

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

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**REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIVE MEETINGS OF THE
ECOWAS REGIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM AND OF THE
COMMUNITY COMMITTEES IN CHARGE OF QUALITY**

6th- 9th November, 2017

**Abuja, NIGERIA
BARCELONA HOTEL**

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1. Introduction

The Constitutive Meetings of the Regional Accreditation System (RAS) and of the Community Quality Committees of ECOWAS were held from 06 to 09 November 2017 at BARCELONA HOTELS in Abuja, Nigeria.

2. Participants

The participants were representatives from:

- The ECOWAS Commission;
- The UEMOA Commission;
- The European Union Delegation (EUD) in Abuja, Nigeria;
- Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB);
- The ECOWAS - World Bank project on Investment policy and Trade;
- The Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FEWACCI),
- The Federation of Employers' Organizations in West Africa (FOPAO) ;
- The West Africa Accreditation System (SOAC);
- The Nigeria Accreditation Service (NINAS);
- The Ghana Accreditation Service;
- Member States ;
- The Regional Technical Coordination Unit of the WAQSP.

Resource persons of the WAQSP also attended the meetings.

The names and contacts details are in Annex 1.

3. Workshop agenda

The work was carried out in accordance with the work agenda adopted.

The main topic of workshop agenda was as follows:

- **Presentation of the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP)**
 - Main achievements of the WAQSP;
 - The legal framework of the quality infrastructure of ECOWAS.
- **Regional Accreditation System (RAS) and relevant community communities meetings:**
 - Review and adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the RAS and the relevant Community Committees;
 - Presentation and adoption of the 2017-2018 Work Plan of the RAS and each Community Committee;
 - Examination of the job description of the Permanent Secretaries in charge of the SRA and the relevant Community Committees;
 - Election of the President and Vice-President of the RAS and the relevant Community Committees.

4. Bureau

The meeting was chaired by **Mr. Kafui Codjo KOUASSI** from Togo. The chairperson was supported by three rapporteurs as follows:

- 1st rapporteur: (Cabo Verde)
- 2nd rapporteur: (Burkina Faso)
- 3rd rapporteur: (Nigeria)

5. Official opening

The opening ceremony was marked by the speech:

- EUD representative in Nigeria;
- ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry & Private Sector Promotion;
- The representative of the Minister in charge of Industry of Nigeria.

The Opening Ceremony began with an address by Mr. Frank OKAFOR, representative of the European Union, who welcomed the participants and underlined the importance of this regional workshop in the process of setting up the Quality Infrastructure of ECOWAS. He then urged the establishment of the regional accreditation system and the community committees in charge of quality to resolve the problem of quality in the sub-region.

He ended his speech by confirming that the 11th EDF has funded around 5 million euros to support the QI in the development of value chains.

The Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion to the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Kalilou TRAORE, thanked the authorities of Nigeria, who accepted to host of many meetings in the space of a few months. He also welcomed the commitment of the Commission's partners, mainly the UEMOA Commission, the European Union, UNIDO and PTB. In addition, he welcomed the support of the private sector in the implementation of this whole system, particularly FOPAO and FEWACCI, which once again responded to ECOWAS Commission invitation.

While recalling the major results achieved with the support of the WAQSP in the implementation of the Quality Infrastructure of ECOWAS, he informed the participants of the holding in January 2018 of a Forum on Quality Infrastructure with the main objective of thinking about mechanisms to ensure, at the technical and financial level, the sustainability and effectiveness of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure Scheme.

He also indicated that the elected chairpersons of the various committees are among the members of the Community Council for Quality (CCQ), a body that oversees the West Africa quality infrastructure.

Before closing his remarks, the Commissioner congratulated the winners of the Excellence Awards of the first edition of the ECOWAS Quality Award for their constant effort to bring quality products to market and urged other companies in the sub-region to follow their example.

Dr. Francis ALANEME, representative of the Nigerian Minister of Trade and Investment, in his opening address, recalled the role of ECOWAS committees in coordinating quality activities at the regional level. He also commended the efforts of the European Union, UNIDO and Member States and emphasized the need for further standardization of products in the sub-region.

He indicated that the establishment of the structures of the regional quality infrastructure will provide quality services recognized at international level and contribute to the elimination of trade barriers. He particularly commended the efforts of SOAC, Ghana and Nigeria on the establishment of an operational accreditation body. Finally, he wished the meeting full success before declaring the meeting officially open.

6. Presentation of the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP)

Mr. Aka Jean Joseph KOUASSI, Chief Technical Advisor presented the WAQSP. This presentation focused on the following topics:

- An overview of the WAQSP;
- The main results of the WAQSP;
- The legal framework of the Quality Infrastructure of ECOWAS.

He indicated that EU support started with the UEMOA Quality Programme (2001-2005). Taking into account encouraging results of this Programme, it was extended to non UEMOA Countries and Mauritania (2007 – 2012).

The new Quality Programme, named the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) started in 2014 and will end in 2018. The WAQSP is supporting the implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL). It is covering ECOWAS Countries and Mauritania. He gave details on the main results achieved so far by the WAQSP, namely:

- the development of National Quality Policies with plans action matrices in all countries;
- the technical adoption of around 100 regional standards within ECOSHAM;
- the launching of the first activities of the Regional System of Accreditation of ECOWAS;
- the publication of the first directory of accredited conformity assessment bodies;
- the organization of the National Quality Awards and the ECOWAS Quality Award, which results were announced last June in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire;
- the training of national expert in the field of food safety management with 105 qualified experts;
- the training of journalists in quality issues in the States and at the regional level;
- And the development of a framework document for the establishment of an ECOWAS quality and industrial database.

The second phase of the discussion dealt with the presentation of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure Scheme. Mr. Aka KOUASSI recalled the mains legal texts that are governing the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure Scheme, namely:

- Article 26, paragraph 3 (1) of the Revised Treaty, which provides that Member States shall adopt common standards and adequate quality control systems,
- Supplementary Act A/SA.1/02/13 on the adoption of ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) and its implementation framework,
- Supplementary Act A/SA.2/07/10 on the adoption of West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP) and its action plan;

- Regulation C/REG.19/12/13 on the Approval of ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Quality Scheme;
- Regulation C/REG.14/12/12 on the adoption of harmonizing procedures of ECOWAS Standards (ECOSHAM);
- Regulation C/REG.7/06/17 on the Principles for action and implementation arrangements of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure
- Regulation C/REG.8/06/17 on the organization and the functioning of the Community Council for Quality
- Regulation C/REG.9/06/17 on organization and operation of the Community Committee for Technical Regulation
- Regulation C/REG.10/06/17 on organization and operation of the Regional Accreditation System
- Regulation C/REG.11/06/17 on organization and operation of the Community Committee for Conformity Assessment
- Regulation C/REG.12/06/17 on organization and operation of the Community Committee for Metrology
- Regulation C/REG.13/06/17 on the establishment of a Regional Quality Association designated as ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ)

He then summarized the aim of each key text of the Scheme recalling that the first committee that has been setup was the Community Committee for Standardization, commonly called Technical Management Committee (TMC) of ECOSHAM.

These presentations were followed by a series of questions and answers.

7. Presentation of the ECOWAS Quality Award winners and the ECOSHAM procedure

As announced in the Commissioner's opening speech, the meeting was honored by the presence of two ECOWAS Quality Award winners. The opportunity was given to their representatives to make a presentation of their company. These are as followed:

- Winner of the Award of Excellence C Category: CLINA-LANCET laboratories Ltd of Nigeria, represented by Dr Olayemi Dawodu;
- Winner of the Award of Excellence, B Category: AGETIP-BENIN (Execution Agency of public works of Benin), Benin, represented by Ambroise KOUNOUHO.

