



*Check against delivery*

STATEMENT BY:

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AT THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF  
THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**NEW YORK  
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Mr. Chairperson,

It is indeed a great honour to address the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, on behalf of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) in my capacity as the Acting Director of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre.

ECOWAS would like to join the rest of the International Community in congratulating you and other members of the bureau on your election and to assure you of our support.

Mr. Chairperson,

ECOWAS aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

ECOWAS wishes to seize this opportunity to commend the Commission for this year's theme, "Financing for Gender Equality", which is both timely and relevant.

ECOWAS, composed of fifteen member states, is one of the most advanced Regional Economic Communities. A lot has been done in the areas of economic integration, peace and security and gender mainstreaming. In this connection, typical examples are the ECOWAS Revised Treaty which enables the community to deal with security issues in recognizing the linkage between stability and economic advancement; The ECOWAS protocol relating to the mechanism for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peacekeeping and security adopted by the Heads of State; and the ECOWAS additional Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, to mention but a few.

The Community is conscious of Women's Economic Empowerment as key to Development and economic cooperation and it is now putting emphasis on gender equity and equality commitments and fulfilling its obligations under various regional, international agreements and instruments.

Mr. Chairperson,

The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in their wisdom created the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, a Specialized Agency which serves as a technical organ of the ECOWAS Commission to generate requisite knowledge and transfers of skills in gender mainstreaming and women empowerment in the sub-regional agenda.

The ECOWAS Gender Center's Programme components include:

- Enhancing women's involvement in political participation, socio-economic development and integration.

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- Mobilizing civil society, women organizations and the private sector to participate in regional peace and post conflict recovery processes.

- Promoting regional cooperation and collaboration to influence policies and programmes and systems that ensure the contribution of women to economic development and impact on poverty reduction.

From 2004 to date, the ECOWAS Gender development Centre has implemented numerous programmes in line with its priority areas of intervention in all the fifteen member countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

On a final note, I wish to recognize the presence of the Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs from the fifteen ECOWAS member states who are the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre's crucial partners and with whom we work very closely.

Their presence is a testimony of the importance the Economic Community of West African States attach to the advancement of women in the sub-region in particular and the whole world in general.

I thank you for your attention.