

**COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO**

**ECOWAS COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

**MEETING OF ECOWAS MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Abuja, 14 June, 2007**

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**FINAL REPORT**

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**ECOWAS Commission  
Abuja, June 2007**

1. The meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council was held at the Headquarters of the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 14th June 2007, to review the political and security situation in the sub-region.

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

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- 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 organizations were also represented:

- The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)
- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- The Special Representatives of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea and Togo

4. The list of participants is annexed.

#### **I. Opening Ceremony**

5. On behalf of the President, the representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ambassador, Hakeem Baba-Ahmed welcomed the ministers and heads of delegations present at the meeting and wished them fruitful deliberations.

6. In his opening speech, His Excellency, Mr. Djibrill Yipènè BASSOLE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, and Chairman of the Mediation and Security Council also welcomed his colleagues to Abuja and requested that a minute silence should be observed in honour of the Togolese Minister of Youth and Sports and other delegates killed in the helicopter crash on Sunday 3 June 2007 at the Lungi International airport, Sierra Leone. He then expressed gratitude to His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his role in the consolidation of democracy and integration process in the sub-region.

7. Reviewing the security situation in the sub-region, Mr. Djibrill Yipènè BASSOLE stressed the urgent need to promote the free movement and stability in our borders in order to ensure peace and security, essential conditions for strengthening regional integration within ECOWAS. He stressed that further discussions should be undertaken in this regard.

8. In turn, the President of the Commission, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, congratulated Mr. Bassolé on his appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, current chairman of the Mediation and Security Council. After reviewing the political and security situation in the sub-region, he then paid special tribute to the Heads of State, for their untiring efforts at promoting regional peace and stability.

9. Mr. Abou Moussa, Acting Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Cote d'Ivoire, and Ambassador Kehinde Olisemeka, Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission in Côte d'Ivoire updated the Council on Côte d'Ivoire and expressed appreciation for the notable progress made in the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement.

10. Mrs. Marie Thérèse A. Keita representing His Excellency Ahmedu Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in West Africa congratulated the Chairman of the Council and expressed the willingness of the Office of the Special Representative to cooperate with ECOWAS in the implementation of programmes identified. She specifically underscored the urgent need to consider the issues of migration, youth unemployment, drug and human trafficking, consolidation of democracy and human rights in West Africa.

## **II. Election of Bureau**

11. The bureau was composed as follows:

- President: Burkina Faso
- Rapporteurs: Republic of Sierra Leone  
Republic of Benin

## **III. Adoption of Agenda**

12. The following Agenda was adopted:

### **a. Opening Ceremony**

- Welcome address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Opening Address by His Excellency Djibrill Yipènè BASSOLE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, Chairman of the Mediation and Security Council.
- Statement by Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission.

### **b. Closed Door Session**

- Election of Bureau.
- Adoption of Draft Agenda.
- Presentation of the Report the Inaugural Meeting of the Technical Expert Committee for Political Affairs, Peace and Security
- Any Other Business

### **c. Closing Ceremony**

- Adoption of the Report.

- Vote of Thanks.
- Closing Remarks by the Chairman of the Meeting

#### **IV. Presentation of the Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Technical Committee for Political Affairs, Peace And Security**

13. Mr. Gansore Lazare, Director of the African Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, Chairman of the Committee of Experts, summarized the deliberations of the Experts Committee on the Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

14. After clarification and discussions, Council made the following observations and recommendations:

14.1. The Security situation in the sub-region was an information report requiring no decision. However, qualitative contributions were made which reflected satisfaction with the trends of improvement of the political and security situation.

14.2. On the theme of consolidation of democracy, Benin delegation proposed that the Commission should undertake a study on the funding of elections in West Africa. UNOWA Representative expressed interest and availability to collaborate with ECOWAS in this issue which will be addressed during the Praia workshop of Heads of electoral commissions.

14.3. In respect of the Troika report, further clarification was sought by Benin delegates on the status of EPA. The President of ECOWAS Commission provided valuable information.

