



of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

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DECISION A/DEC.1/8/97 ON GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO THE STUDY GROUP FOR RESEARCH ON DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (GERDES)

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 61 of the Revised Treaty by which Member States undertake to mobilise the various sections of the population in order to ensure their effective participation and involvement in the activities of the Community;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.9/8/94 dated 6th August, 1994 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government establishing Regulations for the granting to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) the status of Observer within the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles adopted in Abuja on 6th July, 1991 whereby the Heads of State expressed their aim of achieving and promoting economic cooperation and integration within a political environment of peace, security and stability;

DESIRING to ensure effective implementation of the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles;

AWARE of the need to encourage non-partisan organisations whose aim is to promote and consolidate the principles of democracy;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Study Group for Research on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa (GERDES) in promoting through its activities, a culture of democracy in Africa;

CONSIDERING Recommendation C/REC.1/11/96 of the fortieth session of the Council of Ministers held in Lome from 21st to 22nd November, 1996;

DECIDES

Article 1

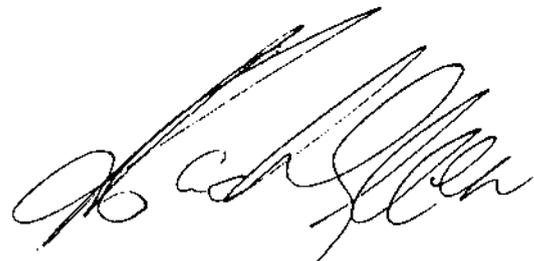
The Study Group for Research on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa (GERDES) is hereby granted within the Institutions of the Economic Community of West African States, the status of observer in category "A".

Article 2

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC/1.2/8/97 ESTABLISHING THE ECOWAS ORDER OF MERIT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ECOWAS GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.9/12/94 of the Council of Ministers adopting the ECOWAS Priority Programme of Action on Information which inter-alia, called for the institutionalisation of the ECOWAS Order of Merit and the appointment of ECOWAS Goodwill Ambassadors;

AWARE that a great number of ordinary Community citizens have distinguished themselves in various fields and are serving as role models in promoting the ideals and objectives enshrined in the Treaty;

DESIRING to recognise and use this category of people to further the cause of integration both within and outside the region;

DESIRING also to establish criteria for the award of the ECOWAS Order of Merit and for the appointment of ECOWAS Goodwill Ambassadors;

On the RECOMMENDATION of the fortieth session of the Council of Ministers held in Lome from 21st to 22nd November, 1996;

DECIDES

Article 1

Establishment

The award of the ECOWAS Order of Merit to deserving recipients is hereby established. Also established is the conferment of the title of ECOWAS Goodwill Ambassador to an outstanding recipient of the Order of Merit.

Article 2

Eligibility

The following shall be eligible for the award of an ECOWAS Order of Merit:

- (a) a citizen of an ECOWAS Member state;
- (b) a corporate body duly established in a Member State;
- (c) eminent international or regional personalities or organisations that have distinguished themselves in the promotion of ECOWAS.

Article 3

Nominations

Nominations of recipients shall be received from the following:

- (a) For Community citizens; from their Member States;
- (b) For eminent international personalities or organisations, from the Executive Secretariat.

Article 4

Criteria of the Award of the Order of Merit

1. A candidate for an award should have the following qualities:
 - (a) shall have distinguished himself in the areas of art, culture, information, science, agriculture, education, sports, or any other area relevant to the ideals and objectives of ECOWAS;
 - (b) shall be a person of high moral and intellectual integrity and probity, and,
 - (c) shall be a person committed to the defence and promotion of the ideals and objectives of ECOWAS.
2. In exceptional circumstances, the award of an Order of Merit can be made post-humously.

Article 5**Appointment of Goodwill Ambassadors**

1. Recipients of the ECOWAS Order of Merit, considered suitable, may be appointed as ECOWAS Goodwill Ambassadors.
2. An ECOWAS Goodwill Ambassador may, from time to time, be called upon to execute certain tasks that promote ECOWAS objectives and ideals.

Article 6**Procedure of Award**

1. The award of the Order of Merit and of the title of Goodwill Ambassador shall be conferred by the Authority upon the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.
2. All nominations for award shall be made through the Executive Secretariat which shall appraise them and submit to the Human Resources, Information, Social and Cultural Affairs Commission (the Commission).
3. The Commission shall consider each nomination on its merit using the criteria stated above, and shall thereafter submit its findings to the Council of Ministers.
4. The Council of Ministers shall make its recommendations on each nomination to the Authority of Heads of State and Government.
5. The awards and conferments shall be made to recipients by the Chairman of Authority during an Ordinary Session of the Authority.

Article 7**Withdrawal**

1. Withdrawal of the award of an Order of Merit and the title of Goodwill Ambassador may be made upon the relevant justification of a Member State and/or the Executive Secretariat.
2. The following reasons may be accepted as basis for withdrawal:
 - (a) use of the award to commit fraudulent practices that are likely to bring the Community into disrepute;
 - (b) the recipient is carrying out activities that are contrary to the interests of ECOWAS;
 - (c) any other reason as may be considered appropriate by the Council of Ministers.

3. Withdrawal shall be made by the Authority upon the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

Article 8**Miscellaneous Provisions**

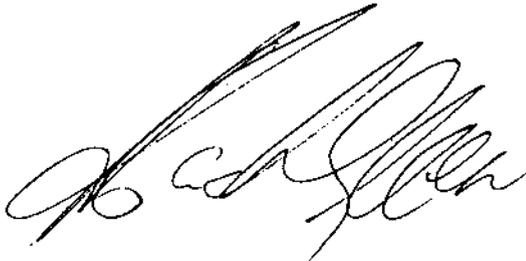
1. The award of the Order of Merit and the conferment of the title of Goodwill Ambassador shall, as far as possible, be spread evenly, to reflect the diversities of the region.
2. The award of the Order of Merit and the title of Goodwill Ambassador do not attract any pecuniary remuneration or other benefits. However, with regard to assignments which the Goodwill Ambassadors may be called upon to execute, they shall be accorded hospitality according to the terms and conditions applicable within Executive Secretariat for similar eminent personalities.

Article 9**Publicity**

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

**DECISION A/DEC/3/8/97 LAUNCHING THE
SECOND ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PRIORITY PROGRAMME (INTELCOM II)**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

RECOGNISING that the INTELCOM I programme has fulfilled the expectations of Member States;

RECOGNISING that it is necessary to implement the second ECOWAS Telecommunications Priority Programme known as INTELCOM II;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection of ECOWAS countries by modern and feasible telecommunications systems remains a cardinal condition for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of the institutional changes within the telecommunications sector which have led to the emergence of private operators;

NOTING the diversity of the technological standards applied in the installation of telecommunications infrastructures in the West African sub-region;

NOTING also the existence of short, medium and long-term telecommunications master plans in Member States;

CONSIDERING the need to have a modern and reliable regional telecommunications network for the sustained economic development of West Africa;

On the **PROPOSAL** of the second meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Lome, on 11th July, 1997;

On the **RECOMMENDATION** of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

The ECOWAS Telecommunications Priority Programme (INTELCOM II) attached to this Decision is hereby adopted.

Article 2

Member States shall:

- facilitate the signing of roaming agreements between themselves;
- in collaboration with the private sector, take necessary action to ensure realisation of ECOWAS objectives at the national level;
- take necessary measures to facilitate intra-community transit.

Article 3

An appeal is hereby made to the international community to give **ECOWAS** the necessary support in mobilising financial resources for the implementation of the programme.

Article 4

The **Executive Secretariat** shall ensure as well as monitor the implementation of the programme in close collaboration with **Member States**.

Article 5

This Decision 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 Authority**.

It shall also be published within the same time-frame by each **Member State** in its National Gazette.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

SECOND ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRIORITY PROGRAMME (INTELCOM II)

A. The Convergence criteria for the INTELCOM II programme are as follows:

1. The Telecommunications Framework

The following regulatory framework shall be in place in all **Member States** by the year 2000.

- separation of postal and telecommunications services, and merging of national and international telecommunications branches;
- separation of operations and regulatory functions. Establishment or strengthening of an independent regulatory body in conformity with the political, legal and administrative system of each country;
- commercialisation of public enterprise which will then be granted full autonomy;
- possible privatisation of the public operator with the state as a partner;
- awareness on the part of operators that the sector has a mission to provide universal service.

2. Telephone Density

Telephone density figures for ECOWAS are derived from average estimated density for the **Member States**.

- 1 main line for 100 inhabitants by the year 2000, and 2 main lines for 100 inhabitants by 2005;
- By the year 2000, 2.5% of the total number of main lines in the country shall be located in the rural areas. The figure should be 5% by the year 2005;
- Shared lines (pay phones, telecentres etc.) shall comprise 3% of the total

number by the year 2000, and 5% by 2005.

3. *Full Digitalisation of the Network*

- the level of digital switching shall be 90% by the year 2000 and 100% by 2005;
- the level of digitalised transmission shall be 95% by the year 2000 and 100% by 2005;
- the standard digital system to be employed shall be the European EI;
- synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) shall be introduced into the networks by the year 2005.

4. *Integrated Systems Digital Network (ISDN)*

- Basic access (144 kb/s) shall be available to 5% of residential user by the year 2000;
- primary access (2.048 Mb/s) shall be available to 10% of professional users by the year 2000;
- the ISDN shall be available in all Member States not later than the year 2005.

5. *Intelligent Network*

- National networks shall include the minimal function "intelligent network" by the year 1997 and the integral function by 2005.

6. *Cellular Technology*

- All Member states shall operate cellular networks by the year 1999 at the latest;
- GMS shall be accepted as the digital standard for the entire community by the year 2005, and roaming agreements shall be signed by all States;
- Member States shall harmonise their

positions with regard to GMPCS systems by the year 1998.

7. *Information Super-highway*

- Direct access to the Internet and Global Information Highway by all States not later than the end of 1998; minimum output 128 kb/s.

8. *Standardisation of Telecommunications Hardware*

- adoption and definition of standards in order to improve interconnection, uniformity and compatibility of national networks;
- encourage limiting the number of systems of telecommunications equipment in each Member State in order to facilitate the maintenance of the inter-state network

9. *Industrialisation and Preferential Treatment for ECOWAS in the Supply of Equipment and Services.*

- encourage local manufacturing of telecommunications equipment in Member States;
- granting preferential community treatment for equipment produced wholly or partly in any Member State.

