

PRESS RELEASE ON THE WORKING VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECCAS COMMISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

September 14, 2021

1. His Excellency Ambassador **Gilberto da Piedade VERISSIMO** , President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), paid a working visit to Malabo, capital of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, from 06 to 09 September 2021. He was accompanied by two Commissioners, namely the Commissioner responsible for the promotion of gender, human and social development, Mrs. Yvette NGANDU **KAPINGA** and the Commissioner responsible for the environment, natural resources, agriculture and rural development, Doctor **Honoré TABUNA** .
2. During this working visit, which aimed to follow up on a number of initiatives undertaken by the ECCAS Commission in this Member State, the President of the Commission met with His Excellency Mr. Teodoro **OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO** , President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; His Excellency **Baltasar ENNGONGA EDJO'O** , Minister of State at the Presidency in charge of Regional Integration and His Excellency Mr. **Diosdado Vicente NSUE MILANG** , Minister of Health and Social Welfare. The President of the Commission also paid a courtesy visit to Mr. **Miguel MBA NZANG MIKUE**, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
3. Three main questions were at the center of the conversations between the President of the ECCAS Commission and his distinguished guests mentioned above, namely the question of the establishment of the Central African Health Organization (OSAC) , support for ECCAS with a view to setting up the National Commission on Arms Control and monitoring of ECCAS support to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea following the Bata explosions of March 2021.
4. With regard to the establishment of the OSAC, the President of the Commission was informed by the Equatoguinean authorities that the Government is very advanced in the establishment of all the material facilities necessary for the installation of this specialized institution of the Community in anticipation of its effective launch during the year 2022. With regard to supporting ECCAS with a view to setting up the National Commission on Arms Control, a technical team of the ECCAS Commission remained in Malabo to work with the various competent Equatorial Guinean public services with a view to setting up the said commission. In this context, a national seminar will take place from September 14 to 20, 2021, led by the said Experts from the ECCAS Commission. Finally,
5. At the end of his visit, His Excellency Mr. **Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO** , President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea invited the President of the Commission to accompany him soon on a visit to Bata to better understand the conditions that can be made available of the Community within the framework of regional integration.
6. His Excellency the President of the Commission wishes to express, on behalf of the Community, his gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, for the quality of the infrastructures made available to house the OSAC. Furthermore, he commends the Equatoguinean authorities for all the efforts made to rehabilitate the Nkoa Ntoma site in the city of Bata following the explosions of March 2021. To this end, the Chairperson of the

Commission supports the decision taken by the authorities to set up the National Commission on Arms Control which should enable this Member State to prevent accidents similar to those in Bata in the future.

7. The President of the Commission thanks the authorities and the people of Equatorial Guinea for their hospitality, their spirit of cooperation and their commitment to regional integration. He wishes to reassure them of the Community's closeness, solidarity and support for them.

Done in Libreville, September 10, 2021