ECOWAS COMMISSION
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COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

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EIGHTY-NINTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1 - 2 December 2022

FINAL REPORT

ECOWAS Commission
Abuja, December 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 1st to 2nd December, 2022.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- Republic of Benin;
- Republic of Cabo Verde;
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire;
- Republic of The Gambia;
- Republic of Ghana;
- Republic of Guinea Bissau;
- Republic of Liberia;
- Republic of Niger;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Republic of Senegal;
- Republic of Sierra Leone; and
- Togolese Republic.

3. Burkina Faso, the Republics of Guinea and Mali did not take part because of the suspension imposed on the Member States by the Authority of Heads of State and Government from participating in all ECOWAS activities until further notice.

4. The following ECOWAS Institutions and Specialised Agencies were also represented:

- ECOWAS Commission;
- ECOWAS Parliament;
- Community Court of Justice;
- West African Health Organisation (WAHO);
- Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA);
- Office of the Auditor General

5. A list of participants is attached as an annex to this report.

II. OPENING SESSION

6. In his welcome remarks, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, welcomed all delegations to Abuja, on behalf of the People and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the 89th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. He commended the new management of ECOWAS Institutions led by H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, for their positive dispositions in steering the affairs of ECOWAS since their assumption of office in July 2022.

7. H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada underscored that the Council of Ministers is an assembly of stakeholders with a collective responsibility of deciding on matters and give appropriate advice to the Authority of Heads States and Government relating to integration and development in the ECOWAS region, with a view towards finding solutions to the numerous challenges threatening the region, including the new wave of the food insecurity and persistent obstacle to free trade, particularly on the Lagos–Abidjan Corridor. In closing, he reiterated his appreciation to the commitment of the new Management and commended the President of the ECOWAS Commission for developing a 4-pillar vision as a blueprint for rebuilding the institutions.

8. He concluded his address by commending the Chairperson of Council and the President of Commission for their continued untiring efforts on meeting tasks assigned by the Authority in an effort to achieve the aspirations of ECOWAS.

9. In his statement, the President of the Commission, H.E. Dr. Alieu Omar Touray expressed his gratitude to H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his commitment to defend the values of the Community. He also thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for the arrangements made for the successful organisation of the ECOWAS statutory meetings.

10. The President of the ECOWAS Commission recalled the institutional reforms and important developments in the region such as restoring constitutional order in, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali as well as halting the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in the region. Adding to these stress factors in the Community is the socio-economic impact of the War in Ukraine, which has resulted in fuel and food crises and rising inflation in ECOWAS Member States. As result, more than ever before, the region requires solidarity and close coordination of efforts to succeed in overcoming the challenges and forging a future of prosperity for all.

11. The President highlighted that the new management has set for itself four (4) principal strategic objectives for the next four (4) years, namely Enhanced Peace and Security; Deeper Economic, Trade and Social Integration; Good Political and Corporate Governance; and Inclusive and Sustainable Development. He underscored that to be able to realise these strategic objectives, management has identified two key strategic enablers:- Capable Institutions and Equitable Partnerships; which do not only seek to achieve the ECOWAS Vision 2050 but linked to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

12. He also gave an overview of the dossiers relating to the day-to-day functioning of ECOWAS Institutions that will be submitted to Council for adoption or information.

13. Finally, the President of the Commission, on behalf of the Statutory Appointees wished Council every success in its deliberations.

14. The Chairperson of Council and Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Mrs. Suzi Carla Barbosa on behalf of H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embalo, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau and Chair of the Authority, welcomed all participants to the Eighty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. She

equally expressed deep gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the facilities made available for the meeting.

15. The Chairperson stated that the year 2021 has been particularly busy at the regional level, with several Extraordinary Sessions of Council and Summit which is a sign of vitality, but also a manifestation of a community beset by challenges. She noted that the community can take satisfaction from the fact that those challenges have been faced resolutely, and consistent efforts have been made to address them.

16. She noted that on the political front, the region has recorded significant achievements in democracy and governance despite the recent breaches in constitutional order in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali which have undermined the progress made and pose significant risks. In this connection she underscored the decision of the Authority to revise the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance to mitigate such risks.

17. She ended her remarks by extolling members of Council, for the quality of their respective contributions, the consensus which has always prevailed during exchanges, and which have enabled the community among other things, to consolidate the political stability and economic growth. She equally thanked the President of the Commission and all the Heads of Institutions and Commissioners for the remarkable work carried out during their tenure in a complex environment.

18. She thereafter declared open the 89th Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Council of Ministers and wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

19. The full texts of speeches are annexed to this report.

III. SWEARING IN OF THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT, COMMISSIONERS AND OTHER STATUTORY APPOINTEES

20. Following the introduction of the new Appointees, the President of the Community Court of Justice, Justice Edward Amoako Asante administered the Oath of Office for the Appointees as detailed in the following table:-

Position	Appointees
Vice President	Ms. Damtien L. Tchintchibidja
Commissioner for Economic Affairs & Agriculture	Mrs. Massandjé Touré-Litsé
Commissioner for Human Development & Social Affairs	Prof. Fatou Sarr
Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy & Digitalisation	Mr. Sediko Douka
Commissioner for Internal Services	Prof. Nazifi Abdullahi Darma
Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace & Security	Dr. Abdel-Fatau-Musah
Auditor General of ECOWAS Institutions	Mr. Joao Alage Mamadu Fadia
Director-General GIABA	Mr. Edwin Woryonwon Harris Jr.
Director-General WAHO	Dr. Melchior Athanase Joel Codjovi Aissi
Chairman of ERERA	Mr. Kocou Laurent Rodrigue Tossou

21. The Chairperson of Council congratulated the appointees and wished them success in their new roles.

IV. ELECTION OF BUREAU

22. The following Bureau was elected:

- Chairperson - Republic of Guinea Bissau;
- Rapporteurs - Republic of Liberia;
  - Republic of Senegal.

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

23. The following agenda was adopted after amendments:

I. OPENING CEREMONY

- Welcome remarks by Host Minister, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Statement by President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Alieu Omar Touray;
- Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of Council and Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Hon. Suzi Carla Barbosa;
- Swearing-in of New Vice-President, Commissioners, and other Statutory Appointees, (GIABA, WAHO, Auditor General) and Chairman ERERA;

II. CLOSED DOOR SESSION

- Election of Bureau;
- Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme;

ITEMS FOR DECISION

1) Presentation and Consideration of the President's 2022 Annual Report on the State of the Community;
2) Presentation and Consideration of the Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 30th September 2022;
3) Presentation and Consideration of the Final Report of the 32nd Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee;
4) Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the Auditor General's 2022 Interim Report;
5) Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 49th Meeting of the Audit Committee;
6) Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 88th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

7) Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Draft Regulation extending the period of Implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protection Measures of the Common External Tariff.
8) Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum presenting the Report of the 1st Joint Meeting of Ministers in charge of Hydrocarbons and Mines on the West Africa Gas Pipeline Extension Project and synergy with Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline project;
9) Presentation and Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 62nd Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government;

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10) Report of the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency;
11) Presentation of a Memorandum on the Obstacles to Intra-community Trade on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor;
12) Presentation of a Memorandum on ECOWAS Member States' Applications for International and Regional Statutory Positions;
13) Presentation of a Memorandum on the status of implementation of the Directive C/DIR .1/09/2020 on Harmonised Specifications for Automotive Fuels in the ECOWAS Region;
14) Presentation of a Memorandum on the Progress of Implementation of the ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda;
15) Presentation of a Memorandum on the Progress of Implementation of the Regulation C/ Reg. 21/12/17 on Roaming on Public Mobile Communications Network in the ECOWAS Region;
16) Presentation of a Memorandum on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project;
17) Presentation of a Memorandum on the Automotive Industry Value Chain and Policy Framework;
18) Presentation of a Memorandum on the ECOWAS Business Council;
19) Presentation of a Memorandum on the ECOWAS Prize of Excellence;
20) Presentation of a Memorandum providing update on Food and Nutrition in West Africa;
21) Presentation of a Memorandum on the organization of the first ECOWAS African Research and Innovation Forum;
22) Any Other Business;
    - Request for Support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Candidacy to organize the 2030 World Expo;
23) Strict Closed-Door Session;
24) Adoption of Report of the Session;
25) Vote of Thanks;
26) Closing Session.

