

**BANJUL DECLARATION ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF  
THE WAMZ MONETARY UNION BY DECEMBER 1, 2009**

We the Heads of State and Government of the  
Republic of The Gambia,  
Republic of Ghana,  
Republic of Guinea,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria, and  
Republic of Sierra Leone

**MEETING IN BANJUL ON THIS 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2005**

**RECALLING** THE ECOWAS Fundamental Principles and the provisions for the establishment of an economic and monetary union as stipulated under the ECOWAS Revised Treaty of 1993;

**RECALLING FURTHER** the principles enshrined in the Accra Declaration of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2000 on the creation of a second monetary zone in the ECOWAS;

**REAFFIRMING** our collective resolve to achieve full monetary union through strong political commitment to implement necessary action plans focussing on effective coordination and management of our economies both at the national and zonal levels;

**RECOGNISING** the need to vigorously pursue the principles stipulated under the Accra Declaration, the various Decisions, Statutes and Agreements of the Authority;

**CONVINCED** that the attainment of monetary union is fundamental to the development of the sub-region through enhancement of trade, free movement of persons, capital, goods and services within the Zone;

**DETERMINED** to act together in the spirit of regional solidarity to facilitate the process of full attainment of monetary union and single currency for the WAMZ;

**ENCOURAGED** by the increasing importance that is being accorded regional cooperation and integration by each of the participating countries and our development partners;

**ENCOURAGED FURTHER** by the commitment demonstrated by member States in their efforts to observe budgetary discipline and pursue sound macroeconomic and structural policies for stability and growth.

**UPON RECOMMENDATION** by the Convergence Council of the WAMZ meeting in Banjul on May 5 - 6, 2005, based on the findings of the study on the State of Preparedness for monetary union which indicated that the date, July 1, 2005 earlier scheduled was not feasible.

**HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Commitment to Monetary Union by 2009**

1. Each Member State reaffirms its commitment to the Accra Declaration establishing the Second Monetary Zone and to the attainment of full monetary union by December 1, 2009 based on the conditions stipulated under the Action Plan;

**Modalities of Implementation**

2. Member States commit themselves to the full implementation of the Action Plan which outlines the programme of activities to be undertaken up to the year 2009. The work programme for the implementation of the Customs Union and other

relevant activities prepared by the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Integration should form part of the Action Plan.

### **General Undertaking**

3. Member States recognise the need for strong political commitment and undertake to pursue all such other national policies as would facilitate the regional monetary integration process.
4. Member States also undertake to incorporate WAMZ programmes in their national budgets and economic management programmes.
5. Member States commit themselves to the establishment of a single economic space through the abolition of all barriers relating to the free movement of persons, capital, goods, and services with the Zone and in particular to ensure:
  - (i) convertibility and trading among WAMZ currencies not later than December 2006;
  - (ii) full capital account convertibility not later than December 2007;
  - (iii) cross-listing of stocks and securities in the WAMZ to be implemented not later than December 2006;
  - (iv) full participation in the ECOWAS Common External Tariff by December, 2007;
  - (v) compliance with the ECOWAS Customs Union by December 2008;
  - (vi) review of mercantile laws with a view to facilitating smooth operation of financial institutions and intermediaries across WAMZ countries;

### **Mandate of WAMI**

6. Member States hereby agree that WAMI should be restructured and given adequate authority and resources to be able to undertake its mandate effectively.
7. The WAMI shall continue to exist in Accra, Ghana, subject to the WAMZ Agreement, the Statute of the West African Monetary Institute and subsequent Decision made in Conakry in 2002.

### **Participation in WAMZ Meetings**

8. Member States recognise the special role of the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Integration of the WAMZ in the process of the actualisation of the monetary union and in this regard urge them to fully participate in the process and attend all scheduled meetings of the WAMZ.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE APPENDED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS DECLARATION AT BANJUL THIS 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2005

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For the Republic of The Gambia  
His Excellency Col. (Rtd) Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J.J. JAMMEH  
President of the Republic of The Gambia

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For the Republic of Ghana  
His Excellency John Agyekum KUFUOR  
President of the Republic of Ghana

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For the Republic of Guinea  
His Excellency General Lansana CONTE  
President of the Republic of Guinea

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For the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
His Excellency Chief Olusegun OBASANJO, GCFR  
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

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For the Republic of Sierra Leone  
His Excellency Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan KABBAH  
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone