



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

**EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT
OF THE ECOWAS AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

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Addis-Ababa, 18th February 2023

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) convened an Extraordinary Summit in the margins of the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on 18th February 2023, under the Chairmanship of **H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló**, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and Chair of ECOWAS Authority.

2. The Extraordinary Summit was convened to examine the progress made with the transitions in Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali, as well as the level of preparations for elections in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. The Summit also deliberated on the update on the establishment of a Regional Force

against Terrorism and for the restoration of constitutional order, and a briefing on the outcome of the EU-ECOWAS Political Dialogue that took place in Brussels, from 6th to 7th February 2023.

3. Present at the Extraordinary Summit were the underlisted ECOWAS Heads of State and Government or their duly mandated representatives:

- **H.E. Jose Maria NEVES**, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde;
- **H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa AKUFO-ADDO**, President of the Republic of Ghana;
- **H.E. Umaro Sissoco EMBALO**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau;
- **H.E. Mohamed BAZOUM**, President of the Republic of Niger;
- **H.E. Julius Maada BIO**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
- **H.E Tiémoko Meyliet KONE**, Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- **H.E Aurélin AGBENOCCI**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Benin
- **H.E Mamadou TANGARA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of The Gambia
- **H.E. Amb. Dee-Maxwell SAAH KEMAYAH**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia
- **H.E. Geoffrey ONYEAMA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **H.E Madame Aïssata TALL SALL**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of the Republic of Senegal,
- **Mr. Batengue BANKOTINE**, Permanent Representative of Togo to the African Union (AU)

4. The Summit was also attended by:

- **H.E. Mahamadou ISSOUFOU**, former President of the Republic of Niger and ECOWAS Mediator for Burkina Faso;
- **H.E. Thomas Boni YAYI**, former President of the Republic of Benin and ECOWAS Mediator for Guinea;
- **H.E. Omar Alieu TOURAY**, President of the ECOWAS Commission;
- **Mr. El Ghassim WANE**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Mali and Head of MINUSMA; and
- **Mr. Maman Sambo SIDIKOU**, High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel

5. The Heads of State and Government considered the reports presented by the ECOWAS Mediators for Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali.

6. They also considered the Memorandum on the Transition processes in the region presented by **H.E. Omar Alieu TOURAY**, President of the ECOWAS Commission.

7. The Authority of Heads of State and Government commended the quality of the reports and memorandum and took note of the recommendations contained therein.

8. The Authority of Heads of State and Government expressed gratitude all the Heads of State who played a critical role in the release of the forty-nine (49) Ivorian soldiers in Mali.

I. TRANSITIONS

9. The Authority of Heads of State and Government took note of reports on implementation of the transition roadmaps in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso. They also took note with concern of the dire humanitarian and security challenges in the three countries particularly in Burkina and Mali. The Authority instructed the Commission, in close collaboration with the ECOWAS mediators, to monitor and to report back to the next session of the Authority on the implementation of the various transition roadmaps.

Burkina Faso:

10. The Authority of Heads of State and Government took note of the report by the ECOWAS Mediator and of ~~the signing~~ the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Burkina Faso and ECOWAS on the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the 24-month transition timetable in the country.

11. The Authority of Heads of State and Government reiterated its call on the international partners to mobilise the requisite resources to complement the efforts of ECOWAS and the national authorities towards addressing the socio-

political, security, and humanitarian challenges the country is facing. The Authority instructs the Commission to coordinate the support of Partners.

Guinea

12. The Authority of Heads of State and Government recalled the consolidated 24-month transition timetable covering the ten (10) priority areas for the transition authorities jointly developed with ECOWAS.

13. The Authority of Heads of State and Government called on the Transition Government to respect the spirit of the agreement that was signed between ECOWAS and the Republic of Guinea on 21st October 2022 in Conakry on the establishment of the joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, and to refrain from any unilateral action that risks undermining the spirit of collaboration of the two sides.

14. The Authority of Heads of State and Government strongly urged the Guinean authorities to conduct inclusive national dialogue with all political actors and to guarantee the security and freedom of all participants and instructed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to accompany the process.

15. The Authority of Heads of State and Government instructed the Mediator and the ECOWAS Commission to continue to engage the Authorities and ensure full implementation of the transition roadmap.



Mali

16. The Authority of Heads of State and Government noted the report on the transition process and the establishment of a Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the transition timetable comprising the government, ECOWAS, AU, UN, the ECOWAS Mediator, a Steering Committee, and a Technical Committee. The Authority instructs the President of the Commission to continue to support inclusive transition process in Mali and to keep them informed.

II. JOINT REQUEST FOR LIFTING SANCTIONS

17. The Authority of Heads of State and Government was informed about the request of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali, for the Authority to lift the sanctions imposed on them following their respective coups d'état.

18. The Authority of Heads of State and Government decided to maintain the existing sanctions on all the three countries, and to impose travel ban on members of Government and other senior officials in all three countries.

