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**ECOWAS PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
KINGDOM OF DENMARK**

**JANUARY - JUNE 2016**

**STATUS REPORT**

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**June, 2016  
Abuja, Nigeria**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

On 2 February, 2016, the Royal Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa transmitted the Note Verbale No. 32/2016 which confirmed the approval of the ECOWAS Work Plan of Danish funded programmes for 2016. The 2016 programmes included activities from the Directorates of Early Warning, Gender, Mediation Facilitation, Peacekeeping and Regional Security, and Political Affairs. It also included a budget for the capacity building of ECPF Focal Point Directorates, the reprinting of copies of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework and the external audit of the Danish contributions to ECOWAS for the 2015 financial year.

Although the Danish disbursement for 2016 has not been authorized due to the delay in the transmission of the Audit Report of the Danish contributions to ECOWAS for the 2013 and 2014 financial years and the 2012 ECOWAS official Audit Report, the ECOWAS Focal Point Directorates have started implementing the 2016 Work Plan using the funds remaining in the APP II ECOWAS account.

This report focuses on activities conducted from January up to date and those which are planned and will be conducted in the coming weeks. Challenges encountered and recommendations to overcome them will also be reported.

## **II. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2016**

### **A. GENDER DIRECTORATE**

The Directorate of Gender is working in close collaboration with the Electoral Assistance Unit on the development of an "ECOWAS Gender and Elections Strategic Framework". The ECOWAS Commission is developing a strategic framework that can be used as a tool by Member states to intentionally and proactively take gender into account in the analysis, planning and implementation of all electoral processes, as well as in all interactions by stakeholders involved in electoral processes. The ECOWAS Gender and Elections Strategic Framework can be used by Member states as a reference and guide to develop policies and programs to strongly influence the degree to which women are able to participate in elections and governance.

#### **STATUS:**

- Consultation meeting held between the Directorates of Gender and Political Affairs in March, 2016.
- Resource person identified and recommended by the Elections Unit to develop the First Draft of the Gender and Elections Framework.
- TOR and Time Framework for the Development of the Framework Finalized – April, 2016.
- Technical Meeting to Review the First Draft of the ECOWAS Gender and Elections Strategic Framework scheduled to hold in, Lomé, Togo, 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 has been approved for implementation by ECOWAS Management.

- A Regional Follow-Up Meeting to be held in Abuja in which all ECOWAS Member states will be represented and also the staff of the ECOWAS Commission including representative from the ECOWAS Gender and Development Center to validate the ECOWAS Gender and Elections Framework.
- The Commissioner Social Affairs and Gender has requested that the ECOWAS Gender and Elections Framework be submitted for consideration and adoption at the planned ECOWAS Experts and Ministers of Women Affairs Meeting in Ouagadougou, to be held towards the end of July, 2016.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUT**

ECOWAS Gender and Elections Strategic Framework

## **B. MEDIATION FACILITATION DIRECTORATE**

### **1. WORKING EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) MEDIATION STRUCTURE, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 30 MAY – 3 JUNE 2016**

The overall objective of the working visit was first and foremost to deepen collaboration and coordination on mediation initiatives, as well as the sharing of knowledge and understanding of other mediation structures, frameworks, tools, methodologies and relevant resources that would help promote coherence and synergy in dialogue and mediation efforts between ECOWAS Commission and the AU Commission (AUC).

The specific objectives are:

- To brainstorm and share lessons from AU/ECOWAS joint mediation interventions;
- To share experiences and explore possible areas for partnership and collaboration between the AU Panel of the Wise and the ECOWAS Council of the Wise (CoW);
- To build networks and explore possible work-plans and activities to be implemented jointly;
- To strengthen collaboration and coordination of joint initiatives in the field of mediation and preventive diplomacy.

The mission was led by the Ag. Director, Mme Florence Iheme which was also composed of the following:

- Ebenezer Asiedu, Head of Division
- Brown Odigie, P.O. Capacity Building
- Mariame Camara, P.O. Mediation Resources

During its mission, the MFD team met with the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Panel of the Wise, the Head of Conflict Prevention and Early Warning, the Head of Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (and his team), the Director of Africa Regional Clusters of the UNDP, Representative of DANIDA, and the Ag. Director of the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission.

## **2. SUPPORT THE ADOPTION PROCESS OF THE STATUS OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF THE WISE**

This activity was partly funded by the GIZ and with DANIDA funding. Aspect of funding from DANIDA was payment of differences in the DSA of the workshop participants. The Validation workshop of the draft Statute for the ECOWAS Council of the Wise was organized by the Mediation and Facilitation Directorate from 4 to 5 May, 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria. The purpose of the workshop was to deliberate, review and validate the draft Statute by Member States' Experts for presentation to the Mediation and Security Council (MSC) for consideration and approval.

