

**COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO**

**ECOWAS COMMISSION**



**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

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# **REPORT OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF QUALITY IN ECOWAS COUNTRIES**

19 - 20 October 2017

NIAMEY, NIGER



# REPORT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

From October 19th to 20th, a statutory meeting of ministers in charge of quality was held in Niamey. This Ministerial Session aims to examine and validate:

- Three (03) draft ECOSTAND standards on agricultural products;
- Fourteen (14) draft ECOSTAND standards on food products;
- eight (08) draft ECOSTAND standards on chemicals products;
- twenty-three (23) draft ECOSTAND standards on buildings and building materials;
- two (02) draft ECOSTAND standards on electrotechnical products;
- three (03) draft ECOSTAND standards on tourism.

Took part in this Session:

- Republic of Benin: Mr. Gabin DEGBEY Joseph, representing the Minister of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts;
- Burkina Faso: Mr. Charles Eugène NABOLLE, representing the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts;
- Republic of Cape Verde: Mr. Abraao Andrade LOPES, representing the Minister of Economy and Employment;
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: Mr ANO Amoa Antoine, representing the State Minister of industry and Employment;
- Republic of Guinea: Mr Alseny SYLLA, representing the Minister of Industry, SMEs and Private Sector Promotion;
- Republic of Guinea Bissau: Mr. Na Sanha LUCAS; representing the State minister of Energy and industry
- Republic of Mali: Mr. Mohamed AG AHMEDOU, representing the Minister of Industrial Development;
- Republic of Niger: Mr. Abdou MAMAN, Minister of Industrial Development;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria: Mr. Francis O. ALANEME; representing the Federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment
- Republic of Senegal: Mr. Mamadou Syll KEBE, representing the Minister of Industry and Small and Medium Industries;
- Togolese Republic: Mr. FIDEGNON François Kpakpo, representing the Minister of Industry and Tourism.

In addition to the Minister and the representatives of the Ministers, there were also members of the Technical Management Committee (TMC), Directors of the National Standardization Organizations or their representatives, the members of the Technical Standards Harmonization Committee (THCs), representatives of institutions and partners: UNIDO, Helen Keller International (HKI), ECREEE and representatives of the ECOWAS Commission.



## 2. EXPECTED RESULTS

The Ministerial Session aimed at validating the fifty-three (53) draft standards submitted.

## 3. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was chaired by The Minister of Industry of Niger republic, Mr Abdou Maman. It comprised four speeches.

The Delegate of the European Union in Charge of Affaires in Niger, Mr Bernard FRIEDLING congratulated the Theme Quality object of the meeting. He reminded the formulation and implementation of quality systems strengthening support programs in West Africa, whose objectives are to strengthen regional and commercial economic integration by creating a favourable environment that comply with the rules of the international trade and technical regulations. He reassured the ECOWAS Commission and Member States of the full support of the European Union and wished full success to the meeting..

In his address, Mr. Ahmed HAMID, former Commissioner of ECOWAS in charge of Trade, Customs, Industry and Mines, Free Movement of Persons and Goods, welcomed the very fine course and the progress made in this long-term work. He recalled the stakes namely the emergence of our countries to have a place of choice in the international community. He reiterated the importance of continuing efforts to be closer to our companies, which often face difficulties in terms of isolation, technology, financial deficit and so on. He ended by thanking the audience and wishing full success in the Quality projects.

Mr Kalilou TRAORE Commissioner of ECOWAS in charge of Industry and Private Sector Promotion, on behalf of the President of the Commission, thanked the assembly for honouring the invitation to this Statutory Session of Ministers of ECOWAS. He expressed his gratitude to the national authorities of the Republic of Niger for hosting this important meeting. He recalled the evolution of the ECOSHAM program and the implementation of the Quality infrastructure and thanked his predecessor who led the launch of all these projects, during his mandate at the Commission. He praised the efforts of the technical committees whose results prove the effectiveness of the work in synergy. He reiterated his thanks to UNIDO, which is implementing the West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP), and particularly to the European Union, which is funding to the tune of 12 million Euros. He recalled the availability of funds by the European Union for the second phase of the Quality Program last December, as well as the decision, within the framework of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), to integrate the Quality aspects in the ECOWAS Regional Program on Value Chains. He recalled the major results achieved in the field of Regional Quality Infrastructure with the support of the PSQAO, as well as the progress made in the legal framework in the spirit of ensuring the operability of the Infrastructure Scheme of Quality of ECOWAS. He ended by wishing full success for the work and by making an appointment for the next major Quality activities that the Commission will implement in the coming months.