The President of the ECOSHAM Technical Management Committee, Dr. Justin NICKAF of SON (Standard Organization of Nigeria), made a brief presentation on the ECOSHAM structure as well as the results achieved so far in the field of standardization. It emerges from this presentation that around 100 standards have been adopted. This presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Constitutive meetings of the ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System and the Community Committees (metrology, technical regulation, conformity assessment)

In accordance with ECOWAS rules, the chairpersons should be representatives from Togo since this country is leading the ECOWAS Head of States conference. They were designated as follows:

- **Community Committee for Conformity Assessment (CCCA):** Mr. AIMÉ DE DIEU TCHINGUILI;
- **Community Committee for Metrology (CCM):** Mr Koffi BIOVA ESSIOMLE ;

- **Regional Accreditation System (RAS):** Mr. MARCEL GBAGUIDI, DG of SOAC

For the **Community Committee for Technical Regulation (CCTR)**, since the delegate of Togo, Mr ALEKI MARESS was expected to arrive later, a volunteer from Mali was designated: Mr. Seydou KASSOGUE from Mali for the first day of the Committee meeting.

The RAS and each community committee held their constitutive meetings and the reports of these meetings are attached.

9. Outcome of the deliberations

The RAS and each community committee adopted the following documents:

- **Rules of procedures**
- **Work plan**
- **Jobs description**

The RAS and each Community Committee also registered their opinion on the draft profile of the officer who will be in charge of their respective secretariat.

The RAS and each community committee proceeded to the election of the **President** and the **Vice president**

The results of these elections are presented in the below table:

Committee	President	Vice president
Regional Accreditation System (RAS)	Celestine OKANYA (Nigeria)	Marcel GBAGUIDI (SOAC)
Community Committee for Conformity Assessment (CCCA)	Kafui KOUASSI (Togo)	Isatu Binta KAMARA (Sierra Leone)
Community Committee for Metrology (CCM)	Paul Date (Ghana)	Gabriel AHISSOU (Benin)
Community Committee for Technical Regulation (CCTR)	KASSOGUE Seydou (Mali)	Michael A.K Senayah (Ghana)

The exhaustive list of the recommendations are in the report of the RAS & each community committee.

The main recommendations made are as follows:

- *To RAS*
 - › Align the RAS program with that of AFRAC, ILAC and IAF;
 - › Membership of the RAS to accreditation cooperation structures (AFRAC, IAF, ILAC);

- › Set up a communication plan by identifying the relevant targets;
 - › to seek support from partners for the development of its structure and documentation;
 - › Through its private sector members, to develop activities to support the funding of RAS.
- *To CCCA*
 - › The replacement of each member of the community committee may be done by addressing a signed letter from country/organization to the ECOWAS commissioner who will notify the President of CCCA;
 - › The duration of the mandate of community committees members shall be renewable once as for the chairperson and the vice chair.
 - *To CCM*

Ensure that reports on CCM meetings are submitted to their respective supervisors and follow-up for implementation of recommendations contained in such reports of meetings.

- *To ECOWAS Commission*

Main Recommendation from the RAS

- › Involve RAS in the recruitment process for the position of the executive of the secretary,
- › The Community Council for Quality (CCQ) may assess the RAS in addition to its self-assessment. This assessment will be based on the RAS approved work plan and objectives.

Main Recommendation from the CCA

- › Recruitment of the executive of the conformity assessment secretariat to be done preferably by the end of March 2018,
- › Start the promotion of the ECOWAS Mark for Product Certification in January 2018,
- › Ensure the technical validation of criteria for the entrustment of the national certification bodies in charge of delivering the ECOWAS Mark of Conformity.

Main recommendation from the CCM

- › Facilitate movement of artifacts meant for regional metrology inter-comparison program in order to reduce delay at customs;
- › Provide arrangement to improve traveling logistics for participants attending ECOWAS meetings;
- › Inform Member States of their obligations in supporting metrology institutions, programs and development through budget allocations in their respective countries.

10. Motion of thanks

The meeting thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, EU, UNIDO, ECOWAS Commission for the role each played in making this meeting successful.