B. *The list of short and medium-term priority projects for the modernisation of inter-state links:*

- digitalisation of the Panaftel CIDA link;
- digitalisation of the Koalack-Banjul-Ziguinchor-Cacheu link;
- digitalisation of the Tambacounda-Kedougou-Mali-Conakry link;
- digitalisation of the Conakry-Freetown-Monrovia-Mt. Nimba-Abidjan-Accra link;
- digitalisation of the Accra-Lome-Cotonou-Lagos coastal link;

- commissioning of the Bissau-Conakry link;
- digitalisation of the following transversal links:
 - Bamako-Conakry;
 - Bamako-Abidjan;
 - Ouagadougou-Abidjan;
 - Ouagadougou-Accra;
 - Niamey - Sokoto - Ilorin - Ibadan - Lagos;
 - Niamey - Maradi - Katsina - Abuja - Lagos.

DECISION A/DEC/4/8/97 ESTABLISHING AN AD-HOC MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF A SINGLE MONETARY ZONE BY THE YEAR 2000

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

RECALLING its Decision A/DEC.6/5/83 taken in Conakry, on 30th May, 1983 relating to the commissioning of studies leading to the establishment of an ECOWAS Single Monetary Zone;

RECALLING further its Decision A/DEC.2/7/87 of 9th July, 1987 in Abuja on the adoption of an ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme with the objective of establishing a Single Monetary Zone;

COMMENDING the significant macro-economic reform measures that have been undertaken by many Member States to revitalise their national economies particularly in the areas of exchange control liberalisation, adoption of market determined exchange rates, and the reduction of budget deficits and inflation;

EXPRESSING concern about the slow pace of implementation of certain aspects of the Monetary Cooperation Programme;

DESIROUS of accelerating the implementation of sound economic management policies at regional and national levels required for the achievement of a viable single monetary zone by the target date of the year 2000;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1**Establishment**

An Ad-Hoc Monitoring Committee of Heads of State and Government for the creation of a Single Monetary Zone is hereby established.

Article 2**Composition**

The Ad-Hoc Committee shall be composed of the following Heads of State and Government of the following Member States:

- Republic of COTE D'IVOIRE;
- Republic of GHANA;
- Republic of MALI;
- Federal Republic of NIGERIA;
- TOGOLESE Republic.

Article 3**Mandate**

The Ad-Hoc Committee shall act on behalf of the Authority and is authorised to take all measures necessary to ensure the speedy and timely attainment of a single monetary zone.

Article 4**Powers**

The Ad-hoc Committee shall:

- (i) Establish a Ministerial and such other Technical Committees as it may consider necessary. The Ministerial Committee shall be composed of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks of Member States on the Ad-hoc Committee;
- (ii) Receive and consider reports from the Ministerial and Technical Committees on

progress being made in the establishment of the Single Monetary Zone;

- (iii) Evaluate the performance of Member States towards fulfilling the convergence criteria agreed upon;
- (iv) Make decisions to be observed by all Member States and issue directives to Member States concerned in order to correct any observed deviations from the macro-economic aggregate targets defined;
- (v) Recommend assistance of relevant international organisations and donor agencies to facilitate compliance by Member States;
- (vi) Propose new measures and orientations to enhance the achievement and functioning of a Single Monetary Zone;
- (vii) make recommendations on the readiness of Member States to enter into a Single Monetary Zone by the year 2000.

Article 5**Frequency of Meetings**

The Ad-Hoc Committee of Heads of State shall meet at least every six months. One of the meetings shall precede the Annual Ordinary Session of the Authority, which shall consider the annual report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the ECOWAS monetary integration programme. The Ministerial Committee and other technical Committees shall meet as often as necessary.

Article 6**Technical Assistance**

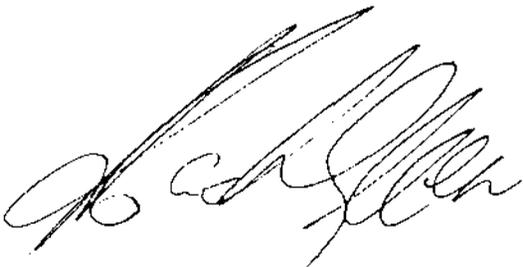
The Executive Secretary in collaboration with the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) Directorate shall provide every technical assistance needed, through the Ministerial Committee for the effective application of this Decision.

Article 7**Publication**

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

**DECISION A/DEC. 5/8/97 RELATING TO THE
ENHANCEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES OF THE ECOWAS FUND**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government 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 Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS FUND;

On the **RECOMMENDATION** of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

- (a) The payment of all arrears by Member States shall be a pre-condition for the opening of the FUND'S capital to non-regionals;
- (b) Member States shall clear all payment of arrears before the end of December, 1998;
- (c) The Management of the FUND shall strictly apply, during the transitional phase, the provisions of Articles 25 and 26 of the Protocol relating to the FUND concerning the Board of Directors and the procedure of the Board of Directors;
- (d) The principle of transformation of the FUND is hereby accepted. This transformation shall take into account the regional development and integration objectives.

Article 2

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC. 6/8/97 ON THE LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STAFF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION IN ABUJA

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of

Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 9/7/96 authorising the Executive Secretary to sign a loan agreement with the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the construction of residential quarters for staff of the Executive Secretariat in Abuja;

CONSIDERING that new and more favourable terms of the loan agreement have now been finalised between the Executive Secretariat and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

On the RECOMMENDATION of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

The modalities and conditions of repayment contained in Article 5 of the loan agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Executive Secretariat attached to this Decision are hereby approved.

Article 2

The Executive Secretariat shall immediately convene a meeting of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on Construction of Headquarters of the Community and shall take all necessary steps to commence and complete construction of the staff residential accommodation.

Article 3

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

**DECISION A/DEC. 7/8/97 EXTENDING THE
SCOPE OF ACTIVITY AND MANDATE OF
ECOMOG TO COVER SIERRA LEONE**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 1/11/90 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of 28th November, 1990 approving the creation of an ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group in Liberia;

CONSIDERING that the objectives being pursued by ECOWAS with regard to the situation prevailing in Sierra Leone following the coup d'etat of 25th May,

1997 are the speedy re-instatement of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the restoration of peace and security in Sierra Leone and the resolution of the problem of refugees and displaced persons;

WELCOMING the unreserved support of the United Nations Security Council and the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity for the above-mentioned objectives;

DEPLORING the breakdown on 30th July, 1997 of the negotiations between representatives of the illegal regime in Sierra Leone and the ECOWAS Ministerial Committee of Four set up to monitor the situation in Sierra Leone;

CONSIDERING that the intransigence and negative attitude shown by the junta constitute a serious obstacle to the efforts being made by ECOWAS to ensure a peaceful settlement of the crisis and poses a serious threat to peace and security in the sub-region;

DEEPLY concerned at the worsening of the crisis in Sierra Leone;

CONVINCED that the strict application of certain measures instituted to make possible the attainment of the objectives of ECOWAS requires the urgent intervention of the armed forces;

CONVINCED further that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia is the only Force in the Sub-region capable of prompt response to any requests in this regard and that it has the relevant expertise to achieve this purpose;

CONVINCED of the need to extend the scope of activity of ECOMOG to Sierra Leone and to modify its mandate accordingly;

On the RECOMMENDATION of the second meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Sierra Leone;

DECIDES

Article 1

Mandate in Sierra Leone

The scope of activity of ECOMOG is hereby extended

into the territory of Sierra Leone to assist in creating the conducive atmosphere that would ensure the early re-instatement of the legitimate government of Sierra Leone. To this end, it shall carry out the following tasks:

- (i) monitor and supervise all cease-fire violations;
- (ii) enforce the sanctions regime and the embargo instituted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government against the illegal regime; and
- (iii) undertake any other assignment in Sierra Leone as may be given to it by the Authority.

Article 2

Reports on Implementation

The Force Commander shall make fortnightly reports on the status of implementation of the mandate to the current Chairman of Authority.

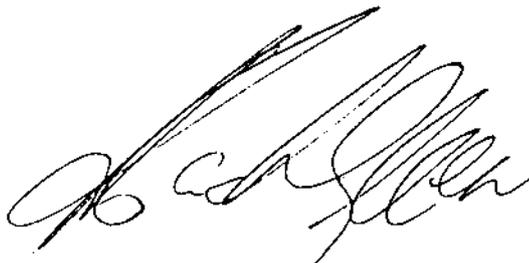
Article 3

Publication

This Decision shall enter into force upon signature and shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC.8/8/97 ON SANCTIONS AGAINST THE ILLEGAL REGIME IN SIERRA LEONE

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

RECALLING the decision taken on the situation in Sierra Leone by the Heads of State and Government of the OAU at their thirty-third ordinary session held in Harare, Zimbabwe;

RECALLING also Statement S/PRST/1997/29 of 27th May, 1997, Statement S/PRST/1997/36 of 11th July, 1997 and Statement S/PRST/1997/42 of 5th August, 1997 in which the President of the United Nations Security Council described as unacceptable the overthrow of the democratically-elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah; called for the immediate and unconditional return to the constitutional order in Sierra Leone and expressed the support of the Security Council for the objectives of ECOWAS in Sierra Leone;

CONSIDERING the fact that the worsening crisis in Sierra Leone has led to the increase in the number of Sierra Leonean refugees in neighbouring Member States; thus threatening peace and security in the sub-region;

BEARING IN MIND the ECOWAS objectives contained in the Final Communique of the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Conakry on 26th June, 1997;

DEEPLY concerned at the breakdown of negotiations in Abidjan on 30th July, 1997 between the ECOWAS Ministerial Committee of Four on Sierra Leone and the representatives of the illegal regime in Sierra Leone;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the second meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Sierra Leone held in Abuja on 27th and 28th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

The Community and its Member States re-affirm their decisions to spare no effort to restore the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to power as soon as possible.

Article 2

Member States hereby place a general and total embargo on all supplies of petroleum products, arms and military equipment to Sierra Leone. They shall also abstain from transacting any business of a commercial nature with that country. To this end, Member States shall:

- (a) prevent the sale or supply by their nationals or from their territories or the use of their flag vessels or aircraft, of petroleum or petroleum products or arms and related material of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, police equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, whether or not originating in their territories, to any person or legal entity, for the purpose of any business carried out in or operated from the Republic of Sierra Leone, and any activities by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote such sale or supply;
- (b) prohibit any and all traffic from entering the territory or territorial waters of the Republic of Sierra Leone, carrying petroleum or petroleum products, or arms and related material of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, police equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned;
- (c) prevent from entering their respective territories, all members of the illegal regime, as well as military officers, members of their families, and other persons directly or indirectly connected

with the regime and deny the use of their airspace to aircraft belonging to or carrying any member of the regime;

- (d) prevent any activities by their nationals or on their territories which would promote the export or transshipment of commodities or products originating in Sierra Leone and transactions by their nationals or flag vessels or aircraft or in their territory any commodities or products originating in the Republic of Sierra Leone or exported therefrom.

Article 3

Member States shall prohibit the importation of commodities and products originating in Sierra Leone and the exportation of goods to that country except goods meant for humanitarian purposes.