- ECOWAS and WAMU, cognizant of the adverse effects of liberalization on fragile and unprepared economies, and the necessity to put in place the appropriate measures to bring up to competitive stance of such economies, as to engage in negotiation process with the European Union. The appointed negotiators put forth the following prerequisites:

- Necessity of interim accord pending the finalization of the negotiations sustained by flexible agenda to take into consideration African vulnerabilities;
  - The necessity for a compensatory fund to cater for the adjustment cost and loss of revenues subsequent to the liberalization of unprepared sectors of markets;
  - The drafting and implementation of a sub-regional economic, trade and investment policy which will pave the way to boost the required dynamics necessary for the adjustment to a free market;
  - An access to European markets under favourable conditions for local products from the sub-region;
  - A more balanced impact studies of the West African economies to avoid biased approach to liberalization of sensitive economic sectors or activities.
- These prerequisites were somehow taken into account within the negotiation process. On July 20, 2007, a joint meeting of ministers of Finance, Trade, Integration and Foreign Affairs will be held in Accra to share information and agree on a common approach on the future steps on EPA negotiations. To this end, ECOWAS and UEMOA (chief negotiators) will require a specific mandate to carry out the next step of negotiation on behalf of the sub-region at the July 27 of Abuja meeting with duly mandated representatives of EU. Following the presentation made by the Dr. Ibn Chambas, the necessity to provide the relevant ministries with pertinent information related to EPA was highly expressed. Subsequently, the President of the Commission agreed to provide the requested information prior to Accra meeting. The delegate of Cote d'Ivoire informed the Council that governmental seminar on EPA was planned to be held very soon in his country. He decided to share the results of the seminar with his peers.

14.4. On migrations: Recalling that the Council gave a specific mandate to ah-hoc technical committee to undertake a study, the Council acknowledged the report presented. The Council, however, decided to follow the recommendation of the

committee of experts not to adopt the report. The report should be shared with all stakeholders and finalized for presentation at the next meeting of the Council.

14.5. On the issue of relocation of the Logistics Depot in Freetown, Council took note of the recommendations of the Chief of Defence Staff based on technical criteria to consider the site of Hastings airfield as unfit to harbour the ESF Logistics Depot. However, Council decided that the Commission should prepare a more elaborate decision paper with subsequent draft resolution to be presented to its next session for appropriate decision.

14.6. Council took note of the recommendation of the Liberian delegation as follows: *Recalling that all ECOWAS Member States either co-sponsored or voted in favor of an "Arms Trade Treaty": UN General Assembly Resolution 61/89 in December 2006. Recognizing that an Arms Trade Treaty would complement the achievement of ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunitions and other Related Materials, we support a strong and effective legally-binding treaty on the international trade in conventional weapons based upon existing commitment under international law. We further affirmed that those ECOWAS Members that have not done so will submit their views on an Arms Trade Treaty to the United Nations Secretary General.*

## **V. Any other Business**

15. The representative of Sierra Leone thanked the Chairman of ECOWAS, the President of the Mediation and Security Council and the President of ECOWAS Commission for their commitment to our community and for their tireless efforts at promoting peace and stability in our sub-region. He seized the occasion to present condolences to the Government and people of Togo following the fatal helicopter crash in Lungi Airport. He further informed the Council of the setting up of an investigation committee on the matter with the participation of Togolese experts and the result of that investigation will be made known to the entire world.

## **VI. Closing Ceremony**

### **▪ Adoption of the Report**

16. Council adopted the report of the technical committee of experts on Political Affairs, Peace and Security, to be incorporated to this report.

- **Vote of Thanks**

17. The Ambassador of the Republic of Niger in Abuja representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs read the vote of thanks.

- **Closing Remarks**

18. In his closing remarks, His Excellency, Mr. Djibrill Yipènè Bassolé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, and Chairman of the Mediation and Security Council thanked all participants for their useful contributions and wished them a safe journey back to their respective destinations.

**DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2007**

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**H. E. DJIBRILL YIPÈNÈ BASSOLÉ**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**FOR THE MEETING**

**COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO**

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**VOTE OF THANKS**

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The Mediation and Security Council of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), meeting in Abuja on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007 wish to seize this opportunity to express their deepest appreciation to His Excellency, Umaru Yar'Adua, President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to the Government and people of Nigeria for the particularly warm and brotherly welcome and the hospitality extended to its members as well as the excellent facilities put at their disposal to ensure a smooth and successful meeting.

They further expressed their gratitude to the Chair of the Mediation and Security Council for the competent and efficient manner in which he guided their work which greatly facilitated the success of the meeting.

Lastly, the Ministers seized the opportunity to pay tribute to His Excellency Djibrill Bassolé and to express their deepest gratitude for his leadership in promoting regional peace and security as well as strengthening the development and integration process of the Member States of ECOWAS.

**DONE THIS DAY, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007  
MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL**