## Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in the ECOWAS Region

**Meeting of Experts**

23-24 February 2015  
Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire  
Sofitel, Hotel Ivoire  
*Auditorium room*

**Detailed Agenda**

### Sunday, 22 February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20:00-22:00</td>
<td>Arrival and registration of participants</td>
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<td><em>Welcoming reception</em> (Sofitel, Hotel Ivoire, garden)</td>
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### Monday, 23 February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00-09:00</td>
<td>Registration of late arrivals</td>
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<td>09:00-10:00</td>
<td><strong>OPENING SESSION</strong></td>
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<td>Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow, Commissioner of Humanitarian Affairs, ECOWAS</td>
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<td>Ms. Louise Aubin, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR</td>
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<td><em>Welcoming statement</em> by Mr. Gnenema Mamadou Coulibaly, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Public Liberty, Republic of Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<td><em>Statement</em> by Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td><strong>ECOWAS</strong></td>
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<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td><strong>PRESENTATIONS</strong>: “Sources of statelessness in West Africa”</td>
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<td>- Presentation of overview of statelessness in West Africa and the UNHCR global campaign on the eradication of statelessness by Mr. Mark Manly, Head of Statelessness unit, Division of International Protection, UNHCR</td>
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<td>- Presentation on sources of statelessness by Ms. Bronwen Manby, Independent expert</td>
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<td>- Presentation on birth registration in Africa: law and practices by Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Vice-Chair, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>- Presentation on border delineation, State succession and nationality by the United Nations Office for West Africa, M. Malamine Tamba, Political Advisor</td>
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<td>11:00-11:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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11:30-13:00

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Round Table A**
**Preventing new cases of statelessness through law reform**
**Room:** Auditorium room
**Co-chairs:** Expert from Ministry of Senegal and UNHCR
**Rapporteur:** UNHCR
**Thematic input:** Experts from Ministry of Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Ms Bronwen Manby, Independent expert

**Round Table B**
**Preventing statelessness through civil status registration and access to nationality documents**
**Room:** San Pedro
**Co-chairs:** Expert from Ministry of Benin and UNHCR
**Rapporteur:** UNHCR
**Thematic input:** Experts from Ministry of Sierra Leone, Togo, Ghana, Benin; Ms Michelle Vianes, Regards de Femmes; and UNHCR

**Round Table C**
**Political commitments, partnership and information-sharing**
**Room:** Bassam
**Co-chairs:** Expert from Ministry of Mali and UNHCR
**Rapporteur:** UNHCR
**Thematic input:** Experts from Ministry of Benin, Mali, the Gambia and UNHCR

13:00-14:30
**Lunch break**

Chair
**UNHCR**

14:30-16:00
**PLENARY SESSION:** Report back and consideration of recommendations of breakout sessions

16:00-16:15
**Coffee break**

16:15-17:30
**PLENARY SESSION:** Report back continued
**Chair**  
**ECOWAS**

**09:00-10:00**

**PRESENTATIONS:** “Identification, protection and solutions”

- Presentation on the right to nationality in Africa by Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- Presentation on the right to nationality and ECOWAS citizenship, ECOWAS Court of Justice
- Presentation on statelessness and human rights by Mr. Ibrahima Kane, Open Society Foundation
- Presentation on the situation of stateless migrants by Ms Alice SIRONI, Migration Law Specialist, the International Organization for Migration

**10:00-10:30**

**Coffee break**

**10:30-12:00**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Round Table D**  
**Identification of stateless persons**

- **Room:** Auditorium
- **Co-chairs:** Expert from Ministry of Liberia and UNHCR
- **Rapporteur:** UNHCR
- **Thematic input:** Experts from Ministry of Niger and Côte d’Ivoire, and UNHCR

**Round Table E**  
**Protection of stateless persons**

- **Room:** San Pedro
- **Co-chairs:** Expert from Ministry of Nigeria, ECOWAS and UNHCR
- **Rapporteur:** UNHCR
- **Thematic input:** Experts from Ministry of Nigeria, Guinea Bissau and IOM

**Round Table F**  
**Solutions for stateless persons and risk of statelessness**

- **Room:** Bassam
- **Co-chairs:** Expert from Ministry of Côte d’Ivoire and UNHCR
- **Rapporteur:** UNHCR
- **Thematic input:** Experts from Ministry of Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia and UNHCR

**12:00-13:30**  
**Lunch**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:30-14:30</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong>: Report back and consideration of breakout session recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30-15:30</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong>: Endorsement of overall proposed outcome document and recommendations of experts to the ministerial meeting</td>
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<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td><strong>CLOSING SESSION</strong></td>
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**Closing remarks:**

ECOWAS and UNHCR