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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- THIRD SESSION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

JUNE, 2024

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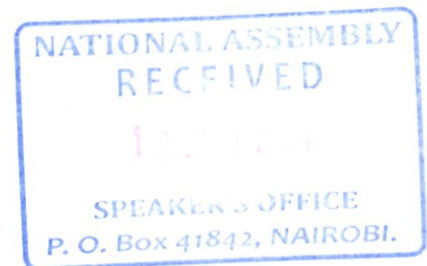
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1 Contents

ABBREVIATIONS	3
CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD	4
1.1 Committee Membership	7
1.2 Committee Secretariat	9
1. INTRODUCTION.....	10
b. Objectives of the Benchmarking study visit	10
c. Expected Outcomes	10
2. BACKGROUND ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA	11
a. Meeting with the staff of the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya to Federal Republic of Nigeria.....	11
a) Demise of H.E. Dr. Wilfred Machage, Kenya's High Commissioner to Nigeria	15
b) Covid- 19 Pandemic	15
c) Security	15
d) Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)	16
e) Nigerian Government Lift on Twitter Ban	16
f) Kenya Airways (KQ) Flights to Nigeria.....	16
3. MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN AFRICA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.....	17
4. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS).....	20
a. Achievements of the ECOWAS.....	20
b. Department of Internal Service	21
c. Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security	21
i. Early Warning.....	21
ii. Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA).....	22
iii. Directorate of peace keeping & Regional Stability	22
iv. Department of Economic Affairs & Agriculture	23
v. Infrastructure, Energy & Digitalization	23
vi. Department of Human Development.....	23
5. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECOWAS COURT OF JUSTICE.....	23
6. MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER OF THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENT	24
7. LESSONS FOR KENYA AND THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY.....	24
8. CONCLUSION.....	25
ANNEXURES.....	26

ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
APSA	African Union's Peace and Security Architecture
AU	African Union
CMP	Common Market Protocol
DPA	Directorate of Political Affairs
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EAC	East African Community
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
GDP	gross domestic product
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
JCC	Joint Commission for Cooperation
JTC	Joint Trade Committee
KQ	Kenya Airways
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency
PTF	Presidential Task Force
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SALW	Small Arms & light Weapons
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary union

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

A delegation of the Select Committee on Regional Integration took in a benchmarking exercise of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) from 6th to 10th November, 2023. The main purpose of the visit was to learn best practices on Regional Economic Communities and replicate the same within the East African Community (EAC). This is drawn from the mandate of the Committee with respect to enhancing the role and involvement of the House in intensification and development of the integration process in the East African Community and the greater African region. The benchmarking visit was also to enhance the capacity of the Members with requisite skills; to carry out their mandate effectively and efficiently.

There are 15 members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The main goal of ECOWAS is to promote economic cooperation among member states in order to raise living standards and promote economic development. ECOWAS has also worked to address some security issues by developing a peacekeeping force for conflicts in the region. ECOWAS established its free trade area in 1990 and adopted a common external tariff in January 2015.

During the visit, the Committee held consultative meetings with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS secretariat), ECOWAS Parliament, ECOWAS Court of Justice, counterpart Parliamentary Committees, to share experiences and challenges faced by legislators in development and implementation of sound regional integration policies.

It is often argued that socio-economic integration of African countries is the most fundamental instrument needed for the region's transformation and sustainable development. The EAC Partner States have made tremendous efforts towards enhancing integration in the bloc. These include operationalization of the Customs Union, the common market and ratification of the monetary union. The Community has also increased cooperation in areas such as security, education, election observation among others.

Different regional blocs are at different levels of attainment of regional integration. The policies adopted are also different. Therefore, there exists a myriad of lessons that Regional Economic Communities within Africa can borrow from each other, especially from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which has made significant progress in free trade area, customs union, common market and monetary union.

As a region, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has made significant progress in strengthening its efforts to integrate economies and promote peace and security. It is pertinent that all regional economic communities (RECs) build on their vision, values and achievements towards unity and prosperity for our future generations, this will in turn strengthen integration of the region and continent.

During the benchmarking exercise, the committee paid a visit to the following institutions:

1. The Kenya High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria
2. The House Representative of Federal Republic of Nigeria

3. The ECOWAS Commission, upon which they visited the following departments:
 - i) Political Affairs, Peace and Security
 - ii) Internal Service
 - iii) Economic Affairs and Agriculture
 - iv) Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization
 - v) Human Development and Social Affairs
4. The ECOWAS Parliament, and;
5. ECOWAS Court of Justice.

The Report contains presentations, observations, and recommendations from the study visit conducted by a delegation of the Committee on Regional Integration to Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from November 6 to 10th, 2023. As a critical Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member state, Nigeria served as the visit's focal point. The other key objectives included:

1. To study and inquire into the aim of creating a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation;
2. To learn more about how to build expertise in specific areas to develop the quality of information needed by Members of parliament as they participate in the legislative agenda internationally;
3. To learn plans by ECOWAS to progressively eliminate identified barriers to full integration.
4. Inquire into ways of promoting partnerships between the East African Community Bloc and ECOWAS bloc on mutual cooperation into the future.
5. To exchange experiences and insights on the development of effective regional integration policies. It aimed to facilitate a constructive dialogue and knowledge-sharing among delegation members and representatives from ECOWAS on the successes and challenges faced in creating effective regional integration policies;
6. Gain insights into ECOWAS's progress toward fully implementing the Protocols of the Common Market Protocol; it involved examining the practical aspects of the protocol, such as the removal of trade barriers, the free movement of goods and services, labour, and capital, and other vital provisions.
7. To learn about Nigeria's legislative framework concerning integration. Including understanding the legal and institutional mechanisms that Nigeria has in place to promote regional integration;

It is expected that the Benchmarking will result in:

- A detailed Report of the activities undertaken during the Benchmarking;
- Enhanced knowledge to help execute the Committees advisory role to Parliament on the realization by the African countries regarding the pillar of common market;
- Familiarizing Members of the Committee with best practices in established Parliaments.

Composition of the Delegation

In response to a correspondence received on 19th October, 2023 from the ECOWAS, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Committee nominated the following Members to constitute the delegation:

The delegation comprised of: -

1. Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP - Vice Chairperson/Leader of the Delegation
2. Hon. Peter Ochieng Orero, MP
3. Hon. Peter Kalerwa Salasya, MP
4. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
5. Mr. Jimale Mohamed - Clerk Assistant I/ Delegation Secretary

The delegation had the opportunity to visit the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters in Abuja, where fruitful discussions were held with ECOWAS President. He affirmed the need to build a strong regional bloc for the continent in order to unify the African continent in the future. He stressed the need to meet with different ECOWAS department to explore joint efforts and identify key sectors where regional blocs could leverage their strengths for mutual benefit. The discussions emphasized the importance of fostering cooperation within the ECOWAS region in trade, infrastructure development, and socio-economic growth.

In tandem, the recommendations put forth highlight the importance of fostering bilateral relations, actively engaging with emerging regional issues, allocating resources for research and development efforts, participating in regional trade initiatives, particularly under the Tripartite Agreement and AfCFTA, and prioritizing trade facilitation measures to enhance cross-border efficiency. These collective observations and recommendations aim to bolster regional integration, economic growth, and cooperation between Kenya and Nigeria within the ECOWAS framework.

In closing, the Committee extends its gratitude to the leadership of ECOWAS Commission, the Chairperson, Hon Kwamoti Bitrus Laori, Chairman of the Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for their invaluable support during the benchmarking visit. On behalf of the Members of the Select Committee on Regional Integration, and under our mandate, I take pleasure in presenting to the House the **Committee's Report on the study visit to ECOWAS Headquarters, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP - Vice Chairperson/Leader of the Delegation

1.1 Committee Membership

1. The Committee comprises of the following twenty-one Members –

Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, MP – Chairperson
Kipipiri Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP- Vice- Chairperson
FAFI Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP
Ugenya Constituency
Movement for Democracy and Growth

Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
Marsabit (CWR)
United Democratic Party

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
Matayos Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP
Kirinyaga Central Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Didmus Wekesa Barasa Mutua, MP
Kimilili Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Danson Mwashako Mwakuwona, MP
Wundanyi Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
Karachuonyo Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
Khwisero Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
Nyaribari Chache Constituency

United Democratic Party

Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP
West Pokot (CWR)
Kenya Union Party

Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
Meru (CWR)
United Democratic Party

Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
Kericho (CWR)
United Democratic Party

Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
Kwale (CWR)
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
Bahati Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
Kitutu Chache North Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Peter Ochieng Orero, MP
Kibra Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
Kesses Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Peter Kalerwa Salasya, MP

Mumias East Constituency
Democratic Alliance Party

Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
Bomet East Constituency
United Democratic Party

1.2 Committee Secretariat

2. The secretariat facilitating the Committee comprises –

Mr. Mohamed Jimale

Clerk Assistant I (Team Leader)

Ms. Jane Gathoni Ouko	-	<i>Clerk Assistant III</i>
Mr. Bernard Toroitich	-	<i>Clerk Assistant III</i>
Mr. Dominic Kyalo	-	<i>Legal Counsel II</i>
Ms. Damacrine Kwamboka	-	<i>Research Assistant II</i>
Ms. Mercy Mayende	-	<i>Media Relations Officer III</i>
Mr. Moses Kariuki	-	<i>Serjeant at Arms</i>
Mr. Rahab Chepkilimo	-	<i>Audio Officer</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

3. The Committee on Regional Integration, in a meeting held on April 18, 2023, resolved to undertake a study visit to the headquarters of ECOWAS. A delegation comprising four Members undertook a study visit to the Headquarters in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The delegation visited as scheduled from November 6 to 10th, 2023 11 to 15th, 2023. The Members visited the following institutions:
- i. Chairman, Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
 - ii. ECOWAS Commission Secretariat/Headquarters.
 - Department of Political Affairs,
 - Department of Internal service,
 - Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture
 - Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization, and
 - Department of Human Development and Social Affairs
 - iii. The ECOWAS Court of Justice
 - iv. The ECOWAS Parliament

b. Objectives of the Benchmarking study visit

4. The study's objectives were to familiarize with the ECOWAS region. The specific goals include:
- i. Study and inquire into the aim of creating a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation;
 - ii. Learn more about how to build expertise in specific areas to develop the quality of information needed by Members of parliament as they participate in the legislative agenda internationally;
 - iii. Learn plans by ECOWAS to progressively eliminate identified barriers to full integration; and,
 - iv. Inquire into ways of promoting partnerships between the East African Community Bloc and ECOWAS bloc on mutual cooperation into the future.

c. Expected Outcomes

5. It is expected that the Benchmarking will result in:
- i) A detailed Report of the activities undertaken during the Benchmarking;
 - ii) Enhanced knowledge to help execute the Committees advisory role to Parliament on the realization by the African countries regarding the pillar of common market;
 - iii) Familiarizing Members of the Committee with best practices in established Parliaments.