VI. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item 1: Presentation and Consideration of the 2022 ECOWAS Annual Report on the State of the Community

24. The implementation of work programmes by the Community Institutions as well as economic activities in Member States were carried out in a global environment characterized by slowdown in growth and rising inflationary pressures in all regions of the world. From 6.0 percent in 2021, global GDP growth is expected to slow down to 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023 due, mainly to ripples of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russian-Ukrainian war, and developments in China.

25. As expected, developments in the global economy did not spare the ECOWAS region. Despite the return to growth initiated in 2021 with a GDP growth rate of 4.2%, in 2022, the growth rate of the region is expected to drop to 3.9%. Inflationary pressures are expected to rise and affect all countries in the region. For the region as a whole inflation is expected to average 12.5 percent in 2022.

26. With respect to Peace, Regional Security and Good Governance, consultations with the Transition Authorities of Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali are still ongoing with a view to finding a lasting solution and ensuring the return to constitutional order. More importantly, the authorities have agreed to implement their respective chronograms for the return to civilian rule within twenty-four (24) months in conformity with the decisions of the ECOWAS Authority.

27. It was also noted that Election Observation missions were deployed to The Gambia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone during the year to support the electoral processes in these countries in preparation for Presidential and Legislative elections.

28. An assessment of economies of Member States and status of macroeconomic convergence for the first half of 2022 was undertaken while implementation of the activities of the Revised Roadmap for the introduction of the ECO continued. In addition, work on the harmonization of the frameworks for public debt management and public accounting was finalized.

29. In the framework of the implementation of priority programmes key achievements were observed among others at the level of the West Africa Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP), Regional Food Security Reserve Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food.

30. Furthermore, the Commission supported Member States to ratify World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement, and also Regional Trade Competition, an assessment of three sectors of interest (agriculture, transport and pharmaceutical industry) was undertaken to enhance understanding on anti-competition practices.

31. On the ECOVISA, the main accomplishment includes the launch of a regional study on the processes for the introduction of a Harmonized Visa Regime, validation of the recommendations to harmonize the design, features, and cost of ECOVISA in Member States.

32. Council was informed of the state of advancement of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Development Programme, Praia-Dakar-Abidjan Corridor Development Programme and Mano River Union (MRU) Multinational Highway and Transport Facilitation Project. Under Energy, specific projects under implementation include ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECOWAS - REAP), Electricity Access Project and Battery Energy Storage Technologies (BEST) and Electrification Project of 20,000 villages in West Africa (PRODEL20000).

33. Council was also informed that, appreciable achievements were recorded under the ECOWAS Nnamdi Azikiwe Academic Mobility Scheme (ENAAMS), harmonisation of Education Systems in the ECOWAS Region, Mutual recognition and equivalence of certificates, assistance to the most vulnerable population in North-East/North West Nigeria, relief fund to support current food crises, operationalization of the ECOWAS Protection and Human Security Integrated Coordination Mechanisms in thirteen (13) Member States, and validation of the Simplified African Union Continental Results Framework (CRF) on Women, Peace and Security and Roadmap.

34. The ECOWAS Parliament held its First and Second Extraordinary Sessions which aimed at, among others, on speeding up revising Protocol A/SP1/12/01 on democracy and good governance and returning Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali to constitutional order and within the context of prevention of new cases of violation of constitutional order;

35. The Court delivered forty-one (41) judgments and held seventy-seven (77) court sessions. It also delivered two rulings with one hundred and twenty (120) cases as part of its judicial activities and conducted training for the launch and operationalization of its Electronic Case Management System for electronic filing (e-filing) as part of its non-judicial activities.

36. Concerning GIABA, the main activities are related to the adoption of the Mutual Evaluation Report (MER), Financial Action Task Force (FATF) / International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) process and Developments in security threats and emerging Money Laundering/Terrorism Financing risks.

37. Council was informed that the COVID-19 situation is improving and showing a downward trend in new cases with no resurgence noted in ECOWAS Member States. Several programmes are still being implemented both at the regional and country levels to control the pandemic. Other health interventions have been rolled out to improve the health situation in the region.

38. Council commended the President of the Commission for the quality of the report presented. Council endorsed the 4x4 Strategic Objectives of 2022 to 2026 which are forward looking and laudable. They also depict a clear vision of the new Management. Council urged the Commission to strategise and mobilise the needed resources to finance projects during their tenure.

39. Council further stressed the need for the Commission to continue prioritising matters relating to counter- terrorism in the region.

40. Council endorsed the 2022 Annual Report on the State of the Community.

Item 2: Presentation and Consideration of the Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 30th September 2022

41. The Commission presented the report on the financial situation of the Community as at 30th September 2022. It informed the meeting that the Council of Ministers, during its 87th Ordinary Session of Council held in Abuja 9-10 December 2021 considered and approved a 2022 Community budget of UA 393,612,400 balanced in revenue and expenditure.

42. In terms of structure, revenue from the Community Levy remains the main source of ECOWAS financing representing 70% of the approved budget. On the expenditure side, the largest share (82%) continues to be reserved for the Institutions.

43. The Commission also informed Council that as of 30th September 2022, a total amount of UA 263,793,364 had been mobilised, that is, a mobilisation rate of 67% of which is composed of the following:

(i) UA 102,776,808 as Community Levy, from all Member States representing a mobilisation rate of 67.5%;

(ii) UA 77,181,045 realized as Arrears of Community Levy or 132.2% of the approved budget;

(iii) 99.5% utilization of Year-End Balances;

(iv) UA 475,384 as Other Income, corresponding to a mobilization rate of 59.6%;

(v) UA 17,515,569 from external funds in favour of the Commission, WAHO and GIABA, representing 15.1% of the anticipated income.

Table 1: Implementation of the Approved Budget

REVENUE			
Chapters	**2022 Approved Budget**	**Actual Income 30 September 2022 (UA)**	**Actual Income (%)**
Community Levy	152,162,209	102,776,808	67.5%
Year-End Bank Balances	66,188,824	65,844,558	99.5%
Arrears of Community Levy	58,389,968	77,181,045	132.2%
Other Income	798,130	475,384	59.6%
Income from External Sources	116,073,269	17,515,569	15.1%
Total Income	**393,612,400**	**263,793,364**	**67.0%**
EXPENDITURE			
Chapters	**2022 Approved Budget**	**Actual Expenditure 30 September 2022 (UA)**	**Actual Exp. Rate (%)**
Institutions	321,150,319	121,812,126	37.9%

Statutory Obligations	11,711,966	5,417,454	46.3%
Special Programmes & Interventions	30,436,264	2,428,141	8.0%
Peace & Security	30,313,851	21,595,246	71.2%
TOTAL	**393,612,400**	**151,252,967**	**38.4%**

44. On the expenditure side, only 38.4% of the anticipated expenses were made, that is, UA 151,252,967 against UA 393,612,400, of which UA 121,812,126 was consumed by Institutions, UA 5,417,454 by Statutory Obligations, UA 2,428,141 by Special Programmes and Interventions, and UA 21,595,246 by Peace and Security.

45. After an exhaustive deliberation on the report, Council adopted the report presented and exhorted Member States to ensure full implementation of the Community Levy Protocol since it is the main source of financing community programs. Council recommended that Community Institutions should endeavour to improve the implementation rate of the annual workplan and budget henceforth. Council further noted that, the Commission is yet to field a high-level mission to Nigeria on Community Levy.

Item 3: Presentation and Consideration of the Final Report of 32nd Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee

46. The final report of the 32nd Meeting of the AFC was presented by Dr. (Mrs.) Cristina Da Silva Pedreira who chaired the meeting. The report covered the following:

- Presentation and Consideration of Status of Tasks Assigned to Community Institutions by the 31st Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee;
- Presentation and Consideration of Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 30th September 2022;
- Presentation and Consideration of the Community Levy Report;
- Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Operationalisation of ECOWAS Cross- Border (CBC) Programme 2021 – 2025 and the ECOWAS CBD Facilitation Fund;
- Presentation and Consideration of the 2023-2025 Medium Term expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Consolidated Budget of ECOWAS Institutions;
- Presentation of the Auditor General's 2021 Interim Report;

47. After the presentation and the deliberations that ensued, Council adopted the report and all the recommendations contained therein with the exception of the holding of an Extraordinary Meeting of AFC. Council agreed to the Commission's request to initially fill existing professional vacancies through internal competition and to fast-track the process. The Council endorsed the recommendations of the President of the Commission on addressing emergencies through the project outsourcing system. However, before the operationalisation of the project system, the

current process of archiving of the Commission's documents should continue as it has to do with safety matters.

