



ECOWAS Commission



ECCAS Secretariat

**MEETING OF MINISTERS PREPARATORY TO THE JOINT
SUMMIT OF ECOWAS AND ECCAS HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT ON PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY
AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND VIOLENT
EXTREMISM**

Lomé, 28th July 2018

FINAL REPORT

Lomé, Togo

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of Ministers in preparation for the Joint Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on Peace, Security, Stability and the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism was held in Lomé, Togo, on 28th July 2018.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Member States:

a. ECOWAS

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Cabo Verde
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Guinea Bissau
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Niger
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Togolese Republic.

b. ECCAS

- Republic of Angola
- Republic of Burundi
- Republic of Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Republic of Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Gabonese Republic
- Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- Republic of Rwanda
- Republic of Chad

3. The meeting was also attended by the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the Secretary General of ECCAS.

4. The Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Special

Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the African Union Commission, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Commission and the Secretary General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) also took part in the meeting.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

5. The following statements were delivered at the opening ceremony:

a. Welcome address by the Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers

6. In his welcome address, H.E. Professor Robert Dussey underscored the importance of the meeting, with regard to inter-regional cooperation and the need to address the key challenges confronting the two regions, particularly terrorism. He stated that it is crucial to strengthen cooperation between the two Communities and noted that the joint ECOWAS-ECCAS Summit on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism is being held for that purpose.

b. Opening statement by the Chair of the ECCAS Council of Ministers

7. In his opening statement, H.E. Regis Immongault Tatangani, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Francophonie and Regional Integration of the Gabonese Republic, Chair of the ECCAS Council of Ministers, on behalf of the ECCAS delegations, thanked the Togolese authorities and H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, President of the Togolese Republic and Chair of ECOWAS, for accepting to host the Joint Summit despite the relatively short notice. He further highlighted the similarity of the security challenges facing the two regions, adding that these challenges would be addressed through a common approach. He therefore emphasised the need for ECOWAS and ECCAS to put in place a holistic and pragmatic policy for the joint fight against terrorism and violent extremism in the two regions.

8. At the end of his remarks, he declared open the meeting of Ministers, preparatory to the Joint Summit of ECOWAS and ECCAS Heads of State and Government on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

9. The Bureau was elected as follows:

a) Co-Chairs: Gabon and Togo

b) Rapporteurs:

- Congo
- Nigeria
- Cabo Verde
- Central African Republic

c) Deputy Rapporteurs:

- Angola
- Ghana

10. The adopted agenda is appended to this report.

IV. DELIBERATIONS

A. Presentation of the report of the ECOWAS-ECCAS experts' meeting on Peace, Security, Stability and the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism

11. The Co-Chair of the meeting of Experts, Ambassador Kadangha Bariki Limbiye, of the ECOWAS region, presented the report of the ECOWAS-ECCAS experts' meeting on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

12. The report contained presentations by ECOWAS and ECCAS on the overall security situation in the two Communities and the initiatives taken by each of them to check terrorism and violent extremism. Presentations were also made by the Lake Chad Basin Commission on the efforts to suppress the Boko Haram terrorist group. In addition, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad presented their national initiatives in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

13. The report also highlighted security threats common to both regions as well as recommendations for collaboration as a means of addressing the identified security challenges; and emphasised that the security challenges have a negative impact on the peoples of the two regions causing huge loss of human lives, displacement of peoples and refugees as well as the destruction of social and economic infrastructure. The countries are thus constrained to make significant investment in addressing security challenges with funds initially earmarked for development.

14. The experts also recommended that the two Communities provide leadership in the two regions on matters of peace and security and ensure enhanced coordination of their respective partner initiatives in order to avoid duplication of efforts particularly in the Saharan region and the Lake Chad Basin.

15. The Co-Chair of the experts' meeting concluded by stating that the experts had considered the draft Declaration on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism submitted for their attention by the ECOWAS Commission and ECCAS General Secretariat and recommended it for the approval of the joint Ministerial meeting. In addition, they considered the draft agenda and work programme for the meeting of ECOWAS and ECCAS Ministers which was also recommended for adoption by the Ministerial meeting.

16. After the presentations, the Ministers adopted the report and the recommendations therein. The report of the experts meeting is attached as an Annex to this report.

B. Consideration and adoption of the draft Declaration of the Joint Summit of ECOWAS and ECCAS Heads of State and Government on Peace, Security, Stability and the fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism

17. The Ministers considered the draft Declaration of the joint Summit adopted by the experts. The draft Declaration recalls the major regional, continental and international instruments on peace and security acceded to by Member States of the two Communities. It provides justification for increased and more efficient cooperation between the two Communities and underscores the determination of the Heads of State and Government to create conditions for sustainable peace and a secured environment in the common area of the two regions as well as their commitment to work together for the implementation of a common approach to peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

18. More specifically, the draft Declaration highlights the commitment of the Heads of State and Government for the establishment of a coordination and monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the decisions contained in the Declaration, with the setting up of a Ministerial Monitoring Committee that meets annually and the conduct of a joint Summit every two years.

19. Following the discussions, the Ministers made the following comments which include:

- a. That emphasis should be placed on the need for greater financial commitment of the ECOWAS and ECCAS member states with support from the African Union in order to address all security challenges in ensuring peace and stability within the Communities particularly in the fight against terrorism.
- b. The need to curb internal crises which constitute a serious threat to peace and security within the communities.
- c. The issue of climate change resulting in desertification and other serious weather conditions which are destabilizing factors considering the humanitarian consequences and the migration dimensions. The ministers agreed on the need for coordinated response between the two regions in addressing the effects of climate change and migration.
- d. With respect to Maritime Security, the need to strengthen existing mechanisms notably the Inter-Regional Coordination Centre (ICC) and other maritime

coordination centres in order to maintain safety within the maritime space of the two Communities.

- e. On the issue of transhumance, the need for continuous engagement and information sharing to avoid duplication of efforts.
- f. The need for cooperation between the member states in ensuring implementation of the National Early Warning mechanisms as an important preventive strategy in the area of peace and security.

- g. The need to collectively fight against corruption to ensure that public funds are utilized for the benefit of the collective populations.
- h. The need to strengthen solidarity amongst States within the regions as well as the determination to resist attempts by external and internal elements, who as a result of the intangible nature of some of our borders, are able to destabilise our regions and undermine the legitimate authority of subsisting governments.
- i. The need to employ preventive mechanisms through radical reforms in order to address the peculiar threats to peace and stability in member states within the two regions.
- j. The need to tackle poverty and other social ills which negatively impact self-actualisation of the regions' peoples and their capacity to contribute positively to society.
- k. The need to strengthen implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities undertaken as well as decisions made by the two regions in the area of peace, security and stability.
- l. The need to establish harmonised legal frameworks to support effective cooperation between the two regions in the area of peace, security and stability such as the Memorandum of Understanding on multi-sectoral cooperation between the two organizations, signed by the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the Secretary General of ECCAS in Nouakchott on 30 June 2018.

20. The Ministers thereafter recommended the draft Lome Declaration for the adoption of the joint Summit of ECOWAS and ECCAS Heads of State and Government on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

21. They also considered and recommended the draft agenda and work programme for the adoption of the Joint Summit of the ECOWAS and ECCAS Heads of State and Government which is to be held in Lome on 30 July 2018.

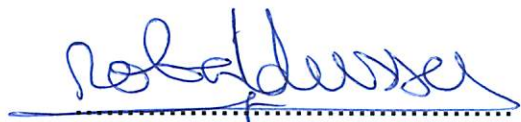
22. Subsequently, the ministers considered and adopted the meeting report. They expressed gratitude to H. E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, President of the Togolese Republic and Chair of ECOWAS and the government and people of the Togolese Republic for the warm welcome received and the facilities provided for the success of their meeting.

V. CLOSING STATEMENT

23. In his closing remarks, H.E. Prof. Robert Dussey, Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers thanked all the participants for the various contributions made during the meeting and congratulated them on the quality of the discussions. He wished them safe return to their respective countries and declared the meeting closed.

Done at Lomé this 28th day of July 2018

FOR ECOWAS



H.E. Professor Robert DUSSEY
Chair of ECOWAS
Council of Ministers

FOR ECCAS



H.E. Regis IMMONGAULT TATANGANI
Chair of ECCAS
Council of Ministers



ECOWAS Commission



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VOTE OF THANKS

Participants at the meeting of ECOWAS and ECCAS Ministers on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, meeting in Lome on 28th July 2018, express their profound gratitude to **His Excellency, President Faure ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBE**, President of the Togolese Republic, and to the Government and people of Togo, for the warm and brotherly welcome extended to them and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the successful conduct of their deliberations.

DONE AT LOME THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2018

THE PARTICIPANTS