Article 4

Member States shall freeze funds held in their territories by members of the illegal regime, military officers and civilians directly or indirectly connected with the regime as well as their families.

Article 5

The embargo imposed by this decision shall not apply to arms, military equipment, military assistance, police equipment and spare parts meant for the exclusive use of the sub-regional forces which shall be responsible for applying the measures contained in this Decision.

Article 6

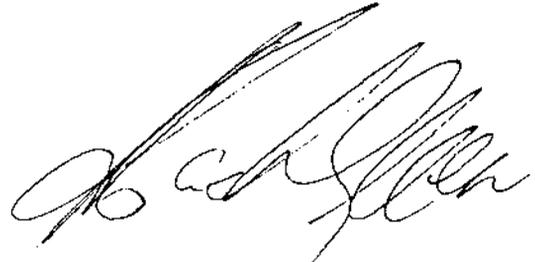
The sub-regional forces shall employ all necessary means to implement this decision. They shall monitor closely the coastal areas, land borders and airspace of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and shall inspect, detain and seize any ship, vehicle or aircraft violating the embargo stipulated in this decision.

Article 7

The Ministerial Committee of Four on Sierra Leone shall:

- (i) request all Member States to communicate to it, any new developments regarding measures taken to ensure effective implementation of this decision;
- (ii) analyse any information brought to its notice by Member States concerning violations of the sanctions contained in this decision and recommend appropriate measures;
- (iii) consider requests for permission to import into Sierra Leone, goods for humanitarian uses;
- (iv) report to the Authority regularly, information it may have obtained concerning alleged violations of this decision, and where possible, identify the persons or entities, including the vessels, vehicles or aircraft involved in such violations

**DONE IN ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

Article 8

The Ministerial Committee of Four shall make appropriate recommendations to the Authority on the implementation of this Decision.

Article 9

All Member States shall take necessary measures to ensure full implementation of this decision.

Article 10

ECOWAS shall seek the assistance of the United Nations Security Council to make these sanctions effective and binding on all members of the international community in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Article 11

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community and by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DECISION A/DEC. 9/8/97 EXTENDING THE TENURE OF THE ECOWAS CEASEFIRE MONITORING GROUP IN LIBERIA

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 1/8/90 of the Heads of State and Government of the Community Standing Mediation Committee establishing the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group in Liberia (ECOMOG) and Decision A/DEC.1/11/90 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government approving the said establishment;

MINDFUL of paragraph 4, Article 2 of the said Decision A/DEC. 1/8/90 which stipulates that "ECOMOG shall

remain in Liberia, if necessary, until the successful holding of general elections and the installation of an elected government”;

CONSIDERING that the successful organisation of special elections in Liberia in 1997 concluded the execution of the ECOWAS peace plan for that country;

FULLY SATISFIED that the elections culminated in the establishment of democracy and peace which could enhance prospects for reconciliation, rehabilitation and long-term development in Liberia;

AWARE that it is necessary for ECOMOG to remain in Liberia to consolidate the peace in that country;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Abuja on 27th and 28th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

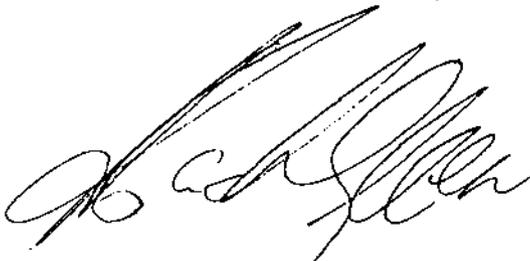
In order to consolidate peace, the tenure of the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia shall, at the request of the Government of Liberia, be extended for a period mutually agreed by both parties.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force upon signature. It shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat.

It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE IN ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997



H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY.

DECISION A/DEC. 10/8/97 RELATING TO THE RENEWAL OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF AKINTOLA WILLIAMS AND COMPANY AS EXTERNAL AUDITORS TO THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 10 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditors;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/7/91 relating to the selection and evaluation of the performance of statutory appointees of the Community, and particularly the provisions of Article 1(b) thereof, relating to the renewal of the term of office of the External Auditors and the evaluation report;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/7/92 relating to the appointment of the firm of AKINTOLA WILLIAMS and Company as External Auditors of the Community;

CONSIDERING that under the provision of Article 1(b) of Decision A/DEC.3/7/91 the mandate of the External Auditor may be renewed twice for a term of two years each;

CONSIDERING that the term of office of AKINTOLA WILLIAMS and Company was renewed once as indicated in Decision A/DEC.7/8/94;

CONSIDERING that during its mandate, AKINTOLA WILLIAMS and Company discharged its duties with competence and efficiency;

CONSIDERING Recommendation C/REC.7/8/97 of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

The term of office of *AKINTOLA WILLIAMS and*

Company as External Auditors to the Community Institutions is hereby renewed for a second term for a period of two years.

Article 2

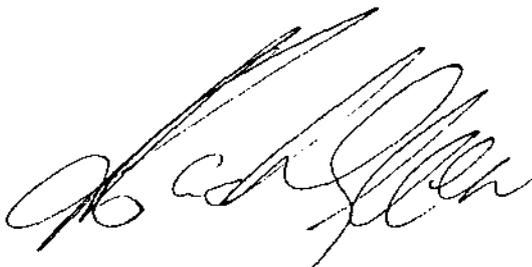
The second renewal of the term of office of **AKINTOLA WILLIAMS and Company** as External Auditors to the Community Institutions shall take effect from 1st August, 1996.

Article 3

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC.11/8/97 RELATING TO THE LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS AND EMBARGO AGAINST LIBERIA

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.8/7/92 of 29th July, 1992 relating to sanctions against Charles Taylor and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL);

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.1/10/92 of 20th October, 1992 relating to the implementation of Decision A/DEC.8/7/92 on sanctions against the parties to the Liberian conflict which fail to comply with the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Agreement of 30th October, 1991;

MINDFUL of Decision HSG C9-1/8/96 of 17th August, 1996, relating to the sanctions against persons who violate the ECOWAS Peace Plan for Liberia;

MINDFUL of Decision HSG C9/2/8/96 of 17th August, 1996 relating to the implementation of the arms embargo on Liberia;

MINDFUL of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 788 of 19th November, 1992, and 813 of 25th March, 1993;

CONSIDERING that the need to ensure compliance with the ECOWAS Peace Plan by the parties to the Liberian conflict led the Community decision-making bodies to impose sanctions against the parties failing to comply with the said plan;

CONSIDERING that in order to ensure that peace and stability prevailed in Liberia, Member States imposed a general and total embargo on all shipments of arms and military hardware to that country and obtained a similar Security Council Resolution in order to make the sanction universal and obligatory;

CONSIDERING that the successful organisation of

the special elections in Liberia in 1997 completed the execution of the ECOWAS Peace Plan in that country;

CONVINCED that with the restoration of democracy and peace in Liberia, it is no longer necessary to maintain the embargo and any other sanctions imposed against Liberia;

DECIDES

Article 1

The Member States hereby immediately lift the embargo on the import of arms and military hardware to Liberia as well as all other sanctions imposed against Liberia and all the parties to the Liberian conflict.

Article 2

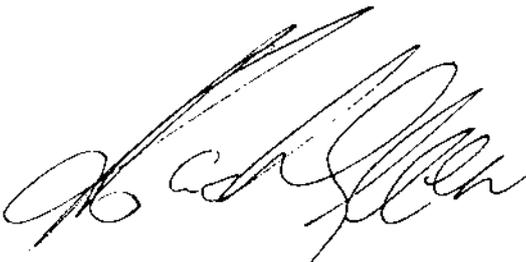
The Executive Secretary shall request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to have the embargo imposed against Liberia by the Security Council lifted.

Article 3

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC.12/8/97 RELATING TO THE FREQUENCY AND VENUES OF ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETINGS

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 8 of the Treaty relating to the frequency of ECOWAS summit meetings;

CONSIDERING that more frequent summit meetings would enable the Heads of State to give a better orientation and the necessary impulse to the accelerated development of the integration process;

AWARE of the need to take prompt and appropriate action on important economic and political issues concerning the sub-region;

CONVINCED that more frequent summit meetings would make it possible to revitalise national executing agencies and make them more conscious of their responsibilities;

DESIROUS of organising two summit meetings each year, the first at the ECOWAS Secretariat and the second in other Member States on a rotative basis, in order to promote greater interest and commitment to the integration process among citizens of the Community;

DECIDES

Article 1

Frequency of Meetings

The Authority shall meet in ordinary session twice a year.

Article 2

Venue of Meetings

One of the meetings shall be held at the ECOWAS

Secretariat and the other in other Member States on a rotative basis.

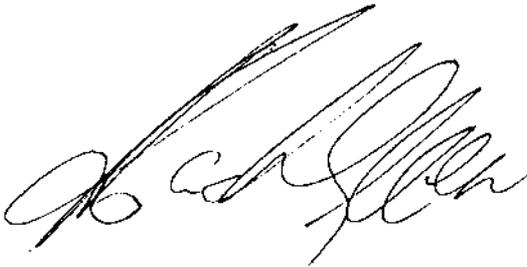
Article 3

Publication

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC.13/8/97 ON THE AWARD OF THE ECOWAS PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.14/5/82 establishing the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.6/2/93 appointing the members of the Jury for the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/92 approving the rules and regulations of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in African pharmacopoeia;

On the **RECOMMENDATION** of the International Jury for the award of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

CONSIDERING Recommendation C/REC.5/8/97 of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers, held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

The ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in the area of African Pharmacopoeia is hereby awarded to the following winners:

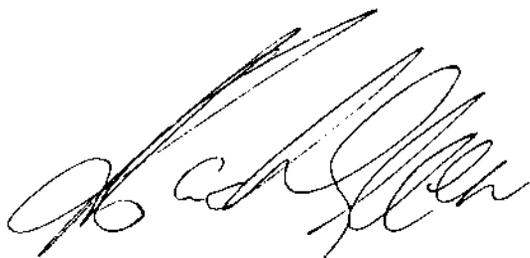
- Dr. Modou LO, for his work titled "*Contribution to Botanical and Physico-chemical Research on Sterculia Gum (Sterarliaceae): Development of Sigera Sterculia and its socio-economic impacts in Senegal*";
- Professor Augustine O. OKHAMAFE, for his work titled "*Extraction, development and utilisation of cellulose from selected agricultural waste as pharmaceutical excipient*".