2. BACKGROUND ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

6. A delegation comprising four Members and a Parliamentary officer undertook a study visit to the Headquarters in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The delegation visited as scheduled from November 6 to 10th, 2023 11 to 15th, 2023, where they had several meeting with the following under listed -

a. Meeting with the staff of the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya to Federal Republic of Nigeria

7. The delegation paid a courtesy call on to the staff of the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to discuss the bilateral relations that Kenya and Nigeria have shared since Independence. The delegation observed as followl -
- i) The Federation of Nigeria, a former British Colony was granted full independence on 1st October 1960 under a constitution that provided for a parliamentary government and a substantial measure of self-government for the country's three regions of Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo. The Federal Republic of Nigeria is governed under a Federal Governance System with executive powers exercised by the president. The president is the head of state and head of government;
 - ii) The Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a country in West Africa situated between the Sahel to the north and the Gulf of Guinea, to the south in the Atlantic Ocean. It is the most populous country in Africa with a population size of over 219 million people. It is a multinational state inhabited by more than 250 ethnic groups speaking 500 distinct languages, all identifying with a wide variety of cultures;
 - iii) The national capital is Abuja in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), which was created by decree in 1976. Lagos, the former capital, retains its standing as the country's leading commercial and industrial city;
 - iv) The Federal Capital Territory (FCT), is the capital territory of Nigeria, and it is in this territory that the capital city of Abuja is located. The FCT is not a state but is administered by elected officials who are supervised by the federal government;
 - v) The Kenya High Commission in Nigeria aims to promote and protect Kenya's social, economic and political interests in West Africa;
 - vi) It also facilitates cooperation and friendship between Kenya and Nigeria, as well as other countries of accreditation, namely: Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Guinea Conakry. Additionally, it provides consular services to Kenyan citizens and foreigners who wish to visit or do business with Kenya;
 - vii) Kenya and Nigeria have a long history of bilateral relations that date back to the pre-independence era. Both countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, African Union and the Commonwealth of Nations. They share common values and aspirations for peace, democracy and development in Africa and the world;

¹ Submission by the First Secretary, Kenya High Commission in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria

viii) In recent years, Kenya and Nigeria have enhanced their cooperation in various fields such as trade, investment, tourism, education, energy, agriculture and security. In 2013 and 2014, the two countries exchanged high-level visits by their presidents, Goodluck Jonathan and Uhuru Kenyatta respectively.

8. During these visits, they signed several agreements and memoranda of understanding to boost bilateral ties. Some of the areas of cooperation include:

i. Trade and investment: Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to implement strategies to increase intra-Africa trade and investment in their respective countries. They have also established a Joint Business Council to facilitate business linkages and partnerships between their private sectors. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya's exports to Nigeria amounted to 33 million U.S. dollars in 2015, while its imports from Nigeria were 555,000 dollars.

ii. Oil and gas: Kenya has sought Nigeria's expertise and experience in oil and gas exploration and production. Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa and has a well-developed oil industry. Kenya has recently discovered oil deposits in its northern region and hopes to benefit from Nigeria's technical assistance and best practices.

iii. Tourism: Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to promote tourism exchange between their countries. Kenya is renowned for its wildlife and natural attractions, while Nigeria offers cultural and historical sites. Both countries have waived visa requirements for diplomatic passport holders to facilitate travel.

iv. Education: Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to enhance cooperation in education through exchange of students, teachers and researchers. They have also signed an MOU on mutual cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of Kenya and the Foreign Service Academy of Nigeria to train their diplomats.

v. Security: Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to cooperate in combating international terrorism and other transnational crimes such as drug trafficking and money laundering. They have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in police service to share information and best practices.

9. The Kenya High Commission in Nigeria plays a vital role in fostering cordial relations between Kenya and Nigeria. The two countries have a lot to offer each other in terms of trade, investment, tourism, education, energy, agriculture and security. By working together, they can achieve their common goals of peace, stability and prosperity in Africa.

Politics and Government

10. Nigeria is a federal republic, with executive power exercised by the president. The president is the head of state, the head of government, and the head of a multi-party system. Nigerian politics takes place within a framework of a federal, presidential, representative democratic

republic, in which executive power is exercised by the government. The president is elected by popular vote to a maximum of two-four year terms. The Federal government of Nigeria is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial, whose powers are vested by the constitution of Nigeria in the national assembly, the president, and the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, respectively. The Nigeria National Assembly has two houses; the Senate and the House of Representatives

Economy

11. Nigeria is Sub-Saharan Africa's largest economy. It is richly endowed with resources among them the most extensive proven oil and gas reserves in the world. The current estimated population is 219 million people and is expected to exceed 400 million by the end of the century.
12. The country relies heavily on oil as its main source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. In 2020, Nigeria had a gross domestic product (GDP) of 432.3 billion US dollars and a population yielding an income per capita of over 2,097.1 US dollars.
13. The country's economic and demographic potential positions it to play a major role in regional, continental and global stages. It currently dominates West Africa's economy accounting for almost 70% of the region's GDP.

i. Kenya-Nigeria Relations

Diplomatic Relations

14. Kenya and Nigeria enjoy cordial relations with resident Ambassadors stationed in each other's capitals. Kenya Mission in Nigeria is based in Abuja and is also currently accredited to Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Benin. The Mission also covers Guinea, Guinea Bissau, and Burkina Faso. Current Nigeria's High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Yusuf Yunusa presented his letters of credence on 1st September 2021.

Exchange of High-Level Visits

- i. H.E. Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, paid an official visit to Kenya during the UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50 Conference held in Nairobi in March 2022;
- ii. H.E. Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, reciprocated with a State Visit to Kenya on 27th January 2016; and
- iii. H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta paid a State Visit to Nigeria in May 2014.

Instruments of Cooperation

15. Kenya and Nigeria have signed the following instruments:
 - (i) Agreement establishing a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) on 16th July, 2013;
 - (ii) Agreement on Cooperation in Immigration matters was signed in May 2014;
 - (iii) MoU on the twinning of Cities/Towns;
 - (iv) Protocol for consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs;
 - (v) MoU on Cooperation in Police Service;

- (vi) Bilateral Trade Agreement;
- (vii) MoU on Five Year Multiple Visa for Prominent Business Persons;
- (viii) MoU on Collaboration in the Control of the Possession and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters; and
- (ix) MoU on Bilateral Air Services Agreement.

ii. Trade Relations

Joint Trade Committee (JTC):

16. Trade is the key driving force between the two countries. Kenya - Nigeria bilateral economic relations were formalized through the signing of the Bilateral Trade Agreement in 2014. The MoU under article 15 provides for establishment of a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC). To date the two sides have not met to actualize the formation of the Joint Trade Committee as envisaged in the Agreement.

Transport Connectivity:

17. Kenya Airways launched direct flights to Lagos in June 2014 and was operating 32 weekly flights between Nairobi and Lagos before the Covid-19 pandemic. It is envisaged that improved air transport connectivity will be a catalyst for greater economic cooperation.

Trade and Investments:

18. In 2019 Kenya's exports to Nigeria were valued at 2,776,348,196 Kenya shillings while imports were valued at 1,101,130,886 Kenya shillings with the Balance of Trade in favour of Kenya.
19. Exports to Nigeria include; Tea, Coconut fiber, packing containers, Medicaments, Off-set printing machinery, Parts of footwear, Cut flowers and foliage and Builders' ware of plastics.

Kenya-Nigeria Trade Statistics (Kshs)			
Year	Export Value	Import Value	Balance of Trade
2011	1,805,115,490	164,689,630	1,640,425,860
2012	2,923,890,703	48,663,815	2,875,226,888
2013	2,350,104,886	1,596,188,537	753,916,349
2014	2,429,577,953	698,214,394	1,731,363,559
2015	3,659,277,632	205,491,477	3,453,786,155
2016	2,559,421,894	459,985,354	2,099,436,540
2017	2,649,018,866	425,429,222	2,223,589,644

2018	2,231,631,426	664,467,815	1,568,163,563
2019	2,806,310,782	1,113,014,366	1,693,296,416
2020	2,788,714,048	184974528	3,836,910,454
AVERAGE VALUES	2,620,306,368	464,466,525	2,155,839,844

20. **Observations –**

The delegation observed the following issues -

a) Demise of H.E. Dr. Wilfred Machage, Kenya’s High Commissioner to Nigeria

21. The Kenya High Commissioner to Nigeria Amb. Dr. Wilfred Machage, passed away on 19th February 2022 after a short illness and was buried on 4th March 2022. Ambassador Machage was appointed High Commissioner to Abuja, Nigeria in January 2018 and accredited to 12 other countries within Central and Western Africa. The government of Kenya appreciates the Federal government of Nigeria for the support accorded in the repatriation of the Body to Kenya.

b) Covid- 19 Pandemic

22. Nigeria received its first batch of nearly 4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines on 2nd March 2021. The number of COVID-19 vaccination doses administered per 100 people in Nigeria rose to 38 as of Oct 15 2022.
23. The Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 Chaired by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) assured that not less than 70% of Nigerians would be vaccinated against the pandemic by 2022.

c) Security

24. Nigeria has made positive progress in its fight against the militant group Boko Haram, whose reign of terror has resulted in many deaths and led to many Nigerians seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.
25. The country has continued to suffer from many cases of kidnappings, banditry attacks, farmers-herders’ clashes and armed robbery cases.
26. The arrest of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has escalated conflict with the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) who are agitating for secession of Biafra, in southeast Nigeria. To this end, the Government of Nigeria has proscribed activities of Indigenous People of Biafra within and outside Nigeria.
27. Kenya and Nigeria face similar challenges hence the need to explore opportunities for sharing experiences and cooperation in Regional Peace and Security, including the war against terrorist groups.

d) Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)

28. The Kenya/Nigeria JCC was signed on 16th July 2013. The inaugural session which was scheduled to be held in Nairobi is still pending. The JCC would provide an opportunity to evaluate implementation of previous Agreements and MoU's that emanated from H.E. the President's State Visit in May 2014. There is need to accelerate bilateral cooperation between the two Countries.
29. The Agreement on Cooperation in Immigration Matters - signed 2014 only covers waiver of visa requirements on diplomatic/service passports holders and does not cover information sharing. There is need to review the agreement to provide for sharing of information on immigration.

e) Nigerian Government Lift on Twitter Ban

30. On 12th January 2022, the Government of Nigeria lifted the ban on Twitter after the social platform met the Government's conditions which included; attention to national security and cohesion, registration, physical presence, and representation in Nigeria, as well as dispute resolution, and local content.
31. The suspension came into effect in June 2021, after the deletion of a tweet by the government. The government had also accused Twitter of working against Nigeria's interests. There is a need to learn from experiences gained from such actions by a sovereign state on how to control social media platforms that undermine the interest of our countries.

f) Kenya Airways (KQ) Flights to Nigeria

32. KQ ceased operating on the route Nairobi to Abuja Nigeria due to the failure by the Nigeria KQ Branch to remit money back home to its parent company to facilitate the airline meet the costs of operations in an ever-increasing global cost of the airline operation. This is due to scarce forex. Reliable information indicates that some airlines ceased operations while KQ still operates but at optimal levels.
33. After negotiations, KQ among its competitors was allowed to remit 40%. KQ used to fly to Abuja but now flies to Lagos only denying the regular travellers to and from Nigeria to Kenya and transiting to the Far East, Middle East, and Europe.

Recommendation: -

- i. Appeal to the host to allow KQ to remit funds back to Nairobi for its operations ;
- ii. KQ to be urged to re-start flying the routes they had stopped operating; and
- iii. The domestic Nigeria flight sector has massive potential in which KQ may consider initiating dialogue with Nigeria Airlines to partner in starting domestic flights.

3. MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN AFRICA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

34. Rt. Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus Laori, Chairman House of Representatives' Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, on the Occasion of Study visit by Kenyan Parliamentarians to the Nigerian Parliament welcomed delegation on behalf of the 10th National Assembly House of Representatives'. Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa. The Nigerian House of Representatives under the leadership of the Speaker, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Dr. Tajudeen Abbas.
35. The Chairman of the Committee on the Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa informed the delegation as follows –
36. The Committee is one of the standing committees of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The committee is responsible for overseeing matters relating to Nigeria's relations with other African countries and regional organizations, such as the African Union, ECOWAS, NEPAD and the Gulf of Guinea Commission.
37. The committee also works to promote peace, security and development in Africa through dialogue, cooperation and integration⁸. The House of Representatives is the lower chamber of the National Assembly of Nigeria, which is the bicameral legislature of the country. The House consists of 360 members who are elected for four-year terms from single-member constituencies across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.
38. The House is headed by the Speaker, who is assisted by the Deputy Speaker and other principal officers. The House has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Nigeria, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. The House of Representatives is located at the Three Arms Zone in Abuja, which is the capital city of Nigeria.
39. The Three Arms Zone is a district that houses the three branches of government:
 - i. the executive,
 - ii. the legislature; and
 - iii. the judiciary
40. The National Assembly Complex, which accommodates both the Senate and the House of Representatives, is a monumental edifice that symbolizes Nigeria's democracy and sovereignty. The complex has a central dome that represents unity and a green-white-green colour scheme that reflects the national flag.
41. The Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa is an important committee of the House of Representatives that deals with Nigeria's foreign policy in Africa. The House of Representatives is one of the two chambers of the National Assembly that makes laws for Nigeria. The House of Representatives is situated at the Three Arms Zone in Abuja, which is a prestigious area that hosts the three arms of government.
42. The Chairperson for the Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa had appreciated the delegation for making time to visit the House of Representatives as he assured of their support towards realization of the integration of African continent in the future. He informed

that the primary role is to enact laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Nigerian society. He further notified the delegation of the following –

- (i) As a Committee, they are obligated to promote the socio-cultural and economic integration of Africa, particularly, in the fields of extractive industry, transportation, information and communication technology, energy, agriculture, commerce, monetary and financial resource management, as well as culture and tourism;
- (ii) In discharging Legislative duties however, numerous challenges are faced that tend to distract the focus from developing sound regional integration policy frameworks that will foster unity, peace and progress among Africans. Some of the challenges include insecurity, political instability and the negative influence of neo-colonialism;
- (iii) On insecurity: The African region, for many years have been plagued by plethora of setbacks that affects our growth and development. These ranges from terrorism, climate change, poverty and unemployment, trans-border organized crimes, trafficking in arms and drugs which cumulatively fuels violent intra- state- conflicts in the region with its attendant consequences impeding the development of any sound regional policy towards integration;
- (iv) In response to these challenges, the Nigerian parliament, through passed legislations and resolutions have continued to promote diplomatic practices hat strengthen unity and good neighbourliness through ECOWAS and the regional level through the African Union;
- (v) In recent time, under the leadership of HE Ahmed Bola Tinubu, (GCFR) the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces and Chairman, Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS), the Nigerian government with the support of Parliament has remain resolute in promoting peaceful settlement and resolution of disputes and conflicts in the region;
- (vi) Insecurity, has no doubt prevented most African States from channelling their energy and resources towards advancing meaningful ventures such as local manufacturing, ecommerce, trade and industry which are critical to development in the region. These again are not unconnected to the negative influence of neo- colonialism;
- (vii) On political instability: The incessant toppling of democratic governments in some African States has halted the implementation of some valuable regional policies. Also, the lack of political will on the part of most African leaders tend to undermine credible electoral process, constitutionalism and the rule of law, which are the hallmarks of true democracy. This has also encouraged corruption and practices that continually undermine regional cooperation and Integration in Africa; and
- (viii) As a result of bad leadership, the large arable lands, huge mineral resources, large population and market in Africa has remain largely untapped. Worse still, in

spite of our common ties and congruity, Africans leaders have upheld the artificial colonial boundaries that divide us. We have continually place stiff migration policies and trade restrictions amongst ourselves to the advantage of the neo-colonial capitalists.

43. He further observed that the aforementioned challenges notwithstanding, the region has proved to be remarkably resilient and with more inter-parliamentary visits and engagements and achieve the desired regional cooperation and integration that Africa need in order to develop economically and politically.
44. He applaud the step taken by the Republics of Kenya and Rwanda, joining Benin, the Gambia and Seychelles on "No Visa for Africans".
45. Historically, Nigeria shares a lot in common with Kenya, besides being former British Colonies and members of the Commonwealth, Nigeria like Kenya has huge potentials in agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, energy, tourism and financial services and through partnerships such as this visit offers, the two countries can harness their potentials in the interest of Africans.
46. The Cooperation and Integration in Africa will push for unrestricted travel for Africans within the continent which has been a major objective of the African Union (AU) for the past decade. Indeed, this is the way to go and we shall also ensure that Nigeria follow suit, so that Africa can take advantage of her large market to create wealth and employment for Africans without restrictions.
47. The Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa looks forward to reciprocating the Kenyan Parliament's visit in the nearest future, to engage and to learn from each other's unique parliamentary experience, cultures, legislations and governance.

4. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

48. The delegation had a discussion with the President of ECOWAS H.E Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, who highlighted the Ecowas commission's history and noted as follow-

- i) The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was formally established in May 1975 by the ECOWAS Treaty with the mandate of promoting economic integration in all fields of activity of the constituting countries;
- ii) Prominent African, Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, is widely regarded as the 'father of ECOWAS.' He had outlined a vision for regional integration in West Africa in a journal article in 1970, before turning theory into practice;
- iii) The regional group is made of fifteen countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Eight of these countries are members of the West African Economic and Monetary union (WAEMU) considered one of the pillars of the African Economic Community, ECOWAS was set up to foster the ideal of collective self-sufficiency for its member states. As a trading union, it is also meant to create a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation; and
- iv) the organisation is being acknowledged globally as a successful regional body with a vision of creation of a borderless region where the population has access to its abundant resources and can exploit the same through the creation of opportunities under a sustainable environment.

49. In 1993, the ECOWAS Treaty was revised to accelerate the process of integration and establish an economic and monetary union to stimulate economic growth and development in West Africa with the following objectives:

- i. The removal of customs duties for intra-ECOWAS trade and taxes having equivalent effect;
- ii. The establishment of a common external tariff;
- iii. The harmonization of economic and financial policies; and
- iv. The creation of a single monetary zone.

a. Achievements of the ECOWAS

50. ECOWAS has recorded four key achievements in the field of regional integration:

- i. **Free Movement of Persons:** ECOWAS successfully established a protocol as early as 1979 that allowed the free movement of its 340 million citizens across the sub-region;
- ii. **Security Mechanism:** ECOWAS established the Continent's first sub-regional security mechanism in 1999. The mechanism is built on the lessons of the Nigeria-led ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeeping interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the 1990s in which over 2,500 West African peacekeepers were deployed;

- iii. **Governance Protocol:** the protocol ratified in 2001 has helped with democratization challenges in Guinea, Niger and Togo. The organisation has also played an important role in Burkina Faso's current democratic transition following the toppling of the 27-year old government of Blaise Compaore in October 2015; and
- iv. **The Community Levy:** Financing of Regional integration remains a major challenge on the Continent. ECOWAS came up with an innovative way to address this. The organisation created an innovative Community Levy in 2000 to help fund the organisation. The levy is charged as 0.5 % of the value of imports from third party states (i.e. ECOWAS Non-Member States).

b. Department of Internal Service

51. The Department of Internal Services is the merger of all support services including Human Resources, General Administration, Conference and Protocol and Finance. The Department is headed by the Commissioner Prof. Nazifi Abdullahi Darma, and it is a regional organization of fifteen West African countries that aims to promote economic integration, peace and security in the region.

c. Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security

52. The Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) is headed by Commissioner Amb. Abdul-Fatau Musah, PhD and it draws its mandate from the peace and security provisions of Article 58 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty (1993) and its derivative Protocols; in particular the Protocol relating to Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security (The Mechanism - 1999), the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (December 2001) as well as the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms & light Weapons (SALW) & their related materials (June 2006).

