of The Gambia

Ibrahima BA
Director-General, Ministry of State
Security for and on behalf of the Minister
of State Security of the
Republic of Guinea

Christophe Emmanuel COMPAORE
for and on behalf of the Minister
of Internal Affairs and State Security,
of Burkina Faso

NANGA YEO
Directeur de Cabinet
for and on behalf of the Minister of
Security of the Republic of
Côte d'Ivoire

Okaija ADAMAFIO
Minister of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Ghana

Daniel FERREIRA
Minister of Justice of the
Republic of Guine-Bissau
Beyan D, HOWARD  
Deputy Minister of Justice of the  
Republic of Liberia

Cheikna D, KAMISSOKO  
Minister of Justice of the  
Republic of Mali

Boubey OUMAROU  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights  
Attorney-General of the  
Republic of Niger

Mauritania

Ambassador Adamu-Mohammed  
Special Adviser to the Head of State  
and Commander-in-Chief on Drugs  
and Financial Crimes for the  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Finda JONES  
for and on behalf of the Minister of  
the Minister of Defence of the  
Republic of Sierra Leone

Abdourahmane SOW  
Minister of Internal Affairs of the  
Republic du Senegal

General Seyi Memene NYAWO  
Minister of Internal Affairs and  
State Security of the  
Togolese Republic
en un seul original en anglais, français et portugais, les trois textes faisant

Regina GNACADJA - BADE
Conseiller Technique aux Affaires
Pharmacaceutiques et de Laboratoires.
Pour et par ordre du Ministre de la Santé.
de la Protection Sociale et de la
Condition Féminine de la
République du Benin

Simão GOMES MONTEIRO
Ministre de la Justice et de l'Administration
Interne de la République du Cap Vert

Major Momodou BOJANG (Rtd)
Secrétaire d'État à l'Intérieur et
aux Affaires religieuses de la République
de Gambie

Ibrahima BAH
Secrétaire Général du Ministère de la Sécurité
Pour et par ordre du Ministre de la Sécurité de
la République de Guinée

Christophe Emmanuel COMPAORE
Pour et par ordre du Ministre de
l'Administration Territoriale et de la Sécurité
du Burkina Faso

NANGA YEO
Directeur de Cabinet pour et par ordre
Ministre de la sécurité de la République
de Côte d'Ivoire

Okaija ADAMAFIO
Ministre de l'Intérieur de la
République du Ghana

Daniel FERREIRA
Ministre de la Justice de la
République de Guinée Bissau
Beyan D. HOWARD
Vice Ministre de la Justice de la République du Liberia

Boubae OUMAROU
Ministre de la Justice et des Droits de l'Homme, Garde des Sceaux de la République du Niger

Ambassadeur Adamu MOHAMMED
Conseiller spécial pour les drogues et les crimes financiers du Chef de l'Etat. Commandant en Chef des Forces Armées de la République Fédérale du Nigeria

Cheikna D. KAMISSOKO
Ministre de la Justice de la République du Mali

Abdourahmane SOW
Ministre de l'Intérieur de la République du Sénégal

FINDA JONES
Pour et par ordre du Ministre de la Défense de la République de Sierra Léone

MEMENE, Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité de la République Togolaise
VOTE OF THANKS

Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in ECOWAS Member States, meeting in Praia from 8 - 9 May 1997, express their profound gratitude to His Excellency António Manuel Mascarenhas Monteiro, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde and to the Government and people of Cabo Verde for the warm welcome accorded to them and for the excellent facilities provided to ensure the success of their conference.

Done at Praia on the 9th day of May, 1997

The Conference
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR COORDINATION OF DRUG CONTROL
ACTIVITIES IN WEST AFRICA

REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

PRAIA, 5-9 MAY, 1997
A. ESTABLISHMENT OR STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRUCTURES FOR POLICY COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.

1. ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Strengthening of the interministerial coordination committees and increased surveillance of drug control activities. The Committees will operate with a Permanent Secretariat headed by a coordinator who will work with specialised commissions and experts. The Committees will analyse, initiate, promote and coordinate drug control activities. They will be equipped with the material, personnel and financial resources needed to carry out their mission and provision must be made for this in the national budget. It is expected that these commissions will evolve into a General Secretariat for Drug Control.

2. Establishment of a Central Bureau for the Suppression of Narcotics Traffic staffed by officers from all agencies involved in drug control and equipped with the required necessary human and material resources and with modern communication equipment.

3. Establishment of a national laboratory run by qualified personnel and equipped with the requisite equipment.
4. Setting up of a national drug control data bank for data collection, deposit and dissemination of information on drugs; with links to the competent national and international bodies which will be connected to the regional data bank.

II. REGIONAL LEVEL

1. Strengthening of the ECOWAS Coordination Unit against the abuse and illicit traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances for:

   - promoting the drug control policy
   - raising awareness level of political authorities at national and regional level
   - boosting drug control activities
   - coordinating and harmonising drug control actions.

2. Institution of the meeting of the council of ministers responsible for coordinating national drug policies whose role will be to direct and coordinate the different national control programmes within the framework of the regional plan of action against drugs.

3. The establishment and strengthening of the regional technical committee for drug control in West Africa comprising experts and coordinators of inter-ministerial committees. They will study issues relating to production and illicit traffic of drugs; and the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts.

4. Establishment of a regional reference and training laboratory to train specialists in the analysis of seized narcotics and to provide technical assistance in this domain.

5. Strengthening of the Regional Drug Control Training Centre (UFDA) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire which is an institution
established under Ivorian law with financial contribution from international donors especially UNDCP and the French Cooperation

6. Publication of a regional liaison bulletin to serve as a medium for the dissemination of information and documents on drug control. Due account should be taken of the fact that Portuguese is one of the working languages of ECOWAS.

7. Creation of a regional data bank to collect, centralise and store data on drug abuse and on the illicit traffic in drugs. It will be linked to the national drug control data banks.

B. INTENSIFICATION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

1. Recommend that the competent Community decision making body authorise the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to negotiate and sign agreements in order to seek funding and assistance to Member States with other States, and with international governmental and nongovernmental organisations involved in drug control.

2. Recommend that the competent Community decision making body authorise the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to accede to the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, in conformity with Article 26 thereof.

3. Encourage ratification of regional conventions on extradition and mutual assistance which will be based on 1988 United Nations Convention.

ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Ratification of ECOWAS Convention:
   - A/P1/7/92 dated 29 July 1992 on Mutual Assistance in Legal Matters.

C. ADAPTATION OF A HARMONISED LEGISLATION

1. Adaptation by the end of 1997 of domestic laws or a DRUG CODE, being the draft harmonised law adapted within the ECOWAS subregion in the area of drug control. This will be implemented with UNDCP assistance.

2. Adaptation of national laws to the harmonised law on money laundering.

3. Adaptation and strengthening of national legislation in line with the harmonised law on extradition and judicial cooperation.

D. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL.

1. Organisation of multidisciplinary training courses and seminars for the various actors involved in drug control.

2. Establishment and strengthening of a basic training or advanced training centre for staff of leading departments in the fight against drugs.
3. Adaptation of regulatory texts to ensure that trained personnel are maintained at their posts long enough to ensure continuity.

4. Creation of a corps of legal personnel specialised in drug control.

E. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS ON DRUG ABUSE

ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Training of personnel to carry out research into the extent of the drug problem.

2. Organisation of epidemiological surveys throughout the country in order to gauge the extent of the drug problem.

D. PREVENTION

ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

1. There is the need to design and execute a viable training programme, UNDCP and/or ECOWAS to encourage and to ensure a comprehensive training programme for all those involved with drug prevention activities be they teachers, nurses, NGOs and Community personnel at national, sub-regional and inter-state levels.

2. A clear and sustained public awareness programme is now crucial more than ever before as a means to effectively galvanize grassroots support and mobilise specific target groups. Such programmes should be contained with a policy framework. Public awareness should be heightened through the appropriate means that will
effectively bring the message to all levels of society.

