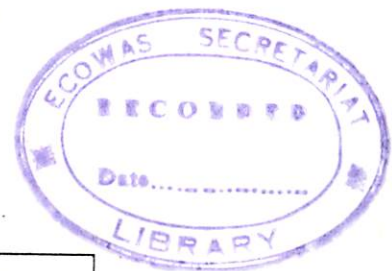




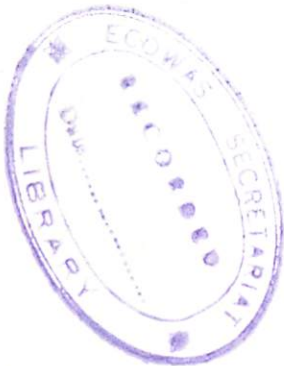
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**Forty-sixth Session of the
Council of Ministers**
Abuja, 24 - 25 May 2000



FINAL REPORT



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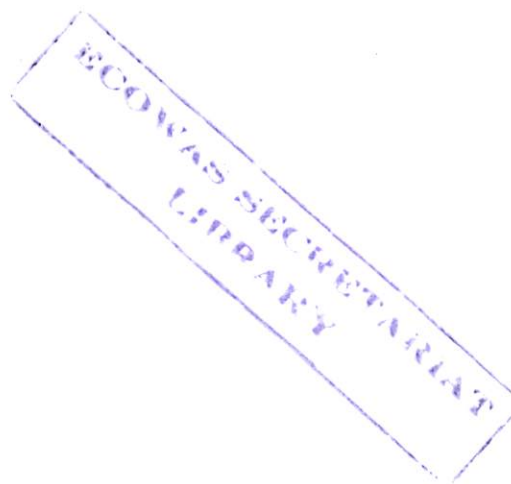
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Executive Secretariat
Abuja, May 2000

INTRODUCTION

1. The forty-sixth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers took place at the ECOWAS Headquarters Abuja from 24 - 25 May 2000.
2. The following Member States were in attendance:
 - Republic of Benin
 - Burkina Faso
 - Republic of Cape Verde
 - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
 - Republic of The Gambia
 - Republic of Ghana
 - Republic of Guinea
 - Republic of Liberia
 - Republic of Mali
 - Republic of Niger
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Sierra Leone
 - Togolese Republic
3. The following ECOWAS specialised institutions were also represented:
 - West African Women's Association
 - West African Monetary Agency
4. Representatives of the following institutions participated in the meeting as observers:
 - Conference of West African Ministers of Youth and Sport (CMYS)
 - West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)



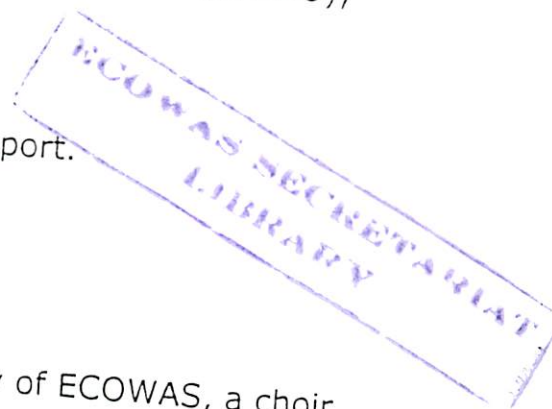
- West African Development Bank (BOAD)
 - Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)
 - Regional coordinating office of the West African Regional Indicative Programme (RIP);
 - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA);
 - Organisation of African Unity;
 - Secretariat General of ACP Group;
 - UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO);
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO);
 - ECOBANK commercial bank.
5. The full list of participants is attached to this report.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ECOWAS

6. As part of activities to mark the 25th anniversary of ECOWAS, a choir of children from the Federal Republic of Nigeria staged a performance of songs and poems dedicated to the Community.

