

COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE



ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES

----- SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, 15th Day of December, 2014

**DECLARATION OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOWAS COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF
(CET)**

**WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**

MEETING ON THE 15 day of December 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria;

REAFFIRMING the Revised ECOWAS Treaty signed on 24th July, 1993;

MINDFUL of the objective of the Community as enunciated in Article 3 of
the Revised ECOWAS Treaty;

MINDFUL of Article 35, 36, and 37 of the said treaty concerning trade
liberalization, customs duties and the Common External Tariff within the
Community with the view to establishing a community customs union;

RECALLING the adoption of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET)
by the 29th session in Niamey, NIGER on 12 January 2006;



RECALLING the adoption of the content of the ECOWAS CET and its accompanying regulations by Council of Ministers at its 70th Ordinary session in June 2013 in Abidjan;

RECALLING the adoption of the Regulation on ECOWAS Supplementary Measures by Council of Ministers and its decision to implement the ECOWAS CET in all member states from 1st January 2015 at its extraordinary session held in September 2003 in Abidjan;

CONSCIOUS of our endorsement of the final structure of the CET and its regulatory measures as well as the implementation date of 1st January 2015 at the extraordinary session held on 25th October 2013 in Dakar;

ENCOURAGED, by all the preparatory activities undertaken by ECOWAS Commission and member states to ensure a harmonious roll-out of the CET in line with the CET Implementation Road map adopted by Directors General of Customs on 14th January 2014 in Ouagadougou;

Fully ASSUMING our leadership to achieve a Customs Union in West Africa;

DO HEREBY;

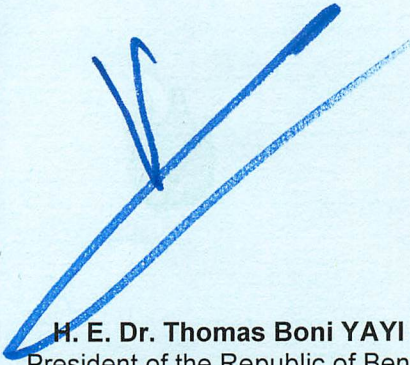
Commit ourselves to the implementation of the ECOWAS CET from 1st January 2015 and direct the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all necessary measures to accompany member states to ensure a smooth application of this important regional instrument.

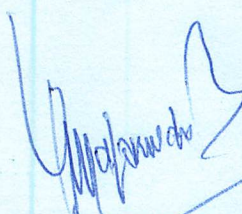
IN FAITH WHEREOF WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) HAVE SIGNED THIS DECLARATION

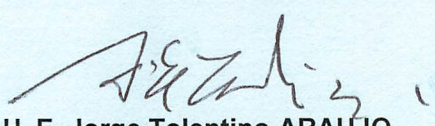
DONE AT ABUJA ON 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2014

IN SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES, ALL THREE (3) TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC

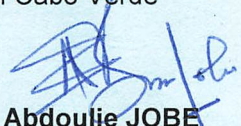



H. E. Dr. Thomas Boni YAYI
President of the Republic of Benin

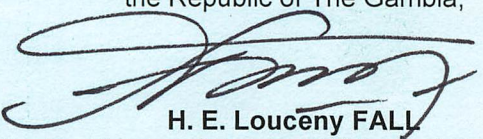

H. E. Michel KAFANDO
Interim President of Burkina Faso


H. E. Jorge Tolentino ARAUJO
Minister of External Relations
For and on behalf of the President of the Republic
of Cabo Verde

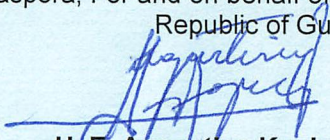

H. E. Alassane OUATTARA
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

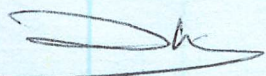

Hon. Abdoulie JOBE
Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry
and Employment, For and on behalf of the President of
the Republic of The Gambia,

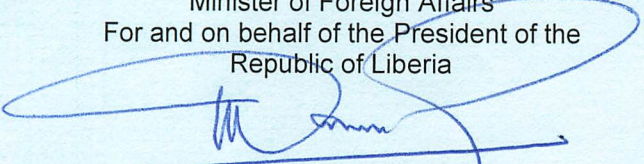

H. E. John Dramani MAHAMA
President of the Republic of Ghana

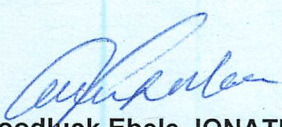

H. E. Louceny FALL
Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans in
Diaspora, For and on behalf of the President of the
Republic of Guinea

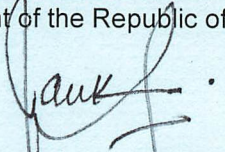
H. E. José Mario VAZ
President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau

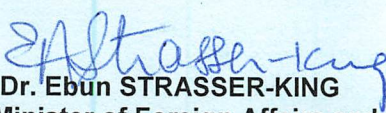

H. E. Augustine Kpehe NGAFUAN
Minister of Foreign Affairs
For and on behalf of the President of the
Republic of Liberia

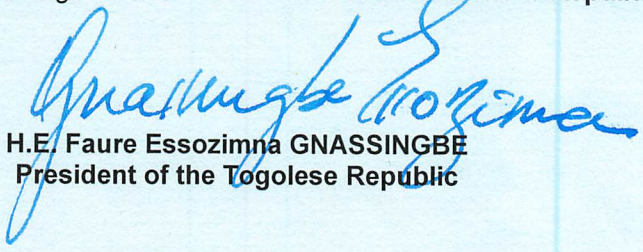

H. E. Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA
President of the Republic of Mali


H. E. Mahamadou ISSOUFOU
President of the Republic of Niger


H. E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN, GCFR
President, Commander-in-Chief of the
Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria


H.E. Mankeur NDIAYE
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese
in Diaspora, For and on behalf of the
President of the Republic of Senegal


H. E. Dr. Eibun STRASSER-KING
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation, For and on behalf of the
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone


H.E. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE
President of the Togolese Republic