



EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 25 October 2013

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. With the view to enhancing the economic integration process in West Africa, the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government met in Extraordinary Session in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 25 October 2013 under the chairmanship of H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Authority.

2. The following Heads of State and Government or their duly mandated representatives were in attendance:

- H.E. **Thomas Boni YAYI**, President of the Republic of Benin
- H.E. **Blaise COMPAORE**, President of Burkina Faso
- H.E. **José Maria Pereira NEVES**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde
- H.E. **Alassane OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Mrs **Ajaratou Isatou NJIE-SAIDY**, Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia
- H.E. **Kwesi AMISSAH-ARTHUR**, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana
- H.E. **Alpha CONDE**, President of the Republic of Guinea
- H.E. **Manuel Sérifo NHAMAJO**, Interim President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
- H.E. Mrs **Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia
- H.E. **Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA**, President of the Republic of Mali

- H.E. **Mahamadou ISSOUFOU**, President of the Republic of Niger
- H.E. **Macky SALL**, President of the Republic of Sénégal
- H.E. **Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE**, President of the Togelese Republic
- H.E. **Ngozi OKONJO-IWEALA**, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- H.E. **Samura M. W. KAMARA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone

3. The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Mali and Sahel, the President of the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Guinea Bissau, as well as the Governor of the Central Bank of West Africa (BCEAO) also attended the Summit as observers.

4. The Summit took note of the memoranda presented by the President of the Commission, in particular on the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET), the Community Integration Levy (ICL), the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and the West African Monetary Integration Program (WAMIP). It further took note of the report of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on the Extraordinary Session of the Council, which met on 30 September 2013 to examine the issues related to the consolidation of the regional market.

5. Commending the quality of these reports, as well as the relevance of the various recommendations set out therein, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their strong commitment to the development of the region by deepening economic integration. After an exhaustive examination of the challenges facing this objective, the Authority made the following specific decisions:

CONSOLIDATION OF THE COMMON MARKET

6. The Heads of State and Government underscore the importance of a Customs Union as a decisive and irreversible phase in the process of consolidating the common market. Authority recalls its relevant past decisions aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the ECOWAS CET.

7. Authority commends in particular the participatory process that characterised the identification of the major axes of the deepening of the regional market and the flexibility demonstrated by Member States in arriving at a consensus on the final CET structure and all its supporting measures.

8. Determined to accelerate the process, the Heads of State and Government endorse the final structure of the CET as well as all the regulatory texts adopted by the 70th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and its Extraordinary Session, which took place in Abidjan on 30 September 2013.

9. Authority also endorses the Supplementary Protection Measures (SPM), which consist of the Import Adjustment Tax (IAT) and the Supplementary Protection Tax (SPT) to allow for progressive adjustment in the harmonious application of the CET, which comes into force on the 1 January 2015.

10. In this regard, Authority directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all the necessary measures within the framework of the institutional management mechanism of the CET to ensure the smooth operation of the arrangement in particular through periodic assessment of the implementation of this common market consolidation instrument.

11. Summit also directs the President of the Commission to take all necessary measures to support the Republic of Cape Verde to implement the CET taking due account of its specificity.

12. With a view to consolidating the regional market, Summit encourages Member States to scrupulously adhere to the Trade Liberalization Scheme, notably through the strict application of the ECOWAS Rules of Origin and the continuation of the efforts to eliminate all non-tariff barriers and reactivate the Community Industrial Policy. In that regard, the Heads of State and Government encourage H.E Blaise Compaore, President of Faso in the role and mission conferred on him by the 43rd Ordinary Session held in Abuja from 17 to 18 of July 2013 to promote the free movement of persons and goods.

13. Authority also directs the President of the Commission to establish a Task Force on the Trade Liberalization Scheme.

THE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION LEVY

14. Summit stresses the need for uniformity in duties and taxes necessary for the establishment of the CET. It reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of a single community levy in the Region's customs zone.
15. Authority decides to maintain the existing Community Levy in ECOWAS and UEMOA for a transitional period of five years
16. Authority directs the President of the Commission to expedite action on a study which in, addition to accessing their impact on the revenues of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions as well as those of the economies of Member States, would allow for convergence towards a single rate and a uniform taxable base at the end of the transitional period.
17. Authority underscores the fact that this convergence will not only allow for equity in the contributions of Member States to the integration efforts but it will also ensure conformity of the ECOWAS CET with WTO rules.

ECONOMIC PARTERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPA)

18. The Heads of State and Government reiterate their commitment to the conclusion of an equitable and development-oriented EPA. They commend the efforts being made by the two parties to the negotiations to identify areas of consensus and work towards compromise on persisting divergences.
19. Authority takes note of the new market access scenario attained by the Region and which take into account the required coherence with the CET and development objectives envisaged in the Agreement.
20. On the basis of the new proposals, Authority directs the chief negotiators for West Africa to expeditiously resume discussions with their European partners with a view to concluding the regional agreement as soon as possible. Summit further directs them to ensure that adequate financing is provided for EPADP and fiscal adjustment costs in order to ensure balance with the market access offer. Summit also directs them to put services and free movement of persons on top of the priorities during the negotiations.