II. OPENING SESSION

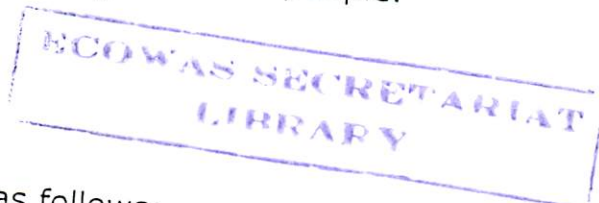
7. Delivering his opening address, the Minister of Cooperation and African Integration, **Chief Dapo Sarumi** welcomed members of Council and their delegations on behalf of **His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo** and the government and people of Nigeria. The Minister stressed the importance of this meeting, which was taking place during celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of ECOWAS and the first year of democratic rule in Nigeria. He invited all delegations present to join fully in these festivities.



8. The Nigerian Minister highlighted a number of issues on the agenda for Council's consideration, notably the implementation of the decisions of the ECOWAS-UEMOA ministerial meeting, held from 28 - 29 January 2000 in Bamako, the introduction of an ECOWAS passport, establishment of the Community Court of Justice and Parliament, the creation of a second monetary zone and a borderless ECOWAS.

9. Chief Sarumi commended the praiseworthy efforts being made by **His Excellency President Alpha Oumar Konaré**, President of the Republic of Mali and Chairman of ECOWAS and UEMOA to forge closer links between ECOWAS and UEMOA. He urged all Member States to make the necessary sacrifices to enable them fulfil their obligations to the Community. He stated that by implementing sectoral integration programmes, paying their contribution arrears and applying the Community levy, Member States would be empowering ECOWAS to find solutions to developmental issues relevant to the sub-region, thus guaranteeing the well-being of its people.

III ELECTION OF BUREAU



10. The bureau elected was composed as follows:

Chairman: Nigeria Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa before the arrival of the Chairman of Council, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of Mali

Rapporteurs: Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

11. The following agenda was adopted:

- 1) Opening session
- 2) Election of bureau
- 3) Adoption of agenda and work programme
- 4) Presentation and consideration of the interim report of the Executive Secretary
- 5) Consideration of reports:
 - Meeting of Senior Officials
 - Meeting of Committee of Governors
 - Meeting of Ministers of Internal Affairs and National Security
 - Fifteenth meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial committee on the enhancement of the financial resources of the ECOWAS Fund
- 6) Progress report on promotion of regional transport services
- 7) Adoption of Draft Agenda of 23rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government
- 8) Any other business.

V. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

Item 4: Presentation and consideration of the report of the Executive Secretary

12. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary, **Mr. Lansana Kouyate** presented his 1999/2000 interim report on the situation of the Community. The report indicated that some of the ECOWAS countries have been able to put in place conditions necessary for macro-economic stability and growth. However, in several other countries, the economic environment is still characterised by huge government deficits and high rates of inflation. All ECOWAS Member States have to improve their economic environment and accelerate the integration of their national economies so as to strengthen the development process in West Africa.

13. Under the chapter on the functioning of the Community, the Executive Secretary outlined the measures that had been taken since the last session of Council held in Lome in December 1999. He spoke in particular of the implementation of the decisions of the session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Lome on 9 December 1999, and the guidelines set out by the ECOWAS/UEMOA ministerial meeting held in Bamako on 28 and 29 January 2000 to discuss the acceleration of the regional integration process. In this regard, the Executive Secretary enumerated the actions that had been taken to harmonise the ECOWAS and UEMOA integration programmes, the progress made towards the establishment of a second monetary zone within ECOWAS and the establishment of a borderless zone within West Africa.

14. The Executive Secretary also mentioned other socio-economic programmes being implemented by the Community including the



introduction of an ECOWAS passport, the execution of sectoral programmes in the areas of transport, telecommunications, energy, environmental protection, education and health. He recalled the particularly difficult financial situation of the Executive Secretariat and appealed to all the Member States concerned to liquidate their arrears of contribution and to implement the provisions of the Community levy.

15. On the issue of regional peace and security, the Executive Secretary reviewed the situation in Cote d'Ivoire following the coup d'etat that took place there in December 1999, as well as events that had taken place in Sierra Leone. He talked about the measures that had been undertaken to implement the conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanism.

