



FOUNDATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA (GHANA)



Memorandum on the Recommendations and Resolutions of the project entitled “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators in the ECOWAS Regional Integration Process”

Presented to

TOGBUI FITI V, PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF AFLAO TRADITIONAL AREA, CHAIRMAN OF DURBAR OF CHIEFS AND PEOPLE TO MARK 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF ECOWAS DAY, BY MAMA AYABA II, PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF QUEEN MOTHERS OF KETU SOUTH & KETU NORTH DISTRICTS, VOLTA REGION-GHANA

A project implemented by Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa-Ghana (FSDA-Ghana) Sponsored by ECOWAS and Funded by EU under auspices of the Ghana Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration

FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (GHANA)
AFLAO, VOLTA REGION, GHANA
28TH MAY 2011

Memorandum on the Recommendations and Resolutions of the project entitled “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators in the ECOWAS Regional Integration Process”

Introduction

FSDA-Ghana was awarded a grant to implement a project entitled “Empowering Women, the Youth and Economic Operators in the ECOWAS Regional Integration Process” in a six-month period from January to July 2011. The project, is located at Aflao in the Ketu South district, and targeted at women, the youth and economic operators in Ketu South and North Districts on the Ghana-side of the Ghana-Togo border as well as Kodzoviakope and Nyekonakpoe on the Togo side of the same border. The project which was implemented by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa-Ghana (FSDA-Ghana) in association with the West African Youth Network (WAYN) was sponsored by ECOWAS and funded by EU. It was also implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and the Office of the District Chief Executive of Ketu South District.

The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the governments of Ghana and Togo the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by participate, Chiefs and People of the Ketu South District in respect of the activities undertaken within the context of the project. These activities included, among others, consultative meetings with Stakeholders, workshops to raise the awareness and build the capacity of women, economic operators, youth, students and border agents on the provisions of ECOWAS’ Protocols on Free Movement of Person, Right of Residence and Establishment, Inter-state transit of goods and Brown Card Insurance Scheme as well as on ECOWAS Court of Justice and ECOWAS Trade Liberation Scheme (ETLS) and its associated Rules of Origin. The contents of the various workshops were designed based on the findings of the Baseline Study conducted among the identified groups to ascertain their knowledge about ECOWAS’ ideals and objectives as well as the benefits that these groups could derive from their Countries’ membership of ECOWAS or otherwise.

Recommendations of the Project

General

Below are the Recommendations that were made at all the discussions held throughout the project.

- i. Non-State Actors should mount intensified publicity campaigns as well conduct capacity building of the population, including women, the youth and economic operators with a view to inculcating in them the ideals of ECOWAS and the relevant ECOWAS Protocols on Free movement of people and goods and on the importance of respecting and adhering to the laws of Ghana and Togo governing the movement of people and goods across their borders within the contexts of ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment and the provisions of ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme;
- ii. Border Agencies should build and enhance the capacity of their officers by, among others, deepening their knowledge on ECOWAS trade-related protocols and decisions, particularly those on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment so as to facilitate the speedy crossing of the Ghana-Togo border by the population;
- iii. Border Agencies should mount outreach programmes so as to foster cooperation and cordial relationship with the 'Border Residents' bearing in mind the need to promote mutual respect between them;
- iv. The governments of Ghana and Togo should intensify their efforts to mainstream ECOWAS Decisions and Protocols in their national laws so as to facilitate their implementation;
- v. The governments of Ghana and Togo as well as the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Togo Chamber of Commerce and Industry should mount big billboards spelling out the rights and obligations of travellers at all border crossings to draw attention of travellers and traders to what is expected of them.
- vi. ECOWAS Commission should take urgent measures to post ECOWAS Officials to the borders to monitor and ensure the effective implementation of its Protocols regarding cross-border movement of goods and persons.
- vii. On the pilot the governments of Ghana and Togo should install CCTV at the major and/or busy border crossing posts to ensure that their laws as well as rules and regulations governing border crossings are respected and also to monitor the operation

of their border posts. The experience may be replicated at a later date as other border posts.

Movement of persons and goods across the border

- i. The Ghana government should consider issuing ‘Border Residents’ I.D Card to its ‘Border Residents’ because they cross the border very often on social, cultural, traditional and economic reasons. In that regard, it is recalled that ‘Border Residents’ I.D card were issued in the 1970s to ‘Border Residents’ and that it speeded-up border crossing for them;
- ii. The Ghana government should consider extending the coverage area of border residency from 5km to 30km as the interest between residents who reside as far away as 30km from the border and those on the other side of the border are intense and they have to cross the border very often on social, cultural, traditional and economic reasons;
- iii. The border agents should pursue their efforts to eliminate/minimise the harassment and payment of illegal fees by the travelling public on both sides of the border and in that regard, the population should be encouraged to respect the laws and regulations governing border crossing so as to reduce the avenues for conflicts between the Border Agents and ‘Border Residents’;
- iv. The governments of Ghana and Togo should liberalise the provision of the Temporary Vehicle Importation (TVI) especially for commercial vehicles by extending the TVI period from three months to one year so as to facilitate the movement of goods. Subsequently, the governments of Ghana and Togo should consider proposing to ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to extend the 90-day free visa entry period to one year;
- v. ECOWAS should standardise the Brown Cards as well as facilitate their verification and authentication by promoting the installation of ICT mechanism for that so as to reduce the delays encountered in the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol on ECOWAS Brown Card in the event of accidents. . Furthermore, the governments of Togo and Ghana should ensure the proper functioning of the Brown Card National Bureaux so that the insurance companies can compensate accident victims and damaged to property promptly;

ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS)

As regards ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme and its associated Rules of Origin, the project came up with the following recommendations:

- i. The Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Togo Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the relevant government agencies should foster the building of the capacity of economic operators in ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme and its associated Rules of Origin so as to enable them take full advantage of them to enhance the income earning capacity of their businesses;
- ii. The governments of Ghana and Togo should, in cooperation with other ECOWAS Member States, urge the speeding-up of the implementation of activities leading to the creation of a single currency for ECOWAS so as to facilitate payments for cross-border goods, services and activities. To this end, the business communities in Ghana and Togo should constantly remind their governments to redouble their efforts in that regard;
- iii. The governments of Ghana and Togo as well as the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Togo Chamber of Commerce and Industry should speed-up the issuance of Certificate of Origin by, among others, introducing a computerised system installed at all major customs border posts to facilitate easy validation and authentication of the certificate;
- iv. The ECOWAS Commission should urge its committee responsible for approving the applications submitted by the National Approval Committee to meet at least four times in a year instead of the present once a year schedule;
- v. The governments of Ghana and Togo should promote the manufacturing of industrial and agricultural goods in their respective countries through, among others, the mainstreaming of ECOWAS Competition and Investment Policies into their national laws and the adoption of an ECOWAS Commercial Policy in order to create a conducive environment for the manufacturing of industrial products in their countries. This will encourage indigenous companies to take advantage of ETLS.

Border Agencies

Recommendations regarding border agencies are as follows:

- i. Border Agencies should intensify intra-agency cooperation through among others the holding of regular meetings with a view to meeting the aspirations of border residents and travellers relating to border crossing;
- ii. Border Agencies should establish cordial and business-like relationship between themselves and members of the local communities on one hand and on the other hand between the Border Agents and travellers;

- iii. Award Schemes should be instituted by the governments of Ghana and Togo to select the most friendly and best performing Border among the various border posts in their countries

Complaints Desk

The project acknowledged that borders could be a source of conflicts if there were no effective mechanism for resolving conflicts. Consequently, it made the following recommendation.

The governments of Ghana and Togo with the support of the ECOWAS Commission should establish a Dispute Settlement Mechanism (Complaints Desk) at the major borders between Ghana and Togo to nip in the bud potential conflicts at the borders.

Conclusion

Finally, FSDA and the project beneficiaries would like to express their deep thanks and appreciation to the Chiefs, Queen mothers, opinion leaders, women, the youth, economic operators and all members of the Border Agencies of Ghana and Togo, indeed the entire population of the targeted communities, for their active support and participation in the project activities.

