Desks-to-Desk Consultations between ECOWAS and AU PAPS held in 
Abuja

Abuja, Nigeria, October 31, 2022: The African Union Commission (AUC) and the 
Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), 
through their respective Departments for Political Affairs, Peace and Security 
met on 31st October 2022 at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja. The two depart-
ments exchanged views on the state of implementation of the continental and 
regional normative instruments and frameworks on democracy, peace and secu-

rity. They also discussed the security challenges currently facing the continent, 
as well as political transitions underway. They further deliberated on mecha-
nisms for closer collaboration, joint horizon scanning, intervention and messag-
ing.

The AUC delegation was led by Ambassador Bankole ADEOYE, Commissioner for 
Political Affairs, Peace and Security while ECOWAS was led by Ambassador Dr. 
Abdel-Fatau MUSAH, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

During his opening address, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Ex-
cellency Dr. Alieu Omar TOURAY welcomed the AU delegation. He indicated that 
the new administration of the Commission has based its mandate implementa-
tion on the newly adopted “ECOWAS Vision 2050” in particular on four (04) stra-
tegic pillars: (i) Peace and Security, (ii) Governance and Rule of law, (iii) Eco-
nomic Integrity and Interconnectivity, (iv) Transformation, Inclusiveness. He 
called as enablers for the four pillars, capable institutions and effective partner-
ships.

Both Commissioners called for closer collaboration and intensification of joint 
assessment of and responses to the critical issues of unconstitutional changes of 
government, counter-terrorism, Peace Support Operations, electoral assistance, 
and Good Governance.

The meeting also discussed the I-RECKE/Continental Early Warning initiative, 
and the revitalization of ECOWAS-ECCAS inter-regional model on Peace and Se-
curity and the principles of subsidiarity and complementary.
At the end of the meeting, the two institutions agreed to collaborate more closely in a systematic manner especially in the following areas: (i) operationalizing AU I-RECKE in collaboration with ECOWAS and other RECs, (ii) improving the communication and consultations between the two Directorates working under CPAPS AU and CPAPS ECOWAS; (iii) creating synergy and aligning the AU ECOSOCC and ECOWAS efforts to operationalize a regional ECOSOCC, (iv) reconfiguring electoral assistance to ensure peaceful outcomes and credibility; and (v) purposeful engagement with youths and women to ensure their meaningful participation in continental and regional peace, governance and integration processes.

The AU PAPS and ECOWAS PAPS consultation was convened on the margins of the maiden Lesson Learning Forum on AU Peace Support Operations in Africa and the Africa Standby Force, hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 1st to 3rd November, 2022.

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