48. Finally, Council also approved the 2023 budget of the **ECOWAS Community balanced in income and expenditure in the amount of UA 418,072,103** as presented in the table below:. The approved budget shall be funded as follows:

Table 2: Income

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (UA)	% OF BUDGET
Community Levy	181,431,403	43.40%
Year-End Bank Balances	70,232,854	16.80%
Arrears of Community Levy	61,332,944	14.67%
Arrears of Contribution	0	0.00%
Other Income	523,186	0.13%
External Funding	104,551,716	25.01%
TOTAL	**418,072,103**	**100.00%**

Table 3: Expenditure

DESCRIPTION	COMMUNITY PROPOSAL	AFC RECOMMENDATION	VARIANCE	
	UA	UA	AMOUNT	%
Chapter I – Institutions	366,204,381	366,254,680	50,299	0.01%
Chapter II – Statutory Obligations	11,257,750	11,257,750	0	0.00%
Chapter III – Special Programmes	23,977,786	18,720,190	-5,257,596	-21.93%
Chapter IV – Peace & Security	21,839,482	21,839,482	0	0.00%
TOTAL	**423,279,400**	**418,072,103**	**-5,207,297**	**-1.23%**

Item 4: Presentation and Consideration of the Auditor General's 2022 Interim Report

49. The Auditor General (AG), Dr. João Alage Mamadú Fadiá presented his 2022 Interim Report to the 89th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in accordance with Regulations C/REG/17/2018 establishing the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The Report was presented in three (3) parts, A, B and C.

50. **Part A** reported on the Summary of Observations of all Audits, Inspections and Investigations covering Operations, Human Resources, Finance, Programme Performance and information Systems Audit of all Institutions, Agencies and President's Representation Offices with an overall Audit Opinion of Limited Assurance. The Community-wide risk implications indicated a high incidence of non-compliance with Community Laws and Regulations which require immediate remedial actions by Management.

51. The AG also updated Council on the status of ceding-off the Control responsibility to management. He indicated that control had been successfully handed over to Management in all business processes except for procurement contracts and appointments. The handing over of vetting of procurement contracts and appointment letter will be done at a date to be mutually determined between the OAG and Management.

52. On Risk Management, the AG updated Council on Actions taken so far and informed Council that All ECOWAS Institutions have concluded work on their Risk Management documents awaiting upload onto GRC except for the Department of Economic Affairs & Agriculture and Directorate of Education, Culture, Science and Technology.

53. **Part B** reported on the Income & Expenditure, Community levy & Contribution Arrears, Community Financial Trends and Staffing Analysis.

54. On Income and Expenditure, 66% of income was mobilised against the approved budget with the largest proportion coming from Community Levy, the expenditure execution rate was 22% against the approved budget. However, against opening Cash Balances and Community Levy receipts by the Institutions, an average expenditure execution rate of 33% was achieved. This indicates that with an increase in Community Levy receipts, a higher level of expenditure execution can be expected.

55. **Part C** reported on staffing, staff representation per Member State, gender balance and staff age analysis were reported on. The Male-female ratio is 71:29 which as compared to AfDB target of 62:38 by 2025 shows good effort in the right direction. He further stressed the need for an ECOWAS target on gender mainstreaming as has been done by peer organizations such as the UN and AfDB.

56. The AG further updated Council on the status of the Directive on Staff conversions, out of the two hundred thirty-six (236) requests received, two hundred and six (206) were endorsed (87.3%), and these staff have already been converted. This has resulted in an improvement in the Permanent to Contract Staff Ratio from 59:41 in 2017 to 83:17 in 2022. The AG recommended to Council for a target Permanent to Contract Staff Ratio to be set for all future recruitments in line with peer practice. Focus on recruitment of staff in the age category of 20-29 and promotion of high performing G- staff into the P1 grade in line with the Staff Regulations was also recommended.

57. After clarifications, the Council adopted the report of the Auditor General and the recommendations contained therein and directed Management to take the necessary steps to:-

i. Develop a Roadmap detailing steps to move from Limited Assurance to Moderate Assurance by the end of 2023;

ii. Urgently recruit staff for Critical/High Impact Control Functions;

iii. Ensure compliance with community rules and regulations;

iv. Ensure full and speedy implementation of all Audit Recommendations, especially those classified as Critical and High and report to Audit Committee at least once a year;

v. Urgently recruit a Consultant to support the development and deployment of the Authorities Schedule;

vi. Fully take over the Control Function relating to the remaining business process as soon as is practical from the OAG;

vii. Implement the SAP/Risk Management (RM) Module on the Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC) platform and upload all signed-off Risk Management Documents onto the SAP/RM;

viii. Encourage all Member States to comply with the Community Levy Protocol on the submission of information for Assessments.

Item 5: Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 49th Meeting of the Audit Committee

58. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Mrs Diane Holo-Sacramento presented the Summary of the 49th Audit Committee Report to Council The report focused on the following:-

i. The Auditor General's 2022 Mid-Year Report to the Council;
ii. The 3-year Audit Plan for the Office of the Auditor General (2023-2025);
iii. The Programme Performance Audit Strategy for the Office of the Auditor General;
iv. Modifications to the Organogram of the Office of the Auditor General;
v. The 2023 Workplan and Budget for the Office of the Auditor General.

59. At the end of the presentation, the Audit Committee made the following recommendations to the Council of Ministers for onwards submission to the Authority of Heads of State and Government, for adoption:-

a) Approve the 2022 Mid-Year Report of the Auditor General and direct Management to:-
   i. Develop a roadmap detailing step to improve the Control Environment from the Limited Assurance Audit Opinion to one of Moderate Assurance by the end of 2023;
   ii. Ensure compliance with community rules and regulations;
   iii. Ensure full and speedy implementation of all Audit Recommendations, especially those classified as Critical and High and report progress to the Audit Committee at least once a year;
   iv. Recruit staff for Critical / High Impact Control Functions by June 30 2023;
   v. Fully take over the Control Function relating to the remaining business processes as soon as is practical from the OAG;
   vi. Implement the SAP/Risk Management (RM) Module on the Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC);
   vii. Ensure the complete deployment and mainstreaming of Risk Management in all ECOWAS Institutions, Agencies and Offices;
   viii. Encourage all Member States to comply with the Community Levy Protocol on the submission of information for Assessments and payments;
   ix. Follow up with donors to make good their commitments to the Community;
   x. Commit to achieve a Male to Female Gender ratio of 60:40 by 2028.

b) Approve the 3-Year Audit Plan for the Office of the Auditor General;
c) Approve the Programme Performance Audit Strategy for the Office of the Auditor General;
d) Approve the modified Organogram for the Office of the Auditor General;
e) Approve the 2023 Workplan and Budget of the Office of the Auditor General.

60. Council commended the Audit Committee for the quality of the report and thereafter endorsed it and all recommendations contained therein.

Item 6: Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 88th Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers

61. A total of nine (9) tasks were assigned by the 88th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to the ECOWAS Commission, Institutions and Specialised Agencies.

62. Following clarifications sought, Council took note of the presentation and requested the Commission to accelerate progress on key tasks.

Item 7: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Draft Regulation extending the period of Implementation of ECOWAS Supplementary Protection Measures of the Common External Tariff

63. In his presentation, the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Dr. Ilídio Vieira Té, informed that an Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Finance was held on 11th November 2022 to discuss the draft Regulation extending the period of implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protection Measures of the Common External Tariff. The Supplementary Protection Measures, he said, provide flexibility to Member States to facilitate the progressive convergence towards the full implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET).

64. He further indicated that, the Ministers of Finance of ECOWAS Member States recommended the draft regulation to Council for endorsement.

65. After presentation, Council endorsed the draft Regulation extending the period of implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protection Measures of the Common External Tariff (CET) for another five (5) years.

