



Economic Community of West
African States (ECOWAS)



Economic Community of Central
African States (ECCAS)

JOINT SUMMIT OF ECOWAS AND ECCAS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

LOME DECLARATION ON PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), meeting in Lome, Togolese Republic on 30th July 2018, on the occasion of the Joint Summit on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism within our common space;

Mindful of the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States signed in Libreville, Republic of Gabon, on 18th October 1983;

Mindful of the Treaty of Lagos of 1975 establishing the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Revised Treaty signed in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, on 24th July 1993 which reaffirmed the establishment of ECOWAS and broadened the scope of regional integration in West Africa;

Referring to Chapter 8 of the United Nations Charter on the role of regional arrangements in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security;

Referring also to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 of 28th September 2001 on the fight against terrorism;

Referring also to UN Resolutions on terrorism and violent extremism, including Resolution 2178 of 24th September 2014, adopted at the United Nations Security Council meeting on threats to international peace and security arising from acts of terrorism, as well as Resolutions 2195 of 19th

December 2014 and 2199 of 12th February 2015 of the United Nations Security Council, dedicated respectively to terrorism and transnational organised crime and condemnation of all forms of terrorism financing;

Recalling the UN Resolution 1325 of 31st October 2000 on Women, Peace and Security and the UN Resolution 2242 of 15th October 2015 on women, peace and security calling on Member States to take into consideration women, peace and security in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, as well as UN Resolution 2419 of 6th June 2018 on the involvement of the youth in conflict resolution;

Considering the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism, signed in Algiers, Algeria, on 14th July 1999 and its Supplementary Protocol, signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8th July 2004; the African Union Action Plan on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism in Africa, adopted in Algiers, Algeria, on 14th September 2002;

Considering equally the Protocol relating to the establishment of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council adopted in Durban on 9th July 2002;

Considering also the relevant provisions of the African Union Charter on Maritime safety, security and development in Africa signed in Lomé, Togolese Republic on 15th October 2016;

Considering the quadripartite agreement signed in Ndjamena on 31st May 2018 between Libya, Niger, Sudan and Chad to secure their common borders against terrorist threats and mercenary groups involved in all types of illicit trafficking;

Taking into account the Communiqué of the 455th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council by the Heads of State and Government, on the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, held in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, on 2nd September 2014;

Bearing in mind the Communiqué of the 469th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25th November 2014, which fully supports the establishment and deployment of the Multinational Joint Taskforce of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) as an appropriate framework for the neutralisation of the Boko Haram terrorist group and calling for more support from the UN Security Council and the international community to strengthen the efforts of LCBC Member States and Benin;

Bearing also in mind the Communiqué of the 679th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 13th April 2017 that endorsed the draft concept of operations of the G5 Sahel Joint Taskforce; calling for more support from the UN Security Council and the international community to strengthen the G5 Sahel Member States;

Considering the relevant provisions of the Protocol on the Central Africa Peace and Security Council (COPAX) and the Mutual Assistance Pact between ECCAS Member States signed in Malabo on 24th February 2000 and of the Pact of Non-Aggression between Member States of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Issues in Central Africa Signed in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon on 8th July 1996;

Considering the relevant provisions of the Protocol on the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security signed in Lomé, Republic of Togo on 10th December 1999; Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance signed in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 21st December 2001, Protocol on Non-Aggression signed in Lagos, Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 22nd August 1978; and Protocol on Mutual Assistance in Defence, signed in Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone on 29th May 1981, the Convention on the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of July 1992 as well as the 2003 Criminal Police Cooperation Agreement between ECOWAS Member States;

Bearing in mind the Supplementary Act adopting the ECOWAS Counter-terrorism Strategy and ECOWAS Political Statement and Common Position on the Fight against Terrorism, signed in Yamoussoukro, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 28th February 2013;

Reaffirming the urgent need to pursue the regional and inter-regional agenda on peace, stability and security while respecting the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA);

Considering all measures taken by ECCAS and ECOWAS in order to promote and consolidate cooperation in the area of security among Member States of the Communities;

Referring to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the area of Peace and Security between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Coordinating Mechanisms of the Regional Standby Brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa signed in Addis Ababa, Republic of Ethiopia, on 29th January 2008 which, among other

things, encourages RECs to develop and implement joint activities in the area of Peace and Security;