16. With regard to institutional matters, the Executive Secretary informed Council that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania had notified him of its intention to withdraw from ECOWAS. He had, in a letter, drawn the attention of Mauritania to the provisions of Article 91 of the Revised Treaty relating to withdrawal from the Community, particularly honouring all obligations within the one-year period of notification of withdrawal.

17. The Executive Secretary concluded his report by underlining the need for a wider vision of regional integration on the long-term construction of the Community. The success of this strategy will depend to a large extent on the support received from the member States.

18. Council congratulated the Executive Secretary on the quality of his report. Following discussions on the issues raised therein, Council adopted the report and made the following observations and recommendations:



Implementation of priority Community programmes

- i) Council noted that several decisions had been adopted by the decision-making authorities of the Community on the acceleration of the regional integration process. However, most of these decisions have not been implemented. Council expressed particular concern over the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme which is yet to become operational. The Executive Secretariat was therefore requested to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the scheme and propose solutions that could make it operational, drawing useful lessons from the UEMOA experience in the area.
- ii) Council requested the Executive Secretary and the President of the UEMOA Commission to pursue actively the harmonisation of the programmes of the two institutions so as to avoid overlapping of their activities and duplication of efforts.
- iii) Council welcomed the decision of the Mini Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Abuja on 27 March 2000 relating to the immediate application by all Member States of the provisions of the full regime stipulated by the protocol on the Community levy which will transform the compensatory funds into a solidarity fund accessible to all member countries, regardless of the level of their contributions to the compensation budget or the loss of revenue incurred by them. Council recommended that the Authority of Heads of State and Government should request all Member States to implement the provisions of the full regime without waiting for the transition regime to expire by the end of 2002, as this would facilitate, among other things, the payment of compensation for loss of

customs revenue incurred as a result of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme.

- iv) Regarding the proposed ECOWAS cultural festival, Council requested the Executive Secretariat to highlight the cultural dimension of cooperation in addition to the harmonisation of cultural policies in its programmes.

Item 5 (i): Consideration of report of the meeting of senior officials

19. The report of the meeting of senior officials on the acceleration of regional integration centred on the following issues:

- i) Progress report on the implementation of the decisions of the Bamako ministerial decisions (27 - 29 January 2000);
- ii) Application of the decisions of the Authority of Heads of State and Government on the Court of Justice and the Community Parliament; and
- iii) Report on trafficking in children

20. On the level of implementation of the decisions of the Bamako ministerial meeting, Council requested the Executive Secretariat and the UEMOA Commission to organise the agreed meetings as quickly as possible, particularly those relating to macro-economic convergence and a common market. The Executive Secretariat should present a progress report to Council regarding harmonisation of the programmes of the two organisations.

21. With reference to institutional matters, Council urged Member States which have not yet done so, to communicate to the Executive Secretariat the names and the curriculum vitae of their candidates for judges to sit on the Community Court of Justice as soon as possible.
22. Council called on Member States which are yet to ratify the protocol on the Community Parliament to take all necessary measures to do so, and to transmit the instruments of ratification to the Executive Secretariat without delay.
23. On the issue of trafficking in children, Council endorsed the recommendations made in the memorandum presented, and expressed its strong disapproval of the practice. Member States were urged to undertake appropriate action to protect the rights of the child. Council requested the Executive Secretariat to include the control of child trafficking among its activities.

Item 5.ii):

**CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL
BANK GOVERNORS**

24. The report of the eleventh extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Central Banks presented by the Executive Secretariat focused on :
- i) a currency management policy for the single ECOWAS monetary zone;
 - ii) the institutional framework for the multilateral surveillance of economic policies;
 - iii) the implementation phases of the establishment of the single monetary zone.

25. The Council of Ministers approved the recommendation made by the Committee of Governors' regarding the adoption of an indicator for evaluating the quality of convergence, such as relative exchange rate stability in relation to the West African Unit of Account (WAUA), equivalent to the Special Drawing Rights of the IMF.

26. Council also endorsed the recommendation that the Convergence Council (Governors of central banks and Ministers of Finance) should be the organ empowered to ensure the multilateral surveillance of Member States' economic policies. The Convergence Council will however inform the Council of Ministers of its decisions. The Executive Secretariat was invited to look into the practical modalities for the implementation of this recommendation.

