

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 16 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, in his capacity as the Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States, I have the honour to submit for issuance as a document of the Security Council the communiqué of the extraordinary session of the Authority dated 16 September 2021, on the political situation in Guinea and the political situation in Mali (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council, under agenda item 39.

(Signed) Harold Adlai Agyeman
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 16 September 2021 from the
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Extraordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and
Government of the Economic Community of West African States**

Communiqué

1. The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) convened in Extraordinary Session on 16 September 2021 in Accra, Republic of Ghana, under the chairmanship of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chair of the Authority, to review political developments in the Republic of Guinea. The Heads of State also reviewed the latest development of the transition in the Republic of Mali.

2. Present at the Summit were the under-listed ECOWAS Heads of State and Government or their duly mandated representatives:

H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President of Burkina Faso;

H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;

H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana;

H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embalo, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau;

H.E. Georges Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia;

H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger;

H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;

H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, President of the Togolese Republic;

H.E. Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

H.E. Aurélien A. Agbenonci, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Benin;

H.E. Filomena Mendes Gonçalves, Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cabo Verde;

H.E. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of The Gambia.

3. The session was also attended by H.E. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Goodluck Jonathan, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS Mediator to Mali, and H.E. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa.

4. The Heads of State and Government took note of the Report of the High-Level Mission dispatched to the Republic of Guinea on 10 September 2021, following the Extraordinary Session of the Authority held via videoconference on 8 September 2021. They also took note of the report on the political transition in the Republic of Mali, presented by the Mediator H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.

5. They commended the quality of the reports and the relevance of the recommendations contained therein.

6. The Authority, after deliberations, endorsed the main recommendations contained in the Mission's report.
7. The Authority reiterates its unreserved condemnation of the coup of 5 September 2021 and reaffirms its demand for the immediate and unconditional release of President Alpha Conde. It also reminds members of the National Committee for Reconciliation and Development (CNRD) that they are individually and collectively responsible for the physical safety of President Alpha Conde.
8. The Authority was apprised of the current sociopolitical situation in the Republic of Guinea and of the apparent commitment of the National Committee for Reconciliation and Development (CNRD) to work towards a swift return to constitutional order. It also took note of the CNRD's decision to hold consultations with all national and international stakeholders on the sociopolitical situation in the Republic of Guinea. The Authority expressed its concern about the resurgence of coups after the coups in Mali in 2020 and 2021.
9. After consideration of the Report and subsequent deliberations, the Authority decides as follows:
 - (a) to uphold the suspension of Guinea from all ECOWAS governing bodies until the restoration of constitutional order;
 - (b) to ensure the conduct of presidential and legislative elections within six (6) months in order to restore constitutional rule in the Republic of Guinea;
 - (c) to impose sanctions, in accordance with extant ECOWAS Protocols, of travel bans on the members of the CNRD and their family members and of freeze of their financial assets;
 - (d) to call on the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations, and other multilateral and bilateral partners to support the implementation of these sanctions;
 - (e) to ensure that no member of the CNRD is allowed to contest in the presidential election;
 - (f) ECOWAS to accompany Guinea in the swift resolution of the crisis and in the preparations for the elections.
10. The Authority calls on the African Union, the United Nations and development partners to endorse the decisions and support the restoration of constitutional rule in the Republic of Guinea.
11. Members of the Authority request the Chair of the Authority to visit the Republics of Guinea and Mali as soon as possible to convey in person the decision of the Authority.
12. The Authority decides to remain actively seized on the matter.

On the Political Transition in the Republic of Mali

13. The Authority remains deeply concerned about the slow pace of preparations for the elections scheduled for late February 2022 in the Republic of Mali.
14. The Authority reiterates its demands for strict adherence to the transition timetable leading to the effective conduct of elections within the non-negotiable deadline of February 2022. To this end, the Authority calls on the transitional authorities to submit, by the end of October 2021 at the latest, the timetable, for setting out the essential steps to be taken for the February 2022 elections. It insists on the implementation of only the necessary reforms for the conduct of elections on the agreed date.

15. The Authority decides to impose targeted sanctions against persons or groups of persons whose actions have a negative impact on the transition timetable, as decided by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government. These sanctions would include travel ban on such persons and their family members and the freezing of their financial assets. To this end, the Authority instructs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to compile and submit a list of such persons and groups of persons.

16. The Authority strongly condemns the continued arrest and detention of political leaders and opponents by the transitional authorities. It also demands that the issue be handled in line with the rule of law and respect for human rights.

17. Regarding security, the Authority strongly condemns the decision of the transitional authorities to hire private security companies in Mali and is greatly concerned about its consequences on the deterioration of the security situation in Mali and the region as a whole.

On the Strengthening of Democracy

18. In light of recent developments in the region, the Authority reaffirms that the consolidation of democracy and good governance is crucial for the development, peace and stability of the region. Consequently, the Authority instructs the President of the Commission to initiate the process of reviewing the 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance in order to ensure democracy, peace and stability in our region.

19. The Heads of State and Government express their deep gratitude to H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, for his leadership of the Community.

Done in Accra, this 16th day of September 2021

THE AUTHORITY