53. Stability in the sub-region include:

- 1) Implementing the Mechanism and related protocols for the promotion of peace, security and stability;
- 2) Addressing root causes of conflicts, consolidating democracy and good governance;
- 3) Mitigating and resolving tensions, disputes & crises through preventive diplomacy, mediation, sustained by timely warning;
- 4) Assisting in the return to post-conflict normalcy through peace consolidation & peace- building activities; and
- 5) The promotion of security through assistance in the control of trans-border crimes, international terrorism, proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and anti-personnel mines.

54. The department functions through its three Directorates; Early Warning, Political Affairs and Peace keeping & Regional Security.

i. Early Warning

55. This office is established pursuant to the ECOWAS Revised Treaty and the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and

Security. It comprises the Observation and Monitoring Centre at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Nigeria and four (4) Zonal Bureaus established in:

- i. Banjul (The Gambia);
- ii. Cotonou (Benin);
- iii. Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso); and
- iv. Monrovia (Liberia)

56. The responsibilities of the Directorate include observing and monitoring sub-regional peace and security indicators, including humanitarian, political and other human security issues within the framework of conflict prevention. They collect open sourced information, analyse and submit timely reports with recommendation to the Office of the President of the Commission for action. The Directorate is targeting to have an early warning office in each Member State.

ii. Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA)

57. The Directorate regularly reviews the security situation in the ECOWAS region and drafts updates, statements, reports, memoranda, recommendations and communiques for consideration by the Commission and Heads of Governments.

58. The directorate is making immense contributions towards strengthening democracy and good governance, by building the capacity and commitment of political actors to peaceful democratic processes. In addition, the directorate has worked to enhance the capacity for National Human Rights Commissions.

59. The DPA also offers electoral assistance to Member States, including the conduct of Pre-election fact-finding missions, Long Term Observation/Situation Room and Election Observation missions in order to cover all aspects of the electoral process. These processes brings on board all relevant stakeholders in order to ascertain the level of preparedness and ensure that elections are conducted in a democratic manner.

60. Further, the Directorate conducts election observation missions in order to ensure credibility and transparency and thus entrench the values of democracy and the rule of law in West Africa. It also facilitates common-understanding on modalities for replicating good practices in election management within the sub region.

61. The Directorate is thus driving the integration process by facilitating the achievement of good governance and strengthening the conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms to ensure a stable region.

62. Three major programmes have been implemented within the auspices of the programs, namely:

- i. Peace building in West Africa;
- ii. Deepening Democracy and the Rule of Law; and
- iii. Consolidation of Democratic

iii. Directorate of peace keeping & Regional Stability

63. The areas of concern for the Directorate include cooperation in the areas of Small arms and Light Weapons, terrorism and generally ensuring there is security and stability within the sub region.

64. Through its program, the Community has managed to maintain peace keeping mission in Guinea Bissau, Mali and other Member Countries. The ECOWAS Standby Force is domiciled under this Directorate.
65. Further, the agreement on importation of arms has seen a reduction in the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region, and hence stability. Under the agreement, the Member States must obtain a certificate from the ECOWAS Commission authorizing the country to import a certain quantity of weapons. All suppliers of weapons are also bound to comply with this agreement.

iv. Department of Economic Affairs & Agriculture

66. The Department of Economic Affairs & Agriculture is headed by a Commissioner, Mrs. Massand'je Toure-Liste and is to reflect the ultimate goal of achieving a regional market and the vision of the founding fathers to establish an economic community. It brings together all directorates which play a role in the achievement of this vision. Hence, the merger of the former Departments.

v. Infrastructure, Energy & Digitalization

67. In establishing the Department of infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation due cognisance is given to one of the priorities expressed by the Authority of Heads of State and Government represents a key enabler of the regional process. ECOWAS has adopted a new 25-Year (2020-2045) Regional Infrastructure Development Plan to facilitate integrated infrastructure project Delivery. Further, ECOWAS must be aligned to the African Union Continental Infrastructure Framework. The department will be composed off Transport, Telecommunication and information Technology, Energy & Mines, water resources. This department is headed by a Commissioner, Mr. Sediko Douka.

vi. Department of Human Development

68. The Department of Human Development reflects the integration pillar relating to the enhancement and well-being of Community citizens. The social and human capital development pillars now belong to the same department. This leads to the fusion of the former Department of Education, Science and Culture and Department of Social Affairs and Gender. This department is headed by a Commissioner, Prof. Fatou Sow Sarr.

5. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECOWAS COURT OF JUSTICE

69. ECOWAS Community Court of Justice was created by a protocol signed in 1991 and was later included in Article 6 of the Revised Treaty of the Community in 1992. However, the Court did not officially begin operations until the 1991 protocol came into effect on 5 November 1996. The Court's official languages are English, French & Portuguese and that 80 cases are filed every year.
70. The jurisdiction of the court is outlined in Article 9 and Articles 76 of the Revised Treaty and allows rulings on disputes between states over interpretations of the Revised Treaty. It also

² <http://www.court.ecowas.org/2024/06/03/ecowas-court-president-opens-the-16th-administrative-and-budget-retreat-in-nasarawa-state-of-nigeria/>

provides ECOWAS Council with advisory opinions on legal issues (Article 10). Like its companion courts, the European Court of Human Rights and East African Court of Justice, it has jurisdiction to rule on fundamental human rights breaches³. The Community Court is now presided over by the Hon. Justice Edward Amoako Asante from Ghana (President) and deputised by the Hon. Justice Gbéri-Bè Ouattara from Côte d'Ivoire (Vice-President). The Court uses three languages

6. MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER OF THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENT

71. The ECOWAS Parliament is headed by the Speaker, Senator Ike Ekweremadu. He used the opportunity to interact with Members of the delegation on the role of the Parliament in facilitating regional integration.
72. The Parliament is the Assembly of Peoples of the Community. The members represent the interest of the people of the Member States.
73. Parliament consists of 115 seats. Each of the 15 Member States is allocated at least five seats. The remaining seats are shared in proportion to the country's population. As a result, Nigeria has 35 seats, Ghana 8, Cote d'Ivoire 7, while Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Senegal have 6 seats each. Other countries: Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo have 5 seats each.
74. The regional parliament has the mandate of enacting legislations that contribute towards the overall objectives of the Community i.e. the creation of a borderless, peaceful, prosperous and cohesive region built on good governance.

7. LESSONS FOR KENYA AND THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

i. Funding of Community activities

75. The ECOWAS has been able to implement an efficient system for raising funds internally to run the activities of the Community. The community levy, which is payable to the Commission by the Member States, is charged as 0.5 % of the value of imports from third party states (i.e. ECOWAS Non-Member States). In contrast, the budget of the EAC is to a great extent donor funded, which means the community runs the risk of propelling the donors' agenda, and not its own. The EAC should therefore develop a sustainable financing mechanism to be able to successfully implement its activities.

ii. Cooperation on security, conflict prevention and resolution

76. The ECOWAS has done a lot in an effort to enhance peace and stability within the region. The steps they have undertaken can be replicated by the EAC, especially in her bid to ensure the full operationalization of the EAC Peace and Security Protocol. These include:
 - (i) Member countries within the ECOWAS region have been collaborating, sharing intelligence and information, as part of efforts to combat terrorism in the sub-region. These have been instrumental in the fight against insurgent attacks posed by terrorist groups. Further, the Sub region has implemented various

³ Submission by the President of the Community Court of Justice on 9th November, 2023

counterterrorism strategies in an effort to combat violent extremism and terrorism acts in the region. These include early warning, preventive diplomacy, disarmament, education, peace and development; and

- (ii) ECOWAS conflict prevention framework, which was adopted by Heads of States and Governments in the region, seeks to help resolve issues that could often lead to violent extremism. This has been instrumental in averting crisis in the region. The EAC should develop such a mechanism in light of the recent increases in numbers of radical groups in the region. Further, there is need to review EAC Peace and security institutional framework in line with African Union's Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) to effectively prevent, manage and resolve conflicts within the Community.

iii. Early warning mechanisms

- 77. The EAC should strengthen the Agreement on Early Warning between the African Union and Regional Economic Communities in Africa even as it seeks to establish its own framework for early detection and warning. As in the ECOWAS. This will enhance surveillance of peace and security indicators in the region with the aim of subverting any turmoil and crisis in the region.

iv. Democracy and good governance

- 78. ECOWAS has put in concerted efforts towards strengthening democracy and good governance, by building the capacity and commitment of political actors to peaceful democratic processes. Further, the Member States have ratified a Protocol on democracy and good governance. These efforts have seen democratization and successful in transition of governments in the regions e.g. in Togo, Benin and Senegal. Similarly, the EAC should continue to strive towards fully entrenching democracy and democratic processes through elections in the region.

8. CONCLUSION

- 79. The Integration processes embrace different frameworks across different regional blocs. This therefore implies that there are different sets of policies and practices being applied by different regional bodies. However, the fundamentals of integration are similar to a great extent. Accordingly, there are various lessons and best practices from comparative regionalism for the East African Community vis a vis other blocs that could well enhance attainment of the tenets of integration with the ultimate aim of establishment of the EAC political confederation.

Signed..........Date.....12/6/2024.....

THE HON. WANJIKU MUHIA, CBS, M.P. (CHAIRPERSON)

ANNEXURES

1. Adoption List
2. Committee Minutes
3. Presentations/submissions
4. Photographs

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED	
DATE:	18 JUN 2024 TUESDAY
TABLED BY:	HON WAMBISI OLUKOTI CHAIRPERSON
CLEAR AT THE TABLE:	INZOU MWALE

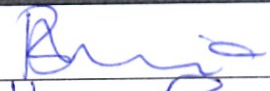
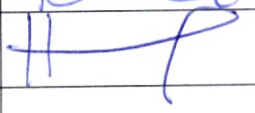

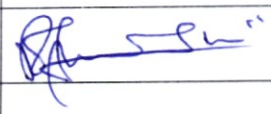
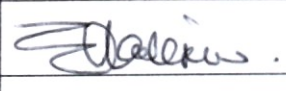
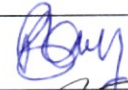






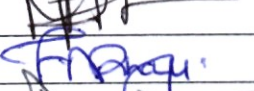


COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ADOPTION LIST

Adoption of the Report on the Visit to ECOWAS HQ in Nigeria that took place from 6th to 10th November 2023.

