

## **DECISION A/DEC.11/01/06 RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2006-2010 ECOWAS REGIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME**

### **THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

CONVINCED of the importance of statistical information in the development and integration of the West African region;

NOTING the inadequate functioning of national statistical systems of Member States in the production of reliable and up-to-date data relating to Member States;

MINDFUL of the Decision A/DEC.11/7/96 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to the adoption of an ECOWAS Statistics Policy;

CONSCIOUS that statistics constitutes a public good for which sustainable funding of production is firstly the duty of Member States;

DETERMINED to strengthen the regional mechanism for the production, harmonisation and dissemination of statistical information necessary for the monitoring of economic and social development in the ECOWAS region;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifth-fifth Session of the Council of Ministers held in Niamey from 7th, 8th and 11th January 2006;

### **DECIDES:**

#### **Article I: ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME**

The ECOWAS 2006-2010 regional statistical programme is hereby adopted and attached to this Decision as an integral part.

#### **Article II: OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this statistical development programme for West Africa is to create the conditions for each country in the region to have the capacity to produce the minimum statistical information necessary for decision-making by national authorities

and the international community as well as socio-economic operators.

More particularly, the programme is designed to better meet the needs of multilateral and commercial surveillance systems as well as the monetary integration objectives of West Africa and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The quest for this minimum information will take into account the requirements on quality, comparability, timeliness, integrity and availability of data for users. To this effect, it has national and regional components.

#### **Article III: COORDINATION OF THE REGIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME**

The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, in close collaboration with Member States, shall be responsible for the preparation of annual programmes and for the monitoring of the implementation of actions, in conformity with the objectives of the programme.

Also, necessary arrangements will be made by the Executive Secretariat for the sensitisation of all national, regional and international parties involved in the implementation of the programme and to ensure effective functioning of national statistical systems.

#### **Article IV : MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The ECOWAS Directors of Statistics will assess continuous implementation of the programme and formulate necessary guidelines for its efficient execution. Final evaluation of the programme will be done in 2010 by the Executive Secretariat in order to design a possible successor of the programme.

#### **Article V: FUNDING OF THE REGIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME**

The Executive Secretariat will mobilise funding for the implementation of the regional component of the programme.


Funding for the national component of the programme will be mobilised by each Member State Government, with the assistance of the Executive Secretariat.

In order to sustain effective functioning of national statistical systems, particularly through adequate human, material and financial resources, the Executive Secretariat will carry out a study on the feasibility of creating a Support Fund for statistical development in West Africa.

**Article VI: ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT NIAMEY,  
THIS 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2006**



.....  
**H.E. MAMADOU TANDJA  
CHAIRMAN  
FOR THE AUTHORITY**

**DECISION A/DEC.12/01/06 SETTING NEW MODALITIES FOR THE PREPARATION OF STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE IN THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES TO REPLACE DECISION C/DEC.3/6/86**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.7/11/79 of the Council of Ministers relating to the programme on trade liberalisation, co-operation and related problems;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC 3/11/82 of 17 November, 1982 relating to the coding of ECOWAS customs, statistical and tax regimes;

AWARE of the methodological disparities relating to the modalities on preparation of external trade statistics in Member States resulting from Decision C/DEC/3/6/86 relating to the regulations on the modalities for the preparation of foreign trade statistics of ECOWAS Member States;

CONSIDERING the conclusions of the consultative meeting between the UEMOA Commission and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat on the harmonisation of statistical and customs procedures, held in Ouagadougou from 5 to 7 April 2005;

CONSIDERING that data collection and processing of external trade statistics is a responsibility of Member States on the one hand, whilst on the other hand, the Executive Secretariat has to integrate the harmonisation and consolidation of national data for disseminating Community statistics;

CONSIDERING the outcome of the study required by the Executive Secretariat for the update of the legal, customs and statistical framework for the compilation of external trade statistics within ECOWAS, and their conformity with international standards;

CONSIDERING the conclusions of the national external trade statistics experts and customs officials at their meeting on 11 September 2005 in Abuja;

MINDFUL of the necessity to ensure quality and reliability of external trade statistics produced by Member States, through a common methodological framework which conforms with the international standards;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty fifth Session of the Council of Ministers held in Niamey from 7 to 8, and 11 January 2006:

**DECIDES****ARTICLE 1**

This Decision replaces Decision C/DEC.3/6/86 and sets new modalities for the preparation of external trade statistics of Member States taking into consideration the provisions in the text attached to this Decision.

**ARTICLE 2**

Member States shall take all necessary measures at national level to ensure the diligent implementation of this Decision and shall forward to the Executive Secretariat the instruments pertaining to its implementation.