

ECW/CM XLII/9/REV.1

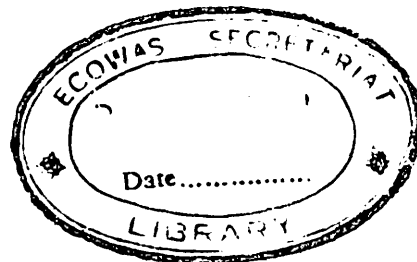
(ORIGINAL : FRENCH)

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS

ABUJA, 8 - 10 DECEMBER, 1997

FINAL REPORT



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ABUJA, DECEMBER, 1997.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The forty-second session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held at the ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja, from 8 to 10 December, 1997.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- 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 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 Secretary-General of the Conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Youth and Sports attended the session as an observer.

The list of participants is annexed to this report.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

4. The Nigerian Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Lieutenant-General J. T. USENI, on behalf of His Excellency, General Sani ABACHA, current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and of the Nigerian Government and people of Nigeria, welcomed the Council members, their respective delegations and the newly appointed Executive Secretary, Mr. Lansana Kouyate. He underscored the importance of this session of the Council of Ministers convened to consider the Community budget proposals and adopt an appropriate budget for the 1998 financial year.

5. The Minister highlighted on the financial constraints facing the Executive Secretariat due to the huge arrears of contribution, amounting to UA 24 951 065, which Member States owe to the Executive Secretariat budget. He commended Bénin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, the only Member States which are up to date in the payment of their financial contributions, and called on all Member States to ratify and implement the protocol on the Community levy without delay.

6. Recalling the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government on the movement of the Executive Secretariat to Abuja, the Minister informed the Council members that the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had already provided residential accommodation for the Statutory Appointees and had granted a loan of 6.5 million US dollars for the construction of 100 houses for the professional staff.

7. Concluding, the Minister appealed to the new Executive Secretary to accelerate the evaluation of the Statutory Appointees and the institutional restructuring exercise in order to strengthen the integration process.

8. Responding, the Executive Secretary, on behalf of Council and the staff of the Institutions, expressed appreciation to Lieutenant General J. T. USENI for the kind words addressed to his person and the Community Institutions. He enjoined the Minister to convey the gratitude of Council and the Institutions to the current Chairman, General Sani ABACHA, for the considerable efforts which he has been making to restore regional peace and security and to strengthen ECOWAS.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

9. In the absence of the Minister for National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, current Chairman of Council, Mrs. Sandra P. Howard, Minister for Planning and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, was elected Chairperson of the forty-second session of the Council of Ministers.

10. The Republic of Bénin and the Republic of The Gambia were designated as rapporteurs.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

11. The agenda was adopted as follows:

1. Opening Session (Opening speech delivered by the current Chairman of Council, Election of Bureau, Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme).
2. Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the Executive Secretary.
3. Presentation of the Report of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Fund.

4. Consideration of the Report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund.
5. Consideration of the Report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Construction.
6. Consideration of the Memorandum on the Report of the Conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Youth and Sports.
7. Consideration of the Memorandum on the Report of the Administration and Finance Commission.
8. Information on the Launching of ECOWAS Travellers Cheque.
9. Any other Business.
10. Adoption of the Report.
11. Closing Session.

V. **OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS**

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

12. Mr. Lansana Kouyate, Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, presented his first interim report on the functioning of the Community during 1997.

13. ' The report highlighted the considerable progress made in West Africa in the development of political institutions and the pursuit of economic reforms.

14. With reference to the small national markets of the ECOWAS Member States which thwart national development efforts, the report stressed the need to adopt national macro-economic and sectoral policies geared towards achieving regional integration, as a facilitator for trade and cross border investment.