The Minister of Industrial Development of the Republic of Niger, Mr. Abdou MAMAN, on behalf of his Excellency Mr. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, President of the Republic of Niger, Head of State and Mr.



BRIGI RAFINI, Prime Minister Head of Government and on behalf of the Niger people, wished the warm welcome to the African soil of Niger to all its counterparts and participants. He emphasized that quality issues are decisive issues in the preservation of the health of our populations and the protection of the environment. He reminded that our sub-region has suffered so much and still suffers from the lack of tools not only to produce in a harmonized way the various goods and services, but also and above all to determine and control the intrinsic characteristics of certain products with dubious quality that are imported into our space. He also said that, it is important and even a necessity to ensure the conformity of our products and it is essential to ensure the conformity of our products to make them more competitive for export. Note that, it is in this context that Niger is committed to the implementation of a standards compliance verification program which is based on national, regional and international standards. He recalled that it was also in Niamey that the draft Regional Quality Policy Document (ECOQUAL) and the draft document on Model and Procedures for the Harmonization of ECOWAS Standards were validated in October 2012. He paid a well-deserved tribute to the ECOWAS Commission and to the technical and financial partners whose commitment and support of various orders made possible the implementation of the different policies. He ended his remarks by expressing his sincere thanks to the European Union for funding the WAQSP, to UNIDO for its implementation and to the team of experts who did a remarkable job. He then, declared open the work of the meeting of Ministers in charge of Quality of ECOWAS.

#### **4. Election of bureau**

At the beginning of the work, a session leading bureau was set up as follows:

President: Republic of Niger,  
Rapporteurs: Republic of Cape Verde,  
Republic of Nigeria  
Republic of Senegal

#### **5. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft Agenda of the Session was adopted as follows:

1. Presentation of the report of the meeting of the Technical Management Committee (TMC) on the final projects of ECOSTAND standards
2. Review and validation of the conclusions of the report
3. Information on the status of implementation of the Quality System Program of West Africa
4. AOB

The draft agenda was adopted as presented.

#### **6. Work Schedule**

- 1) **Presentation of the report of the meeting of the Technical Management Committee (TMC) on the final draft ECOSTAND standards**

The Chair of the Technical Management Committee (TMC), with the support of the secretaries of the Technical Harmonization Committees (THC) ECOSHAM, presented the work done in the process of

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elaboration and adoption of the fifty-three harmonized regional standards of ECOWAS (ECOSTAND) listed in the table below:

ECOWAS Regional Harmonised Standards(ECOSTAND)			Recommended by the TMC at the meetings in Accra and Bamako for the validation of the Ministers in charge of Quality
<b>THC1 – Agricultural Products</b>			
1	ECOSTAND 030:2017	Specification for Peanuts	YES
2	ECOSTAND 031:2017	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts	YES
3	ECOSTAND 072:2017	Code of Practice for Production and Handling of fresh Cassava	YES
<b>THC2 – Food products</b>			
1	ECOTAND 55:2017	Fortified sugars – Specification	YES
2	ECOWAS 56:2017	Salted fish and dried salted fish of the Gadidae family of fishes – Specification	YES
3	ECOSTAND 57:2017	General guidelines on sampling	YES
4	ECOSTAND 58:2017	Attiéké – Specification	YES
5	ECOSTAND 59:2017	Dehydrated Attiéké – Specification	YES
6	ECOSTAND 60:2017	Millet semolina – Specification	YES
7	ECOSTAND 61:2017	Maize semolina - Specification	YES
8	ECOSTAND 62:2017	Couscous from millet - Specification	YES
9	ECOSTAND 63:2017	Couscous from maize – Specification	YES
10	ECOSTAND 64:2017	Wheat semolina – Specification	YES
11	ECOSTAND 65:2017	Maize flour - Specification	YES
12	ECOSTAND 66:2017	Fortified milled maize products - Specification	YES
13	ECOSTAND 67:2017	Fishmeal as animal feed ingredient - Specification	YES
14	ECOSTAND 68:2017	Baby foods - Specification	YES
<b>THC3 – Chemical Products</b>			
1	ECOSTAND 276	Paints and Varnishes – Specification for powdered cement paint	YES
2	ECOSTAND 369	Paints and Varnishes – Specification	YES