Article 2

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

DECISION A/DEC.14/8/97 RELATING TO THE RE-ALLOCATION OF THE POST OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. LANSANA KOUYATE AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of

Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 18, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Revised Treaty relating to the appointment of the Executive Secretary;

CONSIDERING that the post of Executive Secretary of the Community shall become vacant on the 31st of August, 1997;

DECIDES

Article 1

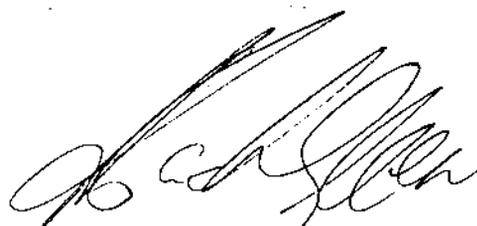
1. The statutory post of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States is hereby re-allocated to the Republic of Guinea.
2. Mr. Lansana KOUYATE is appointed to the post of Executive Secretary of the Community for a period of four years, with effect from 1st September, 1997, and shall assume duty on that day.

Article 2

This Decision 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 Authority.

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

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

RESOLUTION A/RES.1/8/97 ON THE URGENT APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY LEVY

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

CONSIDERING that all measures taken to prevail upon Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Community have not proved successful;

CONSIDERING the provisions of Protocol A/P.1/7/96 on conditions governing application of the Community levy;

RECALLING its appeal made on 27th July, 1996 to ratify the protocol on the Community levy before 31st December, 1996 and to implement its provisions as from 1st January, 1997;

NOTING that, as at 30th June, 1997, no instrument of ratification had been deposited with the Executive Secretariat in respect of the Protocol;

CONSIDERING that the absence of self-generated funds poses a serious obstacle to the functioning of the Community institutions and retards the regional integration process;

CONSIDERING Recommendation C/REC.1/7/97 of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

RE-AFFIRMING its commitment to pursue the goals of integration of Member States within a viable regional community;

CALLS on Member States to commence effective implementation as from 1st January, 1998 of the Protocol A/P1/7/96 on the Community levy;

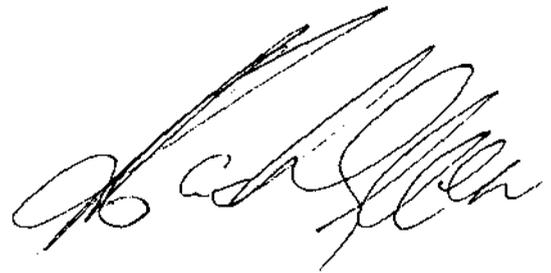
FURTHER CALLS on Member States to take appropriate administrative and legal measures immediately to ensure effective application of the

Community levy on the above-mentioned date and, consequently, to include the Community levy in their finance acts as from the 1998 fiscal year;

MANDATES the current Chairman of the Authority to pay particular attention and monitor the implementation of this Resolution;

DIRECTS the Executive Secretary to report on the difficulties encountered, to the Chairman of the Authority who shall consult his peers to find appropriate solution.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

RESOLUTION A/RES.2/8/97 RELATING TO PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN WEST AFRICA

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

BEARING in mind the Organisation of African Unity's Declaration and Plan of Action AHG/Decl 2 (xxxiii) on the abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs in Africa;

BEARING in mind also the wish expressed in Abuja on 27th July, 1996 by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to give impetus to waging a more energetic and better coordinated war against the drug phenomenon and related criminal activities in West Africa;

RECALLING the acceptance by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government of the offer made by the Government of Cape Verde to convene a ministerial conference to discuss all aspects of the drug problem;

ALARMED at the rapid spread of drugs not only in Member States but in all countries in the sub-region;

AWARE that if urgent measures are not taken to effectively combat it, the drug phenomenon may hamper the development of Member States, adversely affect the standard of living of the people, and threaten human rights and fundamental freedoms;

NOTING with satisfaction the outcome of the deliberations of the Conference of Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in West Africa held in Praia from 5th to 9th May, 1997 which discussed the spread of drugs and the resultant increase in criminal activities in West Africa;

NOTING also with satisfaction the United Nations Drug Control Programme's support and assistance to

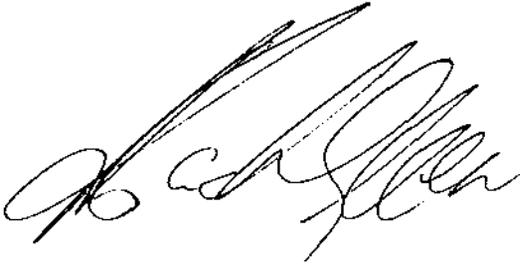
ECOWAS in the areas of prevention and control of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in the sub-region;

CONVINCED that the drug phenomenon can have destabilising and corruptive influences on social, economic and political institutions and so constitutes an increasing danger which requires a concerted response as well as increased and more effective cooperation among Member States;

On the **RECOMMENDATION** of the forty-first session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 26th August, 1997;

1. **EXPRESSES** its gratitude to the Government of Cape Verde for hosting the Conference of Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in West Africa.
2. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers.
3. **APPROVES** the Praia Declaration and Plan of Action attached to this Resolution and requests Member States to implement them as soon as possible.
4. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Drug Control Programme to continue its support and assistance to Member States and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat so that they can effectively execute the tasks included in the Praia Declaration and Plan of Action.
5. **DIRECTS** the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat:
 - (i) to monitor the implementation of the Praia Political Declaration and Plan of Action;
 - (ii) to report to future sessions of the Authority on the implementation of this Resolution.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sani Abacha', written in a cursive style.

**H.E. GENERAL SANI ABACHA
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

THE PRAIA POLITICAL DECLARATION

PRAIA, 9TH MAY, 1997

**CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR COORDINATION OF DRUG CONTROL
ACTIVITIES IN WEST AFRICA**

THE PRAIA POLITICAL DECLARATION

PRAIA, 9TH MAY, 1997

POLITICAL DECLARATION

WE Ministers responsible for coordination of drug control in Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

ACTING on the commitment of Heads of State and Government to support the ideals encapsulated in the Revised Treaty, within which is re-affirmed the establishment of ECOWAS;

BEARING in mind the wish expressed in Abuja on 27th July, 1996 by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to give impetus to waging a more energetic and better coordinated war against the drug phenomenon and related criminal activities in West Africa;

RECALLING the acceptance by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government of the offer made by the Government of Cabo Verde to convene a ministerial conference to discuss all aspects of the drug problem;

MEETING in consequence, in Praia from 8th - 9th May, 1997;

ALARMED at the rapid spread of drugs in all countries in the sub-region and the resultant upsurge in criminal activities;

AWARE of the disastrous social consequences of abuse of narcotic drugs in the sub-region, particularly among the youth whose stable development is imperative for the progress of Member States and for the building of the Community;

CONSIDERING the enormous human and material costs of drug abuse and its pernicious effects on people's health, on the economies and financial systems of Member States and on their fundamental social values;

AWARE also that inadequate facilities in Member States often militate against the formulation of coherent multisectoral national policies which can effectively combat and eliminate illicit drug use in the sub-region;

CONVINCED of the pressing need for a concerted and coordinated approach towards drug prevention, suppression, treatment and the re-integration of victims;

CONVINCED also that it is the high consumption and demand for illicit drugs that encourages and sustains drug production and trafficking;

CONSIDERING, in consequence, that Member States and the international community should take into consideration the interdependence between demand and supply of illicit drugs, and its effects;

RE-AFFIRMING the responsibility assigned in this connection to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and recognising the need to formulate a multi-sectoral action plan to combat drugs;

DECLARE the unflinching resolve of our States to ensure full and speedy application of this Political Declaration and the attached sub-regional Plan of Action.

POLITICAL DECLARATION

1. WE UNDERTAKE to adopt as quickly as possible, the necessary legislative measures and to put in place rigorous effective operational instruments to protect the populations of Member States; without violating human rights and internationally-acknowledged basic freedoms;
2. WE AFFIRM our determination to establish and strengthen cooperation at sub-regional level in our effort to combat the scourge of drugs in all its ramifications;
3. WE ALSO AFFIRM our resolve to accord priority in our countries to the war against drugs and to allocate the resources needed for this purpose;
4. WE EXPRESS our deep concern over the considerable increase in the illicit cultivation

- of cannabis, a development which will, in the long term, the agricultural economies of some of our States and undermine our credibility internationally. We also wish to express the same concern with regard to the illicit production of psychotropic substances;
5. WE APPEAL to the international community for assistance in view of the increasing globalisation of drug trafficking with the attendant implications of our States which are being turned into unwilling transit points because of their geographical location and their inadequate facilities for control;
 6. FULLY COGNISANT of the new danger posed to our States by the laundering of ill-gotten money and the enormous power wielded by those involved in the practice, we affirm our common determination to adopt the necessary measures to protect our national economies;
 7. AWARE of the shortcomings in our States with regard to the treatment of drug addicts, we undertake to instate appropriate facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. We shall deploy every effort to find ways of optimising local and sub-regional expertise in this domain and reducing the cost of such treatment;
 8. AWARE of the enormous resources needed for the treatment of drug users and concerned at the limited means available to our States, we undertake to encourage and facilitate by all means necessary any measures taken by non-governmental organisations, religious communities and other civil organisations in the areas of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
 9. AWARE that demand stimulates supply, we undertake in order to combat drugs effectively, to deploy every effort necessary to halt the supply of drugs to the youth. We shall, in this connection, take appropriate measure to ensure more effective surveillance at land, air and sea borders and are determined to organise the relevant authorities more effectively to enable them arrest drug traffickers and confiscate their products;
 10. CONCERNED at the alarming increase in the abuse of addictive legally-prescribed drugs in the sub-region, we shall, with a view to reducing the demand for them, strive to dissuade the youth from resorting to them through sustained dissemination of information and training of adults. We shall endeavour also to evolve a common method of action to prevent the diversion of medicaments to illicit uses;
 11. CONVINCED that the drug phenomenon can be effectively combated only where there is close and constructive cooperation among all the institutions involved, we exhort Member States to create the necessary environment for permanent dialogue among persons responsible for information dissemination, those involved in tracking down drug addicts, therapists and the authorities responsible for the prevention of drug abuse and supply;
 12. KEENLY AWARE that drug use poses a threat to the economic and social development of Member States and their institutions, we call upon the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), friendly countries, the entire community of donor agencies and non-governmental organisations to afford greater assistance to Member States particularly with regard to prevention, suppression, treatment and re-integration;
 13. RECALLING that in 1993, all countries in the sub-region worked together to produce a model harmonised national law against drugs with sub-regional level. We urge States which have not yet initiated their legislative process in this direction to do so without delay;
 14. WE CALL UPON Member States yet to do so, to ratify forthwith ECOWAS Convention A/P1/7/92 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and ECOWAS Convention A/P1/8/94 on Extradition;
 15. CONVINCED that the effective control of the drug scourge in our States calls for the establishment of dynamic, efficient inter-ministerial committees, we urge our Governments to provide these committees with the requisite manpower, material and

financial resources. In particular, we ask Member States to ensure that coordinators remain at their posts long enough to ensure continuity and to provide them with the means with which to accomplish their mission;

- 16. **CONVINCED** that reduction in the demand and high consumption of drugs in certain regions of the world will facilitate eradication of this scourge, we call on the United Nations to continue its efforts in this direction in areas of greater consumption;
- 17. **WE REQUEST** the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat to forge close cooperation links with state interministerial committees in order to

achieve better coordination of drug control activities in the sub-region;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION OF DRUG CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES HAVE SIGNED THIS DECLARATION.

