



COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE, ECOWAS
COUR DE JUSTICE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ, CEDEAO
TRIBUNAL DE JUSTIÇA DA COMUNIDADE, CEDEAO



PRESS STATEMENT

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Public Information & External Relations Division

ECOWAS COURT ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AS NEW JUDICIAL TERM BEGINS

Hon Justice Charlyne M. BRUMSKINE (Liberia) and Hon Justice Désire Henri AIHOU (Bénin) have emerged new President and Vice-President of the Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS respectively. The new leadership was elected on 13 October 2026 by the new college of judges. Their emergence marks the beginning of a new leadership chapter for the regional judicial institution following the conclusion of the tenure of the outgoing college of judges.

The new leadership will steer the Court's judicial and institutional affairs for the next two of their four-year, non-renewable mandate ending 2030. The other three Members of the Court are Hon Justice Awa BAH (The Gambia), Hon Justice Henrietta Uzoamaka DIDIGU (Nigeria), and Hon Justice Yaouza OURO-SAMA (Togo).

Their emergence follows the swearing-in of these five newly appointed Judges of the Court on 6 October 2026 at the new headquarters of the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Nigeria. The ceremony was presided over by the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency, Bassirou Diomaye Faye.

The transition comes at a pivotal moment for the ECOWAS Court as it advances the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2026–2030, *Justice 2030*. The plan provides a framework for strengthening access to justice, improving judicial efficiency, enhancing institutional effectiveness, increasing the Court's visibility and consolidating public confidence in regional justice.

As President, Justice Charlyne Brumskine will provide overall judicial leadership and represent the Court in its institutional and external engagements, while Justice Désiré Henri Aihou, as Vice-President, will support the President in the discharge of the responsibilities of the office and perform other functions in accordance with the Court's governing framework.

In her inaugural address, Hon President Charlyne Brumskine stated that her election was an opportunity to serve the Court, the ECOWAS Community and ultimately the people of West Africa with commitment and a deep sense of responsibility. "With profound humility and a deep sense of duty, I address you as the newly elected president of this distinguished institution. I am sincerely grateful to my esteemed colleagues for the confidence they have each reposed on me. I accept this responsibility, fully conscious of the obligations it entails, and the expectations that accompany leading a regional judicial institution, entrusted with interpreting and applying community law and protecting human rights," the President said.

“Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the institutional life of the Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS. The formal handover of the affairs of the Court from the outgoing college to the incoming college represents an important moment of continuity, renewal, and collective responsibility,” she added.

The outgoing President of the Court, Hon Justice Ricardo Cláudio Monteiro Gonçalves said that the handover ceremony marked the conclusion of the tenure of the five outgoing judges and the transmission of responsibilities to the incoming Judges. He described the ceremony as particularly significant as it expresses the fundamental principle of continuity of the institution beyond those temporarily called to serve. On behalf of the outgoing Judges of the Court, he expressed warm wishes for a successful tenure to the incoming Judges.

Delivering his vote of thanks, the newly elected Vice President of the Court, Hon Justice Désiré Henri Aihou thanked the outgoing Judges for their dedication to service to the Court, people and Community. He acknowledged the management, acting chief registrar, directors and staff for the well organised handover ceremony.

The President and Vice-President have expressed their commitment to upholding the fundamental principles of judicial independence, impartiality, integrity and accountability, while working collectively with the Members of the Court to enhance the effectiveness, accessibility and credibility of regional justice. Their leadership will be instrumental in advancing the Court’s institutional priorities and ensuring that the administration of justice remains responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens of the ECOWAS region.

The new College of Judges is replacing the following five outgoing judges: Hon. Justice Ricardo Cláudio Monteiro Gonçalves (Cape Verde), Hon. Justice Sengu Mohamed Koroma (Sierra Leone), Hon. Justice Dupe Atoki (Nigeria), Hon. Justice Gberi-Bè Ouattara (Côte d’Ivoire), and Hon. Justice Edward Amoako Asante (Ghana).

For further information, visit the Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS website at www.courtecowas.org or contact:

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