15. In the chapter on the functioning of the Community, the Executive Secretary reviewed implementation of the 1997 ECOWAS work programme. Emphasis was placed on the outcome of the meeting of heads of national units, the harmonisation of economic and financial policies, the regional development programme and the monetary cooperation programme. The Executive Secretary also made reference to the organisation of the 2nd ECOWAS trade fair, the mining forum, and the first edition of the ECOWAS tourism and leisure fair. This chapter also covered sectoral production programmes, environmental protection, transport, telecommunications, energy and information, as well as the transfer of the Executive Secretariat to Abuja. The Executive Secretary drew attention to the extremely difficult financial straits of the ECOWAS institutions, appealing to all Member States to ratify the protocol on the Community levy without delay and to include it in their 1998 national budget.

16. Addressing the issue of regional peace and security, the Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Ministerial Committee of Five on Sierra Leone, and presented a progress report on the ECOWAS peace plan for the restoration of democracy and peace in Sierra Leone.

17. The ECOWAS 1998 Community work programme presented by the Executive Secretary outlined actions to be carried out by the ECOWAS institutions during the coming year. These include the macro-economic cooperation programme, the sectoral development programmes, support programmes for regional integration and the

operations of the ECOWAS Fund. The Executive Secretary also enumerated priority issues which would need to be resolved in order to strengthen the regional integration process, suggesting that top priority be accorded to free movement of persons and goods, the greater involvement of Member States in the integration process, the financing of the integration process and the dissemination of information on ECOWAS.

18. The Executive Secretary concluded his report by stressing the need to enhance the capacity of the institutions, to enable them to play their allotted role in the integration process and the development of the West African economies.

19. Council commended the Executive Secretary on his report. Having discussed the issues raised, Council took due note of the report, and put forward the following observations and recommendations:

- i) Progress in ECOWAS was observed to be slow, and Council was emphatic in expressing its reliance on the new Executive Secretary to instil new life into the Community, pledging its support to help him carry out his mission;
- ii) Council laid down guidelines to permit ECOWAS to achieve its objectives. Proposed measures to revitalise ECOWAS activities include the definition of priority programmes; effective implementation of ECOWAS Acts and Decisions; establishment of the ECOWAS Court of Justice; ratification and implementation of the protocol on the Community levy; revival of the committee of ECOWAS ambassadors in Nigeria and rationalisation of IGOs;
- iii) With regard to the ECOWAS information policy, the Executive Secretariat was requested to open a web-site on the Internet and operate an E-mail system to facilitate transmission of documents;

- iv) Council commended the Executive Secretary on the measures taken to improve the performance of the ECOWAS institutions for regional integration which include the evaluation of the statutory appointees, the restructuring of the ECOWAS institutions and the movement of the Executive Secretariat to Abuja. Council advised that these measures should be treated expeditiously;
- v) Council took note of the information that the firm of Ernest Young Consultants had been engaged to evaluate the statutory appointees. Council recalled the Authority's decision in this regard, to the effect that the evaluation should be carried out under the supervision of the Executive Secretary, working in collaboration with the ad hoc ministerial committee on the selection and evaluation of statutory appointees, and using the services of a consulting firm;
- vi) Council expressed concern at the poor attendance at ECOWAS meetings which were often unable to form a quorum. The ECOWAS Secretariat was requested to reschedule the meetings so as to avoid overlapping with national budgetary sessions, and to study the issue of Member States representation at ECOWAS ministerial meetings;
- vii) The Executive Secretary was requested to apply to the Nigerian authorities to establish a direct flight route to Abuja in order to encourage better attendance of ECOWAS meetings;
- viii) Council expressed satisfaction at the economic performance of the sub-region. It called on Member States to pursue the macro-economic and financial reforms needed to attract investment capital to the sub-region;

- ix) The Executive Secretariat was requested to make arrangements to record the deliberations of Council and the Authority of Heads of State and Government;
- x) With regard to regional peace and security, Council commended the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone, and urged it to continue its efforts to restore democracy and peace to Sierra Leone, in line with the Conakry Peace Plan of 23 October 1997;
- xi) Council thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for its actions in support of regional peace and security and for its assistance to the Executive Secretariat towards the construction of staff quarters.

