



FORTY FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Yamoussoukro, 29 June 2012

DIRECTIVE A/DIR.1/06/12 ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;

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

MINDFUL of Article 27 of the said Treaty on Science and Technology;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P3/1/03 on Education and Training;

MINDFUL of Supplementary Act A/SA.2/06/12 adopting the ECOWAS Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation;

CONSIDERING the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation to the economic and social development of the region;

CONSIDERING the objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) relating to sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth and development and poverty eradication;

CONSIDERING the need for the establishment of sustainable institutional and structural mechanisms for common regional programmes on science, technology and innovation within the ECOWAS region;

CONSIDERING the potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in supporting all programs aimed at achieving sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth and poverty eradication in the region through the implementation of the ECOWAS Community Programme (CDP), ECOWAS decisions and declarations, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the ECOWAS Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation, (ECOPOST) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);



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RECALLING the ECOWAS Protocol A/P3/1/03 on Education and Training in its Article 8(b) which urges ECOWAS Member States, in collaboration with universities and research institutions specialized in vital fields to fully harness the scarce financial resources and research infrastructures.

RECALLING the paramount importance accorded to science, technology and innovation (STI) in the Community Development Programme (CDP) and the need to strengthen the region's capacities to coordinate its collaboration in science, Technology and Innovation;

CONVINCED that the Member States' capacity to create, acquire, accumulate, disseminate and exploit scientific and technological know-how is an indispensable factor to industrial development;

AWARE that income inequality between rich and poor countries is largely attributable to differences in the acquisition, accumulation, dissemination and use of STIs;

AWARE also of the importance of protecting intellectual property rights (IPRs) as part of the promotion of STI development and application;

DESIROUS of promoting the development, transfer and mastery of science, technology and innovation (STI);

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Sixty Eighth Session of the Council of Ministers which took place in Abidjan on the 11 – 12 June 2012.

PRESCRIBE AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1 DÉFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires: "**Centre of Excellence**" according to UNESCO should be defined broadly. It may include various national, regional and international institutions that are capable of offering services that meet certain criteria set by the Member States or regions, and satisfactorily justify the investments of clients interested in their activities. A center of excellence may therefore be a research or training



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institute, a university or any of its departments, a laboratory, a science museum, a cultural museum, a library, or any other appropriate entity. These centers should be geographically evenly distributed across the region and the choice of the locations should be made in mutual assent with a view to determining the selection criteria, the priority research areas and the appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that these centers discharge their duties satisfactorily.

"Council" means the Council of Ministers of the ECOWAS Community established under Article 10 of the ECOWAS Treaty;

"Regional Strategic Orientation Committee (RSOC)" means the advisory committee that acts as an organ which advises, assists and coordinates for scientific, technologic and innovative activities at regional level.

"Science and Technology" refers to Science, Technology and Innovation;

"Science" in its broadest sense is defined as the systematic knowledge in any field whatsoever. It applies more generally to the search for verifiable laws. Science refers to a specific intellectual approach and the organized set of knowledge resulting thereof. It is also the result of the logical sequence of ideas and actions occurring throughout the human history and enabling man to gradually discover the constituents of living and nonliving matters, i.e. the biological universe and physical universe as systems. It is the knowledge of phenomena obeying laws and verified by experimental methods. It involves three components: observation, experimentation and laws. Formerly appertaining to the branch of philosophy, science was restructured into scientific disciplines: mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, mechanics, optics, astronomy, economics, medicine, social sciences, humanities, amongst others.

"Technology" means the development and improvement of methods for the effective use of various techniques whether applied in isolation, in groups or as a whole – be it of a technical, mechanical, physical or intellectual nature - to ensure the effective functioning of mechanisms relating to production, consumption, information, communication, recreation or entertainment, construction and destruction, as well as artistic and scientific research activities. It is also defined as the study of techniques, machineries, tools, applied in the industry. It is "the nomenclature employed by science when it relates to products and processes regarding the human industry."

"STI" refers to the science, technology and innovation;



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"Treaty" means the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of West African States;

"Court of Justice" means the Court of Justice of the ECOWAS Community, established under Article 15 of the ECOWAS Treaty.

ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this Directive is to promote cooperation and achieve sustainable economic and social development through the implementation of a policy of "**Science, Technology and Innovation**" to meet the current and future needs of the peoples and guarantee them a better quality of life.

