

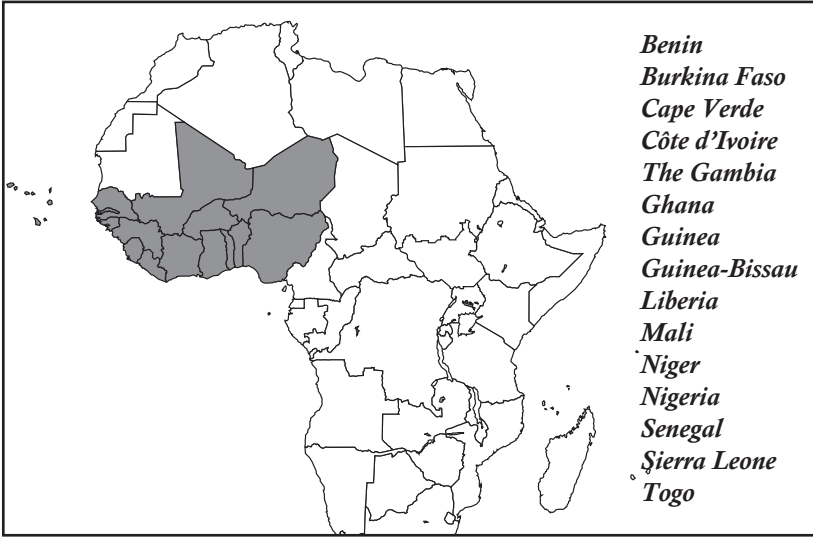
Chapter 3

The Economic Community of West African States

1 Introduction

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established as a sub-regional economic community on 28 May 1975 with the adoption of the Treaty of Lagos. The organisation initially focused on consolidating economic and monetary issues, with a particular outlook on co-operation in the fields of industry, transport, telecommunication, energy, agriculture, natural resources and commerce. Following three military interventions in the 1990s, the initially purely economically intended community began shifting its aims, revising its founding treaty and adopting protocols to strengthen legal foundations for military and peacekeeping operations. Fifteen member states make up ECOWAS and it is composed of among others: the Authority of the Heads of State and Government, the highest governing structure of the organisation; the Council of Ministers, consisting of two representatives of each member state; the Executive Secretariat, the principal executive officer of the organisation; and the Tribunal of the Community, which ensures the observance of law and interpretation of the ECOWAS founding treaty. Additionally, the Mediation and Security Council takes decisions relating to peace and security in the sub-region on behalf of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Member States



ECOWAS Military Interventions and Peacekeeping Missions

Beyond the limited interventions undertaken by the Southern African Development Community into the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lesotho, ECOWAS remains one of the only Regional Economic Communities to have undertaken numerous peacekeeping operations into its member states. To date, ECOWAS has intervened militarily or deployed peacekeeping troops to Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and The Gambia.

ECOWAS intervention in Liberia (ECOMOG I) (1989-1996)

Prompted by the Liberian Civil War of 1989, ECOWAS first intervened militarily in Liberia when it established the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG). Upon the seizure of large parts of Liberia by Charles Taylor and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, Liberian President Samuel Doe formally requested ECOWAS assistance. The decision to deploy ECOMOG was taken by the ECOWAS Standing Mediation Committee (SMC). The SMC's decision to deploy ECOMOG was likely taken pursuant to the Protocol on Mutual Assistance of Defence and was to among others, ensure the observance of a ceasefire; oversee elections; and ensure the creation of an interim government. The deployment came to an end in 1997 when the parties

to the conflict signed several peace agreements, including the Yamoussoukro, Cotonou and Abuja Peace Accords.

ECOWAS intervention in Sierra Leone (ECOMOG II) (1997-2000)

Following from its operations in Liberia, in 1997 ECOWAS was again forced to act during the Sierra Leone Civil War. While the intervention was primarily aimed at restoring the elected government under President Ahmed Kabbah – it fell short of ending the conflict of the civil war. Its deployment in Sierra Leone was again undertaken by ECOMOG and was primarily lead by Nigeria. The deployment was able to reinstate President Kabbah by March 1998 and remained in Sierra Leone until early 2000.

ECOWAS intervention in Guinea-Bissau (1998)

In 1998, ECOMOG forces were deployed to the Guinea-Bissau and Senegal border following the ousting of President Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau. The ECOMOG deployment was a result of the Abuja Accords, signed by President Vieira and military junta, which specifically provided for its deployment. Under the agreement, ECOMOG was to guarantee security along the border between the states, keep the warring parties apart, and guarantee access to humanitarian organisations. The ECOMOG deployment was subsequently authorised under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1216 (1998) as set out in the Abuja Accords.

ECOWAS intervention in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI) (2003, 2011)

Having witnessed a coup against President Laurent Gbagbo, ECOWAS deployed its Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI) to reinstate the ousted president. The ECOWAS mission was endorsed and authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1464 (2003) and was eventually able to restore President Gbagbo to power.

Ironically, some seven years later, ECOWAS intervened again in Côte d'Ivoire – this time to remove President Gbagbo who had lost elections to incoming president Alassane Ouattara and subsequently refused to relinquish rule. On 28 December 2010, the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government gave Gbagbo an ultimatum – allow a transition of power or face the use of force to enforce the election results. On 30 March 2011 the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1975 (2011) authorising limited force to stabilise post-election violence as well as recalling authorisation to the

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Assisted by ECOWAS forces, UNOCI was able to significantly improve the situation on the ground. On 14 April 2011, Gbagbo was ousted from office and President Ouattara was subsequently installed as the legitimate head of state.

ECOWAS intervention in Mali (AFISMA) (2013)

In January 2013, armed conflict erupted in Mali between government forces and Tuareg Rebels. Several weeks later and increasing conflict in the country's north saw a coup unfold against President Amadou Toure. ECOWAS responded to these events with the United Nations Security Council authorised African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). AFISMA was initially to be deployed in September 2013 but was officially deployed on 19 January 2013 after unexpected rebel advances. It is worth noting that the AFISMA deployment was preceded with a planned deployment of an ECOWAS Mission in Mali (MICEMA). A lack of logistical and political will meant that MICEMA was never able to go beyond its planning phase. While the follow up AFISMA deployment was welcomed by many and formally supported by the United Nations Security Council, financial strain and a lack of logistical capacity to sustain the mission exposed inherent ECOWAS dependence on United Nations and European Union assistance (which proved crucial to its eventual deployment). On 1 July 2013, AFISMA was transformed into a United Nations peacekeeping mission – the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali.

ECOWAS intervention in The Gambia (ECOMIG) (2017)

In 2017, the election defeat of Yahya Jammeh by President-elect Adama Barrow was foreshadowed by tension and a reluctance on the part of the former president to allow for a transition in power. Having initially accepted defeat, Jammeh soon disputed and eventually pronounced his rejection of the election results. On 19 January 2017, ECOWAS deployed a limited military intervention into The Gambia (ECOMIG) codenamed *Operation Restore Democracy*. The principal aim of the intervention was to enforce the election results and ensure Jammeh stepped down from the presidency. The intervention saw an albeit brief open conflict between ECOWAS forces and Gambian troops loyal to Jammeh. Upon presenting Jammeh one final opportunity to step down, the former president chose to relinquish power and left The Gambia two days later.

2 Treaties

Protocol on Non-Aggression (1978/1982)

Full title: Protocol on Non-Aggression

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 22 April 1978, Lagos, Nigeria

Entered into force (EIF): 22 April 1978 (provisionally), 13 May 1982 (definitively)

EIF provision: Article 6(I)

Authentic texts: English, French

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2OcgrZq>

The High Contracting Parties

Considering that the Economic Community of West African States, (hereinafter referred to as the “Community”), set up by virtue of the Treaty of May 28, 1975, cannot attain its objectives save in an atmosphere of peace and harmonious understanding among the Member States of the Community;

Recalling Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter which provides that all Member States shall refrain, in their international relations, from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or independence of any State, or any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

Recalling Article 3 (3) of the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity which provides for the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and its inalienable right to independent existence;

Recalling the Resolution of the Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Community, held in Lomé on 5 November, 1976 regarding the signing of an Annexed Protocol on non-recourse to force by Member-States of the Community;

Agree as follows:

Article 1

Member States shall, in their relations with one another, refrain from the threat or use of force or aggression or from employing any other means inconsistent with the Charters of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity against the territorial integrity of political independence of other Member-States.

Article 2

Each Member State shall refrain, from committing, encouraging or condoning acts of subversion, hostility or aggression against the territorial integrity or political independence of the other Member-States.

Article 3

Each Member State shall undertake to prevent Foreigners resident on its territory from committing the acts referred to in Article 2 above against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other Member-States.

Article 4

Each Member State shall undertake to prevent non-resident Foreigners from using its territory as a base for committing the acts referred to in Article 2 above against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States.

Article 5

1. Member States pledge to respond to all peaceful means in the settlement of disputes arising among themselves.
2. Any dispute which cannot be settled peacefully among Member States shall be referred to a Committee of the Authority. In the event of failure of settlement by the aforementioned Committee the dispute shall finally go to the Authority.
3. The composition and the mandate of the Committee referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be decided upon by the Authority.

Article 6

1. This Protocol shall come into effect provisionally on signature by the Heads of State and Government, and definitively on ratification by at least seven signatory States, in conformity with the constitutional regulations of each Member-State.
2. This Protocol, as well as all the Instruments of Ratification, shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat who shall transmit certified true copies of this Protocol to all Member-States informing them of the dates on which the Instruments of Ratification have been deposited. The Protocol shall be registered with the Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations Organisation and any other Organisations approved by the Authority.
3. Any Member State may accede to this Protocol and the instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat.
4. This Protocol shall be annexed to and form an integral part of the Treaty.

Protocol Relating to Mutual Assistance on Defence (1981/1986)

Full title: Protocol Relating to Mutual Assistance on Defence

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 29 May 1981, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Entered into force (EIF): 29 May 1981 (provisionally), 30 September 1986 (definitively)

EIF provision: Article 24

Authentic texts: English, French

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2CfIS7o>

Preamble

The Governments of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States;

Recalling Article 2 of the United Nations Charter which calls upon all Member States to refrain in their international relations from resorting to the use of threats of force either against the territorial integrity or the independence of all States in any manner that is incompatible with the aims of the United Nations or from interfering in the internal affairs of other States;

Recalling Article 3 of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity which calls upon Member States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and its inalienable right to an independent existence; Mindful of the Treaty setting up the Economic Community of West African States;

Recalling the Protocol on Non-Aggression signed in Lagos on 22nd April 1978 in accordance with which Member States resolved not to use force as a means of settling their disputes;

Convinced that economic progress cannot be achieved unless the conditions for the necessary security are ensured in all Member States of the Community;

Considering that Member States belong to the same geographical area; Conscious of the serious continuous threats of aggression on the African continent in general and their own countries in particular;

Conscious of the serious risks that the presence of foreign military bases on the African continent may constitute as support forces to external aggression;

Firmly resolve to safeguard and consolidate the independence and the sovereignty of Member States against foreign intervention;

Conscious of the fact that external defence of their states depends entirely on each sovereign state, and that such a defence will be more effective with

the coordination and pooling together of the means of mutual assistance provided by respective Member States within the framework of this Protocol;

Desirous of maintaining the ties of friendship existing amongst Member States and of strengthening their cooperation in all fields on the basis of equality, mutual interests and respects;

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I: Definitions

Article 1

Within the context of this Protocol,

“Treaty” means the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States;

“Community” means the Economic Community of West African States;

“Authority” means the Authority of Heads of State and Government as defined in Article 5 of the Treaty;

“Member State” or “Member States” means a Member State or Member States of the Community;

“Executive Secretary” means Executive Secretary of the Community as defined in Article 8 of the Treaty;

“Aggression” means the use of armed force by any State against the sovereignty and territorial integrity or political independence of another State or by any other manner incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and OAU;

“Assistance on Defence” means all military aid (material, technical and personnel).

Chapter II: Objectives

Article 2

Member States declare and accept that any armed threat or aggression directed against any Member State shall constitute a threat or aggression against the entire Community.

Article 3

Member States resolve to give mutual aid and assistance for defence against any armed threat or aggression.

Article 4

Member States shall also take appropriate measures such as specified in Articles 17 and 18 of the present Protocol in the following circumstances:

- (a) In case of armed conflict between two or several Member States if the settlement procedure by peaceful means as indicated in Article 5 of the Non-Aggression Protocol mentioned in the Preamble proves ineffective;
- (b) In case of internal armed conflict within any Member State engineered and supported actively from outside likely to endanger the security and peace in the entire Community. In this case the Authority shall appreciate and decide on this situation in full collaboration with the Authority of the Member State or States concerned.

Chapter III: Institutions

Article 5

The institutions for the implementation of this Protocol shall be:

- The Authority
- The Defence Council
- The Defence Commission

Section I – The Authority

Article 6

1. The Authority on the occasion of the annual ordinary meeting of ECOWAS shall examine general problems concerning peace and security of the Community;
2. The Authority may also hold extraordinary sessions on defence matters where circumstances so require;
3. The Authority shall decide on the expediency of the military action and entrust its execution to the Force Commander of the Allied Forces of the Community (AAFC);
4. Decisions taken by the Authority shall be immediately enforceable on Member States.

Section II – The Defence Council

Article 7

1. A Defence Council of the Community shall be established by the Authority;
2. It shall consist of Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs of Member States. However, in cases of crisis, the Defence Council shall be chaired by the current Chairman of the Authority and it shall be enlarged to include any other Minister from Member States

according to the circumstances. The Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary in charge of military matters shall be in attendance at meetings of the Council.

Article 8

1. The Defence Council shall meet on the convocation by its Chairman to prepare the items of the Agenda of Sessions of the Authority dealing with defence matters;
2. In an emergency, the Defence Council shall examine the situation, the strategy to be adopted and the means of intervention to be used.

Article 9

In case of armed intervention, the Defence Council assisted by the Defence Commission shall supervise with the authority of the State or States concerned, all measures to be taken by the Force Commander and ensure that all necessary means for the intervention are made available to him. The actions of the Force Commander shall be subject to competent political authority of the Member State or States concerned.

Article 10

At the end of the operation, the Defence Council shall write a factual report to be addressed to the Authority.

Section III – The Defence Commission

Article 11

1. A Defence Commission shall be established by the Authority and shall consist of a Chief or Staff from each Member State;
2. The Defence Commission shall be responsible for examining the technical aspect of defence matters;
3. The Defence Commission shall establish its Rules of Procedure especially in respect of the convening of its meetings, the conduct of the business and the implementation of duties as assigned to it by the Defence Council.

Chapter IV: Administration

Article 12

1. The Defence Council shall appoint a Deputy Executive Secretary (Military) at the Executive Secretariat for a period of four years renewable only once;
2. The Deputy Executive Secretary (Military) shall be a senior serving military officer;
3. He shall be in charge of the administration and follow-up of the

- decisions taken by the Authority and in accordance with the present Protocol and under the authority of the Executive Secretary;
4. He shall update plans for the movement of troops and logistics and initiate joint exercises as provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 13 below;
 5. He shall be assisted in the discharge of his functions by the necessary staff members and personnel as determined by the Defence Council;
 6. He shall prepare and manage the military budget of the Secretariat;
 7. He shall study and make proposals to the Executive Secretariat in respect of all matters relating to personnel and equipment within his jurisdiction.

Chapter V: Modalities of Intervention and Assistance

Article 13

1. All Member States agree to place at the disposal of the Community, earmarked units from the existing National Armed Forces in case of any armed intervention;
2. These Units shall be referred to as the Allied Armed Forces of the Community (AAFC);
3. In order to better realize the objectives set forth in this Protocol, the Member States may organize, from time to time, as may be approved by the Authority, joint military exercises among two or more earmarked United of the AAFC.

Article 14

The Allied Armed Forces of the Community shall be under the command of the Forces Commander appointed by the Authority on the proposal of the Defence Council. He shall be entrusted with powers that are conferred upon him by the Authority.

He, together with the Chief of Defence staff of the assisted country, shall be the joint Chief of Defence Staff of the Allied Armed Forces and shall be responsible for the implementation of armed intervention and assistance as decided by the Authority. He shall have at his disposal all necessary means of defence.

Article 15

1. Intervention by AAFC shall, in all cases be justified by the legitimate defence of the territories of the Community;
2. It shall therefore be carried out in accordance with the mechanism described in Articles 16, 17 and 18 below.

Article 16

When an external armed threat or aggression is directed against a Member

State of the Community, the Head of State of that country shall send a written request for assistance to the current Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS, with copies to other Members. This request shall mean that the Authority is duly notified and that the AAFC are placed under a state of emergency. The Authority shall decide in accordance with the emergency procedure as stipulated in Article 6 above.

Article 17

When there is a conflict between two Member States of the Community, the Authority shall meet urgently and take appropriate action for mediation. If need be, the Authority shall decide only to interpose the AAFC between the troops engaged in the conflict.

Article 18

1. In the case where an internal conflict in a Member State of the Community is actively maintained and sustained from outside, the provisions of Articles 6, 8 9 and 16 of this Protocol shall apply;
2. Community forces shall not intervene if the conflict remains purely internal.

Chapter VI: Special Provisions

Article 19

The implementation of this Protocol shall be supplemented by additional Protocols.

Article 20

1. Undertakings devolving from the provisions of this Protocol shall not be interpreted as being against the spirit of Conventions or Agreements binding one Member State to another third State or States, provided such Conventions and Agreements are not in conflict with the spirit of this Defence Assistance;
2. Nonetheless, a Defence Agreement concluded with some other State shall be denounced by the Member State concerned as soon as such other State shall have been identified by the Authority as an aggressor against a Member State;
3. Member States shall undertake to end the presence of foreign military bases within their national territories as soon as the Community is in the position to meet their requirements in matters relating to defence.

Chapter VII: General and Final Provisions

Article 21

1. Any Member State which accedes to the Treaty, automatically accedes to this Protocol and to the Protocol of Non-Aggression signed in Lagos on the 22nd April 1978;
2. On the other hand, any Member State signatory to this present Protocol and having ratified it, or having acceded to it, becomes party to the above- mentioned Non-Aggression Pact.

Article 22

1. Any Member State may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of this Protocol;
2. Any such proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary who shall communicate them to other Member States not later than thirty days after the receipt of such proposals. Amendments or revising shall be considered by the Authority after Member States have been given one month's notice thereof.

Article 23

1. Any Member State wishing to withdraw from the Protocol shall give to the Executive Secretary one year's written notice. At the end of this period of one year, if such notice is not withdrawn, such a State shall cease to be a party to the Protocol;
2. During the period of one year referred to in the preceding paragraph, such a Member State shall nevertheless observe the provisions of this Protocol and shall remain liable for the discharge of its obligations under this Protocol.

Article 24

1. This Protocol shall enter into force provisionally at the signing by the Heads of State and Government, and definitively after ratification by not less than seven (7) signatories, in accordance with the Constitutional Laws of each Member State;
2. This Protocol, as well as all instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat which shall transmit certified true copies to all Member States and notify them of the dates of deposits of the instruments of ratification and shall register it with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as well as the United Nations (UN) and any other Organization as the Authority shall decide.
3. The Present Protocol shall be annexed to and shall form an integral part of the Treaty.

Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (1993/1995)

Full title: Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 24 July 1993, Cotonou, Benin

Entered into force (EIF): 23 August 1995

EIF provision: Article 89

Authentic texts: English, French, Portuguese

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2CnATUw>

Excerpts

...

Article 4: Fundamental Principles

The high contracting parties, in pursuit of the objectives stated in Article 3 of this Treaty, solemnly affirm and declare their adherence to the following principles:

...

- (d) non-aggression between Member States;
- (e) maintenance of regional peace, stability and security through the promotion and strengthening of good neighbourliness;
- (f) peaceful settlement of disputes among Member States, active co-operation between neighbouring countries and promotion of a peaceful environment as a prerequisite for economic development.

...

- (i) recognition and observance of the rules and principles of the Community
- (j) promotion and consolidation of a democratic system of governance in each Member State as envisaged by the Declaration of Political Principles adopted in Abuja on 6 July, 1991; and

...

Article 4: General Undertakings

1. Member States undertake to create favourable conditions for the attainment of the objectives of the Community, and particularly to take all necessary measures to harmonise their strategies and policies, and to refrain from any action that may hinder the attainment of the said objectives.

...

3. Each Member States undertakes to honour its obligations under this Treaty and to abide by the decisions and regulations of the

Community.

...

Chapter X: Co-operation in Political, Judicial and Legal Affairs, Regional Security and Immigration

Article 56: Political Affairs

1. In pursuit of the integration objectives of the Community, Member States undertake to co-operate on political matters, and in particular, to take appropriate measures to ensure effective application of the provisions of this Treaty.
2. The signatory States to the Protocol on Non-Aggression, the Protocol on Mutual Assistance on Defence, the Community Declaration of Political Principles and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights agree to co-operate for the purpose of realising the objectives of these instruments.

...

Article 58: Regional Security

1. Member States undertake to work to safeguard and consolidate relations conducive to the maintenance of peace, stability and security within the region.
2. In pursuit of these objectives, Member States undertake to co-operate with the Community in establishing and strengthening appropriate mechanisms for the timely prevention and resolution of intra-State and inter-State conflicts, paying particular regard to the need to:
 - (a) maintain periodic and regular consultations between national border administration authorities;
 - (b) establish local or national joint commissions to examine any problems encountered in relations between neighbouring States;
 - (c) encourage exchanges and co-operation between communities, townships and administrative regions;
 - (d) organise meetings between relevant ministries on various aspects of inter-State relations;
 - (e) employ where appropriate, good offices, conciliation, mediation and other methods of peaceful settlement of disputes;
 - (f) establish a regional peace and security observation system and peace-keeping forces where appropriate;
 - (g) provide, where necessary and at the request of Member States, assistance to Member States for the observation of democratic elections.
3. The detailed provisions governing political co-operation, regional peace and stability shall be defined in the relevant Protocols.

Chapter XVI: Sanctions

Article 77: Sanctions Applicable for Non-Fulfilment of Obligations

1. Where a Member State fails to fulfil its obligations to the Community, the Authority may decide to impose sanctions on that Member State.
2. These sanctions may include:
 - ...
 - (iv) suspension of voting rights; and
 - (v) suspension from participating in the activities of the Community
 - ...

Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security (1999/1999)

Full title: ECOWAS Protocol A/P10/12/99 Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 10 December 1999, Lomé, Togo

Entered into force (EIF): 10 December 1999 (provisionally)

EIF provision: Article 57

Authentic texts: English, French, Portuguese

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2O5JbTO>

Excerpts

Preamble

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

Mindful of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty signed in Cotonou on 23 July 1993 notably its Article 58;

...

Concerned about the proliferation of conflicts which constitute a threat to the peace and security in the African continent, and undermines our efforts to improve the living standards of our peoples;

Convinced of the need to develop effective policies that will alleviate the suffering of the civil population, especially women and children, and, restore life to normalcy after conflicts or natural disasters, and desirous of

making further efforts in the humanitarian sphere;

Conscious of the fact that good governance, the rule of law and sustainable development are essential for peace and conflict prevention;

...

Convinced that cross-border crimes, the proliferation of small arms and all illicit trafficking contribute to the development of insecurity and instability and jeopardise the economic and social development of the sub-region;

Aware that these phenomena constitute serious social and economic problems which can only be resolved within the framework of increased and well-coordinated multilateral cooperation;

Recognising the need to make the relevant treaties and protocols more adequate, effective and pragmatic;

Desiring to consolidate our achievements in the resolution of conflicts through the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

Recalling our Decision A/DEC.11/10/98 adopted in Abuja on 31 October 1998, relating to the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping and Security;

Desirous to establish an operational structure for the implementation of the said Decision;

Hereby agree on the following:

Definitions

For the purposes of this Protocol;

...

“Mediation and Security Council” means the Mediation and Security Council as defined by Article 8 of this Protocol;

“Defence and Security Commission” means the Defence and Security Commission as defined in Article 18 of this Protocol;

...

“Organ” means any of the structures provided for under Article 17 of this Protocol;

“Observation and Monitoring Centre” means the Regional Peace and Security Monitoring Centre as provided for under Article 58 of the Treaty and referred to in Article 23 of this Protocol;

“ECOMOG” means the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group which constitutes the Community’s intervention force as defined in Article 21 of this Protocol;

“Force Commander” means the Force Commander appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of this Protocol;

“Trans-border crime” refers to all crimes organised or perpetrated by individuals, organisations or networks of local and/or foreign criminals operating beyond the national boundaries of a Member State, or acting in complicity with associates based in one or several States adjoining the

country where the crimes are actually committed or having any connection with any Member State;

“Member State in crisis” refers both to a Member State experiencing an armed conflict as well as a Member State facing serious and persisting problems or situations of extreme tension which, if left unchecked, could lead to serious humanitarian disaster or threaten peace and security in the sub-region or in any Member State affected by the overthrow or attempted overthrow of a democratically elected government.

Chapter I: Establishment, Principles and Objectives of the Mechanism

Article 1: Establishment

There is hereby established within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a mechanism for collective security and peace to be known as “Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping and Security”.

Article 2: Principles

Member States reaffirm their commitment to the principles contained in the Charters of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, particularly the following fundamental principles:

- (a) that economic and social development and the security of peoples and States are inextricably linked;
- (b) promotion and reinforcement of the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment which contribute to the reinforcement of good neighbourliness;
- (c) promotion and consolidation of a democratic government as well as democratic institutions in each Member State;
- (d) protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms and the rules of international humanitarian laws;
- (e) equality of sovereign States;
- (f) territorial integrity and political independence of Member States;

Article 3: Objectives of the Mechanism

The objectives of the Mechanism shall be as follows:

- (a) prevent, manage and resolve internal and inter-State conflicts under the conditions provided in Paragraph 46 of the Framework of the Mechanism ratified as per Decision A/DEC.11/10/98 of 31 October 1998;
- (b) implement the relevant provisions of Article 58 of the Revised Treaty;
- (c) implement the relevant provisions of the Protocols on Non-Aggression, Mutual Assistance in Defence, Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment;

- (d) strengthen cooperation in the areas of conflict prevention, early-warning, peace-keeping operations, the control of cross-border crime, international terrorism and proliferation of small arms and anti-personnel mines;
- (e) maintain and consolidate peace, security and stability within the Community;
- (f) establish institutions and formulate policies that would allow for the organisation and coordination of humanitarian relief missions;
- (g) promote close cooperation between Member States in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping;
- (h) constitute and deploy a civilian and military force to maintain or restore peace within the sub-region, whenever the need arises;
- (i) set up an appropriate framework for the rational and equitable management of natural resources shared by neighbouring Member States which may be causes of frequent inter-State conflicts;
- (j) protect the environment and take steps to restore the degraded environment to its natural state;
- (k) safeguard the cultural heritage of Member States;
- (l) formulate and implement policies on anti-corruption, money-laundering and illegal circulation of small arms.

