ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION IN WEST AFRICA

PRESENTED BY

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INTRODUCTION
FACTS ABOUT ECOWAS

- It is the most populous regional economic community (REC) in Africa
- It is the umbrella REC in West Africa
- Other RECs in West Africa
  - UEMOA
  - Mano River Union
FACTS ABOUT ECOWAS

WEST AFRICA CONSISTS OF ECOWAS AND MAURITANIA

• **Total Surface Area**
  5.1 million km² (17% of Africa’s total surface area)

• **Total Population**
  282.5 million (2009 estimate – 29% of Africa’s population)

• **Regional Real GDP (2009 estimate)**
  $142.9 billion
FACTS ABOUT WEST AFRICA

ECOWAS Surface Area
5.1 million km²
FACTS ABOUT ECOWAS

15 Member States

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo-Verde
- Côte-d’Ivoire
- The Gambia
- The Gambia
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra-Leone
- Togo
ESTABLISHMENT OF ECOWAS

- Created on May 28, 1975 with the adoption of the ECOWAS Treaty
- In 1993, the Treaty was revised to accelerate the process of integration
- A community of 15 West African states
ECOWAS VISION

• The vision is to transform ECOWAS from an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of People by 2020.

• It involves transforming ECOWAS into a single economic space in which its people transact business and live in dignity and peace under the rule of law and good governance.
APPRECIATION TO ECOWAS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

• We thank all our Development Partners including European Union (as a group) and all individual Member States of the EU for their support towards the realization of the ECOWAS Vision.
SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES

- Consolidation of Peace & Democracy
- Poverty Reduction
- Infrastructure Development
- Food Security
- Trade Negotiation Capacity Enhancement
- Market Integration
ACHIEVEMENTS

• Economic Integration
  – Market Integration
  – Physical Integration
  – Integration of the Production Base

• Political Cooperation
  – Promotion of Good Governance and Democracy
    • Council of the Wise
  – Regional Security Initiative
    • Conflict Prevention (ECOMOG in Liberia and Sierra Leone)
  – Humanitarian Assistance
  – Post-Conflict Reconstruction
Market Integration

• Free movement of people
  – abolition of visa
  – Right of residence and establishment

• ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme

• Customs Union (5-band Common External Tariff)

• Monetary Cooperation
  – Creation of an economic and monetary union
    • Second Regional Currency in January 2015
    • ECOWAS-wide Common Currency in 2020
Physical Integration

- Regional Transport Facilitation Programme
  - Improvement of Customs Procedure
  - Construction of a West African highway network (from Lagos to Nouakchott) and (from Dakar to N’djamena), ie a total of 11000 km of interconnecting roads to assist landlocked countries
  - Interconnection of National Railway Networks
  - Construction of Joint Border Posts
  - Improvement in air transport
Physical Integration

- Telecommunication
  - Ministerial adoption (on 2 October 2009) of 3 texts on
    - Electronic Transactions
    - Personal Data Protection
    - Fight against Cyber Crime
  - Creation of West African Telecommunication Regulators Assembly – WATRA

- West African Gas Pipeline

- West African Power Pool
The WAPP (West African Power Pool)

• WAPP aims to integrate the national power systems:
  - to create a unified regional electricity market;
  - to provide adequate, reliable and affordable electricity;
  - to share hydro and gas resources; and
  - to quadruple within 20 years inter-connection capacities between member states.

• Projected investment is $US 9 billion by 2011
The WAGP (West African Gas Pipeline)

- Project to transport Nigerian Natural Gas to Benin, Togo and Ghana
- Investors: Chevron-Texaco, NNPC, Shell, VRA, Sobegaz & Sotogaz
- 600 km pipeline at US$ 610 million
Integration of the Production Base

- Agricultural Production (ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy)
  - Agricultural Information System (AGRIS)
    Regional Agricultural Commodities Market
- Protection of the environment
- Industrial Master Plan
- Education, Health and Gender Issues
- Private Sector Development
  - Creation of ECOWAS Business Council which is a regional private sector advisory body to ECOWAS policy makers
Promotion of Peace and Good Governance

- 1999 Protocol on Conflict Prevention and Management
- 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance
  - Council of the Wise (Elders)
- Creation of Electoral Units
  - Election Monitoring
- Peace Fund
CHALLENGES
Major Challenges

- Consolidation of regional peace and security
- Eradication of poverty
  - 11 ECOWAS Member States are Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
  - Regional initiative to address the problem (Regional Poverty Reduction Strategy)
- Food Security and Protection of the Environment
- Drug Trafficking
- Illegal International Migration
Regional Peace and Security

The Supplementary Protocol came into full force with its ratification by nine Member States as at August 20, 2008. With it, the anticipation was that the peace and security environment would record further progress, particularly in the area of democracy and good governance.

Paradoxically, the peace and security environment has experienced a downward turn since November 2008:

Guinea Bissau.
– Double assassination of the President and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces in March 2009 followed by the assassination of former Minister of Defense and a candidate for the Presidential elections in June 2009

Guinea
– Violation of human rights and humanitarian law reflected in the September 28, 2009 crisis.

Niger
– Organization of legislative elections on 20 October 2009, which is against the constitution of Niger and a violation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance
Decisions of Extra-ordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government
17 OCTOBER 2009

• On Democracy and Good Governance
  – Commitment to the principles of democracy and rule of law
  – Rejection of unconstitutional accession to or maintenance of power in line with ECOWAS protocols and AU instruments

• Guinea
  – Condemned the 28 September 2009 violence
  – Commended President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso for his mediation roles
  – Members of the transitional authority should not be candidates in the forthcoming elections
Decisions of Extra-ordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

- Guinea
  - Welcomed the decision of the UN Secretary General to establish a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the violence
  - Imposed an arms embargo on Guinea under the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunitions and related Materials
Decisions of Extra-ordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

- Niger
  - Imposed sanctions under Article 45 (a) and (b) of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance
    - Refusal to support candidates presented by Niger for elective posts in international organizations
    - Refusal to organise ECOWAS meetings in Niger
  - Requested Nigerien authorities to suspend indefinitely the holding of legislative elections scheduled for 20 October 2009
    - Failure to suspend the holding of the elections would lead to automatic and immediate imposition of full sanctions, and a referral of the Niger file to the AU for similar action
Decisions of Extra-ordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

– Nigerien authorities failed to suspend the elections.

– Thus, on 20 October 2009 Niger was suspended from ECOWAS until constitutional order is restored.
Expectations from the Parliament & International Community

• Ratification of all outstanding ECOWAS protocols and conventions by national parliaments
• Continue to give technical and financial support to ECOWAS in its integration and development agenda
• Work with ECOWAS to consolidate peace and security, democracy and good governance in the region.
• Work with ECOWAS to ensure the realization of the ECOWAS Vision 2020
CONCLUSION

• ECOWAS Commission is committed to the integration and development of the region.

• Political will to ensure the realization of ECOWAS Vision 2020

• ECOWAS appreciates the support of the Donor Community

• All should partner with ECOWAS for the realization of the collective dream.

• **TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT BETTER**

• **FORWARD TOGETHER TO BARNISH POVERTY IN WEST AFRICA**
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Merci beaucoup pour votre attention

Obrigado