



Original: French

**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON
TERRORISM**

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14 September 2019

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. In line with the decision taken at its 55th Ordinary Session held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria on 29 June 2019, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) convened an Extraordinary Session on terrorism in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 14 September 2019. The Session was chaired by H.E. **Issoufou Mahamadou**, President of the Republic of Niger and Chair of the Authority. The purpose of the Summit was to consider the different initiatives taken thus far to prevent and combat terrorism and redefine the priority areas of action to curb the spread of terrorist attacks in the region.

2. Present at the Summit were the following ECOWAS Heads of State or their duly mandated representatives:

H.E **Patrice Talon**, President of the Republic of Benin

H.E **Roch Marc Christian Kabore**, President of Burkina Faso

H.E **Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

H.E **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of the Republic of Ghana

H.E **George Manneh Weah**, President of the Republic of Liberia

H.E **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**, President of the Republic of Mali

H.E **Issoufou Mahamadou**, President of the Republic of Niger

H.E **Muhammadu Buhari**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E **Macky Sall**, President of the Republic of Senegal

H.E **Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
H.E **Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe**, President of the Togolese Republic
H.E. **Aristides Gomes**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
H.E. **Alpha Ibrahima Keira**, Minister of Security and Civil Protection,
Personal Representative of the Guinean President
H.E. **Amadou Sheikh Omar Taal**, High Commissioner of the Republic of
The Gambia to Nigeria

3. The under-listed Heads of State and Government or their duly mandated representatives participated in the Summit:

H.E **Idris Deby Itno**, President of the Republic of Chad
H.E **Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani**, President of the Islamic
Republic of Mauritania
H.E. **Nasser Bourita**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco
H.E. **Hussain Alhammadi**, Minister of Education of United Arab Emirates
H.E **Dr. Gordon Kricke**, Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Federal Republic of Germany for the Sahel and Lake Chad River Basin
H.E. **Christophe Bigot**, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Sahel of the French
Republic
H.E. **Ainseur Mohamed**, Ambassador of Algeria to Burkina Faso
H.E. **Andrew Young**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
United States of America
H.E. **Dr. Waleed Amalhamoudi**, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

4. The session was also attended by:

- H.E **Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission
- H.E **Jean Claude Kassi Brou**, President of ECOWAS Commission
- **Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)
- H.E **Ibrahim Sani Abani**, Executive Secretary of CEN-SAD



- H.E **Abdallah Boureima**, President of the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
- H.E **Maman Sambo Sidikou**, Permanent Secretary of G5 Sahel
- H.E **Mamman Nuhu**, Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission
- H.E **Angel Losada**, Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel

5. At the opening ceremony, statements were delivered by H.E **Roch Marc Christian Kabore**, President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Jean Claude Kassi Brou, President of ECOWAS Commission, and H.E. **Issoufou Mahamadou**, President of the Republic of Niger and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government delivered the opening address.

6. At the end of the opening ceremony, the Authority heard goodwill messages from representatives of the following partner States and organisations:

H.E **Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission

Dr **Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

H.E **Angel Losada**, Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel

H.E. **Nasser Bourita**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco

H.E. **Ainseur Mohamed**, Ambassador of Algeria to Burkina Faso

H.E. **Christophe Bigot**, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Sahel of the French Republic

H.E **Dr Gordon Kricke**, Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany for the Sahel and Lake Chad River Basin

H.E. **Andrew Young**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of United States of America.

7. The Authority took note of the report of the Mediation and Security Council at ministerial level, presented by H.E. Kalla Ankourao, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad and Chair of the Mediation

and Security Council. It commended the quality of the report presented and the recommendations contained therein.

8. The Authority reaffirms its commitment to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the region, the preconditions for the region's integration and economic development. It reiterates its firm condemnation of the terrorist attacks and inter-communal violence in the region.

9. The Heads of State and Government lauded efforts taken by Member States at the national and regional levels to stabilise the security situation in ECOWAS Member States.

10. While commending the results obtained from measures taken thus far in Member States and by the region, the Authority is concerned by the spread of terrorist attacks in the region which have caused many civilian and military casualties. It strongly condemns the attacks and affirms the compelling need for ECOWAS to show leadership in the fight against terrorism in the region and coordinate the different multinational initiatives on counter-terrorism in West Africa.

