



ECW/Cm.XX/9/Rev.1

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LAGOS, 27 - 29 NOVEMBER, 1986

~~FINAL REPORT~~
NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its twentieth (20th) meeting from 27 to 29 November, 1986 in Lagos, Federal Republic of NIGERIA.

2. The following Member States were represented:

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

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

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II. OPENING SESSION

3. The session was declared open by His Excellency, Dr. KALU IDIKA KALU, Minister of National Planning of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA and current Chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Honourable Minister, on behalf of His Excellency, General IBRAHIM BADAMASI BAEANGIDA, President, and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, welcomed his honourable colleagues and delegates.
4. In his capacity as Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu outlined the activities of the Community since July, 1986, highlighting, in particular, the Economic Recovery Programme which has just been considered by the ECOWAS Ministers of Planning.
5. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers pointed out that the Investment Programme proposed by the Ministers of Planning involves 136 national and regional projects selected according to principles and criteria adopted by the decision-making bodies of the Community at their last meeting in Abuja (Federal Republic of Nigeria).
6. The Chairman further informed the Council of the ECOWAS mission which he led to the Annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, to meet potential financiers for the Economic Recovery Programme. The International Community acknowledged the importance of the Economic Recovery Programme, and declared its willingness to consider any request for assistance.
7. In conclusion, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed his satisfaction at the response to the Abuja appeal to Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Executive Secretariat and the Fund. The Chairman noted that a number of Member States had made considerable efforts to honour their financial obligations and again called upon Member States to effect regular payment of their contributions to the Community's Institutions. (The Chairman's speech is attached as an annex).

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

8. The following bureau was elected :

Chairman: Federal Republic of NIGERIA
Rapporteurs: BURKINA FASO and
Republic of GHANA

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

9. The agenda presented by the Executive Secretariat was adopted as follows:

1. OPENING CEREMONY
 - (i) Opening speech by the current Chairman of the Council of Ministers
 - (ii) Election of Bureau
 - (iii) Adoption of Agenda
2. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE EXPERTS
4. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS:
 - (i) Industry, Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission
 - (ii) Trade, Customs, Immigration, Monetary and Payments Commission
 - (iii) Social and Cultural Affairs Commission.
5. REPORT OF THE MINISTERS OF PLANNING ON THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME
6. REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON EVALUATION AND REFLECTION
7. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FUND
8. ANY OTHER MATTER
9. ADOPTION OF REPORT AND CLOSING CEREMONY.

V. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

Item 2 : REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

10. The Executive Secretary presented his report of activities for the period from July to November 1986. In the report, he dwelt largely on :

- i) the serious crisis in the sub-region in spite of the return of the rains in the SAHEL, this crisis is characterised by the locust invasion which is threatening our agriculture.
- ii) level of implementation of Community cooperation programmes particularly the Economic Recovery Programme for West Africa;
- iii) the work programmes of the Community Institutions for the 1987 financial year.

After discussion Council congratulated the Executive Secretary for the quality of his report and took note of the said report.

Item 3 : REPORT OF FINANCE EXPERTS

11. After presentation of the report by the Chairman of the Committee of Finance Experts, Council adopted it and endorsed the recommendations contained in it. These recommendations are in respect of :

- i) the report of the Financial Controller recommending measures aimed at improving the financial management of the Community's Institutions;
- ii) the stamping whenever possible of Travel Authorisation Forms by the competent authorities of the countries visited and where necessary the provision of all useful and additional information which might make it possible to verify that the authorized itinerary has been followed;

.../

- iii) the budget of the Executive Secretariat for the 1987 financial year which balanced out at UA5,388,736. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire withdrew its reservation concerning the appropriation of funds for the purchase of generators for the use of the Secretariat's staff.

12. As regards the table showing the financial contributions paid by Member States, Council directed the Executive Secretariat to up-date the contributions outstanding, taking into account the last payments made by a number of Member States.