		for mineral solvents (turpentine) for paints and other purposes	
3	ECOSTAND 794	Paints and Varnishes - Specification for sanding sealer for wood application	YES
4	ECOSTAND 795	Paints and Varnishes - Specification for lacquer thinner	YES
5	ECOSTAND 797	Paints and Varnishes - Specification for nitrocellulose lacquer	YES
6	ECOSTAND 039	Paints and varnishes - Specification for Architectural and Decorative Emulsion Paint	YES
7	ECOSTAND 041	Paints and Varnishes - Specification for Putty Filler	YES
8	ECOSTAND 042	Paints and Varnishes - Specification for varnishes	YES
<b>THC4 – Building and construction material</b>			
1	ECOSTAND 069-1: 2017	CEMENT - PART 1: COMPOSITION AND CONFORMITY CRITERIA FOR COMMON CEMENTS	YES
2	ECOSTAND 069-2: 2017	CEMENT - PART 2: CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT	YES
3	ECOSTAND 069-3.1: 2017	CEMENT - PART 3.1: METHOD OF TESTING CEMENT - SAMPLING AND PREPARATION OF CEMENT SAMPLES	YES
4	ECOSTAND 069-3.2: 2017	CEMENT - PART 3.2: METHODS OF TESTING CEMENT – DETERMINATION OF SETTING TIME AND SOUNDNESS	YES
5	ECOSTAND 069-3.3: 2017	CEMENT - PART 3.3: Methods of testing cement – determination of the chloride, carbon dioxide and cement alkalis	YES
6	ECOSTAND 069-3.4: 2017	CEMENT - PART 3.4: Methods of testing cement – determination of strength	YES
7	ECOSTAND 069-4.1: 2017	CEMENT - PART 4.1: Testing Method of Fly Ash – Part 1 – Determination of Calcium Oxide Content	YES
8	ECOSTAND 070-1: 2017	Steel for reinforcement of concrete – part 1: non-weldable ribbed bars and rods	YES
9	ECOSTAND 070-2: 2017	Steel for reinforcement of concrete – part 2: weldable plain bars	YES
10	ECOSTAND 070-3: 2017	Steel for reinforcement of concrete – part 3: weldable ribbed and coils of grade FeE500: weldable fabrics composed of these bars	YES
11	ECOSTAND 073-1: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Standard Terminology	YES
12	ECOSTAND	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS -	YES



	073-2: 2017	Standard for definition, classification and designation of compressed earth blocks	
13	ECOSTAND 073-3: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Code of practice for the implementation of Masonry in compressed earth blocks	YES
14	ECOSTAND 073-4: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Code of practice for the production Compressed Earth Blocks	YES
15	ECOSTAND 073-5: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Classification Standard for Identification Tests Of materials and mechanical tests	YES
16	ECOSTAND 073-6: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Technical Specifications for Facing Compressed Earth Blocks	YES
17	ECOSTAND 073-7: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Technical specifications for ordinary compressed earth blocks	YES
18	ECOSTAND 073-8: 2017	COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Code of practice for the preparation of soil mortars	YES
19	ECOSTAND 074: 2017	Building and Construction Materials: Specification for Blocks - Part 1- Precast Sandcrete Blocks	YES
20	ECOSTAND 075: 2017	Accessibility standard in a built environment	YES
21	ECOSTAND 076-1: 2017	Hydrocarbon binders Cutback bitumen's: Specifications	YES
22	ECOSTAND 076-2: 2017	Hydrocarbon binders –Definitions and classification	YES
23	ECOSTAND 077: 2017	Bitumen and bituminous binders – Specifications for paving grade bitumen	YES
<b>THC5 – Electrotechnical Products</b>			
1	ECOSTAND 071-1	Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) – Part 1 - refrigerating appliances	YES
2	ECOSTAND 071-2	Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) – Part 2 – air-conditioning products	YES
<b>THC6 – Tourism</b>			
1	ECOSTAND 55:2017	Tourism Services – Hotels and Related Establishments – Criteria for Grading Restaurants and other Entertainment facilities Part 1: Criteria for Grading Formal Food Service Establishments and Drinking Establishments	YES



