

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES AND
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR
ORGANIZATION

**Memorandum of Understanding between
the Economic Community of West African States and
the International Labour Organization**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

DESIROUS to develop and strengthen their co-operation with respect to matters of common interest;

CONVINCED that the development and strengthening of such co-operation would be of mutual benefit to both Organizations and would enhance co-operation among their Member States;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I
Consultation

The ILO and ECOWAS, in order to facilitate attaining the objectives of the two Organizations, shall consult each other in respect of planning and execution of programmes for promoting decent work (rights at work, employment, training and income generation, social protection and social dialogue as a tool for socio-economic development) in relation but not limited to the following matters:

- (a) the role of employers' and workers' organizations;
- (b) tripartite consultation and cooperation;
- (c) employment, with an emphasis on youth and women;
- (d) eradication of child labour, with particular emphasis on the worst forms of child labour;
- (e) safety and health at work;
- (f) conditions of work and employment
- (g) extension of social security;
- (h) HIV/AIDS in the workplace;
- (i) harmonisation of labour and social security legislation;
- (j) gender policy mainstreaming;
- (k) labour migration;

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- (l) measures to combat forced labour and trafficking in persons
- (m) sectoral approaches to social and labour issues;
- (n) labour market information systems, including statistical capacity-building;
- (o) conflict prevention and post-conflict peace building; and
- (p) entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility.

ARTICLE II

Exchange of Information

ILO and ECOWAS shall exchange non-confidential information and documentation on matters of common interest, and shall keep each other informed of current and planned activities of mutual interest for the purpose of identifying areas in which co-operation between them may prove desirable.

ARTICLE III

Joint Activities

ILO and ECOWAS may, on conditions to be mutually agreed in each case, carry out joint studies or co-operate in the implementation of specific programmes or projects relating to matters of common interest within their respective mandates.

ARTICLE IV

Attendance at Meetings

Each Organization may, in accordance with its own constitutional provisions, invite the other to meetings it has convened, when matters of interest to the other are to be discussed.

ARTICLE V

Provision of Expertise

Each Organization may, on conditions to be mutually agreed in each case and within the limits of available resources, provide the services of its staff or consultants as the case may be.

ARTICLE VI

Implementation

The Director General of the ILO and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS will make appropriate arrangements to ensure closer collaboration and liaison between the two Organisations in matters of common interest.

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly 'J' and 'MIL', in black ink.

ARTICLE VII

Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed at an appropriate level every five years. Operational interaction will be monitored and evaluated regularly and an annual report will be prepared by both parties for presentation at meetings of the ECOWAS Labour Ministers and at relevant ILO meetings, or at other mutually agreed fora.

ARTICLE VIII

Duration and Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force indefinitely and may be terminated by mutual consent, or by one party giving the other party six (6) months written notice of the intention to terminate.

ARTICLE IX

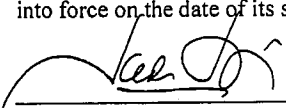
Amendments

- (a) The Parties hereto may enter into such supplementary arrangements or agreements within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding as may be appropriate.
- (b) This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual consent. Each Organization shall give a sympathetic consideration to any amendment proposed by the other party.

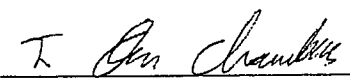
ARTICLE X

Entry Into Force

This Memorandum of Understanding, done in two originals, in the English language shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both parties.



Juan Somavia
Director-General
International Labour Organization, Geneva, 27-05-2005



Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas
Executive Secretary
Economic Community of West African States, Abuja, 8/06/2005