ITEM 3: Consideration of the Report of the Board of Directors of the Fund

20. Following the presentation of the report of the Board of Directors of the Fund, the Council of Ministers took note thereof and approved the recommendations on the following questions:

- i. impact of deficit on the level of the capital of the Fund;
- ii. status of contributions due from Member States;
- iii. promotion and recruitment of officers;
- iv. adoption of the budget and work programme of the Fund for the year 1998;
- v. adoption of the budget of the Special Fund for Telecommunications;
- vi. 1998 - 2000 investment programme;
- vii. the BCCI and MIBL affairs;
- viii. stand-by credit facility of FCFA 370 000 000 in respect of the completion works on the Fund headquarters.

21. In addition, the Council of Ministers took note of the statement made at the board meeting by Mrs. Sandra P. Howard, Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, regarding the precarious financial position of her country after 10 years of bad governance and 7 years of war. Council called on Liberia to initiate appropriate action in accordance with the procedure laid down in this regard in Article 77 (3) of the revised Treaty.

ITEM 4: Consideration of the Report of the ad hoc Ministerial committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund.

22. The Chairman of the ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund presented the report of the Committee which focused on:

- i) the draft terms of reference of the study;
- ii) the status of the restructuring project;
- iii) the implementation schedule and cost of the study.

23. In view of the late submission of the terms of reference to the Council of Ministers, Member States were called upon to forward their remarks to the Fund Management by 15 February, 1998 at the latest. The Ministerial Committee will meet to review the terms of reference on the basis of the observations made, and award the contract for the study to a consultant.

24. The Fund Management was requested to continue its efforts at mobilising the necessary resources for the study.

ITEM 5: Consideration of the Report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Construction.

25. The report of the ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Construction of Headquarters of the Community presented focused on the consideration of the Executive Secretariat's memorandum and the reports of the meeting of the sub-committee held in Abuja on 29 and 30 September and from 24 to 26 November 1997 respectively.

26. Council took note of the observations of the ministerial committee and adopted the recommendations contained therein, particularly those concerning the determination of the consultant's fees.

ITEM 6: Consideration of the Memorandum on the Outcome of the Session of the ECOWAS Conference of Youth and Sports (CMYS)

27. The Secretary-General of the CMYS presented the major decisions taken at the 6th session of the ECOWAS/CMYS held in Lomé on 20 and 21 November 1997 which included the adoption of institutional measures and a programme of activities designed to improve the functioning of the organisation. The CMYS also applied to be granted the status of specialised institution of ECOWAS and to be given a subsidy.

28. The Council of Ministers took note of the report, pointing out however that meetings of Ministers of Youth and Sports were sectoral meetings covered under Article 19 paragraph 2c of the revised Treaty which addresses sectoral matters contributing to the achievement of Community objectives.

29. Council urged Member States to discuss the issue at national level. The Secretary-General of the CMYS was requested to submit an application for observer status to the Executive Secretary.

30. Council also directed the Executive Secretariat to define the status of ECOWAS specialised institutions.

ITEM 7: Consideration of the Memorandum on the Report of the Administration and Finance Commission

31. The report of the twenty-first meeting was presented by the Chairman of the Administration and Finance Commission.

32. Council adopted the report subject to the following observations:

a) Tasks assigned to the Executive Secretariat

33. Council urged the Executive Secretariat to set up the Community Court of Justice without delay, in view of its paramount role in the implementation of Community decisions.

34. The Executive Secretariat should inform the members of the ad hoc Ministerial Committee on Evaluation of the initiatives taken with regard to the evaluation of the Statutory Appointees.