The specific objectives include:

- a) Improve develop the institutional framework and policy for Science, Technology and Innovation and the plan of action in each Member State;
- b) strengthen the financial capacities of scientific and technological research institutions;
- c) strengthen human and technical capacities in science and technology;
- d) promote technological development and transfer;
- e) disseminate scientific and technological research results, promote a scientific and technological culture, local knowledge and the protection of intellectual property;
- f) Promote private sector participation in the development of science and technology;
- g) develop an enabling environment for scientific and technological creativity;
- h) strengthen regional and international cooperation;
- i) promote data management and develop indicators;
- j) take science and technology into consideration in sectoral policies of Agriculture, Energy, Environment, amongst others;
- k) implement ECOPOST and other development programs on science, technology and innovation as agreed at regional and international forums;
- l) develop human resources in the fields of science, technology and innovation, and work collectively to attract, motivate and secure scientists for the development of the region;



- m) strengthen and consolidate the protection of intellectual property rights;
- n) improve access to education and learning of basic sciences and mathematics at all levels of the educational system;
- o) promote the quality of teaching and learning of basic sciences and mathematics at all levels of the educational system;
- p) promote fairness and gender equality in teaching and learning of basic sciences and mathematics at all levels of the educational system.

ARTICLE 3 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Member States shall strive to uphold the common objectives stipulated in this Directive, which shall be implemented in accordance with the following principles:

- a) recognition of the equality of all Member States in terms of STI;
- b) fair opportunities for Member States' participation and sharing of benefits in joint STI initiatives within the ECOWAS sub-region;
- c) effective utilization of STI resources and need to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts;
- d) promotion of gender equity in all areas of science, technology and innovation;
- e) peaceful application of science, technology and innovation in accordance with international standards;
- f) commitment to the highest standards of ethics and the most stringent security measures in the conduct of scientific research and implementation of technological development.

ARTICLE 4 AREAS OF COOPERATION

Member States undertake to cooperate in science, technology and innovation, pursuant to this Directive and in the areas identified below:

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- a) implementation of the ECOPOST and other STI programmes as agreed at regional and international forums;
- b) investment in human capital development with the aid of relevant policies and improved institutional conditions;
- c) intensification of efforts to attract and secure scientific human capacity resources in the region for current technology-driven economies based on scientific knowledge;
- d) promotion of gender equality and universal access to education in STI;
- e) development of strong partnerships with the African Diaspora for the promotion of scientific and technological development in the region;
- f) establishment of mechanisms for mobilization of skills and expertise among the African Diaspora to strengthen the scientific and technological development of the continent;
- g) ensuring the sustainability of existing centers of excellence and the creation of new ones;
- h) promotion and facilitation of the mobility of scientists and equipment as well as the utilization of science and technology infrastructures within the region;
- i) promotion of public understanding of STIs through the launching of programmes aimed at demystifying science, technology and innovation, as articulated in the flagship programmes of the ECOPOST Plan of Action;
- j) establishment of mechanisms that would enable sharing of knowledge on STI and technical know-how;
- k) intensification of efforts aimed at securing at least 1% of the gross domestic product (GDP) for research and development expenditures by 2020;
- l) harmonization of policies and regulatory frameworks in the field of STI, including the emergence of new technologies.

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ARTICLE 5 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The institutional mechanisms for coordination and facilitation of regional cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation shall comprise the following:
 - the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Science, Technology and Innovation
 - the ECOWAS Commission (the structure of the Commission in charge of Science, Technology and Innovation)
 - the meeting of ECOWAS Experts in Science, Technology and Innovation as provided by the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, fifteen (15) Member States;
 - the Regional Strategic Orientation Committee (RSOC)
2. The Regional Strategic Orientation Committee (RSOC) shall be an advisory body that advises, assists and coordinates activities in science, technology and Innovation at the regional level. It shall be composed of five (5) members designated by the ECOWAS Commission for a renewable term of three (3) years upon evaluation on individual basis. Gender shall be taken into account during the selection process of the Members of the RSOC

ARTICLE 6 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. Member States shall undertake to set up a competitive fund in order to ensure funding of the implementation of this Directive in their respective States.
2. The funding of Regional STI projects may be from various sources, including organisations and partners.
3. The ECOWAS Commission shall provide resources for the implementation of this Directive by establishing a window within the ECOWAS Solidarity Fund.



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ARTICLE 7 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. Member States shall ensure the availability of data and information on the development of science, technology and innovation and shall cooperate together to ensure their dissemination.
2. Data on STI indicators of any Member State must be collected and published in accordance with the provisions of the Supplementary Act A/SA.1/10 on personal data protection within ECOWAS.

ARTICLE 8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Member States shall use established STI indicators to ensure the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the progress status and to strengthen the development of the policy as well as to ensure the harmonization of the implementation of this Directive with the ECOWAS sub-region.
2. The monitoring and evaluation unit of the ECOWAS Commission shall provide assistance in the follow up of the implementation of ECOPOST.

ARTICLE 9 COOPERATION WITH ECOWAS NON-MEMBER STATES AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

In order to ensure the promotion of STI and the effective implementation of this Directive, Member States may conclude agreements with ECOWAS non-member States and other scientific organizations, provided that such agreements:

- a) are not inconsistent with the overall objectives and other provisions of this Directive;
- b) do not impose undue obligations on another Member State;
- c) do not limit the ability of a Member State to fulfil its obligations under this Directive.



