

Nigerian President TINUBU elected as the Chairman, ECOWAS

July 11, 2023

July 10, 2023: Bissau, Guinea-Bissau: **ECOWAS chooses Tinubu as its Chairman:** President Bola Tinubu, the President of Nigeria, was unanimously elected chair at the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Heads of State and Government.



The Nigerian leader, however, warned that the threat to peace in the region had reached an alarming proportion with **terrorism** and an emerging pattern of **military takeovers** that now demand urgent and concerted actions. He said **insecurity and creeping terrorism were stunting the progress and development of the region.**

The President noted two excellent initiatives by ECOWAS: **Regional Plan of Action on Fight against Terrorism 2020-2024** as well as the operationalization of the **ECOWAS Standby Force on Fight Against Terrorism**. Asiwaju Tinubu said that he would mobilize resources as well as the political will towards the **actualization of the initiatives**. “As terrorists do not respect boundaries, we must work collectively to have an effective regional counterterrorism measure,” he further stated.

The President declared that there is no good governance, freedom and rule of law, abiding cornerstone of peace and sustainable development, without Democracy. While decrying the emerging pattern of coup d'état in West Africa where soldiers have truncated the popular mandate, President Tinubu charged ECOWAS to stand firm in defence of democracy. He said: **Democracy is very difficult to manage but it is the best form of government.**

He promised to enhance engagements with the countries in transition to ensure their quick return to democratic rule.”

The new ECOWAS Chairman called for improved **private sector participation** in the effort towards the **economic development** of Member States as well as their **social integration**. We would actively promote trade, investment, and business cooperation among Member States by addressing the barriers impeding intra-regional trade, as well as creating a **conducive business environment**.

“To this end, we must look inward and work with our regional economic facilitation platforms such as the **Federation of West Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (FEWACCI) as well as **ECOWAS Trade Organisation Network** to attain our desired goals,” he added.

President Tinubu declared: “In furtherance of my vision for our region’s **economic recovery and growth, Nigeria intends to convene an ECOWAS Extra Ordinary Summit on Trade and Investment in October 2023**. “The event will provide opportunity for **Member States to showcase their potentials and encourage match-making, in order to evolve business cooperation** among the various organized private sectors within the region,” he added.

In his WELCOME ADDRESS, the outgoing ECOWAS Chairman and President of Republic of Guinea-Bissau, **Umaro Mokhtar Sissoco Embalo** cited **Mali, Burkina Faso and Republic of Guinea** as countries where the constitutional order had been distorted. He congratulated **Nigeria and Sierra Leone for sustaining constitutional order through democratic process with the recent successful elections**.

AGENDA: The 16 regional leaders are expected to address memoranda on pressing sub-regional issues including Report of the 50th Ordinary Session of the **Mediation and Security Council** (MSC) covering security challenges faced by the member

countries, Report of the 90th Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Council of Ministers on the **financial situation of the body** and the implementation of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.

Other matters slated for consideration by the leaders are the Report on the **status of Transition in the Republics of Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea**, Memoranda on the **ECOWAS Single Currency Programme** and the Report on Obstacles to **Free Movement of Goods on the Abidjan- Lagos corridor**.

ENTOURAGE OF THE PRESIDENT: On the trip are National Security Adviser, **Nuhu Ribadu**; Acting Governor of the Central Bank, **Dr. Folashodun Shonubi**; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador **Adamu Ibrahim Lamuwa**; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, **Dr. Ibrahim Kana**; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, **Mr. Aliyu Ahmed**, and ECOWAS Permanent Representative, Ambassador **Musa Nuhu**.

Others on the entourage include **four** former Governors, **Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu** (Kebbi), **Abdullahi Ganduje** (Kano), **Abubakar Badaru** (Jigawa) and **Senator Abu Ibrahim** from Katsina State.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS by www.DiGiNews360.com

www.DiGiNews360.com takes note of the repeated statements by President Bola Tinubu about his commitment to democracy and his belief that nations in Africa can develop only if democratic governments are not interrupted by coup d'états. Good governance becomes a norm when democracy is put on a stable footing.

The raison d'etre of www.DiGiNews360.com is that democracy is required to be strengthened in every country so that people in the 'Global South' can live with dignity. www.DiGiNews360.com also believes that the democratic movement must be led by countries like India, Nigeria, Brazil, since the leaders of the west are muted in their defense of democracy whereas the strong dictatorial regimes are trying to spread their nefarious ideas of governance and tentacles all over the world.