35. Council did not adopt the Commission's recommendation that the Executive Secretariat should submit a statement of expenditure in respect of actions undertaken to consolidate regional peace and security, stating that the nature of such expenses makes it difficult to obtain the information requested.

b) Computerisation of the Executive Secretariat activities

36. The Executive Secretariat was directed to present a memorandum to the Administration and Finance Commission on the financial implications of the proposed computerisation of its operations.

c) **Approval of Executive Secretariat Financial Statements**

37. Council approved the audited financial statements of the Executive Secretariat as at 31 December 1996.

d) **Budget for the Launching of the 2nd ECOWAS Trade Fair**

38. Council adopted a budget of \$74 498 for the launching of the 2nd ECOWAS Trade Fair. The amount is broken down as follows:

i) Publicity campaign	\$10 150
ii) Promotional materials	\$55 100
iii) Protocol and hospitality	\$ 5 700
iv) Contingencies	\$ 3 548

e) **Movement of the Executive Secretariat to Abuja**

39. Council decided to approve payment of a special relocation allowance to alleviate the financial strain caused by the movement to those members of staff who will be obliged to maintain two homes due to the absence of certain facilities in Abuja. The relocation allowance amounts to one month's basic salary and is payable to all staff but only after the actual movement of the staff member to Abuja. Council also approved payment of an advance of not more than two month's salary to all staff who may so wish, repayable in 12 months. Council also approved the provision for the transportation of staff and their personal effects from Lagos to Abuja.

40. In view of the difficulty in obtaining accommodation in Abuja, Council decided, as a temporary measure, to provide housing for "G" and "M" categories of staff for a period of 2 years.

41. Council also decided that the 10% of salary contribution of professional staff towards their rent be maintained, and that the housing allowance paid to the "G" and "M" staff housed by the Community should be temporarily frozen.

f) **Executive Secretariat Budget for 1998**

42. Council adopted the Executive Secretariat budget for 1998, balanced in income and expenditure at UA 6 429 450, of which UA 300 000 would be derived from arrears of contributions from past years. This represents an increase of 10% over the 1997 budget.

43. In respect of staff expenses, Council requested the Executive Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment of translators and interpreters into Portuguese. In the meantime, the Secretariat should utilise the services of freelance translators and interpreters.

44. In addition, Council mandated the Executive Secretariat to deduct UA 2 547 750 from recovered arrears of contributions to service the following expenditure heads:

- UA 346 600 to prefinance part of the cost of movement of the Executive Secretariat to Abuja;
- UA 300 000 for payment of arrears of subsidies to ECOWAS National Units (Regulation C/REG.5/8/97);
- UA 1 601 150 for payment of the first instalment of the amount invested by the ECOWAS Fund in the construction of the Executive Secretariat Headquarters;

45. Council urged the Executive Secretariat to improve the presentation of its budgets and to adhere strictly to the financial regulation in this regard.

**ITEM 8: Information on the Launching of
ECOWAS Travellers Cheque**

46. The Executive Secretary reported to Council on the outcome of the 23rd meeting of the Committee of ECOWAS Governors of Central Banks held in Dakar on 3 and 4 December 1997. The Executive Secretary stressed the fact that the launching of the travellers cheque as provided for by a decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government dated August 1997, failed to take place because of the reservation entered by the BCEAO. The BCEAO opposed the launching of the travellers cheques on the grounds that:

- i) Guiné Bissao and Liberia were in arrears of payment to the West African Clearing House.
- ii) the issuance of travellers' cheques could be better managed by private commercial banks such as ECOBANK.

47. The Executive Secretary drew Council's attention to the fact that Guiné Bissao had since joined UEMOA and that Liberia had requested to sign an arrears rescheduling agreement. He also cited the example of SADC, an organisation similar to ECOWAS, which had succeeded in issuing and managing travellers cheques.

48. The Governors of Central Banks of the other ECOWAS countries agreed that contributions arrears did not constitute an obstacle to the launching of the travellers cheques.

49. The Executive Secretary indicated his intention to report on this issue to the Heads of State of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Togo and Nigeria, members of the ad hoc committee set up by the last session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government to give the necessary political support to the realisation of the single monetary zone by the year 2000.

50. The Executive Secretary stressed that it was of crucial importance for UEMOA and ECOWAS to harmonise the programmes of the two organisations in order to advance the regional integration process in West Africa. He urged Member States to be more involved in attenuating the difficulties caused by the co-existence of the two integration organisations.

