



**COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE
L'OUEST**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES**

**2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUPS ON
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PRAIA (CAPE VERDE),
12-14 MAY, 2008**

FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2nd meeting of the Working Groups on Migration and Development was held from 12th-14th May 2008 in Praia (Republic of Cape Verde)

2. Represented at this meeting were the following Member States:

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cape Verde
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

3. The list of Participants is attached in the appendix.

OPENING SESSION

4. In his opening statement, Mr. Severino de Almeida, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, on behalf of

immigrants. Lastly, he indicated that his country is available to share experiences with ECOWAS member states in this domain.

7. In his contribution, Mr. Nfaly Sanoh, Director of the Department of Free Movement of persons of the ECOWAS Commission, on behalf of the Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons of the Commission, expressed his profound gratitude to the Cape Verdian Authorities for their warm welcome of participants as well as for the facilities put at their disposal for the successful holding of the meeting.

8. Discussing the ECOWAS common approach to immigration, he emphasized that migration within the Sub- region is more important than migration to Europe or other places.

9. He also hoped that the meeting will discuss, among other things the following issues:

- The brain drain that is contributing to the degradation of the socio- economic fabric of the countries of origin
- The observation of the links between migration and the Diaspora, regular and irregular migration, free movement and regional integrations
- The contribution of the Diaspora to the development of countries of origin etc.

10. Lastly, he urged the participants to seriously consider all the topics and other issues that might be raised in the course of discussions relating to problems of migration, highlighting those that should be prioritized by ECOWAS for the next few years, to be implemented with the support of Development Partners.

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Presentation of the strategy for the mobilization of skills and competences from the Diaspora for the development of Cape Verde
4. Overview of the conclusions of the First meeting and consideration and prioritization of the work of the different working groups
5. Any Other Business
6. Closing Ceremony

RESULTS OF PROCEEDINGS

13. After the opening ceremony, the Cape Verde delegation made a presentation on its experience regarding the strategy for the mobilization of skills and competences from the Diaspora for the purpose of development.

14. The discussions that followed shed light on certain aspects of migration as it affects the development of the countries of origin. It was unanimously recognized that the Cape-Verdian experience is a source of inspiration in the management of migration.

contains the list of actions which could be implemented in the medium or long-term.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. The report was adopted after amendments.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Done in Praia 14 May 2008

For the Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish that extends below the line.

**2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUPS ON
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PRAIA (CAPE VERDE),
12-14 MAY, 2008**

VOTE OF THANKS

The participants at the 2nd Meeting of the Working Groups on Migration and Development, which was held in Praia from 12 to 14 May 2008 expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Pedro Pires President of Cape Verde, as well as the Government and People of Cape Verde for the warm and fraternal welcome, and excellent facilities put at their disposal to ensure a successful deliberation.

Done in Praia on 14 May 2008

APPENDIX

- 1. Outcomes of the proceedings of the Working Group**
- 2. List of Participants**