Our thanks also go to the Honourable Frank Amable, the District Chief Executive of Ketu South and his staff as well as to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for their cooperation and encouragement. We are also infinitely grateful to the ECOWAS Commission and European Union for respectively sponsoring and funding the project.

_____ *Annexes* _____

Done, Aflao-Ghana

28th May 2011

FSDA

Annex I

RESOLUTION TO FORM ECOWAS YOUTH MOVMENT – KETU BRANCH

Preamble

We the group of Youth from the Senior High Schools in the Ketu South and Ketu North Districts, namely,

- Aflao Senior High School;
- St. Paul’s Senior High School;
- Some Senior High School;
- Dzodze- Penyi Senior High School;
- Klikor Secondary Technical School;
- Amazing Love Senior High School;
- Three Town Senior High School;
- Aflao Youth Association
- Denu Youth Association
- Adafienu Youth Association
- Blekusu Youth Association;
- Adina Youth Association;
- Agbozume Youth Association;
- Klikor Youth Association;

Having participated in the various programmes under the ECOWAS-NSA-FSDA project “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators to participate in the Regional Integration Process in West Africa”- a project sponsored by the ECOWAS Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, with funding from the European Union and implemented by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana (FSDA-Ghana);

Having benefitted from the training and the inter-schools debate and the information provided to us which have helped build our awareness about the aims and objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as embodied in the revised Treaty of Abuja and the Protocols, Decisions, Resolutions and Directives as well the Declarations of the ECOWAS;

Having reviewed the challenges at the Ghana-Togo border, in the areas of the areas of immigration, cross-border trade, and freight-forwarding in respect of formal and informal trade undertaken by the small and medium-sized enterprises.

Recalling recommendation c/rec.6/11/08 relating to the adoption of the ECOWAS YOUTH POLICY and its 2009-2013 strategic action plan adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers at Ouagadougou, 29th November 2008;

Further recalling Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty, as amended and Article 61 of the Treaty on Social Affairs – calling on all ECOWAS Member States to undertake to

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cooperate with a view to mobilizing the various sections of the society and ensuring their effective integration and involvement in the social development of the sub-region specifically, through the promotion of the women and youth organizations and professional associations, and sports development in order to bring together the **youths** of the region and ensure their balanced development.

Mindful of Article 62 of Treaty calling all ECOWAS Member States to promote all forms of exchanges and the Decision A/DEC/11/82 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS to promote the award of ECOWAS Scholarships, the students exchange programme, and the establishment of an ad-hoc Committee on the Equivalence of Certificates with ECOWAS;

Further mindful of Decision C/DEC5/11/81 of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers relating to the ECOWAS activities in the area of social affairs, which directs the ECOWAS Commission to convene a meeting of officials in charge of education, youth, sports and culture to formulate a programme of activities in the area of education, training, games, sports and culture and define modalities for organizing and implementing the programmes as a way of bringing ECOWAS closer to the people;

Taking into Consideration the Conclusions of the First ECOWAS Youth Forum organized in 2003 at which the Youth expressed their concerns and demonstrated their resolve to address the challenges facing them.

Recognizing that the Twenty-eighth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS held in Accra on 19th January 2005, took the Decision (A/DEC/13/01/05) to transform the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports to the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre.

Further Recognizing that the Youth is faced with socio-political, economic and cultural constraints that practically hinder, their ambitions and activities;

Inspired by the Ghana Youth Policy document which also seeks to translate, inter-alia, the vision of the Government of Ghana, into concrete projects for skills development and employment creation among the youth of Ghana;

Further inspired by the potential for cross-border business as called for under the "Borderless West Africa" and

Gravely concerned about the peculiar situation of the Border Residents,

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Considering the challenges facing the deepening of Regional integration in West Africa and the need to translate the vision of the Founding Fathers into achievement of the aims and objectives of ECOWAS in particular to achieve the free movement of people and to promote intra-ECOWAS trade as means of enhancing the standard of living of our people in Ghana and the rest of West Africa;

Welcoming the Decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to create a "Borderless West Africa" in order to fast-track the realization of the ECOWAS Common Market;


Have resolved to:

- create the ECOWAS Youth Movement
- collaborate with the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana, (FSDA-Ghana) and to work through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI), the ECOWAS Commission;
- collaborate with the District Chief Executives, the District Assemblies and all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) of the Republic of Ghana;
- Collaborate with other Youth Associations in Ghana, West Africa, Africa and the World which share our Vision about an integrated "Borderless West Africa" in order to achieve the ECOWAS Vision 2020.
- carry out the Objectives of the **ECOWAS Youth Centre** which are:
 - To encourage young people's initiative, enterprise and creativity so that they may take an active role in the ECOWAS community.
 - To address current and emerging youth problems in the sub-region.
 - To promote youth social-professional and economic integration
 - To promote, initiate and encourage sporting activities in the community.
 - To research and address gender-specific youth discriminations in the Community
 - To establish partnerships and cooperation with relevant organizations in member states, and at the regional and international levels.
 - To reinforce cooperation in the field of youth and sports by fostering the exchange of best practices, training and the development of innovative actions at the Community level.
- Adopt **OUR VISION** made of the following as the **Pillars of the our Movement**
 1. Information Dissemination
 2. Skills Development
 3. Educational Tours

Done, Aflao-Ghana

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4. Entrepreneurial Incubation
 5. Diaspora Investment program
- Embody inter-alia, the above into a Constitution of ECOWAS Youth – Ketu Branch, which we shall adopt after the Durbar of Chiefs and People of Ketu, marking the 36th Anniversary of ECOWAS, which we celebrate today at the Ghana-Togo border.
 - **Invite the European Union, and other development partners** of Ghana and the ECOWAS Commission to consider providing further financial and technical support, to enable us to translate our resolution into tangible projects/programmes in our communities aimed at addressing poverty reduction in order that we could participate effectively in the emerging ECOWAS Common Market in the regional integration process of West Africa.

 Done, Aflao-Ghana
28th May 2011

Annex 2

RESOLUTION TO FORM ECOWAS WOMEN'S – KETU BRANCH

Preamble

We the Women in the Ketu South and Ketu North Districts, namely,

- Aflao Women's Association;
- Concerned Citizens of Aflao;
- Agbozume Market Women
- Klikor Women's Association
- Denu Women's Association
- Adafienu Women's Association
- Blekusu Women's Association
- Amutini Women's Association
- Adina Salt Winners' Association;
- Wuroba Women's Association
- Dzodze – Kpoglu- Wuroba Women
- Deyi-Fishmongers' Association
- Tomato Sellers
- Agbadalawo – Freight-Forwarders

Having participated in the various programmes under the ECOWAS-NSA-FSDA-ECOWAS project “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators to participate in the Regional Integration Process in West Africa”- a project sponsored by the ECOWAS Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, with funding from the European Union and implemented by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana (FSDA-Ghana);

Having benefitted from the training and the various workshops and capacity building sessions and the information provided to us which have helped build our awareness about the aims and objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as embodied in the revised Treaty of Abuja and the Protocols, Decisions, Resolutions and Directives as well the Declarations of the ECOWAS;

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Considering the challenges facing the deepening of Regional integration in West Africa and the need to translate the vision of the Founding Fathers into achievement of the aims and objectives of ECOWAS in particular to achieve the free movement of people and to promote intra-ECOWAS trade as means of enhancing the standard of living of our people in Ghana and the rest of West Africa;

Welcoming the Decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to create a "Borderless West Africa"

Have resolved to:

- create the Ketu Branch of the ECOWAS Women's Association'
- collaborate with the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana, (FSDA-Ghana) and to work through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI), the ECOWAS Commission;
- collaborate with the District Chief Executives, the District Assemblies and all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) within the Ketu Districts and in other parts of the Republic of Ghana and with other institutions in all Member States of the ECOWAS;
- collaborate with other Women's Associations in Ghana, West Africa, Africa and the World which share our Vision about an integrated "Borderless West Africa" in order to achieve the ECOWAS Vision 2020.
- carry out the Objectives of the **ECOWAS Women's Centre** which are:
 - To encourage womens' initiative, enterprise and creativity so that they may take an active role in the ECOWAS community.
 - To address current and emerging women's problems in the sub-region.
 - To promote women's social-professional and economic integration
 - To promote, initiate and encourage business activities in the community.
 - To research and address gender-specific discriminations in the trade and business sectors as well as other socio-economic sectors in the Community
 - To establish partnerships and cooperation with relevant organizations in member states, and at the regional and international levels.
 - To reinforce cooperation in women-led businesses by fostering the exchange of best practices, training and the development of innovative actions at the Community level.
- **Further resolve to collaborate** with the Foundation for Sustainable Development for Africa –Ghana (FSDA-Ghana), through the appropriate institutions, including the Ketu South District Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ECOWAS Commission;