Item 8: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum presenting the Report of the 1st Joint Meeting of Ministers in charge of Hydrocarbons and Mines on the West Africa Gas Pipeline Extension Project and synergy with Nigeria -Morocco Gas Pipeline Project

66. The Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation, Mr. Sediko Douka informed that the joint meeting of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Mines and Hydrocarbons was held in Dakar on 25 November 2022. He stated that the Ministers took note of the similarities that have emerged between the West Africa Gas Pipeline Extension Project (WAGPEP) and the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project (NMGP), as well as the need to establish synergy between the two projects in order to amalgamate efforts (technical and financial) towards the definition of a "**Single Project**" gas pipeline.

67. He indicated that the sectorial Ministers (i) approved the merger of the two projects, in order to develop a "Single Project" gas pipeline, as well as the proposed new route, considering that the merger will make it possible to pull efforts for a more diligent development of this infrastructure; and (ii) recommended that a Community Act be adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government on this new development.

68. After presentation, Council endorsed the proposal of the Ministers responsible for Mines and Hydrocarbons for the merger of the two projects into a "**Single Project**" gas pipeline and recommends the adoption of the Supplementary Act relating thereto by the Authority of Heads of State.

Item 9: Presentation and Consideration of the Draft Agenda of 62nd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government

69. The President of the Commission presented the draft agenda of the 62nd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

70. After presentation and amendments, Council adopted the draft agenda which is annexed to this report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 10: Presentation of a Report of the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency.

71. In presenting the status of implementation of the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme, the Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, Mrs. Massandjé Touré-Litse indicated that significant progress has been made. These include the regular assessment of the state of macroeconomic convergence of the Member States and the adoption of the main elements of definition of the ECOWAS Monetary Zone (exchange rate regime, monetary policy framework, Central Bank system, name and symbol of the single currency, legal framework for the establishment of ECOWAS payment and settlement systems etc.).

72. She stated that, to sustain these achievements, the roadmap for the launch of the ECO and the Macroeconomic Convergence and Stability Pact among ECOWAS Member States were adopted in June and July 2021, respectively. However, a consensual definition of the "majority" in the

context of the Convergence and Stability Pact has still not been achieved. As a result, the Ministerial Committee, at its virtual meeting on November 22, 2022, decided to defer the decision on the definition of "majority" to a later date.

73. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 11: Presentation of a Memorandum on the obstacles to Intra-community Trade on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor

74. In his presentation, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas reminded the Council of Ministers that, at its 87th Ordinary Session held in Abuja, Nigeria on 9th and 10th December 2021, and after examining the difficulties of crossing the borders of the Republic of Benin with products originating in ECOWAS and products in transit, had, among other things, urged the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) Task Force to take charge of the issue in order to find a satisfactory solution for the return to the free movement of goods on the Abidjan - Lagos corridor. He stressed that the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor accounts for nearly 70% of intra-community trade, with a significant impact on land-locked countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

75. Dr. Chambas stated that the high-level meeting that is supposed to bring together the Ministers in charge of Trade of the five (5) Member States of this important corridor that was initially scheduled for the last quarter of 2022, had to be postponed to the first quarter 2023, given the busy schedule of the key actors, especially during this period of the annual budget development process in the different countries.

76. Council took note of the presentation and recommendations made by the Chairman of the Task Force on the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme.

Item 12: Presentation of a Memorandum on ECOWAS Member States' Applications for International and Regional Statutory Positions

77. In its presentation, the Commission recalled that to harmonize and give more chances to ECOWAS Member States applications to vacant positions in regional and international organisations, the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government[1] requested Member States applying for these positions to submit their candidatures to the Chair of the Council of Ministers for arbitration in order to come up with single candidatures for different positions, and subsequently set up in 2016 a 5-member Ministerial Committee, made up of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria

[1] Refers 49th Ordinary Summit on 4 June 2016 in Dakar, and the Chairperson of the Authority decision's on August 2016

and Senegal, which agreed on criteria[2] for selecting candidates and emphasized on the importance for all countries of the Community to give full support to successful candidates.

78. As of 30th November 2022, Member states requested support for a total of 22 vacancies, out of which 7 positions are still available and are yet to be filled while 15 have been already allocated.

79. The current seven (7) positions that are yet to be filled as of 30th November 2022, do not call for arbitration since each of the position matches a single application from ECOWAS.

80. For the year 2021, the Commission received a total of 32 requests for support from the ECOWAS Member States for 41 available vacant positions. Among the positions that were filled in 2021, ECOWAS was able to secure notably the position of Commissioner for Political affairs, Peace and Security for Nigeria, and that of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development for Burkina Faso at the African Union.

81. The Commission informed that to facilitate its work, the Committee pleads with the Member States to: (i) systematically notify the ECOWAS Commission of their applications to international and regional positions, as well as their requests for Community support; (ii) provide accurate and complete information regarding the positions (i.e. CV translated in the ECOWAS official languages, election dates, etc.); (iii) submit their requests for support at least one (1) month before the holding of the statutory meetings to ensure their inclusion in the reports of the Commission; (iv) Inform the Commission about the outcome of the election to facilitate the reporting to the ECOWAS statutory meetings.

82. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 13: Presentation of the Status of Implementation of the Directive C/DIR .1/09/2020 on Harmonised Specifications for Automotive Fuels in the ECOWAS Region

83. The Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation, Mr Sediko Douka stated that the joint meeting of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Mines and Hydrocarbons held in Dakar on 25 November 2022, took note of the status of implementation of Directive C/DIR.1/9/2020 on harmonized specifications of automotive fuels (gasoline and diesel) in the ECOWAS region, presented by ECOWAS at the end of the technical missions conducted in Member States. It shows that few countries have transposed the provisions of the Directive into their national texts, because of certain constraints mentioned.

84. Thus, considering the benefits of the implementation of the said Directive, in particular the promotion of an integrated hydrocarbon market, the increase in intra-regional trade in petroleum products, the reduction of air pollution and the preservation of the health of the population, the Ministers decided to:

[2] Quality of applications (i), Solidarity (ii), Geographical spread (iii), Alphabetical rotation (iv).

a) Take the necessary measures as soon as possible to transpose the Directive into their national legislation,

b) Commit to addressing the current difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Directive in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission. In this context, the Ministers recommend that ECOWAS take the necessary measures to assist countries, particularly in terms of capacity building and financing for a more expeditious implementation of the Directive.

85. The Council took note of these recommendations and encouraged its implementation by the Commission, including support for capacity building and funding for more expeditious implementation of the Directive.

Item 14: Presentation of a Memorandum on the Progress of Implementation of the ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda

86. The Commission in its presentation highlighted that, cybersecurity is a growing concern for everyone and there is a need to respond to the challenges imposed by the borderless nature of cybercrime to secure the ECOWAS cyberspace. As such the establishment of national cybersecurity strategies, mechanisms to identify, manage and respond to cyber threats as well as cooperation between countries at the regional and international levels are vital to achieving cybersecurity worldwide.

87. To set up the necessary cybersecurity environment, the Commission is implementing the ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda which aims to support the region and Member States to strengthen their cyber resilience. The Agenda has two (2) main pillars: (a) Fight Cybercrime and (b) improve the cybersecurity environment with five (5) key action lines (i) Legislation/Policy Framework (ii) Handle Cybercrime (iii) Cyber Resilience (iv) Capacity Building (v) International Cooperation.

88. The implementation of the ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda is being conducted with technical and supplementary financial support from various partners to support the region and Member States in order to strengthen the cybersecurity ecosystem and safeguard the region. The capacities and capabilities of Member States are being built for the entities in charge of handling cybersecurity and cybercrime. The successful implementation of the ECOWAS Cybersecurity Agenda will boost regional security and support the ongoing digital transformation to achieve inclusive socio-economic development and growth in the region.

89. Council took note of the memorandum and reaffirmed its commitment in ensuring the successful implementation of the ECOWAS Cybersecurity Program, which would boost regional security for a fully integrated West Africa Community of peoples. Council equally appeals to Member States to consider cybersecurity and cybercrime issues among their top national priorities for a successful ongoing digital transformation in order to achieve inclusive socio-economic development and growth in the region.