3. Each interministerial committee shall be required to create, improve and strengthen formal and/or informal drug abuse prevention education in schools, through direct teaching, debates, formation of Drug-Free Clubs, quiz competitions, etc.

4. Interministerial committees shall encourage NGOs, religious, cultural and community groups to be actively involved in solving drug problems; and international NGOs shall be contacted to help with prevention programmes through UNDCP, OAU, ECOWAS or by individual states.

5. ECOWAS Ministers further recognise the important role of NGOs in drug control matters in our sub-region and therefore request that interministerial committees be encouraged through their political leaders, ECOWAS, UNDCP and other international organisations to enhance the activities of regional associations of NGOs to foster the regional integration in keeping with UN prevention objectives.

6. The Ministers recommend that drug prevention shall be accorded the deserved priority.

7. ECOWAS Ministers recommend further that a policy of crop substitution be pursued where cannabis is produced.

8. UNDCP, ECOWAS, OAU and/or Member States of the West African subregion to encourage the establishment of poverty-alleviation programmes by relevant governmental bodies.

9. In view of the foregoing, interministerial committees shall be encouraged to show evidence of engaging in systematised research and evaluation of their programmes.
G. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTOR

ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL.

1. Organisation of training courses and seminars for medical, paramedical and social services personnel.

2. Establishment of a consultation centre to offer treatment to drug addicts.

3. Establishment of vocational centres to facilitate rehabilitation of drug abuse victims.

4. Preparation of a national policy for the treatment and social reintegration of drug abuse victims that take account of African social and cultural values.

H. FINANCING THE PLAN OF ACTION

ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL.

1. Inclusion of activities envisaged in the Plan of Action within the general economic and social development programme and allocation of funds for such activities in national budgets and investment programmes.

2. Negotiation and signing of financing agreements with international donors to obtain funding for the implementation of activities contained in the plan of action.
ACTION AT REGIONAL LEVEL.

1. Establishment of a regional drug control fund with contributions from Member States, local communities and regional and international donors.

I. ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

On 9 May 1997, a plenary meeting was held to consider the recommendations of the subregional experts with the objective of deciding the appropriateness of including them in a Plan of Action. Having considered the recommendations presented by the rapporteurs, the conference decided that the recommendations should be included in the Plan of Action.

This Plan of Action was adopted unanimously by the Conference of Ministers.
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST 1997

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.5/8/97 ON THE AWARD OF THE ECOWAS PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN AFRICAN PHARMACOPEIA

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.14/5/82 establishing the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/92 approving the rules and regulations of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in African pharmacopoeia;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.6/12/93 appointing the Members of the Jury for the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in the Field of African Pharmacopoeia;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the International Jury for the award of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;
RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the draft decision on the award of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in the field of African Pharmacopoeia.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT


(DRAFT)

DECISION A/DEC. //8/97 ON THE AWARD OF THE ECOWAS PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.14/5/82 establishing the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.6/2/93 appointing the members of the Jury for the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/92 approving the rules and regulations on the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in African pharmacopoeia;

On the RECOMMENDATION of the International Jury for the award of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

CONSIDERING Recommendation C/REC.5/8/97 of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers, held in Abuja from 23 to 26 August, 1997;
DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in the area of African Pharmacopoeia is hereby awarded to the following winners:

- **Dr Modou LO**, for his work titled "Contribution to Botanical and Physico-chemical Research on Sterculia Gum (Sterarliaceae) :Development of Sigera Sterculia and its socio-economic impacts in Senegal".

- **Professor Augustine O. OKHAMAFE**, for his work titled "Extraction, development and utilisation of cellulose from selected agricultural waste as pharmaceutical excipient".

ARTICLE 2

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority. It shall also be published in the Official Gazette of each Member State within the same time frame.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997.