ITEM 9: Any Other Business

51. Council appealed to the Federal Government of Nigeria to facilitate local transportation for Executive Secretariat staff in Abuja..

52. Council also recalled the decision of the Authority setting the date of the summit of Heads of State and Government for May, to coincide with ECOWAS Day. Heads of delegation were requested to obtain the opinions of their Heads of State on the issue of rescheduling dates of ECOWAS meeting.

VI. ADOPTION OF REPORT

53. This report was adopted.

VII. CLOSING SESSION

54. The Chairman of the meeting, Mrs. Sandra P. Howard expressed her gratitude to all the members of Council for their very positive contributions which made it possible to have a successful outcome. The Chairman also expressed the appreciation of the Council of Ministers for the impressive manner in which the Executive Secretary, Mr. Lansana Kouyate had begun his term of office. She urged both the Community officials and Member States to give him every assistance so that the new momentum could be sustained.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1997


MRS. SANDRA P. HOWARD
CHAIRMAN

FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ABUJA , 8 - 10, DECEMBER, 1997

**REGULATION C/REG.2/12/97
APPROVING THE WORK PROGRAMME
OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR THE
1998 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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,

HAVING EXAMINED the Work Programme proposed by the Twenty-first Meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 26 November to 6 December, 1997;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the twenty-first meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held from 26 November to 6 December, 1997 at Abuja;

E N A C T S :


Article 1

The attached Work Programme is hereby approved and shall be executed by the Executive Secretariat during the 1998 Financial Year.

Article 2

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 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1997


SANDRA HOWARD (MRS)
ACTING CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ABUJA, 8 - 10, DECEMBER, 1997

**REGULATION C/REG.3/12/96
APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT FOR THE 1998 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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,

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the Revised Treaty which relates to the budget of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Institutions of ECOWAS adopted in Lome through Decision C/DEC.4/11/89 of 30 November 1989;

HAVING EXAMINED the budget proposed by the Twenty-first Meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 26 November to 5 December, 1997;

E N A C T S :

Article 1

The budget of the Executive Secretariat for the 1998 Financial Year, balanced out in revenue and expenditure at **six million, four hundred and twenty-nine thousand, four hundred and fifty units of accounts (6.429.450 UA).**

Article 2

An amount of **Five million, eight hundred and forty thousand units of account (5.840.000 UA)** shall be derived from the annual contributions of Member States. Another sum of **Two hundred and eighty nine thousand, four hundred and fifty units of account (289.450 UA)** shall be derived from the internal resources of the Executive Secretariat, while the balance of **three hundred thousand units of account (300,000 UA)** shall be obtained from past budgets.

Article 3

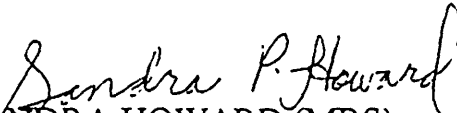
An amount of **Two million, two hundred and forty-seven thousand, seven hundred and fifty (2.247,750 UA)** obtained from the areas of contribution shall be disbursed as follows:

- transfer of the Secretariat to Abuja (346,600 UA)
- areas of subvention to the ECOWAS national units (300,000 UA)
- first instalment of the sum invested by the ECOWAS Fund in the construction of the Executive Secretariat Headquarters (1.601,150UA).

Article 4

This Regulations 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 by each Member State within the same time-frame in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1997


SANDRA HOWARD (MRS)
ACTING CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ABUJA, 8 - 10 DECEMBER, 1997

VOTE OF THANKS

Participants at the forty-second session of the Council of Ministers held at the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat headquarters in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria from 8th to 10th December 1997, wishes to express their 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 Government and People of Nigeria 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 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1997

THE COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ABUJA, 8 - 10 DECEMBER, 1997