11. The Authority reaffirms the respect for the principle of intangibility and territorial integrity of Member States, in accordance with the African Union founding principles. In this regard, the Authority calls on all States not to allow the terrorists to use their territory as sanctuary or withdrawal base. It urges all signatories of the Algiers Agreement to clearly distance themselves from terrorist groups.

12. The Authority offers full support to the Republic of Mali in the exercise of its sovereignty throughout its territory. It reaffirms that the Kidal region is an integral part of Malian territory. It calls for the strict respect of the national symbols, restoration of government institutions including the reconstituted armed forces and public administration throughout Kidal. It supports national initiatives aimed at stabilising the situation.

13. The Authority calls on the United Nations Security Council, in conjunction with the African Union, to urgently resolve the Libyan crisis, a hotbed for terrorism in West Africa. In particular, it calls for the appointment of a Joint Representative of the African Union and the United Nations for Libya.

14. The Authority also underscores the need to intensify the commitment of Member States and strengthen measures to prevent and combat terrorism, in

order to eradicate terrorism. It also reaffirms the need to appraise existing counter-terrorism initiatives.

15. To this end, the Authority decided to adopt a Priority Action Plan for the 2020 – 2024 period, focused on the following eight (8) areas:

Pooling and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts

16. The Authority renews its commitment to the pooling and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts. It reiterates its call for the reinforcement of the activities of the Joint G5 Force, Operation Barkhane, the Lake Chad Basin Multinational Joint Task Force, MINUSMA, as well as the Accra Initiative and the strengthening of operational coordination between the Forces and Initiatives.

17. The Authority calls on the United Nations Security Council to give MINUSMA a more robust mandate to fight terrorism

18. The Authority approves the principle of involving the ECOWAS Standby Force in counter-terrorism efforts. It directs the Ministers for Defence and Security to evaluate the practical modalities of its involvement. It encourages ECOWAS Commission to continue the process of making the ECOWAS logistics depot in Lungi, Sierra Leone operational.

Effective and direct information and intelligence sharing among Member States' security services

19. Member States commit to directly share information and intelligence among themselves, particularly by coordinating at the national level, the public services involved in counter-terrorism, digitalising crime, judicial and administrative data and setting up automatic fingerprint identification systems.

20. Member States undertake to put in place a secure system for information sharing and reciprocal access to their criminal biometric databases, in line with approved procedures.

21. The Authority instructs the Commission to support the application of these measures by initiating the necessary consultations with the European Union and Interpol, with a view to fast-tracking the implementation of the West African Police Information System (WAPIS), in close collaboration with CISSA and AFRIPOL.

Training and equipping public officers involved in counter-terrorism



22. The Authority urges Member States to adequately train, educate and equip the public bodies involved in the prevention and fight against terrorism, particularly the defence and security forces and officials from the judiciary and the finance and economy ministries.

23. Member States commit to pool training and instruction resources. In this regard, the Authority instructs the ECOWAS Commission, in close collaboration with the African Union, to enter into discussions with the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal, in order to develop effective and sustainable partnerships with the International Counter-Terrorism Academy (AILCT) in Jacqueville and the National Cybersecurity School for West Africa in Dakar respectively. Similarly, efforts will be made for partnership with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), in conjunction with the African Union.

24. Synergy of action will also be sought with the training bodies of the G5 Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin Multinational Joint Task Force.

Strengthening management and security at land, air, sea and river borders

25. Member States undertake to train and equip the national agencies involved in border management and control, as well as plan and conduct joint patrols and cross-border operations along sensitive borders, with support from the African Union Border Programme.

26. The Authority urges Member States to produce and use the ECOWAS biometric identity card to more effectively reconcile the free movement of persons and goods with security demands.

27. It encourages Member States to support the development and/or restoration of basic amenities in cross-border regions, through ECOWAS existing Instruments or in preparation such as the Regional Stabilisation Fund.

28. The Authority urges Member States to adopt relevant legal frameworks expected to facilitate the right of hot pursuit and judicial assistance in counter-terrorism operations.

Strengthening the control of arms and dual-use goods

29. Member States decide to shore up security of their arms and ammunition stocks through the implementation of security programmes at depots,

computerisation of stock management and continuous training of the relevant staff.

