

**Economic Community of West African States
(ECOWAS)**

**West Africa Power Pool
(WAPP)**

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ECOWAS ENERGY
MINISTERS,**

**MEMBERS OF THE WAPP STEERING
COMMITTEE**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Accra 28, October 2005

1. The ECOWAS Energy Ministers, members of the Steering Committee of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP), held their seventh meeting in Accra, the Republic of Ghana, on 28th October 2005. The opening ceremony was chaired by the Honourable Prof. Mike OQUAYE, Minister for Energy, Ghana.
2. The objectives of this meeting were to review progress on the implementation of WAPP project, and to examine the WAPP Articles of Agreement as well as the Resolution for a Policy on Access to Energy Services for Rural and Periurban Populations. For the Ministers, this was also an opportunity to interact with the WAPP donors on the status of implementation of the WAPP priority projects.
3. The Steering Committee expressed its condolences to the Government and people of Nigeria and the entire ECOWAS Community for the death of President Obasanjo's wife and those involved in the fatal plane crash of 22nd October 2005 in Nigeria.

WAPP

4. Having reviewed the report presented by the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) who are the Managing Directors of the electricity companies, the Steering Committee applauded the achievements made towards the WAPP project implementation and adopted the report of the PIC.
5. The Steering Committee congratulated the WAPP Technical and Institutional Working Groups, the Project Implementation Committee and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat for the achievements in the implementation of the WAPP project and heartily encouraged them to continue their efforts.
6. The WAPP Articles of Agreement seek to institute a governance structure for the WAPP, allowing for participation of private power entities, its organisation and functions, in order to establish a good framework of cooperation among its Members to ensure improved efficiency of power supply in ECOWAS Member States and increased access to energy for its citizens.

- 7. The WAPP Articles of Agreement will assist in the implementation of the revised Master Plan, which is structured to promote economies of scale through integrated development of the strategic generation and transmission infrastructure. Implementation of the Master Plan will significantly increase the possibilities for long-term growth in cross-border power trading, including the wheeling of power by Member States.**
- 8. The Steering Committee therefore resolved as follows:**

 - a) That the ECOWAS Council of Ministers endorses the WAPP Articles of Agreement and submits for adoption by the Heads of State and Government.**
 - b) That the Heads of State and Government authorize the utilities to sign the adopted Articles of Agreement.**
 - c) That the ECOWAS Secretariat second one of its full-time staff to serve as an interim Secretary General of the WAPP Organization.**
 - d) That the ECOWAS Secretariat oversees the establishment of the WAPP Organization.**
 - e) That the ECOWAS Secretariat and the interim Secretary General be empowered to mobilise funding required for the establishment of the WAPP Organisation from the development partners.**
- 9. The revised Master Plan for electricity generation and transmission includes 16 priority transmission projects for WAPP requiring a total investment of US\$1.269 billion (2004 prices). Total investment in generation and transmission is estimated at US\$16 billion of which about US\$9 billion will be required in the first and second phases (2004-2011). Financing priorities include new hydroelectric infrastructure planned for development in the framework of the OMVG (Kaleta and Sambangalou) and the OMVS (Felou and Gouina) projects**
- 10. The Steering Committee recommended that the ECOWAS Secretariat ensures that the ongoing study on the NorthCore Project between Nigeria, Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso, takes into account the necessity of interconnecting Benin with the existing North Togo-Benin transmission line.**

- 11. The Steering Committee welcomed the proposal made by the Energy Minister of Guinea on the sharing of the huge hydro potential of Guinea in the framework of the WAPP. It also acknowledged the participation of the Republic of Guinea in the OMVS organisation, the Protocol signed between Guinea and Senegal for the sharing of the hydro potential of Souapiti, and the Protocol signed with Mali for the sharing of the hydro potential of Fomi. The Steering Committee urged all Member States to come together and develop the energy resources available within the region, particularly in Guinea.**
- 12. The Steering Committee recommended that the ECOWAS Secretariat should develop and submit a proposal to the World Bank to augment resources available in the WAPP-APL Facility and associated River Basin Development Programmes to finance the rehabilitation of existing hydro power facilities and accelerate the development of hydro power prospects throughout the sub-region, emphasizing the special role of hydropower in securing economic reconstruction in the Mano River Union Member States.**
- 13. The Steering Committee recommended that a Task Force be formed to elaborate a way forward for the short term recovery of the power systems of Mano River Union Member States (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea) comprising experts from Ghana (Eric Asare), CEB (Claude Gbaguidi), Benin (Mathurin AHONOUKOUN) and Guinea (Alpha Oumar Barry) and another Task Force comprising Guinea (Ousmane Tanou Diallo), Cote D'Ivoire (Leon Paul Kouassi) and Senegal (Baba Diallo) develop a proposal for Guinea Bissau.**
- 14. Senegal reiterated its interest to host the offices of the Regional Regulatory Body for the electricity sector being developed by the ECOWAS Secretariat.**