We the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

11/06/2024

No.	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Muhia, Wanjiku, CBS, M.P.	
2.	Hon. Yakub, Farah Salah, M.P.	
3.	Hon. Ochieng, David Ouma, CBS, M.P.	
4.	Hon. Mokaya Nyakundi Japhet, M.P.	
5.	Hon. Gitari, Joseph Gachoki, M.P.	
6.	Hon. Jhanda, Zaheer, M.P.	
7.	Hon. Yegon, Richard Kipkemoi, M.P.	
8.	Hon. Mutua, Didmus Wekesa Barasa, M.P.	
9.	The Hon. Kailemia Elizabeth Karambu, M.P.	
10.	Hon. Waqo, Naomi Jillo, MBS, CBS, M.P.	
11.	Hon. Kemei Beatrice Chepng'eno, M.P.	
12.	Hon. Rutto, Julius Kipletting, M.P.	
13.	Hon. Kasiwai, Rael Chepkemoi, M.P.	
14.	Hon. Odanga, Geoffrey Makokha, M.P.	
15.	Hon. Salasya Peter Kalerwa, M.P.	
16.	Hon. Mwakuwona, Danson Mwashako, M.P.	
17.	Hon. Okuome Andrew Adipo, M.P.	
18.	Hon. Orero Peter Ochieng, M.P.	
19.	Hon. Masito Fatuma Hamisi, M.P.	
20.	Hon. Mrembo, Irene Njoki, M.P.	
21.	Hon. Wangaya Christopher Aseka, M.P.	

MINUTES OF THE 8TH SITTING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH MARCH, 2024 AT THE MEDIA CENTRE, MAIN PARLIAMENT BUILDING, AT 12:20 PM

PRESENT

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP | | |
| 4. Hon. Peter Ochieng Orero, MP | | |
| 5. Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP | | |

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP
2. Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
3. Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP
4. Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
5. Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
6. Hon. Didmus Wekesa Barasa Mutua, MP
7. Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
8. Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, CBS, MP
9. Hon. Beatrice Chepngeno Kemei, MP
10. Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
11. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
12. Hon. Peter Kalerwa Salasya, MP
13. Hon. Danson Mwashako Mwakuwona, MP
14. Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
15. Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
16. Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Secretariat

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Mohamed Jimale | - | Clerk Assistant I |
| 2. Ms. Jane Gathoni | - | Clerk Assistant III |
| 3. Mr. Dominic Mwendwa | - | Legal Counsel II |
| 4. Ms. Damacrine Kwamboka | - | Research Officer III |
| 5. Ms. Rahab Chepkilim | - | Audio Recording Officer |
| 6. Ms. Mercy Muyende | - | Media Relation Officer III |
| 7. Mr. Moses Kariuki | - | Assistant Sergeant –at – Arms II |

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/036

PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m and thereafter a prayer was said.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 037

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was unanimously adopted as listed hereunder as proposed by Hon. Rael Kasiwai, MP and seconded by Hon. Fatuma Masito, MP.

AGENDA

- i. Prayer & Preliminaries;
- ii. Adoption of the Agenda;
- iii. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes;
- iv. Matters Arising;
- v. **Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the visit to the ECOWAS HQ in Abuja, Nigeria, 6th to 10th November 2023;**
- vi. Any other Business; and,
- vii. Adjournment.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 038

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the 7th Siting held on Thursday 7th March, 2024 were confirmed as a true reflection of the proceedings as having been proposed by Hon. Rael Kasiwai, MP and seconded by Hon. Fatuma Masito, MP.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 039

MATTERS ARISING

- 1) Under MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 033, Members were notified that the name of Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP. had been dropped without replacement from the list of names of Members who were to undertake the inspection visit to the EAC Semi-Autonomous institutions in Zanzibar and Dar es salaam, Tanzania and the Port of Dar es Salam, the start of the Central Corridor that is scheduled to take place from Saturday 23rd March, 2024 to Saturday 30th March, 2024.

The committee had resolved to have a retreat in Mombasa with the Ministry of East African Community to consider the business transacted by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) at the 4th Meeting of the 1st Session of the 5th Assembly from 11th - 23rd June, 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania.

In this regard, the Committee agreed to have the retreat between 11th and 14th April, 2024 at a venue to be communicated later.

- 2) Under MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 034, it was brought to the attention of the Committee that the Principal Secretary, State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services had requested that the meeting with the Committee be rescheduled from **Tuesday, 19th March 2024 at 10:30 am** to the same day at **2:30 pm**.

However, the Committee resolved not to reschedule the meeting since the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and National Administration had confirmed his attendance as earlier planned.

**MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 040 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT ON THE VISIT TO THE
ECOWAS HQ IN ABUJA, NIGERIA**

The Committee was taken through the Report on the visit to the ECOWAS headquarters in Nigeria on 6th to 10th November 2023 by Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP who was the leader of the delegation.

The objectives of this visit were to familiarize with the ECOWAS region. The specific goals were to:

1. Study and inquire into the aim of creating a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation;
2. Learn more about how to build expertise in specific areas to develop the quality of information needed by Members of parliament as they participate in the legislative agenda internationally;
3. Learn plans by ECOWAS to progressively eliminate identified barriers to full integration; and,
4. Inquire into ways of promoting partnerships between the East African Community Bloc and ECOWAS bloc on mutual cooperation into the future.

The Committee further commended the delegation and appreciated the lessons emanating from the study visit as follows:

- 1) There is need for the East African Community to be innovative in ways of ensuring that it's sustainably and efficiently funded. ECOWAS has created an innovative Community Levy to help fund the organization. The levy is charged as 0.5 % of the value of imports from third party states (i.e. ECOWAS Non-Member States);
- 2) ECOWAS has successfully established a protocol that allows the free movement of its 340 million citizens across the sub-region. The Bloc has a digital Identification card which further facilitates this free movement of people across the region. EAC is yet to achieve this mile stone;
- 3) The region has also put in measures to ensure food security within the region which EAC can borrow from, and;

- 4) ECOWAS has also an established mechanism of ensuring the development of infrastructural systems that are later handed over to individual governments to manage. EAC can borrow from this model to ensure infrastructural development in the region.

Committee Resolution

Having considered the Report on the visit to the ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria from 6th to 10th November 2023, the Committee adopted the Report pursuant to SO. 212 (2) (d), having been proposed by Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP and seconded by Hon. Peter Ochieng Orero, M.P.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2024/ 041 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Committee welfare kit. the Committee was informed that both Members and the secretariat raised one hundred and twenty-eight thousand (Ksh. 128,000) towards the Committee welfare kit. The Committee agreed to have the amount divided equally among Ms. Purity Macharia who was blessed with a baby girl and Mr. Samuel Nyambei who served the Committee on Regional Integration before his retirement. It was also agreed that a few Members and the Secretariat will represent the Committee to present the token of appreciation to the two officers.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC /2024/042 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next Meeting will be called on notice.

Signed



Date:

14 / 3 / 2024

HON. WANJIKU MUHIA, CBS, MP – CHAIRPERSON

MINUTES OF THE 9TH SITTING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH APRIL, 2023 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 7, MAIN PAARLIAMENT BUILDING, AT 12:00 NOON

PRESENT

1. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, MP - Chairperson
2. Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
3. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
4. Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
5. Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
6. Hon. Beatrice Chepngeno Kemei, MP
7. Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
8. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
9. Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
10. Hon. Peter Ochieng Orero, MP

APPOLOGIES

1. Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP - Vice Chairperson
2. Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP
3. Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
4. Hon. Didmus Wekesa Barasa Mutua, MP
5. Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
6. Hon. Danson Mwashako Mwakuwona, MP
7. Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
8. Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
9. Hon. Peter Kalerwa Salasya, MP
10. Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP
11. Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

1. Mr. Mohamed Jimale - Clerk Assistant I
2. Ms. Purity Macharia - Clerk Assistant III
3. Mr. Bernard Toroitich - Clerk Assistant III
4. Mr. Dominic Mwendwa - Legal Counsel II
5. Ms. Damacrine Kwamboka - Research officer III
6. Ms. Edith Chepng'eno - Media Relation officer III
7. Mr. Esther Ngechu - Sergeant At Arms
8. Ms. Faith Oira - Public Communication Officer

MIN. NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC/2024/036 PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12.28 p.m with the Prayer by Hon. Beatrice Chepngeno Kemei, MP.

AGENDA

1. Prayer & Preliminaries;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes, 8th Sitting;
4. Matters Arising;
5. Consideration of the following Reports –
 - (i) the Proceeding of the First Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan- African Parliament (PAP).
 - (ii) the draft Report on Inspection visits to the One Stop Border Post (OSBP)
 - (iii) the draft Programme for Committee's upcoming Retreat in Mombasa (27th- 30th April, 2023);
6. Any other Business;
7. Adjournment.

MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC /2023/037 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Committee unanimously adopted the Agenda with amendment having been proposed by Hon. Beatrice Chepngeno Kemei, MP and seconded by Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP.

MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC/2023/ 038 CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the 8th Siting held on Thursday, 23rd April, 2023 were confirmed as true reflection of the proceedings as having been proposed by Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito MP and seconded by Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP.

MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC/2023/ 039 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee was appraised on the upcoming familiarization retreat with stakeholders on 27th – 30th April, 2023 in Mombasa. Members were requested to send their flight schedule with the secretariat.

MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC/2023/040 CONSIDERATION OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)

The Committee considered the Report and made the following observations -

1. The Report on the proceedings of the first ordinary session of the sixth parliament of the Pan-African Parliament that was laid on the table of the house on Tuesday 28th February 2023.
2. The report was committed to the Committee on Regional Integration pursuant to ruling issued by the Speaker during the afternoon sitting of the Wednesday, March 22, 2023 for consideration in accordance with standing order 212(d) of National Assembly standing orders.