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

QUARANTE DEUXIEME SESSION DU CONSEIL DES MINISTRES

ABUJA, 8 - 10 DECEMBRE 1997

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY / PAYS	NAME / NOM	TITLE / FONCTION	ADDRESS / ADRESSE
BENIN	HOUESSOU EULOGE	DIRECTEUR GENERAL DES AFFAIRES ECONOMIQUES	MINISTERE DES FINANCES, BP. 302, TEL. 300673, COTONOU
	GOUTONDI C. PAMPHILE	IER CONSEILLER A L'AMBASSADE DU BENIN	AMBASSADE DU BENIN, LAGOS
	ADOGONY IGNACE EXPEDIT	DIRECTEUR DE L'INTEGRATION REGIONALE	MINISTERE DES FINANCES BP. 302, TEL. 30.05.27 COTONOU, Fax: 301851
BURKINA FASO	DABOUE ANDRE	RESPONSABLE CELLULE CEDEAO	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, 01 BP. 2912, OUAGA, 01 Tel. 324297, Fax. 324296
	COMPAORE MARIE SIMONE	ADMINISTRATEUR DES SERVICES FINANCIERS	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, BP. 7012, OUAGA
	ZONGO BARRE IZACK	CHARGE DU SUIVI DES INSTITU- TIONS FINANCIERES INTER- NATIONALES	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, IDGTCP, 01 BP. 92, OUAGA 01
	N'DO FIRMIN	CHARGE D'AFFAIRES P.I.	170 MOSHOOD OLUGBANI S'TREET, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS
CABO VERDE	MOREIRA CORREIA FRANCISCO	TECHNICAL ADVISER	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COORDINATION, BP. 333, PRAIA
	OSVAL ROCHA	DIRECTEUR DE LA DETTE PUBLIQUE	MINISTERE DE LA COORDINATION ECONOMIQUE, PRAIA, Tel. 616281, Fax.614640, CP. 20

COUNTRY / PAYS	NAME / NOM	TITLE / FONCTION	ADDRESS / ADRESSE
COTE D'IVOIRE	BOUBLI GOREDJE BENOIT	DIRECTEUR DES AFFAIRES ECONOMIQUES EXTERIEURES	BP. V 288, ABIDJAN
	DAGNOGO ABDOULAYE	ATTACHE DES FINANCES, CHEF DE SERVICE DES REGIMES COMMERCIAUX PREFERENTIELS	DIRECTION AFFAIRES ECONOMIQUES EXTERIEURES, MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, BP. V 288, ABIDJAN, IMMEUBLE SIAM, 6ème ETAGE, Tel. 225385-87
	TOBOKOUE KOYEMAN	S/D AFRIQUE, DIRECTION AFRIQUE - ASIE - M. O.	MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES, BP. V 109, ABIDJAN, Tel. 320888 - P.4236 et 326063
THE GAMBIA	MABA J. O. JOBE	AMBASSADOR	THE GAMBIA HIGH COMMISSION, LAGOS
	BAI IBRAHIM JOBE	PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST	DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT, Tel. 228896, Fax : 227756
GHANA	GRIFFITH DANGO APATU	HEAD, ACP/EU/ECOWAS SECRETARIAT	MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ACCRA
	KWAME AMOA-AWUA	DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER	GHANA HIGH COMMISSION, LAGOS
GHANA	MRS. IRENE MAAMAH	SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICER	MINISTRY OF FINANCE, P.O. BOX M40, ACCRA

COUNTRY / PAYS	NAME / NOM	TITLE / FONCTION	ADDRESS / ADRESSE
GUINEE	MADIKABA CAMARA	MINISTRE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DU COMMERCE	BP. 468, CONAKRY
	DIALLO SAIDOU	DIRECTEUR DE L'INTEGRATION ECONOMIQUE	MINISTERE DU PLAN ET DE LA COOPERATION, BP. 1210, CONAKRY
	N'FALY SANOH	DIRECTEUR NATIONAL ADJOINT DE L'INTEGRATION ECONOMIQUE	MINISTERE DU PLAN ET DE LA COOPERATION, BP. 1210, CONAKRY
GUINEE-BISSAU	JAURA MALAM	DIRECTEUR DE L'INTEGRATION REGIONAL ET SOUS-REGIONAL	SECRETARIAT D'ETAT DU COMMERCE, INDUSTRY ET TOURISME, P.O. BOX 85, BISSAU
LIBERIA	SANDRA P. HOWARD (MRS.)	MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RANDALL STREET, BOX 9016, MONROVIA, TEL. & FAX (213) 226075
	KWEKWE Y. WASHINGTON	ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RANDALL STREET, BOX 9016, MONROVIA, TEL. & FAX (213) 226075
MALI	DIOP MAMADOU OUMAR	CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE, DU PLAN ET DE L'INTEGRATION, BP. E3062, BAMAKO, Tel. (223)231475/221677, Fax : (223)231255 Telex : 2746

