



EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF ECOWAS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, 11 November 2012

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Extra-Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took place on 11 November 2012 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria under the chairmanship of **H.E. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Authority.
2. The Summit was convened to evaluate the latest developments in the security and institutional challenges of the transitions in Mali and Guinea Bissau.
3. The following Heads of State and Government, or their duly accredited representatives, attended the Summit:
 - H.E. Thomas Boni **YAYI**, President of the Republic of Benin
 - H.E. Blaise **COMPAORE**, President of Burkina Faso
 - H.E. Alassane **OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
 - H.E. Manuel Serifo **NHAMAJO**, Interim President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
 - H.E. Alpha **CONDE**, President of the Republic of Guinea
 - H.E. Dioncounda **TRAORE**, Interim President of the Transitional Government of the Republic of Mali
 - H.E. Mahamadou **ISSOUFOU**, President of the Republic of Niger
 - H.E. Goodluck Ebele **JONATHAN**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
 - H.E. Macky **SALL**, President of the Republic of Senegal
 - H.E. Faure Essozimna **GNASSINGBE**, President of the Togolese Republic
 - H.E. K.B. **AMISSAH-ARTHUR**, Vice-President of the Republic of

Ghana

- H.E. Jorge Alberto **BORGES**, Minister of External Relations of the of the Republic of Cape Verde
- H.E. Susan Waffa **OGOO**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of The Gambia
- H.E. Augustine Kpehe **NGAFUAN**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia
- H.E. EBUN **JUSU (Mrs)**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone

4. The following States and Organizations also attended the Summit as observers:

- Algeria
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Republic of South Africa
- Chad, represented by the Prime Minister H.E. Emmanuel **NADINGAR**
- The African Union, represented by the High Representative to Mali and the Sahel, H.E. Pierre **BUYOYA**
- The United Nations, represented by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa. H.E. Said **DJINNIT**

5. The Heads of State and Government took note of the Memoranda of the President of the ECOWAS Commission on the situations in Mali and Guinea Bissau and the Report of the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Mediation and Security Council of 9 November 2012 by the Chairman of Council. They also took note of the briefings by H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and Mediator in Mali, and H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Regional Contact Group on Guinea Bissau, on Mali and Guinea and Bissau.

6. After careful deliberations, the Heads of State and Government endorsed the main recommendations contained in the various reports. Having reaffirmed their determination to assist Mali and Guinea Bissau in the resolution of their security and institutional crisis within the framework of the norms and principles underpinning Community Protocols, the Heads of State and Government proceeded to take the following specific Decisions:

A. On the Situation in Mali:

7. Authority reiterates that dialogue remains the preferred option in the resolution of the political crisis in Mali. However, regarding the security situation, recourse to force may be indispensable in order to dismantle terrorist

and transnational criminal networks that pose a threat to international peace and security.

8. Authority welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2071 on 12 October 2012 as a defining step in the international efforts to resolve the security and institutional crises in Mali. It also commends the adoption of the Strategic Concept for the Resolution of the Crisis in Mali at the second meeting of the Support and Follow-Up Group on the Situation in Mali in Bamako on 19 October 2012, as well as the endorsement of the Concept by the AU Peace and Security Council on 24 October 2012.

9. Authority decides to adopt the harmonized Concept of Operations for the deployment of the African-led international force in Mali and requests the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to endorse the Concept and ensure its transmission, together with the Strategic Concept, to the United Nations Secretary General within the deadline stipulated in Resolution 2071. It urges the UN Security Council to examine the Concept with a view to authorizing the deployment of the international military force in Mali in conformity with chapter VII of the UN Charter.

10. Authority, while acknowledging the lead role of Mali in the military and diplomatic efforts to restore constitutional order, as well as the unity and territorial integrity of the country, stresses the leadership role of ECOWAS in the deployment of the African-led international force and with regard to the command of the force and resource mobilization, in close cooperation with the African Union and the United Nations.

11. Summit reiterates its instruction to the Commission to maintain the stand-by force in a high state of readiness for imminent deployment, and urges Member States to concretize their commitments to provide military and logistical contributions to the ECOWAS military efforts.

12. **Regarding the transitional process,** Authority takes note of the statement of the Interim President that the transitional roadmap will be unveiled within the next few days. It urges the Government of Mali to expedite action on it and ensure its scrupulous implementation with a view to ensuring the restoration of full state control throughout the territory, and the holding of free, fair and transparent elections in the course of the transition.

