

DECISION A/DEC. 2/7/85 OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ECOWAS TRAVEL CERTIFICATE FOR MEMBER STATES.

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

- **Mindful** of Article 5 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government, and determining its composition and functions;
- **Considering** the Protocol on free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment particularly the last paragraph of Article 1 relating to valid travel documents;
- **Convinced** of the need and advisability of adopting a harmonised travel document other than national passports for use within ECOWAS, in order to facilitate and simplify formalities governing movement of persons across the borders of Member States;
- **Convinced** of the primordial importance of the Protocol on the free movement of persons, right of residence and establishment in the achievement of the fundamental objectives of the ECOWAS Treaty.

DECIDES

FORM AND CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

Article 1

1. It is hereby established a travel document other than national passports, known as the "ECOWAS TRAVEL CERTIFICATE". It shall be in the format of a booklet measuring 12.5 cm x 8.5 cm with a light blue hard cover bearing the ECOWAS emblem.
2. Apart from the two (2) pages which serve as part of the cover, the booklet shall consist of thirty-two (32) inside pages, each bearing visible ECOWAS emblems and, in light green fugitive ink, continuous inscription of ECOWAS - CEDEAO.
3. The inside pages shall be numbered from two (2) to thirty-two (32), assembled and designed in the format of an "exercise book". They shall bear at the top the title "ECOWAS - CEDEAO", Immigration/Emigration stamps (in English and French).
4. (a) The covers and inside pages shall bear at the top and in the centre a serial number made up of:
 - a code number of three (3) figures corresponding to the Statistical Code of the country of issue.
 - a serial number.(b) The Issuing Authority shall give each ECOWAS Travel Certificate issued, a number written at the bottom of the first inside page, made up of:
 - the statistical code number of the Country of Issue
 - the serial number
 - year of issue

5. The first inside leaf shall bear:
 - on the first side which shall be laminated, a photograph of the holder; stamped by the Authority issuing the ECOWAS Travel Certificate
 - overleaf, the words "Minors accompanying the Holder".

In this space shall be inserted the surname, forenames, dates of birth and photographs of under-age members of the family accompanying the holder.

6. Page three (3) of the cover shall bear the following information (in English and French):
 - (a) on the upper half of the page:
 - Date of expiry
 - Place and date of issue
 - Signature and stamp of the Issuing Authority
 - (b) the lower half of the same page shall bear: "The validity of this Travel Certificate is hereby extended until..."

DONE AT

DATE.....

- Signature and stamp of the Authority extending validity of the ECOWAS Travel Certificate.

Article 2

There shall be fixed on each ECOWAS Travel Certificate issued:

- a full-face identification photograph measuring 4 cm x 4 cm;
- a thumb-print and where applicable the signature of the holder;
- the signature and stamp of the issuing authority;
- the place and date of issue;
- the expiry date.

CONDITION OF ISSUE AND EXTENSION

Article 3

1. Any national of a Member State may apply for issuance or extension of an ECOWAS Travel Certificate on condition that he has satisfied the requirements stipulated in the laws and regulations of his country of origin.
2. The Department responsible for issuance of travel document has national jurisdiction in this area and the applicant shall, therefore, address his application to the competent Authority in his country of origin. The application shall be directed to the nearest administrative Authority within the area of his domicile or principal place of residence.

Article 4

1. The ECOWAS Travel Certificate shall be issued or extended only on presentation of:

- a valid birth certificate, sworn affidavit in lieu of birth certificate or national identity card;
 - 4(four) 4 cm x 4 cm photographs
 - a completed application form containing all necessary information for identification of the applicant. Where necessary, the applicant shall be required to give proof of his identity, his nationality and his occupation in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in his country of origin.
2. The ECOWAS Travel Certificate is issued on an individual basis. Couples shall not be issued with one Single Certificate. Under-age children may be included on the Certificate of the accompanying adult. Any person above fifteen (15) years of age shall be required to obtain his own ECOWAS Travel Certificate.
 3. Applications for the ECOWAS Travel Certificate shall attract a stamp duty of..... in accordance with the stamps and registry code of each Member State.

AUTHORITY EMPOWERED TO ISSUE ECOWAS TRAVEL CERTIFICATE

Article 5

ECOWAS Travel Certificates shall be printed and issued under the supervision and control of the competent national Authorities of each Member State. They shall be in English and French.

DURATION OF VALIDITY

Article 6

1. An ECOWAS Travel Certificate shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issue. This period may be extended only once for two additional years.
2. A valid ECOWAS Travel Certificate may be used for several journeys.

SANCTIONS

Article 7

The following acts shall constitute an offence and shall be liable to legal proceedings which may be instituted according to the provisions of the Penal Code of each ECOWAS Member State:

- the issuance of an ECOWAS Travel Certificate under false pretences, i.e. on the basis of presentation of false documents and the use of such an ECOWAS Travel Certificate;
- the transfer, even temporarily, of an ECOWAS Travel Certificate or the use of a borrowed or stolen ECOWAS Travel Certificate;
- the forging, counterfeiting or alteration of an ECOWAS Travel Certificate thus counterfeited or altered.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 8

A specimen of the TRAVEL CERTIFICATE of ECOWAS MEMBER STATES is an

appendix to this Decision.

Article 9

Member States shall take all necessary administrative and legislative measures for the speedy implementation of this Decision.

Article 10

This Decision shall enter into force upon signature and shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community and in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**DONE IN LOME, THIS 6TH DAY OF JULY, 1985 IN ONE SINGLE ORIGINAL
IN THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH LANGUAGES, BOTH TEXTS BEING
EQUALLY AUTHENTIC**

FOR THE AUTHORITY

**H.E. MAJOR GENERAL MUHAMMADU BUHARI
THE CHAIRMAN**