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Police



WAPCCO - Policy  
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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WEST AFRICAN  
POLICE CHIEFS COMMITTEE (WAPCCO)

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## PREAMBLE

CONSIDERING the resolutions adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of West African Police Chiefs held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 1997 in Abuja, Nigeria;

CONSIDERING the resolutions adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the West African Police Chiefs Committee held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1998 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;

CONSIDERING Decision A/DEC. 11/12/03 of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2003 relating to the granting of the status of a specialized institution to WAPCCO;

CONSIDERING the willingness expressed by the Interpol General Secretariat and by the President of the ECOWAS Commission to harmonize their action programmes in the field of police co-operation and the fight against crime in West Africa;

CONSIDERING the need to create within West Africa a police co-operation area and to strengthen the fight against transnational crime;

CONVINCED of the need for such a co-operation framework;

### THE CHIEFS OF POLICE OF THE FOLLOWING WEST AFRICAN STATES:

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Cape Verde
- Republic of Cote 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

HEREBY ADOPT the following:



## CHAPTER I: ESTABLISHMENT, AIMS AND PRINCIPLE OF CO-OPERATION

### ARTICLE 1 : CREATION

1. The Contracting Parties hereby establish the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO) hereinafter referred to as "the Committee."
2. WAPCCO is a specialized institution of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and a consultative body for regional police co-operation. Its activities are to be funded by ECOWAS.
3. The members of WAPCCO are Chiefs of Police of the Member States of West Africa cited in the preamble

### ARTICLE 2 : AIMS AND MISSIONS

1. The aims of the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO) shall be to :
  - a) Improve co-operation between the police forces of West African States ;
  - b) Increase effectiveness in crime prevention and countering cross-border crime in the sub-region.
  - c) Make recommendations to ECOWAS authorities and implementing their decisions on security matters.
2. With a view to achieving those aims, WAPCCO's mission are to:
  - a) Define a sub-regional strategy for combating crime;
  - b) Identify the emergence of new forms of crime insofar as there are real indications of the scale and serious nature of the crime or the presence of an organized criminal structure in any West African country
  - c) Co-ordinate co-operation activities for combating crime through out West Africa;

- d) Periodically inform national and sub-regional authorities responsible for security matters about the crime situation and planned action programmes to combat crime.

### ARTICLE 3 : PRINCIPLE OF CO-OPERATION

Co-operation between Police forces of the countries in the sub-region within the WAPCCO framework shall be based on the following principles:

1. Respect of the national sovereignty of Members' States;
2. Equality between the national Police forces of the States concerned;
3. Co-operation limited to ordinary law crimes;
4. Mutual advantages for all Members;
5. Respect for human rights;
6. Non-discrimination and flexible working methods;
7. Respect for any rules on international police co-operation matters likely to promote the aims and objectives of WAPCCO;
8. Co-operation based on mutual respect and goodwill.

## CHAPTER II: STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

### ARTICLE 4: CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

1. The Committee shall be chaired by the Chief of Police of the Member State elected chair of ECOWAS Member States.
2. In order to preserve institutional memory, the previous chairperson, of the Chief of Police of the previous presidency shall act as Vice Chairperson.
3. During his/her term of office, the Chairperson of the Committee shall be answerable to the Forum of Ministers responsible for police matters, ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council and to the President of the ECOWAS Commission with regards to the implementation of regional directives to combat crime and other policing related matters.
4. For routine administrative work the Chairperson shall appoint one or more officials from his Executive Office to perform secretarial duties in



conjunction with the Committee's Permanent Secretariat for the duration of his term of office.

5. If the Chairperson is temporarily unable to fulfill his duties, the Vice-Chairperson shall stand in for him. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall notify other members of the Committee of the interim.
6. If the position of Chairperson becomes vacant, the new Chief of Police of the country of origin of the Chairperson shall take over the chairmanship. The Chief of Police shall inform members of the Committee, Sub-Committees, the Forum of Ministers, the Mediation and Security Council and the President of ECOWAS of the new situation as soon as possible through the Committee's Permanent Secretariat.

#### ARTICLE 5: THE COMMITTEE

1. The Chairperson shall convene an ordinary session of the Committee once a year unless it is decided otherwise.
2. However, extraordinary sessions may also be held when necessary.
3. The arrangements for convening and organizing the Committee sessions, choosing the host country and the composition of delegations shall be defined in the Committee's Rules of Procedure.

#### ARTICLE 6: TECHNICAL ORGANS

1. The Committee has technical organs. These are:
  - a. A Permanent Secretariat;
  - b. The Sub-committee on Harmonization of Legislation;
  - c. The Sub-committee on Training and co-ordination of operational and police activities.
2. There shall be no limit on the number of bodies within WAPCCO. Depending on co-operation requirements, the Committee may decide to set up other subsidiary bodies to assist in fulfilling its missions as defined in Article 2 (2) of the present Constitution.

