

**BURKINA FASO**  
Unity-Progress-Justice

**REPUBLIC OF MALI**  
One People-One Goal-One Faith

**REPUBLIC OF NIGER**  
Fraternity-Labour Progress

**JOINT STATEMENT BY BURKINA FASO, THE REPUBLIC OF MALI  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

Desirous of achieving integration among the States of the sub-region and driven by the ideals of fraternity, solidarity, mutual aid, peace and development, Their Excellencies General Aboubacar Sangoulé Lamizana, General Moussa Traoré and Lieutenant-Colonel Seyni Kountché, respectively Heads of State of Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Mali and Niger, together with twelve (12) of their peers, created the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Lagos on May 28, 1975.

After 49 years of existence, the valiant peoples of Burkina, Mali and Niger note with great regret, bitterness and disappointment that their Organization has moved away from the ideals of its founding fathers and Pan-Africanism.

Moreover, ECOWAS, under the influence of foreign powers and betraying its founding principles, has become a threat to its member states and their populations whose happiness it is supposed to promote.

Indeed, the organization has failed to provide assistance to our States in our existential struggle against terrorism and insecurity; worse, when our States have decided to take their destiny in their own hands, it has adopted an irrational and unacceptable posture by imposing illegal, illegitimate, inhumane and irresponsible sanctions in violation of its own regulations; all of which have further weakened the populations already devastated by years of violence imposed by instrumentalized and remote-controlled terrorist hordes.

Faced with this enduring situation, Their Excellencies Captain Ibrahim Traoré, Colonel Assimi Goïta and Brigadier General Abdourahamane Tiani, Heads of State of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Niger respectively, assuming their full responsibilities before history and responding to the expectations, concerns and aspirations of their populations, have decided in full sovereignty to withdraw Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from the Economic Community of West African States without delay.

**Signed in Ouagadougou, Bamako and Niamey, on January 28, 2024**

**For Burkina Faso  
the Minister of State, Minister of  
Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism,  
Government Spokesperson,**

**For the Republic of Mali  
The Minister of State, Minister  
of Territorial Administration  
and Decentralization,  
Government Spokesperson,**

**For the Republic of Niger,  
the Minister of Youth, Culture,  
Arts and Sports, Spokesperson  
for the National Council for the  
Safeguarding of the Homeland**

**Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel OUEDRAOGO**  
*Officier de l'Ordre de l'Étalon*

**Colonel Abdoulaye MAIGA**  
*Chevalier de l'Ordre National*

**Colonel Major**  
**Abdourahamane AMADOU**  
*Commandeur dans l'ordre national du  
Niger*