

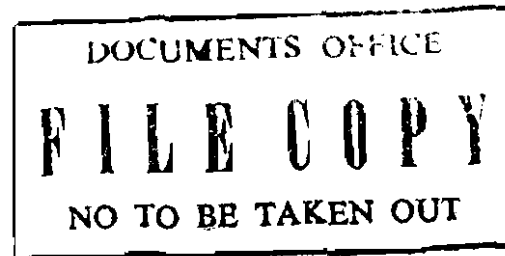
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First Meeting of the Interim Council
of Ministers for the Establishment of
an Economic Community of West Africa
Dakar, 21 - 25 November 1967



DRAFT REPORT

PART I

ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The Conference was welcomed by His Excellency Mr. Leopold S. Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal. His address is reproduced as Annex ... to this report.
2. Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa made an opening statement which is reproduced in Annex to this report.
3. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following member States: Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Upper Volta.
4. In attendance as observers were the following United Nations bodies and inter-governmental organizations: FAO, UNDP, UNCTAD, BCEAO, EEC, UDEAC, Conseil de l'Entente, GATT, ADB, ILO, Comite Inter-Etats du Fleuve Senegal.
5. Mr. Daniel Cabou, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts (Senegal) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Conference. Mr. M. Sisay, Minister of Finance (Gambia), and Mr. L. Amon, Ambassador to Ghana (Ivory Coast) were unanimously elected First Vice-Chairman, and Second Vice-Chairman. Mr. P. Chabi Kao, Minister responsible for Establishment and Labour (Dahomey) and Mr. Kwesi Brew, Ambassador to Senegal (Ghana) were appointed Joint Rapporteurs.
6. The agenda as revised and adopted by the Conference is reproduced in Annex to this report.

4(a) Draft Rules of Procedure of the Interim Council of Ministers

7. The Interim Council of Ministers decided to set up a Drafting Committee of the Whole to consider a proposal for draft rules of procedure of the Interim Council of Ministers submitted by the Government of Senegal (E/CN.14/WA/EC/8). The Drafting Committee held one meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. H.R. Monday (Gambia) and recommended that the proposal of Senegal should be forwarded through the Secretariat to the governments of the Member States for comments. The Secretariat should incorporate the comments received into a new set of draft rules of procedure for presentation to the next session of the Interim Council of Ministers.

8. The recommendation of the Drafting Committee was accepted by the Interim Council of Ministers.

4(b) Definition of the General Principles which should Serve as a Guide in Laying Down the Broad Lines of the Future Treaty.

9. There was broad agreement that the ultimate goal of the Community was the achievement of a Common Market rather than simply a free trade area or customs union, but that progress towards this goal should be on a step-by-step basis.

10. There was general consensus that the topic of agriculture should be dealt with in detail, including agricultural policies, research and marketing.

11. The following specific principles or points of reference for a draft Treaty were enunciated:

1. Non-discrimination in trade among members of the Community;
2. The granting of reciprocal preferences among members of the Community;

3. Adoption of joint policies on industrialization;
4. General co-ordination of economic policies;
5. The harmonisation of policies and co-operation in respect of agricultural production with special reference to:
 - a. Export production;
 - b. Raw materials for domestic industries;
 - c. Food production for domestic consumption.
6. Education, with special reference to the teaching of English or French as the first foreign language;
7. The importance of bilateral trade arrangements with neighbouring states;
8. Ways and means to establish co-operation among some Members only of the Community or, in the alternative, means of bilateral co-operation;
9. Co-operation in areas of basic policies, possibly at the Heads-of-State level;
10. The need for mechanisms to compensate for payments deficits in bilateral trade (e.g. investment of surplus generated by such trade by the State in a surplus position in the State with a deficit balance);
11. The definition of joint projects to be undertaken in common;
12. The need to define the location of joint projects not only in terms of greatest economic advantage but also in terms of the overall distribution of the advantages derived by the participants;

13. Definition of the joint financing of joint projects;
 14. The question of compensation for the loss of revenues as a result of arrangements under the Treaty, especially problems arising out of economic dislocation
 15. The need for co-ordination of development programmes even where no joint plans or projects are involved;
 16. The need for special measures to deal with problems arising out of differences in the stages of development among the Members;
 17. The need for machinery for the financing of economic development subject to recognition of the existence already of the ADB and of national development financing institutions;
 18. The need to take into account the monetary policies of each state.
12. Other principles which were already covered by the preliminary draft, especially those which were a restatement of undertaking accepted by member countries under the Articles of Association, were to be taken as acceptable even though they were not specifically enumerated again.
13. The preliminary draft Treaty submitted to the First Session of the Interim Council of Ministers (document E/CN.14/WA/EC/5) was to be revised in the light of the above choices and principles so that a subsequent meeting of the Interim Council would have a more complete document to consider.