Item 15: Presentation of a Memorandum on the Progress on Implementation of the Regulation C/Reg.21/12/17 on Roaming on Public Mobile Communications Network in the ECOWAS Region

90. The ECOWAS Commission presented the report on the status of implementation of the Regulation on Roaming endorsed by the ICT Ministers. This regulation aims, among others, to solve the problem of the high tariffs on roaming services (voice calls, SMS and data) in the ECOWAS region. The report showed that the global status of implementation of roaming services in the ECOWAS region according to the provisions of the Regulation on roaming stands at 34%. This figure is attributed to information provided by 24 operators in 12 Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo) out of a total of 44 operators in the region. A verification exercise is currently being conducted by the National Regulation Authorities (NRAs) to confirm that the tariffs being applied by those operators who have declared their compliance above are indeed in line with the provisions of the regulation regarding tariff ceilings.

91. To make tangible progress in overcoming the challenges impeding the effective implementation of the Regulation on Roaming, specific recommendations were made by the Honourable Ministers and directed towards Member States, National Regulatory Authorities and the ECOWAS Commission. The Commission called on all Member States including the highest Authorities to ensure effective application of the Regulation by all mobile network operators within their territories for the benefit of every citizen and for a fully integrated Community of peoples.

92. Council took note of the memorandum and noted also that the affordable mobile roaming services within the region is a catalyst for a social integration, and a direct and tangible benefit of the implementation of the regulation, which every citizen within the Community must enjoy. Council therefore reaffirmed its commitment to the initiative to reduce mobile roaming charges in the region through the implementation of the Regulation and called on all Member States to ensure its effective application by all mobile network operators within their territories and take necessary actions to overcome the persistent challenges in the implementation.

Item 16: Presentation of a Memorandum on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project

93. The Commission informed that the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Corridor Member Countries signed a Project Treaty committing to construct a 6-lane supranational highway along the corridor. The Abidjan–Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project, a flagship project under the Community Strategic Framework, Pillar 3 "*Making ECOWAS a fully integrated and interconnected economic zone*" under Pilar 3 of the new ECOWAS Vision 2050. The highway which is approximately 1,028 km and is expected to connect the capitals and economic centers of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. **The project complements the Praia-Dakar-Abidjan, another important Corridor including eight ECOWAS coastal countries which is underway.**

94. The project involves about six (6) components including i) Feasibility and Detailed Engineering Design Studies for the 6-lane highway from Abidjan to Lagos, ii) implementation of Spatial Development Initiatives to boost economic development, iii) Trade and Transport Facilitation, iv) PPP Structuring and Advisory Services, v) Road Safety Audit and, vi) Establishment of an Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Management Authority "ALCoMA" to construct, operate and manage the highway as one single project on behalf of the five countries. The overall objective is to enhance economic development, reduce cost of transport, improve intra-community trade and enhance the free movement of persons and goods.

95. In terms of an update of implementation, Council was informed as follows:

- ✓ Project Treaty has been signed by all five (5) Presidents and ratified by the respective national parliaments;
- ✓ A total of approximately **US$43m** has been successfully mobilized from the African Development Bank, European Union and some support from the ECOWAS Commission as counterpart funding. This is to cover all the technical, financing and project preparatory studies to secure funds for the construction works;
- ✓ The Studies for the establishment of ALCoMA have been completed;
- ✓ The Feasibility Studies and Preliminary Engineering Design were completed in **November 2022**;
- ✓ The detailed engineering design & financing studies which were impacted by the border closures and restricted movements under the lockdown measures from the COVID-19 pandemic, has restarted and expected to be completed in the 3rd Quarter of 2023;
- ✓ Successful exhibition and presentation of the Feasibility and Preliminary Design Studies to a large audience of investors and financiers at the March 2022 Africa Investment Forum (AIF), which was adjudged the highest subscribed project. Investors expressed enormous interest to finance.

96. The Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project is a major Regional Infrastructure Project for ECOWAS and its Member States, with a high potential to boost the economic development of the sub-region and to support the fight against poverty. The Highway project is a very complex but unique (first of its kind on the Continent) and once completed will be a major catalyst to increased trade, free movement, and the related economic development.

97. The COVID-19 pandemic, with the lockdown and closure of land and air borders, hampered the progress of these studies and caused a delay of almost 12 months. ECOWAS, the Corridor Countries, and the African Development Bank have however committed to a fast-track approach to deliver the technical studies.

98. Council took note of the memorandum and urged the ECOWAS Commission to fast track the technical studies of the project to reach financial close for the construction of the highway.

Item 17: Presentation of a Memorandum on the Automotive Industry Value Chain and Policy Framework

99. The Commission in its presentation highlighted the development of the ECOWAS automotive policy framework is premised on the outcome of the ECOWAS Commission's initiative to investigate the Automotive Industry Development in West Africa with specific focus on the following:

- The ECOWAS automotive industry policy focus, which should look at the entire value chain including standards development, skills development, market development, trade facilitation, measures to encourage regional vehicle assembly and local content in manufacturing and regional vehicle models; and
- Regional harmonisation of national policies and rules relating to the importation of vehicles, including used vehicles, safety standards and environmental protection.

100. The Vision is to be a major competitive regional automotive production base with strong capacity and supply chains capable of meeting regional demands and being integrated into Global Value Chains by 2030 and beyond and the Mission is to attract investments in the automotive industry sector, introduce safety and standards, increase products range and volume, mitigate the import of used vehicles, and ensure consumer patronage and welfare in the region.

101. On the Automotive Value Chain, Council was informed that the ECOWAS Commission has benefited from the support of Afrexim Bank and the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM) to conduct a study on the development of the automotive industry value chain in West Africa. The report highlights several important points whose support through concerted actions will boost economic development within ECOWAS.

102. At the ECOWAS level, a great opportunity exists for the development of the value chain of the automotive industry. The increasing rate of urbanization and a growing middle class are driving demand for vehicles. Vehicle imports into the region are estimated at more than 450,000 vehicles per year (mainly used, including new and grey vehicles). This is an important opportunity for the replacement of imported vehicles with locally assembled vehicles.

103. The study identified all the processes, sub-assemblies, components, sub-components and raw materials that make up a vehicle and made some recommendations to foster the development of the automotive industry within the region.

104. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 18: Presentation of a Memorandum on the ECOWAS Business Council (EBC)

105. The Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture Mrs. Massandjé Touré-Litsé stated that the EBC will be a 21-member council made up of representatives of active Regional Business Associations (RBAs) large companies and honorary members exemplified by recognized business personalities in the region. It will function as the advisory organ for Community decision-making bodies and private sector focal point on matters of business and investment in the region. Its ultimate goal is to create an ECOWAS business community that is globally competitive and

regionally integrated; capable of leading the emergence of West Africa as a preferred investment destination with one of the most inclusive and evenly distributed standards of living in the world.

106. She reiterated that for this purpose, a Regional Technical Working Group on the EBC (TWG/EBC), with members drawn from the International Trade Centre (ITC), ECOWAS Commission and Regional Business Associations (RBA), was put in place to consider its operational modalities and datelines. It also developed the application form for candidates seeking membership in the EBC based on the criteria set forth in the EBC statute.

107. Council was informed that responses and nominations have been received from all RBAs and from only six (6) member states namely; Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali and Senegal. The Commission seeks the support of the Council to encourage the remaining Member States to forward their nominees to enable the EBC to commence activities.

108. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 19: Presentation of a Memorandum on ECOWAS Prize of Excellence

109. The Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs, Prof. Fatou Sarr, in her presentation of the memorandum, mentioned that the ECOWAS Prize of Excellence was governed by Decision A/DEC.2/06/17 establishing the criteria and procedures for the ECOWAS Prize of Excellence , opted by the Fifty-First Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in June 2017.

110. The ECOWAS Prize of Excellence aims to promote the excellence and merit of natural or legal persons who, through their actions, initiatives, creativity, services, have immensely contributed to promoting regional integration, peace and socio-economic development of the ECOWAS Region.

111. The Jury met from 8 to 12 November 2022 to examine the applications submitted by the Member States. After deliberations, the Jury awarded the of Prize of Excellence to four laureates in the following categories:

i. Category 1: Science and Technology, Arts and Letters Awards, subcategory Arts and sub-category Letters;
ii. Category 2: Honorary Award for eminent personalities;
iii. Category 3: Award for deserving Community Citizens.

112. The ECOWAS Prize of Excellence will be presented to the winners by the current Chairperson of the Authority of Heads of State and Government during the 62nd Summit of the Authority on 4th December 2022.