Chapter II: Institutions of the Mechanism

Article 4: Institutions

The institutions of the Mechanism shall be:

- The Authority;
- The Mediation and Security Council;
- The Executive Secretariat;
- Any other institution as may be established by the Authority.

Article 5: Composition and Meetings of the Authority

The Authority is composed of Heads of State and Government of Member States as stipulated in Paragraph 1, Article 7 of the Revised Treaty.

The Authority shall meet as often as necessary.

Article 6: Functions

The Authority shall be the Mechanism's highest decision-making body.

It shall have powers to act on all matters concerning conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace-keeping, security, humanitarian support, peace-building, control of cross-border crime, proliferation of small arms, as well as all other matters covered by the provisions of this Mechanism.

Article 7: Delegation of Powers

Without prejudice to its wide-ranging powers as provided under Article 9 of the Treaty and in Article 6 above, the Authority hereby mandates

the Mediation and Security Council to take, on its behalf, appropriate decisions for the implementation of the provisions of this Mechanism.

Article 8: Composition of the Mediation and Security Council

The Mediation and Security Council shall comprise nine (9) Member States of which seven (7) shall be elected by the Authority. The other two (2) members shall be the current chairman and the immediate past chairman of the Authority, each of whom shall have an automatic right to membership of the Mediation and Security Council.

The elected Members of the Mediation and Security Council shall serve for two (2) years renewable.

Article 9: Quorum and Decisions

The meeting of the Mediation and Security Council shall be properly constituted when at least two-thirds of its Members are present.

Decisions of the Mediation and Security Council shall be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of Members present.

Article 10: Functions

The Mediation and Security Council shall take decisions on issues of peace and security in the sub-region on behalf of the Authority. It shall also implement all the provisions of this Protocol.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 7 of this Protocol and Paragraph 1 above, the Mediation and Security Council shall:

- (a) decide on all matters relating to peace and security;
- (b) decide and implement all policies for conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace-keeping and security;
- (c) authorise all forms of intervention and decide particularly on the deployment of political and military missions;
- (d) approve mandates and terms of reference for such missions;
- (e) review the mandates and terms of reference periodically, on the basis of evolving situations;
- (f) on the recommendation of the Executive Secretary, appoint the Special Representative of the Executive Secretary and the Force Commander.

Article 11: Meetings of the Mediation and Security Council

Deliberations of the Mediation and Security Council shall be held at three (3) levels: Heads of State and Government, Ministerial and Ambassadorial levels.

All meetings of the Mediation and Security Council shall be presided over by the Member State elected as the current Chairman of the Authority.

Article 12: Meeting at the Level of Heads of State and Government

The Heads of State and Government of the Mediation and Security

Council shall meet at least twice a year in ordinary sessions. Extraordinary Sessions may be convened by the Chairman when the need arises or at the request of a simple majority of the Members of the Council.

The Heads of State and Government of the Mediation and Security Council shall take final decisions on all issues under their authority and competence, including field missions and approve the terms of reference, for such missions.

Article 13: Meeting at the Ministerial Level

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Internal Affairs and Security of the Mediation Security Council shall meet at least once every three (3) months to review the general political and security situation in the sub-region. They may also meet when the need arises.

The recommendations emanating from the Ministerial meetings shall be submitted to the member Heads of State and Government of the Mediation and Security Council.

Article 14: Meeting at the Ambassadorial Level

ECOWAS Member States shall accredit Ambassadors as permanent representatives to the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat. These Ambassadors may also be those accredited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Ambassadors of Member States of the Mediation and Security Council shall meet once a month to review issues relating to sub-regional peace and security. They may also meet when the need arises.

All reports and recommendations of meetings of the Ambassadors shall be forwarded by the Executive Secretary to all Member States of the Mediation and Security Council and to the Member States concerned. The Reports shall also be submitted for consideration by the meeting of Ministers of the Mediation and Security Council.

Article 15: Role and Functions of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary shall have the power to initiate actions for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peace-keeping and security in the sub-region. Such actions may include fact-finding, mediation, facilitation, negotiation and reconciliation of parties in conflict.

The role of the Executive Secretary shall include the following:

- (a) recommend the appointment of the Special Representative and the Force Commander for approval by the Mediation and Security Council;
- (b) appoint members of the Council of Elders;
- (c) have responsibility for political, administrative and operational activities and provide logistic support for the mission;
- (d) prepare periodic reports on activities of the Mechanism for the Mediation and Security Council and Member States;
- (e) deploy fact-finding and mediation missions, on the basis of his/her

- assessment of the existing situation;
- (f) convene, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority, all meetings of the Mediation and Security Council, the Council of Elders, and the Defence and Security Commission;
- (g) Implement all decisions of the Mediation and Security Council.

The ECOWAS Secretariat shall service the Mediation and Security Council and the Defence and Security Commission.

In implementing the provisions of this Mechanism, the Executive Secretary shall be assisted by the Deputy Executive Secretary in charge of Political Affairs, Defence and Security.

Article 16: The Deputy Executive Secretary

1. Under the direction of the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary in charge of Political Affairs, Defence and Security shall initiate and undertake all activities relating to the implementation of the Mechanism.
2. The office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs, Defence and Security, shall be headed by a statutory officer appointed in accordance with Paragraph 4 (a), Article 18 of the Treaty. He shall have under his supervision appropriate departments, divisions and sections, as may be necessary, including:
 - (a) the Department of Political Affairs;
 - (b) the Department of Humanitarian Affairs;
 - (c) the Department of Defence and Security;
 - (d) the Observation and Monitoring Centre; and
 - (e) such other departments as may be established by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the Mediation and Security Council.

Chapter III: Supporting Organs of the Institutions of the Mechanism

In carrying out their missions, the Institutions stipulated in Article 4 shall be assisted by the organs enumerated in Article 17 of this Protocol.

Article 17: Organs

The following organs are hereby established to assist the Mediation and Security Council:

- The Defence and Security Commission;
- The Council of Elders;
- ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

Article 18: Composition of the Defence and Security Commission

The following representatives from Member States shall constitute the Defence and Security Commission:

- (a) Chiefs of Defence Staff or equivalent;
- (b) Officers responsible for Internal Affairs and Security;
- (c) Experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- (d) Depending on the agenda, Heads of any of the following services may be invited:
- (e) Immigration;
- (f) Customs;
- (g) Drug/Narcotic Agencies;
- (h) Border Guards; and
- (i) Civil Protection Force.

Article 19: Functions

The Defence and Security Commission shall examine all technical and administrative issues and assess logistical requirements for peace-keeping operations. It shall assist the Mediation and Security Council in:

- (a) formulating the mandate of the Peace-keeping Force;
- (b) defining the terms of reference for the Force;
- (c) appointing the Force Commander;
- (d) determining the composition of the Contingents.

The Defence and Security Commission shall meet once every quarter and when necessary. The Commission shall examine reports from the Observation and Monitoring Centres and make recommendations to the Mediation and Security Council.

Article 20: Composition and Mandate of the Council of Elders

The Executive Secretary shall compile annually, a list of eminent personalities who, on behalf of ECOWAS, can use their good offices and experience to play the role of mediators, conciliators and facilitators. The list shall comprise eminent persons from various segments of society, including women, political, traditional and religious leaders. The list shall be approved by the Mediation and Security Council at the level of the Heads of State and Government.

These Personalities shall be requested by the Executive Secretary or the Mediation and Security Council, whenever the need arises, to deal with a given conflict situation.

Whenever the circumstances require, the Executive Secretary shall assemble eminent personalities from the approved list who shall now constitute the Council of Elders.

The composition and mandate of the Council of Elders shall be defined by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the missions to be carried out.

Members of the Council of Elders selected to deal with a given situation shall report to the Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretary shall report to the Mediation and Security Council on the initiatives taken in conformity with the provisions of Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

Members of the Council of Elders shall be neutral, impartial and objective in carrying out their mission.

Article 21: Composition of ECOMOG

The ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) is a structure composed of several Stand-by multi-purpose modules (civilian and military) in their countries of origin and ready for immediate deployment.

Article 22: Role of ECOMOG

ECOMOG is charged, among others, with the following missions:

- (a) Observation and Monitoring;
- (b) Peace-keeping and restoration of peace;
- (c) Humanitarian intervention in support of humanitarian disaster;
- (d) Enforcement of sanctions, including embargo;
- (e) Preventive deployment;
- (f) Peace-building, disarmament and demobilisation;
- (g) Policing activities, including the control of fraud and organised crime;
- (h) Any other operations as may be mandated by the Mediation and Security Council.

Chapter IV: Sub-Regional Peace and Security Observation System (Early Warning)

A sub-regional peace and security observation system known as the Early Warning System or “The System” is hereby established for the purposes of conflict prevention and in accordance with Article 58 of the Revised Treaty. The System shall consist of:

- (a) Observation and Monitoring Centre located at the Secretariat;
- (b) Observation and Monitoring Zones within the sub-region.

Article 23: Observation and Monitoring Centre

The Observation and Monitoring Centre shall be responsible for data collection and analyses and preparation of reports for the use of the Executive Secretariat.

The Centre shall collaborate with the United Nations Organisation, the Organisation of African Unity, research centres and all other relevant international regional and sub-regional organisations.

Article 24: Observation and Monitoring Zones

Member States shall be divided into zones on the basis of proximity, ease of communication and efficiency. Each zone shall be identified by a number and each shall have a zonal headquarters. The following four (4) Observation and Monitoring Zones are hereby created:

Zone N° Countries Zonal Capitals

Cape Verde - Banjul
The Gambia
Guinea-Bissau

Mauritania
 Senegal
 Burkina Faso - Ouagadougou
 Cote d'Ivoire
 Mali
 Niger
 Ghana - Monrovia
 Guinea
 Liberia
 Sierra Leone
 Benin - Cotonou
 Nigeria
 Togo

The zoning provided for in Paragraph 1 above may be altered, if necessary, by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Each zonal headquarters shall be provided with an office and placed under the authority of the Executive Secretary, through the office of the Deputy Executive Secretary.

Member States hereby undertake to guarantee the freedom of operations of the zonal headquarters in accordance with the privileges, immunities and security to property, assets and staff of the bureaux as provided by the ECOWAS General Convention on Privileges and Immunities and the Headquarters Agreement.

The Zonal Bureau shall maintain working relations with the host country and local and international institutions.

The Zonal Bureaux shall, on a state by state and day-to-day basis, collect data on indicators that impact on the peace and security of the zone and the sub-region.

The Zonal Headquarters shall process the data collected and prepare a report which they shall send to the Observation and Monitoring Centre. Accordingly, each of the Zonal Headquarters shall be directly linked by appropriate communication means to the Observation and Monitoring Centre.

Chapter V: Application of the Mechanism

Article 25: Conditions for Application

The Mechanism shall be applied in any of the following circumstances:

- In cases of aggression or conflict in any Member State or threat thereof;
- In case of conflict between two or several Member States;
- In case of internal conflict:
 - (a) that threatens to trigger a humanitarian disaster, or
 - (b) that poses a serious threat to peace and security in the sub-region;
- In event of serious and massive violation of human rights and the

rule of law.

- In the event of an overthrow or attempted overthrow of a democratically elected government;
- Any other situation as may be decided by the Mediation and Security Council.

Article 26: Authority to Initiate

The Mechanism shall be put into effect by any of the following:

- (a) Upon the decision of the Authority;
- (b) Upon the decision of the Mediation and Security Council;
- (c) At the request of a Member State;
- (d) On the initiative of the Executive Secretary;
- (e) At request of the Organisation of African Unity or the United Nations.

Article 27: Procedure

The Mechanism shall be applied according to any of the following procedures:

- The Executive Secretary shall inform Member States of the Mediation and Security Council and, in consultation with the Chairman, take all necessary and urgent measures;
- The Mediation and Security Council shall consider several options and decide on the most appropriate course of action to take in terms of intervention. Such options may include recourse to the Council of Elders, the dispatch of fact-finding missions, political and mediation missions or intervention by ECOMOG;
- The Mediation and Security Council shall issue a mandate authorising the Executive Secretary to set up a mission and define its terms of reference;
- Where necessary, the Mediation and Security Council shall appoint the principal officers, such as the Special Representative of the Executive Secretary and the ECOMOG Force Commander.
- The Chairman of the Mediation and Security Council shall submit a report on the situation to the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations;
- The Executive Secretariat shall mobilise all the resources required for the operations.

Chapter VI: Conflict Management

Article 28: Composite Stand-by Units

Member States hereby agree to make available to ECOMOG units adequate resources for the army, air force, navy, gendarmerie, police and all other military, paramilitary or civil formations necessary for the accomplishment of the mission.

Each Member State shall provide ECOMOG with a unit the size of which shall be determined after consultation with each Member State.

The strengths of these units shall be reviewed according to the situation on the ground.

Article 29: Mandates of the Force and Missions of Deployed Units

Whenever the force is deployed, the strength, mandates and missions of the units shall vary according to the evolving situation on the ground.

Article 30: Training and Preparation of the Composite Stand-by Units

The Executive Secretary, through the departments concerned and, in consultation with Member States, shall contribute to the in training of civilian and military personnel that shall be part of the stand-by units in various fields, particularly in international humanitarian law and human rights.

In this regard, he shall:

- (a) support the development of common training programmes and instruction manuals for national schools and training centres;
- (b) organise training and proficiency courses for personnel of the units in the regional centres in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana;
- (c) work towards the integration of these centres into sub-regional centres for the implementation of this Mechanism.
- (d) take the necessary measures for the organisation of periodic staff and commanders' exercises and joint operations.

Article 31: Observation Missions

Unarmed civilian and military personnel provided by Member States may be deployed alone or in conjunction with armed personnel. They shall, inter alia, supervise and monitor cease-fires, disarmament, de-mobilisation, elections, respect for human rights, humanitarian activities and investigate any complaints or claims brought to their notice. They shall undertake such other activities under the terms of reference as determined by the Mediation and Security Council.

The Observer Missions shall report on their activities and findings to the Executive Secretary.

Article 32: Appointment and Functions of the Special Representative

On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary the Mediation and Security Council shall appoint a Special Representative for each Operation undertaken by ECOMOG.

The principal role and functions of the Special Representative shall include the following:

- (a) Serve as the Chief of the Mission and shall be responsible for the political orientation of the mission;
- (b) Direct peace-keeping activities and initiate political and diplomatic negotiations with the parties, neighbouring States and other Governments involved in conflict resolution;

- (c) Brief troop-contributing States and other States on the situation and operations of the mission as and when required;
- (d) Coordinate activities of the sub-regional and international organisations, including NGOs involved in humanitarian relief and peace-building activities in the mission area. Where necessary, he shall be assisted by a Deputy responsible for humanitarian affairs;
- (e) Maintain constant contact with and submit regular reports to the Executive Secretary.

Article 33: Appointment and Functions of the ECOMOG Force Commander

On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary an ECOMOG Force Commander shall be appointed by the Mediation and Security Council and in consultation with the Defence and Security Commission for each operation.

The role and functions of the ECOMOG Force Commander shall include the following:

- (a) He shall be responsible for the efficiency of operational, administrative and logistical plans of the mission;
- (b) He shall issue instructions to contingent commanders for all operational activities.
- (c) He shall ensure the security of personnel and materiel of humanitarian organisations' in the mission area.
- (d) The ECOMOG Force Commander is accountable to the Executive Secretary, through the Special Representative.

Article 34: The Chain of Command

The Special Representative shall report directly to the Executive Secretary.

The Force Commander shall report to the Executive Secretary through his Special Representative.

All Contingent Commanders shall report directly to the Force Commander.

All Civil Units shall report directly to the Special Representative.

Article 35: Role of Member States

In addition to their responsibilities as stipulated by the Treaty and this Protocol:

- Each Member State shall immediately, upon request, release Stand-by Units with the necessary equipment and materiel;
- Member States hereby undertake to fully cooperate with ECOWAS in carrying out the mandates of this Protocol, including all forms of assistance and support required for the Mechanism, especially as regards the free movement of ECOMOG within their territories.

Chapter VII: Financing of the Mechanism

Article 36: Funding

The Executive Secretariat shall make provision in its annual budget, for funds to finance activities of the Mechanism. As soon as the Protocol governing conditions for application of the Community Levy enters into force, a percentage of the said Levy shall be earmarked for these activities.

Special requests for funds shall be made to the United Nations and other international agencies.

Funds for operations may also be raised from the OAU, voluntary contributions and grants from bilateral and multilateral sources.

Article 37: Pre-Financing

The States contributing contingents may be invited to bear the cost of operations during the first three (3) months.

ECOWAS shall refund the expenditure incurred by the States within a maximum period of six (6) months and then proceed to finance the operations.

Article 38: Logistical Support

The organisation of logistics, including troop transport, shall be determined by the Executive Secretariat in consultation with the host country and the States contributing troops.

Article 39: Remuneration and Service Conditions

The remuneration and conditions of service of the personnel shall be determined by the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the Mediation and Security Council.

Chapter VIII: Humanitarian Assistance

ECOWAS shall take active part in coordinating and conducting humanitarian assistance.

Article 40: Responsibilities of ECOWAS

ECOWAS shall intervene to alleviate the suffering of the populations and restore life to normalcy in the event of crises, conflict and disaster.

In this regard, ECOWAS shall develop own capacity to efficiently undertake humanitarian actions for the purposes of conflict prevention and management.

Where the environment of a Member State is gravely devastated, appropriate steps shall be taken to rehabilitate it.

ECOWAS shall recognise, encourage and support the role of women in its initiatives for conflict prevention, management, resolution,

peace-keeping and security.

Article 41: Cooperation with Other Organisations

ECOWAS shall cooperate with the following institutions and organisations:

- (a) national, regional NGOs and religious organisations;
- (b) Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations and its agencies;
- (c) other international organisations intervening in the humanitarian sector.

The ECOMOG unit shall be adequately equipped to undertake humanitarian activities in their mission area under the control of the Special Representative of the Executive Secretary.

ECOMOG shall provide assistance to all national, regional and international agencies, particularly on security issues.

When necessary, ECOMOG shall coordinate the activities of humanitarian agencies in the field.

Chapter IX: Peace-Building

The Community hereby adopts a graduated strategy for building peace which shall be implemented as a continuum.

Article 42: ECOWAS Institutional Capacity for Peace-Building

To stem social and political upheavals, ECOWAS shall be involved in the preparation, organisation and supervision of elections in Member States. ECOWAS shall also monitor and actively support the development of democratic institutions of Member States.

ECOWAS shall endeavour to assist Member States emerging from conflicts to increase their capacity for national, social, economic and cultural reconstruction.

In this regard, all ECOWAS financial institutions shall develop policies to facilitate funding for reintegration and reconstruction programmes.

Article 43: Peace-Building During Hostilities

In zones of relative peace, priority shall be accorded to implementation of policies designed to reduce degradation of social and economic conditions arising from conflicts.

Article 44: Peace-building at the End of Hostilities

To assist Member States that have been adversely affected by violent conflicts, ECOWAS shall undertake the following activities:

- (a) Consolidation of the peace that has been negotiated;
- (b) establishment of conditions for the political, social and economic reconstruction of the society and governmental institutions;
- (c) Implementation of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes including those for child soldiers;
- (d) Resettlement and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced

- persons;
- (e) Assistance to vulnerable persons, including children, the elderly, women and other traumatised groups in the society.

Article 45: Restoration of Political Authority

In situations where the authority of government is absent or has been seriously eroded, ECOWAS shall support processes towards the restoration of political authority. Such support may include the preparation, organisation, monitoring and management of the electoral process, with the cooperation of relevant regional and international organisations. The restoration of political authority shall be undertaken at the same time as the development of respect for human rights, enhancement of the rule of law and the judiciary.

Chapter X: Sub-Regional Security

Article 46: Control of Trans-Border Crime

In order to facilitate the control of trans-border crime, ECOWAS shall promote close cooperation among the security services of Member States.

The security services of Member States shall assist one another and ensure proper coordination for the apprehension of criminals.

Member States shall establish specialised departments within their ministries of Justice, Defence and Security with trained personnel and communication equipment for coordination and centralisation of cooperation matters in particular, mutual assistance in criminal matters, and extradition requests.

Member States shall supply the Executive Secretariat with documents setting out the details of criminal procedures in their countries. The information provided by Member States shall include a summary of the criminal process, from beginning to end, and shall outline what is needed for each State to grant a request for mutual assistance, extradition or the restraint or forfeiture of proceeds of crime. Member States shall also provide all the contract particulars for their national units and exchange information concerning any other relevant authorities and provide updated lists of the said units. The information shall be translated and circulated by the ECOWAS Secretariat to all the specialised units (Central authorities) established to handle requests and other related matters that may arise in the course of implementation.

With a view to strengthening national legal instruments on mutual legal assistance and extradition and making them more functional and efficient, all Member States shall harmonize their domestic law in accordance with the relevant ECOWAS Conventions on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition. Member States undertake to adopt a convention to incriminate and make punishable the most commonly committed

crimes in the sub-region.

Member States shall keep statistics, in particular, on the number of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests received and sent, as well as results obtained. There shall also be periodic meetings of the specialised departments of the Ministries of Justice, Defence and Security and the Interpol National Central Bureaux for the purpose of exchanging information on past or on-going cases and on measures aimed at improving cooperation.

Member States shall develop simplified restitution procedures for vehicles and other stolen objects seized by the requested State.

The judicial and police authorities of ECOWAS Member States shall consider the red notices published by the ICPO-Interpol at the request of an ECOWAS Member State as valid requests for provisional arrest for the purpose of Article 22 of the ECOWAS Convention on Extradition.

Member States shall establish a special fund for detected proceeds of crime. This fund can be used for preventive and criminal justice response to, inter alia, trans-border crime and drug trafficking. Member States shall also give consideration to the establishment of confiscated asset management offices, where required.

Legislation on forfeiture of proceeds of crime in Member State shall be applicable to all crimes.

ECOWAS shall establish a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Centre (ECPCJS) to serve as focal point for mutual legal assistance. The Centre shall be part of the Legal Department within ECOWAS. This ECPCJC shall assist in linking up ECOWAS Member States to non-ECOWAS Member States in Mutual Assistance Matters. It shall also serve as a supervisory power to ensure that countries implement conventions they sign.

Article 47: Coordination of Policies

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the coordination and implementation of all decisions relating to sub-regional security.

Article 48: Anti-Corruption Measures

To eradicate corruption within their territories and in the sub-region, ECOWAS and its Member States shall promote transparency, accountability and good governance.

Article 49: Measures Against Money Laundering

The ECOWAS Secretariat and Member States shall adopt strategies for combatting the problem of money laundering, by extending the scope of offences, enabling the confiscation of laundered proceeds and illicit funds and easing bank secrecy laws within and outside the sub-region.

Article 50: Control of the Proliferation of Small Arms

While taking into account the legitimate national defence and security needs, and those of international peace-keeping operations, ECOWAS shall establish effective measures to:

- (a) control the importation, exportation, manufacture and eradicate the flow of small arms.
- (b) register and control the movement and use of legitimate arms stock;
- (c) detect, collect and destroy all illicit weapons;
- (d) encourage Member States to collect and destroy all surplus weapons.

Article 51: Preventive Measures Against the Illegal Circulation of Small Arms

ECOWAS shall take all the necessary measures to combat illicit trafficking and circulation of small arms. These measures shall include:

- (a) developing a culture of peace;
- (b) training for military, security and police forces;
- (c) enhance weapons control at border posts;
- (d) establishment of a database and regional arms register;
- (e) collection and destruction of surplus and illegal weapons;
- (f) facilitating dialogue with producers and suppliers;
- (g) reviewing and harmonising national legislation and administrative procedures;
- (h) mobilising resources.

ECOWAS shall strengthen its institutional and operational capabilities and those of its Member States for the effective implementation of the measures mentioned in Paragraph 1 above.

The Executive Secretariat's Department of Political Affairs, Defence and Security shall coordinate and monitor implementation of all programmes and activities and shall analyse information from the zonal headquarters.

In order to promote and ensure coordination of concrete measures at national level, Member States shall, in accordance with guidelines adopted by ECOWAS, establish national commissions made up of representatives of the relevant authorities and the civil society.

At the beginning of any ECOMOG peacekeeping operations, all dedicated light weapons and ammunition shall be declared to the Executive Secretariat so as to ensure their effective control as well as removal upon completion of the operations.

All weapons collected during any disarmament exercise shall be destroyed.

Chapter XI: Cooperation with the Organisation of African Unity, United Nations and Other International Organisations

Article 52: Cooperation

In pursuit of its objectives, ECOWAS shall cooperate with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Organisation (UNO) and other relevant international organisations.

In the implementation of this Mechanism, ECOWAS shall fully cooperate with the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

In accordance with Chapters VII and VIII of the United Nations Charter, ECOWAS shall inform the United Nations of any military intervention undertaken in pursuit of the objectives of this Mechanism.

Chapter XII: Special Provisions

...

Article 57: Entry into Force

This Protocol shall enter into force provisionally upon signature by Heads of State and Government. Accordingly, signatory Member States and the Executive Secretariat hereby undertake to start implementing all provisions of this Mechanism upon signature.

This Protocol shall definitely enter into force upon ratification by at least nine (9) signatory States in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Member State.

...

**Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance Supplementary
to the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict
Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and
Security (2001/2001)**

Full title: Protocol A/SP1/12/01 on Democracy and Good Governance
Supplementary to the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict
Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 21 December 2001, Dakar, Senegal

Entered into force (EIF): 21 December 2001

EIF provision: Article 49

Authentic texts: English, French, Portuguese

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Excerpts

...

Concerned about the increasing wave of international terrorism;
Concerned also about the increasing incidence of conflicts caused by
religious intolerance, political marginalisation and non-transparent
elections;

Having observed that to become really effective, the Protocol of 10
December 1999 needs to be complemented through the incorporation
of provisions concerning issues such as prevention of internal crises,
democracy and good governance, the rule of law, and human rights;
Having decided to enhance the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict
Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security;

Have agreed as follows:

Definitions:

...

“Defence and Security Commission” means the Defence and Security
Commission as defined in Article 18 of the Protocol;

...

“ECOMOG” means the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group, which
constitutes the Community’s intervention force as defined in Article 21 of
the Protocol relating to the Mechanism etc;

“Armed Forces” includes the army, Airforce, Navy, and Gendarmerie;

“Security Forces” the Police, Gendarmerie, National Guards and other
Forces assigned with security.

Chapter I: Principles

The provisions of this chapter complement and clarify the principles set out in Article 2 of the Protocol of 10 December 1999.

Section I: Constitutional Convergence Principles

Article 1

The following shall be declared as constitutional principles shared by all Member States:

- (a) Separation of powers - the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary.
 - Empowerment and strengthening of parliaments and guarantee of parliamentary immunity.
 - Independence of the Judiciary: Judges shall be independent in the discharge of their duties.
 - The freedom of the members of the Bar shall be guaranteed; without prejudice to their penal or disciplinary responsibility in the event of contempt of court or breaches of the common law.
- (b) Every accession to power must be made through free, fair and transparent elections.
- (c) Zero tolerance for power obtained or maintained by unconstitutional means.
- (d) Popular participation in decision-making, strict adherence to democratic principles and decentralisation of power at all levels of governance.
- (e) The armed forces must be apolitical and must be under the command of a legally constituted political authority; no serving member of the armed forces may seek to run for elective political.
- (f) Secularism and neutrality of the State in all matters relating to religion; freedom for each individual to practise, within the limits of existing laws, the religion of his/her choice everywhere on the national territory. The secularism shall extend to all parts of the State, but shall not deprive the State of the right to regulate, with due respect to human rights, the different religions practised on the national territory or to intervene when law and order break down as a result of any religious activity.

...

Section II: Elections

Article 2

1. No substantial modification shall be made to the electoral laws in the last six (6) months before the elections, except with the consent of a majority of Political actors.
2. All the elections shall be organised on the dates or at periods fixed by the Constitution or the electoral laws.
3. Member States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that

women have equal rights with men to vote and be voted for in elections, to participate in the formulation of government policies and the implementation thereof and to hold public offices and perform public functions at all levels of governance.

Article 3

The bodies responsible for organising the elections shall be independent or neutral and shall have the confidence of all the political actors. Where necessary, appropriate national consultations shall be organised to determine the nature and the structure of the bodies.

...

Article 6

The preparation and conduct of elections and the announcement of results shall be done in a transparent manner.

Article 7

Adequate arrangements shall be made to hear and dispose of all petitions relating to the conduct of elections and announcement of results.

Article 8

Member States shall use the services of civil society organisations involved in electoral matters to educate and enlighten the public on the need for peaceful elections devoid of all acts of violence.

Article 9

The party and/or candidate who loses the elections shall concede defeat to the political party and/or candidate finally declared the winner, following the guidelines and within the deadline stipulated by the law.

Article 10

All holders of power at all levels shall refrain from acts of intimidation or harassment against defeated candidates or their supporters.

Section III: Election Monitoring and ECOWAS Assistance

...

Article 12

1. At the request of any Member State, ECOWAS may provide assistance in the conduct of any election.
2. Such assistance may take any form.
3. Also, ECOWAS may dispatch a monitoring team to the country concerned for the purpose of monitoring the elections.
4. The decision in this respect shall be taken by the Executive Secretary.

Article 13

1. As elections in a Member State approach, the Executive Secretary shall dispatch a fact-finding Mission to the Member State conducting an election.
2. This mission may be followed by an exploratory Mission aimed at:
 - collecting all texts governing the elections concerned;
 - gathering all information on the conditions under which the elections shall be conducted;
 - collecting all pertinent information relating to the contesting candidates or political parties;
 - meeting all candidates, political party leaders, government authorities and other competent bodies;
 - assessing the status of preparations for the elections;
 - gathering any other useful information that may provide a clear picture of the situation.

Article 14

1. The Executive Secretary shall appoint the leader and the members of the Observer/Supervisory Mission, who shall be independent persons and nationals of Member States other than the Member State conducting the elections.
2. The Members of the Mission shall include women.
3. Staff of the Executive Secretariat shall be designated to assist the Mission.

Article 15

1. The Observer/Supervisory Mission, with the documents collected by the exploratory Mission and the report prepared by the Mission, shall arrive in the Member State concerned at least forty-eight hours prior to the conduct of the elections.
2. The Observer/Supervisory Mission may be preceded by ECOWAS Staff, who shall prepare the meetings to be held between the Mission and the national authorities.
3. The Mission shall be expected to hold consultations with the relevant authorities of the host government for an exchange of views and in order to determine the mode of deployment in the host Member State.
4. It may establish co-operation links with NGO or any other observer teams while maintaining its autonomy.
5. The members of the Mission shall show restraint and refrain from making any individual statement. Any statement shall be made collectively and on behalf of the Mission by the team leader or a spokesperson appointed for this purpose.

Article 16

1. The Mission shall remain in the country throughout the election period and until the election results are announced.
2. The Mission shall also submit a report to the Executive Secretary.
3. The Report shall comprise:
 - the Mission's own observations;
 - statements by witnesses;
 - its assessment of the conduct of the elections from the point of view of the national laws governing the elections and the universal principles in electoral matters;
 - its recommendations for the improvement of the conduct of future elections and
 - monitoring Missions.

Article 17

1. The Observer/Supervisory Mission's report shall be signed by all Members of the Mission and submitted to the Executive Secretary by the Mission's leader within fifteen (15) days with effect from the date of accomplishment of the Mission.
2. Before leaving the host country, the Mission shall convene a consultative meeting for the preparation of the report.
3. Any member of the Mission, who is unable to attend the meeting, shall submit a report in writing to the Mission's leader before leaving the country.
4. ECOWAS Staff shall assist the Mission in the preparation of the report.

Article 18

The report shall be forwarded by the Executive Secretary, together with his own observations, if necessary, to the Mediation and Security Council for recommendations to be made to the country concerned and/or to all Member States, and for measures to be taken, where necessary.

Section IV: The Role of the Armed Forces, the Police and the Security Forces in a Democracy

Article 19

1. The armed forces and police shall be non-partisan and shall remain loyal to the nation. The role of the armed forces shall be to defend the independence and the territorial integrity of the State and its democratic institutions.
2. The police and other security agencies shall be responsible for the maintenance of law and order and the protection of persons and their properties.

3. The armed forces, the police and security agencies shall participate in ECOMOG missions as provided for in Article 28 of the Protocol.
4. They may also, on the decision of the constitutionally constituted authorities, participate in peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the African Union or the United Nations.
5. Members of the armed forces may be drafted to participate in national development projects.

Article 20

1. The armed forces, the police and other security agencies shall be under the authority of legally constituted civilian authorities.
2. The civilian authorities shall respect the apolitical nature of the armed forces and police. All political or trade union activities and propaganda shall be forbidden in the barracks and within the armed forces.

Article 21

The armed and security forces personnel as citizens, shall be entitled to all the rights set out in the constitution, except as may be stated otherwise in their special regulations.

Article 22

1. The use of arms to disperse non-violent meetings or demonstrations shall be forbidden. Whenever a demonstration becomes violent, only the use of minimal and/or proportionate force shall be authorised.
2. All cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment shall be forbidden.
3. The security forces, while carrying out investigations, shall not disturb or arrest family members or relations of the person presumed guilty or suspected of having committed an offence.

Article 23

1. The armed forces, the police and other security agencies shall during their training receive instructions on the Constitution of their country, ECOWAS principles and regulations, human rights, humanitarian law and democratic principles. In this regard, seminars and meetings bringing together members of the armed forces, Police and other Security Agencies and other sectors of society shall be organised from time to time.
2. Joint training sessions shall also be arranged for members of the armed forces from different ECOWAS countries, the police, other security forces, university dons and members of the civil society.

Article 24

1. The Member States undertake to strengthen their national agencies

- responsible for preventing and combating terrorism.
2. In accordance with Articles 3 (d) and 16 (1) of the Protocol, the Department of Political Affairs, Defence and Security of the Executive Secretariat shall initiate joint activities for the national agencies of Member States in charge of preventing and combating terrorism.

Section V: Poverty Alleviation and Promotion of Social Dialogue

Article 25

Member States agree that poverty alleviation and promotion of social dialogue are important factors for peace.

...

Article 28

...

2. Member States shall promote social dialogue. In this regard, employers associations and workers unions shall meet regularly among themselves and with political and administrative authorities with a view to preventing social conflict.

...

Article 31

...

3. Member States undertake to take measures to eliminate or prevent religious conflicts and to promote religious tolerance and harmony. To this end, permanent structures for consultations among the different religions on the one hand and between the different religions and the State on the other hand, shall be established at national levels.

...

Section VII: Rule of Law, Human Rights and Good Governance

Article 32

Member States agree that good governance and press freedom are essential for preserving social Justice, preventing conflict, guaranteeing political stability and peace and for strengthening democracy.

...

Section VIII: Women, Children and the Youth

Article 40

Member States agree that the development and promotion of the welfare

of women are essential factors for development, progress and peace in the society. Consequently, they undertake to eliminate all forms of discrimination and harmful and degrading practices against women.

...

Chapter II: Modalities for Implementation and Sanctions

...

Article 45

1. In the event that democracy is abruptly brought to an end by any means or where there is massive violation of Human Rights in a Member State, ECOWAS may impose sanctions on the State concerned.
2. The sanctions which shall be decided by the Authority may take the following forms, in increasing order of severity:
 - Refusal to support the candidates presented by the Member State concerned for elective posts in international organisations;
 - Refusal to organise ECOWAS meetings in the Member State concerned;
 - Suspension of the Member State concerned from all ECOWAS decisionmaking bodies. During the period of the suspension the Member State concerned shall be obliged to pay its dues for the period.
3. During the period of suspension, ECOWAS shall continue to monitor, encourage and support the efforts being made by the suspended Member State to return to normalcy and constitutional order;
4. On the recommendation of the Mediation and Security Council, a decision may be taken at the appropriate time to proceed as stipulated in Article 45 of the Protocol of 10th December 1999.

...

Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Matters (2006/2009)

Full title: ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Matters

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 14 June 2006, Abuja, Nigeria

Entered into force (EIF): 5 August 2009

EIF provision: Article 32(a)2

Authentic texts: English, French Portuguese

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Excerpts

Preamble

...

Considering that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons constitutes a major destabilising factor in ECOWAS Member States and poses a serious threat to the peace and stability of our peoples;

Deeply concerned about the uncontrolled flow of small arms and light weapons into Africa in general and West Africa in particular, and aware of the need to effectively control the transfer of arms by suppliers and arms brokers;

Aware of the need to build peace and prevent conflicts in West Africa, and the disastrous consequences the proliferation of small arms and light weapons has on the prolongation of armed conflicts and illegal exploitation of natural resources;

Aware of the need to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons, trafficking, detention and use of such arms, which have been seen to have negative effects on the security of each country in the sub-region, human security, international humanitarian law, sustainable development, and human rights;

...

Recognising in this regard the progress achieved in the implementation of the Moratorium, thanks to contributions by the Plan of Action of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED);

Conscious of the need to strengthen the institutional and operational capacity of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat in order to enable fight more effectively against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, with a view to obtaining the desired results;

Considering the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted in 2001;

...

Deeply concerned by the use of children in armed conflicts, and taking account of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflicts;

Recognising the important contribution of civil society organisations in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;

...

Hereby agree as follows:

Chapter 1: Definitions and Objectives

Article 1: Definitions

For the purpose of this Convention:

1. Light weapons: Portable arms designed to be used by several persons working together in a team and which include notably:
 - heavy machine guns;
 - portable grenade launchers, mobile or mounted;
 - portable anti-aircraft cannons;
 - portable anti-tank cannons, non-recoil guns;
 - portable anti-tank missile launchers or rocket launchers;
 - portable anti-aircraft missile launchers;
 - mortars with a calibre of less than 100 millimetres;
2. Small arms: Arms used by one person and which include notably:
 - firearms and other destructive arms or devices such as an exploding bomb, an incendiary bomb or a gas bomb, a grenade, a rocket launcher, a missile, a missile system or landmine;
 - revolvers and pistols with automatic loading;
 - rifles and carbines;
 - machine guns;
 - assault rifles;
 - light machine guns.
3. Ammunition: Devices destined to be shot or projected through the means of firearms including among others:
 - cartridges;
 - projectiles and missiles for light weapons;
 - mobile containers with missiles or projectiles for anti-aircraft or anti-tank single action systems;
4. Other related materials: All components, parts or spare parts for small arms or light weapons or ammunition necessary for its functioning; or any chemical substance serving as active material used as propelling or explosive agent;
5. Illicit: Covers all that is carried out in violation of this Convention;

6. Marking: Inscriptions permitting the identification of arms covered by this Convention;
7. Tracing: Indicates the systematic monitoring of the movements of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and other related materials, from the manufacturer until the end user, with a view to helping member States competent authorities to detect illicit manufacture and trading;
8. Brokering: Work carried out as an intermediary between any manufacturer, supplier or distributor of small arms and light weapons and any buyer or user; this includes the provision of financial support and the transportation of small arms and light weapons;
9. Transfer: Includes import, export, transit, transshipment and transport or any other movement whatsoever of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and other related materials from or through the territory of a State;
10. Non-state actors Such as any actor other than State Actors, mercenaries, armed militias, armed rebel groups and private security companies.
11. Small arms and light weapons: In this Convention this shall be deemed to include ammunition and other related materials.

Article 2: Objectives

The objectives of this Convention are:

1. To prevent and combat the excessive and destabilising accumulation of small arms and light weapons within ECOWAS;
2. To continue the efforts for the control of small arms and light weapons within ECOWAS;
3. To consolidate the gains of the Declaration of the Moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and its Code of Conduct.
4. To promote trust between the Member States through concerted and transparent action on the control of small arms and light weapons within ECOWAS;
5. To build institutional and operational capacities of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and the Member States in the efforts to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, their ammunitions and other related materials;
6. To promote the exchange of information and cooperation among the Member States.

Chapter II: Transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Article 3: Prohibition of transfer of small arms and light weapons

1. Member States shall ban the transfer of small arms and light weapons

and their manufacturing materials into their national territory or from/ through their national territory.

2. Member State shall ban, without exception, transfers of small arms and light weapons to Non-State Actors that are not explicitly authorised by the importing Member.
3. Small arms and light weapons as defined in this Convention shall not be deemed to be goods for the purpose of Article 45 of ECOWAS Revised Treaty of 1993.

Article 4: Conditions of Exemption

1. A Member State can request exemption from the provisions of Article 3 (b) in order to meet legitimate national defence and security needs, or to participate in peace support or other operations in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS, or other regional or sub-regional body of which it is a member.
2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 of this article, Member States shall establish and maintain an effective system of export and import licensing or authorisation, as well as of measures on international transit, for the transfer of small arms and light weapons.
3. Each Member State shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that licensing or authorisation procedures are secure and that the authenticity of licensing or authorisation of the documents can be verified and validated.

Article 5: Procedures for Exemption

1. The request for exemption for an arms transfer is transmitted for examination to the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and must contain information on:
 - (a) Details of the arms to be transferred- the quantity, exact type and kind of arms using ECOWAS classification system, including all serial numbers and other marks;
 - (b) Details of the supplier – full details (name of company and representative, address, and full contact details) of all companies and individuals involved, including brokers where relevant;
 - (c) Details of the supply process – the number and period of shipments, the routes including transit locations, the type of transport to be used, all companies involved in importing, freight forwarding and handling, details of the storage and management of the weapons whilst being transferred, the time period covered by the activity for which the exemption is requested;
 - (d) Details of the final end user – name of individual/company/institution and representative responsible, confirmation from relevant national authority that the end user is authorised to import weapons;
 - (e) Details of the end use.
2. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall apply the criteria for Article

6 of this Convention for exemption requests as well as those of paragraph (a) of this Article. Reasoned opinion of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall be sent confidentially to the Member State in order to confirm or refuse the opinion given. The final decision of Member States shall be taken by consensus. In the absence of a consensus, the exemption request as well as the reasoned opinion of the Executive Secretary shall be submitted for a final decision to the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council.

3. The granting of an exemption shall be transmitted to the Member State concerned by the ECOWAS Executive Secretary through the issuing of an exemption certificate. The exemption certificate once issued must accompany the request for an export licence as well as the End-User-Certificate.
4. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall forward to the Member States information on exemptions and refusals granted within 90 days. The Executive Secretary shall also compile and publish a comprehensive annual report detailing all international arms transfers granted exemptions, and a list of refusals.

Article 6: Cases for Refusal of Exemptions for Transfers

1. A transfer shall not be authorised if:
 - (a) Authorisation on export, import, transit, transshipment or brokering considered as donation has not been provided by all States directly concerned with the transfer;
 - (b) All the required information has not been supplied to the ECOWAS Executive Secretary;
 - (c) The arms have not been marked according to requirements under this Convention.
2. A transfer shall not be authorised if its authorisation violates obligations of the requesting States as well as those of Member States, under international law including:
 - (a) Obligations under the Charter of the United Nations – including:
 - (i) Binding resolutions of the United Nations Security Council such as those imposing arms embargoes;
 - (ii) The prohibition on the use or threat of use of force;
 - (iii) The prohibition on intervention in the internal affairs of another State.
 - (b) Universally accepted principles of international humanitarian law.
 - (c) Any other treaty or decision by which the Member States are bound, including:
 - (i) binding decisions, including embargoes, adopted by relevant international, multilateral, regional and sub-regional bodies, such as the African Union Peace and Security Council, to which a State is party;
 - (ii) Prohibitions of arms transfers that arise in particular treaties which a State is party to, such as OTTAWA Convention on Antipersonnel

Mines, the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols.

3. A transfer shall not be authorised if the arms are destined to be used:
 - (a) for the violation of international humanitarian law or infringement of human and peoples' rights and freedoms, or for the purpose of oppression;
 - (b) for the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law, genocide or crimes against humanity;
 - (c) to worsen the internal situation in the country of final destination, in terms of provoking or prolonging armed conflicts, or aggravating existing tensions;
 - (d) to carry out terrorist acts or support or encourage terrorism;
 - (e) other than for the legitimate defence and security needs of the beneficiary country;
4. A transfer shall not be authorised if it is destined to:
 - (a) be used for or to facilitate the commission of violent or organised crime;
 - (b) adversely affect regional security; endanger peace, contribute to destabilising or uncontrolled accumulations of arms or military capabilities into a region, or otherwise contribute to regional instability;
 - (c) hinder or obstruct sustainable development and unduly divert human and economic resources to armaments of the states involved in the transfer;
 - (d) involve corrupt practices at any stage – from the supplier, through any middlemen or brokers, to the recipient;
5. A transfer shall not be authorised if it is likely to be diverted, within the transit or importing country or be re-exported, to unauthorized uses or users or into the illicit trade;
6. The Executive Secretary and all Member States shall provide elements of proof to apply the criteria enunciated in paragraphs a, b, c, d and e of the present article and to indicate the refusal of exemption request made by a Member State.

Chapter III: Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Article 7: Control of the Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons

1. Member States shall undertake to control the manufacture of small arms and light weapons within their national territories;
2. Each Member State shall regulate the activities of local small arms and light weapons manufacturers and shall undertake to adopt strategies and policies to the reduction and/or limitation of the manufacture of small arms and light weapons so as to control the local manufacture as well as their marketing in ECOWAS region.
3. Member States shall undertake to draft an exhaustive list of local

- manufacturers of small arms and light weapons and the registration of each of them into the national arms registers;
4. Where production and/or assembly capacities of small arms and light weapons exist within the ECOWAS region, Member States shall submit to the Executive Secretary. This data shall include the type of the arms and their quantity on their annual production.

***Article 8: Measures of Control for Small Arms and Light Weapons
Manufacture***

Without prejudice to the other measures that Member States will undertake to ensure the effective control of the manufacturing of small arms and light weapons on their national territory, a request for the manufacture of small arms and light weapons will not be granted if the requesting person has not given information relating to:

- (a) Details of the arms to be manufactured – the quantity, exact type and kind of arms using ECOWAS classification system, including all serial numbers and other markings;
- (b) The procedure for marking; the procedure for entering details of each small arm and light weapon into the national small arms and light weapons register; information on the storage and management of the weapons after manufacture.

Chapter IV: Transparency and Exchange of Information

Article 9: National Database and Registers of Small Arms and Light Weapons

1. Member States shall establish where they do not exist already, national computerised registers and database of small arms and light weapons.
2. The following information shall be recorded in the national registry:
 - (a) Description of the product (type or model, calibre) and quantity (if it concerns a batch);
 - (b) the content of the marking;
 - (c) the names and addresses of the former and current owners and, when possible, successive owners;
 - (d) the date of registration;
 - (e) information concerning each transaction including:
 - (i) the name and address of the shipper, the intermediary (where applicable), the consignee and the user indicated on the end-user certificate;
 - (ii) the point of departure, transit and destination, as well as the customs references and the dates of departure, transit and delivery to the end-user.
 - (iii) the export, transit and import licence (quantities and batches corresponding to the same licence as well as the validity of the licence);

- (iv) full details concerning the method of transport and transporter(s);
 - (v) the controlling agency or agencies (at point of departure, transit and entry);
 - (vi) the nature of the transaction (commercial, non-commercial, private or public, conversion, repair);
 - (vii) where applicable, the insurer and/or the financial institution intervening in the transaction.
3. Records shall be permanently kept in the register.

Article 10: ECOWAS Small Arms and Light Weapons Database and Registers

1. Member States undertake to establish a sub-regional database and register of small arms and light weapons under the ECOWAS Executive Secretary as a way of promoting confidence.
2. The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat shall develop in collaboration with the Member States the procedures for the setting up and management of the database and register as well as the issues to be covered.
3. The Member States shall provide the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat with all the necessary information for the operation of the sub-regional database and register of small arms and light weapons. Member States also undertake to transmit an annual report to the ECOWAS Executive Secretary detailing their orders or purchase of small arms and light weapons.
4. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall present an annual report on the workings of the sub-regional database and register of small arms and light weapons at the Summit of Heads of State and Government.
5. Records shall be kept in the register permanently.

Article 11: Register of Arms for Peace Operations

1. Member States undertake to:
 - (a) Establish a register of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and other related material destined for use in peacekeeping operations both inside and outside the ECOWAS territory under the ECOWAS Executive Secretary as a way of ensuring the control of movements of small arms and light weapons and their effective withdrawal at the end of peace operations in which Member States are participating.
 - (b) Declare in this regard to the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat all small arms and light weapons used in peace operations.
 - (c) Declare to the ECOWAS Executive Secretary all the small arms and light weapons seized, collected and/or destroyed during peace operations on their territory and in the ECOWAS region.
2. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall take the necessary measures to ensure the adequate recording of the information transmitted by the Member States participating to peace operations.

3. Records shall be permanently kept in the register.

Article 12: Dialogue with Manufacturers and Suppliers

1. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary and each Member State shall strengthen cooperation and dialogue with national and international manufacturers and suppliers of arms as well as with the competent international and regional organisations in order to ensure their support, respect for and compliance with the spirit and the letter of this Convention.
2. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall take the necessary measures to take advantage of the information available from Member States of the Wassenaar Arrangement, the European Union and other manufacturers and suppliers of arms, in order to strengthen the effective implementation of this Convention.

Article 13: Prevention of and the Fight Against Corruption

Member States shall institute appropriate and effective measures for cooperation between administrative departments concerned and law enforcement agencies to curb corruption associated with the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, illicit possession and use of small arms and light weapons.

Chapter V: Operational Mechanism

Article 14: Control of Possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Civilians

1. Member States shall prohibit the possession, use and sale of light weapons by civilians.
2. Member States shall regulate the possession, use and sale of small arms by civilians.
3. Authorisations may be granted to permit individual possession of one or more small arms and their ammunition in line with the legislation of each Member State. Applications for such authorisations shall be processed by relevant national authorities. All applicants must be the relevant national authority in person. The Executive Secretary shall develop and communicate authorisation procedures to the relevant national authority.
4. Member States undertake to implement a strict control regime for civilian possession of the small arms. The authorisation procedure will involve issuing a license from the relevant national authority for each small arm used by a civilian. Member States shall not grant an authorisation if the applicant does not meet the following criteria:
 - (a) The required minimum age;
 - (b) Applicant does not have criminal record and has not been subject

- to morality investigation;
 - (c) Proof of a legitimate reason to possess, carry or use for each small arms;
 - (d) Proof that the prospective owner has undergone safety training and competency training including training in the relevant laws regarding small arms;
 - (e) Proof that the weapon will be stored in a safe place and separately from its ammunition.
5. Member States shall impose a limit on the number of weapons a licence may cover and require a 'cooling off' period of at least 21 days before an authorisation is granted for the possession of each weapon. Member States shall include an expiration date on each licence and authorisations shall be subject to periodic review. Contravention of regulations concerning possession of small arms in private hands will allow the small arms to be seized by the authorities, the licence/authorisation revoked, and adequate sanctions including penalties applied.
 6. Member States shall include information regarding the civilian possession of small arms within the national small arm database and register established under Article 9 of the present Convention;
 7. Member States undertake to introduce minimum penal sanctions for the illicit possession and use of small arms and light weapons and the carrying of unlicensed small arms.

Article 15: Visitors' Certificates

1. Each Member State shall take the appropriate measures demanding that visitors wanting to import temporarily small arms covered by this Convention for the duration of their temporary stay in the ECOWAS region, prepare in advance an application including information about the purpose, type and marking of small arms to be imported into one of the ECOWAS territories and to declare the arms on their arrival. Such application shall be addressed to the relevant authorities of the Member State concerned for decision.
2. ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall issue guidelines on the procedures to be followed and communicate them to the relevant authority.
3. If the request is agreed, the competent national authorities shall issue to the visitors an entry certificate and an exit declaration at the visitors' arrival and departure.
4. All certificates shall be recorded by the Member States concerned in the national small arms register referred to in compliance with the above mentioned Article 9.

Article 16: Management and Security of Stockpiles

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the safe

- and effective management, storage and security of their national stocks of small arms and light weapons;
2. To this effect, Member States shall establish effective standards and procedures for stockpile management, storage and security. These standards and procedures shall include:
 - (a) appropriate site;
 - (b) physical security measures of storage facilities;
 - (c) inventory management and record keeping;
 - (d) staff training;
 - (e) security during manufacture and transportation;
 - (f) sanctions in case of theft or loss.
 3. Member States shall ensure that stockpiles of small arms and light weapons by manufacturers, dealers as well as individuals are securely stored in accordance with the appropriate standards and procedures;
 4. Member States shall undertake to regularly review, in accordance with national laws and standards, the storage facilities and conditions of small arms and light weapons held by their armed and security forces and other authorised bodies in order to identify, for disposal, surplus and obsolete stocks;
 5. The Executive Secretary shall ensure, in collaboration with Member States, that effective standards and procedures for stockpile management of weapons collected in the context of peace operations are duly observed.

Article 17: Collection and Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons

1. Member States shall undertake to collect and/ or destroy:
 - (a) the arms which are surplus to the national needs or have become obsolete;
 - (b) seized weapons;
 - (c) unmarked weapons;
 - (d) illicitly held weapons;
 - (e) arms collected in the implementation of peace accords or programmes for the voluntary handing in of weapons.
2. All weapons so collected must be registered and securely stored and or destroyed.
3. Member States undertake to promote and/ or carry out programme of voluntary handing in of weapons.

Article 18: Marking

1. For identification purposes, all small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and other materials, considered as essential by the supplier, shall be assigned a unique and specific marking upon manufacture; this marking shall include the following elements:
2. For small arms and light weapons covered under this Convention,

- (a) "Classic marking" shall include a unique serial number, the manufacturer's identity, as well as the identification of the country and year of manufacture. Information concerning the purchaser's identity and the country of destination should also be included if known at the time of manufacture. The markings shall be expressed alphanumerically. They must be legible and should be featured on a maximum number of main parts of the weapon, and at the very least on the part designated by the manufacturer as essential as well as on one other important part of the arm;
 - (b) A "Security marking" shall be applied to all weapons produced after the entry into force of this Convention. This will permit the identification of the weapons in the event that classic markings have been destroyed or falsified. Security markings must be undertaken on component parts that are not easily manipulated after the weapon's manufacture, and the falsification of which would render the weapon unusable;
 - (c) Member States that import a small arm that is not marked in accordance with the provisions outlined under paragraph a) and b) above shall:
 - (i) Apply a classic marking if the weapons were manufactured before the entry into force of this Convention;
 - (ii) Apply a classic marking and a security marking if the weapons were manufactured after the entry into force of this Convention; failing this, the weapons cannot be imported or must be destroyed.
 - (iii) If the importing country and the year of import are not known at the time of manufacture, the acronym of the importing State and the year of importation are marked by a competent institution in the importing country.
3. For ammunition:
- (a) The markings shall include a unique lot number, the manufacturer's identity, as well as the country and year of manufacture. Information concerning the purchaser's identity and the country of destination should also be included if known at the time of manufacture. These details must feature at least once on the jacket (i.e. cartridge) containing the powder or liquid used in the ammunition or explosive. The markings shall be expressed alphanumerically.
 - (b) The smallest ammunition packaging shall include information outlined under 2(a).

Article 19: Tracing

1. Member States shall exchange information on illicit small arms and light weapons and on seized small arms and light weapons, as well as trafficking in weapons that contravene international law or the internal laws of the States in which the operations take place (condemnation of the person or institution implicated, sanctions, disposal, destruction methods, neutralisation).
2. In the case of other small arms and light weapons, Member States shall exchange the following data on a regular basis:

- (a) on manufacture (the marking system and techniques used, and authorized manufacturers);
 - (b) on transfers (exports to and/or imports from all other States, transits, information available concerning national legislation, existing practices and controls, authorised dealers and brokers);
 - (c) on existing stockpiles (management, inventory, security, surplus, losses, theft, destruction).
- 3. The Executive Secretary shall receive request for exemption and shall act in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention.
- 4. A Member State may initiate a tracing request through the ECOWAS Executive Secretary in relation to small arms and light weapons found within its territorial jurisdiction that it considers to be illicit.
- 5. To ensure smooth and effective cooperation in tracing, requests for assistance in tracing illicit small arms or light weapons will contain sufficient information including, inter alia:
 - (a) Information describing the illicit nature of the small arm and light weapon, including the legal justification thereof and circumstances under which the small arm and light weapon was found;
 - (b) Markings, type, calibre and other relevant information;
 - (c) Intended use of the information being sought.
- 6. Member States receiving a tracing request shall acknowledge receipt within a reasonable time frame.
- 7. Member States shall provide reliable responses to tracing requests made by other Member States within one month from the date of receipt of the said request.
- 8. In responding to a tracing request, the requested Member States shall provide all available information sought by the requesting Member States that is relevant for the purpose of tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.
- 9. The requested Member States may seek additional information from the requesting Member States where a tracing request does not contain the information required in Paragraph 3 (b) above.

Article 20: Brokering

- 1. Member States shall register all citizens and all companies incorporated in their territory that are brokering small arms and light weapons, including financial agents and transportation agents on armament and shall make such registration a requirement for their licit operation.
- 2. Member States shall ensure that all registered small arms and light weapons brokering agents obtain an explicit authorization for each individual transaction in which they are involved irrespective of where the arrangements take place.
- 3. Member States shall require that all small arms and light weapons brokering license applications for authorisation provide full

disclosure of relevant import and export licences or authorisations and associated relevant documents, the names and locations of all brokering and shipping agents involved in the transaction and the transit routes and points of the small arms and light weapons shipments.

4. Member States shall adopt such legislative and other measures to punish and establish as a criminal offence the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.
5. Brokering activities may be assessed under Article 1 and 6 of the present Convention.

Article 21: Harmonization of Legislative Provisions

1. Member States shall undertake to revise and update national legislation to ensure that the provisions in this Convention are minimum standards for small arms and light weapons control and their ammunition as well as other related materials.
2. Each Member State shall adopt legislative and other necessary measures to establish as a criminal offence in the following cases:
 - (a) any activity carried out in violation of the provisions of this Convention;
 - (b) any activity carried out in violation of an arms embargo imposed by the United Nations, the African Union or ECOWAS;
3. The Executive Secretary shall elaborate and propose to Member States guidelines for harmonization of legislative provisions.

Article 22: Strengthening of Border Controls

Member States, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, shall:

- (a) Strengthen sub-regional cooperation among defence and security forces, intelligence services, customs and border control officials in combating the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons.
- (b) Enhancing the capacity of national defence and security forces, law enforcement and security agencies, including appropriate training in investigative procedures, border control and law enforcement techniques, and upgrading of equipment and resources;

...

Chapter VI: Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

Article 24: Member States

1. Within the framework of the implementation of this Convention, the States Parties which have not yet done so, shall establish through regulation or legislation a National Commission in accordance with Article 51 of the Protocol on mechanisms for prevention, management, resolution of conflict and keeping peace and security

and with the enforcement of the decision of the Conference of Heads of State and Government on December 10th, 1999 on the establishment of National Commissions for the fight against the illicit proliferation and circulation of light weapons.

2. The National Commissions shall be established according to the existing ECOWAS guidelines contained in the National Manual prepared by ECOWAS.
3. Member States shall allocate a budget line to ensure effective functioning of National Commissions.
4. The Member States shall elaborate their National Action Plans on Small Arms and Light Weapons.
5. Such action plans shall be developed through a national information gathering process involving all relevant national stakeholders including civil society, and the convening of a national forum of all stakeholders to deliberate on the elements to be included in the National Action Plan.

...

Article 26: Cooperation Within and Among States

1. Member States undertake to promote intra- and inter-state cooperation in the implementation of this Convention. To this effect:
 - (a) the ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall prepare procedures for interstate cooperation between security forces, the services in charge of border controls and all other services concerned, in the spirit of this Convention.
 - (b) The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall facilitate and seek assistance for the training of officials in intra- and interstate cooperation.

Article 27: Complaint Procedure Concerning Violation of this Convention

1. All concerns relating to the violation of this Convention shall be brought to the attention of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary who would then submit such a complaint to the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council;
2. If the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council considers that there is a breach of the obligations under this convention, it shall decide on the appropriate measures to be taken such as sanctions, inquiry, study or refer the matter to the ECOWAS Court of Justice;
3. This review procedure of complaints shall not mean the impossibility for a State or an individual to refer to the ECOWAS Court of Justice if it notes a failure in the application of this Convention.

Article 28: Monitoring the Implementation of this Convention

1. In order to ensure the monitoring of and compliance with the provisions of this Convention, the Executive Secretary shall appoint a Group of Independent Experts who supports him. The Group of Independent Experts shall submit a report to the Executive Secretary.
2. Member States, upon the request of the Executive Secretary, shall provide the Group of Independent Experts with all information at their disposal on exemption request.
3. The Group of Independent Experts may seek any other information it shall deem useful for its work in relation with Member States and through cooperation with Member States of the Wassenaar Arrangements, the European Union and suppliers of arms.
4. Each Member State shall submit an annual report to the ECOWAS Executive Secretary on its activities related to small arms and light weapons as well as other matters in relation with this Convention, in accordance with the format of report developed by the Executive Secretary.
5. A Conference of all Parties to the Convention shall be convened by the Depositary as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Convention. The Conference of Heads of State and Government of member States shall review the implementation of this Convention and shall have further mandates as decided by Member States. Other Conferences of Member States shall be held as needed.

...

3 Declarations, frameworks and policies

Declaration of Political Principles of the Economic Community of West African States (1991)

Full title: Declaration A/DCL.1/7/91 of Political Principles of the Economic Community of West African States

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 6 July 1991, Abuja, Nigeria

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/30fEXPF>

*Adopted at the Fourteenth Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, Abuja, 4 – 6 July 1991.

Excerpts

...

Reaffirming the objectives of promoting better relations among ourselves by ensuring a stable and secure political environment, in which our peoples can live in freedom under the law and in true and lasting peace, free from any threat to or attempt against their security, in which we can pursue a speedy and effective realization of the objectives of ECOWAS

...

Hereby declare our full adherence to the following principles in order to enhance the prospects of advancing our economic cooperation and integration in a political environment of peace, security and stability:

1. We reaffirm the provisions of the Protocol on Non-Aggression adopted on 22 April 1978 and our commitment to securing peace and maintaining stability in the ECOWAS sub-region by promoting increasingly better relations among ourselves, strengthening good neighborliness and ensuring conditions in which our peoples can live in freedom under the law and in true and lasting peace, free from any threat to or against their security.
2. We reaffirm our determination to refrain in our mutual relations, as well as in our international relations in general, from any threat or use of forces, directly or indirectly, against the territorial integrity or political independence of any Member State.
3. We reaffirm also our determination to settle all disputes among ourselves by peaceful means in such a manner as not to endanger the peace, security and stability of our sub-region.

...

7. We reaffirm our determination to speak with one voice under the aegis of ECOWAS on all international issues which touch and concern the vital interests of our development and prosperity. We will therefore resist any attempt by forces outside our sub-region to undermine the expression of our collective will and determination.
 8. We rededicate ourselves and reaffirm our collective determination to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy and effective realization of the aims and objectives enshrined in the ECOWAS Treaty and related instruments and to fulfill in good faith all our obligations under them.
-

Declaration of a Moratorium on Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa (1998)

Full title: Declaration of a Moratorium on Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 31 October 1998, Abuja, Nigeria

Authentic texts: English, French

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2Zdvzwk>

*Adopted at the Twenty-First Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, Abuja, Nigeria 30-31 October 1998.

Code of Conduct for the Implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa (1999)

Full title: Code of Conduct for the Implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 10 December 1999, Lomé, Sierra Leone

Authentic texts: English, French

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2O8DC79>

Decision Establishing National Commissions for the Control of the Proliferation and Illicit Circulation of Light Weapons (1999)

Full title: Decision A/DEC.13/12/99 Establishing National Commissions for the Control of the Proliferation and Illicit Circulation of Light Weapons

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 10 December 1999, Lomé, Togo

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/3iLj3f6>

Declaration by ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Child Soldiers (1999)

Full title: Declaration by ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Child Soldiers

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 24 March 1999, Bamako, Mali

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ECOWAS;

Aware that the proliferation of light weapons creates a fertile environment for the emergence of child soldiers in the sub-region;

Greatly preoccupied by the increasingly frequent use of children as soldiers by various armed groups in the sub-region;

Deploring the violence to which such children are generally subjected when forcibly conscripted into these groups;

Aware of the trauma suffered by these child soldiers and of its inherently grave consequences for themselves, for their families and for the nation;

Considering that the conscription of these children into illegal armed groups denies them access to education, training and culture and prevents them from being useful to their countries;

Aware also that children, as nation-builders, are the guarantors of the future;

Concerned therefore for their physical, moral and intellectual wellbeing and desiring to provide them with the protection which they deserve;

Considering that all ECOWAS member states have acceded to the United Nations declaration on the rights of the child;

Considering the relevant OAU resolutions on the protection of the African child and the provisions of the African charter on the welfare and rights

of the child;

Condemn strongly the conscription of children into armed groups anywhere on the territory of the community in particular, on the African continent, and all over the world;

Call on Member States to take necessary measure to disband all groups using children as fighters;

Appeal to all armed groups which use child soldiers to demobilize such children immediately and return them to the appropriate public institutions for reintegration into society;

Urge the governments of Member States, international and nongovernmental organisations, civil society and women's associations to coordinate their efforts with a view to adopting appropriate coercive measures to arrest this phenomenon.

Accra Declaration on War-Affected Children in West Africa (2000)

Full title: Declaration by ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Child Soldiers

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 24 March 1999, Bamako, Mali

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/30iGQv2>

*Adopted at the ECOWAS Conference on War-Affected Children in West Africa, 27-28 April 2000, Accra, Ghana.

Excerpts

Preamble

At the invitation of the Government of Ghana in collaboration with the Government of Canada, with the active participation of the United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, we ECOWAS Member States, meeting in Accra from 27-28 April 2000, adopt the following declaration:

Expressing deep concern over the exploitation, abuse, torture, inhumane and degrading treatment of all war-affected children in the region,
 Deploing the involvement of children in armed conflicts,
 Painfully aware of the trauma suffered by war-affected children and the grave consequences for themselves, their families, and communities,

Disturbed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons including the indiscriminate use of landmines in the sub-region,

...

Recognising the important role that training for military and other security agencies on the rights of the child can play in the protection of children, including child combatants,

Mindful of the important role that civil society plays in the protection, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation of war-affected children,

Convinced of the need for governments to promote democracy and good governance to increase tolerance and understanding,

...

Recognising that education and vocational training are important means of reintegrating war-affected children and of preventing the involvement of children in future conflicts,

Recognising the need for strengthened regional initiatives for the security and well-being of children,

Further to the Declaration of ECOWAS Foreign Ministers on Child Soldiers, signed in March 1999 in Bamako,

Further also to the UN Security Council Resolution 1261 (1999) and 1265 (1999) concerning war-affected children and the protection of civilian populations in situations of armed conflict,

1. Call for the immediate release by armed groups in the sub-region of all children abducted and held against their will,
2. Resolve to ratify and fully implement the provisions of international instruments on the rights of the child,
3. Call upon ECOWAS Member States to take all necessary steps to fully implement and respect the aforementioned United Nations Security Council Resolutions, the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Labour Organization Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the draft Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and the Ottawa Treaty to Ban the Stockpile, Production, and Use of Anti-Personnel Mines and further calls upon all Member States to sign and ratify the protocol once it is open for signature,
4. Commit to ratify the Statute of the International Criminal Court and to bring to justice those who commit violations against children,
5. Commit to working closely with civil society groups to ensure the protection, disarmament, and demobilization of child combatants and reintegration and rehabilitation of war-affected children into their families and communities,

6. Resolve to establish and strengthen programmes for the rehabilitation of all war-affected children, as well as programmes for the successful reintegration of those children within communities,
7. Agree, in co-operation with donor agencies to work towards ensuring that all children have access to quality basic education, and as part of that effort, develop school curricula to support awareness of human rights and good governance principles, alternate dispute resolution methods, tolerance, and techniques for conflict management,
8. Decide to incorporate child rights and the protection of children in armed conflict, into training programs for military forces and other security agencies,
9. Resolve to develop specific programs to provide information, education and communication materials on child rights in order that the media are well informed to contribute to the rights, welfare and protection of children, and to develop media activities, particularly radio programmes, for the benefit of war affected children, sensitive to, and consistent with the best interests of the child,
10. Resolve to implement early warning/response systems in the region to prevent armed conflicts and the victimization and abuse of children and their involvement in these conflicts,
11. Commit to promote sub-regional, cross-border initiatives to reduce the flow of small arms and light weapons, the recruitment and abduction of children, the displacement of populations and the separation of families, as well as illicit trade in natural resources,
12. Call on the international community to provide more support to host countries and UNHCR, in order to reduce the social, economic, environmental and security impact of refugee outflow within the sub-region,
13. Call on ECOWAS Member States to provide, with the support of UN agencies and donors, full protection, access and relief to refugees and internally displaced persons, the vast majority of whom are women and children, in accordance with international refugee law and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,
14. Commit to support the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security signed by all ECOWAS Member States at the Lomé Summit on 10 December 1999,
15. Strongly urge ECOWAS Member States to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium in order to halt the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the sub-region,
16. Resolve, with assistance from the international community, to keep duty tours of ECOWAS peacekeepers to a reasonable length, in keeping with UN Standards,
17. Establish an office within ECOWAS for the protection of war-affected

- children in the sub-region and decide to review the activities of ECOWAS in the protection of war-affected children in the region and agree to remain actively seized of the matter,
18. Agree to institute, in solidarity with any country in a conflict situation, an annual “West African Week of Truce for War-Affected Children” in all ECOWAS Member States, to coincide with the Day of the African Child (June 16) and to raise public awareness about the plight of war-affected children in the region,
 19. Commit to work with community leaders to support efforts to strengthen and apply these norms in recognition of the important role of traditional values,
 20. Commit to take measures to involve young people as participants and advocates in the movement for the protection of war-affected children, including developing children-to-children networks within West Africa,
 21. Call on the donor community, UN agencies, and international NGOs, to support and strengthen national institutions, local NGOs, local civil society, and communities to offer support and build local capacities for protection and advocacy for war-affected children,
 22. Decide to dedicate a meeting of ECOWAS Foreign Ministers within the next twelve months to examine the role of national governments and ECOWAS in the protection of all war-affected children,
 23. ECOWAS Member States urge the international community to provide expertise, as well as moral and financial support for the implementation of these initiatives.

Declaration on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (2001)

Full title: Declaration on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 21 December 2001, Dakar, Senegal

Authentic texts: English, French, Portuguese

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/32bZWOP>

*Adopted at the Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, Dakar, 20-21 December 2001.

ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (2008)

Full title: Regulation MSC/REG.1/01/08 The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 16 January 2008, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2OeSz7v>

Excerpts

Preamble

...

Considering that the West African region has been afflicted by conflicts and sociopolitical crises whose causes are multiple and were not detected or identified at the appropriate time for prevention;

Noting that these conflicts and crises that broke out in the region were managed after their manifestation by means of missions of good offices and the mediation undertaken by ECOWAS;

Realising that these missions have been successful as a result of effective involvement of decision-making bodies of ECOWAS;

Conscious of the need to identify and outline the efforts, actions, activities and programs likely to assist in the effective prevention of conflicts in the region for judicious implementation;

Desirous to this end to adopt a prevention framework encompassing all initiatives for enhancing safety of life and property, as well as the security of Member States and institutions in the region;

...

Hereby enact as follows:

...

Section II: Introduction

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has, over the years, proven its capacity to undertake successful conflict prevention, peacemaking and conflict resolution under the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security of 10th December 1999 (hereafter referred to as the Mechanism). The Institution has achieved remarkable success in fulfilling its mandate by containing violent conflicts in the region and carrying out conflict prevention interventions through preventive diplomacy initiatives - fact-finding missions, quiet diplomacy, diplomatic pressure and mediation.
2. The institution has also established several promising conflict

prevention organs to underpin its mandate, including the Early Warning System, the Mediation and Security Council, Offices of the Special Representative, the Council of the Wise and Special Mediators. However, the implementation of the preventive aspects of the Mechanism has at times, lacked a strategic approach. It has been characterized by weak internal coordination, underutilization and misdirection of existing human capacities as well as the deployment of limited instruments.

3. In particular, the distribution of roles and responsibilities between ECOWAS and Member States, between ECOWAS and civil society, as well as between ECOWAS and external partners is weak, resulting in the utilization of limited instruments, piecemeal interventions and late response to crises. The development of a strategic framework to underpin the preventive aspects of the Mechanism has, therefore, become imperative.
4. ECOWAS Member States bear primary responsibility for peace and security. However, as steps are taken under the new ECOWAS Strategic Vision to transform the region from an 'ECOWAS of States' into an 'ECOWAS of the Peoples', the tensions between sovereignty and supranationality, and between regime security and human security, shall be progressively resolved in favor of supranationality and human security respectively. Consequently, civil society shall play an increasingly critical role alongside Member States in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. In this order of things, the principal role of ECOWAS shall be to facilitate creative conflict transformation interventions by Member States and civil society.
5. To this end, the purpose of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) is to serve as a reference for the ECOWAS system and Member States in their efforts to strengthen human security in the region. Achieving this objective requires effective and durable cooperative interventions to prevent violent conflicts within and between States, and to support peace-building in post-conflict environments.
6. For the purposes of the ECPF, human security refers to the creation of conditions to eliminate pervasive threats to people's and individual rights, livelihoods, safety and life; the protection of human and democratic rights and the promotion of human development to ensure freedom from fear and freedom from want.
7. The ECPF is intended as follows:
 - (a) A comprehensive operational conflict prevention and peace-building strategy that enables the ECOWAS system and Member States to draw upon human and financial resources at the regional (including civil society and the private sector) and international

- levels in their efforts to creatively transform conflict.
- (b) A guide for enhancing cohesion and synergy between relevant ECOWAS departments on conflict prevention initiatives in order to maximize outcomes and ensure a more active and operational posture on conflict prevention and sustained post-conflict reconstruction from the ECOWAS system and its Member States. Within the ECOWAS Commission, it is primarily the Office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) that bears primary responsibility for operational conflict prevention policy and initiatives. However, the crosscutting nature of conflict issues means that PAPS has to work in close collaboration with other departments, such as Human Development and Gender, Communication and Legal.
 - (c) A reference for developing process-based cooperation with regional and international stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, African RECs, the AU and UN systems, as well as development partners, on conflict prevention and peace-building around concrete interventions.

Section III: Definitions

8. Conflict refers to the contradictions inherent in power relations and which manifest themselves in individual and group interactions with one another and with nature in the pursuit of limited resources or opportunities. Conflict is the motor of transformation and is either positive or negative. It can be creatively transformed to ensure equity, progress and harmony; or destructively transformed to engender acute insecurity.
9. Human insecurity is driven by the negative transformation of structural factors through the exacerbation of conflict accelerators. The degeneration of conflict into open violence is often sparked by triggers.
10. Structural factors refer to systemic variables conditioned by decades and centuries of interactions with regard to external, regional and internal power relations (global and local governance); fault-lines in the architecture of the postcolonial African State; and the vulnerability of the continent to the vagaries of global processes and nature, such as the region's disadvantaged position in the world market and environmental degradation. The root causes of violent conflict, such as poverty, exclusion, gender and political/economic inequalities are traceable to these global and local fault lines. They have always constituted a time bomb under governance processes in West Africa, being the primary source of latent, indirect violence.
11. Accelerators refer to feedback events and processes that progressively worsen the impacts of structural factors, such as collapsed educational systems, repressive security apparatuses and curtailment of freedoms, corruption, religious/ethnic discrimination, and worsening cost of

- living.
12. Triggers refer to sudden events with catalytic effects on accelerators that spark a crisis, which could in turn lead to violent conflict, such as the sudden increase in the price of a staple, which could culminate in civil strife or a coup d'état.
 13. Structural factors mask latent (indirect) violence, that is, harm perpetrated against the individual or group and which is embedded in the structure of our societies, such as the sources of illiteracy and innumeracy, unemployment and environmental degradation. Their possible degeneration into direct violence is a function of how, and in what direction, people interact with each other and with nature to transform them. For instance, a repressive regime may create a security racket to protect itself, crack down on the labor movement, muzzle the press, imprison opposition figures, and fill a voters' register with double entries and ghost names, all in the attempts to cling on to power. All these practices accelerate the negative transformation of structural factors and nudge society towards direct violence.
 14. A step too far, such as the assassination of a popular opposition figure or the cancellation of unfavorable election results by the dictator, may just provide the trigger that tips the scales in favor of violence. Such violence causes immediate physical or psychological pain, which could be a consequence of armed insurgency, torture, ethnic cleansing, police brutality, banditry, robbery or domestic conflicts.
 15. Both direct and structural forms of violence can be, and have often been, instrumentalized through culture. Cultural 'aggravators', that is, exacerbating factors that are premised on physical, social or spiritual differences – ideology, class, ethnicity, race, religion, patriarchy, gender and sex – are often given expression through art, music, education, the media and cinema. Cultural 'aggravators' are blind, emotive and potent, because they condition the mind to emphasize differences and reject tolerance for diversity through the agencies of deliberate discriminatory state, class or group policy and propaganda.
 16. Unchecked, cultural 'aggravators' have the capacity to reinforce the foundations of structural factors, thus perpetuating the cycle of violence. Apartheid in South Africa could be considered as a structural cause, just as the entrenched and systematic discrimination against the natives by the Americo-Liberians widened the structural fault-lines and ultimately provoked violence in Liberia. It is not surprising, therefore, that in trying to explain the reasons for state inversion in the Mano River Union, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and elsewhere, the main causes have been cited as ethnicity, religion, civil-military relations and the conflict of generations.
 17. The challenge facing policy makers and analysts alike is to make an

informed choice between the competing demands of structural and direct sources of violence, between medium to long-term priorities and short-term preventive solutions, and recognizing the relationship between them.

Section IV: Concept and Scope of Conflict Prevention

18. For the purposes of this framework document, the term conflict prevention refers to non-violent (or creative) conflict transformation and encompasses activities designed to defuse tensions and prevent the outbreak, escalation, spread or recurrence of violence. Conflict prevention strategies may distinguish between operational prevention (measures applicable in the face of imminent crisis) and structural prevention (measures to ensure that crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do not re-occur). The emphasis is not on preventing conflict per se (conflict being a natural consequence of change) but in halting its descent into violence.
19. Thus, conflict prevention comprises the following elements:
 - (a) Operational prevention, including early warning, mediation, conciliation, preventive disarmament and preventive deployment using interactive means, such as good offices and the ECOWAS Standby Force.
 - (b) Structural prevention, often elaborated under peace-building initiatives and comprising political, institutional (governance) and developmental reforms, capacity enhancement and advocacy on the culture of peace. Peacebuilding, on the other hand, describes the development of the requisite multi-actor institutional capacity to design, implement and monitor initiatives aimed at checking the deterioration of social and economic conditions during hostilities, and strengthening the peace fabric of post-conflict countries over a long period of time in order to prevent a relapse into violent conflict. Aimed at operationalizing Chapter IX of the Mechanism, initiatives to this end include, but not limited to, humanitarian assistance, restoration and maintenance of economic and social infrastructure; restoration and reform of governance institutions (political, economic, socio-cultural and security); justice, rule of law, reconciliation and reintegration; and conflict-sensitive development.
20. The focus of this document is operational and structural conflict prevention. It takes into account the recognition that a comprehensive approach to prevention requires a coherent approach extending to all areas, and that not only should operational prevention measures entail working on more structural issues, but they must also dovetail into long-term preventive initiatives. Also, in as far as peace-building interventions aim to prevent a relapse into violence, they may also fall under the broad umbrella of conflict prevention.
21. These distinctions and inter-relationships are particularly relevant to

West Africa, which is concurrently one of the most impoverished regions of the world despite its rich natural endowment, and one of the regions prone to violence and civil strife. The region has witnessed positive developments recently, including a deepening of democratic processes in a number of countries and progress in resolving some of the worst conflicts. Nonetheless, political instability and low intensity conflicts remain major constraints on development in the region.

22. ECOWAS, with its wide political and economic mandate, has an obvious role in harnessing regional resources not only for sustainable development and promoting adherence to universal norms on the rule of law and basic human rights, but also to anticipate and eliminate in a predictable and targeted manner, conflict accelerators, including factors leading to humanitarian crises, which could undermine these efforts. In doing so, careful distinction must be drawn between the role of the ECOWAS system and that of Member States, who bear the primary responsibility, and own the process, for peace and security.

Section V: Context of the ECPF

23. With the easing of cold war tensions, Africa witnessed a fall in the instances of inter-state conflicts but a dramatic rise in violent internal power struggles that threatened state implosion across the continent. It became obvious that a nexus existed between violent internal conflicts, sparked largely by bad governance, identity crises and poor resource management on the one hand, and collective developmental efforts on the other. Barely a decade after the creation of ECOWAS, violent internal conflicts erupted in Liberia (1989) and Sierra Leone (1991) as a new phenomenon not confined to the borders of individual nation states, but with serious regional implications, both in their causes and effects. Later, ECOWAS was to be confronted with similar conflicts in Guinea Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire (2002). Starting off as internal struggles for power and control over resources, these devastating conflicts soon took on a regionalized character, fuelled by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as well as private armies of warlords, mercenaries, dispossessed youths and bandits who fed off the illegal exploitation of natural resources. The ripples of these so-called internal conflicts were instantly felt far beyond national borders in the form of refugee flows, severe deterioration of livelihoods, health and nutrition standards, disrupted infrastructure, and the proliferation of weapons, violence and transnational crime.
24. The interventions of the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia (1990) and Sierra Leone (1997), and the

ECOWAS Missions in Liberia (ECOMIL) in 2003 and Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI) in 2002 were classic military operations designed to stop wars or monitor cease-fires, thus creating space for peace negotiations and humanitarian operations. Indeed, ECOMOG interventions in West Africa have often created the bridgehead for the subsequent deployment of larger UN peacekeeping and international humanitarian missions. In the process, ECOWAS has always acted in concert with the African Union and UN.

25. ECOWAS has developed a comparative advantage in the area of peace-keeping and peace enforcement, and has become a model for the continent. Under the aegis of the African Union, a Pan-African Stand-by Force (ASF) is in the process of being established. Designed for rapid preventive deployment and peacekeeping, this force will comprise five brigades, one brigade to be provided by each of the five Regional Economic (Integration) Communities (RECs). ECOWAS is well placed to be the first REC to deliver its brigade and it is the lead organization in the development of the ASF Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) designed to create harmonization and interoperability within ASF.
26. As the region repositions itself to prevent the recurrence of violent conflicts, ECOWAS Member States have a responsibility to ensure sustainable peace and security by implementing measures and initiatives that go beyond violence management. In other words, military intervention should constitute only a segment, and ideally a measure of last resort, within the broader peace and security architecture. Emphasis should now be placed on prevention and peacebuilding, including the strengthening of sustainable development, the promotion of region-wide humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness strategy and the culture of democracy. This calls for the re-examination of the relationships between internal factors that provoke violence and the ECOWAS instruments, including its early warning and response mechanisms. The ECPF constitutes a response to this new challenge.

Section V: Aims, Objectives and Outputs

27. The overall aim of the ECPF is to strengthen the human security architecture in West Africa. The intermediate purpose is to create space within the ECOWAS system and in Member States for cooperative interaction within the region and with external partners to push conflict prevention and peace-building up the political agenda of Member States in a manner that will trigger timely and targeted multi-actor and multi-dimensional action to defuse or eliminate potential and real threats to human security in a predictable and institutional manner.

28. The ECPF sets the following objectives:

- (a) Mainstream conflict prevention into ECOWAS' policies and programs as an operational mechanism.
- (b) Increase understanding of the conceptual basis of conflict prevention, and in so doing, interrelate conflict prevention activities with development and humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness.
- (c) Build awareness and anticipation, and strengthen capacity within Member States and civil society to enhance their role as principal constituencies and actors in conflict prevention and peace-building.
- (d) Increase understanding of opportunities, tools and resources related to conflict prevention and peace-building at technical and political levels within Member States, the ECOWAS system and beyond.
- (e) Increase awareness and preparedness for cooperative ventures between ECOWAS, Member States, civil society and external constituencies (RECs, AU, EU, UN, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and development/humanitarian agencies) in pursuit of conflict prevention and peace-building.
- (f) Strengthen capacity within ECOWAS to pursue concrete and integrated conflict prevention and peace-building facilitation, and concomitant activities such as development and humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness, in Member States using existing resources, such as the Departments of the Commission; the Early Warning System; supporting organs of the Mechanism, including the Council of the Wise and Special Mediators; and other ECOWAS institutions.
- (g) Enhance ECOWAS anticipation and planning capabilities in relation to regional tensions.
- (h) Extend opportunities for conflict prevention to post-conflict environments through targeted restructuring of political governance, conflict-sensitive reconstruction and development, as well as humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness, and related peace-building initiatives.
- (i) Generate a more pro-active and operational conflict prevention posture from Member States and the ECOWAS system.

29. Outputs

This framework document:

- (a) sets practical guidelines on conflict prevention to which ECOWAS and Member States can refer in their cooperation and in their engagement with partners.
- (b) sets practical guidelines for cross-departmental and cross-initiative cooperation and synergy within ECOWAS on conflict prevention.
- (c) provides practical guidance for cooperative ventures between ECOWAS, Member States, civil society and external partners in pursuit of conflict prevention and peace-building.
- (d) incorporates an ECOWAS strategy on resource mobilization, advocacy and communication to underpin the initiatives with respect to conflict prevention and peace-building.
- (e) creates the necessary bridge linking everyday conflict prevention

- initiatives to structural (strategic) conflict prevention.
- (f) shall be supplemented by a Plan of Action and Logical Framework with identified priority activities to be undertaken by ECOWAS, Member States, civil society, the private sector and external partners in the short, medium and long term.

Section VII: ECOWAS Mandate and Legitimacy for Conflict Prevention

30. ECOWAS draws its mandate and legitimacy to shape conflict prevention policies and practices in West Africa from diverse but related regional and international normative framework documents. These include foundation and related legal documents of ECOWAS, AU, NEPAD and UN.
31. Since the inception of ECOWAS (ECOWAS Treaty, 28th May 1975), the principles of cooperation, mutual assistance and non-aggression have provided the ethos for organizational behavior within the Community and with external partners. It is within this context that ECOWAS adopted the Protocol on NonAggression (1978) and the related Protocol on Mutual Assistance in Defense (1981). Building on these foundation documents, the Community has adopted groundbreaking instruments in response to the demands for conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building.
- ...
40. A firm legal basis underpins the relationship between ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations on the cardinal issue of peace and security. The African Union is a Regional Organization recognized by the UN, the guarantor of global peace and security, while ECOWAS constitutes one of the five Regional Economic Communities under the AU architecture. The three bodies cooperate on the issues of peace and security on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. Thus, key ECOWAS normative standards that speak to conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building broadly radiate from the Constitutive Act of AU and the UN Charter, and the related normative standards on peace and security as well as on specific issues relating to women, youth, children, the environment, terrorism and trans-national crime.
41. Beyond legal instruments and guidelines, however, the unacceptable levels of deprivation in West Africa, as well as the destructive nature and spill over effects of contemporary regionalized internal upheavals, place specific moral obligations on ECOWAS Member States to act. Thus, ECOWAS is imbued with the necessary supranational powers (acting on-behalf of and in conjunction with Member States, AU and UN), as well as the legitimacy to intervene to protect human

security in three distinct ways, namely:

- (a) The Responsibility to prevent – actions taken to address the direct and root causes of intra and inter-state conflicts that put populations at risk.
- (b) The Responsibility to react – actions taken in response to grave and compelling humanitarian disasters.
- (c) The Responsibility to rebuild – actions taken to ensure recovery, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation in the aftermath of violent conflicts, humanitarian or natural disasters.

Section VIII: Components, Activities and Benchmarks of the ECPF

- 42. The ECPF comprises fourteen components that span the chain of initiatives designed to strengthen human security and incorporate conflict prevention activities (operational and structural) as well as aspects of peace-building. They are: [1] Early Warning; [2] Preventive Diplomacy; [3] Democracy and Political Governance; [4] Human Rights and the Rule of Law; [5] Media; [6] Natural Resource Governance; [7] Cross-Border Initiatives; [8] Security Governance; [9] Practical Disarmament; [10] Women, Peace and Security; [11] Youth Empowerment; [12] ECOWAS Standby Force; [13] Humanitarian Assistance; and [14] Peace Education (The Culture of Peace).
- 43. Given the interconnectedness of the initiatives, components and activities under conflict prevention may be replicated in peace-building interventions.
- 44. Early Warning: To facilitate the realization of Articles 3(d), 19, 23 and 24 of the Mechanism, the Early Warning component sets the objective to furnish incident and trend reports on peace and security, as well as real-time preventive response options, to ECOWAS policy makers to ensure predictability and facilitate interventions to avert, defuse or creatively transform acute situations of conflict, instability, disruptions and disasters.
- 45. To achieve the objective of Early Warning, activities shall be undertaken in the following areas:
 - (a) The Department of Early Warning (DEW) shall refine the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) into a more convivial, integrated and operational instrument to guide the zonal bureaux and focal points in their data collection and processing efforts.
 - (b) The Department of Early Warning shall prioritize effective collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Human Development and Gender, and other departments of the Commission as may be necessary, in the analysis of data and the preparation of reports and briefings for policy makers. The Department of Early Warning shall ensure the coordination of information flow on crisis among ECOWAS field

missions including feedback between field missions and ECOWAS Commission desk officers.

- (c) The Department of Early Warning shall harmonize and coordinate the development of ECOWARN and coordinate its operations with the African Union and the United Nations in order to generate the necessary synergy within the framework of the operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS).
 - (d) The Zonal Bureaux for Early Warning shall adopt a participatory regional approach in data gathering by building and strengthening cooperation with Member States and civil society, including but not limited to NGOs, traditional groups, diverse interest groups, women and youth organizations.
 - (e) The Zonal Bureaux, under the authority of the Department of Early Warning, shall work closely with members of the ECOWAS Council of the Wise and ECOWAS National Units in their respective zones, as well as with local peace constituencies in the design and implementation of initiatives to resolve local disputes arising from gathered data.
 - (f) Member States and civil society shall actively cooperate with the Zonal Bureaux in the collection and processing of data, and actively engage in local conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building initiatives.
46. The benchmarks for assessing progress and success in Early Warning shall include the following:
- (a) The elaboration of an effective strategy for information gathering and analysis, including a format for relevant indicators and reporting.
 - (b) Well resourced Department of Early Warning and its Zonal Bureaux with sufficient numbers of field agents, analysts and volunteers equipped with modern information gathering, processing, storage and transmission capability.
 - (c) The establishment of operational focal points within Governments, civil society and research institutions as well as effective links with ECOWAS resources in the zones.
 - (d) The production, analysis and appropriate dissemination of incident and situation reports, as well as the articulation of policy and crisis response options and assessment criteria
 - (e) The creation of effective links with the continental early warning system and collaboration with AU, other RECs, the United Nations system and development partners on early warning.
 - (f) The elaboration of annual needs assessments and concise training plans for efficient and evolving human capacity building. g. The production of periodic early warning reports.
47. To facilitate the achievement of the Early Warning objective, the following capacity requirements shall be met:
- (a) Recruitment of the full complement of staff, including researchers, analysts and advisers, in the Office and departments of the Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

- (b) Provision of information gathering, processing and communication equipment to the Department of Early Warning and the Zonal Bureaux.
 - (c) Training of the staff of the Department of Early Warning and Zonal Bureaux and focal points in information gathering, data management, research and analysis and mediation techniques.
 - (d) Training of local peace constituencies in conflict analysis and management and provision of resources and equipment for grassroots peace initiatives with the assistance of development partners and regional resources.
48. Preventative Diplomacy: Aimed at operationalizing the relevant provisions of Article 58 of the Revised Treaty; Articles 3, 8-27, 31-32 of the Mechanism; and Article 36 of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance; the objective of Preventive Diplomacy shall be to defuse tensions and ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes within and between Member States by means of good offices, mediation, conciliation and facilitation based on dialogue, negotiation and arbitration. Usually applied in the face of imminent crisis, preventive diplomacy shall also be applicable in the management, resolution and peace-building phases of conflict.
49. To achieve the objective of Preventive Diplomacy, the following activities shall be undertaken:
- (a) The Offices of the Special Representative and Envoys of the ECOWAS President as well as the Zonal Bureaux through the Department of Early Warning shall regularly update the President on tensions that may threaten peace and security in Member States and offer options to defuse them.
 - (b) Members of the Council of the Wise shall alert the President of the Commission on looming crises in their States of origin and propose measures for containing such threats
 - (c) The Mediation and Security Council may appoint one or more of its members or eminent personalities for high-level mediation and arbitration within and between States.
 - (d) The Mediation and Security Council may authorize the preventive deployment of ESF to the territory of a Member State for the purpose of preventing the degeneration of conflict into violence or to serve as buffer between belligerents during periods of high tension, mediation or peacekeeping operations as stipulated by Article 27 of the Mechanism.
 - (e) The President of the Commission, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall deploy a Special Mediator, Special Envoy or Member(s) of the Council of the Wise to any Member State in a situation of potential crisis on a fact finding mission for the purposes of studying the situation on the ground and advising the President on options for defusing any tensions.
 - (f) ECOWAS shall build a database of potential mediators and resources in the region and beyond.
 - (g) ECOWAS and Member States, taking account of gender equity,

- shall facilitate the active involvement of former Heads of State, Eminent and high-profile personalities in mediation, conciliation and facilitation as ECOWAS Special Envoys and Ambassadors.
- (h) ECOWAS shall build a mediation facilitation capacity within the Commission to promote preventive diplomacy interventions in the region through competence and skills enhancement of mediators, information sharing and logistical support.
 - (i) ECOWAS may either establish or shall facilitate capacity enhancement of relevant institutions of the Community to undertake mediation and arbitration activities within and between Member States.
 - (j) ECOWAS shall facilitate the enhancement of the competence and skills of the appropriate state institutions and civil society institutions within Member States to undertake mediation, conciliation and arbitration activities.
 - (k) Member States shall cooperate with and facilitate the work of fact-finding missions, special envoys, mediators and any such entities as may be deployed in their territory for the purposes of mediation, conciliation and facilitation.
 - (l) Member States shall work closely with the Zonal Bureaux, the Council of the Wise and the Offices of the Special Representative through the ECOWAS National Units to mobilize local resources, including eminent persons, traditional rulers, religious leaders, community groups, women's organizations, other civil society organizations, the private sector and any such actors as may be necessary, for the purposes of mediation, conciliation and facilitation to resolve local disputes.
50. Progress and success in Preventive Diplomacy shall be assessed with the help of the following yardsticks:
- (a) Measurable reduction in the incidence of violent conflicts at the national and local levels within Member States.
 - (b) The establishment of functioning mediation facilitation capabilities within the ECOWAS Commission and institutions.
 - (c) The setting up and regular updating of resources in the region and beyond on mediation, facilitation and arbitration.
 - (d) Regular interactions between ECOWAS National Units and other State authorities, decentralized ECOWAS institutions and local peace constituencies.
 - (e) Greater predisposition to creative conflict transformation and expanded base of conflict management resources at the regional, national, local and community levels.
 - (f) Peaceful resolution of disputes becomes a norm in the region.
51. The following capacity needs shall be met to facilitate the achievement of the objective of Preventive Diplomacy:
- (a) Recruitment of political, legal and security analysts and the provision of equipment for the Offices of the Special Representatives.
 - (b) Provision of secretariat services and operational allowance for the members of the Council of the Wise and Special Mediators.

- (c) Retreats for Special Mediators, Special Representatives of the President, Council of the Wise and high ranking officials of Member States in the techniques of conflict analysis and diagnosis; and the generation of options.
 - (d) Capacity-building workshops (and equipment) for ECOWAS institutions and other relevant institutions in mediation, facilitation, and provision of resources and know-how for the establishment of a database of mediation resources
 - (e) Training in conflict analysis and mediation skills for relevant state institutions in Member States
 - (f) Capacity-building workshops and seminars on mediation and alternative dispute resolution for local peace constituencies, particularly traditional rulers, religious leaders, women groups, youth groups and other civil society organizations
 - (g) Financial and technical support to local peace constituencies for targeted interventions in local disputes, including those involving chieftaincy, land/water, ethnicity, religion, gender and youth.
 - (h) Experience-sharing visits by Mediators and the conduct of Lessons Learned workshops on peace processes and mediation in the region.
52. Democracy and Political Governance: Without prejudice to other Protocols and Decisions of Heads of State and Government, this component shall set the objective of facilitating the realization of the relevant provisions of Article 58 of the Revised Treaty; the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment; The Declaration of Political Principles (1991); Articles 2(A), 42-1, 44 (B) and 45 of the Mechanism; and in particular, the provisions of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. To this end, the objectives of Democracy and Political Governance shall be: [i] to create space and conditions for fair and equitable distribution and exercise of power and the establishment and reinforcement of governance institutions; [ii] to ensure the active participation by all citizens in the political life of Member States under common democratic, human rights and constitutional principles articulated in ECOWAS Protocols, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, NEPAD principles and other international instruments.
53. To achieve the objectives of Democracy and Political Governance, the following activities shall be undertaken:
- (a) ECOWAS shall facilitate, and Member States shall ensure, the strengthening of the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary of Member States to promote efficient delivery, the enhancement of separation of powers and oversight responsibilities in governance.
 - (b) ECOWAS shall assist Member States to promote the professionalization of governance institutions by building and strengthening transparent, nonpartisan, efficient and accountable

national and local institutions, in particular the civil service.

- (c) Member States, in cooperation with ECOWAS and with the full participation of civil society organizations, shall assist political parties with financial resources and know-how to strengthen internal party democracy and participation, and to mobilize resources to assist political parties in the crafting of manifestos that promote national cohesion, consensus, participatory democracy and sustainable development.
- (d) ECOWAS shall facilitate, and Member States shall adopt and implement targeted programs to enhance the active involvement of women in decision making, seeking elective offices and participating in the electoral process.
- (e) In post-conflict environments, ECOWAS shall facilitate the creation of mechanisms to help former guerrilla movements and other non-state armed groups to make the transition to exclusively peaceful means of political contest, including the creation, capacity enhancement and financing of political parties.
- (f) ECOWAS shall facilitate the provision of assistance to Member States and local constituencies in the preparations for credible elections, including technical and financial support for the conduct of census, voter education, enactment of credible electoral codes, compilation of voters' registers and training of electoral officials, monitors and observers.
- (g) ECOWAS shall facilitate the enactment and enforcement of statutes in Member States to strengthen the capacity of all political parties to effectively compete in elections and minimize the impact of the incumbency factor in elections.
- (h) Member States shall establish and ensure the functioning of mechanisms and processes for power decentralization, including the strengthening of local government structures and assisting traditional rulers to effectively oversee community development and engage in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. They shall undertake to assign specific self-governance roles to local government authorities.
- (i) Member States shall encourage the establishment of permanent platforms that bring together electoral management bodies, political parties, security services, the media and civil society for the exchange of views, formulation of electoral codes of conduct and modalities for the peaceful resolution of election-related disagreements.
- (j) Member States shall facilitate the active involvement of civil society organizations, including NGOs, traditional structures and communitybased organizations in electoral and governance processes.
- (k) Civil society organizations shall carry out activities to promote credible and transparent electoral and governance processes, including awarenessraising, training workshops for political parties, electoral management bodies, the media, security services, election monitors and observers.

- (l) Civil society organizations shall assist Member States to establish mechanisms to strengthen the capacity of the media, security services and the judiciary to deliver efficient electoral oversight, security and arbitration.
 - (m) ECOWAS and Member States shall develop after-office roles for out-going incumbents and former Heads of State
 - (n) Member States shall allocate resources and training to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of traditional courts to complement the work of the justice system.
 - (o) Member States and civil society organizations shall undertake to popularize and educate citizens on ECOWAS Protocols relating to Democracy and Good Governance.
54. The benchmarks for assessing progress in the promotion of Democracy and Political Governance shall include the following:
- (a) Adoption and/or enforcement of national constitutions that reflect the constitutional convergence principles contained in the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, the African Charter on People's and Human Rights, and international norms and standards.
 - (b) Grassroots awareness of supranational and international norms and standards of democracy and good governance, and the determination of national stakeholders to defend and promote democratic gains.
 - (c) Public confidence in governance structures at all levels.
 - (d) Adoption and/or enforcement of anti-corruption policies and enhanced transparency and accountability in the public sector.
 - (e) Adoption and/or enforcement of policies and mechanisms to enhance participation at all levels in the governance process.
 - (f) Availability and application of affirmative policies on minorities, women, youth and the marginalized, including quota systems and waivers for women, as well as incentives for pro-women parties.
 - (g) Minimum regional norms and standards set and applied for elections and electoral administration.
 - (h) Vibrant political party activity during non-electoral periods.
 - (i) The existence of a reliable and credible voters' register
 - (j) Increased confidence in the electoral management bodies.
 - (k) Increased vibrancy and non-partisanship of the media that do not propagate hatred.
 - (l) The holding of predictable and credible elections to determine the accession to, retention and exercise of power.
 - (m) Reduced incidence of electoral fraud, disputes and violence.
 - (n) Increased willingness to accept electoral verdicts and relinquish power peacefully.
55. Stakeholders shall meet the following capacity needs under the Democracy and Political Governance component:
- (a) Recruit staff and governance experts for the Department of Political Affairs, and equip the Department with tools to facilitate interventions in the area of democracy and political governance.

- (b) Strengthen the conflict prevention capacity of the Office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security as well as the capacity of the Electoral Assistance Unit with personnel, financial support and relevant equipment to lead interventions in electoral processes across the region.
 - (c) Develop training packages and organize workshops for the legislature to enhance their capacity in following and analyzing developments and know-how in parliamentary procedures, the art of motion passing, parliamentary debate, law enactment and oversight.
 - (d) Organize targeted refresher and reorientation courses for the leadership of the civil service, state administration and local government in modern administration and management techniques.
 - (e) Equip the leadership of local government structures, traditional structures and community groups with training and tools in decentralization.
 - (f) Provide established networks of regional electoral management bodies with resources and expert support.
 - (g) Organize training programmes to enhance the capacity of political parties to promote internal democracy, self-organization, sustainability and elaboration of manifestos.
 - (h) Organize capacity-building workshops for political parties and women organizations, and provide them with resources to enhance the participation of women at all levels of politics.
 - (i) Leverage resources for national and community programmes targeting the promotion of common citizenship and ethnic harmony.
 - (j) Identify and fund roles in mediation and advocacy for former Heads of State and Government.
56. Human Rights and the Rule of Law: Drawing inspiration from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the Human Rights and Rule of Law component sets out to facilitate the implementation of the relevant provisions of Article 58 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty; the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment; Articles 2(D, E), 31-1, 25(D) and 45 of the Mechanism; and Articles 29-39 of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. The objective shall be to ensure equal protection and access to justice and social services for all before the law, and strengthen the institutions of human rights and justice in the region to this end.
- ...
72. Security Governance: The objectives of Security Governance shall be: [i] to eliminate threats to individual and group rights, safety, life, livelihoods, and property, and the protection of the institutions and values of democratic governance, human rights and the rule

of law under a human security umbrella; [ii] to orient the focus and capacities of individuals, groups and institutions engaged in the security system to make them responsive and responsible to democratic control and adhere to basic human rights and the rule of law; [iii] to ensure the emergence and consolidation of accountable, transparent and participatory security systems in Member States. The purpose of this component is to facilitate the implementation of the relevant provisions of Article 58 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty; the relevant provisions of the Mechanism and Protocol on Free Movement; and particularly Articles 1 (C, E) and 19-24 of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

73. Target groups for Security Governance shall include the following:
 - (a) Statutory institutions legally mandated to stock, manage and apply the instruments of coercion, such as the armed forces, police, gendarmerie, intelligence units, border guards, custom and immigration services, paramilitaries and forest rangers.
 - (b) Statutory and non-statutory institutions responsible for the administration of justice and the penal code, such as the judiciary and the prison service, as well as customary and traditional justice systems.
 - (c) Statutory and non-statutory bodies and organizations responsible for security sector policy, financing, regulation and oversight, such as the executive and advisory bodies on national security, the Legislature, the Ombudsman, relevant ministries and civil society organizations.
 - (d) Legal and informal non-statutory security sector actors, such as militias, vigilantes and neighborhood watch outfits.
 - (e) Private security providers, arms brokers and suppliers (local and foreign).
 - (f) Local, foreign and international institutions implementing or supporting Security System Reform in the region.
74. To achieve the objectives set under Security Governance, the following activities shall be undertaken by stakeholders
 - (a) ECOWAS shall develop a security governance framework with a Plan of Action that takes into account peculiarities of the region to feed into continental and global processes on Security System Reform. Towards this objective, an expert group composed of relevant ECOWAS departments, experts and NGOs shall be established by the Commission.
 - (b) ECOWAS shall facilitate the conduct of a study into the military and security agencies as part of SSR needs analysis for West Africa to identify and define areas of intervention.
 - (c) ECOWAS shall develop, adopt and facilitate the implementation of a regulatory framework with a sanctions regime on non-statutory armed groups, including militias, vigilantes, and private security outfits.
 - (d) ECOWAS shall develop, adopt and enforce prohibition legislation

- on mercenary and terrorist activities, and other cross-border criminal activities.
- (e) ECOWAS shall develop and promote the implementation and monitoring of a set of practical guidelines to govern the activities of all actors implementing or supporting SSR initiatives in the region.
 - (f) ECOWAS shall facilitate the mainstreaming of security governance into relevant conflict-sensitive initiatives, including DDR, practical disarmament, cross-border programmes, youth empowerment and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.
 - (g) Member States shall launch initiatives to restructure and right-size national security agencies in post-conflict environments with the facilitation of ECOWAS and the support of UN agencies and specialist NGOs.
 - (h) Member States shall ensure that demobilized combatants and retrenched or retired soldiers and officers are adequately retrained, reintegrated, rehabilitated or compensated under restructuring and DDR exercises.
 - (i) Member-States shall develop, reform and implement policies on prisons, spelling out minimum acceptable conditions for detention camps, prisons and rehabilitation centers, access to legal aid and corrective programmes, gender sensitivity in prisons, and all other rights of prisoners and detainees, as well as the responsibilities of prison guards and wardens.
 - (j) Member States shall adopt or reform policies to ensure that the recruitment, promotion and entitlements of members of the armed forces and other security agencies are transparent, equitable and on merit, and that reflect ethnic balance and gender sensitivity.
 - (k) Member States shall guarantee competitive emoluments and ensure the supply of adequate equipment to the security forces and services.
 - (l) Member States shall adopt and implement policies to discourage the use of the military in policing activities.
 - (m) Member States shall promote the holding of workshops on the rights and responsibilities of security agencies, with the active cooperation of specialized civil society and research institutions.
 - (n) Member States, in cooperation with specialized civil society organizations and research institutions, shall organize capacity-building workshops on the command structure, military ethics and the functioning of the security apparatuses for oversight bodies, including the parliamentary committees on security and defense budgeting, justice and other security-related ministries.
 - (o) Member States shall develop, with the assistance of the private sector and civil society, youth empowerment schemes designed to engage the youth in gainful endeavors, community and national development.
 - (p) Specialized NGOs and research institutions shall develop or adapt training packages and organize workshops on civil-military/security cooperation, community policing and practical-disarmament for community leaders, the youth, the police, the military and related

- security agencies.
- (q) Relevant ECOWAS Bodies, specialized NGOs and research institutions shall promote dialogue, exchanges and other joint activities between security agencies and communities to enhance confidence-building and mutual trust.
75. The following shall constitute the benchmarks for assessing progress in Security Governance:
- (a) The existence of an operational ECOWAS security governance framework.
 - (b) The existence of transparent and competent oversight institutions, policies and procedures on security.
 - (c) Increased predisposition of the armed forces towards democratic control.
 - (d) Increased confidence and trust between oversight bodies and the military/security hierarchy.
 - (e) The elimination of the incidence of military incursions into politics and drastic reduction in armed brutality or recourse to arms to resolve disputes.
 - (f) Positive public perception of, and increased confidence in, the security agencies.
 - (g) Increased mutual trust and respect between the community and security agencies.
 - (h) Reduced crime in the community.
 - (i) Reduced incidence of prison congestion, detention without trial and second time offenders.
 - (j) Frequency of national dialogues on SSR, which are consultative and predicated on participation of all critical stakeholders including security providers (both statutory and non-statutory) and oversight bodies including civil society and vulnerable groups.
 - (k) Armed forces and security services whose composition reflects ethnic, geographic and gender balance.
76. The following capacity needs shall be met in undertaking the activities outlined under Security Governance:
- (a) Training and recruitment of DDR and SSR experts to build expertise on security governance facilitation within the ECOWAS Commission.
 - (b) Expertise and equipment support to build a database of SSR resources in the region and beyond.
 - (c) Provision of a package of resource materials, incentives and tools to accompany SSR and DDR initiatives in Member States.
 - (d) Extension of financial and legal aid to underpin judicial and prison reforms.
 - (e) Provision of financial and technical support for community policing and practical-disarmament initiatives.
77. Practical-Disarmament: The aim of the Practical Disarmament component of the ECPF is to facilitate further implementation of Articles 50-51 of the Mechanism and, particularly, the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition

and Other Related Materials (2006). Consequently, the component sets the objective to drain the region of illegal small arms and light weapons (SALW) and other related materials, and to prevent the excessive and/or illegal accumulation of SALW, ammunitions and related materials in the region.

78. To ensure successful practical disarmament in the region, stakeholders shall undertake the following activities:

- (a) ECOWAS shall, through the Small Arms Unit, facilitate the development of programmes to enhance the capacity of National Commissions and Focal Points on SALW in Member States to underpin national initiatives in practical disarmament.
- (b) ECOWAS shall ensure capacity within the Small Arms Unit to monitor and enforce the ECOWAS regulatory framework on brokering and the acquisition of SALW by State and non-state actors.
- (c) Member States shall, through the National Commissions on SALW, broaden the base of the campaign against the proliferation and misuse of SALW by actively involving the police, private road transport unions, fishermen/boat operators, the media, militias, blacksmiths and other civil society groups.
- (d) Member States shall promote “weapons-for-development” projects in collaboration with the ECOWAS Small Arms Project (ECOSAP), development partners and with the active participation of community based organizations and security agencies.
- (e) Member States shall promote the collection, registration and destruction of illegal and excessive weapons at community and national levels.
- (f) In post-conflict environments, Member States, peacekeeping missions and civil society organizations shall prioritize SALW collection, registration and destruction in DDR processes.
- (g) Member States shall, with the assistance of the Small Arms Unit and ECOSAP, develop and implement disarmament initiatives in cross-border communities that incorporate quick impact ‘weapons-for-development’ projects.
- (h) National Commissions and civil society organizations shall launch and sustain awareness campaigns around the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

79. The benchmarks to measure the progress and success of Practical Disarmament shall include the following:

- (a) Functioning national and local structures, including state and civil society institutions, dedicated to the fight against SALW proliferation.
- (b) Increasing awareness within the Community about the harmful effects of SALW proliferation and commitment to prevent it.
- (c) Greater transparency in the acquisition of SALW between ECOWAS, Member States and SALW exporting countries and other suppliers.
- (d) Reduction in the number of SALW in circulation and in

- unauthorized possession.
80. To enhance the capacities of stakeholders to undertake effective practical disarmament, the following needs shall be met:
 - (a) Financial and technical support to the Small Arms Unit to set up a monitoring capability, including databases for the verification of end user certificates, marking and tracing.
 - (b) Financial and technical support to communities for quick impact projects to underpin community arms collection and destruction.
 - (c) Functional detectors (on vehicles, animals and persons), night vision equipment and training to cross-border security agencies to protect the external borders of the Community from illegal weapons proliferation.
 - (d) Resources and technical support for registration and destruction of weapons.
 - (e) Resources for the production, dissemination and use of educational materials within the framework of awareness enhancement.
 81. Women, Peace and Security: This component aims to facilitate the realization of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1325; the relevant provisions of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty, in particular Article 63; the relevant provisions of the Mechanism; and the provisions of Articles 40 - 43 of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. The objective of the Women, Peace and Security component of ECPF shall be to propel and consolidate women's role and contribution to centre stage in the design, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of conflict prevention, resolution, peace-building and humanitarian initiatives while strengthening regional and national mechanisms for the protection and advancement of women.
 82. To enhance the role, visibility and impact of women in peace and security, the following activities shall be prioritized:
 - (a) ECOWAS shall, through the Department of Human Development and Gender and the Gender Development Center, and in collaboration with identifiable networks of women organizations in West Africa, conduct an evaluation of literature and focused study on the gendered impact of violent conflicts on women and map out their role in the emerging ECOWAS security architecture. The study shall take into consideration the contribution and positive roles played by women in peace processes and peace-building, and the need to include women in the leadership of peace missions and negotiations, and mainstream gender in all aspects of the ECOWAS peace and security architecture.
 - (b) ECOWAS shall facilitate the development and implementation of targeted programs to enhance the leadership, negotiation and dispute resolution skills within women organizations.
 - (c) ECOWAS shall take practical steps to increase the number of women in senior decision making positions on peace and security matters within the Commission and other ECOWAS institutions.

- (d) ECOWAS shall adopt a regional policy to combat discrimination against women in all its forms, including inheritance, property rights, dehumanizing cultural practices, pay differentials, female genital mutilation (FGM), arranged and forced marriages, and child labor.
 - (e) ECOWAS shall facilitate the development of a regional strategy to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and the strengthening of legislative and judiciary measures, awareness and training on GBV in Member States.
 - (f) ECOWAS shall facilitate the adoption and implementation in Member States of affirmative policies to enhance girl-child education and female literacy and numeracy.
 - (g) ECOWAS shall facilitate the establishment of 'Young Women's Fellowship' programmes with the collaboration of institutions of higher learning and the private sector within the ECOWAS region and other regions working on peace and security.
 - (h) Member States shall take practical steps to increase the number of women in senior positions on peace and security matters within Government institutions at all levels.
 - (i) Member States shall develop, enhance and build on existing programmes to strengthen the capacity of women organizations in project design and implementation, and support them with targeted financial packages and equipment.
 - (j) Member States shall take practical steps, including legislative reform and affirmative measures, to promote the recruitment of women into the armed forces and other security agencies, and their active participation in the military and civilian components of ESF.
 - (k) Member States shall adopt practical measures to put women organizations at the forefront of community and cross-border initiatives, including programmes to combat human trafficking, HIV/AIDS and STDs.
 - (l) Civil society organizations shall develop and implement pro-women programmes in Member States, including capacity building for women, awareness raising and advocacy on women empowerment.
83. The following shall constitute benchmarks for assessing progress under the Women, Peace and Security component:
- (a) Adoption and implementation of affirmative policies in favor of women at the regional and national levels.
 - (b) Greater visibility of women and their organizations at regional, national and local levels of peace and security activities.
 - (c) Special emphasis on the adoption and practical implementation of measures to prosecute violence against women in national and regional penal codes.
 - (d) Progressive reduction in gender-based discriminatory practices.
 - (e) Greater self reliance and independence of women in the social and economic spheres.
 - (f) Narrowing of the parity gap between boy and girl child school enrolment.

84. To promote interventions in favor of women in the peace and security domain, stakeholders shall provide capacity in the following priority areas:
 - (a) Expertise, financial and equipment support to ECOWAS departments and agencies working on gender to enable them spearhead regional interventions.
 - (b) Financial and expert support to women organizations for capacity building workshops.
 - (c) Facilitation of access to micro-credits and equipment for women in the region.
 - (d) Creation of a special fund to support girl-child education and fellowships through advocacy and the establishment of pilot model girl schools in select vulnerable settings.
- ...
89. ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF): The ECOWAS Standby Force component aims to facilitate the implementation of the relevant provisions of Article 58 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty; the provisions of the Mechanism, in particular those set out under Article 21 and Chapters V – IX; and the provisions under Section IV of the Supplementary Protocol. The objective of ESF under the ECPF is to guarantee peace and security in situations of conflict and disaster through effective observation and monitoring, preventive deployment and humanitarian intervention, and to train and equip multi-purpose composite standby units made up of military and civilian components in Member States within the framework of the African Standby Force arrangement.
90. To achieve the objective set under the ESF component, ECOWAS Member States and partners shall undertake the following activities:
 - (a) ECOWAS shall reinforce the capacities of the Departments of Peacekeeping and Regional Security and Humanitarian Affairs with personnel, funds, equipment and training to spearhead the elaboration and implementation of an ECOWAS strategy on the rapid development of the civilian component of ESF and the modalities for preventive and humanitarian deployment, with the assistance of ECOWAS' centers of excellence in Ghana, Nigeria and Mali.
 - (b) ECOWAS shall coordinate ESF strategy with the African Union, promote exchanges between the two institutions and other RECs, and ensure that ESF activities in the region are in harmony with those of the African Standby Force.
 - (c) ECOWAS shall strengthen its Mission Planning and Management Cell (MPMC) with trained civilian elements to facilitate strategic planning and infusing the principle of democratic control, humanitarian and human rights laws into ESF strategy.
 - (d) ECOWAS shall reinforce the capacities of the Offices of the Special Representatives and Special Mediators through retreats and workshops on peacekeeping operations, mission planning and

- oversight and the military and humanitarian law, to improve their oversight functions.
- (e) ECOWAS shall facilitate the rapid development of the civilian component of ESF in Member States by earmarking, training and preparing civilian standby elements for deployment. The target groups shall include the police, experts from relevant government ministries, medical personnel, engineers, construction workers, logisticians, information and media practitioners, legal experts, social workers, humanitarian experts drawn from NGOs, and any other groups that may be identified.
 - (f) ECOWAS shall utilize the collective expertise of specialized institutions and think tanks in the region to facilitate the training of military components of the ESF on key civilian concerns relevant to the operational environment, including child protection, HIV/AIDS, malaria, gender and human rights, among others.
 - (g) ECOWAS shall facilitate the holding of refresher workshops and the development of a package of incentives for the standby units in-between missions.
 - (h) ECOWAS shall facilitate the stocking of the ECOWAS Logistics Facilities with equipment, relief supplies, medicaments and other humanitarian needs.
 - (i) Member States shall actively promote the enlistment of their citizens into the civilian component of the ESF.
 - (j) Member States and development partners shall support the ESF with financial, technical and logistical resources to enhance the humanitarian capability of the region.
 - (k) Civil society organizations shall promote the ESF concept through awareness-raising programs and campaigns to solicit enlistment.
 - (l) The UNHCR, regional, local and international humanitarian and human rights organizations shall facilitate the preparedness of ESF units by promoting capacity-building workshops on relevant deployment matters, including mission planning, civil-military cooperation, field assistance, disaster management, humanitarian and human rights law, communication, and HIV/AIDS and STDs.
91. Progress and success in developing the ESF shall be assessed with the help of benchmarks that include the following:
- (a) The availability and application of an ECOWAS strategy and plan of action on ESF, particularly in relation to recruitment, the logistical and training needs, as well as the modalities for deployment of the civilian component.
 - (b) The existence of well-stocked logistics facilities in the region.
 - (c) Community awareness of the ESF concept and popular participation in its activities.
 - (d) Willingness of Member States, local and international organizations and development partners to cooperate with ECOWAS on the ESF.
 - (e) Verifiable preparedness of the civilian units for rapid deployment.
92. In the efforts to develop the ESF with emphasis on its civilian

component and prepare standby units for rapid deployment, stakeholders shall provide capacity in the following priority areas:

- (a) Recruitment of civilian peace-keeping and humanitarian experts, as well as funds and technical support for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Mission Planning and Management Cell (MPMC) to lead strategic planning and the preparation of training manuals for ESF.
 - (b) Financial resources and expertise to develop a database of resources for the civilian component of ESF
 - (c) Transport facilities, financial and equipment support for the ECOWAS humanitarian facilities.
 - (d) Resources for developing training manuals and incentive packages for the ESF program.
93. Humanitarian Assistance: Intended as an operational tool in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Mechanism, in particular the provisions set out under Article 31 and Chapters VIII and IX, the Humanitarian Assistance component of the ECPF sets the following objectives: [i] Mitigate the impact of humanitarian disasters and emergencies that could result in social and political upheaval; [ii] Serve as a bridge between relief/emergency assistance and medium term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict and disaster settings; [iii] Protect sustainable development, including individual and community livelihoods, through effective crisis prevention and preparedness activities; and [iv] Foster interregional harmony and security through cooperative arrangements to ensure effective humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness programs.
94. To fulfill the objectives set under Humanitarian Assistance, ECOWAS and partners shall undertake the following activities:
- (a) ECOWAS shall build up the humanitarian crisis capacities of the Departments of Humanitarian Affairs, Political Affairs, Peace-keeping and Regional Security, as well as the capacities of ESF and decentralized agencies with personnel and technical assistance for strategic planning and engagement with Member States on humanitarian matters.
 - (b) ECOWAS shall enhance the capacity of the Early Warning System to enable it to relate political, socio-economic and geo-physical trends to humanitarian crisis propensities in the region.
 - (c) ECOWAS shall mainstream essential humanitarian crisis prevention, preparedness and response activities into the ECOWAS peace and security architecture.
 - (d) ECOWAS shall prioritize the establishment and stockpiling of a humanitarian depot as an integral part of the ECOWAS Logistics Facilities to support humanitarian interventions, including relief and quick-impact projects.
 - (e) ECOWAS shall facilitate the training and equipping of ESF standby units, particularly the civilian component, in Member

States in humanitarian relief and sanitation, as well as the design and implementation of quick-impact and reconstruction projects, for their incorporation into missions wherever and whenever required.

- (f) ECOWAS and Member States shall facilitate the emergence of a regional humanitarian capability by leveraging resources to promote the emergence of humanitarian NGOs in the region.
 - (g) Member States shall take practical steps to support regional humanitarian crisis prevention and mitigation efforts with all available resources, including personnel, finances, transport and logistics.
 - (h) Member States shall promote the incorporation of humanitarian crisis prevention, preparedness and response initiatives into community and cross-border cooperation programmes.
 - (i) In post-conflict and disaster settings, Member States shall actively encourage institutions and citizens to take ownership of regional humanitarian crisis response initiatives to ensure sustainability.
 - (j) Civil society organizations shall actively engage in regional humanitarian crisis prevention, preparedness and response initiatives by raising awareness, promoting volunteering and holding training workshops.
95. The benchmarks for assessing progress in the achievement of the objectives set under the Humanitarian Assistance component shall include the following:
- (a) ECOWAS policy and regional strategy for humanitarian crisis prevention, preparedness and response systems.
 - (b) ECOWAS Early Warning System configured to deal with multi-sectoral approach and analysis pertaining to short and longer-term humanitarian threats, including relevant EWS training capacities.
 - (c) ECOWAS anticipatory and response capacities to perform humanitarian functions, including the preparedness of standby units in Member States, contingency planning, training packages, systems and logistical back-up.
 - (d) Protection of civilians, livelihoods and property as an operational constant in ECOWAS interventions in crises.
 - (e) Awareness about humanitarian imperatives within the region and humanitarian assistance capability in Member States.
 - (f) Willingness of Member States, development partners and humanitarian institutions to cooperate with ECOWAS on humanitarian and disaster response, particularly in capacity building and resource mobilization.
96. The capacity needs of the Humanitarian Assistance component shall include the following:
- (a) Assistance from bilateral and multilateral partners as well as international humanitarian agencies in undertaking capacity assessments, strengthening the human resource base in ECOWAS, preparing relevant strategies and arrangements for regional and national humanitarian activities and for training systems.

- (b) Transfer of skills from the UN system and international humanitarian agencies to ECOWAS institutions engaged in humanitarian matters, including the Departments and ESF, as well as to Member States, regional and national humanitarian-related institutions and organizations.
- (c) Financial and logistical support from bilateral and multilateral partners to establish and develop the ECOWAS Logistics Facilities.

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113. Intra-ECOWAS Cooperation

Cooperation within the ECOWAS system is a sine qua non for effective cooperation with other partners and for the success of the ECPF. To achieve the necessary synergy within the Commission and with other ECOWAS Institutions, the following actions shall be taken:

- (a) ECOWAS shall raise awareness within all departments and institutions of the ECOWAS system about the cross-cutting essence of conflict prevention, peace-building and the ECPF as a strategic document which derives from the peace and security imperatives of the ECOWAS Vision.
- (b) All Departments, Centers, Units, decentralized and autonomous institutions of ECOWAS shall take ownership of the ECPF and the Plan of Action that shall derive from it as a framework for intra-ECOWAS cooperation on peace and security in the region.
- (c) The Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Units as well as the Department of External Relations of ECOWAS in the Office of the ECOWAS Vice-President shall ensure the capitalization of the ECPF and its Plan of Action as a point of reference in strategic planning and relations with Member States and other partners with regard to conflict prevention and peace-building.
- (d) ECOWAS shall take practical steps, including information sharing, joint planning and delegation of responsibilities, to involve the Community Parliament and Court of Justice more actively in the interactions between ECOWAS and the Community population, notably in electoral and democratic processes and human rights and justice matters.

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ECOWAS Vision 2020 (2008)

Full title: ECOWAS Strategic Vision 2020

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 2008

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/31Z3NoN>

Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organised Crimes in West Africa (2008)

Full title: Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organised Crimes in West Africa

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 2008

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/3eeEtO2>

Political Declaration and Common Position Against Terrorism (2013)

Full title: ECOWAS Political Declaration and Common Position Against Terrorism

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 28 February 2013, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2CnF3vC>

Excerpts

...

Conscious of the fact that the West African region is adversely affected by the phenomenon of terrorism, and that the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism are complex and require robust and proactive policies aimed at addressing the underlying economic and socio-political factors that give rise to or fuel terrorism;

Seriously concerned at the recent manifestations of terrorist activities within the Community, notably terrorist bombings, suicide attacks, kidnappings, hostage-taking, hijacking, mass murder, wanton assassinations, piracy and acts of sabotage of public and private properties, as well as the torching and desecration of religious and sacred places;

Noting that these acts in the region have resulted in loss of innocent lives, serious injuries, damage to property, and spread awe and intimidation, as well as having other far-reaching humanitarian ramifications on victim communities;

Convinced that a terrorist act in all its forms and manifestations constitutes the most serious and egregious crime that violates fundamental human rights, including the rights to physical integrity, life, freedom from fear, liberty and security, and aggravates poverty through its debilitating effects

on economic development and social cohesion;

Concerned at the risk of terrorists' acquiring weapons of mass destruction, including biological and chemical warfare agents and nuclear and other radioactive materials, for the purpose of committing terrorist acts;

Aware that terrorists exploit the cyberspace for the purpose of recruitment and spreading propaganda, as well as for planning and executing terrorist acts, including the unlawful attacks or threats of attack on computers, networks and other scientific and technological information systems; the intention of which is to intimidate, instill fear, or coerce a government, private business or segment of the population thereof for the purpose of advancing political, ideological or social objectives, whether directly or indirectly;

Bearing in mind the linkages between terrorism and other forms of criminality, including trans-national organised crimes such as trafficking in drugs and human beings, arms smuggling and illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, corruption and money laundering;

Determined to eliminate and stamp out the scourge of terrorism in the region and to create an enabling environment for effective regional integration, economic development, peace, security and stability in West Africa;

Stressing that all activities undertaken to prevent and combat terrorism should be consistent with states' obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, including the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, signed at New York, on 16 December 1966;

Convinced that achieving this objective requires a resolute and from commitment by Member States acting in close collaboration at all levels of inter-governmental actions on border surveillance, regular information sharing on both national and cross-border criminal networks, mutual assistance in criminal matters, including investigation and prosecution of terrorist suspects, as well as in the seizure and freezing of terrorist assets and finances; and

Desirous of establishing a common framework for inter-governmental action and cooperation on practical matters on the prevention and combating of terrorism and to ensure synergies in states' actions at the national, regional and international levels.