NOTE: Details of the actual amount spent on these activities can be supplied by the Finance Directorate (Donor Fund Unit).

### **C. ECPF SECRETARIAT**

In the first half of 2016, the ECPF Secretariat aimed to achieve the following objectives: to identify ECPF priority programmes for 2016, build the capacity of the ECPF Focal Points on Results-Based Management, develop a fund raising strategy for the effective implementation of ECPF programmes, and launch the redesigned ECPF Web Portal. The ECPF Secretariat also aimed to ensure the finalization of the audit of the Danish contributions to ECOWAS for the 2013 and 2014 financial years by the external auditors, KPMG Ghana.

The ECPF Secretariat held meetings with Development Partners such as the Thematic Group on Peace and Security, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nigeria, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to discuss potential areas of collaboration on the implementation of ECPF programmes at the Commission.

Below is a detailed description of the activities of the ECPF Secretariat during the first half of 2016.

#### **1. ECPF INTERNAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - 11 APRIL, 2016**

The Internal Steering Committee (ISC) on the implementation of the ECPF convened a meeting on 11 April, 2016 to brief Focal Point Directorates on the steps taken by the ECPF Secretariat to operationalize the ECPF with a view of having a more stable, conflict-free region where the envisaged greater atmosphere of peace can help in the realization of the ECOWAS integration goals. During the meeting, participants were briefed by the ECPF Secretariat on the fund raising strategy for the effective implementation of the ECPF and priority programmes for 2016. Presentations were also made on ECOWAS financial procedures, European Union (EU) procurement procedures, and the redesigned ECPF Web Portal.

#### **2. RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS - 2 - 13 May, 2016**

Six (6) representatives of the ECPF Focal Points (including the ECPF Secretariat, the Strategic Planning and External Relations Directorates and the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit) attended a training on Results-Based Management and Performance Measurements conducted by SETYM International in Marrakesh, Morocco.

The primary objective of the training was to impart practical knowledge and skills to participants that will enable them develop and implement a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for the ECPF. The M&E system is expected to assist the ECPF Secretariat to assess the progress of all aspects of the ECPF on a regular basis with a view to gauging achievement of target outcomes and impacts on the conflict landscape in West Africa and provide relevant information to decision makers for corrective actions whenever required.

At the end of the training seminar, all the six (6) participants from the ECOWAS Commission expressed their satisfaction with the delivery of the seminar and confirmed that their knowledge and application of the concepts and tools of Results Based Management and Performance Measurement have increased considerably.

### **3. MEETING WITH UNDP NIGERIA - 17 FEBRUARY, 2016**

The ECOWAS Commission visited the UNDP Nigeria Country Office on 17 February, 2016 to give a briefing on ECOWAS conflict prevention programmes. During the meeting, the Commission requested for UNDP Nigeria's partnership in the implementation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). UNDP Nigeria promised to internally deliberate and respond to the Commission's request.

On 30 May, 2016, UNDP Nigeria wrote to convey its readiness to partner with the Commission in the implementation of the ECPF and recommended that each institution nominate staff at the technical level to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding and Work Plan for consideration. In this regard, the Commission has nominated staff from the ECPF Secretariat, Early Warning Directorate, Democracy and Good Governance Division, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to join the ECOWAS and UNDP Nigeria Strategic Partnership technical working group.

### **4. MEETING WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS THEMATIC GROUP ON PEACE AND SECURITY - 26 FEBRUARY & 24 MAY, 2016**

The ECPF Secretariat had a meeting with the Development Partners Thematic Group on Peace and Security on 26 February, 2016 on the operationalization of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) at the Embassy of Austria. During the meeting, the ECPF Secretariat briefed the Partners on the rate of implementation of the ECPF, the redesigning and finalization of the ECPF Web Portal, the funding committed for ECPF programmes in 2016 by Partners and ECPF priority programmes in need of funding for 2016.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed on the need to finalize the Mapping Exercise, which was initially funded by Norway and Sweden, and for Partners to complete their responsibilities for the Mapping Exercise by reporting on the ECPF Components that they are interested in supporting. The ECPF Secretariat were requested to create a template for Partners to indicate their support to ECPF Components. As a follow up to the meeting, the ECPF Secretariat liaised with Mr. Pascal Holliger, Co-Chair of the Thematic Group on Peace and Security, to arrange for a meeting to brainstorm about a mapping tool that can assist Development Partners to capture their contributions to the ECPF priority areas for 2015 to 2017.

In this regard, a second meeting was held on Tuesday, 24 May, 2016 on the development of the mapping tool and the process that would lead to the finalization of the Mapping Exercise. During the meeting, the participants recommended changes to the mapping tool. The ECPF Secretariat promised

to incorporate all of the recommendations to the mapping tool and transmit the draft template to Mr. Pascal Holliger for circulation to the other members of the Thematic Group on Peace and Security.