27. In addition, Council approved the following three phases of the implementation of the ECOWAS single monetary zone:

Phase 1: harmonisation of rules governing economic and financial management, revitalisation of the WAMA clearing mechanism and review of eligible transactions

Phase 2: Review of economic adjustments and harmonisation of domestic taxation system

Phase 3: irrevocable fixing of parities and establishment of the single Central Bank

28. Council requested the Committee of Central Banks to draw up a detailed work programme and timetable for the implementation of these phases.

**Item 5.iii) Consideration of the Report of the Meeting of
Ministers of Internal Affairs and National
Security**

29. The Executive Secretariat presented the report of the above meeting and the following recommendations:

- a) the ECOWAS passport shall be in use parallel with the existing ECOWAS travel certificate
- b) the ordinary passport will be dark green in colour, the service passport will be blue in colour and the diplomatic passport will be red.
- c) the duration of validity of the passport is to be left to the discretion of each Member State
- d) there will be a transition period of 5 years, commencing from the date of the signature of the decision. During this period, the ECOWAS passport shall be used alongside the national passport which shall cease to be valid at the end of the transitional period
- e) Member States must ensure that the passport has the following security features:
 - a printed design on the pages
 - the serial number repeated as a perforation on every page and on the back cover of the passport, except on the laminated page;

- include the passport registration number in addition to the serial number;
 - insert a filigree thread on each page;
 - increase the size of the ECOWAS logo on the back cover.
- f) The Executive Secretariat should put at the disposal of Member States the equipment required for the use of machine readable passports
- g) Ministers of Internal Affairs and National Security should meet to exchange experience on matters pertaining to cross-border security and to discuss issues arising from the introduction of the ECOWAS passport.

30. Council considered the report of the Ministers of Internal Affairs and National Security. Having discussed the proposed introduction of an ECOWAS uniform format passport extensively, Council adopted the report and approved the project, recommending it for the adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Item 5.iv)

Final Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of Ecowas Fund

31. The Chairman of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee, **Mr Maliki Barhouni**, Minister of Planning of the Republic of Niger, presented the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee's report on the following issues:

- Status of implementation of the Restructuring Programme of the Fund.
- Outcome of the Evaluation of Tenders for the determination of the net worth of the Fund and preparation of Exploratory and Promotional documents for the new ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development and its two subsidiaries.
- Status of Implementation of the approved budget.

32. With respect to the status of implementation of the restructuring of the Fund, Council endorsed the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee's recommendations concerning:

- the recruitment of a consultant to prepare the statutes of the ERIB and review the "Statement of General Policy" and the "General Conditions Applicable to loans";
- the recruitment of a Consultant to define the staff performance evaluation criteria and consider the profile of staff for redeployment to the EBID and ERIB;
- recruitment of a consultant to prepare a manual of procedures relating to operational policies and procedures for the new institution.

33. On the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, Council agreed to direct the management of the Fund to prepare the Staff Rules and Regulations of the new institution.

34. Council further endorsed the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee's recommendations on the outcome of the evaluation of Tenders to determine the net worth of the Fund and preparation of exploratory and promotional

documents for the new investment and development bank and its two subsidiaries. Council approved the recommendation of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee to approve a supplementary budget of US\$120,000 US over the initial 1995 budget of 200,000 US dollars for the implementation of Lot 1 on the determination of the net value allocated to Maxwell Stamp and for Lot 2 for the preparation of prospecting and promotional documents, to be done by DFC Ltd.

35. Council approved a supplementary budget of US\$525,344 to be financed from resources of the ECOWAS Fund, in order to cover the activities envisaged till June 2001 under the transformation programme.

Item 6: Progress Report on Promotion of Regional Transport Services

36. The memorandum from the Secretariat presented proposals for the establishment of a sub-regional airline and a sub-regional coastal shipping line.

Airline project

37. The Executive Secretariat has decided to support the efforts of private promoters to set up an airline to be known as ECOAIR.