19. The Authority of Heads of State and Government totally reject the unilateral action taken by the Transitional Authorities in Guinea with respect to the implementation of the transition road map.



20. The Authority of Heads of State and Government reiterates the need to open the political space to all stakeholders in the three countries and to ensure inclusive political dialogue.

21. The Authority of Heads of State and Government instructed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to support the implementation of the transition roadmaps and to reinforce security and humanitarian support to the affected countries to alleviate the suffering of the populations.

22. The Authority of Heads of State and Government calls on the UN, AU, and all International Partners to support the implementation of the ECOWAS decisions on the three countries.

III. ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES

23. The Heads of State and Government noted the progress made and the challenges being encountered in the electoral processes of the three countries organizing presidential elections in 2023, namely Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

24. The Authority called on the ECOWAS Commission to expedite the review of the 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, and ensure the completion of this project, with a view to strengthening democratic conduct and stability in the region.

Nigeria

25. The Authority commends the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the efforts deployed so far aimed at securing a secure environment for the peaceful conduct of the general elections. The Heads of State and Government instructs the President of the Commission to provide the necessary technical assistance in support of the general elections through the deployment of short and long-term observation missions.

Sierra Leone

26. The Heads of State and Government urged the government of Sierra Leone to intensify its efforts aimed at promoting inclusive political dialogue with all stakeholders in order to enhance the credibility of the ongoing electoral process.

27. The Heads of State and Government instructed the President of the Commission to deploy the Council of the Wise to undertake a good office and pre-electoral mission to Sierra Leone.

Liberia

28. The Heads of State and Government instructed the President of the Commission to deploy a technical mission to hold consultations with political parties and key stakeholders including civil society, in support of the peaceful conduct of the polls.



III. UPDATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL FORCE AGAINST TERRORISM AND FOR THE RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER

29. The Heads of State were briefed on the outcome of the Extraordinary meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff and Chiefs of Intelligence on the establishment of a regional force against terrorism and for the restoration of constitutional order, held in Bissau, Republic of Guinea Bissau, on 19 December 2022. The Heads of State and Government noted the progress made in the efforts to establish a regional force to combat terrorism and deter unconstitutional changes in government. To this end the Authority instructed the President of the Commission to engage with all member states, particularly those severely impacted by the situation, on the way forward.

30. The Heads of State and Government instructed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to engage with the Member States to agree on the modalities for the mobilization of one (1) billion US dollars, mandatory contributions towards counter terrorism efforts under the 2020-2024 Plan of Action.

31. The Authority reiterated serious concerns over the flow of illicit arms and ammunitions, including improvised explosive devices and unmanned aerial vehicles, into the region that has enabled violent extremists and terrorist and other armed groups to control large swathes of territory and terrorize communities. The Heads of State and Government strongly condemned the entities that are financing and enabling terrorism in the region and

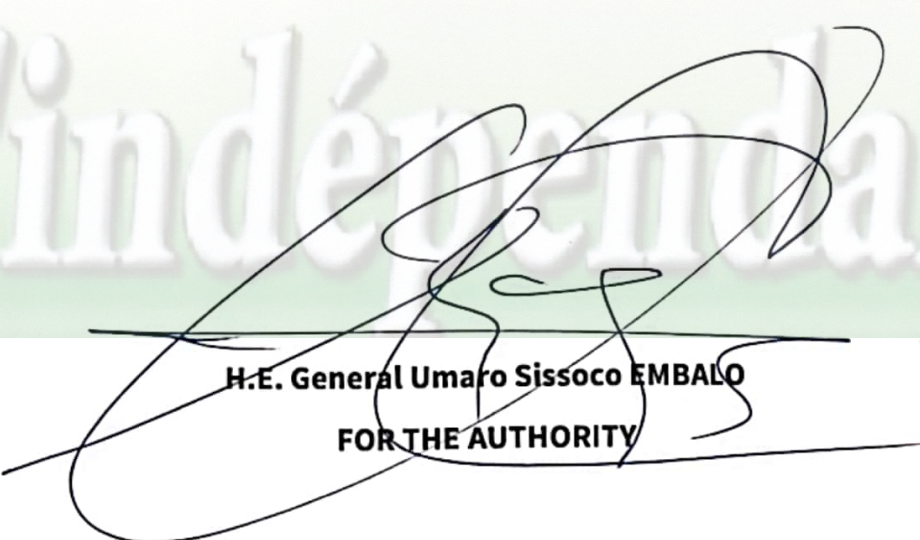


admonished them to desist from the nefarious acts.

32. The Authority was briefed on the outcome of the 23rd Ministerial EU-ECOWAS Political Dialogue.

33. The Heads of State and Government express their deep gratitude to **H.E. Umaro Sissoko EMBALÓ**, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and Chairperson of ECOWAS Authority for his leadership in ensuring the success of the Summit.

34. Done at Addis-Ababa, this 18th of February 2023.



H.E. General Umaro Sissoco EMBALÓ
FOR THE AUTHORITY