The Committee further observed in the Report that;

3. A delegation from Kenya was sworn in as members of the Pan African parliament on 10th November 2022 and thereafter taken through the highlights of the structure of the PAP, the permanent committee, struggles and successes the Parliament had undergone and its vision going forward. This was to prepare the delegation to participate fully in the deliberation during the Session.
4. The Protocol on the Constitutive Act of the African union relating to Pan African Parliament (Malabo protocol), this protocol proposes that for members of PAP be elected through universal suffrage from

- their respective countries and be barred from sitting as members of their national legislatures. Kenya is yet ratify this protocol.
5. A motion calling for immediate end of the DRC conflict was tabled and PAP observed with grave concerns the devastating effects of the conflicts unfolding in the DRC which has profound lasting negative effects to the southern and East Africa regions and in particular the whole African region. The parliament adopted the motion condemning conflict situation.
 6. PAP adopted the amendments to its Rules of Procedure by consensus pursuant to the Constitutive Act, the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan African Parliament and the Rules of Procedure of the Pan African Parliament to encapsulate the principle of rotation of leadership positions across all the organs of the Pan African Parliament.
 7. Further resolutions that were adopted by PAP during the first Session can be found on *page 19* of the annexed report.
 8. Kenyan delegation headed by Hon Esther Passaries accompanied by several members from both the National Assembly and Senate represented the Republic of Kenya to The Pan- African Parliament in South Africa.
 9. The session opened with a welcoming address from the President of the Pan-African Parliament Hon. Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira and remarks from distinguished guests, including the Secretary General of the Commonwealth and high-level representatives from the ECOWAS Parliament and other regional organizations.
 10. The parliamentarians reviewed and adopted the agenda for the session, including the schedule for committee meetings and plenary discussions. The Motion was on the call for the immediate end of the DRC conflict.
 11. During the session, the PAP undertook swearing in of new members from;
 - (i) Burundi,
 - (ii) Kenya,
 - (iii)Morocco,
 - (iv)Mozambique,
 - (v) Somalia, and
 - (vi)Tanzania
 12. The PAP organized special sessions on specific themes, such as The 13th Pan African Parliament Conference on Women’s Rights under the theme “Women Empowerment and Inclusion in Governance” and The Agenda 2063 on Strategic Framework for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.
 13. As per the annexed report, the chairs of the various PAP committees, such as the status of peace and security in Africa, the proposed model Law on Nationality and Statelessness, and Committee on Audit and Public Accounts (CAPA) presented their reports on their respective activities and findings.
 14. On 4th November, 2022, the PAP adopted several resolutions, and recommendations aimed at addressing the various challenges facing the African continent. These resolutions were non-binding but served as guidelines for member states and the African Union Commission in their policy-making efforts.
 15. The Ordinary Session conducted a 3-day workshop organized by the Bureau of the PAP where permanent committees met and adopted their 2023 work-plans. The next PAP sitting is expected be held in March, 2023 and the plenary will be held in May, 2023.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee deferred decision making on the draft Report to the next meeting.

**MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC/2023/041 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME ON
INSPECTION VISITS OF THE ONE STOP BORDER
POST (OSBP)**

The Committee deferred consideration of the Agenda item.

**MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC /2023/042 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAF PROGRAMME
FOR COMMITTEE'S UPCOMING RETREAT IN
MOMBASA (27th-30th April, 2023)**

The Committee was taken through a draft programme on familiarization retreat with Stakeholders on 27th – 30th April, 2023 in Mombasa, the Committee was informed that the the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and the Regional Development, State Department for Immigration & Citizen Services and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) secretariat were invited and have confirmed attendance.

MIN.NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC /2023/042 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following matter was discussed –

- 1) **Visit to Central Corridor** - the Committee proposed an inspection visit to Central Corridor during the long recess. The secretariat were tasked to make arrangement for the visit and report back in the subsequent meetings.
- 2) **Visit to Namanga** – The Committee also proposed to undertake a visit to Namanga Border Post during the month of May.
- 3) **Foreign visits** - the Committee was informed that the Clerk had written to the following countries that host regional blocks through the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.
 - (i) Zambia (COMESA).
 - (ii) Nigeria (ECOWAS) and;
 - (iii) Botswana (SADC).

The Committee will be apprised once the host countries respond to the letters.

MIN. NA/ DAA&OSC/ RIC /2023/043 ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned 1.35 p.m. Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th April 2023, at time and venue to be communicated.

Signed

Date25/04/2023.....

HON. WANJIKU MUHIA, MP - CHAIRPERSON

REMARK BY RT. HON. KWAMOTI BITRUS LAORI, CHAIRMAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN AFRICA, ON THE OCCASION OF STUDY VISIT BY KENYAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE NIGERIAN PARLIAMENT.

Protocol

It is with great delight that I welcome you all on behalf of members of the 10th National Assembly House of Representatives' Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa. The Nigerian House of Representatives under the leadership of the Speaker, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Dr. Tajudeen Abbas warmly welcome the team of Kenyan Parliamentary Committee on Regional Integration to the Nigerian Parliament. It is indeed a great privilege and honor to have you in our midst today.

The Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa true to its nomenclature is saddled with the responsibilities among others, to enhance partnership, cooperation and integration of Africans through parliamentary engagements such as this, within the West African Sub-region and beyond.

As national legislators, our primary role is to enact laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Nigerian society. As a Committee, we are obligated to promote the socio-cultural and economic integration of Africa, particularly, in the fields of extractive industry, transportation, information and communication technology, energy, agriculture, commerce, monetary and financial resource management, as well as culture and tourism.

In discharging our Legislative duties however, we are faced with numerous challenges that tend to distract our focus from developing sound regional integration policy frameworks that will foster unity, peace and progress among Africans. Some of the challenges include insecurity, political instability and the negative influence of neocolonialism.

Looking at insecurity: The African region, for many years have been plagued by plethora of setbacks that affects our growth and development. These ranges from terrorism, climate change, poverty and unemployment, trans-border organized crimes, trafficking in arms and drugs which cumulatively fuels violent intra- state- conflicts in the region with its attendant consequences impeding the development of any sound regional policy towards integration.

In response to these challenges, the Nigerian parliament, through passed legislations and resolutions have continued to promote diplomatic practices that strengthen unity and good neighborliness at the sub-regional level through ECOWAS and the regional level through the African Union.

In recent time, under the leadership of HE Ahmed Bola Tinubu, (GCFR) the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces and Chairman, Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS), the Nigerian government with the support of Parliament has remain resolute in promoting peaceful settlement and resolution of disputes and conflicts in the region.

Insecurity, has no doubt prevented most African States from channeling their energy and resources towards advancing meaningful ventures such as local manufacturing, e-commerce, trade and industry which are critical to development in the region. These again are not unconnected to the negative influence of neocolonialism.

Speaking on Political instability: The incessant toppling of democratic governments in some African States has halted the implementation of some valuable regional policies. Also, the paucity of political will on the part of most African leaders tend to undermine credible electoral process, constitutionalism and the rule of law, which are the hallmarks of true democracy. This has also encouraged corruption and practices that continually undermine regional cooperation and Integration in Africa.

As a result of bad leadership, the large arable lands, huge mineral resources, large population and market in Africa has remain largely untapped. Worse still, in spite of our common ties and congruity, Africans leaders have upheld the artificial colonial boundaries that divide us. We have continually place stiff migration policies and trade restrictions amongst ourselves to the advantage of the neocolonial capitalists.

The challenges highlighted above notwithstanding, the region has proved to be remarkably resilient and with more inter-parliamentary visits and engagements such as we are having today, collaboratively, we shall achieve the desired regional cooperation and integration that Africa need in order to develop economically and politically.

I wish to cease this opportunity to applaud the step recently taken by the Republics of Kenya and Rwanda, joining Benin, the Gambia and Seychelles on "**No Visa for Africans**"

According to HE William Ruto, the President of Kenya, **"It is time we...realize that having visa restrictions amongst ourselves is working against us."** And I dare to say indeed, the time to pull down colonial boundaries that aided African exploitation by Western Europe and the Americas is now.

Historically, Nigeria shares a lot in common with Kenya, beside being former British Colonies and members of the Commonwealth, Nigeria like Kenya has huge potentials in agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, energy, tourism and financial services and through partnerships such as this visit offers, the two countries can harness their potentials in the interest of Africans.

I wish to re-state that your visit today is well appreciated by all the members of this Committee and indeed the Nigerian Parliament, not only because it is in tandem with our core mandate but also because it also afforded us an opportunity to peer review our progress. We shall do our best to sustain the momentum by ensuring such inter parliamentary visits encouraged among Africans to further advance regional cooperation and integration in Africa.

As a committee, we shall also push for unrestricted travel for Africans within the continent which has been a major objective of the African Union (AU) for the past decade. Indeed, this is the way to go and we shall also ensure that Nigeria follow suit, so that Africa can take advantage of her large market to create wealth and employment for Africans without restrictions.

I will like to end my remark by quoting Dr. Ugo Aniga of the Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo State, Nigeria who recently stated that **"Neocolonialism is the problem of Africa and the only way to achieve full democracy is to run away from foreign aids, we must learn to confront our problems and proffer African solutions to African problems"**. This is a food for thought.

While the Committee looks forward to reciprocating the Kenyan Parliament's visit in the nearest future, we shall use this moment to engage and to learn from each other's unique parliamentary experience, cultures, legislations and governance.

Once again, on behalf of this Honorable Committee and His Excellency, the Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Dr. Tajudeen Abbas, I welcome you to the Nigeria Parliament, may your visit to Nigeria be full of pleasant memories. Thank you

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



13TH PARLIAMENT- NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

STUDY VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

4TH – 10th November, 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Kenya High Commission in Nigeria

1. The Kenya High Commission in Nigeria is the diplomatic representation of the Republic of Kenya in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is located at Plot 357, Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District, Abuja¹. The current High Commissioner is Wilfred Gisuka Machage². The Kenya High Commission in Nigeria aims to promote and protect Kenya's social, economic and political interests in West Africa.
2. It also facilitates cooperation and friendship between Kenya and Nigeria, as well as other countries of accreditation, namely: Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Guinea Conakry. Additionally, it provides consular services to Kenyan citizens and foreigners who wish to visit or do business with Kenya.
3. Kenya and Nigeria have a long history of bilateral relations that date back to the pre-independence era. Both countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, African Union and the Commonwealth of Nations. They share common values and aspirations for peace, democracy and development in Africa and the world.