#### **5. MEETING WITH GIZ – 23 MAY, 2016**

The ECPF Secretariat held a meeting with Mrs. Yvonne Akpasom, Head of Peace and Security, GIZ, on GIZ's support for a Consultancy to develop a report on the Operationalization of the ECPF at the ECOWAS Directorate level from 2013 to 2016. At the end of the meeting GIZ and the ECPF Secretariat agreed on a contract for a consultant based on the Terms of Reference developed by the ECPF Secretariat.

#### **6. MEETING WITH OSIWA – 6 JUNE, 2016**

The Directorate of Political Affairs and Agriculture held a meeting with representatives of OSIWA, Mr. Abdul Tejan-Cole, Executive Director, OSIWA, Mr. Udo Jude Ilo, Country Officer, Nigeria and Ms. Catherine Angai, Program Coordinator Democracy and Accountability to discuss potential areas of collaboration between the two organizations. During the meeting, the participants discussed the current cooperation between OSIWA and ECOWAS, the development towards operationalizing the ECPF, the ongoing programmes of the Political Affairs Directorate and areas of collaboration between ECOWAS and OSIWA. The OSIWA delegation informed the meeting on the preparation of a 2017 – 2020 Strategy for the organization's intervention in West Africa. At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed to develop programmes, particularly in the areas of transhumance, electoral assistance to Election Management Bodies, and Human Rights and anti-corruption institutions, which may be included in the 2017 – 2020 OSIWA Strategy.

#### **7. AUDIT OF DANISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO ECOWAS FOR THE 2013 AND 2014 FINANCIAL YEARS**

On 25 June, 2015, the Danish Government authorized the audit of its 2013 and 2014 contributions to ECOWAS through the Note Verbale No. 129/2015. To this end, the Commission drafted the Terms of Reference of the external auditor which was shared with the Danish Government for their review and endorsement. Following the approval of the auditor's Terms of Reference, the Commission commenced the process of shortlisting an external auditor. During this process, the Danish Government, through the Royal Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa, indicated their preference for international auditing firms such as KPMG, PWC and others. Due to the previous engagement of KPMG Ghana with the Commission, KPMG Ghana was selected as the auditor to conduct the audit of the Danish contributions to ECOWAS.

Upon recruitment of the external auditor in October, 2015, the External Funds Unit in the Finance Directorate and the ECPF Secretariat worked closely with KPMG Ghana to provide them with all necessary documentation pertaining to the audit report. KPMG Ghana transmitted the final audit report to the Commission in March, 2016. The Finance Directorate reviewed and endorsed the audit report and management letter to KPMG Ghana and transmitted the documents in May, 2016. KPMG Ghana informed the Commission that they will transmit the final audit report documents to the Commission and the Royal Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa on Tuesday, 31 May, 2016.

### **III. ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE 2016**

#### **1- INTERNAL STEERING COMMITTEE (ISC) MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOWAS CONFLICT PREVENTION FRAMEWORK (ECPF), ECOWAS COMMISSION, 14 JUNE, 2016**

Since the last ISC meeting which took place on 11 April, 2016, the ECPF Secretariat has taken steps towards increasing the funding support for the ECPF Focal Point Directorates and enhancing the monitoring strategy for the ECPF reporting process. In this regard, an ISC meeting is scheduled to hold on 14 June, 2016 for the purpose of briefing Focal Point Directorates on the outcome of meetings with Development Partners, lessons from a Results-Based Management Training attended by selected ECOWAS staff, and the completion and launch of the ECPF website.

#### **2- TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE ECOWAS GENDER AND ELECTIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

Elections have become conflicting issues in the Region. The ECOWAS Commission is developing a strategic framework that can be used as a tool by Member states to intentionally and proactively take gender into account in the analysis, planning and implementation of all electoral processes. A technical meeting is planned to be held in, Lomé, Togo, 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016. The outcome of the meeting is to finalize an ECOWAS Gender and Elections Framework that will be submitted for consideration and adoption at the planned ECOWAS Experts and Ministers of Women Affairs Meeting in Ouagadougou, in July, 2016.

### **IV. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Despite the goodwill demonstrates by ECPF Secretariat to better coordinate, sensitize, advocate and mobilize resources for the smooth implementation of the planned activities, the ECPF Secretariat is still facing some external challenges that are affecting its performance. The challenges are related to the work load affecting the speed of delivery of some requests, some technical constraints and the difficulties in collaborating with external partners such as KPMG Ghana on audit reports.

To overcome these challenges, the ECPF Secretariat is suggesting the following:

- To recruit an Accountant in charge of ECPF financial resources to speed up ECPF financial requests;
- To liaise with other international firms for the next audit report.