

# EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF CENTRAL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE ON THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SITUATION IN THE CEMAC ZONE

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## FINAL COMMUNIQUE

YAOUNDE, 22 NOVEMBER 2019

At the invitation of **His Excellency Paul BIYA**, Current President of CEMAC and President of the Republic of Cameroon, an Extraordinary Summit of Central African Heads of State was held in Yaounde on 22 November 2019 at Unity Palace.

The objective of the Summit was to examine the economic, financial and monetary situation in the CEMAC zone and to analyze the prospects of the economies of the sub-region.

The Summit was attended by:

- **H.E. Paul BIYA**, President of the Republic of Cameroon;
- **H.E. Faustin Archange TOUADERA**, President of the Central African Republic;
- **H.E. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo;
- **H.E. OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
- **H.E. Idriss DEBY ITNO**, President of the Republic of Chad;
- **Mr Julien NKOGHHE BEKALE**, Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic, Representing **H.E. ALI BONGO ONDIMBA**, President of the Gabonese Republic.

The Summit was also attended by:

- **Dr AKINWUMI ADESINA**, President of the African Development Bank;
- **Prof Daniel ONA ONDO**, President of the CEMAC Commission;
- **Mr ABBAS MAHAMAT TOLLI**, Governor of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC).

Proceeding to consider the agenda items, the Heads of State and Government listened to the report by their peer, **H.E. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, President dedicated to PREF-CEMAC, a Special Statement from the President of the African Development Bank and the Report on the monetary and financial situation and prospects of the sub-region presented by the Governor of BEAC.

Following these presentations, the Heads of State had an extensive exchange of views on the state of the economies of CEMAC countries. They examined the results achieved following the implementation of the common strategy to end the crises, adopted in 2016. They went on to analyze the Community's economic, financial and monetary prospects amid a global context strongly marked by geopolitical tensions, risks and an economic situation that remains difficult.

At the end of their fruitful discussions, the Heads of State:

1. Commended the overall recovery of CEMAC's macroeconomic situation characterized by a return to positive economic growth, containment of inflation and a sharp reduction in budget and current account deficits.
2. Noted with satisfaction the replenishment of the Community's foreign exchange reserves which stand at nearly 4 months of imports, thus making it possible to preserve the fixed parity exchange regime of their common currency and avoid any monetary adjustment.
3. Hailed the financial and technical support of the IMF, World

Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and France, which contributed substantially to the success of CEMAC's economic recovery programme.

4. Reiterated their full support for the continued and resolute implementation of the relevant measures adopted to support a sustainable fiscal policy, a suitable monetary policy and enhanced international cooperation, which are conducive to rapid economic revival.
5. Renewed their joint commitment to making CEMAC an emerging economic area by fast-tracking the establishment of the requisite integrating infrastructure for fostering inclusive economic and social development.
6. Resolved to pursue institutional reforms and implement appropriate measures within BEAC, which should contribute sustainably to effective monetary policies, judicious, concerted, strict and improved application of Community exchange regulations, preservation of financial stability and consolidation of the banking system in the CEMAC zone.
7. Examining the monetary issue specifically, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their desire to have a stable and strong common currency. Concerning in particular monetary cooperation with France relating to the CFA Franc, they resolved to undertake an in-depth reflection on the conditions as well as the framework for new cooperation. To this end, they tasked BEAC with putting forward proposals, under the supervision of UMAC and within a reasonable timeframe, for an appropriate plan leading to the establishment of the common currency.
8. Renewed their commitment to continuing in an organized manner with budget consolidation in each State for a controlled return to sound public finance management.

9. Stressed the need to ensure, with the technical and financial support of development partners, the proper processing of payment arrears and to focus attention on the impact of security spending on the public finance of States.
10. Recognized the need to preserve the sustainability and viability of public debt by prioritizing concessional financing and promoting public-private partnerships for the execution of infrastructure projects.
11. Renewed their commitment to a united, consistent and concerted approach in developing, in agreement with technical and financial partners, new cooperation frameworks at the end of first-generation economic and financial programmes backed by the IMF Extended Credit Facility.
12. Requested all financial development partners to mobilize more substantial financial resources to enable the achievement of the goal of increased industrialization through the structural transformation of the economies.
13. Renewed their commitment as well as their determination to improve the business climate in the CEMAC zone through major structural reforms, in order to promote private investment, as well as diversify their economies to make them stronger, more resilient and more competitive.
14. Agreed to fast-track deeper integration to develop intra-community trade and prepare CEMAC to make the most of the African Continental Free Trade Area.
15. Agreed to reinforce consultations and common actions in the face of the numerous security challenges relating to international terrorism as well as the various attempts at destabilizing the established order within the community.

16. Congratulated the African Development Bank on the remarkable success of the 7<sup>th</sup> increase of its capital to 125% and expressed their support for the strategic action plan of this multilateral financial institution for the development of African countries.

At the end of deliberations marking the Extraordinary Summit, the Heads of State and Government lauded the participation at this Summit of special guests from the African Development Bank, IMF, World Bank and France.

Lastly, they extended their profound and brotherly gratitude to **His Excellency Paul BIYA**, Current President of CEMAC, and President of the Republic of Cameroon for the welcome initiative of convening this Summit and for its successful organization.

The deliberations of the Extraordinary Summit of the Central African Heads of State on the economic, financial and monetary situation in the CEMAC zone were held in an atmosphere of calm, mutual understanding and entente cordiale.

Done at Yaounde, on 22 November 2019

**For the Conference of Heads of State**

**H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the  
Republic of Cameroon**