4(c) Provisional Executive Secretariat: Headquarters, Duties, Organizational Structure, Programme, Appointments, Budget

Duties

14. The Interim Council of Ministers agreed that the duties of the Provisional Executive Secretariat could be listed under two headings:

1. Administrative functions, with the following priority tasks:

- (i) Preparation of draft financial regulations;
- (ii) Preparation of draft staff regulations;
- (iii) Preparation of draft Rules of Procedure.

2. Executive functions, i.e. the carrying out of any tasks assigned to it by the Interim Council of Ministers, with the following priority tasks:

- (i) Preparation of the draft Treaty for the Economic Community of West Africa;
- (ii) The carrying out of research and studies with a view to defining areas of priorities for co-operation within the Economic Community.

Provisional Executive Secretariat

15. The Council decided that pending the establishment of a permanent Secretariat the host government for each meeting of the Interim Council of Ministers would provide the Secretariat until the following session.

In the present case the Government of Senegal would undertake the functions of the Provisional Secretariat in cooperation with the Government of Ghana until the next meeting of the Interim Council of Ministers.

Headquarters

16. The Interim Council of Ministers decided that Member States who might wish their capitals to be considered for the seat of the headquarters should submit relevant information including data on the facilities which they are prepared to offer to the Community Secretariat to the Provisional Secretariat or to other Member States through diplomatic channels on or before the next meeting of the Interim Council of Ministers.

Organizational Structure, Programme and Budget

17. The Interim Council of Ministers agreed to withhold discussion on these subjects until such time that an Executive Secretariat has been established.

Appointments

18. The Interim Council of Ministers agreed to certain minimum requirements for appointment to the posts of Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary which are reproduced in Annex

4(d) Report of ECA Secretariat on Various Requests for Technical Assistance

19. The Interim Council of Ministers considered that this point could be dealt with under three main headings:

1. It affirmed its determination to entrust the Provisional Secretariat with full responsibility to carry out the duties assigned to it.
2. It authorized the Provisional Secretariat to request all the necessary technical assistance from international organizations and national governments and agencies for carrying out its duties.

The Interim Council of Ministers adopted a resolution on the drafting of the Treaty governing the Economic Community of West Africa (see Annex)

3. It authorized the Provisional Secretariat to request financial assistance for the carrying out of research and studies mentioned under para and for the co-ordination of these studies.

4(e) Various Fields of Investigation of the Interim Council: Agriculture, Industry, Transport and Communications, Energy and Trade.

20. The Interim Council of Ministers agreed that the ultimate aim should be to develop co-operation between the Member States in all fields.

21. It further agreed that it was impossible to determine priority fields at this stage, but that before the next meeting there should be called a Committee of National Technical Experts to study the documents prepared by the Provisional Secretariat and make recommendations to the Interim Council of Ministers.

4(f) Date and Place of the Next Session

22. The Interim Council of Ministers recommended that the next session should take place in Monrovia not later than November 1968, the final date to be fixed by agreement between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Senegal as host of the Provisional Secretariat, taking into account the progress of the work assigned to the Provisional Secretariat.

4(g) Appointment of Chairman (in office)

23. The Interim Council of Ministers agreed that the Chairman at its present session should continue in office until its next session.

4(h) Any other Business

24. The Interim Council of Ministers noted with interest the proposal to convene a meeting of Heads of States of West African countries and requested the Provisional Secretariat to prepare a memorandum to be submitted to the Heads of State meeting, explaining the objectives and working methods of the Interim Council of Ministers. It was suggested that the Chairman of the Interim Council of Ministers might address the Preparatory Meeting of the Heads of States meeting.