The Authority of Heads of State and Government hereby therefore solemnly declares as follows:

1. Unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including acts of kidnapping, hijacking, hostage-taking and the demand and payment of ransom, bombing of public and private properties and critical infrastructures, acts of sabotage and the desecration of religious and other cultural sacred places;
2. Equally condemns any movement, group or individuals using

religious, ethnic or other social or cultural differences to incite or indulge in violence and other hostile activities resulting in death, injuries or damage to property, the intention of which is to intimidate or coerce a government, private business or segment of the population thereof for the purpose of achieving political or social objectives;

3. Determined to take all necessary measures to bring to justice persons or entities that participate in financing, planning, directing or perpetrating terrorist acts. To this end, Member States shall freeze or confiscate without delay funds and other financial assets or economic resources of persons, organisations or groups that knowingly recruit individuals for, encourage, facilitate, incite, finance, participate or act as an accomplice in the planning, financing and commissioning of a terrorist act or any of its links mentioned above, whether directly or indirectly;
4. Reaffirms the commitment of Member States to refrain from encouraging, facilitating, financing or tolerating activities that are terrorist in nature or any complacency thereto; as well as to prevent Member States' territories from being used as safe havens for the training, planning and execution of terrorist acts;
5. Calls on all Member States, particularly those that have not done so, to consider as a matter of extreme urgency the immediate ratification and/or accession to all the relevant ECOWAS conventions and protocols (as listed in annex IV), the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its Protocol thereto, including other relevant continental instruments (as listed in Annex III), as well as the eighteen universal conventions and protocols on the prevention and combating of terrorism (as listed in annex II) and others adopted by the UN;
6. Further calls on all Member States to put in place the operational measures for the full and effective implementation of the legal counter-terrorism instruments mentioned in paragraph 5 above, including but not limited to the enactment and enforcement of national legislations with appropriate criminalisation of terrorist crimes, including severe penalties for perpetrators of such acts; the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms or centres; and taking advantage of technical assistance programmes, including adopting the AU Comprehensive African Anti-Terrorism Model Law;
7. Undertakes to strengthen cooperation, synergies and joint endeavours in the areas of intelligence gathering and sharing, investigation, prosecution and law enforcement in the prevention and combating of terrorism;
8. Encourages relevant civil society and non-governmental

- organisations, including the media, to work in conjunction with Member States in order to coordinate and mutually reinforce their activities aimed at preventing and combating terrorism within the Community;
9. Adopts a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism within the Community. To this end, a terrorist threat to one Member State shall constitute a threat to the whole Community. In the application of this policy, Member States categorically reject any circumstances, including economic, political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, medical and health or other motives, as justification for the commission of a terrorist act within or outside the Community and/or by a citizen of the Community;
 10. Reaffirms the commitment of Member States to uphold international law and to streamline all activities undertaken within the framework of preventing and combating terrorism with the applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, including the African Charters on Human and People's Rights and the Rights and Welfare of the Child; as well as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. To this end, all Member States collectively Abhor torture and other degrading and inhumane treatment of terrorist suspects, and undertake to strengthen democratic practices and rule of law to ensure due process, fair trial and equality before the law for all citizens;
 11. Decides to adopt the ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Implementation Plan, based on an integrated approach and which elaborates a comprehensive set of measures to be undertaken by various agencies in Member States and provides a strategic policy direction towards the containment and elimination of the threat posed by terrorism to the Community. To this end, the Authority approves the establishment within the Community, as called for in the Strategy, of: a) an ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Coordination Unit; b) an ECOWAS Arrest Warrant; c) an ECOWAS Black List of Terrorist and Criminal Networks, in order to facilitate coordination and information-sharing among Member States and d) a sub-regional Counter-Terrorism Training Centre;
 12. Requests the President of the Commission to submit to the next session of the Authority detailed proposals on the operational modalities, including budgetary implications and funding sources, for the mechanisms mentioned in paragraph 11 above;
 13. Further requests the President of the Commission to submit to the Authority an annual report on the state of terrorism in West Africa, including threats and vulnerabilities, as well as the measures taken by

- Member States and the Commission to implement this Declaration and the ECOWAS Strategy mentioned in paragraph 11 above;
14. Appeals to the international community, including technical assistance institutions, development partners, relevant international organisations and civil society groups, to coordinate their activities with ECOWAS and to strengthen financial, material and technical support (including training, research and exchange of information) for the effective implementation of this Declaration and the Strategy mentioned therein; and
 15. Decides to remain seized of the matter

ECOWAS Counter Terrorism Strategy (2013)

Full title: Supplementary to the ECOWAS Political Declaration and Common Position Against Terrorism concluded on 28 February 2013 at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/3gIeKzq>

Excerpts

Section I: Background

1. Terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace, security and stability. It is a criminal act that undermines the pursuit of democracy, good governance and development, as well as the full enjoyment of human and people's rights. Attacks or even the threat of attack have far-reaching ramifications on trade, investment, tourism and the free movement of people, goods and services. It can also create or entrench social and cultural cleavages among people on either a racial or religious basis. Terrorism is therefore inimical to the noble aims and objectives of the Community, particularly the goals of promoting integration, economic development, peace, security and stability and raising the living standards of citizens in the Community, as enshrined in the Revised ECOWAS Treaty.
2. Terrorist activities in the region have demonstrated the seriousness of the threat of terrorism to West Africa and the need for firm and sustained countermeasures. A number of Community Members have experienced various acts such as kidnapping and hostage-taking, hijacking, explosive bombing, gruesome and senseless murder and assassination, and other terrorist and mercenary attacks that have

deprived citizens of the Community of their basic human rights, including the rights to life and freedom from fear. In addition, citizens of the Community have been recruited into terrorist groups, which have committed atrocious acts around the world. Terrorism must therefore be categorically condemned and cannot, under whatever circumstances, be justified on any political, economic, social, ethnic, cultural, religious, ideological or health grounds.

3. The Community encompasses a diverse region of increasing openness and interdependence, allowing for free movement across borders of people, ideas, technology and resources. To this end, the internal and external aspects of the security of the Community Members are inextricably linked. Terrorism in one Member State is a threat to all Member States. Terrorists and other criminal networks exploit conditions of poverty, armed conflict and political instability, bad governance and poor democracy, abuse of human rights, corruption and the absence of the rule of law to recruit, train, plan, strengthen networking, acquire materials, carry out clandestine transactions to raise funds, and execute terrorist acts.
4. Community Members are confronted with a variety of challenges to peace, security, stability and development. No single Member is capable on its own of dealing with the multifaceted challenges posed by terrorism. The imperative for cooperation is premised on the fact that modern terrorism is a result of globalisation and a combination of communal and local variables. Coordination and the pooling of resources among states are key to effectively and efficiently eliminating the threat of terrorism. Terrorist activities, particularly those that are transnational or international in nature, involve several other countries. The successful prosecution of such acts requires cooperation and joint actions among various agencies in different states. In this context, cooperation in all spheres of terrorism related-matters at the Community, continental and international level is essential.
5. Countering terrorism requires robust and dynamic policies that are grounded in the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights. Under no circumstances should counter-terrorism be used as a justification for the violation of human and people's rights. Community Members have undertaken a number of firm and binding commitments to pursue joint and common policies in the areas of defence and security, through a number of conventions and protocols that are also applicable to the fight against terrorism.
- ...
8. Pursuant to these initiatives taken at the regional, continental and international level to prevent and combat the scourge of terrorism, this Strategy is intended to provide an operational policy framework

for ECOWAS counter-terrorism actions and to promote a common regional approach to the prevention and combating of terrorism within the Community. It also seeks to harness support and resources at the continental and international level to enhance the capabilities of Community Members to enforce their continental and international counter-terrorism obligations and to enable them to undertake rapid responses to terrorist acts. To this end, Community Members hereby commit to strengthen collaboration, synergy and consultation on various matters related to the prevention and combating of terrorism.

Principal Causes of Terrorism in West Africa

9. In order to develop a common strategic approach to fight terrorism within the Community, it is important to have a common perception of the threats the region faces and its vulnerabilities to terrorism. Several geographical, environmental, political, economic and socio-cultural factors motivate individuals to commit terrorist acts or incite, support and harbour those who commit them. The interplay of these factors is of particular relevance to West Africa. It is a region well endowed with natural resources, geo-strategically located, rich in cultural, religious and ethnic diversity; and which concurrently is one of the most impoverished regions with a history of violent conflicts, coups d'état and political instability, and transnational organised crimes, including human, drug and arms trafficking, all of which have presented conditions conducive to terrorism in West Africa. In addition, the globalisation and transnational nature of most contemporary criminal networks (the al-Qaeda phenomenon) has also contributed to the spread of terrorism within the region. The main factors that account for vulnerabilities in the region include:
 - Presence of violent religious extremist groups and international terrorist organisations;
 - History of intractable conflicts, coups d'état, collapsed states and acute political instability;
 - High urban criminality rate and organised crime, including piracy and drug, arms and human trafficking;
 - Proximity of the vast Sahel region (with little or no law enforcement) – a conduit for terrorists and traffickers;
 - Black markets for natural resources, including diamonds (which serve as a funding source for terrorists);
 - Widespread corruption, bad governance and the absence of a democratic culture based on the rule of law; and
 - Poverty, youth unemployment and inequalities (in relation to unemployment and wealth) and a lack of dynamic government policies for disadvantaged and marginalised communities.
10. Although these factors are not peculiar to the region, the manifestation of terrorism in West Africa exhibits unique characteristics. Secular and religious factors have been used to justify terrorism in the region.

The main secular factors are political and economic in nature and relate to mismanagement of natural resources, inequalities (and injustices), unemployment, marginalisation and environmental and ecological degradation. Religious factors have included frustration with secular governments and the desire to replace them with dogmatic religious caliphates.

11. Religion is not a cause of terrorism and the main religious groups in West Africa have lived in peaceful coexistence for centuries. Religious extremism, however, particularly its violent radicalisation, has been used as a tool by terrorist groups in order to secure a pool of support and sympathy for their actions, as well as to guarantee recruitment. Terrorist groups in West Africa are both home grown (or domestic) and international. The most notable home-grown groups that have committed terrorist acts in West Africa include Boko Haram, Ansaru, Ansar-Dine, Ansar al-Sharia, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) and Katibat El Moulethemoune Brigade (which merged to form 'al-Murabitoun'), Mouvement des Forces Democratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). International terrorist groups that have cells or have committed acts of terrorism in West Africa include al-Qaeda (originally founded by Osama bin Laden), al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Hizbollah cells.
12. In addition, global factors such as power politics (conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia), clashes among peoples and nations, and clashes among world religions (the age-old Muslim-Christian conflict) have also contributed to the vulnerability of the region. The scientific and technological developments in information and communication, especially with regard to the cyberspace, internet and mobile phone revolutions, have not only eliminated geographic boundaries but have also given terrorist groups new tools for propaganda, recruitment and the execution of terrorist acts.

Responding to Terrorism in West Africa

13. In recognition of the threat posed by terrorism to their countries, Community Members have individually taken various national measures to prevent and combat terrorism. Some have adopted national legislation and others have strengthened relevant aspects of their penal law to criminalise terrorism. States in the Community have also cooperated with the international community by signing, ratifying and/or acceding to regional, continental and international counter-terrorism legal instruments. To this end, all states in the region have ratified at least seven of the eighteen universal instruments, while a vast majority has ratified the OAU

Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. In addition, all states in the region have submitted at least one report to the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1373 adopted in 2001. In a few cases, ECOWAS Member States have established national mechanisms such as counter-terrorism units and other centralised structures to coordinate national counter-terrorism measures. Financial institutions, including central and commercial banks, have taken measures to strengthen regulations on financial and economic activities to suppress or prevent the abuse of financial systems by terrorists.

14. Despite these measures Community Members continue to face a growing threat of terrorism intertwined with other criminal acts, such as money laundering, illicit smuggling and the proliferation of small arms, and trafficking in drugs and human beings. The main challenge to counter-terrorism in the region, which indeed provides the *raison d'être* for this Strategy, is the need to harmonise the efforts of Community Members and to provide a framework within ECOWAS for the prevention and combating of terrorism. The Strategy lays out a strategic vision and the actions that Member States should take in order to prevent and combat the threat of terrorism in the region.
15. In view of the challenges highlighted above, there is a dire need for robust and proactive policies. The old adage that 'prevention is better than cure' is an important precept underpinning this Strategy. States should develop deradicalisation programmes that seek to counter radical ideologies and terrorist propaganda, as well as promote mainstream religious teachings and interfaith dialogue at all levels, broad-based social awareness programmes involving civil society groups, employment and community-based programmes for youth groups, and broad-based participation in political and economic policies and institutions. Faith-based institutions, including churches and mosques, and traditional chiefs should be encouraged to participate in government programmes and to institute initiatives to prevent radical ideas and extremist elements that seem to empathise with terrorism. States should also develop counter-terrorism curricula for schools and universities to promote awareness of and support for counter-terrorism.
16. Terrorists are anarchists who take advantage of and/or seek to provoke conditions of lawlessness. Many terrorist groups are known to have emerged from or be fuelled by prolonged armed conflicts, biased government policies, corrupt regimes, and human rights abuses. Addressing these conditions is a vital endeavour to prevent terrorist acts within the Community. ECOWAS has adopted several decisions and legally-binding instruments to promote peace and

security, as well as democracy and good governance. The full and effective implementation of these instruments and decisions will go a long way in curbing the threat of terrorism within the region. Removing the conditions of anarchy, such as armed conflicts and political and economic instability, would also help states to reassert their authority and the rule of law. Policies should be aimed at cutting off terrorists' access to weapons, funds and recruitment.

Section II: Strategic Vision

Purpose and Objectives

17. The purpose of this strategy is to give effect to regional, continental and international counter-terrorism instruments and to provide a common operational framework for action to prevent and eradicate terrorism and related criminal acts within the Community, while protecting human security, and human and people's rights, and creating conditions conducive to sound economic development and the wellbeing of all the Community's citizens. In this context, this Strategy seeks to strengthen operational capabilities for effective responses to terrorism. It is also aimed at achieving the following objectives:
 - Enhance coordination among Member States, particularly in the fields of intelligence, law enforcement, investigation and the prosecution of terrorist crimes;
 - Strengthen national and regional capacities to detect, deter, intercept and prevent terrorist crimes;
 - Promote a criminal justice approach that emphasises the rule of law, due process, respect for human rights and the protection of civilians in counterterrorism activities;
 - Prevent and combat violent religious radicalism/extremism;
 - Harmonise responses to terrorism, including counter-terrorism legislations; and
 - Promote regional and international cooperation on terrorism-related matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Guiding Principles

18. In view of the transnational and international dimensions of terrorism in West Africa, this Strategy is anchored in the belief that cooperation among Member States in various fields of preventing and combating terrorism is critical to achieving its objectives. In this context, Member States at all times shall share and coordinate critical information on terrorist elements and shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in their efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in all the pillars that constitute this Strategy. Other core principles underpinning this Strategy include:
 - Terrorism has emerged as a serious threat to peace, security,

- stability, development and social cohesion in West Africa;
- The primacy of prevention and the respect for human rights;
- Good governance and a democratic culture are prerequisites for effective counter-terrorism;
- Counter-terrorism requires both military and non-military strategies and tools; and
- Cooperation among states and technical assistance in all fields constitute the cornerstone for the successful implementation of this Strategy.

Definition of Terrorism

19. For the purpose of this Strategy, terrorism shall be generally understood as defined by the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. In addition, specific offenses such as those against the making of plastic bombs and against terrorist bombings shall be understood in the context of relevant international treaties to which Member States are parties.

Section III: Strategic Approach

20. In order to achieve its stated objectives, this Strategy is based on three main pillars for actions against terrorism in the Community, namely 1) Prevent, 2) Pursue and 3) Repair. Community Members shall, as a priority, make every possible effort to prevent terrorism from occurring. Failing that, they shall pursue and bring to justice at all cost the perpetrators of terrorist acts and repair any damage that such acts may bring to bear on victims and society as a whole.

Pillar 1: Prevent

21. The goal of the 'Prevent' pillar is to identify key areas where Member States should take actions with a view to detect and prevent terrorism before it emerges. The 'Prevent' pillar therefore seeks to address and eliminate conditions conducive to terrorism as contained in the UN General Assembly's 2006 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. States are encouraged to promote policies aimed at addressing the root causes of terrorism, including poverty and widespread unemployment, economic and political marginalisation of some groups, human rights abuses, corruption, weak security institutions and illicit trans-border activities. Specific policies should also be developed to counter terrorist propaganda, dissuade and deter people from turning to terrorism and deny terrorists access to funds, materials and space with which to plan and launch their attacks.
22. The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework identifies a number of cooperation areas, actions, activities, programmes and institutions likely to assist in the effective prevention of conflicts and threats from terrorism. The effective prevention of terrorism involves various

national and regional authorities, including legislative, financial, law enforcement, military, judicial, educational and social institutions, all of which enable a state to detect, intercept and disrupt terrorist activities. A successful preventive measure is one that is conducted with the full or strategic involvement of local communities. Terrorists have families, friends, relatives and collaborators, who could provide important clues about their activities, whereabouts and support means.

Priority Areas of Intervention

- (a) Total rejection of terrorism
 - Every Member State should unambiguously and unequivocally reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations irrespective of wherever it may occur or whoever may have committed it, as a serious criminal offence; and
 - Implement a zero-tolerance policy on terrorism.
- (b) Eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
 - Intensify efforts to fully implement all ECOWAS, AU and UN instruments relating to the maintenance and promotion of peace and security in West Africa and for the prevention and combating of terrorism;
 - Cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Taskforce (CTITF) to effectively implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which identifies areas where states must take actions to eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including measures to prevent and combat terrorism, measures to build and strengthen states' capacity and for the full respect of human rights;
 - Intensify efforts to resolve all armed conflicts and other conditions of instability by promoting national reconciliation, interfaith dialogue, conflict prevention, management and resolution;
 - Adopt and, where necessary, review and strengthen legislation and policies to ensure transparency, equality, inclusivity and the broad-based representation of various segments of society, including ethnic, religious, gender and youth groups, in all government's political and economic platforms;
 - Implement a zero-tolerance policy against racism and other forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality or political opinions; and
 - Strengthen the role of relevant civil society and media organisations on matters relating to counter-terrorism, particularly in the domains of communication and negotiation.
- (c) Enhance early warning and operational intelligence coordination
 - Develop and strengthen proactive and operational capabilities to anticipate, detect and disrupt terrorist activities;
 - Expand the mandate of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) to include terrorism indicators;
 - Enhance operational coordination with intelligence services

(including the Committee for Coordination of Security Services (CCSS), police and military services) at both the national and regional level. The CCSS shall serve as a central body for the coordination of information and activities of police and law enforcement agencies working on counter-terrorism issues, particularly those involved in the collection of information about, investigation of and first response to criminal acts;

- Enhance the sharing of information among Member States, at both the regional and international level;
 - Develop a West African database on terrorist activities, including terrorist groups, networks, their leaders, headquarters, movement, training camps, means and sources of funding, and means of acquisition of arms and explosives, as well as on their recruitment, communication and propaganda methods;
 - Strengthen operational collaboration with INTERPOL, the AU Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), as well as other regional and international mechanisms, with a view to receive, share and disseminate relevant information;
 - Coordinate and share information with other regional mechanisms such as SADC, IGAD, ECCAS/CEMAC and UMA, as well as with other organisations and partners;
 - Support and collaborate with relevant civil society organisations on the collection and dissemination of information for the detection and prevention of terrorist activities;
 - Support the creation of programmes in Member States for dealing with vulnerable youths; and
 - Strengthen the capacity of States through the provision of adequate equipment to deal with terrorists.
- (d) Deny terrorists the means, space and technical capacity to carry out operations
- Suppress the financing of terrorism by freezing all terrorist funds and assets, and enforce strict regulations on financial and non-financial institutions, including money transfer networks and businesses, to ensure that such transactions and funds do not support terrorism whether directly or indirectly. To this end, states should ratify and/or accede to and fully implement the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and all relevant UN resolutions, including the Security Council's resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001);
 - Scrupulously implement all relevant instruments and decisions adopted by ECOWAS policy organs, including the existing AU, UN and international legal instruments on preventing and combating the illicit manufacture and development, acquisition or possession, proliferation, circulation, transfer, accumulation or stockpiling and use of small arms and light weapons, and weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons. In particular, Member States should ensure that such acts are strictly prohibited and criminalised under

national law with severe penalties for perpetrators, in order to deny terrorists access to such weapons. These instruments include, inter alia [...]

- Intensify efforts to refuse terrorists access to explosive materials, including commercial explosives such as TNT and dynamites, by enforcing international standards, including stringent requirements for the marking of explosives and end-user reporting, in order to prevent illicit transfers and misuses of explosive materials;
- Adopt and enforce stringent regulations on the control of the transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons. Such measures should include compulsory inventory, identification and declaration at various levels of transfer and end user. Of particular importance is the need to regulate and monitor the production, stockpile, possession, acquisition of and access to weapons and explosives, particularly their transfer to non-state end users. States should enforce stringent control measures such as inventory, licensing of dealers, record-keeping of sales and purchases, and a ban on all transfers of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS);
- Cooperate with relevant regional and international institutions that provide expertise and technical assistance on such matters, such as the ECOWAS Programme on Small Arms, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPoA), Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and Executive Directorate (CTED), Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Panel, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), as well as relevant civil society and media organisations;
- Ensure maximum security and comply with international safety standards for nuclear energy installations, including the transfer of sensitive facilities, technology and material (such as uranium) usable for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. Any enrichment facility or enrichment technology should be designed or operated in accordance with internationally approved standards. To this end, states shall enforce a strict ban on the unlawful possession, transfer of and trade in uranium and other materials that may be diverted towards the production of explosives or their precursors;
- Develop and strengthen national legislations and capacity to enforce cybersecurity regulations, including the ability to detect, monitor and intercept terrorist activities through the use of the internet and other forms of wireless and electronic communication; and
- Prohibit and criminalise the use of their territories, including air, land, and maritime spaces, for planning, recruiting, financing and supporting the commission of terrorist acts against their people or against other states.

- (e) Prevent extremism and radicalisation
 - Develop measures to identify and counter the propaganda methods used by extremist sects to lure and recruit youths and other vulnerable groups into violent and radical ideologies;
 - Work with religious and community leaders, scholars and relevant civil society groups to develop de-radicalisation and reintegration programmes and to promote mainstream religious teachings, interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogues, and reconciliation. Such programmes should seek to address the conditions conducive to youth radicalisation, including unemployment, lack of participation and representation in political and economic processes, injustices, lack of education, social delinquencies, frustration and deprivation;
 - Faith-based institutions, including churches and mosques, should be encouraged to participate in government programmes and to take initiatives to prevent radical ideas and extremist elements that seem to have empathy with terrorism;
 - Develop and, where necessary, enhance counter-terrorism curricula for schools and universities to promote awareness of terrorism and counter-terrorism measures;
 - Develop and, where necessary, strengthen national laws to criminalise recruitment, propaganda, incitement, support for or the attempt or conspiracy to participate in violent radical ideologies, including hate crimes and the use of religion to commit violent acts leading to death, injury or damage to property;
 - Eliminate racism and other forms of discrimination; and
 - Prevent occupation, colonialism and other forms of domination.
- (f) Promote democratic practices and the protection of human rights
 - Intensify democratic practices as enshrined in the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance Supplementary to the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, as well as other relevant international legal instruments to which Community Members have acceded;
 - Promote broad-based participation and equitable representation, as well as accountability and transparency in all government economic, socio-political and cultural programmes and institutions;
 - Ensure that human rights as enshrined in the 1981 OAU Charter on Human and People's Rights, various UN conventions and the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights are protected and enjoyed by every ECOWAS citizen. To this end, Member States shall take every measure to ensure that actions taken to prevent and combat terrorism, including the legislative and operational activities of police and law enforcement officers, do not infringe on these rights;
 - Prohibit torture in all its forms and manifestations and other degrading and inhumane forms of treatment, as well as discrimination on racial, ethnic or gender basis against minorities and terrorist suspects;

- Ensure that the arrest, detention, imprisonment or forced expulsion/deportation and other sanctions against terrorist suspects are conducted strictly within the framework of the law. To this end, all Member States shall ensure that the arrest, detention, forced expulsion/deportation and/or imprisonment of terrorist suspects are conducted in strict compliance with the due process of the law;
- Ensure that police and law enforcement officers are properly trained on counterterrorism and human rights issues. To this end, ECOWAS shall develop its own appropriate Counter-Terrorism Training Manual that shall include modules on specific regional challenges, with a view to build and augment Member States' capacities and skills in core counter-terrorism areas, including the protection of human rights, implementation of international, continental and regional counterterrorism instruments, intelligence gathering and sharing, investigation of terrorism related offences and strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation in West Africa; and
- Take all necessary measures to discourage and stamp out corruption in both private and government sectors, particularly among police and other security and judicial officers, and set out severe penalties for violators.

Pillar 2: Pursue

23. While priority will be given to every endeavour to prevent terrorism from occurring, in the event where terrorism does occur, Member States shall take all necessary measures to minimise its impacts on communities and on national security in general. The 'Pursue' pillar is aimed at enabling Member States to undertake rapid, timely and effective responses to terrorism when it occurs. The main objectives are to disrupt terrorists' planning, networks and activities; investigate and bring terrorist leaders and their followers, supporters and sympathisers to justice to the full extent provided by the law; cut off terrorists' funding and access to equipment, finances, training and meeting grounds; and create a hostile environment for terrorists in the region with a view to eliminate future threats.