2	ECOSTAND 55:2017	Tourism and Related Services – Criteria for Grading Restaurants and other Entertainment facilities Part 2: Criteria for Grading Informal Food Service Establishments and Drinking Establishments	YES
3	ECOSTAND 56:2017	Performance Criteria	YES

## 2) Review, validation of report findings

After presenting the list of standards and their impact on the economy, the health of populations and environment of the ECOWAS region, the Statutory Meeting of Ministers in charge of Quality:

- a) validates the fifty-three (53) ECOSTAND standards and,
- b) Recommends them for the next Council of Ministers of ECOWAS for adoption.

However, concerning the standard on Turpentine, the TMC reminded that a practical usage guide for this product should be elaborated in order to cope with the concerns of the member states.

In a spirit of sharing and complementarity, Mali has expressed its wish to provide the secretariat of the THC5 (Electro-technique). The TMC President promised to pay particular attention to any written request to this effect.

In addition, the meeting also made recommendations, which are set out in point 8 of this report.

## 7. West Africa Quality System Programme: state of the Progress

Mr. Aka KOUASSI, Chief Technical Advisor (PTC) of the WAQSP presented the status of progress of the implementation of the Program in its financial and technical aspects. He mentioned the main results of the program and the activities carried out.

He mentioned the next steps of the program and presented the challenges and recommendations. At the end of the Presentation, the CTP answered the various questions asked by the participants.

## 8. Recommendations

The Meeting of Ministers in charge of Quality recommends:

To the ECOWAS Commission

1. Finalize the logo design for foods products fortified with micronutrients
2. make regulations for the compulsory fortification of vector foods which are subjected to harmonized standards and high consumption in the Community area;
3. Make all necessary arrangements for the translation into the three official languages of ECOWAS (English, French, Portuguese) any document produced as part of ECOSHAM's harmonization of standards;





4. Support the States in seeking funding for action plans linked to their national quality policy;
5. Make all necessary arrangements with UNIDO's technical partner for organizational improvement, logistics, technical and statutory meetings.

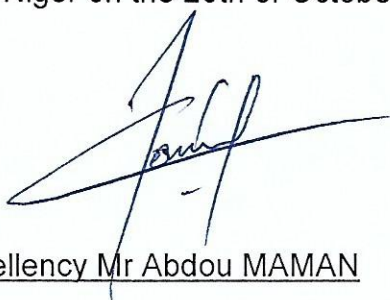
To Member States

1. Increase the involvement of the private sector in standard harmonization work;
2. Make reference, to ECOSTANDS harmonized standards in the specifications of the public contracts and the public order as much as possible;
3. Involve National Codex Alimentarius Committees in the work of harmonization of standards in the agri-food sector;
4. Adopt, National Quality Policies that were technically validated for countries which have not done it yet.
5. Encourage countries to reinforce institutional policies to check the conformity standards

#### 9. Adoption of the report of the meeting

The report of the meeting was considered and adopted unanimously as amended.

Done at Niamey, Niger on the 20th of October 2017



His Excellency Mr Abdou MAMAN

**Chairman**

**Meeting of Ministers in charge of Quality**

**VOTE OF THANKS**

The participants of the meeting of Ministers in charge of the quality of ECOWAS Member States held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 in Niamey (Republic of Niger), express their gratitude to His Excellency Mr. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, President of the Niger Republic, to the Government and the people of Niger, for the warm welcome and the facilities put at their disposal for the success of the meeting.

Done at Niamey, Niger on the 20th of October 2017

**The Meeting of Ministers**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Issoufou', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.