

Economic Community of West African States, African Regional Bodies

Regulation C/REG.14/12/03 on the Establishment of a Unit for Gender, Child and Youth Matters within the Human Development Department of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS

Legislation as at 18 December 2003

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Economic Community of West African States

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The Council of Ministers,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its compositions and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 63 of the Treaty on Women and Development which mandates all Member States to formulate, harmonise, coordinate and establish appropriate policies and mechanisms for the enhancement of the economic, social and cultural conditions of women;

CONSIDERING the recommendations of the meeting of Ministers of Women Affairs of ECOWAS Member States held in Abuja on 9th December 2002, for the establishment of a Gender Management Systems Structure in the Sub-region which will facilitate the application of Gender mainstreaming principles within the Community and the evolution of an ECOWAS Gender Policy;

RECOGNISING that within the framework, of ECOWAS integration objectives, a Gender Policy will enhance the participation and contribution of all sectors of the population, including women, and key partners in socio-economic development in a way that brings about social justice and equitable living standards;

MINDFUL of the responsibility of the Council of Ministers as prescribed under Article 10 (3) of the ECOWAS Treaty to approve the organizational structure of the Institutions of the Community;

DESIRING to create structures at the level of the Executive Secretariat that will ensure development of Gender policies, programmes and projects and promote the establishment and maintenance same within Member States of the Community;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the forty-ninth session of the Council of Ministers held in Dakar, 26-28 January 2003;

ENACTS

Article 1

A Unit for Gender, Child and Youth matters is hereby established in the Human Development Department of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS.

Article 2

This Unit shall, amongst other duties, ensure the development of a gender policy for the sub-region, prepare and coordinate related programmes and projects, and facilitate the harmonization of gender policies within the Member States.

Article 3

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall be published in the *National Gazette* of each Member State within the same time frame.

Done at Accra, this 18th day of December 2003

Hon. (Dr) Kofi Konadu Apraku

Chairman for Council