ENERGY ACCESS INITIATIVE

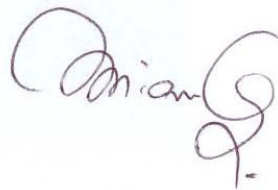
- 15. Having reviewed the report presented by the Regional Multi-sectoral Committee (two representatives per country), the 7th Meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers, commended the achievements made towards the finalisation of the White Paper for a Regional Policy on Access to Energy Services and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Multi-sectoral Committee.**
- 16. The 7th Meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers congratulated the Regional Multi-sectoral Committee, the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and the WAEMU Commission, for the design of a Regional Policy based on the White Paper, including a Regional Action Plan and its implementation strategy, and an Investment Programme, and heartily encouraged them to continue their efforts.**
- 17. The 7th meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers adopted a Resolution relating to the Regional Policy on Access to Energy Services by Rural and Peri-urban Populations, for the ECOWAS Region. Furthermore, the ECOWAS Energy Ministers recommended that the Regional Policy on Access to Energy Services by Rural and Periurban Populations be submitted for endorsement to the Council of Ministers and for adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS and WAEMU.**
- 18. The Regional Policy for Access to Energy Services, based on the ECOWAS / WAEMU White Paper, has as global objective, by 2015, to ensure access to modern energy services to at least half of the population living in rural and peri-urban areas.**
- 19. This objective is fully compatible with the previous commitments made by NEPAD, and more recently by the Forum of African Energy Ministers (FEMA), during the Millennium Summit in September 2005.**
- 20. The Regional Policy is also fully compatible with the development objectives expressed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), proposing ambitious goals, to help the region scale up its initiatives and strengthen the links between energy and all other sectors.**
- 21. The Regional Policy includes a Regional Action Plan and an implementation strategy for the development of a common Investment Programme within the region.**

- 22. The Regional Action Plan is structured around four themes of actions for the region, detailed below :**
- a) Building capacities of public and private actors and developing methodologies**
 - b) Help raise loans and finance from the private sector for projects aimed at extending energy services to rural and periurban areas**
 - c) Exchanging and disseminating sub-regional experiences of supplying energy services in rural and periurban areas (knowledge management)**
 - d) Promotion of local production of energy goods and services**
- 23. The four (4) themes of actions defined in the Regional Action Plan are estimated to require US\$231.9 million for implementation, over a 10-year period.**
- 24. The common Investment Programme, that the Region intends to promote and develop based on the Regional Action Plan, is composed of three (3) specific regional investment programmes:**
- a) Access to modern domestic fuels for cooking, for all rural and peri-urban populations,**
 - b) Access to productive services, in particular motive power, to increase productivity and access to modern social services in rural areas.**
 - c) Access to electricity services**
- 25. The Investment Programme is estimated to cost US\$52 billion over a period of 10 years. This represents US\$16 per inhabitant, or 4,3% of the regional GDP.**

26. The 7th meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers requested the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and the WAEMU commission, to set up the necessary institutional framework to prepare the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and of the Investment Programme. This should start with the definition of the internal regulation and rules of procedure of the Regional Multisectoral Committee.
27. The 7th meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers requested the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and the WAEMU commission, to undertake the preliminary actions defined in order to make operational, the implementation strategy of the Regional Action Plan.
28. The 7th meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers adopted the recommendation relating to the designation of Nigeria as the Chairman of the Regional Multisectoral Committee and Senegal as the Vice-Chairman, pending formulation and adoption of the internal regulation and rules of proceedings of the Regional Multisectoral Committee.
29. Prof. A.O. ADEGBULUGBE and Louis SECK, were respectively designated Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Regional Multisectoral Committee.
30. The 7th Meeting of ECOWAS Energy Ministers also expressed its profound gratitude to the UNDP, European Union and French Government for their support for the ECOWAS / WAEMU joint initiative on developing a Regional Policy, through a White Paper on Access to Energy Services by Rural and Periurban Populations of the subregion.
31. The Steering Committee congratulated the World Bank for making available an Adaptable Programme Lending (APL) facility of \$350 million for the implementation of WAPP priority projects, and the other Donors for their continued support for the WAPP project.
32. The 7th Meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers welcomed the commitments announced by the WAPP donors during the 7th coordination meeting held in Accra on October 26, 2005, and those announced by the partners on the ECOWAS/WAEMU initiative on Access to Energy services by rural and peri-urban populations at their meeting.

33. The 7th Meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers congratulated Maître Madické NIANG and Samuel Amete SARR, respectively outgoing Chairmen of the WAPP Steering Committee and of the WAPP Project Implementation Committee, for their effort in advancing the implementation of the WAPP project during their tenure.
34. The Steering Committee of the West Africa Power Pool elected the Honourable Professor Mike OQUAYE, Minister for Energy of Ghana, as Chairman of the Steering Committee of the West Africa Power Pool.
35. The Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Mr Joshua OFEDIE, was subsequently elected Chairman of the Project Implementation Committee of the WAPP.
36. Finally, the 7th Meeting of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers expressed its profound gratitude to the People and Government of Ghana, particularly to His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, the President of the Republic of Ghana, for the warm and deep African hospitality they enjoyed during their stay in Accra.

Done in Accra on the 28th day of October 2005,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Niang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Chairman,
Maître Madické NIANG.