Priority areas of intervention

- (a) Sign, ratify and/or accede to and effectively implement regional, continental and international counter-terrorism legal instruments
 - Become party to all ECOWAS, AU, UN and other universal conventions and protocols against terrorism, as a matter of urgent priority (see annex for list of instruments);
 - Take all necessary legislative, executive and judicial measures to fully domesticate and enforce the provisions of the abovementioned instruments;
 - Establish at the level of the Commission a Counter-Terrorism

Technical Assistance Directory to enable states in need to find and receive technical assistance; and

- Monitor effective implementation by maintaining an updated list of States' compliance with all regional, continental and international legal instruments.
- (b) Enhance the rule of law and cooperation on criminal justice matters
 - Strengthen the legal framework and codification regimes against terrorism;
 - Make terrorist offences punishable with severe penalties under national law;
 - Encourage Member States, particularly those that have not done so yet, to, as a matter of urgency, enact and where necessary strengthen national legislation to domesticate and enforce relevant AU norms and regulations, and to incorporate all criminal justice aspects of counter-terrorism as provided in the AU Comprehensive African Antiterrorism Model Law, 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its Protocol thereto, as well as the fourteen universal conventions and four additional protocols against terrorism. Legislation need to:
 - * Criminalise wilful attempts to commit acts of terrorism, including inciting, supporting, abetting, and soliciting support, and/or providing, receiving or participating in training or instructing, recruiting and/or possessing materials intended for the commission of a terrorist act;
 - * Ensure that any emergency powers of the police and law enforcement agencies to search, arrest and detain terrorist suspects are asserted in accordance with national and human rights law;
 - * Provide clear guidelines on the seizure and forfeiture of terrorist assets, including materials, weapons and finances, with a view to prevent, disrupt and suppress plans to commit acts of terrorism;
 - * Provide for a central authority for receiving and coordinating requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance;
 - * Provide support to victims of terrorism;
 - * Protect human rights in counter-terrorism actions;
 - * Guarantee physical and social protection to witnesses and their family members and collaborators;
 - * Prohibit terrorist blackmail and demands for ransom;
 - * Prohibit the payment of ransom to terrorists and other criminal groups; and
 - * Combat other transnational organised crimes with proven links to terrorism.
 - Extend to one another all measures of cooperation in and assistance on criminal matters, including the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts. Such cooperation, whether at the international or regional level, may be formal and informal, to enable the flexibility and efficiency of national judicial systems to pursue terrorists everywhere in a timely manner within the region, and to handle

- complex counter-terrorism cases, including issues related to the forensic, technological and financial aspects of investigation and prosecution of terrorist crimes;
- Regularly train and sensitise criminal justice officials, including judges, investigators, prosecutors and defence lawyers, on new developments in the field of international cooperation on criminal matters and counter-terrorism;
 - Cooperate on matters relating to extradition as provided in the ECOWAS Conventions on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in order to enhance cooperation on criminal matters and to be able to bring terrorists to justice. To this end establish and recognise the legality of an ECOWAS Arrest Warrant (ECOWARRANT), an ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Coordination Bureau (ECOCTB) and an ECOWAS Black List of Terrorists and Criminal Networks (ECOLIST). The ECOWAS Warrant shall also enable Member States to cooperate in giving and obtaining evidence in other Member States; and
 - Regularly update national legislations and regulations on international cooperation in criminal matters and encourage states to conclude regional agreements on cooperation on extradition and mutual legal assistance with neighbouring and non-ECOWAS countries. To this end, Member States should be strongly encouraged to ratify and/or accede to the Rabat Convention on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance and other relevant regional and international agreements.
- (c) Improve cooperation on border control and surveillance, including aviation and maritime security
- Strengthen cooperation on border control and surveillance at both formal and informal ports of entry/exit, without prejudice to the ECOWAS protocols and regulations on the free movement of persons, goods and services;
 - Establish and/or strengthen and equip common border patrol mechanisms, including joint border commissions, to regularly conduct assessments of threats and vulnerabilities of borders;
 - Strengthen measures to detect forgery and falsified documents and to report and share such information with relevant Member States; shelf;
 - Enact and, where necessary, strengthen national legislations and the criminal justice regimes against piracy and other criminal activities on the high seas to ensure that perpetrators of such acts are effectively investigated, prosecuted and deterred;
 - Ensure that all vessels sailing on or using states' maritime spaces are registered with long-range identification and tracking systems, and that commercial users are properly registered and licensed;
 - Strengthen cooperation and coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Customs Organization (WCO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the UNODC to put in place specific regulations for the inspection of cargo originating in, exiting, transiting or being trans-

- shipped through a state, for the promotion of customs-to-customs cooperation on the in-bound and out-bound security inspection and the use of standardised targeting and screening criteria to detect and prevent drug, arms and human trafficking within the framework of relevant regional, continental and international instruments; and
- Stamp out corruption at border control points, particularly air, sea and land borders, to render them more effective in detecting criminals and terrorist elements, including drugs, illicit arms and other unlawful activities.
- (d) Suppress and criminalise the financing of terrorism and associated money laundering
- Criminalise terrorist financing, including the attempt to finance terrorism and ancillary offences consistent with the requirements of the UN 1999 Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and UN Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001);
 - Make the offence of terrorist financing a predicate offence to the money laundering offence. To this end, the criminalisation regimes should be carried out on the basis of the 1988 UN Convention of Vienna and 2000 UN Convention of Palermo;
 - Ensure that both financial and non-financial sectors are subjected to stringent anti-money laundering/anti-terrorism financing obligations consistent with the FATF Recommendations, in particular customer due diligence, reporting suspicious activities and monitoring transactions and business relationships;
 - Criminalise the demand for payment of ransom by terrorist groups and make the payment of ransom to such groups a predicate offence under national law with appropriate and proportionate punishment;
 - Establish a fully operational Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in each state and improve its capacity to receive, analyse and disseminate suspicious money laundering/terrorist financing-related transactions/activities;
 - Ensure that money/value transfer services are registered or licensed and subject to all national, regional and international regulations, including the FATF Recommendations that apply to financial institutions. To this end, states should adopt and harmonise regulations, including those relating to wire transfers and remittances, and non-profit or charity groups/organisations, as well as those of cash couriers, in accordance with GIABA regulations, to ensure that they are not exploited by terrorist and other criminal groups;
 - Develop and strengthen capacities (human, material and financial resources) and regularly train personnel in charge of combating terrorist financing and money laundering (including police, law enforcement agents and FIUs) and, where necessary, seek technical assistance to build such capacity, including from GIABA and other specialised institutions;
 - Put in place effective mechanisms to provide the widest possible

range of mutual legal assistance and information exchange on cross-border illicit financial activities and movements of terrorist assets, as well as measures aimed at strengthening states' ability to monitor, detect and disrupt suspicious or terrorist activities. Offences related to terrorist financing should apply to natural and legal persons who knowingly engage in terrorist financing activities. They should be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions; and

- States are to carry out these measures in full respect of human rights and in a manner that does not disrupt or impede in any way the smooth flow of economic activities.
- (e) Protect critical infrastructure and diplomatic premises and other foreign interests
 - Identify and increase security at critical infrastructures and soft targets, including airports, seaports, major roads, historical and cultural infrastructure, government offices, markets and shopping malls, stadiums, stock exchanges, social theatres, and foreign diplomatic premises and installations (including companies, organisations, vessels, cars and couriers);
 - Criminalise acts that target critical infrastructure and diplomatic premises and other foreign interests in the territories of Member States, and provide for severe penalties for offenders;
 - WAPCCO together with Interpol shall issue periodic alert notices, based on well-informed intelligence, to public bodies, international organisations, diplomatic representations and other agencies, about any possible threats from terrorism, particularly in relation to hidden weapons, parcel bombs and other dangerous materials; and
 - Regularly train personnel on the protection of critical infrastructures; to build a readiness capacity to respond rapidly to a terrorist attack; and to perform technical operations such as disarming or deactivating explosives, cordoning off the crime area, dealing with victims and collecting materials for forensic evidence.
- (f) Enhance the ability of Member States to develop a criminal justice response to terrorism
 - Develop dedicated units of prosecutors in Member States who can be called upon to prosecute terrorism-related cases; and
 - Assist Member States to establish specialised units within law enforcement agencies and the Gendarmerie (assisted by the military where necessary) to investigate terrorism-related offences, hostage negotiations and bomb disposal.
- (g) Strengthen cooperation with civil society and media organisations on the prevention and combating of terrorism
 - national strategies for better communication on matters relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, utilising all possible channels and networks of communication to ensure an effective and coherent strategy; and
 - Involve civil society and media organisations in all major national, regional and international counter-terrorism forums and other platforms.
- (h) Training and capacity-building on the prevention and combating of

terrorism

- Allocate substantial resources, including personnel, materials and equipment, for the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- Put in place within the Commission, an ECOWAS capacity-building programme against terrorism in order to effectively coordinate, harmonise and implement counter-terrorism training programmes for both civilian and military personnel;
- Develop specialised training courses on counter-terrorism matters, including intelligence gathering and sharing, investigation, prosecution and extradition, and international cooperation. To this end, an ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Training Manual shall incorporate special modules for criminal justice officials; and
- Regularly train relevant states officials with a view to develop and strengthen operational skills to undertake technical counter-terrorism operations, including capabilities to perform forensic analysis, preparation of statutory reports, and drafting and processing mutual legal assistance (MLA) and extradition requests.

Pillar 3: Reconstruct

24. The aftermath of terrorism and even counter-terrorism could destroy the social fabric of society. People lose confidence in the state and its ability to protect them, and at times terrorism pits social groups against each other in accusations and counter-accusations. The 'Reconstruct' pillar is aimed at rebuilding society and enabling the state to heal social wounds caused by terrorism and counterterrorism.

Priority areas of intervention

- (a) Protect the rights of victims
 - Establish an institutional and legal mechanism with the mandate to protect the rights of victims of terrorism, and endow such mechanism with all the means and resources, including powers to utilise funds and proceeds seized from terrorists for the benefit of victims;
 - Funds seized or recovered from terrorists may be distributed to terrorist victims or their families, with a view to facilitate their social rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as their security;
 - Provide other forms of assistance to victims, including medical care and reintegration into normal social life; and
 - Ensure that the international dimension of counter-terrorism, such as extradition, takes into account the victims' rights and best interest. In this context ensure that victims are kept well informed of proceedings and outcomes.
- (b) Support and reconcile communities
 - Support in every manner the communities of victims of terrorist acts, including moral, political, economic and social support;
 - Take measures aimed at reconciling communities, particularly in the aftermath of a terrorist incident, by promoting dialogue and emphasising the individuality of terrorists and not their social,

economic, racial, ethnic, cultural, religious or political background. In this context, the goal is to isolate the terrorists, their ideology, slogans and propaganda from the communities that they claim to represent; and

- Rebuild and strengthen state and social cohesion by implementing programmes that unite communities, promote national pride, and demonstrate state control of the situation, as well as its determination to bring perpetrators to justice.
- (c) Repair social contract
- Take immediate actions in the aftermath of a terrorist attack to reassure the people that the state is in control of the situation, keeping people well informed about measures being taken, including the investigation and prosecution of suspects;
 - Enhance operational synergies in the activities of law enforcement agencies and local communities in order to bring security closer to local communities and to ensure trust and transparency;
 - Promote education and other social benefits, including community development projects for victims of terrorist acts;
 - Promote counter-terrorism curricula in schools and universities and training on what to do in the event of a terrorist attack; and
 - Establish direct hotlines and emergency numbers and persons or places to contact in the event of a terrorist act or suspicious terrorist activity.
- (d) Develop national counter-terrorism strategies
- Develop a national counter-terrorism strategy that addresses the various dimensions of the threat of terrorism, including an approach to counter terrorists' propaganda, recruitment, sources of funding and radicalisation. Such strategies should draw from and aim at giving practical effect to the full implementation of this (ECOWAS) Strategy and other applicable instruments;
 - Ensure that all relevant national stakeholders are involved in the development and implementation of the strategy; and
 - Promote national awareness to strengthen support for and implementation of this strategy.

Section IV: Implementation Mechanisms

25. The primary responsibility for the full and effective implementation of this Strategy shall remain with states. However, in order to ensure systematic follow-ups and effective monitoring of the implementation of this Strategy, the following mechanisms are recommended to assist, complement and strengthen states' capacities in this endeavour:

National Taskforce

26. For the purpose of effective implementation of this Strategy and coordination at the regional, continental and international level, Member States shall establish a National Authority or Inter-Departmental Taskforce wherever such a mechanism does not

already exist to serve as a focal point for counter-terrorism matters at the national level and for effective coordination at the regional, continental and international level. States may also decide to utilise existing mechanisms such as the Focal Points designated for the purpose of coordination with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT).

Periodic Evaluation and Reporting of the Implementation of this Strategy (PERIS)

27. In order to ensure continued focus on the implementation of this Strategy, and to regularly reassess progress and challenges, Member States shall agree on a timeframe for periodic evaluation and reporting on the measures taken and challenges encountered in the implementation of this Strategy. PERIS shall be held at least twice a year at different policy levels and at least one meeting shall be at the level of Heads of State and Government. On the basis of these evaluations, this Strategy may be amended or revised in order to bring it up to date.

ECOWAS Commission

28. The Regional Security Division (RSD) of the Commission shall be entrusted with the overall responsibility of coordinating the implementation of this Strategy. It shall serve as the focal point of the Commission on counter-terrorism matters. The RSD shall examine the reports submitted by Member States, and compile and submit such reports to the Authority of Heads of State and Government for policy direction. It shall follow up with Member States on any aspect related to the effective implementation of this Strategy.

ECOWAS Court of Justice

29. The Community Court shall be charged with the enforcement of the rights of victims of terrorism in conformity with its jurisdiction.

CCSS

30. The CCSS shall coordinate the aspects of intelligence cooperation on the implementation of this Strategy, including liaison with ECOWARN and relevant regional, continental and international mechanisms.

ECOWARN

31. ECOWARN shall be responsible for gathering information to predict and detect activities of terrorist groups, in liaison with CCSS.

ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Training Centre (CTTC)

32. In order to strengthen the development of appropriate skills and expertise on the prevention and combating of terrorism, Member States shall establish a regional centre of excellence for counter-terrorism. The centre shall provide standardised training, threat assessments, research and analysis, development and dissemination of data and information, and provide technical assistance in the field of counter-terrorism. The centre shall work in close coordination with ACSRT and other regional and international institutions. The Commission shall develop the modalities and legal framework for the establishment and functioning of the centre.

Counter-Terrorism Coordination Unit

33. The Commission shall establish within the RSD a coordination unit that shall be responsible for monitoring states' implementation; carry out technical functions related to the prevention and combating of terrorism; and make recommendations on measures for strengthening the implementation of this Strategy. The Unit shall also be responsible for the coordination of training activities of the CTTC in the region. It shall liaise with similar national, continental and international mechanisms.

GIABA

34. GIABA shall coordinate activities related to the suppression of terrorist financing and associated money laundering. It shall regularly review and conduct threat and vulnerability assessments, as well as make regular recommendations on measures to suppress the financing of terrorism in West Africa.

International Organisations and Partners

35. This Strategy shall be implemented in collaboration with relevant international organisations and international partners, which shall contribute to building capacity for the prevention and combating of terrorism in West Africa. They shall also ensure synergies and coordination on various counter-terrorism matters at the international and continental level.

Civil-Society Organisations (CSOS) and Media Networks

36. Recognising their diverse nature, CSOs and the media shall play a complementary role in the implementation of this Strategy. They shall support both ECOWAS and Member States' activities aimed at preventing and combating terrorism. Wherever appropriate they shall be consulted to contribute to various aspects in the prevention and combating of terrorism, including raising awareness, providing

training and expertise, and supporting national reconciliation and healing programmes.

ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Training Manual

37. In order to develop and enhance the capacity of Member States in various areas of the prevention and combating of terrorism, ECOWAS will develop a specialised Counter-Terrorism Training Manual (CTTM), to be used for all counter-terrorism training. The purpose of the Manual shall be to promote a coordinated and harmonised approach and to impart knowledge and skills among relevant states' agencies, including police, gendarmerie, intelligence, investigators, judiciary (including prosecutors, lawyers, judges and justices), customs, diplomats and other law enforcement agencies involved in counterterrorism. The manual shall be tailored to address counter-terrorism challenges unique to West Africa, including in the following areas:

- Trends and developments in the manifestation and threat of terrorism and associated transnational organised crimes such as piracy, drug and human trafficking, and money laundering;
- Terrorism in the media, including cyber-terrorism through the use of the Internet;
- Regional, continental and international legal frameworks on the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- National legislation and other measures taken by states;
- Intelligence and counter-intelligence;
- Crime scene management and the investigation of terrorist crimes;
- Financing of terrorism, including organised crime and money laundering;
- Border control and surveillance;
- Protection of critical infrastructures;
- Hostage negotiation;
- Bomb disposal and weapons of mass destruction; and
- International cooperation on counter-terrorism matters

...

Section VI: Way Forward

38. There shall be regular consultations among government agencies that are involved in counter-terrorism, including ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation, ministers of justice and interior, judges and justices, police and security chiefs, intelligence chiefs, investigators, prosecutors and other stakeholders, to monitor, evaluate and recommend more effective measures for strengthening coordination on counter-terrorism matters among Member States.

ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) (2014)

Full title: ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS)

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 29 March 2014, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire

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*Adopted at the Forty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, 28-29 March 2014, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.

Excerpts

Section I: Introduction

...

4. West African countries, either individually or collectively, are confronted with growing and multifaceted challenges to their maritime domain. The main concerns relate to overexploitation of marine resources, rapid degradation of the marine environment through pollution, coastal erosion, and rise in sea level, and criminal acts at sea. Piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling, drug and human trafficking, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and illegal migration also have links to transnational criminal groups. The lack of security and safety of maritime navigation in the ECOWAS waters has made sea transportation more risky, expensive and deadly.
5. These challenges impede the realisation of the full potential of the EMD, undermine efforts aimed at accelerating economic development and integration in the region, and thus aggravate poverty and political instability.

Principles

14. The EIMS is based on the following principles:
 - ...
 - (iv) Countering the challenges to the EMD requires both security and non-security strategies. In this context, criminal justice responses based on a solid foundation of the rule of law is an essential element to mitigating the associated challenges.
15. The vision for the EIMS is a prosperous, safe and peaceful EMD for all its peoples that will allow environmentally sustainable development and wealth creation based on efficient management and good governance.

Scope of the EIMS

17. The EIMS identifies the major challenges to the maritime domain

and offers a set of comprehensive priority actions that should be undertaken nationally and regionally. It addresses five strategic objectives, each of which is discussed in a separate section below:

- (i) Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen maritime governance;
- (ii) Strategic Objective 2: Maritime security and safety;
- (iii) Strategic Objective 3: Maritime environmental management;
- (iv) Strategic Objective 4: Optimise the ECOWAS maritime economy;
- (v) Strategic Objective 5: Promote maritime awareness and research.

...

Section II: Strategic Framework

...

Action 1.4 – Strengthen regulations and the rule of law

...

- (ii) Strengthen the criminal justice enforcement regimes nationally on maritime matters such as piracy and armed robbery, fishing, environmental protection and maritime economy;

...

- (v) Adopt a common ECOWAS policy requiring all shipping registered to ECOWAS Member States and all seaborne traffic in transit, or active, in ECOWAS waters, to be equipped with a long-range tracking system. This should contribute in the monitoring of maritime activities and improve maritime security and safety. (Also see Strategic Objective 2: Maritime security and safety)

Strategic Objective 2: A safe and secure maritime domain

34. Maritime security and safety constitutes a fundamental pillar for the survival of the maritime domain. It deals with threats to maritime navigation, transport and other peaceful uses of the maritime domain, particularly the oceans, seas and other navigable waterways. In this context, this EIMS stresses the need for urgent action to address prevailing and future threats to maritime security and safety.

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Action 2.3 – Prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery at sea

41. The threat to the West African maritime domain posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea is not a recent development, as unlawful and other criminal activities have been linked to the West African waterways for centuries.
42. Piracy and armed robbery, mostly theft of petroleum assets and other cargo, cost the region billions in US\$ each year. Maritime piracy and armed robbery further impose direct costs on humanitarian assistance and have an impact on maritime economic activities such as oil production, cost of energy, insurance and shipping costs, tourism and fishing. Pirate attacks also increase the risk to maritime

trade, which relies on shipping, and the payment of ransom increases costs, which are then borne by consumers through increased prices of goods and services.

43. Priority actions required:

- (i) Strengthen the national capacities to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate piracy and armed-robbery-at-sea cases, and establish/ improve national asset seizure, confiscation and management systems;
- (ii) Condemn piracy and armed robbery at sea wherever it may occur in the world, particularly in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea;
- (iii) Encourage Member States to adopt and implement all relevant national, regional, continental and international legal instruments, frameworks and initiatives for the prevention and combating of piracy and armed robbery at sea;
- (iv) Strengthen the technical and operational partnership between ECOWAS and ECCAS in the prevention and combating of piracy and armed robbery, terrorism, acts of kidnapping and hijacking, drug and human trafficking, arms smuggling and other unlawful acts committed in their combined maritime domains;
- (v) Strengthen cooperation with MOWCA and GGC to address the complex threats to maritime transport and navigation.

Action 2.4 – Promote and protect the safety of maritime navigation and passage

- 44. SOLAS requires all coastal countries to ensure that hydrographic surveys are carried out, nautical charts and publications are published and kept up to date, and maritime safety information (MSI) services are provided.
- 45. The hydrography of Africa is poorly documented and maintained because of limited capacity to conduct the required surveys in accordance with International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) specifications. Poor or outdated port/harbour approaches can result in costly accidents (pollution, navigational risks and others) and/or even loss of life. It is the responsibility of countries that have registered their claims to an EEZ to ensure the safe passage of all shipping through their waters.
- 46. There is limited capacity in Africa to chart its waters (EEZ) and to manage the requirements for maritime navigational safety. The documenting of changes (to the sea floor/riverbeds, approaches and navigational systems) and issuing of navigational warnings are essential services that each country adjacent to oceans/seas, lakes and rivers must deliver to all users.
- 47. Priority actions required:
 - (i) Member States should join the IHO to advance maritime safety, efficiency, and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment, and to plan for compliance with its requirements. This

- might entail collaboration with other countries with hydrographic capabilities and with littoral countries;
- (ii) Member States are to review/develop and implement national maritime safety measures that will contribute to improving maritime safety across the ECOWAS region;
- (iii) Demand adherence to the International Regulation for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG) and promote the peaceful use of the high seas and the principles of the freedom of navigation, freedom of over-flight, freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines, freedom of fishing and freedom of scientific research, in accordance with the conditions stipulated in Article 87 of UNCLOS;
- (iv) Facilitate financing of safe maritime and inland waterway transport activities.

Action 2.5 – Eliminate maritime transnational organised crime

48. Criminals are exploiting the weak law enforcement at sea in West Africa to traffic a range of products through the region: drugs (mostly cocaine from South America to Europe), cigarettes, weapons (conventional and non-conventional) and ammunition, people (destined for illegal migration or the sex trade), counterfeit medicines, toxic waste (including e-waste), oil and natural resources (such as hardwood and diamonds).
49. In its 2012 Transnational Organised Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) report for West Africa, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) singled out West Africa as an emerging source of trafficking in methamphetamine for illicit markets in East Asia, with couriers travelling through Europe. These transnational criminal networks are undermining the rule of law, deepening corruption, polluting the environment, violating human rights, stealing natural resources, depleting maritime resources and jeopardising health. The UNODC estimated that the volume of pure cocaine through West Africa in 2010 was about 18 tons, valued at about US\$ 1,25 billion.
50. Priority actions required:
 - (i) Fully implement the ECOWAS regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organised crime and drug abuse in West Africa;
 - (ii) Initiate/extend actions to combat organised crime and illicit trafficking in West Africa;
 - (iii) Strengthen the national capacities to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate organised crime and illicit trafficking cases, and establish/ improve national asset seizure, confiscation and management systems;
 - (iv) Seek to provide appropriate levels of equipment and incentives to maritime law enforcement agents and justice personnel to support their work.

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Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance (2016)

Full title: Supplementary Act on ECOWAS Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance

Date/place of adoption/conclusion: 4 June 2016, Dakar, Senegal

Authentic texts: English, French, Portuguese

Available online at: <https://bit.ly/2W2g5sT>

* Adopted as Decision A/DEC.2/12/17 at the Fifty Second Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, 16 December 2017, Abuja, Nigeria.

See also:

- Convention A/P.1/7/92 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (30 June 1989) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2ObhCIG>
- ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy Implementation Plan | available online: <https://bit.ly/2BVfEcV>
- ECOWAS Mediation Guidelines (February 2018) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2O5aIVo>
- The Constitution of the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO) (July 2008, Abuja, Nigeria) available online: <https://bit.ly/2W0REvU>
- The Rules of Procedure of the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO) (10 July 2008, Abuja, Nigeria) available online: <https://bit.ly/2Z9VIRT>

Selected Communiques and Decisions of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

ECOMOG

- Final Communique of the 20th Ordinary Session (29 August 1997, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/3feNdFt>
- Final Communique of the 22nd Ordinary Session (10 December 1999, Lomé, Togo) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2ZQkSPf>
- Final Communique of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State Members of the Committee on Sierra Leone of the Lomé Peace Agreement (9 May 2000, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://>

bit.ly/3gKZaTp

- Final Communiqué of the Extraordinary Session of Heads of State and Government (11 April 2001, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/306oHjB>

ECOMIL

- Final Communiqué of the Extraordinary Session of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government on the Situation in Liberia (31 July 2003, Accra, Ghana) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2ZMcTTi>

MICEMA

- Final Communiqué of the 41st Ordinary Session (29 June 2012, Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast) available online at: <https://bit.ly/38HR5vX>

AFISMA

- Final Communiqué of the 42nd Ordinary Session (28 February 2013, Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2ZaI3EE>
- Final Communiqué of the 43rd Ordinary Session (18 July 2013, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2VYYsu8>
- Final Communiqué of the 45th Ordinary Session (10 July 2014, Accra, Ghana) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2WhZjGv>

Regional Security Threats and emerging threats

- Final Communiqué of the 47th Ordinary Session (19 May 2015, Accra, Ghana) available online at: <https://bit.ly/3eeUEv1>
- Ebola: Final Communiqué of the 45th Ordinary Session (10 July 2014, Accra, Ghana) available online at: <https://bit.ly/320U6GI>

Treatment of African Migrants and Refugees in Libya

- Final Communiqué of the 52nd Ordinary Session (16 December 2017, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/3iE2qSq>

ECOMIB

- Final Communiqué of the 54th Ordinary Session (22 December 2018, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/31Yyfiv>
- Final Communiqué of the 49th Ordinary Session (4 June 2016, Dakar, Senegal) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2VWWkmP>
- Final Communiqué of the 43rd Ordinary Session (18 July 2013, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/3feaYxm>
- Final Communiqué of the 46th Ordinary Session (15 December 2014, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2W4LYRI>

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- Final Communique of the 54th Ordinary Session (22 December 2018, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/2VYec07>

Intervention into/ threat of force against The Gambia following the 2017 election defeat of President Yahya Jammeh

- Final Communique of the 50th Ordinary Session (17 December 2016, Abuja, Nigeria) available online at: <https://bit.ly/3gT1jgf>