113. The Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 20: Presentation of a Memorandum providing update on Food and Nutrition in West Africa

114. The Commissioner for Economic Affairs & Agriculture, Mrs. Massandjé Touré-Litsé presented a Memorandum on the state of the agricultural, and food situation in the Sahel and West Africa. She stated that this is marked by (i) cumulative rainfall of the 2022-2023 agropastoral season that is generally normal and sometimes in excess of the averages of the period 1991-2020; (ii) a surplus situation in all river basins in the region (Senegal River, Niger River, etc.); (iii) a generally satisfactory conduct of the 2022-2023 campaign in all countries; (iv) a pastoral situation marked by an overall good fodder availability and a forage biomass overall higher than that of last year and the average of the last five years except in the regions of Tahoua and Agadez in Niger, in north-central Senegal and in the Liptako-Gourma area between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger; (v) a phytosanitary situation still marked by the persistence of attacks by Fall armyworm with an average prevalence of 34% and high levels above 50% reported in Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde and most Gulf of Guinea countries mainly on maize cultivation; (vi) cereal production in 2023 up 7% compared to 2021 and 6% compared to the average of the last 5 years; (vii) an estimated tuber production of 208,488,214 tons, up 2% compared to 2021 and 9% compared to the average of the last 5 years.

115. Despite this situation (i) food supplies remained very low during the lean season in most countries, although they are gradually improving with the marketing of the first harvests from September 2022; (ii) an upward trend in food prices, particularly for local products and wheat; (iii) significant price increases (more than 50%) are observed in Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria.

116. She indicated that 27.8 million people are currently food insecure and in need of assistance in the ECOWAS region, particularly in the highly vulnerable areas of (i) North-East Nigeria, (ii) the three borders (Burkina Faso-Mali-Niger) and (iii) Senegal and Liberia. Projections estimate that 39.8 million people are food insecure in June-August 2023 with (i) Northern Togo and Ghana, (ii) The Gambia, (iii) Sierra Leone adding to previous areas.

117. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 21: Presentation of a Memorandum on the organization of the first ECOWAS African Research and Innovation Forum (FARI)

118. The Federal Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Nigeria Dr. (SEN) Adeleke O. Marora, explained that this memorandum follows the deliberations of the first ECOWAS African Forum for Research and Innovation (FARI) organized by the ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which was held from 17 to 21 October 2022, at the ECOWAS Commission on the central theme "Science, Technology and Innovation for a competitive ECOWAS".

119. The Minister stressed that FARI, created by Decision (A/DEC/.1/6/21), is a regional platform for exchanges and discussions between scientists, technologists, innovators, decision-makers, the private sector, technical and financial partners, students, and populations. It aims to (i) improve public understanding of the role of Science, Technology, and Innovation in socio-economic development; (ii) improve the visibility of regional scientific and technological research and (iii) open new opportunities for partnership between research, innovation, and the private sector.

120. The Minister stressed that during the Forum, each Minister presented his vision of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for a more inclusive development of African countries. A competition of twenty-two (22) start-ups from ECOWAS Member States took place. The sectors of activity of the *start-ups* were very varied including digital, agri-food, agriculture, forestry, cosmetics, pharmacopoeia, energy, textiles, technical tools, etc. FARI awarded firms and individuals as recommended by the Jury as follows:

a) The first FARI Prize for a value of 25,000 USD to the start-up SetTIC from Senegal which works in the management and ecological recycling of electronic waste;
b) The second Prize for a value of 15,000 USD to the start-up EDINDIA INDUSTRY SA from Côte d'Ivoire. This start-up is in the field of energy ;
c) The third Prize worth USD 10,000 to the start-up HAJNABY from Nigeria which provides top quality personal and home care products at competitive prices through continuous innovation, dedication and teamwork. It offers organic natural cosmetics based on baobab with a social impact, especially in rural areas;
d) A special prize worth $10,000 and a plaque to Miss Odunsi Faith, a Nigerian student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for her prowess in the field of mathematics at the national, regional and international levels.

121. Council took note of the memorandum.

Item 22: Any Other Business

Request for Support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Candidacy to organize the 2030 World Expo

122. The Commission in its presentation indicated that within the framework of the ECOWAS-Saudi Arabia Cooperation, the highest authorities of the latter have requested support from the ECOWAS Commission regarding its candidature to hold the 2030 World Expo. The Expo is a global gathering of nations dedicated to finding solutions to pressing challenges of our time by offering a journey inside a universal theme through engaging and immersive activities. World Expos welcome tens of millions of visitors, allow countries to build extraordinary pavilions and transform the host city for years to come. The most recent World Expo took place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022. The 2025 World Expo will take place in Osaka, in Japan

from 13th April to 13th October 2025, and will be followed by Expo 2030 for which the selection process has started.

123. The Commission further informed that four (4) countries namely: the Republic of Korea (Busan), Italy (Rome), Ukraine (Odesa), and Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) have submitted their candidatures to organise the event for which candidates will be elected during the General Assembly meeting of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) to hold in November 2030.

124. Saudi Arabia has indicated that fourteen (14) ECOWAS Member States have openly supported the Kingdom's request, except Cabo Verde, which is not a member of the BIE. As of today, only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested support from ECOWAS regarding its candidacy to host the 2030 World Expo.

125. Council deliberated on the matter and concluded that such matters should be left for the sovereign decision of individual Member States.

Item 23: Strict Closed Door Session

126. During a closed-door session, the President of the Commission briefed Council about three allowances that all former Statutory Appointees had enjoyed during their term of office, but which are not being received by current Statutory Appointees who are not Heads of Institution. These allowances are Furniture Allowance, Domestic Staff Allowance, and Utilities Allowance. After deliberations, Council unanimously agreed to restore the allowances to the ten (10) Statutory Appointees affected with effect from the date of their assumption of duty. Council directed the President of the Commission to submit a memorandum detailing the financial implications and sources of funding, to the Chairperson of Council.

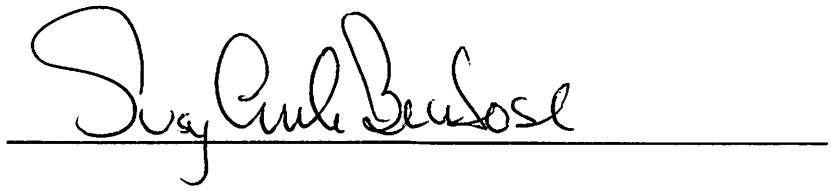
Item 24: Adoption of Report

127. The report was adopted after amendments.

Item 25: Closing Session

128. The Chairperson of Council, Mrs. Suzi Carla Barbosa, in her closing remarks, thanked Council Members for their active participation and constructive contributions during the session. Thereafter, she declared the Eighty-Ninth Ordinary Session of Council closed.

DONE IN ABUJA, THIS 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER 2022





MRS. SUZI CARLA BARBOSA
CHAIRPERSON
FOR COUNCIL

COMUNIDADE ECONOMICA DOS
ESTADOS DA AFRICA OCIDENTAL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES

COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST

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EIGHTY-NINTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1 - 2 December 2022

VOTE OF THANKS

The participants at the Eighty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Abuja, from 1st – 2nd December, 2022 express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the warm African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Abuja, and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their Session.

DONE IN ABUJA, THIS 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER 2022

COUNCIL

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: Welcome remarks by Host Minister, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Annex 2: Statement of the President of the Commission;

Annex 3: Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of Council;

Annex 4: Summary of requests for support to Member States' applications for International Positions;

Annex 5: List of Participants.

Annex 1: Welcome Remarks by His Excellency, Amb. Zubairu Dada, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

- **Your Excellency, the Chair of ECOWAS Council of Ministers, Honourable Suzi Carla Barbosa, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs International Cooperation and Communities, of the Republic of Guinea Bissau;**
- **Your Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, Honourable Ministers here present;**
- **The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Your Excellency Dr Omar Alieu Touray;**
- **Esteemed Heads of ECOWAS Institutions and Commissioners;**
- **Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives;**
- **Gentlemen of the Press;**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am delighted to welcome you all to Abuja, on behalf of the People and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the occasion of the 89th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. Let me also commend the new management of ECOWAS Institutions led by **H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray,** for their positive dispositions in steering the affairs of our Organisation since their assumption of office in July 2022. From what we have seen so far, this Management Team seems ready to leave positive footprints in the annals of our regional Organisation.