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- **Invite the European Union, and other development partners** of Ghana and the ECOWAS Commission to consider providing further financial and technical support, to enable us to translate into tangible projects/programmes in our communities aimed at addressing poverty reduction in order that we could participate effectively in the emerging ECOWAS Common Market in the regional integration process of West Africa.
- **We adopt** this resolution on the occasion of the Grand Durbar of Chiefs and People of Ketu and Kodjoviakorpe, marking the 36th Anniversary of ECOWAS, which we celebrate today at the Ghana-Togo border.

Annex 3

RESOLUTION TO FORM ECOWAS BUSINESS FORUM – KETU BRANCH

Preamble

We the members of the various organized and identified trade groups as well as small and medium-sized entrepreneurs (SMEs) operating at the Ghana-Togo border in the Ketu South and Ketu North Districts, namely,

- Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (FFAG);
- GPRTU
- Progressive Transport Owners' Association – Ghana (PROTOA-Ghana)
- CUBAG
- Head porters
- Fishmongers (Borbi Sellers)
- Kente weavers
- Tomato sellers
- Maize sellers
- Vegetable growers and exporters
- Truck pushers;

Having participated in the various programmes under the ECOWAS-NSA-FSDA-ECOWAS project “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators to participate in the Regional Integration Process in West Africa”- a project sponsored by the ECOWAS Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, with funding from the European Union and implemented by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana (FSDA-Ghana);

Having benefitted from the training and the various workshops and capacity building sessions and the information provided to us which have helped build our awareness about the aims and objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as embodied in the revised Treaty of Abuja and the Protocols, Decisions, Resolutions and Directives as well the Declarations of the ECOWAS;

Having been trained on the criteria and conditions under which we can benefit from the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS), the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence, issues delaying the introduction of and the urgent need to launch the ECO -

ECOWAS single currency; the ECOWAS Convention on Inter-State Transit of Goods; ECOWAS Travel Certificate/ECOWAS Passport; ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance etc;

Recalling Article 3 of the ECOWAS Treaty and that for us to give practical implementation of the aims and objectives of the ECOWAS in order to achieve the ECOWAS Common Market in order to end poverty in the region through, inter-alia:

- establishment of joint production enterprises;
- the removal of obstacles to the free movement of persons, goods, service and capital, and to the right of residence and establishment;
- the promotion of joint ventures by private sectors enterprises and other economic operators, in particular through the adoption of a regional agreement on cross-border investments;
- to promote small and medium scale enterprises;
- ensure the establishment of an enabling legal environment;
- harmonisation of national investment codes leading to the adoption of a single Community investment code;
- the harmonisation of standards and measures;
- the promotion of the flow of information particularly among the rural populations, women and youth organisations and socio-professional organisations such as associations of the media;
- Recognising that the ECOWAS has established the ECOWAS Business Forum which is a platform to promote cross-border trade, investment and business;

Having recognized that in order to take advantage of the business and commercial as well as the joint venture opportunities that the ECOWAS provides with a lot of great potential, especially taking into account the various West African Private Sector Regional Workshops contained in the Cotonou Declaration, adopted in Cotonou, Benin Republic in June 2007 which culminated in the launching of the First ECOWAS Business Forum held in Accra-Ghana in October 2007 and subsequently in the Second Edition held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in 2009 and in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire 2010 with the introduction of the Entrepreneurs Award;

Aware of the revival of the Federation of the West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI) since October 2007;

Welcoming the Decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to create a "Borderless West Africa" in their Vision 2020;

Have resolved to:

- Create the Ketu Branch of the ECOWAS Business Forum;