Item 4 ; REPORT OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS

i) Industry, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Commission

13. The Chairman of this Commission presented the report of the Commission on the adoption of an industrial development programme covering the period 1987 to 1991, for the West African Sub-Region. The Council adopted the report and the related Decisions, which are attached as an annex.

ii) Trade, Customs, Immigration, Money and Payments
Commission

14. The report was presented by the Chairman of the Commission. After lengthy discussions, the Council adopted the report, and took the following decisions :

a) The proposal that the effective commencement date for tariff liberalisation for industrial products be postponed from 28 May 1983 to 28 May 1988, was adopted together with the draft resolution and decision relating to this proposal. Council rejected the recommendation to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to review the criteria affecting the rules of origin. It was emphasised that the existing Community rules of origin on industrial products should be applied.

b) Council directed the Executive Secretariat to establish, within its institution, a special unit responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Acts and Decisions of the decision-making bodies of the Community, in accordance with Decision A/DEC.2/5/83 of 30 May 1983, of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Member States were further requested to forward information to the Executive Secretariat on their national units, in particular their manpower, material and financial means, and also on the tasks assigned to them at the national level. This will enable the Executive Secretariat to present a memorandum to Council on the strengthening of ECOWAS units in Member States.

c) Concerning the draft decision relating to the extension of the issuance of ECOWAS Laissez-Passer to the auxiliary staff, the Council noted that the proposal merited consideration. Nevertheless, the Executive Secretariat was directed to comply with the established procedure for the submission of documents, by presenting the matter to the Sub-Commission on Immigration for prior consideration.

iii) Social and Cultural Affairs Commission

15. After presentation of the report of this Commission, Council rejected the recommendations on the payment of subsidies to Member States by the Executive Secretariat. The units should be supported materially and financially by the respective Member States.

16. Council, however, adopted the recommendations on traditional wrestling, and on the adoption of the Draft Community Cultural framework Agreement.

17. As regards the award of the ECOWAS Prizes, Council once again approved the principle of such an award. Council however, directed the Executive Secretariat to work out the modalities for the award of the prizes. These modalities

are to be examined at the next budget session of finance experts. They must be defined before the item can be included in the budget of the Executive Secretariat.

Item 5: REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF PLANNING

18. After presentation of the report of the meeting, Council adopted the Economic Recovery Programme for West Africa, which includes :

- a) short-term measures which form the overall framework for the proposed economic recovery programme;
- b) the investment programme composed of one hundred and thirty-six (136) projects, at a total cost of nine hundred and twenty million, two hundred and eighty-six thousand, two hundred and eighty eight (920 286 288) United States dollars.

19. Council directed the Community Institutions to make contact with the three Member States which are yet to submit their projects, so as to compile a list of the projects in these states, which fit into the framework of the Economic Recovery Programme.

20. The Investment Programme shall, in consequence, be adjusted by the Institutions of the Community and the total amount allocated to the Programme increased accordingly.

21. Council calls upon all Member States to support the ECOWAS Economic Recovery Programme.

Item 6: REPORT OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

22. Council deferred the discussion of this Report for the following reasons:

- the documents were distributed the day before, and there was therefore no time to examine them properly;

- it will be more appropriate to consider the report in May 1987, at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers where Member States are expected to be represented by substantive ministers (responsible for ECOWAS affairs) to ensure meaningful discussions.

23. The summary report should take into account all the documents on the issue. These documents shall be sent to all the Member States in the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee. Those accused in the report of the Evaluation and Reflection Committee should be invited to appear before the Committee which shall be convened a few days before the May 1987 session of the Council of Ministers.

24. To refute the allegations made in the international press which allude to alleged fraud in the Community, which could damage the credibility of the Community's Institutions, Council addressed a declaration to the said press.

Item 7: REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

25. After presentation of the report of the Board of Directors, Council approved the report with the following amendments:

26. Item 2.4 of the report should read:

"As regards the resource/application ratio, the Board recommended that a fund be established from external grants and donations, with a view to providing funds for identification and feasibility studies.

27. With regard to the decision taken by the Board of Directors at its 8th meeting held in Freetown from 20 to 21 November 1981, on the allotment of yield from placements (75% for the operational budget and 25% payable to the Reserve Account), Council decided that the Finance Experts Committee and the Board of Directors should, when examining the budget of the Fund, determine the ratio to be allocated to the operational budget and the Reserve Account.

Item 8: ANY OTHER MATTER

28. At the request of a Member State, the Institutions of the Community were directed to present at the next session of Council the current situation on the distribution of professional posts, on the basis of the provisions in force.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT


29. This Report was adopted after amendments.

VII. CLOSING SESSION

30. The Chairman of Council thanked his honourable colleagues and delegates for their constructive contributions, and for the excellent results obtained.

31. Council congratulated the Chairman on the able manner in which he conducted the deliberations.

For the Council


Honourable Dr KALU IDIKA KALU
The Chairman