Your Excellencies,

2. The Ordinary sessions of the Council of Ministers remains a veritable platform for reviewing the programmes of our Organisation, brainstorming on thematic issues in the region, and providing substantive advice to our Heads of State and Government on the best way to advance our collective aspiration of achieving an ECOWAS of the people. Indeed, this year's agenda is robust, which is a testament to the commitment of ECOWAS Institutions and Member States to the integration and developmental goals of our sub-region. At this August gathering, we will consider, as we did in the past, several issues affecting critical areas of the Community through reports and memoranda on our agenda.

3. As an assembly of stakeholders with a collective responsibility of deciding on matters relating to integration and development in our region, it behooves on us to discuss all item on our agenda with open mind in order to find solutions to the numerous challenges threatening our region, including the new wave of the food insecurity and persistent obstacle to free trade, particularly on the Lagos–Abidjan Corridor. The interest of the citizens of our Community must be paramount and we must avail ourselves of the opportunity presented by this meeting to articulate positions that will advance the achievement of sustainable economic integration and development

in our region. As an Organ that charged with the task of promoting economic integration in all fields of activities in our region, it is imperative that we strengthen mechanism for the advancement of the economic and financial integrations of our Member States.

Excellencies,

4. Let me reiterate my appreciation of the commitment of the new Management of our Organisation. I specifically commend the President of the ECOWAS Commission for developing a 4-pillar vision as a blueprint for rebuilding our institutions. These are, indeed, well-thought out policies that could drive our Community forward if painstakingly implemented. Therefore, I encourage each of us to support the Management to achieve these worthy aspirations geared towards the best interest of our citizens. Let me also emphasize the need for the new Management to continue with the remaining aspects of the on – going Institutional reforms, including prudent management of Community resources, in order to improve the effectiveness of the organization and make ECOWAS fit for purpose in the advancement of our regional integration agenda.

Honourable Ministers, President of the Commission, Distinguished Delegates,

5. The items on our agenda are huge. Nonetheless, I encourage you to take out time to explore the beauty of Abuja and enjoy your stay in Nigeria. I wish you a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Nigeria.

6. I thank you for your kind attention.

Annex 2: Statement of the President of the Commission;

- **Honourable Suzi Carla Barbosa, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of the Republic of Guinea Bissau and Chair of Council**
- **Honourable Ministers in Charge of ECOWAS Affairs**
- **Madam Vice President of ECOWAS Commission**
- **Heads of ECOWAS Institutions**
- **Honourable Commissioners**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Representatives of International Organisations**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am delighted by this first opportunity to address the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, which is an important decision-making body of our organisation. On behalf of the Management of the Commission, heads of ECOWAS Institutions and staff, I would like to welcome you to the 89th Ordinary Session.

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers,

Permit me to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Nigeria for the warm welcome and reception accorded to all the participants to this Meeting and for the facilities put at our disposal for the smooth conduct of the Meeting. Since assumption of duty in July 2022, I, along with my colleagues in the Management of the Commission, have enjoyed tremendous support from the Government of Nigeria and particularly His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We are very grateful for this unique hospitality.

Let me also acknowledge with deep appreciation the leadership and support of the Chair of Council for regularly staying by us and providing useful guidance in steering the affairs of the Community. I thank you Madam Chair for your availability and commitment.

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers,

Our Management team assumed duty within a context of institutional reforms and important developments in the region and the world. The size of the Commission has been reduced as part of the institutional reforms, but the work of realigning the new structures and improving the processes and procedures of the Organisation is just starting. With this also is the task of ensuring that the programmes and projects of ECOWAS are redesigned to ensure higher impact on the lives of the Community citizens and also foster close cooperation among member states and economic integration of the sub region. To succeed in this, we have to work on improving partnerships and coordination with our Member States, development partners and the civil society.

While working on repositioning our Community institutions, on one hand, we also have the task of continuing with efforts to restore constitutionalism in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea and to halt the reversals of democracy in the region through instituting a stronger regime against all forms of

anti-constitutional changes of government. On the other hand, we have terrorism and violent extremism that persists in our region and threatening to spread from the Sahel to the coastal states. In this regard, ECOWAS is required to pool together different initiatives in the sub region and coordinate the effective implementation of its regional action plan against terrorism.

Adding to these stress factors in our Community is the socio-economic impact of the War in Ukraine, which has come home to us in the form of fuel and food crises and rising inflation in our Member States. More than ever before, our region require solidarity and close coordination of efforts to succeed in overcoming the challenges and forging a future of prosperity for all.

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers,

It is in view of this diagnosis of the state of our Community that we identified four strategic objectives that would be the focus of our Management in the next four years. We call this the Commissions 4 by 4 (4 x 4) comprising specific deliverables or results to be realised within our mandate.

The first objective is Enhanced Peace and Security, where we intend to fully implement the ECOWAS Action Plan against Terrorism, fully operationalise the ECOWAS Maritime Security Architecture, fully operationalise the National Early Warning and Response Centres and build synergy with the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Mechanism, and continuously build ECOWAS mediation and response capacity.

The second objective is to Deepen Regional Integration, and here we intend to invest time and resources on reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers in our Community and improve the business environment for our private sector, fully operationalise the regional payment system to reduce difficulty of transactions in local currencies and over-reliance on international currencies (the US dollars/euros); we also intend to introduce ECOWAS VISA, at the first instance for diplomatic and service passports.

The **third strategic objective** is Good Governance, including good corporate governance to build confidence in our private sector. We will be focusing on building a stronger regime against anti-constitutional changes of government and supporting our Member States to deepen democracy. Our target here includes completing the democratic transitions in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali and strengthening both ECOWAS Court and ECOWAS Parliament to play their respective roles in improving governance in our region.

The **fourth objective** is Inclusive and Sustainable Development. We intend to increase our commitment to food security, regional highway development, energy access, disaster response, gender mainstreaming, and climate action.

Besides these four strategic objectives, we identified two enablers, namely capable institutions and equitable partnerships. We will build institutions and partnerships to enable us deliver on the objectives. And for us, Partnership with our Member States is number one.

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers,

For the first time, ECOWAS presented a three-year budget, based on Medium Term Expenditure Framework – MTEF, in compliance with our new Financial Regulations. Planning is now a priority, as we begin the implementation of programmes aimed at realising the ECOWAS Vision 2050. The Community Strategic Framework has already been developed and the budget presented to the Admin and Finance Committee is aimed at its realisation.

We count on You, Honourable Ministers, for support in the realisation of our agenda.

Once again, I say a big welcome and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention !
Thank you very much for your kind attention!
Muito obrigado pela vossa atenção!

Annex 3: Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of Council;

Your Excellency Ambassador Zubairu Dada, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Your Excellencies Distinguished Members of ECOWAS Council of Ministers,

Your Excellency Dr Omar Alieu Touray, President of the Commission,

Your Excellency Damtien Tchintchibidja, Vice-President of the Commission,

Heads of ECOWAS Institutions,

ECOWAS Commissioners,

Representatives of the AU, UN and other International Organizations,

Experts of Member States,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Annex 4

Summary of requests for support to Member States' applications for international positions - as of 28th November 2022

(Positions yet to be filled)

S/N	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
1	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)	Member of the ITLOS for the period 2024-2032	• Sierra Leone	June 2023 in New York	Candidacy endorsed by the AU Notified to all ECOWAS Member States
2	Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation	Assistant Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Affairs	• Nigeria	• March 2023 in Mauritania	• Request received on: 25 November 2022 • Notified to all OIC Member States from ECOWAS
3	United Nations/HRC	Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the period 2024-2026	• Mali	• 11 October 2023 in New York	• Request received on: 18 February 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States
4	United Nations/ UNESCO	Member of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	• Senegal	• November 2023	• Requested on 5 July 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States

		(UNESCO), for the period 2023-2027			
5	United Nations/ UNSC	Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2024-2025	• Sierra Leone	• January 2024 (tbc)	• Requested on 12 February 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States
6	United Nations	Candidacy for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for the period 2026-2027	• Guinea Bissau	• N/A	• Requested on 28 Sept. 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States
7	United Nations	Candidacy, for a membership re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), for the period 2024-2026	• Cote d'Ivoire	• June 2023 in New York.	• Receive in October 2022 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States

Annex 4(b)

