

ECOWAS COMMISSION

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

COMMUNIDADE DOS ESTADOS DA AFRICA DO OESTE



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

COMMUNAUTÉ ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

SIGNING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER

Banquet Hall, State House, Abuja, Nigeria

REMARKS BY THE ECOWAS COMMISSION

Delivered by DABIRE Bayaornibè
Director, Energy, ECOWAS Commission

Abuja, 7th of March, 2017

Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney
General representing his Excellency the Acting
President of the Republic of Nigeria

Honourable Minister of Science and Technology

Honourable Chair, House Committee on Science and
Technology of the National Assembly,

Honourable Members of the Parliament

Excellency Ambassadors

Honourable Secretary General of the Energy
Charter,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to convey to this august assembly the
greetings and salutations of His Excellency, Marcel
Alain de Souza, President of the ECOWAS
Commission, who is unable to be here due to
calendar constraints.

Allow me to also register the gratitude of President de SOUZA to His Excellency Professor Yemi Osinbajo, Vice-President and Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (ably represented by the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Chairman of this occasion) for his steadfast support towards the development of the region; for his constant support to ECOWAS.

Honourable Ministers,

Development Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

In simple terms, the objective of ECOWAS as pertaining to energy is to one day see the abundant energy resources in the sub-region leveraged so that all ECOWAS citizens have access to constant and affordable energy services; including stable

electricity supply for industries, reliable electricity for domestic use, abundant and affordable fuel for transport, sustainable and clean cooking energy. To achieve this objective, ECOWAS has developed a series of energy programmes with the support of Member-States. I wish to recall first the West Africa Gas Pipeline (WAGP) which allows gas to flow from Nigeria to Ghana passing through Benin and Togo.

Next, I can mention the West African Power Pool (WAPP) created in 1999 and established in its Headquarters in Cotonou in 2006 to integrate the national power systems into an unified regional electricity market with the expectation that such mechanism would, over the medium to long-term, ensure the citizens of ECOWAS Member States with a stable and reliable electricity supply at competitive costs.

I wish also to recall the creation of a regional transparent electricity market with the

establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulation Authority (ERERA) and the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency with the establishment of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In addition to our efforts in the region, ECOWAS Commission is also working with international partners for the development of the energy sector. I will just mention the Energy Charter Secretariat here present for this signing ceremony.

ECOWAS Commission has signed the Energy Charter treaty as an observer and is initiating some activities with the Energy Charter Secretariat.

As an example, may I mention that one of the main results from our cooperation with the Energy Charter Secretariat is the ECOWAS Energy Protocol

adopted in 2003 by the Heads of States and Government. Drawing experience from the Energy Charter, experts has worked tirelessly to elaborate the ECOWAS Energy Protocol which enables rooms for more private investments in the energy sector of the region.

To conclude these goodwill remarks, for ECOWAS, it is our pleasure to be here to witness the signing Ceremony of the Energy Charter by Nigeria and we are looking forward for the results of this fruitful cooperation, results for Nigeria but also results for the whole ECOWAS region.

Thank you for your Kind attention

Merci Beaucoup

Muito Obrigado