## ARTICLE 7: PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The Security division of the Political Affairs Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission shall be the permanent Secretariat of the Police Chiefs Committee. |

## ARTICLE 8: AIMS AND OBJECT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

In conformity with Article 7, the Permanent Secretariat, in conjunction with the technical sub-committees, shall be responsible for the following at ECOWAS level:

1. Analyzing and assessing police, information concerning the sub-region of West Africa;
2. Studying and providing regular reports on international crime in the sub-region;
3. Guaranteeing the exchange of information during large-scale investigative missions or specific joint operations organized in the sub-region;
4. Becoming involved in organizing regional and international meetings and conferences on crime in the sub-region;
5. Identifying new requirements and studying and making proposals for improving international police co-operation in the sub-region;
6. Developing initiative and encouraging practices likely to strengthen co-operation within the framework provided by WAPCCO;
7. Such a framework shall not constitute an obstacle to bilateral agreements between countries whose nationals are members of the Committee;
8. Ensuring the implementation and monitoring of the Cooperation Agreement between Interpol and ECOWAS Commission;
9. Coordinating with the Sub-Regional Bureau of Interpol for West Africa on all police operational activities of WAPCCO.



**ARTICLE 9: SUB-COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION OF  
LEGISLATION**

- 1) The Sub-Committee on harmonization of Legislation shall be composed of experts nominated by Member States. The sub-committee shall be placed under the authority of the expert nominated by the current chair of the Committee. Each country shall be represented on the Sub-Committee by one to three experts as may be required.
- 2) The Sub-Committee shall be responsible for, inter alia
  - a. Questions relating to the implementation of the West African Police Co-operation Agreement;
  - b. Questions relating to the harmonization or implementation of legislation, judicial acts or actions with regard to the specific types of crime affecting West Africa;
  - c. Monitoring and implementing recommendations made by the Committee and resolutions adopted by the Interpol General Assembly which concern international police co-operation;
  - d. Collecting and circulating information relating to the legal and practical conditions applying to co-operation missions and investigations carried out between West African police forces.

**ARTICLE 10: SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRAINING AND CO-ORDINATION  
OF OPERATIONAL POLICE ACTIVITIES**

- 1) The Sub-Committee on Training and co-ordination of Operational Police Activities shall be composed of experts nominated by member States. The Sub-Committee shall be placed under the authority of the expert nominated by the current chair of the Committee. Each country shall be represented on the Sub-Committee by one to three experts as the may be required.
- 2) The Sub-Committee shall be responsible for, inter alia
  - a. Training and harmonization of teaching programmes in the sub-region's police and or other security services institutions;
  - b. Promoting international police co-operation at West African national police , Gendarmerie and other security training institutions;



- c. Documenting, planning organizing and supervising joint or simultaneous police operations against particular forms of crime;
- d. Other matters relating to training and operations that may be assigned to it.

#### ARTICLE 11: SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTING

The Technical Sub-Committees referred to in Articles 9 and 10 shall report to the chairperson of the Committee through the Permanent Secretariat at least twice a year or as often as necessary but not later than two months prior to the annual meeting. |+

#### ARTICLE 12: RIGHT TO VOTE

Each member shall have the right to vote and shall have one vote.

#### ARTICLE 13: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

1. The quorum required shall be half of the number of the Committee members present plus one;
2. An absolute majority of the members shall be required for the approval of the resolution pertaining to the adoption or amendment of the present Constitution as provided for in Article 17, and the adoption or amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, as provided for in Article 27 of the rules of procedures.
3. All other resolutions must be adopted by a two-third of the Committee members present

### CHAPTER III : MEMBERSHIP OF WAPCCO AND LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF MEMBERSHIP

#### ARTICLE 14: MEMBERSHIP OF WAPCCO

1. Membership of WAPCCO shall be open *ex-officio* to chiefs of Police of ECOWAS Member States.

2. The present Constitution shall abrogate both the resolution founding WAPCCO which was adopted at the first meeting of West African Police Chiefs, held in Abuja in 1997; and the Revised Constitution done on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2004 in Abuja.

3. The present Constitution shall provisionally enter into force when it is signed by the Members of WAPCCO. Nevertheless it shall be submitted to the Forum of Ministers for adoption.

2. The ECOWAS Commission is the depository for the present Constitution

Done in Abuja, this --- Day of July in the year 2008, in two (2) originals in English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic

The Chiefs of Police of

The Republic of Benin.....

~~Boya~~ Boya BOYAN A Eugène  
10/07/08

Burkina Faso.....

Roumane OUANGRADUA 10/07/08

The Republic of Cape Verde.....

The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.....

BREDDU NISSA DEPN 10/07/08

The Republic of The Gambia.....

~~Signature~~

The Republic of Ghana.....

KNUCHEANF, I.G.P. 10 JULY 2008

The Republic of Guinea.....

~~Signature~~

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau.....

Signature 10/07/2008

The Republic of Liberia.....

~~Signature~~

The Republic of Mali.....

The Republic of Niger.....

The Federal Republic of Nigeria.....

The Republic of Senegal.....

The Republic of Sierra Leone.....

The Togolese Republic.....

*Handwritten signature and date: 10/07/08*

*Handwritten signature: Droufhouse 10/7/08*

*Handwritten signature: [Signature]*

*Handwritten signature and date: 10/07/08*

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