Highlighting in this perspective that the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS and ECOWAS held in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon on 25th June 2013, adopted the Declaration on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea. The Declaration led to the launch of the “Yaoundé Process” which provided the two Regional Economic Communities with an effective, inter-connected maritime security architecture coordinated by the inter-regional Coordination Centre based in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon;

Conscious of the inter-regional and trans-regional nature of the numerous challenges to peace, security and stability in Central and West Africa;

Determined to create conditions for sustainable peace and a secure environment in the common area of the two regions, through the adoption of a shared vision of the threats and a common approach to the solutions to be proffered; and

Committed to strengthening collaboration and working jointly to define and implement a common approach on peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism in our common space.

To this effect,

ON THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND STABILITY

1. We commit to cooperate in conflict prevention and the promotion of peace and stability in our two Communities through, in particular:

- a. Setting up and strengthening at the national level, national early warning and rapid response mechanisms with the involvement of civil society, opinion leaders, women, the youth and state actors;
- b. Setting up at the regional level, crisis monitoring and rapid response mechanisms;
- c. Creating of a Joint Group of Elders comprising eminent persons from the two Communities. The group will be called upon to carry out activities in the areas of preventive diplomacy, crisis facilitation and mediation in our common space;

- d. Deepening of the rule of law, peace and human rights education, good governance and democracy, as well as the fight against corruption;
- e. Convergence of constitutional principles, including regular accession to power through open, fair and transparent elections, zero tolerance for obtaining and managing power through unconstitutional means, zero tolerance for any act of violence seeking to destabilise Member States or undermine the principle of inviolability of borders, freedom of association, meeting and peaceful demonstration, promotion of pluralism in the information and media sector, neutrality of the defence and security forces and their submission to the national legally constituted civilian authority; and
- f. Improve political participation, including the participation of women and young people in the political decision-making process and equitable distribution of resources.

2. To that end, we instruct the ECOWAS Commission President and the ECCAS Secretary General to submit for adoption at the next joint Summit, a regional framework on constitutional convergence principles within ECCAS and ECOWAS.

3. In a bid to strengthen our peace support operations capacities within the common space of the two Communities, **request** the African Union to expedite the operationalisation of the African Standby Force Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Republic of Cameroon, in conformity with the Host Country Agreement signed to that effect in 2015 between the African Union and the Government of Cameroon. **Instruct** the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the Secretary General of ECCAS to expedite the operationalisation of the regional logistics Depots of the ECOWAS Standby Force in Lungi, Republic of Sierra Leone, and the Central African Multinational Force in Douala, Republic of Cameroon.

4. With regard to the Central African Republic, **express** our solidarity with the legitimate authorities and the Central African people, as well as our support for the initiative of peace and reconciliation in the country. **Request** that the African Union addresses the issue of sanctions against this country and carry out discussions with the United Nations with the aim of lifting the arms embargo against the government and people of CAR. Lifting the embargo will lead to the enhancement of the capacity of the national defence and security forces, condition sine qua non for the gradual return of the State's authority over the entire CAR territory and provide security for the people.

5. Regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Heads of State and Government reaffirm their commitment and that of all stakeholders to the respect of the Agreement of 31 December 2016, the only consensual and inclusive framework capable of leading to the conduct of transparent and peaceful elections in the country. They laud the efforts of the government in the implementation of the electoral process in accordance with the timetable of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

ON SECURITY

6. We commit to strengthen cooperation in the area of security, in order to effectively counter transnational organised crime, in particular drug trafficking through trans-Saharan networks, human trafficking, trafficking in children, illicit trafficking and proliferation of arms, cybercrime and also illicit maritime activities in the Gulf of Guinea, .

7. To that end, we undertake to conclude and implement mutual assistance and judicial cooperation procedures and **instruct** the ECOWAS Commission President and the ECCAS Secretary General to promptly initiate negotiations among countries in this regard.

8. Also instruct the ECOWAS Commission President and the ECCAS Secretary General to facilitate the signing of a cooperation agreement in criminal police matters between countries of Central and West Africa by relevant Ministers before the end of 2018.

9. Undertake to strengthen already existing cooperation in the area of maritime safety and security and **reaffirm** our commitment to the "Yaoundé Process" launched at our last joint Summit on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 25th June 2013 and which included the establishment of the Inter-regional Coordination Centre (ICC).