**DONE AT PRAIA,
THIS 9TH DAY OF MAY, 1997**

(in single original in the English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic).

Regina GBACADJA-BADE

Technical Adviser, Pharmaceutical and Laboratory Services for and on behalf of the Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs of the Republic of Benin.

Christopher Emmanuel COMPAORE
for and on behalf of the Minister of Internal Affairs and State Security of Burkina Faso.

Gomes MONTEIRO-SIMAO

Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs of the Republic of Cabo Verde.

NANGA YEO

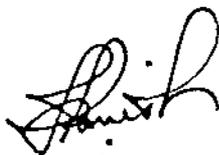
Director of Cabinet for and on behalf of the Minister of Security of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.



Major Momodou BOJANG (rtd)
Secretary of State in charge of Internal and Religious Affairs of the Republic of The Gambia.



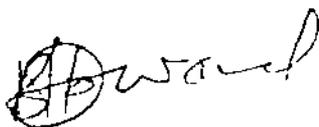
Okaija ADAMAFIO
Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Ghana.



Ibrahima BA
Director-General, Ministry of State Security for and on behalf of the Minister of State Security of the Republic of Guinea.



Daniel FERREIRA
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.



Beyan D. HOWARD
Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Liberia.

Cheikna D. KAMISSOKO
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Mali.

Islamic Republic of Mauritania.



Boubey OUMAROU
Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Attorney-General of the Republic of Niger.



Ambassador Adamu MOHAMMED
Special Adviser to the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief on Drugs and Financial Crimes for the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Abdourahmane SOW
Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Senegal.



Finda JONES
for and on behalf of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Sierra Leone.



General Seyi Memene NYAWO
Minister of Internal Affairs and State Security of the Togolese Republic.

THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

PRAIA, 5TH - 9TH MAY, 1997

**CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR COORDINATION OF DRUG CONTROL
ACTIVITIES IN WEST AFRICA**

THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

PRAIA, 5TH - 9TH MAY, 1997

**REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST THE
ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF DRUGS AND
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES IN WEST
AFRICA 1997 - 2001**

**A. ESTABLISHMENT OR STRENGTHENING OF
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRUCTURES
FOR POLICY COORDINATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION.**

I. Action at National Level

1. Strengthening of the inter-ministerial coordination committees and increased surveillance of drug control activities. The Committees will operate with a Permanent Secretariat headed by a coordinator who will work with specialised commissions and experts. The Committees will analyse, initiate, promote and coordinate drug control activities. They will be equipped with the material, personnel and financial resources needed to carry out their mission and provision must be made for this in the national budget. It is expected that these commissions will evolve into a General Secretariat for Drug Control.
2. Establishment of a Central Bureau for the Suppression of Narcotics Traffic staffed by officers from all agencies involved in drug control and equipped with the required necessary human and material resources and with modern communication equipment.
3. Establishment of a national laboratory run by qualified personnel and equipped with the requisite equipment.
4. Setting up of a national drug control data bank for data collection, deposit and dissemination of information on drugs; with links to the competent national and international bodies

which will be connected to the regional data bank.

II. Action at Regional Level

1. Strengthening of the ECOWAS Coordination Unit against the abuse and illicit traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances for:
 - promoting the drug control policy;
 - raising awareness level of political authorities at national and regional levels;
 - boosting drug control activities;
 - coordinating and harmonising drug control actions.
2. Institution of the meeting of Council of Ministers responsible for coordinating national drug policies whose role will be to direct and coordinate the different national control programmes within the framework of the regional plan of action against drugs.
3. The establishment and strengthening of the regional technical committee for drug control in West Africa comprising experts and coordinators of inter-ministerial committees. They will study issues relating to production and illicit traffic of drugs; and the treatment and social re-integration of drug addicts.
4. Establishment of a regional reference and training laboratory to train specialists in the analysis of seized narcotics and to provide technical assistance in this domain.
5. Strengthening of the Regional Drug Control Training Centre (UFDA) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire which is an institution established under Ivorian law with financial contribution from international donors especially UNDCP and the French Cooperation and eventual establishment of another regional training centre.
6. Publication of a regional liaison bulletin to serve as a medium for the dissemination of information and documents on drug control.

Due account should be taken of the fact that Portuguese is one of the working languages of ECOWAS.

7. Creation of a regional data bank to collect, centralise and store data on drug abuse and on the illicit traffic in drugs. It will be linked to the national drug control data banks.

B. INTENSIFICATION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

1. Recommend that the competent Community decision-making body authorise the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to negotiate and sign agreements in order to seek funding and assistance to Member States with other states, and with international governmental and non-governmental organisations involved in drugs control.
2. Recommend that the competent Community decision-making body authorise the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to accede to the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, in conformity with Article 26 thereof.
3. Encourage ratification of regional conventions on extradition and mutual assistance which will be based on the 1988 United Nations Convention.
4. Signing of a Regional Convention on money laundering and confiscation of proceeds from illegal drug trafficking and related offences.

Action at National Level

1. Ratification of ECOWAS Convention:
 - A/P1/7/92 dated 29th July, 1992 on Mutual Assistance in Legal Matters;
 - A/P1/8/94 dated 6th August, 1994 on Extradition.

C. ADAPTATION OF A HARMONISED LEGISLATION

1. Adaptation by the end of 1997 of domestic

laws or a *DRUG CODE*, being the draft harmonised law adapted within the ECOWAS sub-region in the area of drug control. This will be implemented with UNDCP assistance.

2. Adaptation of national laws to the harmonised law on money laundering.
3. Adaptation and strengthening of national legislation in line with the harmonised law on extradition and judicial cooperation.

D. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

Action at National Level

1. Organisation of multi-disciplinary training courses and seminars for the various actors involved in drug control.
2. Establishment and strengthening of a basic training or advanced training centre for staff of leading departments in the fight against drugs.
3. Adaptation of regulatory texts to ensure that trained personnel are maintained at their posts long enough to ensure continuity.
4. Creation of a corps of legal personnel specialised in drug control.

E. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS ON DRUG ABUSE

Action at National Level

1. Training of personnel to carry out research into the extent of the drug problem.
2. Organisation of epidemiological surveys throughout the country in order to gauge the extent of the drug problem.

F. PREVENTION

Action at National Level

1. There is the need to design and execute a viable training programme, UNDCP and/or ECOWAS to encourage and to ensure a comprehensive training programme for all

those involved with drug prevention activities be they teachers, nurses, NGOs and Community personnel at national, sub-regional and inter-state levels.

2. A clear and sustained public awareness programme is now more crucial than ever before as a means to effectively galvanize grassroots support and mobilise specific target groups. Such programmes should be contained within a policy framework. Public awareness should be heightened through the appropriate means that will effectively bring the message to all levels of society.
3. Each interministerial committee shall be required to create, improve and strengthen formal and/or informal drug abuse prevention education in schools, through direct teaching, debates, formation of Drug-Free Clubs, quiz competitions, etc...
4. Interministerial committees shall encourage NGOs, religious, cultural and community groups to be actively involved in solving drug problems; and international NGOs shall be contacted to help with prevention programmes through UNDCP, OAU, ECOWAS or by individual states.
5. ECOWAS Ministers further recognise the important role of NGOs in drug control matters in our sub-region and therefore request that interministerial committees be encouraged through their political leaders, ECOWAS, UNDCP and other international organisations to enhance the activities of regional associations of NGOs to foster the regional integration in keeping with UN prevention objectives.
6. The Ministers recommend that drug prevention shall be accorded the deserved priority.
7. ECOWAS Ministers recommend further that a policy of crop substitution be pursued where cannabis is produced.
8. UNDCP, ECOWAS, OAU and/or Member States of the West African sub-region to

encourage the establishment of poverty-alleviation programmes by relevant governmental bodies.

9. In view of the foregoing, interministerial committees shall be encouraged to show evidence of engaging in systematised research and evaluation of their programmes.

G. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTOR

Action at National Level

1. Organisation of training courses and seminars for medical, paramedical and social services personnel.
2. Establishment of a consultation centre to offer treatment to drug addicts.
3. Establishment of vocational centres to facilitate rehabilitation of drug abuse victims.
4. Preparation of a national policy for the treatment and social reintegration of drug abuse victims that take account of African social and cultural values.

H. FINANCING THE PLAN OF ACTION

Action at National Level

1. Inclusion of activities envisaged in the Plan of Action within the general economic and social development programme and allocation of funds for such activities in national budgets and investment programmes.
2. Negotiation and signing of financing agreements with international donors to obtain funding for the implementation of activities contained in the Plan of Action.

Action at Regional Level

1. Establishment of a regional drug control fund with contributions from Member States, local communities and regional and international donors.

I. ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

On May 9th, 1997, a plenary meeting was held to consider the recommendations of the sub-regional experts with the objective of deciding the appropriateness of including them in a Plan of Action. Having considered the recommendations presented by the rapporteurs, the conference decided that the recommendations should be included in the Plan of Action.

This Plan of Action was adopted unanimously by the Conference of Ministers.

REGULATION C/REG.1/8/97 RELATING TO THE RE-STRUCTURING OF THE 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 C/DEC.2/6/88 and A/DEC.10/6/89 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the Study on Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.1/7/95 relating to Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund;

CONSIDERING the Recommendation of the ninth meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund held in Lome from 5th to 6th March, 1997;

ENACTS

Article 1

- a) The Management of the Fund is hereby authorised to undertake a feasibility study on the transformation of the Fund taking into account the development and regional integration objectives of the Community.
- b) The terms of reference of the study shall be prepared by the Management of the Fund and shall be submitted to the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee for consideration.
- c) The draft transitional organigram of the Fund adopted by the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee is hereby approved as attached.
- d) The proposal for re-deployment and reduction of staff numbers in order to enhance efficiency and eliminate redundancy is hereby approved. This is to be done by Management under

the supervision of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee.

- e) The implementation schedule recommended by the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee is hereby approved as attached.

Article 2

The additional budget amounting to US\$82,500 (Eighty-two thousand, five hundred United States Dollars) for staff training relating to the re-structuring of the Fund is hereby approved. This amount shall be included on a yearly basis in the operating budgets for 1998 and 1999.

Article 3

The Management of the Fund is authorised to convene four (4) meetings of Experts and Ministers of the Ad-hoc Committee to facilitate the supervision of the necessary follow-up actions on the implementation of the re-structuring exercise. These meetings shall be financed from the contingencies vote in the originally approved budgets for the re-structuring exercise.