ARTICLE 10
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR

For the purposes of the implementation of this Directive, Member States shall promote the participation of NGOs and the private sector.

ARTICLE 11
PUBLICATION

This Directive shall be published by the Commission in the Official Gazette of the Community within thirty (30) days after the date of signature by the Chairman of the Authority of Heads of States and Government. It shall also be published by each Member State, in its National Gazette within thirty (30) days after notification from the Commission.

ARTICLE 12
IMPLEMENTATION

1. Member States shall adopt the relevant legislative, regulatory and administrative provisions to ensure effective compliance with this Directive, not later than 1st of January 2015.
2. When the provisions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be adopted by Member States, they shall contain citations of this Directive and be accompanied by such citations in their official journals.
3. Member States shall notify the ECOWAS Commission of such measures or provisions adopted to ensure effective compliance with this Directive.
4. Member States of the Community shall notify difficulties encountered in the implementation of this Directive to the President of the Commission, who shall report same to the next session of the Council of Ministers, which, in turn, shall take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of this Directive.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS), HAVE SIGNED THIS DIRECTIVE

DONE IN YAMOUSOUKRO THIS 29 DAY OF JUNE 2012 IN SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES, ALL TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.



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H. E. Dr. Thomas Boni YAYI
President of the Republic of Benin

.....
H. E. Mr. Blaise COMPAORE
President of Burkina Faso

.....
H. E. Mr. Jorge Borges
Minister of Foreign Affairs, For and on behalf
of the President of the Republic of Cape Verde

.....
H. E. Mr. Alassane OUATTARA
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State
and Government of ECOWAS


.....
S. E. Mr. Ousman SONKO
Minister of Interior and NGO Affairs, For and
on behalf of the President of the Republic of
The Gambia

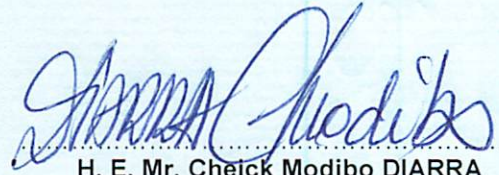
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H. E. Amb. Chris KPODO
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Regional Integration, For and on behalf
of the President of the Republic of Ghana

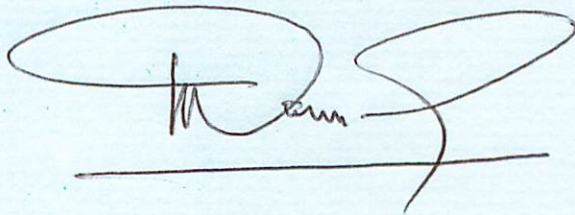
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H. E. M. Edouard NIANKOYE LAMAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guinean in
Diaspora, For and on behalf of the President
of the Republic of Guinea

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H. E. Mr. Manuel Serifo NHAMAJO
Interim President of the Republic
of Guinea Bissau

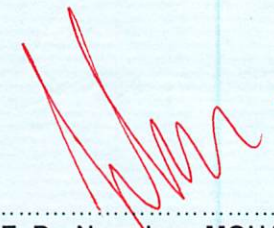


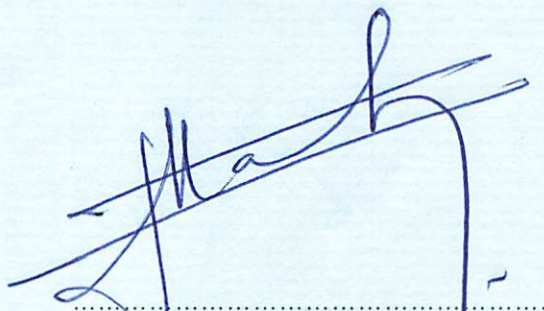

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H. E. Mrs. Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF
President of the Republic of Liberia



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H. E. Mr. Cheick Modibo DIARRA
Prime Minister of the Transitional
Government of the Republic of Mali

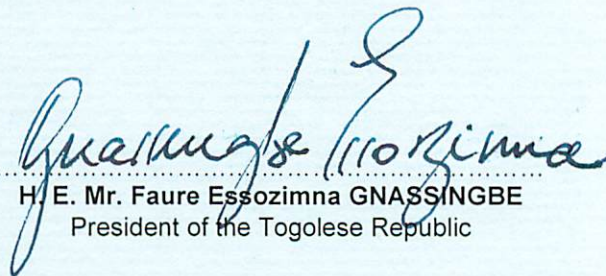


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S. E. Mr. Mahamadou ISSOUFOU
President of the Republic of Niger


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H. E. Dr. Nurudeen MOHAMMAD
Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
For and on behalf of the President of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria


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H. E. Mr. Macky SALL
President of the Republic of Senegal


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H. E. Mr. Ernest Bai KOROMA
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone


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H. E. Mr. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE
President of the Togolese Republic