¹ (<https://kenyahighcommission.ng/the-high-commissioner/>)

² (<http://nigeriankenya.or.ke/>)

4. In recent years, Kenya and Nigeria have enhanced their cooperation in various fields such as trade, investment, tourism, education, energy, agriculture and security. In 2013 and 2014, the two countries exchanged high-level visits by their presidents, Goodluck Jonathan and Uhuru Kenyatta respectively³. During these visits, they signed several agreements and memoranda of understanding to boost bilateral ties. Some of the areas of cooperation include:

- i. **Trade and investment:** Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to implement strategies to increase intra-Africa trade and investment in their respective countries. They have also established a Joint Business Council to facilitate business linkages and partnerships between their private sectors. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya's exports to Nigeria amounted to 33 million U.S. dollars in 2015, while its imports from Nigeria were 555,000 dollars⁴.
- ii. **Oil and gas:** Kenya has sought Nigeria's expertise and experience in oil and gas exploration and production. Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa and has a well- developed oil industry. Kenya has recently discovered oil deposits in its northern region and hopes to benefit from Nigeria's technical assistance and best practices⁵.
- iii. **Tourism:** Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to promote tourism exchange between their countries. Kenya is renowned for its wildlife and natural attractions, while Nigeria offers cultural and historical sites. Both countries have waived visa requirements for diplomatic passport holders to facilitate travel ⁶.
- iv. **Education:** Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to enhance cooperation in education through exchange of students, teachers and researchers. They have also signed an MOU on mutual cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of Kenya and the Foreign Service Academy of Nigeria to train their diplomats.
- v. **Security:** Kenya and Nigeria have agreed to cooperate in combating international terrorism and other transnational crimes such as drug trafficking and money laundering. They have also signed an MOU on cooperation in police service to share information and best practices.

5. The Kenya High Commission in Nigeria plays a vital role in fostering cordial relations between Kenya and Nigeria. The two countries have a lot to offer each other in terms

³ (<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/kenya/article/2000088589/kenya-nigeria-sign-bilateral-agreements>)

⁴ (<https://www.embassypages.com/kenya-highcommission-abuja-nigeria>)

⁵ (<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/kenya/article/2000088589/kenya-nigeria-sign-bilateral-agreements>)

⁶ (<https://www.kenyachamber.or.ke/2023/03/24/kenya-and-nigeria-embracing-free-trade-deal-to-boost-economic-development-between-the-two-countries/>)

of trade, investment, tourism, education, energy, agriculture and security. By working together, they can achieve their common goals of peace, stability and prosperity in Africa.

The Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa

6. The Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa is one of the standing committees of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The committee is responsible for overseeing matters relating to Nigeria's relations with other African countries and regional organizations, such as the African Union, ECOWAS, NEPAD and the Gulf of Guinea Commission⁷.
7. The committee also works to promote peace, security and development in Africa through dialogue, cooperation and integration⁸. The House of Representatives is the lower chamber of the National Assembly of Nigeria, which is the bicameral legislature of the country. The House consists of 360 members who are elected for four-year terms from single-member constituencies across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory⁹.
8. The House is headed by the Speaker, who is assisted by the Deputy Speaker and other principal officers. The House has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Nigeria, subject to the provisions of the Constitution¹⁰. The House of Representatives is located at the Three Arms Zone in Abuja, which is the capital city of Nigeria.
9. The Three Arms Zone is a district that houses the three branches of government:
 - i. the executive,
 - ii. the legislature and
 - iii. the judiciary.

7

(<https://www.House+of+Representatives%2c+Three+Arms+Zone%2c+Abuja&toWww=1&redig=44DC309D4E44460D906286903301E9FC>)

⁸ (<https://nass.gov.ng/>)

⁹ (<https://nigeria.worldplaces.me/government-organizations-in-abuja/43427427-house-of-representatives.html>)

¹⁰ (<https://placng.org/i/chairmen-and-deputies-of-standing-and-special-committees-in-the-9th-house-of-representatives/>)

10. The National Assembly Complex, which accommodates both the Senate and the House of Representatives, is a monumental edifice that symbolizes Nigeria's democracy and sovereignty¹¹. The complex has a central dome that represents unity and a green-white-green colour scheme that reflects the national flag.
11. The Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa is an important committee of the House of Representatives that deals with Nigeria's foreign policy in Africa. The House of Representatives is one of the two chambers of the National Assembly that makes laws for Nigeria. The House of Representatives is situated at the Three Arms Zone in Abuja, which is a prestigious area that hosts the three arms of government.

The West African Health Organization (WAHO)

12. The West African Health Organization (WAHO) is the health agency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It was established in 1987 to improve the health and well-being of the people in the region through cooperation and integration¹². The Director General of WAHO is Professor Stanley Okolo, a Nigerian obstetrician and gynaecologist. He was appointed in March 2018 for a four-year term¹³. He is the chief executive officer and legal representative of WAHO.
13. He is responsible for implementing the policies and programs of the organization, managing its human and financial resources, and reporting to the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government¹⁴. Professor Okolo has a distinguished career as a clinician, academic, and leader. He graduated from the University of Nigeria and had postgraduate training in Nigeria, United Kingdom, and Canada. He has a PhD from the University of London and a professorship at University College London. He has published numerous scientific papers and received several awards and honors¹⁵.
14. As the Director General of WAHO, Professor Okolo has a vision to make WAHO a proactive instrument of regional health integration that enables high-impact and cost-

¹¹ (<https://www.ctcap.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Nigeria-House-of-Representatives-Proceedings.pdf>)

¹²

(<https://Director+General+of+west+African+Health+organization+%28WAHO%29&toWww=1&redig=7C11128757AD4F03A54F1AEA71CBFE0D>)

¹³ (<https://wahooas.org/web-ooas/>)

¹⁴ (<https://www.wahooas.org/web-ooas/en/a-propos/directeurs-generaux>)

¹⁵ (<https://ecowas.int/institutions/west-african-health-organisation-waho/>)

effective interventions and programs. He believes that health is not only about illness and disease, but also about social, economic, and environmental factors. He advocates for constructive disruption to achieve accelerated health improvement in Africa.

15. Some of the achievements of Professor Okolo as the Director General of WAHO include: Leading the regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic by coordinating the procurement and distribution of medical supplies, equipment, and vaccines; supporting national testing and surveillance capacities; providing technical guidance and training; and mobilizing financial and technical partners¹⁶.
16. Launching the West Africa Health Research Network (WAHRNET) to foster collaboration and innovation among researchers, institutions, and stakeholders in the region. The network aims to generate evidence-based solutions to address priority health challenges in West Africa. Establishing the West Africa Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (MRH) Program to harmonize the regulation of medicines and medical products in the region.
17. The program aims to ensure the quality, safety, efficacy, and affordability of medicines and medical products in West Africa. Strengthening the regional health information system by developing a common platform for data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use. The platform enables real-time monitoring and evaluation of health indicators, trends, and performance in West Africa.
18. Professor Stanley Okolo is an accomplished professional who leads WAHO with passion and dedication. He has made significant contributions to improving the health status and outcomes of the people in West Africa through his strategic leadership, innovative programs, and collaborative partnerships.

The Commissioner of Internal Service

19. The Commissioner of Internal Service is one of the twelve commissioners of the ECOWAS Commission, which is the executive arm of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS is a regional organization of fifteen West

¹⁶ (https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2021-03/WAHO_DG_Stanley_OKOLO.pdf)

African countries that aims to promote economic integration, peace and security in the region¹⁷.

20. The current Commissioner of Internal Service is Professor Nazifi Abdullahi Darma, a Nigerian economist and academic. He was appointed in March 2018 for a four-year term¹⁸. He is in charge of overseeing the internal services of the ECOWAS Commission, which include human resources, general administration, conference and protocol, finance, information technology and budget¹⁹.

21. The Commissioner of Internal Service has the following roles and responsibilities:

- i. To implement the policies and programs of the ECOWAS Commission in relation to internal services.
- ii. To manage the human and financial resources of the ECOWAS Commission and ensure their optimal utilization and accountability.
- iii. To coordinate and supervise the activities of the directorates under his department and ensure their efficiency and effectiveness.
- iv. To provide administrative and logistical support to the ECOWAS Commission and its organs, such as the Authority of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers, the Parliament, the Court of Justice and the Community Institutions.
- v. To facilitate cooperation and communication among the internal services of the ECOWAS Commission and with other external stakeholders, such as donors, partners and member states.

22. The Commissioner of Internal Service plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth functioning and performance of the ECOWAS Commission. He contributes to the realization of the vision, mission and objectives of ECOWAS as a regional integration body that serves the interests and aspirations of its people.

The ECOWAS Commission

¹⁷ (<https://ecowas.int/departments/internal-affairs/>)

¹⁸ (<http://www.ecreee.org/page/overview-ecreee>)

¹⁹ (<https://ecowas.int/the-commission/>)

23. The ECOWAS Commission is the executive arm of ECOWAS, which consists of 12 commissioners who are responsible for different sectors and departments²⁰. Among them, the Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization, and the Commissioner of Human Development and Social Affairs are three key officials who oversee the development and well-being of the ECOWAS citizens.
24. The Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Agriculture is Mrs. Massandjé Touré-Litsé, a Ivorian economist and former director general of the African Development Bank. She was appointed in March 2018 for a four-year term²¹. She is in charge of implementing the policies and programs of ECOWAS in relation to the achievement of a regional market and the vision of the founding fathers to establish an economic community.
25. She coordinates and supervises the activities of the directorates under her department, which include;
- i. trade,
 - ii. customs union,
 - iii. taxation,
 - iv. free movement,
 - v. migration,
 - vi. tourism,
 - vii. research,
 - viii. statistics,
 - ix. multilateral surveillance,
 - x. agriculture,
 - xi. rural development and
 - xii. environment.
26. She also oversees the specialized agencies such as the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA), the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) and the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF).