Article 4

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.

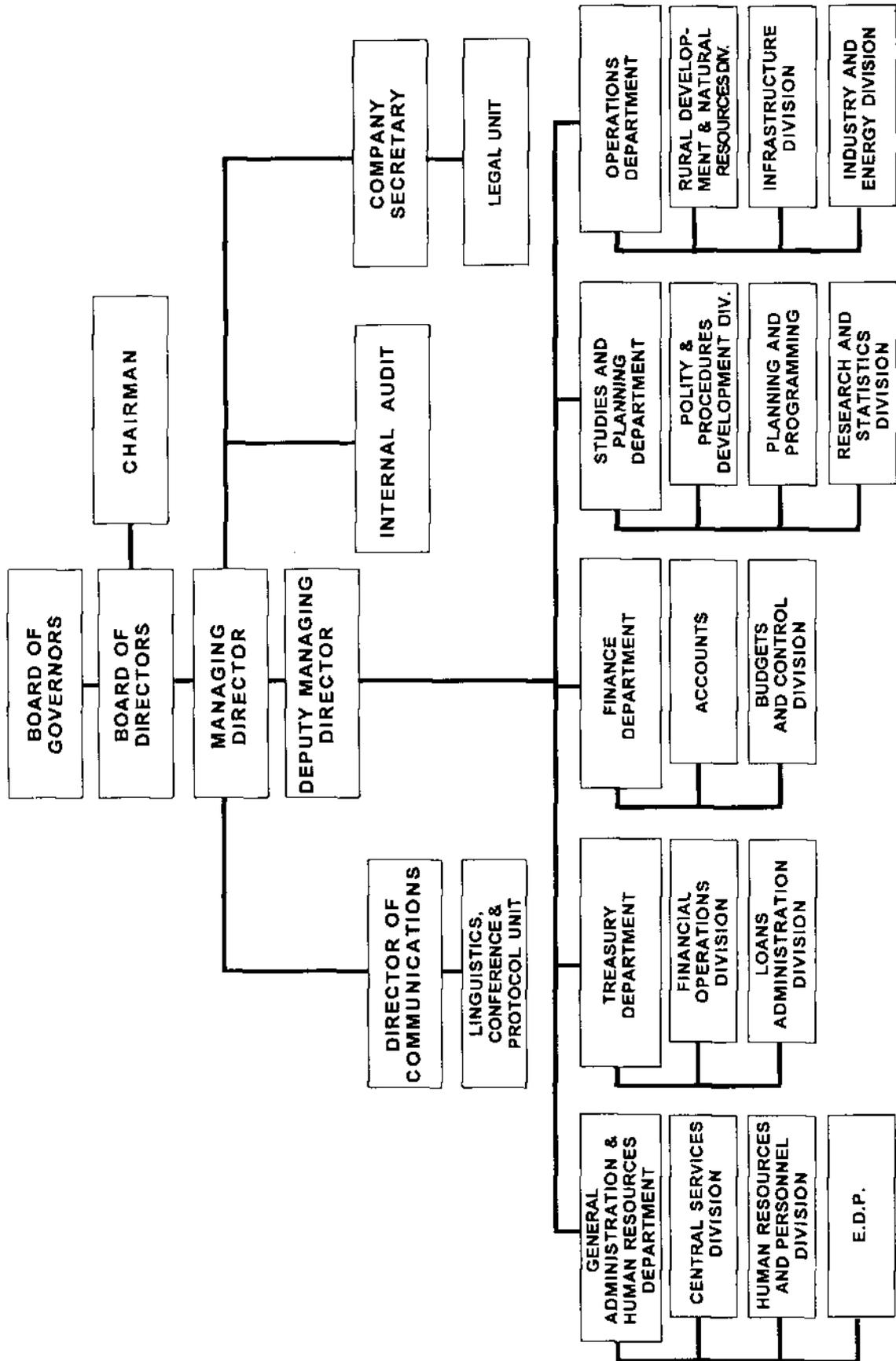
It shall also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997



HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

TRANSITIONAL ORGANISATIONAL CHART



PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE FUND BY THE AD HOC MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

PHASE 1

July 1997

- i. Authority Decision stipulating payment of arrears as a precondition for the opening-up of the capital to non-regionals;
- ii. Authority Decision requesting Member States to clear all arrears before the end of 1998, since there is no doubt that a large majority of Member States will not meet the deadline of 31st December, 1997;
- iii. Strict application during the transitional phase of the provisions of Article 25 and 26 of the Protocol relating to the FUND's Board of Directors and its procedure, (Annex 12);
- iv. Authority Decision accepting the principle that the FUND be transformed into an ECOWAS Investment Bank with a soft window for integration projects;
- v. Authorisation of a detailed feasibility study on the creation of ECOWAS Investment Bank with a soft window;
- vi. Approval of the transitional organisational chart adopted by the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee;
- vii. Approval of the re-deployment and adjustment of the size of staff in order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency;
- viii. Approval of the training of staff of the FUND.

August 1997 - July 1998

- i. Re-deployment and adjustment of the size of staff.
- ii. Continuation of the computerisation exercise of the FUND.

- iii. Training of Staff
- iv. Preparation of Terms of Reference of the feasibility study and choice of consulting firm.
- v. Preparations of the feasibility study on the creation of ECOWAS Investment Bank with concessional window.

PHASE 2

July 1998

- Approval of the conclusion and recommendations of the feasibility study.

August 1998 - June 1999

- Delegation of authority to the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee and the Management of the FUND to enter into preliminary contracts with prospective non regional financial partners and Eminent persons.
- Identification and approval of the choice of Eminent persons who will be designated within or outside the sub-region to seek potential non-regional partners and financial resources.
- Preparation of draft Staff regulations.
- Training of Staff.
- Preparation of promotion document.
- Preparation of Legal framework, policies and procedures of the New bank.
- Preparation of the strategic plan of the New Bank.
- Identification of potential non-regional partners.

July 1999

- Approval of the absorption of the project financing aspect of the SFT into the New Bank.
- Approval of conversion of the current capital into share capitals.

- Approval of legal framework, policies and procedures of the new bank including draft Staff regulations.

PHASE 3

August 1999 - December 1999

- Mission of Eminent Person.
- Finalisation of negotiations.
- Donor's conference (*call for shares subscription*).
- General assembly of the Shareholders.
- Appointment of Board of Governors.
- Appointment of new Board of Directors.
- Choice and constitution of the committee of eminent persons and representative of reputable organisations.

2 January 2000

- Commencement of the activities of the New Bank.

REGULATION C/REG.2/8/97 AUTHORIZING THE RECRUITMENT OF THREE INTERPRETERS AND A COST ACCOUNTANT FOR THE 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 Recommendation of the Administration and Finance Commission on freezing of all new posts adopted by the Council of Ministers at its thirty-sixth session held in Lome from 15th to 17th December, 1994;

CONSIDERING the Recommendation of the thirty-seventh session of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Fund held in Abuja, from 20th to 21st August, 1997;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Management of the ECOWAS Fund is hereby authorised to recruit two French/English Interpreters, one English/French Interpreter and a Cost Accountant in the Language and Accounting Divisions of the ECOWAS Fund, respectively.

Article 2

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 also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997



HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**REGULATION C/REG.3/8/97 RELATING TO THE
REGULARISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
SITUATION OF ACCOUNTING CLERKS "G3"
RECRUITED BEFORE NOVEMBER, 1991**

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 Decision C/DEC.2/11/91 on the Adoption of the Scheme of Service for the Staff of the Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING the Recommendation of the thirty-seventh session of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Fund held in Abuja from 20th to 21st August, 1997;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Management of the ECOWAS Fund is hereby authorised to regularise, with effect from 1st January, 1997, the administrative situation of the four (4) Accounts Clerks on grade "G3" who are already working at the Fund and reflect the change in their salaries in conformity with the new Scheme of Service for Staff of the Community Institutions.

Article 2

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 also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**REGULATION C/REG. 4/8/97 ON THE
FINANCING OF DRUG CONTROL ACTIVITIES**

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;

RECALLING the deep concern expressed by the nineteenth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government at the increase in drug trafficking and the related criminality;

WELCOMING the adoption, by the Conference of Ministers responsible for coordinating drug control activities, of a political declaration and a five-year

regional plan of action to be implemented with effect from 1997;

CONSIDERING the plan of action is designed for the implementation of concerted and coordinated strategies for crime prevention and repression, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

AWARE that judicious implementation of the plan of action necessitates allocation of adequate resources;

CONVINCED of the need for the sub-region itself to undertake, in the area of drug and drug-related crime control, actions that can be encouraged and supported by the international community;

ENACTS

Article 1

Allocation of One hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) Units of Accounts shall be granted to the Regional Fund for the financing of drug control activities.

Article 2

Member States shall give full support to the implementation of the plan of action by underpinning the activities of the inter-ministerial committees on the control of drug abuse.

Article 3

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for monitoring effectively the implementation of the political declaration and the plan of action and report to the Council of Ministers on the progress made, the difficulties encountered and the measures that should be taken to ensure the realisation of the objectives of the aforementioned declaration and plan.

Article 4

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 also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

REGULATION C/REG.5/8/97 RELATING TO THE CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF A SUBSIDY TO THE ECOWAS NATIONAL UNITS

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;

CONSIDERING Resolution A/RES.1/8/94 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the payment modalities of financial obligations owed by Member States to the Institutions of the Community;

AWARE that the Council gave approval in November, 1989 to grant subsidy to the national units of only Member States that were current with the payment of their contributions to the operational budget of the Executive Secretariat;

CONSIDERING that the granting of subsidy to the national units would enable them to acquire a minimum of equipment and material to make them optimally functional in carrying out their task of ensuring implementation of ECOWAS Programmes and Decisions;

DESIRING to encourage Member States to pay up their arrears of contributions;

On the **RECOMMENDATION** of the twentieth meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 15th to 19th August, 1997;

ENACTS

Article 1

A subsidy in the amount of ten thousand (10 000) Units of Account shall be granted to the ECOWAS national unit for each year of contributions settled by its Member State regardless of the date of settlement.

Article 2

The Executive Secretariat shall pay subsidies in respect of 1990 - 1996 financial years out of amounts recovered as arrears.

Article 3

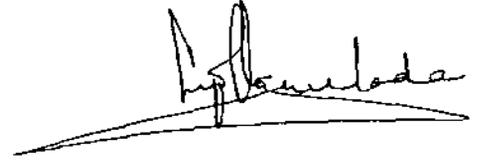
The subsidy shall be channelled into the acquisition of machinery, equipment and materials required for the functioning of the ECOWAS national units.

