# ECOWAS

-15 MEMBERS

-**Liberia Gambia, Mali, cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Togo, cote de voire, sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal, guinea Bissau, Nigeria, guinea**.

**Objectives of ecowas**

* **-to liberalize trade between member states**
* **-to foster cooperation in specialized fields e.g. transport, communication, agriculture, trade, industry ,socio cultural affairs**
* **-to improve relations among member states**
* **-to improve living standards of pple**
* **-To promote industrial development**
* **-to promote cultural development**

**Organization of ecowas**

**authority of heads of states and governments**

**-highest organ meeting annually**

**-chairmanship is rotational**

**Council of ministers**

**-Two representatives from each state**

**-they manage the affairs of the community**

**-advises the authority**

**-gives direction to the subordinate organs**

**executive secretariat.**

**-run day to day administration of the community**

**-based in Lagos Nigeria**

**Tribunal**

**-interprets treaties and settles disputes btn states**

**Specialized commissions**

* **-trades, customs , immigration, monetary and payments**
* **-industry, agriculture, and natural resources**
* **-socio cultural affairs**
* **-defense council**
* **-defense commission**

**. achievements of ecowas**

* **-defense act 1981 helped in conflict e.g. Liberia, sierra Leone, guinea Bissau have been helped by ECOMOG-ecowas monitoring group.**
* **-regular meeting of heads of states to tackle local problems**
* **-economic benefits-wider market, removal of tariff barriers, subsidized oil from Nigeria.**
* **-expansion of transport, economy and infrastructure e.g. link of roads, rail, and telephone.**
* **-socio cultural exchange**
* **-free movement of pple e.g. waiver of visa requirements**
* **-progress on education-e.g. joint examination syllabus to standardized education**

**Challenges facing ECOWAS**

* **-expansive territory**
* **-poor infrastructure**
* **-division between Anglophones, lusophones and francophone’s**
* **-trade / ties with former colonial masters**
* **-regional political instability**
* **-foreign interference eg French soldiers in cote d voire 1975-1980**
* **-violations of her protocol with impunity e.g. Ghana closed border with Togo, Nigeria evicted 1m Ghanaian pple in 1983-85 oil boom period**
* **-suspicion of member states e.g. Nigeria’s immense wealth and population and her military might.**
* **-frequent border disputes e.g. Nigeria and Cameroon over bakassi peninsula**
* **-divided loyalty and commitment due to participation in other organizations e.g. commonwealth, the French community.**
* **-ideological differences eg during cold war eg guinea socialist while cote d voire were capitalists.**

**End by prof.Rado George kaoko**

**Bed arts [ hons ]**

**Kenyatta university**