



Press Releases



-- Select a year -- Year 2009 Selected

En Français

N°: 111/2009

17 October 2009 [Abuja]

ECOWAS LEADERS CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN NIGER, WANT NEW TRANSITION AUTHORITY IN GUINEA

ECOWAS Heads of State have expressed strong support to President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso for his mediation efforts in the Guinean crisis and have urged him to speed up the dialogue among the Guinean political actors with the aim of:

- establishing a new transitional authority to ensure a short and peaceful transition to constitutional order through credible, free and fair elections;
- ensuring that the Chairman and members of the CNDD, the Prime Minister and those who hold high offices in the new transitional authority will not be candidates in the forthcoming presidential elections; as well as
- setting up benchmarks in the transition chronogram already agreed and ensuring a timely achievement of the set benchmarks.

In a communiqué issued at their day-long extraordinary summit on 17th October 2009 in Abuja, the Heads of State, welcomed the decision of the Secretary General of the United Nations to establish the Commission of Enquiry to investigate the 28th September 2009 violence in Guinea, the Heads of State called on all concerned Guinean parties and other stakeholders to fully cooperate with the Commission.

They directed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to work with the UN Secretary General, the Chairperson of the AU to create a conducive and enabling environment, including the provision of a security cover, to allow the Commission of Enquiry to undertake its mission.

The President of the ECOWAS will also work with the AU on a regime of targeted sanctions against individuals who would pose a threat to the implementation of the transitional agenda.

According to the summit, he will also work with the new transitional authority and subsequently the new government at the end of the transition, in designing a programme for security sector reform, with the support of the AU, the UN and other partners.

They strongly condemned the brutal acts, rapes and the massacre perpetrated by armed troops under the authority of the against women and unarmed civilians during a gathering of members of the Forces Vives on 28th September 2009.

In view of the atrocities committed on 28th September 2009 and the steps taken by the National Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD) authorities to acquire new weapons, the Heads of State imposed an arms embargo on Guinea under the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunitions and Related Materials, and directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all necessary measures to obtain the support of the African Union, the

European Union and the United Nations in the implementation and enforcement of the embargo.

They also directed the ECOWAS Commission to implement the relevant provisions of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and recommended to the international community to impose total embargo on arms shipment for Guinea.

On Niger, after considering the referendum held on 4th August 2009 and the circumstances of its organization as being against the Constitution of Niger and a violation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, the Heads of State called on the Nigerien authorities to desist from further acts that could deepen divisions within the country and exacerbate the political atmosphere.

In this regard, the Heads of State imposed on Niger sanctions stipulated under Article 45 (a) and (b) of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, by "the refusal to support candidates presented by the Member State concerned for elective posts in the international organisations; and refusal to organize ECOWAS meetings in the Member State concerned".

They also urgently requested President Mamadou Tandja and the Niger authorities to suspend indefinitely the legislative elections scheduled for 20th October 2009 in favour of dialogue with the other leading political parties on resolving the political crisis in the country.

The summit appointed former Head of State of Nigeria, retired General Abdulsalami Abubakar, as ECOWAS Mediator for Niger and urged him to convene immediately a meeting of Nigerien stakeholders in Abuja to re-establish political dialogue aimed at creating national consensus on the way forward.

In addition, they immediately despatched a team composed of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and General Abubakar Abdulsalami to Niamey to meet President Tandja on Sunday, 18th October 2009 to present their message and facilitate dialogue between the stakeholders.

The Heads of State further decided that failure by President Tandja to comply with their decisions "would lead to the automatic and immediate imposition of full sanctions as stipulated under Article 45 of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and a referral of the Niger file to the African Union for similar action".

According to Article 45, it means "suspension of the Member State concerned from all ECOWAS decision-making bodies. During the period of the suspension the Member State concerned shall be obliged to pay its dues for the period". They directed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to transmit their present decision to the Chairman of the AU Commission and to the AU Peace and Security Council for appropriate action.

The Heads of State reiterated the unflinching commitment of Member States to the principles of democracy and the rule of law, and their rejection of unconstitutional accession to, or maintenance of power in line with, ECOWAS Protocols and relevant AU instruments.

They thus called for more effective measures at regional and continental levels to combat the violation of and the temptation to violate national, regional and continental instruments, principles and norms on democracy and good governance.

List of Press Releases in 2009

[Back](#)

Send comments to: webmaster@ecowas.int

Created and maintained by the [Community Computer Centre \(CCC\)](#) in collaboration with the [Department of Information](#)
Copyright © ECOWAS 2003