21. Authority calls for the flexibility needed by the two parties in the search for compromise on all issues in the interest of the two Regions.

22. The Heads of State and Government designate H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, to oversee the negotiations in the search for compromises that are mutually beneficial to the parties.

23. Authority welcomes the spirit of cooperation between the Commissions of ECOWAS and UEMOA, which produced significant outcomes in the analysis of the various questions on the deepening of the economic integration process. It calls for the strengthening of this cooperation in the implementation of decisions taken to that effect. Authority commends the Presidents of the two Commissions, the Ministers and all stakeholders for their substantial contributions to the results obtained.

MONETARY INTEGRATION

24. The Heads of State and Government reaffirm their political will to establish a common currency for West Africa, as well as their commitment to the Monetary Cooperation Program and the roadmap adopted to that effect.

25. While commending the efforts made in the implementation of the roadmap, Authority expresses its determination to the emergence of the single currency.

26. To this end, Authority encourages all the Member States, in particular those in the Second West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), to take all the necessary measures to ensure the required convergence of their macro-economic policies for the establishment of a second monetary zone.

27. The Heads of State and Government entrust the role of facilitation and monitoring of the monetary convergence process to H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, and H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana.

28. Authority directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all the necessary steps in collaboration with the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA), and the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI), to support efforts of Member States in ensuring a smooth implementation of the activities on the roadmap of the ECOWAS single currency programme.

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29. Summit emphasizes that the construction of the regional market requires the consolidation of peace and security in West Africa, the basis for stability and development in the region.

30. In that regard, the Heads of State and Government reaffirm their commitment to the consolidation of the principles of democracy, good governance, peace and security as enshrined in the relevant texts of ECOWAS.

31. Having reviewed the political and security situation in the Region, Authority welcomes the positive evolution of the crisis in Mali through liberation of the territories in the North and the successful holding of the presidential election of 28 July and 11 August 2013.

32. The Heads of State and Government warmly congratulate H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on his overwhelming election to the highest office of Mali. Summit reiterates its support in meeting the challenges of reconciliation and reconstruction in the country. It encourages him in particular to intensify efforts towards the holding of the envisaged legislative elections.

33. Summit also commends the former Interim President, Dioncounda Traoré, the Transitional Government, the political parties and the entire Malian people, for their exemplary conduct in the electoral process.

34. The Heads of State and Government strongly condemn the continuing atrocities perpetrated by terrorists in the North of Mali and urge the allied forces to take further measures to beef up security in northern Mali. To that end, Authority urges the United Nations, the International Community and troop-contributing countries to take urgent measures to reinforce the MINUSMA.

35. On the situation in Guinea Bissau, Authority urges the Transitional Authorities and the other political actors to expedite preparations with a view to holding the general elections envisaged before the end of 2013. Authority expresses profound gratitude to Member States, which have agreed to make financial contributions to the electoral process.

36. Authority directs the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure the successful holding of the elections, particularly by deploying an electoral observation and security missions.

37. Summit strongly condemns the attack on the Nigerian Embassy in Guinea Bissau and the lynching of innocent Community citizens. It urges the authorities of Guinea Bissau to initiate the necessary investigations with a view to bringing the culprits to justice without delay.

38. Authority urges the Commission to expedite the implementation of the pertinent recommendations contained in the report of the mission of the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defense Staff.

39. Summit congratulates the ECOWAS mediators in the Malian crisis, their Excellencies Blaise Compaore, President of Faso and Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as the Chairman and members of the Regional Contact Group on Guinea Bissau, and also the ECOWAS Mediator in the Guinea Bissau crisis, H.E Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea.

40. Authority welcomes the organization of the legislative elections in Guinea and Togo, and congratulates the governments, political parties and the people for their commitment to strengthening the democratic culture. Summit appeals to the Guinean political parties to accord preference to dialogue and consultation and, when the necessary, to resort only to legal means to resolve any electoral disputes.

41. The Heads of State and Government express profound gratitude to H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Government and the people of Senegal for their generous and authentically African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Dakar, and for the facilities put at their disposal to ensure a successful Summit.

42. The Heads of State and Government wish to pay well-deserved tribute to H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government for his relentless efforts and commitment in the service of regional integration, peace and security in West Africa.

Done in Dakar this 25th Day of October, 2013

THE AUTHORITY



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Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 25th October 2013

VOTE OF THANKS

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States, meeting in Extraordinary Session on 25th October 2013 in Dakar to consider the ways and means of consolidating and deepening the economic integration process in West Africa, express our sincere gratitude to **His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall**, President of the Republic of Senegal, as well as his government and people, for the generous and authentically-African hospitality extended to us and to our delegations.

In view of the importance of the issues considered, we are equally grateful for the relaxed atmosphere that prevailed throughout our deliberations, as well as for the excellent facilities made available to us to ensure a successful conduct of our Session.

We, the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, express sincere gratitude to **His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and current Chairman of the Authority, for the efficient manner in which he presided over our deliberations, which contributed significantly to the formulation of relevant decisions.

DONE AT DAKAR, THIS 25TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2013

THE AUTHORITY