COUNTRY / PAYS	NAME / NOM	TITLE / FONCTION	ADDRESS / ADRESSE
MALI	TOURE ABDOULAYE	INSPECTEUR DES FINANCES	MINISTERE DES FINANCES, BP. 234, BAMAKO
MAURITANIA	ABDEL KADER BOYE	INSPECTEUR DES DOUANES	DIRECTION GENERALE DES DOUANES, BP. 198, Tel. 51404, NOUAKCHOTT (RIM)
NIGER	MOUTARI OUSMANE	SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT	MINISTERE DE L'INTEGRATION AFRICAINE, NIAMEY
	SOULEY ADAMOU	CHEF DIVISION CEDEAO/DIER/MP	MINISTERE DU PLAN, BP. 862, NIAMEY, TEL. (00227) 723245
	ISSA ALI	CHEF SERVICE CONTROLE DES RECETTES	DIRECTION DU BUDGET, BP. 295, NIAMEY, MINISTERE DES FINANCES
NIGERIA	MUHAMMAD LELE MUHTAR	PERMANENT SECRETARY	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, ABUJA
	PETER AKINOLA ADEGBAYO	DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, LAGOS
	TOKUNBO LIJADU-OYEMADE (MRS.)	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (REGIONAL COOPERATION)	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, LAGOS
	TAJUDEEN KAYODE JINADU	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, ABUJA

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NIGERIA	RAZAQ A. OKENEYE	ASSISTANT CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, IKOYI, LAGOS
	UMOESSIEN ENOBONG F.	PRINCIPAL PLANNING OFFICER	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, IKOYI, LAGOS
	JOHN. A. OLAWALE	CHIEF ECONOMIC OFFICER	ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, THE PRESIDENCY, ABUJA
	A. H. OBOH	SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, LAGOS
SENEGAL	MASSOKHNA KANE	MINISTRE DELEGUE AUPRES DU PREMIER MINISTRE CHARGE DE L'INTEGRATION ECONOMIQUE AFRICAINE	BUILDING ADMINISTRATIF, 3E ETAGE
	SALIOU CISSE	AMBASSADEUR DU SENEGAL AU NIGERIA	14 KOFO ABAYOMI STREET, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS
	SAMBOU OUMANE TOURE	DIRECTEUR DES ORGANISATIONS ET COMMUNAUTES INTERAFRICAINES	MINISTERE CHARGE DE L'INTEGRATION ECONOMIQUE AFRICAINE, BUILDING ADMINISTRATIF, 3è ETAGE, DAKAR
SIERRA LEONE	JOE C. BLELL	HIGH COMMISSIONER	31, WAZIRI IBRAHIM STREET, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS
TOGO	AMOUSSOU-GUENOU ASSIBA	SECRETAIRE D'ETAT CHARGE DES FINANCES ET DU BUDGET	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, BP. 387, LOME

