

No. 8623

**DAHOMÉY, GHANA, IVORY COAST,
LIBERIA, MALI, etc.**

**Articles of Association for the establishment of an Economic
Community of West Africa. Done at Accra, on 4 May
1967**

Official texts : English and French.

Registered ex officio on 4 May 1967.

**DAHOMÉY, GHANA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE,
LIBÉRIA, MALI, etc.**

**Protocole d'association en vue de la création d'une Commu-
nauté économique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Fait à Accra,
le 4 mai 1967**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistré d'office le 4 mai 1967.

No. 8623. ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION¹ FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICA. DONE AT ACCRA, ON 4 MAY 1967

The Contracting States of the West African sub-region

Desiring to establish an Economic Community of West Africa (hereinafter referred to as the "Community") by means of a Treaty which the Contracting States undertake to negotiate and conclude at the earliest possible time ;

Convinced that, pending the formal establishment of the Community, it is essential to institute a transitional arrangement for the purpose of expediting the conclusion of the said Treaty and furthering the aims of the Community ;

Noting that the inter-governmental organizations for economic co-operation already existing in the West African sub-region have made a notable contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Community ;

Deeming it necessary to co-operate effectively with the aforementioned inter-governmental organizations ;

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

AIMS OF THE COMMUNITY

1. The aims of the Community shall be :

- (a) to promote through the economic co-operation of the Member States a co-ordinated and equitable development of their economies, especially in industry, agriculture, transport and communications, trade and payments, manpower, energy and natural resources ;
- (b) to further the maximum possible inter-change of goods and services among its Member States ;
- (c) to contribute to the orderly expansion of trade between the Member States and the rest of the world ;
- (d) by all these efforts and endeavours to contribute to the economic development of the continent of Africa as a whole.

¹ Came into force on 4 May 1967 upon signature by a majority of the States of the West African sub-region, in accordance with article 7 (2).

Article 2

GENERAL UNDERTAKINGS

1. In order to achieve the aims of the Community, the Member States shall :
- (a) work in close co-operation with one another and endeavour to co-ordinate and harmonise their economic policies, both within and outside the Community ;
 - (b) keep each other informed and furnish the Community with the information required for the achievement of its aims ;
 - (c) within the Community, establish among themselves consultation on a continuous basis and carry out studies in order to determine the areas and lines of economic development to be undertaken jointly or in common ;
 - (d) negotiate within the Community the progressive elimination of customs and other barriers to the expansion of trade between them as well as restrictions on current payment transactions and on capital movements ;
 - (e) take measures which render their products relatively competitive with goods imported from outside the Community and seek to obtain more favourable conditions for their products in the world market ;
 - (f) endeavour to formulate and adopt common policies, and negotiate and conclude Agreements among themselves or through the medium of the Community, designed to serve the achievement of its aims, including the development jointly or in common of specific branches of industry and agriculture, the joint operation of specific transport and communications services, the development and the joint use of energy, joint research, training of manpower and the implementation jointly or in common of all other projects designed to promote the objectives of the Community, as well as common trade and payments arrangements, and
 - (g) ensure, both within and outside the Community, that the common policies that have been adopted and the Agreements that have been concluded for the achievement of the aims of the Community are carried out.

2. Member States shall take all steps, particularly the provision of budgetary and other resources, required for the implementation of the Decisions and Recommendations of the Community, duly adopted.

Article 3

CO-OPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES AND WITH OTHER BODIES

1. Individual Member States shall be entitled to take, both within and outside the Community, measures of economic co-operation without the agreement of other