10. Commit to provide the ICC with the necessary resources to function and **instruct** the ECOWAS Commission President and ECCAS Secretary General to convene within a period of one year, a donor conference to mobilise additional resources from development partners.

11. Reaffirm also, our determination to strengthen the management and security of our respective territories and common maritime and land borders through, inter alia:

- a. Capacity building for the national administrations involved in border management and control (police, gendarmerie, national guard, customs, etc.);
- b. Provision of equipment and materials for the proper management and surveillance of the sensitive border areas in the region; and
- c. Promotion of cross border cooperation through capacity building on border area management and local development initiatives for border communities.
- d. Introduction and popularisation of the biometric ID card to enhance the security aspect of free movement and facilitate border control.

12. Agree to strengthen the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) through, in particular:

- a. Accession to and national implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty of 24 December 2014;
- b. Scrupulous respect of the ban on arms transfer to non-state actors;
- c. Adoption or revision of national legislative and regulatory texts governing the acquisition and possession of light weapons by civilians; and
- d. Improvement in the management and securing of physical stocks of arms and ammunitions.

13. State our deep concern at the escalating number and extent of violent conflicts between herders and farmers due to transhumance and strongly condemn the high number of fatalities as a result of these conflicts and the stigmatisation of specific groups of society.

14. Note that the majority of pastoralist-related conflicts arise from the growing competition between herders and farmers on access to water and pasture due to the adverse effects of urbanisation, climate change, rural banditry and widespread availability of small arms and light weapons.

15. Underscore the cross-border nature of transhumance and **commit** in this regard, to initiate common policies and joint programmes in the management of transhumance sustainable water resource management and the modernisation of agriculture and livestock farming.

16. Instruct the Ministers for Agriculture, Livestock and Security, with the participation of farmer and herder organisations, to hold regular consultations, in order to identify measures for the prevention and peaceful management of conflicts.

17. Concerning the Lake Chad basin in particular, **recognise** the close link between the drying up of the lake and the worsening security situation in the area, and **call for** accelerated action to raise the water level.

ON THE PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

18. We condemn in the strongest terms the attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups in the region against civilian populations, the defence and security forces, and regional and international forces, in particular the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, G5 Sahel Joint Force ; UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Central Africa (MINUSCA), as well as funding and any other forms of support to the terrorist groups.

19. Condemn also the financing and all other forms of support for terrorist groups.

20. Welcome the commitment of member countries of the Multinational Joint Task Force of the Lake Chad Basin and G5 Sahel Joint Force to the fight against terrorism. To this end, **call on** all Member States of the two Communities to provide, in a spirit of inter-Community solidarity, material, financial and technical support to Member States' armed forces engaged in the fight against terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel. **Request** the UN Security Council to place the G5 Sahel Force under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter to provide it with sustainable and multilateral funding.

21. Are deeply concerned over the instability prevailing in Libya and its impact on the security situation in ECOWAS and ECCAS Member States and strongly condemn the activities and all types of illicit trafficking by terrorist groups and mercenaries operating in the Sahel from South Libya.

22. Are equally concerned over the adverse political, security, economic, financial, social and humanitarian consequences on these countries and the two Communities.

23. Note that ECOWAS and ECCAS countries are compelled to allocate significant resources originally intended for their economic and social development, to the prevention of terrorism and the fight against terrorist groups.

24. Underline also that the radicalisation in West and Central Africa presents obvious risks for peace, security and stability in both Communities.

25. Condemn strongly all kinds of illicit activities and trafficking from terrorist and mercenary groups operating in the Sahel from a neighbouring country of some ECOWAS and ECCAS Member States.

26. Call for increased synergy, complementarity, intelligence and information sharing and operational cooperation between MINUSMA, Barkhane Operation, the G5-Sahel Joint Force and the Multinational Joint Task Force of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

27. Pledge to mutually reinforce the capabilities of our Defence and Security Forces in the areas of personnel training, equipment, intelligence and respect for international humanitarian law.