11. Closing ceremony

Mr Aka Jean Joseph KOUASSI, WAQSP's Chief Technical Advisor, firstly thanked Mr Kalilou TRAORE, the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry and Private Sector Promotion and Bernard BAU of UNIDO for their support in implementing of Quality Infrastructure (QI). Then, he thanked the State members representatives and his collaborators for the results achieved.

Mr Bernard BAU thanked all the participants for the important work done. He said that with these results the Commissioner set up the entire framework for the implementation of an effective quality infrastructure. However, an important step is the political support for the QI operationalization.




He also thanked ECOWAS and the EU for their confidence to UNIDO as the implementing agency. He pointed out the involvement of the member states regarding their commitment to the WAQSP implementation.

Regarding the development of value chains, Mr BAU said that UNIDO will keep supporting to the region.

Mr. Kalilou TRAORE, thanked all the participants for the work done. He congratulated the winners for their commitment to quality, and he wished them prosperity in their businesses.

The Commissioner recalled that a forum on quality will be organized in January 2018. The purpose of the forum is to find out the mechanisms for QI's sustainability. So that, the private sector participation is needed.

He expressed his encouragement to the elected Presidents of Community Committees to maintain their efforts in the development of the QI and he finally thanked all the partners for their various support.

CHAIRPERSON	
Mr KAFUI CODJO KOUASSI 	
RAPPORTEUR	RAPPORTEUR
 Mrs. LUDMILDE FERNANDES	 Mr DJAKARIDJA NYAMBA

12. Annexes

Annex 1: Final list of attendees

COUNTRIES	NAMES	FUNCTION	Phone / email
Community Committee of Metrology (CCM)			
1. Benin	AHISSOU Gabriel	Directeur de la Métrologie et Responsable Qualité du Laboratoire d'étalonnage des Masses	ahigab2005@yahoo.fr +22997074733
2. Burkina Faso	Issa SAWADOGO	Directeur Régional des Haut-Bassins	
3. Capo Verde	Mr. José Antonio CARVALHO	Technical executive from IGQPI	Jose.P.Carvalho@mee.gov.cv
4. Cote d'Ivoire	M. ZABO Déza Emmanuel,	Directeur de la Métrologie et du Contrôle Technique au LANEMA	emmanueldeza@hotmail.com , Tel: +225 03 37 86 95
5. Gambia	Ismaila Jadama	Head, National Metrology Laboratory, TGSB	nmlgambia@gmail.com Tel: +2202335348
6. Ghana	Mr. Paul Date		date_105@msn.com
7. Guinée	SANOUSSY DIAKHABI,	Ingénieur Chimiste Section Laboratoire d'Etalonnage, Division Métrologie	diakhsanoussy@gmail.com
8. Guinée Bissau	M. Cesario Augusto Nunes CORREIA	Directeur de Service de Métrologie	(00245) 955935404/966672386 cesariocorreia@yahoo.com.br
9. Liberia	Mr. Steve MAMBU	Manager of the National Standards Laboratory	< smambu@moci.gov.lr >
10. Mali	Drissa Daou	Directeur General Adjoint de l'Agence Malienne de Métrologie)	
11. Niger	Boubacar Issa	Directeur de la Normalisation, de la Promotion de la Qualité et de la Métrologie	boubacar_issa@yahoo.fr
12. Nigeria			
13. Senegal	Ibrahima SARR	Chef de la Division Métrologie	ibrahima44sarr@gmail.com
14. Sierra Leone	Frank Martin	Metrology Manager	frank.martin993@gmail.com
15. Togo	M. Koffi BIOVA ESSIOMLE	Métrologue à la DCML	Tél: +228 90926985 jeanbernard2009@yahoo.fr
Community Conformity Assessment Committee (CCAC)			
16. Benin	SIKA Mama Youssouf	Chef Service Certification	youssouf75@gmail.com +22995452020
17. Burkina Faso	Djakaridja NYAMBA	Directeur du Contrôle de la Qualité	
18. Cape Verde	Mr. Carlos TANCREDO	Technical cadre from IGQPI	Carlos.Tancredo@mee.gov.cv

