



**FORTIETH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF  
STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

Abuja, 16 – 17 February 2012

**SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SA.20/02/12 TRANSFORMING THE  
REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE IN BAMAKO INTO A  
SPECIALIZED CENTRE FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES;**

**MINDFUL** of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty as amended, establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

**MINDFUL** of the provisions of Article 88 of the said ECOWAS Treaty;

**MINDFUL** of the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Economic Community of West African States signed in 22 April 1978 in Lagos;

**MINDFUL** of Article 25 of the said ECOWAS Treaty on Agricultural Development and Food Security;

**MINDFUL** of Decision A/DEC.11/01/05 adopting the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy;

**RECALLING** the guiding principles of the 2007-2020 ECOWAS Agricultural Strategic Plan which is the ideal matrix for integrating the Member States' livestock policies as well as those of the ten-year programme for combating avian influenza and transboundary diseases, as part of the fight against animal diseases;

**BEARING IN MIND** that the spread of transboundary animal diseases, including zoonoses, is of concern to all ECOWAS Member States;

**AWARE THAT** the effectiveness of the fight against the diseases requires coordinated support for the development of national and regional strategies;

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**NOTING** that the Animal Health Centre in Bamako, with which ECOWAS has signed various partnership agreements in the area of Animal Health, has satisfactorily carried out the missions assigned to it, which has led to significant progress in the implementation of Agricultural, Livestock and Rural Development Programmes in the sub-region;

**AWARE** of the pertinent needs expressed by the Community in that regard;

**RECOGNIZING** the need, in the light of the Recommendation of the Beijing Conference of January 2006, to set up this structure as a Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) aimed at providing a strategy coordination and harmonization framework to monitor and evaluate interventions for combating avian influenza and transboundary animal diseases in West Africa;

**WELCOMING**, without reservation, the Government of Mali's offer to allocate some offices to the Regional Animal Health Centre within the same premises as those allocated to the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and provide additional offices and equipment on the basis of the needs expressed;

**DESIROUS** of transforming the **Bamako Animal Health Centre** into a Specialized Centre for the Community;

**ON THE RECOMMENDATION** of the Sixty-sixth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Abuja, Nigeria on 16-17 August 2011.

**HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**ARTICLE 1: Transformation into a Specialized Centre**

1. By this Supplementary Act, the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako is hereby transformed into an ECOWAS Specialized Community Centre on Animal issues.
2. The Regional Animal Health Centre shall be established in Bamako.
3. The President of the ECOWAS Commission shall sign the Headquarters Agreement with the relevant Malian Authorities as soon as possible.

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## **ARTICLE 2: Supervision - Objectives and Missions of the RAHC**

1. The Regional Animal Health Centre "RAHC" shall be under the administrative and technical supervision of the ECOWAS Commission.
2. The aim of the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) shall be to provide a framework for the coordination and harmonization of the monitoring and evaluation strategies of interventions for combating avian influenza and transboundary animal diseases in West Africa, through the implementation of the 2007-2020 ECOWAS Agricultural Strategic Plan.
3. In that regard, the mandate of the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) shall be to:
  - i. coordinate the national animal health policies of the ECOWAS region;
  - ii. support the design of national and regional strategies combating trans-boundary animal diseases, including zoonoses, in the ECOWAS region;
  - iii. monitor the sub-regional mechanism for preventing and combating avian influenza in close partnership with the AU/IBAR;
  - iv. improve the animal health notification system in consonance with OIE standards and the WAHIS system
  - v. strengthen poultry and avifauna epidemiological monitoring by setting up epidemio-surveillance networks;
  - vi. inform the ECOWAS Member States about the local and regional situation, as well as the risk of outbreak and/or spread of the avian influenza and transboundary animal diseases;
  - vii. build the capacities of diagnostic laboratories and monitor regional laboratory networks;
  - viii. harmonize national emergency plans for the control of avian influenza and other trans-boundary and zoonotic animal diseases;
  - ix. monitor and assess the application of the control measures (slaughtering, vaccination campaigns);
  - x. information, communication and sensitization of the people and groups of breeders in the ECOWAS region;
  - xi. strengthen the socio-economic networks of the cattle-meat sector;
  - xii. conduct a feasibility study of national and regional investment programmes;

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- xiii. identify the weak points in veterinary services that require legislative and regulatory measures and, subsequently, after the PVS evaluations conducted by OIE in collaboration with ECOWAS, FAO and Donors, help seek the relevant investments to improve their efficacy and sustainability.
- xiv. Support the national good governance policies of veterinary services by gradually harmonizing them with OIE standards;
- xv. Build capacity through training seminars and workshops for Veterinary Services Directors, their staff (focal points), and breeders associations, private veterinary officers on OIE standards and best practices (prevention of health risks arising from the trade in animals and foodstuffs of animal origin);
- xvi. Harmonize policies on the registration (national and/or regional) and control of vaccines, veterinary medicines while laying stress on the quality of veterinary products used for animal health;
- xvii. Mobilize resources for the Ten-Year Regional Programme for combating Avian Influenza and transboundary and emerging diseases in West Africa.

### **ARTICLE 3: Institutional Framework of the Centre**

1. The Centre shall be a specialized ECOWAS technical animal health structure responsible for executing tasks relating to the implementation of the ECOWAS Livestock Policy.
2. The Centre shall be under the supervision of the Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, acting by delegation from the President of the ECOWAS Commission.

### **ARTICLE 4: Miscellaneous Provisions**

1. The areas of intervention, the rules on the governance, the administration and financing of the Agency, its relationship with the other ECOWAS agriculture and livestock operational structures, the criteria and types of operation, the processing of financing dossiers and the recruitment of the staff of the Agency, shall be in conformity with the relevant ECOWAS regulatory texts.
2. The Centre's operational Rules shall be adopted by the Council of Ministers upon proposal by the ECOWAS Commission.



**ARTICLE 5: Entry into Force**

This Supplementary Act shall enter into force upon its publication. Consequently, signatory Member States undertake to commence the implementation of its provisions once it comes into force.

**ARTICLE 6: Publication**

This Supplementary Act, which shall enter into force upon its signature, shall be published by the ECOWAS Commission in the Community Official Journal within thirty (30) days of its publication. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Gazette within the same time-frame as that specified above, after its notification by the Commission.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN  
STATES, HAVE APPENDED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS  
SUPPLEMENTARY ACT**

**DONE AT ABUJA THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2012**

**IN A SINGLE ORIGINAL IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE,  
ALL THREE (3) TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC**

*[Handwritten signatures in various colors (black, red, blue) are visible at the bottom of the page, representing the Heads of State and Government of the signatory Member States.]*



**H. E. Thomas Boni YAYI**  
President of the Republic of Benin

**H. E. Blaise COMPAORE**  
President of Burkina Faso

**H.E. Jose Maria Pereira NEVES**  
Prime Minister and Head of the Government,  
of the Republic of Cape Verde

**H. E. Alassane OUATTARA**  
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

**H. E. Abdou KOLLEY**  
Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources  
and National Assembly Matters  
for and on behalf of the President  
of the Republic of The Gambia

**H.E. Alhaji Muhammad MUMUNI**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration  
for and on behalf of the President  
of the Republic of Ghana

**H.E. Alpha CONDE**  
President of the Republic of Guinea

**H.E. Raimundo PEREIRA**  
Interim President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau

**H. E. Mrs. Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF**  
President of the Republic of Liberia

**H.E. Issoufou MAHAMADOU**  
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Minister of African Integration and Malians Abroad, for  
and on behalf of the President of the Republic of Mali

**H. E. Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN, GCER**  
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Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State  
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**H.E. Mamadou NDIAYE**  
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of Foreign Affairs, for and on behalf of the President  
of the Republic of Senegal

**H. E. Ernest Bai KOROMA**  
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**H. E. Elliott OHIN**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,  
for and on behalf of the President of the Togolese Republic