38. At the end of a working session between the ECOWAS Fund, the promoters' representatives and the Executive Secretariat, the company shares totalling US\$ 25,200,000 were allocated as follows :

- 77.2% to the private sector in the Member States;
- 5% to the national carriers;
- 7.8% to the financial institutions;
- 10% to the technical partner.

39. The Secretariat acknowledged the viability of the project. However, it maintains that two conditions must be fulfilled to facilitate regionalisation of the airline, namely:

- the greatest possible number of economic operators from other Member States should be involved in the project. Operators from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria have already signified their interest in the project;
- the process of liberalising air traffic rights within the region must be accelerated. The Member States are responsible for the application of this measure while the Executive Secretariat would facilitate the process.

40. Having discussed the project, the Council of Ministers called on all member States to give it their political backing. National airlines in the sub-region were urged to support the project by subscribing to the share capital and by ceding traffic rights to ECOAIR.

Coastal shipping line project

41. The Executive Secretariat is supporting efforts being made by the private sector to establish a coastal shipping line, ECOMARINE.

42. The consortium of private investors from the sub-region is led by Daddo Maritime Services Ltd and comprises the following members:

- The African Business Roundtable (ABR);
- The West and Central African Port Management Associations;
- Members of the transporters associations of Nigeria, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire;
- The West African Enterprise Network ;
- The Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce.

43. The initial capital proposed was US\$ 25,000,000.

44. Council requested Member States to support this project and to facilitate acquisition of berthing rights by ECOMARINE.

Item 7 : Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government

45. Council adopted the draft agenda of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government which is attached as an annex to this report.

Item 8 : Any Other Business

46. Council, mindful of the crucial importance of priority programmes to the regional integration effort, requested the Executive Secretariat in future should prepare detailed briefs on priority programmes for its consideration.

47. Council requested the Executive Secretariat to update the information on its website, to improve its presentation and contents in order to make it an effective communication tool at the service of the Community.

V ADOPTION OF REPORT

48. This report was adopted.

VI) CLOSING SESSION

49. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers, **Hon. Modibo Sidibe**, Minister of External Affairs and Malians Abroad of the Republic of Mali, expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to **His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo** and to the government and people of Nigeria for the warm welcome accorded to the delegations. Council expressed a vote of thanks to the host country.

50. The Chairman of Council also thanked council members for their cooperation and for their illuminating contributions which made for an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual trust. He called on all member States to implement Community programmes.

51. Finally, the Chairman of Council commended the Executive Secretary and his staff for their able preparation and conduct of the current meetings.

DONE AT ABUJA THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY 2000



HON. MODIBO SIDIBE

CHAIRMAN

FOR COUNCIL

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
(ECOWAS)**

**46TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA, 24 – 25 MAY 2000**

**REGULATION C/REG.1/5/2000 RELATING TO THE ADDITIONAL
BUDGET ON 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 the Restructuring of the Fund and establishing the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the FUND;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.1/7/95 relating to the budget for the execution of the project of Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the FUND;

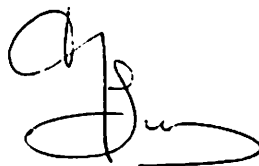
CONSIDERING the Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the FUND held in Abuja on 22 May 2000;

ENACTS:

ARTICLE I: The Additional Budget amounting to Five hundred and twenty five thousand three hundred and forty-four United States Dollars (US\$ 525,344) relating to the transformation of the FUND is hereby approved.

ARTICLE II: 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 of Ministers. It shall also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA , THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY, 2000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Sidibe', written in a cursive style.

**HON. MODIBO SIDIBE
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE COUNCIL**

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

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES

Forty-sixth Session of the Council of Ministers

Abuja, 24 - 25 May 2000

VOTE OF THANKS

The Forty-sixth Session of the Council of Ministers, meeting at the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja on 24 and 25 May 2000, express their profound gratitude to **His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the government and people of Nigeria for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations and the excellent facilities put at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

DONE IN ABUJA THIS 25th DAY OF MAY 2000

FOR THE COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

Council of Ministers
Abuja, 24 - 25 May 2000

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

Conseil des Ministres
Abuja, 24 - 25 Mai 2000

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