13. In this regard, Authority reiterates its decision that the Interim President, the Prime Minister, and the other members of the Transitional Government shall not be candidates in the next Presidential election.

14. Authority urges the transitional authorities to expedite action on the establishment of the National Committee on Negotiations to spearhead, with the facilitation of the Mediator, dialogue among all the internal stakeholders on the transition, and also with the armed groups not involved in terrorist and criminal activities, and who accept without conditions, the unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State, as well as the secular nature of the State.

15. Authority reiterates its preoccupation with the flagrant violation of human rights and humanitarian laws in the occupied territory, as well as the humanitarian consequences that may result from the planned deployment. Authority welcomes the fact that the humanitarian angle has been taken into account in the Strategic Concept and the operational planning for the deployment, and appeals to humanitarian agencies and the International Community to continue providing assistance to Mali and the other affected countries in the region.

16. Summit welcomes the efforts being deployed by H.E. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea to facilitate the transfer of the Malian weapons to Mali, and encourages him to take all necessary additional measures to ensure their safe and speedy transfer to the Malian authorities.

17. Summit expresses deep appreciation for the mediation efforts by H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, and the Co-Mediator, H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and encourages them to persevere in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

18. Summit commends the role being played by the neighbouring countries of Mali, as well as the other international partners, in the efforts to assist Mali in the resolution of the security and institutional crisis facing it.

B. On the situation in Guinea Bissau:

19. Summit commends the efforts being made by the people of Guinea Bissau to promote internal dialogue and considers the decision to recall the National Assembly to its next session as another means of arriving at a consensus on the transition and promoting inclusive governance.

20. Authority instructs the Commission to expedite action on the joint assessment mission to Guinea Bissau by ECOWAS, the AU, CPLP, the United Nations and the EU, and sees the mission as an important process in consensus-building at the international level. It encourages the partners to

pool their efforts to strengthen the transition and ensure the credibility of the process in the run-up to the elections by April 2013.

21. In this regard, Authority reiterates its decision that the Interim President, the Prime Minister, and the other members of the Transitional Government shall not be candidates in the next Presidential election.

22. The Heads of State and Government strongly condemn the destabilization attempt of 21 October 2012 and denounce any recourse to violence or any unconstitutional means of expressing political grievances. They invite the transitional authorities to ensure respect of the rule of law as well as human rights in the investigations and eventual prosecutions on this matter.

23. Summit welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Defence and Security Sector Reform Programme (DSSRP) and instructs the Commission to take the necessary measures to ensure immediate commencement of its implementation. It invites the AU and other partners to actively participate in the process.

24. The Heads of State and Government call upon the African Union to recognize the Transitional Government in Guinea Bissau, established with the facilitation of ECOWAS. In addition, they urge the AU to suspend the sanctions imposed on Guinea Bissau as an encouragement to the transitional authorities and in recognition of the progress the country continues to make towards forging a more inclusive transitional government to pave the way for the peaceful restoration of full constitutional order in the country. In this regard, the Authority calls on the Chairman of AU, H.E. Thomas Boni Yayi, to ensure the implementation of this resolution.

25. Authority expresses appreciation to the ECOMIB troops and the troop-contributing countries for their efforts in Guinea Bissau. In view of the fact that the initial six month-term of ECOMIB expires on 17 November 2012, Authority decides to extend the mandate by a further six-months.

26. Summit renews its appeal to Member States to extend financial assistance to the Government of Guinea Bissau and calls on the International Community to ease the sanctions imposed on the country to alleviate the suffering of the population.

27. Authority expresses profound gratitude to H.E Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for the mediation effort as well as the financial assistance provided for Guinea Bissau. It also thanks the Heads of State Members of the Regional Contact Group and encourages them to pursue their mediation efforts in the country.

28. Authority expresses deep appreciation to H.E. Alassane Ouattara, Chairman of Authority, for his vision and leadership role in the search for solutions to the crises in Mali and Guinea Bissau, as well as his commitment to the promotion and consolidation of peace and security in West Africa.

29. The Heads of State and Government decide to remain seized by the situations in Mali and Guinea Bissau.

Done at Abuja, this 11th Day of November 2012
THE AUTHORITY