Already Filled Positions: For the Year 2022, as of 28th November 2022

S/N	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
1	African Union	Re-election to the post of Member of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) for the period 2022-2024	• Senegal • Nigeria	• February 2022, at the 40th Session of the Executive Council of the African Union	• **Nigeria**, Ghana, **Senegal** and The Gambia got the positions for the Western region
2	African Union	Vice President of the Pan African University	• Sierra Leone	• Election held in February 2022 during the 40th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council	• Sierra lost the position (attributed to Egypt)
3	United Nations	Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).	• Côte d'Ivoire	• June 2022 in New York:	• CRC: Cote d'Ivoire was not elected, instead Togo and Niger, that didn't request for support got 1 seat each
4	United Nations	Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDEF/CEDAW) - UNWOMEN	• Côte d'Ivoire	• June 2022 in New York:	• **Cote d'Ivoire** got 1 seat, as well as Nigeria, Benin and Burkina Faso • election was held on 23 June in NY

S/N	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
5	United Nations	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);	• Côte d'Ivoire	• June 2022 in New York:	• CRPD: **Cote d'Ivoire** got a seat during elections held on 14-15 June 2022 in New York
6	United Nations/CRC	Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	• Burkina Faso	• June 2022	• Requested on 2 July 2021 • BF lost the election
7	United Nations	Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO)	• Togo	• 25th March 2022, at the 344th Session of the Governing Body	• **Togo** got the position (11th DG, Gilbert F. Houngbo)
8	United Nations	Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2023-2024	• Bissau Guinea	• Elections to be held in June 2022	• Guinea Bissau lost. Mozambique got the seat for Africa. Election held on 9th June 2022
9	United Nations	Membership position at the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for the term 2022-2027	• Ghana	• Elections to be held in June 2022	• Ghana got the position. Election held on 21st June 2022
10	United Nations/ITU	Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	• The Gambia	• Bucharest, September 26 - October 14, 2022.	• The Gambia lost the position (against Zimbabwe)

S/N	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
11	United Nations/ITU	Election to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the term 2023-2026[3]	• The Gambia	• Bucharest, September 26 - October 14, 2022	• The Gambia lost the position (out of the 13 seats available for Africa Region)
12	United Nations/ITU	Re-election to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the term 2023-2026	• Ghana	• Bucharest, September 26 - October 14, 2022	• Ghana was re-elected
13	United Nations/ITU	Election to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the term 2023-2026	• Niger	• Bucharest, September 26 - October 14, 2022.	• Niger got the position
14	United Nations/ITU	Re-election to the Council of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), for the period 2023-2026, Group D Africa	• Côte d'Ivoire	Bucharest, September 26 - October 14, 2022.	Côte d'Ivoire was re-elected

[3] 13 seats for Africa. Burkina Faso and Nigeria got 1 seat each, that is in total 6 seats for ECOWAS out of the 13 for Africa.

S/N	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
15	United Nations/ITU	Re-election to the Council of the International Telecommunications Union for the period 2023-2026 for the Africa region (Region D of ITU)	• Senegal	• Bucharest, September 26 - October 14, 2022	• Senegal was re-elected

Annex 4 (c)
Already Filled Positions: For the Year 2021, as of 31st December 2021

S/N	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
1-2	African Union	Commissioners at the AUC for the 2021-2025 period (2 seats)	• Burkina Faso • Côte d'Ivoire • The Gambia • Nigeria • Sierra Leone	3-4 February 2021, 38th Session of the Executive Council of the AU	• Nigeria got the seat for Political Affairs Peace and Security; • Burkina Faso was elected for the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development position during the October 2021 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the Union.
3	African Union	Member of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)	• Mali • Senegal	3-4 February 2021, 38th Session of the Executive Council of the AU	• Mali got one of the 2 vacant positions at the AfCHPR
4	African Union	Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)	• Mali	3-4 February 2021, 38th Session of the Executive Council of the AU	• Mali lost the position • 4 new members elected: Angola, Burkina Faso (candidacy does not notify to ECOWAS), Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Mauritius. • 2 re-elected members: Mauritania and Nigeria

5	African Union	Member of the African Union Advisory Board of Corruption (AUABC)	• Sierra Leone	3-4 February 2021, 38th Session of the Executive Council of the AU	• Sierra Leone got the position
6	African Union	Chairperson for the 2022 – 2023 period	• Ghana • Togo • Senegal	6-7 February 2021, AU Assembly	• ECOWAS attributed the position to Senegal
7	African Union	Deputy Chairperson at the AUC for the 2021-2025 period	• Ghana • The Gambia	6-7 February 2021, AU Assembly	• ECOWAS withdrew the candidacy of the 2 countries in order to secure 2 Commissioners seats for the region
8	African Union	Assistant Secretary General of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU)	• Burkina Faso	• 7 - 25 June 2021 in Zimbabwe	• Request on 7 January 2021: • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States • Uganda won the position
9	Africa Union	Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	• Senegal • Niger • Ghana	• October 14-15, 2021, during the 39th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union	• Election of 3 (three) new Members and re-election of 1 (one) Member, respectively The Gambia, Mauritius, Senegal, and Ethiopia
10	African Union	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)	• Sierra Leone	• Election to hold on 8th Nov – 3rd Dec. 2021	• Sierra Leone lost • The Gambia and Senegal were elected for 6 years term
11	CONFEJES	Secretary General of the Conference of Ministers for	• Burkina Faso • Mali	23-27 February 2021, Burkina Faso	• Both Burkina Faso and Mali lost • Cameron got the Position

		Youth and Sports of the Francophonie (CONFEJES).			
12	International Criminal Court	Membership position of the Advisory Committee on the nomination of Judges	• Ghana	• Elections to be held on 6th - 11th December 2021 during the 20th Session of the Assembly of States Parties in The Hague	• Ghana got the position for 3 years term
13	International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)	Member of the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) for the term 2022-2027	• Ghana	• 20 April 2021	• Ghana lost the election • The INCB is an independent monitor of the international drug control system
14	International Labor Organization	Board of Directors of the International Labor Organization (ILO)	• Benin	• June 2021, in Geneva	• Requested on 24 April 2020 • Election held in June 2021. Benin not selected
15	United Nations	Member of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the period 2022 - 2026	• Togo • Cote d'Ivoire (re-election)	• June 24, 2021 in New York	• Cote d'Ivoire re-elected • Togo elected
16	United Nations	Re-election to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and	• Senegal	• 29 June 2021 in New York	• Senegal was reelected

		Members of their Families (CMW)			
17	United Nations	Member of Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	• Niger (Re-election)	• New York in June 2021	• Niger was re-elected • Were also elected Senegal and Benin
18	United Nations	Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2022-2023	• Ghana	• New York in June 2021	• Ghana was elected
19	United Nations	Re-election as a member of the International Law Commission (ILC)	• Cote d'Ivoire • Senegal	• 12 November 2021, in New York	• Both Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal were elected • Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso were also elected. • ECOWAS got 4 seats out of the 9 allocated to Africa
20	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)	• Senegal	• 09-27 August 2021, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	• Senegal got the position

Annex 5

SIXTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, 4th December 2022

Old Banquet Hall, State House Abuja

DRAFT AGENDA

1. OPENING CEREMONY

A. Welcome remarks by host, **H.E. Muhammadu Buhari**, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
B. Swearing-in of:
   i. H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray
C. Statement by **H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray,** President, ECOWAS Commission
D. Opening address by **H.E Umaro Sissoco EMBALO,** Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
E. Statements by Special Guests:
   i. Statement by **H.E. Moussa Faki**, President of the African Union Commission

2. CLOSED-DOOR SESSION

A. Meeting called to order by **H.E Umaro Sissoco EMBALO,** Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
B. Adoption of the draft agenda
C. Presentation and consideration of :
   i. 2022 ECOWAS Annual Report on the State of the Community
   ii. Report of 49th Meeting of the Mediation and Security Council at Ministerial Level
   iii. Report of 89th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers
   iv. Update on the transitions in the region by ECOWAS Mediators – Burkina Faso, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Mali region by the ECOWAS Mediators
D. Special Reports :
   i. Report on the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme by Chair of the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency
   ii. Memorandum on the High-Level Mission of Heads of State to the Republic of Mali
E. Draft Declaration on the Reform of the Security Council
F. Date and venue of 63rd Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government
G. Any Other Business

3. CLOSING CEREMONY

A. Vote of Thanks
B. Final Communiqué
C. Press Conference