COUNTRIES	NAMES	FUNCTION	Phone / email
19. Cote d'ivoire	KOUASSI ASSOVIE Olga	Directeur de l'organisme de certification BUREAU-NORME-AUDIT.	olgakouassi@bna-ci.com; tel : +225 07 81 37 20
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21. Ghana	Mr. Francis Bullen Gavor		francis.bullengavor@sgs.com
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23. Guinée Bissau	M. HERMENEGILDO DE OLIVEIRA Robalo JUNIOR	Responsable de Laboratoire de la Pêche	Tel: (00245) 955562399/966687734 email: giroj@hotmail.com
24. Liberia	Mr. John Hena	Expert on Conformity Assessment National Standards Laboratory	senkulohena@gmail.com, johnhena86@yahoo.com +231776365746
25. Mali	Monsieur Amadou DIOP	(AMANORM)	amadoudiop86@yahoo.fr
26. Nigeria			
27. Senegal	Aboubacry BARO	Responsable ASN Certification	aboubaro2@gmail.com
28. Sierra Leone	Isatu Binta Kamara	Head of Food Laboratory and Quality Manager	isattu.binta@yahoo.com
29. Togo	Kafui KOUASSI	Enseignant-Chercheur à l'UL / Expert en évaluation de la conformité du PSQAO	kafui.kouassi@gmail.com +228 90077357
Community Committee for Technical Regulation			
30. Benin	DEGBEDJI ODOUMBOUROU Denise	Directrice de la Concurrence et de la lutte contre la Fraude	denisemahou@yahoo.fr +22995954183
31. Burkina Faso	Sibidaogo Wilfrid KIEMA	Gestionnaire du Point National d'Information sur les Obstacles Techniques au Commerce	
32. Capo Verde	Mrs. Ludmilde FERNANDES	Director of Trade	Ludmilde.Fernandes@mee.gov.cv
33. Cote d'ivoire	TIHI SEANDA ANNE SYLVESTRE	Chef du Service de la Coopération Régionale,	Tél: +225 02 43 33 65 / 06 17 29 13; Email : annetihi@yahoo.fr
34. Gambia			
35. Ghana	Mr. Michael A.K Senayah		senzano2000@yahoo.com
36. Guinée	Dr Ya Sékou CAMARA	Chef/Section Analyses Microbiologiques_ ONCQ, Ministère du Commerce	yahsekoucamara@gmail.com tel: 621814007

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40. Niger	Monsieur MA-ILOU MALAM DJIBO	Chef de Division Promotion des Exportations à la Direction du Commerce Extérieur	ousmailou2001@yahoo.fr +227 96 59 66 29
41. Nigeria			
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43. Sierra Leone	Mohamed Osman Bah	Manager of Inspection and Focal point of World Trade Organization	medobah@yahoo.com
44. Togo	M. MARESS ALEKI	Conseiller juridique du ministre de l'industrie et du Tourisme	maressaleki@yahoo.fr +228 90047757
Regional Accreditation System			
45. Capo Verde	Mr. NATALINO ANDRADE	Technical executive from IGQPI	Natalino.Andrade@mee.gov.cv
46. Gambia	Papa Secka	Director General, TGSB	thegambiasb@gmail.com Tel: +2207237230
47. Ghana	Mr. Mustapha TAWIAH KUMAH	Director General of Ghana Accreditation System	mtkumah04@yahoo.co.uk
48. Guinée	Aboubacar CONTE	Ingénieur Chimiste Section Agro-alimentaire, Division Normalisation	boulmis79@gmail.com
49. Liberia	TOM TOMBEKAI	Assistant Director Research and Marketing Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Maseb100@gmail.com
50. Nigéria	Celestine OKANYA	Director General of Nigeria Accreditation Service	c.okanya@ninas.ng
51. Sierra Leone	Amadu Jogor Bah	Deputy Director	bahamadujogor@gmail.com
ECOWAS			
52.	Kalilou TRAORE	Commissioner IPSP	
53.	Fatima TRAORE	Executive Assistant	
54.	Justin NICKAF	Chairman TMC ECOCHAM	
Private sector			
55. Benin	Mr Jean Yaovi TOSSAVI	FEWACCI	
56. Togo	Mr Nanika Sambigou	FEWACCI	