28. Reaffirm our determination to prevent and combat violent extremism and radicalisation through, inter alia:

- a. Development and implementation of measures likely to lead to the identification and containment of propaganda methods used by extremist groups, to attract and recruit young people and other vulnerable groups;
- b. Involvement of religious and community leaders, women, youth, educational stakeholders, and other relevant civil society groups in the development and implementation of de-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration as well as reconciliation programmes;
- c. Promotion of the culture of tolerance and peace in religious teachings, interreligious and inter-community dialogue and reconciliation;
- d. Strengthening of national laws criminalising the membership, recruitment, propaganda, incitement, support, attack or conspiracy to participate in violent radical ideologies;
- e. Strengthening institutional and legal measures to curb the flow of illicit funds for terrorism and money laundering;

- f. Promotion of education for peace, citizenship and vocational training and employment; and
- g. Promotion and development of the capacity to combat the use of cyber space and internet by extremist groups for recruitment and radicalisation.

29. Encourage the appropriate security services of our respective countries to exchange relevant information and intelligence and **instruct** the Ministers responsible for Security of ECOWAS and ECCAS Member States to propose to the ECOWAS Commission President and ECCAS Secretary General, before our next Summit, the most suitable mechanisms and procedures for secured intelligence and information sharing among our countries.

30. Encourage the establishment of bilateral cooperation frameworks including platforms for judicial cooperation among ECOWAS and ECCAS Member States on one hand, and between these States and other States outside our common space on the other and the creation of specialised judicial centres in the fight against terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime.

31. Undertake to implement national policies and programmes to develop regions affected by the activities of terrorist groups, through the establishment of development and growth hubs with income generating activities for the youth and access to social and basic education infrastructure. We also undertake to support public and private investment in all productive sectors for inclusive growth, in order to reduce poverty.

28. Consider expenditure on security as investment for development and **appeal** to the African Union to support Member States in the fight against terrorism to enable them have more resources to invest in security.

ON COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS DECLARATION

29. We establish a Ministerial Monitoring Committee for the implementation of this Declaration, comprising the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers in charge of Security assisted by the ECOWAS Commission President and ECCAS Secretary General. The Committee shall meet once a year and submit an annual report on the measures taken to implement the Declaration.

30. Endorse the Memorandum of Understanding on multisectoral cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) signed on 30th June 2018 by the ECOWAS Commission President and the ECCAS Secretary General.

31. Instruct the ECOWAS Commission and ECCAS General Secretariat to adopt a common strategy aimed at enhancing resilience of the vulnerable populations through small-scale projects that would make immediate impact on the youth, women and displaced persons by taking into account the combined effects of terrorist attacks and climate change which intensify poverty and terrorism.

32. Instruct also the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the Secretary General of ECCAS to take the necessary steps to ensure effective coordination of our actions with the other actors intervening in the area of peace and security within the ECOWAS-ECCAS space, notably the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the G5 Sahel and CEN-SAD.

33. Further Instruct the ECOWAS Commission President and the ECCAS Secretary General to take necessary measures to:

- a. Initiate joint projects, programmes and other action plans for the implementation of the guidelines and decisions contained in this Declaration;
- b. Propose to the monitoring committee funding procedures by Member States for the programmes and projects consequent to this Declaration;
- c. Mobilise other necessary resources for the implementation of guidelines and decisions contained in this Declaration; and
- d. Establish a joint Secretariat for regular discussions and monitoring between ECOWAS and ECCAS.

34. Call on Member States, African Union, United Nations, bilateral and multilateral partners and the international community, to provide support to the implementation of this Declaration.

35. Decide to maintain dialogue and cooperation between ECOWAS and ECCAS on all matters relating to peace, security, stability and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and any other matters of common

interest, notably the concerted management of migration flows and issues related to climate change.

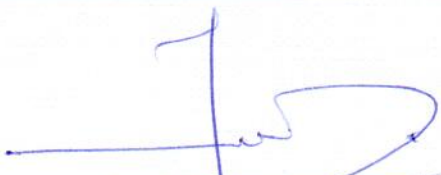

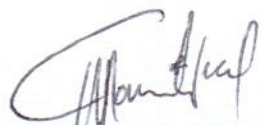
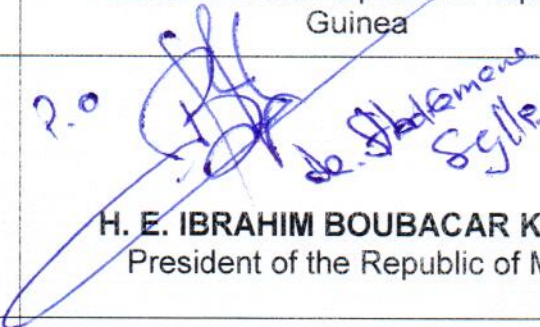
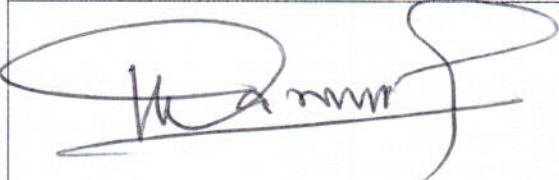

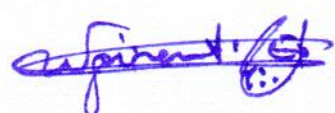


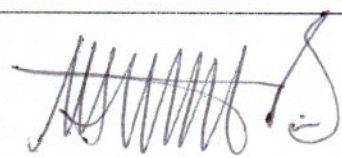
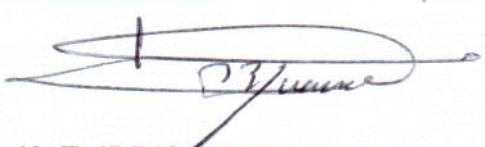
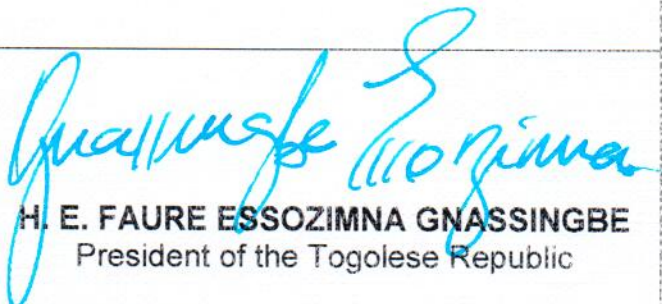
36. Decide, in this regard, to meet every two years alternating between the two Communities, to review the implementation of commitments contained in the extant Declaration.

37. Decide to remain seized of the matter.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES (ECOWAS) AND THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL
AFRICAN STATES (ECCAS) HEREBY SIGN THIS LOME
DECLARATION**

Done at Lomé this 30th day of July 2018

**In a single original copy, in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish
languages, the four (4) texts being equally authentic**

 <p>H. E. JOSE MARIO VAZ President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau</p>	 <p>H. E. TEODORO OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea</p>
 <p>H. E. GEORGE M. WEAH President of the Republic of Liberia</p>	 <p>H. E. IBRAHIM BOUBACAR KEITA President of the Republic of Mali</p>
 <p>H. E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU President of the Republic of Niger</p>	 <p>H. E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria</p>
 <p>H. E. EDOUARD NGIRENTE Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda</p>	 <p>H. E. PATRICE EMERY TROVOADA Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Sao Tomé and Principe</p>
 <p>H. E. MACKY SALL President of the Republic of Senegal</p>	 <p>H. E. JULIUS MAADA BIO President of the Republic of Sierra Leone</p>
 <p>H. E. IDRIS DEBY ITNO President of the Republic of Chad</p>	 <p>H. E. FAURE ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBE President of the Togolese Republic</p>

 H.E. JOAO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO President of the Republic of Angola	 for H. E. PATRICE TALON President of the Republic of Benin <i>Aurelien Agbenonci</i>
 H. E. ROCH MARC CHRISTIAN KABORE President of Faso	 H.E. PIERRE NKURUNZIZA President of the Republic of Burundi
 H. E. PHILEMON YUNJI YANG Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Cameroon	 H. E. JORGE CARLOS DE ALMEIDA FONSECA President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
 H.E. FAUSTIN ARCHANGE TOUADERA President of the Central African Republic	 H. E. DENIS SASSOU-N'GUESSO President of the Republic of Congo
 H. E. SHE OKITUNDU Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo	 H. E. ALASSANE OUATTARA President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
 H. E. ALI BONGO ONDIMBA President of the Gabonese Republic	 H. E. ADAMA BARROW President of the Republic of The Gambia
 H. E. NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDU President of the Republic of Ghana	 H. E. ALPHA CONDE President of the Republic of Guinea