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**REPORT OF THE SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION AND THE ECOWAS COMMISSION
REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF THE FOUTA DJALLON HIGHLANDS
INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMME
CONAKRY, GUINEA, OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2016**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The African Union Commission and the ECOWAS Commission jointly organized the Second Consultative meeting on the implementation of the decision of AU Ministers of Foreign regarding the transfer of the AU Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Programme to the ECOWAS Commission.
2. The meeting was held from 17 – 18 October, 2016 at the African Union Office in Conakry, Republic of Guinea.
3. Present were:
 - H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
 - H.E. Mr. Tachambakou AYASSOR, ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources
 - Dr. Johnson BOANUH, ECOWAS Director for Environment;
 - Mr. Daniel LAGO, ECOWAS Director for Legal Affairs;
 - Mr. Almami Dampha, Interim Coordinator for the Fouta Djallon Highlands Programme
 - Ms. Lindiwe Mamba, AU AHRM Representative;
 - Mr. Atigou Balde, Ministry of Energy and Hydraulics, Guinea;
 - Mr. Mohammed Diallo, FAO Admin, Finance and Field Coordinator;
 - Mr. Alpha Dialo, AU Admin and Finance Officer;
 - Mr. Joshua Oluwole, AU Bilingual Secretary
 - Ms. Assiatou Sow, Project Secretary
 - Mr. Alkaly Camara, Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guinea;
 - Mr. Diallo Boubacar Sidy, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guinea

II. PROCEEDINGS

(1) Opening Remarks

4. The two commissioners, in their opening statements, made reference to the decision of the AU Ministers of Foreign Affairs which mandated the two institutions to engage in consultations and come up with modalities and mechanisms of transferring the Fouta Djallon Highlands Programme to the ECOWAS Commission. The commissioners further recalled the first consultative meeting in July 2014 which came up with a roadmap and recommendations to facilitate the transfer process. They lamented the outbreak of EBOLA in the West Africa Region which halted the implementation of the roadmap.

5. This second meeting therefore aims at reaffirming the commitment of the two institutions by reviving the earlier consultation in order to reactivate the implementation of the roadmap.

(2) Presentations and Discussions

6. ECOWAS Commission made a presentation on the roadmap and the recommendations at the meeting in July 2014. In the ensuing discussions, it was recommended that this meeting identifies immediate and medium term activities of the roadmap.

7. The Programme Administrative and Finance officer provided further information on staffing and assets of the AU office while the GEF/UNEP/FAO Project Field Coordinator presented the activities of the project in the Member States.

III. OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

8. Within the framework of the mission, the delegation met ministers involved in the Fouta Djallon Highlands programme at the national level. The purpose of the meeting was to update them on the progress of consultation between the two institutions regarding the transfer of the programme. The delegation met the following ministers:

- (i) Minister of Foreign Affairs
- (ii) Minister of Energy and Hydraulics
- (iii) Minister of Agriculture
- (iv) Minister of Environment, Water and Forestry

9. The ministers appreciated the efforts of the two institutions in developing the modalities of the transfer.

IV. AGREED AREAS FOR ACTION

(1) Immediate Activities

10. AUC to provide information on the following:

- a. Administrative (Asset Inventory).
- b. Human Resources.
- c. Finance (Operational and Programme costs).
- d. Legal Framework, all relevant documents and reports.

(2) Joint Immediate Activities

- a. AUC and ECOWAS to organize a meeting to discuss administrative issues regarding the transfer of responsibilities of the programme.

- b. AUC and ECOWAS to organize a joint mission to inform the Chair of the Council of Ministers about the transfer directives and process.
- c. AUC and ECOWAS to organize a meeting of partners (AUC, ECOWAS, UNEP, FAO and others) to clarify issues and coordination arrangements for the transfer.
- d. AUC and ECOWAS to inform their Statutory organs about the transfer directives and process.
- e. Signing and handing over of the programme to ECOWAS.

(3) Medium Term Activities include the following:

- a. Development, validation and adoption of a 5-year investment plan for the Fouta Djallon Highlands Programme;
- b. AUC and ECOWAS Commission to jointly organize a round table of donors for resource mobilization;
- c. AUC and ECOWAS Commission to jointly organize meetings of the Regional Consultative Committee and the Ministerial Conference.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) AUC is requested to provide core funding for the Programme after its transfer to the ECOWAS Commission;
- (ii) The ECOWAS Commission is requested to make budgetary provisions in its 2017 budget for the taking over of the responsibility of the Programme.

2017

Rapport de la Deuxième Réunion de Consultation entre la Commission de l'Union Africaine et la Commission de la Cedeao Concernant le Transfert du Programme de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources Naturelles du Massif du Fouta Djalou Conakry (Guinée), 17 Et 18 Octobre 2016

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