H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST 1997

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.6/8/97 ON THE URGENT APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY LEVY

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Article 10, 11 and 12 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

CONSIDERING that all measures taken to date to prevail upon Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Community have not proved particularly successful,

CONSIDERING the provisions of Protocol A/P1/7/96 on conditions governing application of the Community levy,

RECALLING its appeal made on 27 July 1996 to ratify the protocol on the Community levy before 31 December 1996 and to implement its provisions as from 1 January 1997;

NOTING that, as at 30 June 1997 no instrument of ratification had been deposited with the Executive Secretariat in respect of the said protocol.

CONSIDERING that the absence of self-generated funds poses a serious obstacle to the functioning of the Community institutions and retards the regional integration process;
RECOMMENDS

to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the draft Resolution hereto attached on the urgent application of the Community levy.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST 1997.

HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL
RESOLUTION A/RES..../8/97 ON THE URGENT APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY LEVY

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

CONSIDERING that all measures taken to prevail upon Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Community have not proved successful;

CONSIDERING the provisions of Protocol A/P.1/7/96 on conditions governing application of the Community levy;

RECALLING its appeal made on 27 July 1996 to ratify the protocol on the Community levy before 31 December 1996 and to implement its provisions as from 1 January 1997;

NOTING that, as at 30 June 1997, no instrument of ratification had been deposited with the Executive Secretariat in respect of the Protocol;

CONSIDERING that the absence of self-generated funds poses a serious obstacle to the functioning of the Community institutions and retards the regional integration process;
CONSIDERING Recommendation C/REC.7/8/97 of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23 to 26 August, 1997;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to pursue the goals of integration of Member States within a viable regional community.

CALLS on Member States to commence effective implementation as from 1 January 1998 to the Protocol A/P1/7/96 on the Community Levy.

FURTHER CALLS on Member States to take appropriate administrative and legal measures immediately to ensure effective application of the Community levy on the above-mentioned date and, consequently, to include the Community levy in their finance acts as from the 1998 fiscal year.

MANDATES the current Chairman of the Authority to pay particular attention and monitor the implementation of this Resolution.

DIRECTS the Executive Secretary to report on the difficulties encountered to the Chairman of the Authority who shall consult his peers to find appropriate solution.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997.

H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ABUJA, NIGERIA, 23 - 26 AUGUST, 1997

VOTE OF THANKS

The Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), holding its forty-first session at the Executive Secretariat in Abuja, from 23 to 26 August 1997, wishes to express its sincere gratitude to His Excellency General SANI ABACHA, Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the Nigerian Government and People for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations, and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal which ensured the success of their deliberations.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997

THE COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

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

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AUGUST, 1997

QUARANTE ET UNIEME SESSION DU CONSEIL DES MINISTRES
ABUJA, 23 - 26 AOUT 1997

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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<tr>
<td>1. BENIN</td>
<td>MENSAN MOISE</td>
<td>MINISTRE DES FINANCES</td>
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<td>2. BURKINA FASO</td>
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<td>COMPAORE M. SIMONE</td>
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<td>3. CABO VERDE</td>
<td>ALEXANDRE DIAS MONTEIRO</td>
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<td>SEM AMADOU TRAORE</td>
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<td>TOBOKOUÈ KOYEMON</td>
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<td>5. GAMBIA</td>
<td>HON. FAMARA L. JATTA</td>
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<td>H. E. MABA J. O. JOBE</td>
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<td>THE GAMBIA HIGH COMMISSION, LAGOS</td>
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<td>MOMODOU A. CEESAY</td>
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<td>DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY &amp; EMPLOYMENT, INDEPENDENCE DRIVE, BANJUL</td>
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<td>EMMANUEL OSEI-KUMAH</td>
<td>DEPUTY GOVERNOR</td>
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<td>DANIEL ADDISON SEIDU</td>
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<td>GRIFFITH DANSO APATU</td>
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<td>EDITH ESSANDOH</td>
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<td>DR. ERNEST K. ADDISON</td>
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<td>MRS. IRENE MAAMAH</td>
<td>SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICER</td>
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