

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) on Maritime Security and Safety in the Gulf of Guinea.

Yaounde 25 June 2013

1. The Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) held in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, on 24 and 25 June 2013, to adopt the strategic documents on maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea, as part of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2039 (2012).
2. This historic Summit was preceded on 21 June 2013 by an International Symposium on Security Challenges in the Gulf of Guinea and on 22 June by a Meeting of Foreign Affairs.
3. The opening ceremony of the Summit was chaired by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon. The proceedings were chaired by H.E. IDRIS DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad and current Chairman of ECCAS.
4. The Chair also included:
 - 1st Vice-Chairman: H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon,
 - 2nd Vice-Chairman: H.E. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire,
 - Rapporteur: H.E. Candido Pereira DOS SANTOS VANDUNEN, Representative of the current Chairman of the GGC.
5. The Summit was also attended by the following Heads of State:
 - H.E. Thomas BONI YAYA, President of the Republic of Benin;
 - H.E. Blaise COMPAORE, President of Burkina Faso;
 - H.E. Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO, President of the Republic of Congo;
 - H.E. Ali BONGO ONDIMA, President of the Republic of Gabon;
 - H.E. Teodoro OBIABG NGUEMA MBASOGO, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
 - H.E. Mahamadou ISSOUFOU, President of the Republic of Niger;
 - H.E. Goodluck EBELE Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - H.E. Manuel PINTO DA COSTA, President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;

- H.E. Faure GNASSINGBE, President of the Republic of Togo.
6. The following countries were represented:
- Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.
7. The following personalities also took part in the Summit:
- H.E. Nassour GUELENGDOUKSIA OUAIDOU, Secretary-General of ECCAS;
 - H.E. Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, President of the ECOWAS Commission;
 - H.E. Miguel TROVOADA, Executive Secretary of the GGC.
8. The following personalities also attended the Summit:
- H.E. Abou MOUSSA, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General,
 - H.E. Anthony MARUPING, Representative of the President of the African Union Commission.
9. The following took part as observers:
- Countries: Germany, Belgium, Brazil, China, Spain, United States of America, France, Japan, United Kingdom and Russia;
 - Institutions: European Union (EU), International Maritime Organization (IMO), West and Central African Maritime Organization (WCAMO), American Command for Africa (AFRICOM) and the African Centre for Strategic Studies (ACSS).
10. The Summit of Heads of State and Government took note of the Report on the ECCAS-ECOWAS-GGC Inter-ministerial Conference on Maritime Security and Safety in the Gulf of Guinea which took place in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, on 19 March 2013.

11. After fruitful discussions on the Inter-ministerial Conference Report and on the draft documents submitted to them for adoption, the Heads of State and Government:
 - a. reaffirmed their adhesion to the fundamental texts of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC on good governance, peace and security;
 - b. reiterated their concern about the serious threats posed by piracy, armed robbery and other illicit maritime activities in the Gulf of Guinea;
 - c. welcomed the adoption of Resolutions 2018(2011) and 2039(2012) by the United Nations Security Council and the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy of the African Union.
12. The Heads of State and Government lauded the initiatives taken by ECCAS, ECOWAS and the GGC on maritime security, particularly the strategy to secure the vital interests of ECCAS States at sea, the on-going development of the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy and the GGC Strategy for the management of peace and security in the region, as well as fruitful co-operation among Central Africa and West Africa regions on maritime security and safety and the holding of this Summit on maritime security and safety in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, to adopt a Regional Strategy.
13. Desirous of combining efforts to define a joint and appropriate legal framework to combat piracy, armed robbery and other illicit activities carried out at sea in the maritime area of Central and West Africa, the Heads of State and Government:
 - Adopted the Code of Conduct on the Prevention and Suppression of Acts of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and other Illicit Activities carried out at sea in Central and West Africa, which was signed during this Summit by Ministers of Central and West African States; and the implementation of which shall be assessed after three years;
 - Adopted the Memorandum of Understanding between ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC on security and safety in the maritime area of Central and West Africa, which was signed during this Summit by

the ECCAS Secretary-General, the ECOWAS Commission President and the GGC Executive Secretary.

14. The Heads of State and Government adopted and signed a Declaration on Security and Safety in their common maritime area, called the "**Yaounde Declaration**".
15. The Heads of State directed ECCAS, ECOWAS and the GGC to make operational the mechanism for the implementation of the decisions contained in the Memorandum of Understanding, with the support of partners.
16. The Heads of State and Government decided that Cameroon will host the Inter-regional Coordination Centre, provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding between ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC on the safety and security in the maritime area of Central and West Africa.
17. The Heads of State and Government decided to remain seized of this issue.
18. Finally, the Heads of State and Government extended their sincere thanks to H.E. Paul BIYA, the President of the Republic of Cameroon, to the Government and People of Cameroon for the warm welcome and the facilities made available to ensure the success of the Summit.

Done at Yaounde on 25 June 2013
The Summit