

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO



ECOWAS COMMISSION

COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)

Meeting of Ministers of Security

Abidjan, 25 August 2016

Final Report

INTRODUCTION

1. The MIDWA 2016 Ministers of Security meeting was held at Novotel Hotel in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 25 August, 2016. The meeting was held to adopt the MIDWA 2016 Experts report.
2. The following member States were represented at the Meeting:
 - Republic of Benin
 - Burkina Faso
 - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
 - Cabo Verde
 - Republic of Ghana
 - The Gambia
 - Republic of Guinea
 - Republic of Guinea-Bissau
 - Republic of Liberia
 - Republic of Mali
 - Republic of Niger
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Sierra-Leone
 - Togolese Republic

Also represented was:

- The Islamic Republic of Mauritania
3. The list of participants is attached as an appendix to this report.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

4. In his address, Mr. Laouali CHAIBOU, ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Customs, Free Movement of Persons and Tourism warmly welcomed all participants to this significant Ministers meeting on the Dialogue on Migration for West Africa. He expressed his gratitude to the people and Government of Cote d'Ivoire and highly appreciated the quality of reception and facilities provided to the delegations as well as accommodation services provided towards a successful meeting.

He then extended a warm welcome to all participating delegations and declared the MIDWA 2016 meeting open.
5. Mr. Luc GNACADJIA, representing the UNCCD Executive Secretary, commended discussions on both climate change and land degradation in a context of significant regional mobility, and as a prerequisite to effective and efficient community political action.



According to Mr. Luc GNACADJIA it is important to go from crisis management to warning and drought crisis management, as they are, in fact foreseeable.

He also suggested the wide use of degraded land restoration thanks to the agroforestry technique known as assisted natural rehabilitation, an efficient 1980 technique.

6. In turn, Mr. Charles Kwenin, IOM Senior Adviser for Sub Saharan Africa first commended the ECOWAS Commission and Member States for the remarkable progress achieved in the implementation of the Free Movement of Persons Protocols. He also expressed satisfaction with regards to the ECOWAS community practical measures on migration, the harmonization of travel documents and the current process for the creation of the Biometric Identity Card.

Mr Kwenin furthermore re-emphasized the commitment of the International Organisation of Migration to work alongside MIDWA and the ECOWAS Commission to address challenges to free movement and migration related issues.

7. Mr. Markus REISLE, Chief of World Programme Migration and Development of the Confederation of Switzerland reiterated the fact that migration is a renewed source of inspiration and innovation and an opportunity to development. That is the reason why Switzerland renewed its commitment to the ECOWAS Community for significant progress to be achieved, while respecting priorities agenda of Member States

II. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

8. The following bureau was established:

Chair : Nigeria

Rapporteurs: - Ghana

- Guinea

- Guinea-Bissau

III. ADOPTION OF THE WORK AGENDA

9. The meeting adopted the following Work Agenda :

a) Opening Ceremony

- Mr. Laouali CHAIBOU, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Trade, Customs, Free Movement of Persons and Tourism;
- Mr. Markus REISLE, Migration expert, Chief of the World Programme on Migration and Development from the Department of Development and Cooperation of the Swiss Confederation.
- Mr. Charles Kwenin, IOM Senior Regional Adviser for sub-Saharan Africa;
- Mr. Diakalidia KONATE, General Manager of the Identification National Bureau, representing the Minister of Interior and Security of Cote d'Ivoire.

b) Presentation and adoption of the final report of the MIDWA 2016 Experts Meeting

c) Presentation and adoption of the final report of Ministers of Security

d) Miscellaneous



IV. RESULTS OF THE SESSIONS

Point 1 : Adoption of Final report of the experts meeting

10. Monsieur N’Faly SANOH, ECOWAS Director Free Movement of Persons and Tourism presented the Final report and Recommendations of the Experts meeting held on 23 and 24 August.

11. Following discussions and amendments, the Security Ministers meeting made the following recommendations to be approved by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

a) Implementation and Operations of MIDWA

- ❖ To establish a Steering Committee for the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) ;
- ❖ To appoint National Secretariats in Member States ;
- ❖ To create seven(07) Focus groups in relation to migration :
 - Group 1 : Border Management, trafficking, cross-border crime
 - Group 2 : Diaspora, West African Communities and/or Nationals, stateless
 - Group 3 : Professional Mobility and Student Exchange
 - Group 4 : Climate Change, Land Degradation, Desertification, Environment and Migration
 - Group 5 : Migration Statistics Data
 - Group 6 : Return, Readmission and Reintegration
 - Group 7 : Cooperation and partnership

- ❖ The Creation of a MIDWA Permanent Secretariat. Cote d’Ivoire expressed the desire to host MIDWA’s headquarters in Abidjan. The Minister meeting has approved this request.

b) Free movement of persons and the upsurge of security issues including terrorist attacks

- Establishing satellite surveillance systems;
- Strengthening cooperation between Ministers of Security, Transport and Defence;
- Setting a Warning Mechanism and collecting reliable information and database;
- Boundary delimitation and demarcation;
- Building of joint border posts;
- Harmonizing control procedures at borders posts;
- Strengthening inter-States dialogue, intelligence sharing and local governance of trans-border management;
- Strengthening capacities of law enforcement officers at borders posts;
- Fight against the proliferation of spoiled products and fraudulent pharmaceutical products;

- Creation in each Member State of a National Monitoring Committee for goods and persons transports vehicles;
- Creation of the Biometric Identity Card in 2017 by all Member States;
- Urging State Members to produce electronic chip passports;
- Strengthening capacities of security officers at border posts and their collaboration with population.

c) Recommendations on the topic of Assessment of political, social and economic impact of Free Movement of persons in the Member States

- To create more detailed statistics data on the social and economic impact of the implementation of Protocol on Free Movement of Persons within the ECOWAS space;
- To protect migrants' rights in their host country.
- Migrants to comply with laws of the host country.

d) Recommendations on the topic of Consequences of desertification, land degradation and climate change on internal and intra-community migration movements :

- To strengthen hydro agricultural infrastructures and the creation of cereal banks;
- To develop early warning systems;
- To promote research on the linkage between climate change, desertification, land degradation and migration ;
- To strengthen rules and procedures on land security and trans-humance ;
- To strengthen resilience capacities of populations through adaptation of seed diversity to climate change and land degradation ;
- To strengthen trans-boundary natural resources management through involvement of local authorities ;
- To improve management and safeguarding of forest resources.

e) Recommendations on the topic of Opportunities and operating methods for a more efficient involvement of partners towards a better migration management.

To Partners:

- Financial support to Member States for the harmonization of travel documents, training of immigration staff ;
- Financial support to Member States for the equipment of land border posts ;
- Financial and technical support to Member States for the achievement of trans-border revenue generating projects;
- Support to the creation of youth and rural borders women employment.

To States :

- Continuous sensitization in specialized media in relation with citizens' rights and obligations on free movement;
- Implementation of the ECOWAS passports by Member States that have not yet complied with it;
- Census and biometric enrollment of citizens and establishment of identity documents ;
- Improvement of livelihood and work conditions of borders posts officers to fight against of borders' users harassments ;
- Adoption at the earliest of the African Union Strategy of Borders Management and adoption by Member States of the AU Convention on trans-border Cooperation;
- Strengthening of synergies between regional economic communities and the AU;
- Political commitment of the African continent through Ministers in charge of Environment/Climate Change at the COP 22 in Marrakesh in November 2016, to propose practical measures to address the impact of climate change and land degradation on migration and to promote green jobs ;
- Encourage the Rabat and Valetta processes to consider land degradation as a root cause of migration in West Africa and promote the development of mitigation measures;
- Involvement of the civil society as warning agents for sensitization in the fight against rackets.

To ECOWAS :

- Harmonization of employment legislation, which diversity is a hindrance to free establishment ;
- Signature of preferred specific agreements between ECOWAS and its immediate environment (Chad, Mauritania, Cameroun, etc.)
- Shared strategies for Security measures.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

12. Following review and amendments, the meeting adopted the final report.

VI. CLOSING CEREMONY

13. Mr. Laouali CHAIBOU, ECOWAS Commissioner Trade Customs and Free Movement, addressed sincere thank on behalf of the ECOWAS Com to the Ministers of Security for the quality of their participation and solutions reached to improve mobility of populations and guarantee their security in the region.

He solemnly urged them to take the urgent need to take urgent measures to suppress racketing and harassment at borders posts. He finally assured them of the commitment of ECOWAS to work towards the implementation of recommendations of the Ministers meeting.

14. On behalf of the Ministers Meeting, Mr. Abdulrahman BELLO DAMBAZAU, Ministry of Interior from the Federal Republic of Nigeria, commended in his closing address experts for the quality



of the report produced. He furthermore urged them to effectively implement the relevant recommendations that were formulated.

15. He then expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministers of security for their invaluable contribution to discussing on free movement of persons and migration related issues in West Africa. He wished that the conclusions and recommendations be adopted by the highest authorities of ECOWAS to alleviate the obstacles to free movement of goods and persons, and to guarantee security and ideally manage migration.
16. Finally, he urged Member States to endorse necessary measures to effectively implement commitments to which they adhered to within the framework of the implementation of the ECOWAS Biometric identity card and all other guidelines of the Protocol on Free Movement.

Done in Abidjan, this 25 August 2016

For the Meeting,



The Chair

Abdulrahman Bello DAMBAZAU
Minister of Interior Federal Republic of Nigeria