COUNTRIES	NAMES	FUNCTION	Phone / email
57.		FEWACCI	
58. Togo	Aimé de Dieu TCHINGUILI	FOPAO Conseil National du Patronat du Togo	+228 90 09 77 60 essolim@gmail.com / cnptogo@gmail.com
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WAQSP			
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Ressources personnes			
67. Ghana	Nimo AHINKORAH	WAQSP Expert	
68. Burkina Faso	Justin BAYILI	WAQSP Expert	
69. Tunisie	Cherif EZZINE	WAQSP Expert	

Annex 2: Final work agenda

Time	Activities	Responsibilities
Day 1		
8 :30 – 9 :00	Welcome and installation of participants	
9 :00 – 10 :00	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome addresses • Interviews / group photo 	ECOWAS Commission, UNIDO, EUD Nigeria, Ministry of Industry
10 :00- 10 :15	Coffee-Break	
Plenary meeting		
10 : 15 – 10:30	Setting of the bureau of the plenary meeting	ECOWAS Commission WAQSP
10:30 – 12 :30	Presentation of the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) : Main achievements of the phase 1 Recall of the legal framework of the quality infrastructure of ECOWAS	WAQSP
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation & adoption of the general agenda of the constitutive meetings of the RAS & the community committees Nomination of the chairmen of the constitutive meetings of the RAS and the community quality committees	WAQSP/ Chairman of the plenary
13 :00- 14 :00	Lunch	
Meetings of RSA & Community Communities		
14 :00-17 :00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of the bureau of the meeting • Adoption of the draft agenda • Review and adoption of the rules of procedures of the RAS or the concerned community committee 	RAS / each committee (metrology, technical regulation, conformity assessment)
17 :00-17 :30	Coffee Break	
Day 2		
9 :00-10 :00	Presentation & adoption of the work plan 2017 – 2018	RAS / each community committee (metrology,

Time	Activities	Responsibilities
		technical regulation, conformity assessment)
10 :00-10 :15	Coffee Break	
10 :15-13 :00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the work plan of 2017-2018 • Review of the profile for the position of RAS or concerned community committee secretary 	RAS / each community committee (metrology, technical regulation, conformity assessment)
13 :00- 14 :00	Lunch	
14 :00- 16 :30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the profile for the position of RAS or concerned community committee secretary • Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the RAS or the concerned community committee 	RAS / each community committee (metrology, technical regulation, conformity assessment)
16 :30- 17 :00	Coffee Break	
DAY 3		
9:00-10:30	Drafting of the report of the constitutive meetings	Rapporteurs of RAS and each community committee
10:30 -11:00	Coffee break	
11:00: 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of the report of the meetings • Preparation of the presentation of the chairman at the plenary meeting 	Chairmen, rapporteurs of RAS and each committee
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00- 16:45	Adoption of the report and the presentation of the chairman for the plenary meeting	RAS & Committee
16:45-17:00	Coffee break	
DAY 4		
Debriefing of the plenary meeting		
9:30 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the report for Metrology Committee • Presentation of the report of the Conformity Assessment Committee 	Chairman (Metrology) Chairman (Conformity Assessment)
10:30- 11:00	Coffee break	

Time	Activities	Responsibilities
11:00- 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the report of the Technical regulation Committee • Presentation of the report of the RSA 	Chairman (Technical Regulation) Chairman of RSA
12:00- 13:00	Discussions	Plenary
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00- 15:00	Drafting of the report of the plenary meeting	Rapporteurs of the plenary meetings
15:00- 15:45	Adoption of the report of the plenary meeting	Plenary
15:45 – 16:30	Closing ceremony Press conference	ECOWAS Commission, UNIDO, EU Elected chairmen of RAS & each community committee
16:30-17:00	Coffee break	