30. They equally decide to reinforce control of the acquisition, carrying and use of small arms and light weapons and related ammunition by civilians. In that respect, the Heads of State and Government commit to review or adopt the relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks and operationalise and computerise the national register of firearm owners. They commit to strengthen control of the acquisition and use of multiple-use goods and create and manage at the national level, a computerised database of local arms manufacturers for enhanced control of the local production of weapons.

Countering the financing of terrorism

31. The Authority reaffirms the urgent necessity to prevent, detect and suppress the financing of terrorism in West Africa which is sustained by all types of terrorism. To this end, Member States decide to strengthen their national policies on countering terrorist financing and improve technical compliance and the effectiveness of national arrangements to counter the financing of terrorism.

32. Member States commit to provide coordination at the national level and improve international cooperation by enhancing the powers of Financial Information Units (FIU) and involving them in the production and sharing of crime intelligence that is useful in counter-terrorism.

33. The Authority urges Member States to step up the fight against organised cross-border crime, particularly trafficking in drugs, tobacco and fake drugs, in order to dry up the funding sources of terrorist groups. It instructs the Commission to organise a meeting of heads of security services, to review the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on the fight against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, related organised crime and drug abuse.

Promoting communication, inter-community dialogue and preventing violent extremism

34. Member States undertake to promote inter-community dialogue and communication as tools for the prevention of conflict and terrorism by fostering cohesion among communities and strengthening traditional conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms.



35. Specifically, the Authority urges Member States to effectively implement the ECOWAS Protocol on Transhumance, to promote peaceful transhumance and where necessary, resolve farmer – herder conflicts through dialogue.

36. The Authority reaffirms its determination to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalisation. Thus, it encourages Member States to largely involve religious and community leaders, women, young people, researchers and other relevant civil society groups in the preparation and implementation of appropriate programmes on reconciliation, fight against illiteracy and promotion of education for peace. Furthermore, it encourages Member States to define frameworks for religious practice imbued with tolerance, moderation and promotion of the peace culture.

37. Member States commit to continue to set up socio-educational infrastructure and implement development programmes, particularly in areas affected by terrorist attacks. In particular, they undertake to establish vocational training centres and fund rapid-impact projects and employment-generating activity programmes.

Action Plan and resource mobilisation to fund counter-terrorism within ECOWAS

38. On the basis of these decisions, the Authority directs the President of the Commission to promptly finalise 2020 – 2024 Priority Action Plan to eradicate terrorism in the region. The Plan will serve as a tool for the mobilisation of the necessary funds. The finalised Action Plan, its budget and implementation timetable should be submitted to the Authority for adoption, at its next ordinary session scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria on 21 December 2019.

39. The Authority sets up a monitoring committee comprising Member States and ECOWAS Commission. The committee shall present half-yearly reports on the implementation of these decisions to the Summit of Heads of State and Government.

40. The Authority calls on bilateral and multilateral partners to support the implementation of the decisions taken by making technical and financial contributions. In particular, it calls on the United Nations to contribute, through the mobilisation of significant resources, to funding the fight against terrorism in the region.

41. The Authority welcomes the new partnership initiative for stability and security in the Sahel launched at the G7 Summit held from 24 to 26 August 2019



in Biarritz, French Republic. This initiative is expected to strengthen efforts to the fight against terrorism in West Africa.

42. The Authority decides to urgently contribute One Billion US dollars for the Community's counter-terrorism efforts. It invites Chad and Mauritania to join the ECOWAS financing initiatives for joint operational initiatives.

43. To this end, it instructs the Commission to organise, once the Action Plan has been adopted, a meeting with partners in order to mobilise additional resources as a complementary measure where necessary or desirable.

44. The Authority instructs the ECOWAS Commission to work with the African Union to open dialogue with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for security spending to be accepted as investment for development.

45. The Authority conveys its sincere congratulations to H.E **Issoufou Mahamadou**, President of the Republic of Niger and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, on his unflagging commitment to regional integration and exemplary leadership in the management of Community affairs.

46. The Heads of State and Government warmly congratulate H.E **Roch Marc Christian Kabore**, President of Burkina Faso, on his constant commitment to regional integration and the exemplary leadership demonstrated in Community matters. They thank the government and people of Burkina Faso for the warm welcome extended the delegations and excellent facilities provided for the meeting.

DONE IN OUAGADOUGOU THIS 14TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019

THE AUTHORITY