²⁰ (<https://ecowas.int/departments/infrastructure-energy-digitalization/>)

²¹ (<https://ecowas.int/74918/>)

The Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization

27. The Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization is Mr. Sédiko Douka, a Nigerien electromechanical engineer and former director of infrastructure development at ECOWAS²². He was appointed in March 2018 for a four-year term. He is responsible for overseeing the infrastructure development of ECOWAS in the sectors of transport, energy, telecommunications and water.
28. He manages and monitors the projects and programs of ECOWAS in these sectors, such as the electricity interconnection of 13 ECOWAS member states, the effective functioning of the regional electricity market, the harmonization of transport policies and regulations, the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and the development of digital economy²³.
29. He also facilitates cooperation and partnership with other regional and international organizations and stakeholders in these sectors. He oversees the specialized agencies such as the Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)²⁴.

The Commissioner of Human Development and Social Affairs

30. The Commissioner of Human Development and Social Affairs is Prof. Fatou Sow Sarr, a Senegalese sociologist and academic. She was appointed in March 2018 for a four-year term²⁵. She is in charge of enhancing and protecting the human rights, social welfare and cultural diversity of ECOWAS citizens.
31. She implements the policies and programs of ECOWAS in relation to education, culture, science, technology, health, humanitarian affairs, social protection, gender

²² (<https://ecowas.int/people/mr-sediko-douka/>)

²³ (<https://ecowas.int/74918/>)

²⁴ (<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2022/11/20/supply-of-sustainable-energy-is-critical-to-ecowas-development/>)

²⁵ (<https://ecowas.int/departments/human-development-social-affairs/>)

equality and youth empowerment²⁶. She coordinates and supervises the activities of the directorates under her department, which include education, culture, science, technology, humanitarian affairs and social affairs. She also oversees the specialized agencies such as the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC) and the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (EYSDC)²⁷.

32. These three commissioners play a vital role in advancing the integration process and improving the living conditions of ECOWAS citizens. They contribute to achieving the vision 2050 of ECOWAS as a people-centered community that fosters peace and prosperity for all.

The ECOWAS Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Parliament

33. The ECOWAS Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Parliament are two of the institutions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional organization of 15 West African countries that aims to promote economic integration, peace and security in the region.

The ECOWAS Court of Justice

34. The ECOWAS Court of Justice is the judicial organ of ECOWAS, which is charged with resolving disputes related to the Community's treaty, protocols and conventions²⁸. It was established in 1991 by a protocol that was revised in 2005 and 2006 to expand its jurisdiction and powers.
35. The Court consists of seven independent judges who are appointed by the Authority of Heads of State and Government for a four-year term²⁹. The Court has the mandate to ensure the observance of law and of the principles of equity in the interpretation and application of the ECOWAS legal instruments.
36. The Court also has the competence to adjudicate on human rights violations, breaches of contract, administrative matters and arbitration cases. The Court's decisions **are**

²⁶ (<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1189712/ecowas-reaffirms-commitment-to-dynamic-and-fruitfu.html>)

²⁷ (<https://ecowas.int/>)

²⁸ (<http://www.courtecowas.org/>)

²⁹ (<https://ecowas.int/institutions/community-court-of-justice/>)

binding on ECOWAS member states, institutions, individuals and corporate bodies³⁰.

The ECOWAS Parliament

37. The ECOWAS Parliament, also known as the Community Parliament, is the legislative organ of ECOWAS, which serves as a forum for dialogue, consultation and consensus for representatives of the people of West Africa³¹.
38. It was established in 1994 by a protocol that was revised in 2006 to enhance its powers and functions. The Parliament consists of 115 members who are elected or designated by their national parliaments for a five-year term. The Parliament has the power to make recommendations on any matter relating to the objectives and functioning of ECOWAS³².
39. The Parliament also has the power to co-decide with the Council of Ministers on certain matters such as budget, trade, immigration and human rights. The Parliament's resolutions **are not binding on ECOWAS member states**, but they have persuasive authority and political weight³³.
40. The ECOWAS Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Parliament are important institutions that contribute to the integration process and the protection of human rights in West Africa. They complement each other in ensuring the rule of law, democracy and good governance in the region.

- THE END -

³⁰ (<https://ijrcenter.org/regional-communities/economic-community-of-west-african-states-court-of-justice/>)

³¹ (<https://www.parl.ecowas.int/ecowas-parliament-at-a-glance>)

³² (<https://www.parl.ecowas.int/members-parliaments/>)

³³ (<https://parl.ecowas.int/historical-background/>)

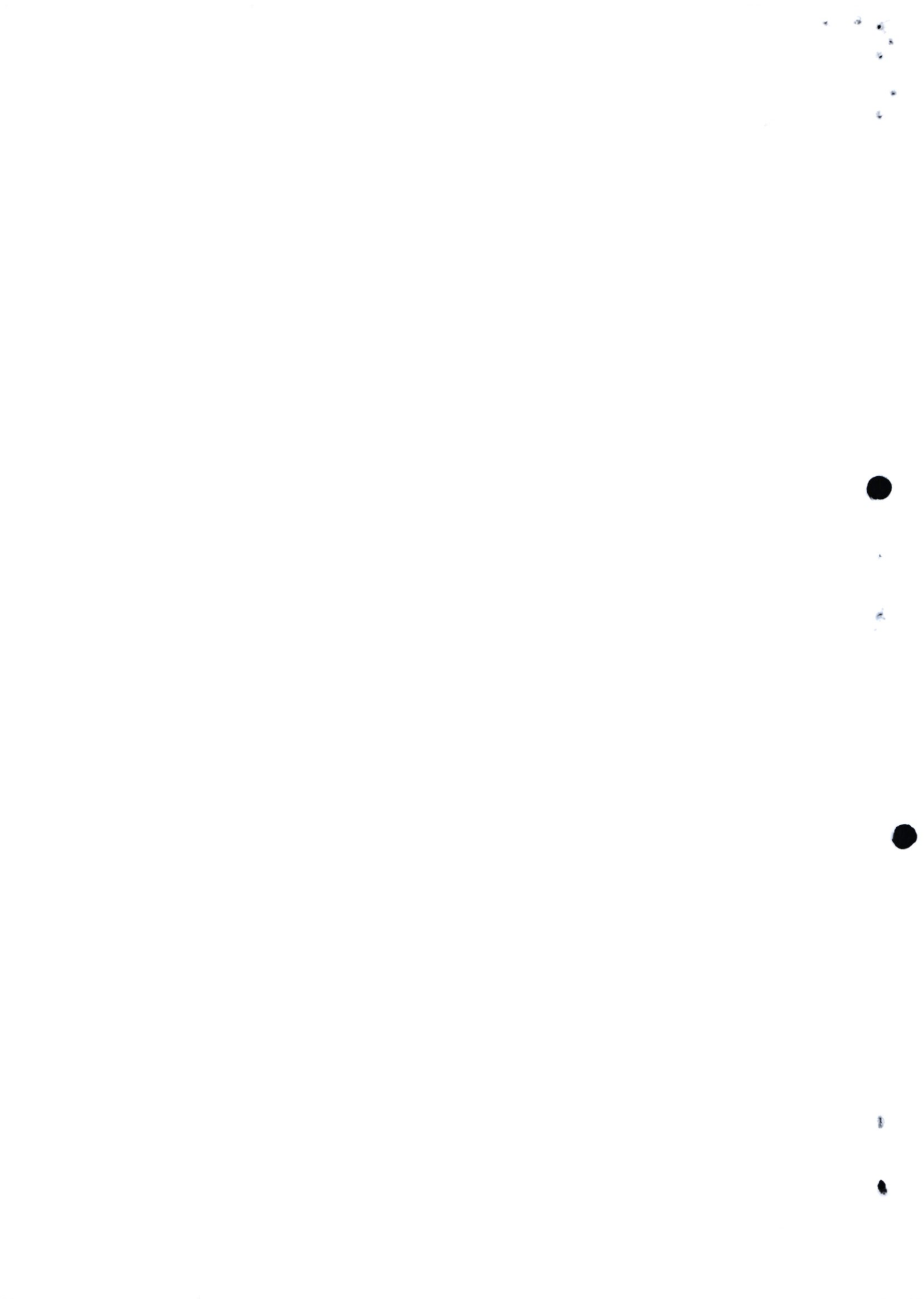
**STUDY VISIT BY THE COMMITTEE ON
 REGIONAL INTEGRATION TO THE ECONOMIC
 COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
 (ECOWAS) HEADQUARTERS ABUJA, FEDERAL
 REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON 6TH - 10TH
 NOVEMBER, 2023**

DATE	TIME	SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITY	VENUE
Saturday 4th Nov. 2023	TBC	Arrival and transfer to hotel	R.A.	Nnamdi Azikiwe international Airport
Sunday 5th Nov. 2023	Free time			
Monday 6th Nov. 2023	10:30am- 11.30am.	Visit to the High Commission and briefing with High Commission Staff	F.C.	Kenya High Commission, 357 Diplomatic Drive, CBD
	12:00p.m (midday)	Audience with Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus Laori, Chairman, Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	F.R.O	House of Representatives, Three Arms Zone, Abuja
Tuesday 7th Nov. 2023	11.00am- 11.30pm	Courtesy call to H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission	Office of the President	New VIP or 5 th Floor
	11.45am- 12.45pm	Commissioner of Political Affairs	Department of Political Affairs	New VIP
	12.45-1.45pm	Director General of west African Health organization (WAHO)	WAHO	
	1.45-.45pm	Commissioner of Internal Service	Internal service	
Wednesday 8th Nov. 2023	2.00-2.45pm	Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Agriculture	Economic Affairs and Agriculture	New VIP
	2.45-3.30pm	Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization	Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization	
	3.30-3.45	Commissioner of Human Development and Social Affairs	Human Development and Social Affairs	

Thursday 9th Nov. 2023	11.am-1.pm	A courtesy call to the President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice	The ECOWAS Court of Justice	Court of Justice
	2.30-4.30pm	Working session with the Speaker of Parliament	The ECOWAS Parliament	The ECOWAS Parliament
Friday 10th Nov. 2023	9:00 a.m.	Departure	S.S.	









**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**







ANNEXURES

1. Adoption List
2. Committee Minutes
3. Presentations/Submissions by the East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development
4. Bills, Reports and Resolutions transacted by EALA