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TOGO	ATI-ATCHA TCHA-GOUNI	SECRETAIRE D'ETAT CHARGE DU PLAN ET DE L'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE	MINISTERE DU PLAN ET DE L'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE, LOME
	ADELEYE ADELEKE	CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, BP. 387, LOME
	AFIDEGNON DAN	CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE	MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES, BP. 387, LOME
	AFANGBOM K. DJODJI	CHEF DIVISION DES ETUDES TECHNIQUES	MINISTERE DU PLAN ET DE L'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE, LOME
OBSERVER	TARO SIMON	SECRETAIRE GENERAL	CMJS/CEDEAO, BP. 5559, OUAGADOUGOU, 01
EXTERNAL AUDITOR	B. I. OLANIRAN	EXTERNAL AUDITOR	AKINTOLA WILLIAMS & CO., LAGOS
ECOWAS SECRETARIAT	LANSANA KOUYATE	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	ECOWAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, 6 KING GEORGE V ROAD, P.M.B. 12745, LAGOS
	ALH. I. A. USMAN	FINANCIAL CONTROLLER	" "
	DR. J. A. ARIJE	ACTG. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ADMIN. & FINANCE)	" "
	FRANK OFEI	ACTG. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS)	" "

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ECOWAS SECRETARIAT	G. A. HAMIDOU	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	ECOWAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, 6 KING GEORGE V ROAD, P.M.B. 12745, LAGOS
	GILLES HOUNKPATIN	DIRECTOR OF TRADE, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, MONEY AND PAYMENT	" "
	KOFFI KOUADIO	DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESSOURCES	" "
	ROGER LALOUPO	DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS	" "
	DR. ANDRIENNE DIOP	DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION	" "
	DR. M. O. AFOLABI	DIRECTOR, CCC	COMMUNITY COMPUTER CENTRE, LOME
	GUEYE MAMADOU	Ag. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS	ECOWAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, 6 KING GEORGE V ROAD, P.M.B. 12745, LAGOS
	DR. MAN M. B. JOOF	HEAD, DIVISION OF ADMIN.	" "
	DOUAYE FAYE	CONFERENCE OFFICER	" "
	MRS. A. AHMED	PRINCIPAL OFFICER, LEGAL	" "
H. A. WARKANI	LIBRARIAN/DOCUMENTALIST	" "	

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ECOWAS SECRETARIAT	SOW YAYA	PRINCIPAL OFFICER P.I., RESEARCH	ECOWAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, 6 KING GEORGE V ROAD, P.M.B. 12745, LAGOS
	IBRAHIMA GUEYE	CHEF DE SECTION BUDGET	" "
	GABRIEL HOUNSOU	INTERPRETER	" "
	AKIN MEDEIROS	INTERPRETER	" "
	MRS. O. SIMPSON	INTERPRETER	" "
	MS. JIBOLA SOFOLAIHAN	INTERPRETER	" "
	O. DARAMOLA	REVISOR, ENGLISH	" "
	OUMAROU DOUASSOU	TRANSLATOR	" "
	A. AGURI	TRANSLATOR	" "
	SIKA TRAORE	TRANSLATOR	" "
	A. O. SANGHO	MAINTENANCE ENGINEER	" "
ECOWAS FUND	DRABO D. BARTELEMY	DIRECTEUR GENERAL P.I.	FONDS DE LA CEDEAO, LOME
	ANTONIO PEDRO MONTEIRO LIMA	SECRETAIRE GENERAL	FONDS DE LA CEDEAO, LOME
	GOTTFRIED EMMANUEL ODOTEI MANIESON	LEGAL ADVISER	ECOWAS FUND, BP. 2704, LOME
	THEOPHILUS O. S. JOHN	DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL AUDIT	ECOWAS FUND, BP. 2704, LOME

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ECOWAS FUND	CEPHAS POBI	PROJECT MANAGER	ECOWAS FUND, BP. 2704, LOME
	ZOCLI JOSEPH	DIRECTEUR DE L'ADMINISTRATION P.I.	FONDS DE LA CEDEAO, LOME
	B. M. IFO	ACTING TREASURER	ECOWAS FUND, BP. 2704, LOME
	M. B. AGBADAN	DIRECTEUR DES FINANCES P.I.	FONDS DE LA CEDEAO, LOME
	DUNSTANETTE MACAULEY	HEAD OF CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION	ECOWAS FUND, BP. 2704, LOME