Article 4

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 also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

RECOMMENDATION C/REC.1/8/97 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF A SINGLE MONETARY ZONE BY THE YEAR 2000

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;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.6/5/83 of 30th May, 1983 relating to the proposed establishment of an ECOWAS Single Monetary Zone;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/87 of 9th July, 1987 relating to the adoption of an ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme with the objective of establishing a Single Monetary Zone;

NOTING the significant macro-economic reform measures that have been made by many Member States to revitalise their national economies particularly, in the area of exchange control liberalisation, the adoption of market determined exchange rates and reduction of fiscal deficits as well as inflation;

CONCERNED however, by the slow pace of implementation of certain aspects of the Monetary Cooperation Programme;

DESIROUS of accelerating the implementation of sound economic management policies at national levels required for the achievement of a viable Single Monetary Zone by the target date of the year 2000;

On the **PROPOSALS** of the twenty-first meeting of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks of Member States held in Conakry on 15th and 16th May, 1997;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Draft Decision establishing an Ad-hoc Monitoring Committee for the creation of a Single Monetary Zone by the year 2000.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

RECOMMENDATION C/REC. 2/8/97 RELATING TO 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 Enhancing the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund;

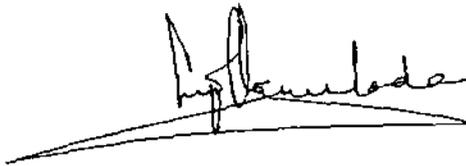
MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.1/7/95 relating to the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund;

CONSIDERING the Report of the Ad hoc Ministerial

Committee on the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the Fund;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Draft Decision relating to the Enhancement of the Financial Resources of the ECOWAS Fund.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.3/8/97 ON THE
SECOND ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PRIORITY PROGRAMME (INTELCOM II)**

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;

RECOGNISING that the INTELCOM I programme has fulfilled the expectations of Member States;

RECOGNISING that it is necessary to implement the second ECOWAS Telecommunications Priority Programme known as INTELCOM II;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection of ECOWAS countries by modern and feasible telecommunications systems remains a cardinal condition for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of the institutional changes within the telecommunications sector which have led to the emergence of private operators;

NOTING the diversity of the technological standards applied in the installation of telecommunications infrastructures in the West African sub-region;

NOTING also the existence of short, medium and long-term telecommunications master plans in Member States;

CONSIDERING the need to have a modern and reliable regional telecommunications network for the sustained economic development of West Africa;

On the **PROPOSALS** of the second meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Lome on 11th July, 1997;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached draft Decision launching the Second ECOWAS Telecommunications Priority Programme (INTELCOM II).

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

RECOMMENDATION C/REC. 4/8/97 RELATING TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN WEST AFRICA

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;

BEARING IN MIND the Organisation of African Unity's Declaration and Plan of Action AHG/Decl.2(XXXIII) on the abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs in Africa;

BEARING IN MIND also the wish expressed in Abuja on 27th July, 1996 by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to give impetus to waging a more energetic and better coordinated war against the drug phenomenon and related criminal activities in West Africa;

ALARMED at the disastrous social consequences of the abuse of narcotic drugs in the sub-region, particularly among the youth whose stable development is imperative for the progress of Member States and for the building of the Community;

CONSIDERING the enormous human and material costs of drug abuse and its pernicious effects on people's health, on the economies and financial systems of Member States, and on their fundamental social values;

AWARE of the fact that inadequate facilities in Member States often militate against the formulation of coherent multi-sectoral national policies which can effectively combat and eliminate illicit drugs in the sub-region;

CONVINCED of the pressing need for a concerted and coordinated approach towards drug prevention and control as well as the resultant upsurge in criminal activities;

RE-AFFIRMING the responsibility assigned in this connection to the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP);

DETERMINED to get Member States, through a

Community Declaration, to prevent and combat the drug phenomenon and to prepare a practical and workable plan of action for the sub-region;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Political Declaration and Plan of Action on Drugs in the African Sub-region.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

RECOMMENDATION C/REC. 5/8/97 ON THE AWARD OF THE ECOWAS PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN AFRICAN PHARMACOPEIA

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 Decision A/DEC.14/5/82 establishing the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

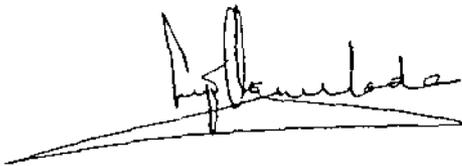
MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/92 approving the rules and regulations of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in African pharmacopoeia;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.6/12/93 appointing the members of the Jury for the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in the field of African pharmacopoeia;

On the RECOMMENDATION of the International Jury for the award of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the draft Decision on the award of the ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in the field of African pharmacopoeia.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

RECOMMENDATION C/REC. 6/8/97 ON THE URGENT APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY LEVY

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;

CONSIDERING that all measures taken to date, to prevail upon Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Community have not proved particularly successful;

CONSIDERING the provisions of Protocol A/P.1/7/96 on conditions governing the application of the Community levy;

RECALLING its appeal made on 27th July, 1996 to ratify the protocol on the Community levy before 31st December, 1996 and to implement its provisions as from 1st January, 1997;

NOTING that, as at 30th June, 1997, no instrument of ratification had been deposited with the Executive Secretariat in respect of the said Protocol;

CONSIDERING that the absence of self-generated funds poses a serious obstacle to the functioning of the Community institutions and retards the regional integration process;

RECOMMENDS to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the draft Resolution hereto attached on the urgent application of the Community levy.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**



**HON. AYO OGUNLADE
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**TWENTIETH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

ABUJA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

28TH - 29TH AUGUST, 1997

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its Twentieth Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 28th and 29th August, 1997 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, General Sani Abacha, Head of State, Commander- in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. Present at the session were the following Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives:

- His Excellency, Mathieu KEREKOU, President of the Republic of BENIN;
- His Excellency, Blaise COMPAORE, President of FASO, Chairman of the Council of Ministers BURKINA FASO;
- His Excellency, Colonel Yahya A.J.J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of The GAMBIA;
- His Excellency, Flt-Lt Jerry John RAWLINGS (Rtd), President of the Republic of GHANA,
- His Excellency, General Lansana CONTE, President of the Republic of GUINEA;
- His Excellency, General Joao Bernardo VIEIRA, President of the Republic of GUINEA-BISSAU;
- His Excellency, Charles Ghankay TAYLOR, President of the Republic of LIBERIA;
- His Excellency, Alpha Oumar KONARE, President of the Republic of MALI;

- His Excellency, General Ibrahim Mainassara BARE, President of the Republic of NIGER;

- His Excellency, General Sani ABACHA, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA;

- His Excellency, Ahmad Tejan KABBAH, President of the Republic of SIERRA LEONE;

- His Excellency, General Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the TOGOLESE Republic;

- His Excellency, Habib THIAM, Prime Minister of the Republic of SENEGAL;

- The Honourable, Dr. Alexandre MONTEIRO, Secretary of State, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Tourism, representing the Prime Minister and Head of Government of CABO VERDE;

- The Honourable, Amara ESSY, Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President of COTE D'IVOIRE;

- The Honourable Abdellahi Ould NEM, Minister of Commerce, Handicraft and Tourism, representing the President of the Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA.

3. Attending the twentieth session as observers were :

- The Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU);

- The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

- The Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks of West Africa;

- The Director General of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA);

- The President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD);
- The President of ECOBANK Transnational Incorporated (ETI);
- The President of the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce (FWACC);
- The Secretary-General of the West African Women's Association (WAWA);
- The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO);
- The Director General of FAGACE;
- The Representative of the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (JEMOA);
- The Representative of the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA);
- The Representative of the African Development Bank (ADB);
- The Representative of the Pan-African News Agency (PANA);
- The Representative of the African Centre for Monetary Studies (ACMS);
- The Representative of the World Bank;
- The Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- The Representative of the European Union (EU);
- The Representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB);
- The Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- The Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO);
- The Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO);
- The Representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
- The Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO);
- The Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- The Representative of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL);
- The Representative of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP);
- And a large number of High Commissioners and Ambassadors accredited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN WEST AFRICA

4. Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction that over the past few years, most ECOWAS countries have made significant advances in the development of political institutions and economic structures, as a result of which the region recorded an appreciable economic growth rate of about 4 %, which is above the rate of population growth.
5. The Authority stressed that the monetary, budgetary, and structural policies needed to promote strong and positive growth are complementary and mutually re-inforcing. The Heads of State and Government also emphasised the need to implement sound macro-economic policies which would consolidate the successes achieved by most ECOWAS Member States in the areas of inflation control, monetary discipline and improved adjustment policies, all of which are necessary for the harmonisation of economic and financial policies of ECOWAS countries.

6. The Authority took note and expressed its appreciation of the recent initiative by the international community to resolve the debt problems (including multilateral debt) of heavily indebted poor countries. The Authority noted with regret however that the criteria for eligibility are so strict that only two ECOWAS Member States qualify. It therefore appealed to the international community to make the criteria for eligibility more flexible to enable more countries in the region to benefit from the initiative.

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR WEST AFRICA

7. Heads of State and Government exchanged views on the future perspectives of the West African economy. Convinced that significant development could only be achieved through a conscious and sustained effort at managing the national economies, the Authority urged all Member States to embark on formulating strategic long-term development frameworks such as initiated in Côte d'Ivoire under the African Elephant Programme, in Ghana as Vision 2020 and in Nigeria as Vision 2010.
8. Heads of State and Government re-affirmed their belief that national development could only succeed if conceived within a regional framework. It was therefore proposed that national long-term development frameworks should be formulated, based on a regional approach. The Authority directed the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Member States and the relevant international institutions to complete the formulation of the ECOWAS regional development programme.
9. In this regard, Heads of State and Government welcomed the re-negotiation of the Lome Convention in September, 1998 as an opportunity to enhance the contribution of European Union assistance to West African development. The Authority fully endorsed the declaration on future ACP/EU relations made in May, 1997 at Lome by West African national authorising officers. That declaration stressed that future European Union assistance to ECOWAS countries should focus on promoting West African integration. Heads of State and Government called upon the other development partners, especially the ADB, UNDP, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide long-term development assistance that fosters West African integration.

MONETARY INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

10. Heads of State and Government re-affirmed their full commitment to regional monetary integration and the eventual adoption of a single West African currency. They expressed satisfaction with the progress made during the year regarding the harmonisation of national economic and financial policies. In order to accelerate the achievement of the objective of a single monetary zone by the year 2000, the Authority created an ad hoc monitoring committee comprising the five Heads of State of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Togo. On the basis of technical reports and proposals submitted to it, the Committee would give periodic policy directives and new orientations to facilitate compliance by Member States with the agreed monetary and financial targets. The Committee would also give the necessary political support to the programme and foster the mobilisation of the support required from relevant international organisations for the execution of the ECOWAS monetary integration programme.