Done, Aflao-Ghana

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- Take Steps to undertake joint programmes/projects with identical ECOWAS-related business organization, including the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI) and the Togo Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- collaborate with the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana, (FSDA-Ghana) and to work through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI), the ECOWAS Commission;
- collaborate with the District Chief Executives, the District Assemblies and all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) within the Ketu Districts and in other parts of the Republic of Ghana and with other institutions in all Member States of the ECOWAS, in particular - Togo;

Hereby adopt our vision/mission as follows:

- i. Cross-border Information Dissemination on ECOWAS
- ii. Cross-border commerce
- iii. Cross-border investment ventures, e.g. Ketu-Kodzoviakorpe Business Initiative – common exploitation of the lagoon
- iv. Joint Skills Development
- v. Joint Ghana-Togo Business Educational Tours
- vi. Promote joint Ghana-Togo Entrepreneurial Incubation – Agribusiness in partnership with inter-alia, the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID);
- vii. Participation in Trade Fairs – to generate business
- viii. Organise and participate in Joint-Ghana-Togo Investment Forums – to generate businesses.

Resolve to establish the Ketu-Branch of the ECOWAS Business Forum which will be our follow-up implementation instrument for the FSDA-NSA-ECOWAS project;

Further resolve to collaborate with the Foundation for Sustainable Development for Africa – Ghana (FSDA-Ghana), through the appropriate institutions, including the Ketu South District Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Regional Integration the ECOWAS Commission;

Invite the European Union, and other development partners of Ghana and the ECOWAS Commission to consider providing further financial and technical support, to enable us to translate our resolution into tangible projects/programmes in our communities aimed at addressing poverty reduction in order that we could participate effectively in the emerging ECOWAS Common Market in the regional integration process of West Africa.

Done, Aflao-Ghana
28th May 2011

We adopt this resolution on the occasion of the Grand Durbar of Chiefs and People of Ketu and Kodjoviakorpe, marking the 36th Anniversary of ECOWAS, which we celebrate today at the Ghana-Togo border.

FSDA

Done, Aflao-Ghana
28th May 2011

Annex 4

QUEEN MOTHERS OF KETU ON RESOLUTION TO FORM KETU BRANCH OF ECOWAS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Preamble

We the Queen mothers of Ketu South and Ketu North Districts,

Having participated in the various programmes under the ECOWAS-NSA-FSDA-ECOWAS project “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators to participate in the Regional Integration Process in West Africa”- a project sponsored by the ECOWAS Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, with funding from the European Union and implemented by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa – Ghana (FSDA-Ghana);

Having benefitted from the training and the various workshops and capacity building sessions and the information provided to us which have helped build our awareness about the aims and objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as embodied in the revised Treaty of Abuja and the Protocols, Decisions, Resolutions and Directives as well the Declarations of the ECOWAS;

Considering the challenges facing the deepening of Regional integration in West Africa and the need to translate the vision of the Founding Fathers into achievement of the aims and objectives of ECOWAS in particular to achieve the free movement of people and to promote intra-ECOWAS trade as means of enhancing the standard of living of our people in Ghana and the rest of West Africa;

Welcoming the Decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to create a “Borderless West Africa” in their Vision 2020;

Have resolved to:

- To create the ECOWAS Women’s Association within the Ketu Districts;
- Work with other Women’s Association in Ghana, West Africa, Africa and the World which share our Visions about an integrated “Borderless West Africa” in other to achieve the ECOWAS Vision 2020.
- Collaborate with the initiative of the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa (FSDA).
- carry out the Objectives of the **ECOWAS Women’s Centre**

- **Invite the European Union and other development partners of Ghana and the ECOWAS Commission** to consider providing further financial and technical support, to enable us to translate into tangible projects/programmes in our communities aimed at addressing poverty reduction in order that we could participate effectively in the emerging ECOWAS Common Market in the regional integration process of West Africa.
- **Read on behalf of Queen mothers of Ketu South and Ketu North Districts** by Mama Ayaba II, President, Association of Queen Mothers of Ketu South and Ketu North.

FSDA

Done, Aflao-Ghana

28th May 2011