LAUNCHING OF ECOWAS TRAVELLERS' CHEQUE

11. Heads of State and Government considered ways of facilitating intra-Community payments as a means of enhancing regional transactions. The Authority agreed to complement the payments settlement scheme of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) through the introduction of ECOWAS travellers cheque. It was decided therefore that the ECOWAS travellers' cheque should be launched at the next meeting of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks, scheduled to take place towards the end of the year.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE ECOWAS FUND

12. Heads of State and Government recalled their decision in 1987 to open equity participation in the Fund's capital to non-regionals. After a review of proposals submitted on the matter, the Authority agreed, in principle, that the Fund should be transformed into a more commercially-oriented institution, without losing sight of its development and integration objectives. The management of the Fund was, therefore, directed to commission a feasibility study to determine the type of financial institution that the ECOWAS Fund should be transformed into.

APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY LEVY

13. Heads of State and Government expressed concern over the poor performance of the Community institutions which was due partly to the inadequacy of financial resources, arising from the irregular payment of Member States contributions. It was recalled that, as a solution to this financial problem, the Revised Treaty provides for a Community levy, to replace direct budgetary contributions by Member States.
14. The Authority deplored the very slow pace of ratification of the Protocol on the application of the Community levy which had not made it possible for the levy to be introduced in January, 1997. Desirous of generating, as soon as possible, sufficient resources for revitalising the West African integration process, Heads of State and Government passed a Resolution urging all Member States to ratify this protocol immediately and include the Community levy in their 1998 budget statements, so that the imposition of the levy could commence in January, 1998.

LAUNCHING OF PHASE II OF THE ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

15. Heads of State and Government reviewed the status of the development of the regional telecommunications network against the background of the recent tremendous

advances in the global communication system. Expressing its satisfaction with the successful completion of the first phase of the ECOWAS regional network, the Authority adopted the second phase of the West African telecommunications development programme, INTELCOM II.

16. This ECOWAS programme will modernise and expand the services of the telecommunications sector through full digitalization and installation of other modern facilities, as well as an increase in telephone density. The programme is to ensure intra-Community transit, inter-connection, uniformity and compatibility. The programme therefore provides the requisite regulatory framework and the adoption of other convergence criteria. Heads of State and Government welcomed the emphasis that the programme gives to private sector participation and the commercialisation of retained public enterprises. The international financial institutions were invited to give their full support to the implementation of INTELCOM II.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION

17. Heads of State and Government expressed concern over the rapid spread of drug abuse in West Africa and the increasing role of the region as a transit centre for international drug trafficking. The Authority approved the Praia Political Declaration and Plan of Action which give fresh impetus to waging a more rigorous and coordinated war against drugs in the West African region. Heads of State and Government appealed to the United Nations Drug Control Programme and other relevant agencies to increase their support for drug control in West Africa.

CROSS-BORDER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

18. The Authority expressed concern over the increasing incidence of cross-border criminal activities and stressed the need to mount a coordinated campaign against this menace.

REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

19. Heads of State and Government re-affirmed their determination to create within West Africa a peaceful and stable environment necessary for sustained development and regional integration. The Authority commended the Liberian people for putting behind them the traumatic experience of the civil war and conducting peaceful elections on a multi-party basis. Heads of State and Government recognising the need to sustain peace and development in Liberia, urged the people of the Republic of Liberia, Member States of ECOWAS, and the international community as a whole to support Liberia's post-war needs in the areas of repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, re-integration, reconciliation, re-habilitation and reconstruction.
20. The Authority congratulated His Excellency President Charles Ghankay Taylor on his election and encouraged him to continue his policy of reconciliation and national unity. Following free and democratic elections in Liberia, the Authority lifted all sanctions and embargoes on Liberia and requested the international community to do the same.
21. The Authority expressed its deep appreciation to all those who contributed to the successful implementation of the ECOWAS Peace Plan for Liberia on the regional front. Special recognition was given to the immense and unstinted contribution of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine, the Member States contributing troops to the ECOWAS peace-keeping force (ECOMOG), and the gallant officers and men of ECOMOG. Similarly, the Authority expressed grateful thanks to the OAU, the UN, the EU and countries in the international community which made notable contributions to the peace effort. A minute's silence and prayer was observed in memory of all those who lost their lives in the Liberian civil war.
22. The Authority stressed that the restoration of peace to Liberia had convincingly demonstrated West African solidarity and its ability to resolve regional problems through mutual trust, tolerance, self-sacrifice and strong leadership. Heads of State and Government made a strong appeal for continued support from both within and outside West Africa for re-building Liberia. In this regard, the Authority expressed its willingness to extend, upon the request of the Government of Liberia, the stay of ECOMOG in Liberia for an extra period to be mutually agreed upon. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary was directed to negotiate appropriate protocols with the Government of Liberia to legalise further ECOWAS military/security assistance package to Liberia through ECOMOG. The financing of this operation will be borne by the Liberian government. However, the Authority appealed to other ECOWAS Member States and the international community to assist in this effort. The Executive Secretariat was directed to participate in the formulation and monitoring of the implementation of a reconstruction programme for Liberia.
23. Heads of State and Government, recalling the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles which they adopted at Abuja in July, 1991, reiterated their unwavering commitment to the establishment and smooth functioning of democratic institutions in each ECOWAS Member State. The Authority expressed its unreserved condemnation of the violent and unconstitutional overthrow of the democratically elected government of the Republic of Sierra Leone on 25th May, 1997. Heads of State and Government deplored the looting, loss of life and property that accompanied the coup d'etat, and the subsequent complete disruption of life in Sierra Leone.
24. The Authority warmly congratulated the ECOWAS Committee of Four on Sierra Leone and fully endorsed the objectives set out by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with regard to Sierra Leone, which had also received the approval of the United Nations Security Council, namely:

- i) the early re-instatement of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan KABBAH
 - ii) the return of peace and security; and
 - iii) the resolution of the issues of refugees and displaced persons.
25. The Authority expressed its determination to deploy all efforts towards the peaceful resolution of the Sierra Leone crisis, and called for the cooperation and understanding of all the parties concerned. The Authority, deeply concerned about the breakdown of negotiations in Abidjan on 30th July, 1997 between the Committee of Four and the illegal regime in Sierra Leone, and in view of the intransigence of the illegal regime, approved a package of sanctions and blockade as a further measure to ensure the restoration of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Heads of State and Government mandated ECOMOG to specifically monitor the ceasefire, enforce sanctions and embargo and secure peace in Sierra Leone.
26. The Authority decided to enlarge the membership of the Committee responsible for monitoring the situation in Sierra Leone to five countries, by including the Republic of Liberia. It also decided to raise the status of the Committee to the level of Heads of State and Government.

CRISIS IN THE CONGO

27. Heads of State and Government received with appreciation, a special message from His Excellency El-Hadj Omar BONGO, President of Gabon and Chairman of the International Mediation Committee on the Congo crisis. The Authority deeply regretted the deteriorating situation in the Congo. It made a strong appeal to all the parties concerned to observe the ceasefire and be fully committed to peace and political dialogue.
28. The Authority expressed its support for the untiring efforts of President El Hadj Omar

Bongo to resolve the Congo crisis and has decided to send a delegation.

TRANSFER OF ECOWAS SECRETARIAT TO ABUJA

29. Heads of State and Government regretted the delayed movement of the Secretariat staff to Abuja because of the lack of staff accommodation. The Authority expressed warm gratitude to the Federal Government of Nigeria for the provision of a loan to enable the Community construct staff residential quarters in Abuja. Heads of State and Government directed the Executive Secretary to give priority attention to the matter so that the transfer of the ECOWAS Secretariat to Abuja could be completed during the course of 1998.

AWARD OF ECOWAS PRIZE OF EXCELLENCE

30. Heads of State and Government re-affirmed their commitment to the encouragement of research and the development of indigenous technology. The Authority felt convinced of the existence of a substantial regional potential in this field and expressed its satisfaction with progress already being made. The Authority further directed that future exercises should be more widely publicised throughout Member States so as to tap the abundant talent in the region. In recognition of their outstanding achievements in original research work the First ECOWAS Prize for Excellence in African pharmacopoeia was awarded to:

- **Dr. Modou LO** of Senegal for his contribution to botanical and physico-chemical research on the sterculia gum; and
- **Prof. Augustine O. OKHAMAFE** of Nigeria for his success in the extraction, development and utilisation of cellulose from selected agricultural waste.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO MR. EDOUARD BENJAMIN

31. Heads of State and Government, noting the ill health of Mr. Edouard BENJAMIN, the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, wished him speedy recovery. They also expressed their gratitude to him for his service to the Community during his tenure.

APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

32. Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of strong leadership in the two institutions of the Community and proceeded to make the following Decisions:

a) Executive Secretary

33. The Authority re-allocated the post of Executive Secretary to the Republic of Guinea and appointed Mr. Lansana KOUYATE as the new ECOWAS Executive Secretary as from 1st September, 1997 for a four-year term.

b) Other Statutory Officers

34. The Authority noted that the tenure of office of the other statutory appointees will end between now and 3rd January, 1998 and stressed the need to properly evaluate them. This evaluation will be done under the supervision of the Executive Secretary and in collaboration with the ad hoc Ministerial committee on the Selection and Evaluation of Statutory Appointees. The services of an expert bureau should be employed to facilitate this task.
35. The statutory appointees adjudged competent may be retained.
36. The posts of statutory officers whose terms are not renewed would be declared vacant and advertised in all Member States of the Community. The Authority decided that in order to recruit the best candidates, steps must be taken to ensure that all Member States have equal opportunity to serve the Community.

37. The Authority also decided that the new Executive Secretary should take steps to review the structure of the Institutions of the Community. In this process he should employ the services of competent consultants.

c) External Auditors

38. Heads of State and Government expressed their satisfaction with the performance of the firm of auditors Akintola Williams & Company as the External Auditors of the Community and renewed its mandate for a third and final two-year term, with retroactive effect from August, 1996.

FREQUENCY OF SUMMIT MEETINGS

39. In order to enhance regional integration efforts and ensure a better monitoring of the Community's activities, the Authority decided that henceforth its meetings should be held twice yearly. One of the meetings will be held at the Headquarters of the Community and the second by turns in the other Member States.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

40. Heads of State and Government unanimously elected the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Chairman of the Community for the 1997-1998 period.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT SUMMIT

41. At the invitation of the Head of State of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA, the Authority decided to hold its twenty-first session at Abuja in July, 1998.

VOTE OF THANKS

42. Heads of State and Government expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Chairman of the Authority, His Excellency General Sani Abacha, Head of State, and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the exemplary leadership he has consistently

provided in the promotion of West African integration. General Abacha was particularly commended for the personal concern he showed over the Liberian crisis and the invaluable political, financial, human and material assistance that Nigeria extended over the past seven years in support of the successful ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**

THE AUTHORITY.