

Brief Report

Conakry, Guinea 2nd May, 2018

Introduction

1. The 4th meeting of the Executive Council and General Assembly of the ECOWAS Federation of Chambers of Mines (EFEDCOM) took place at the Noom Hotel, Conakry, Guinea on Wednesday 2nd May, 2018.
2. Representatives of member chambers and mining associations from Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cote D'Ivoire participated in the deliberations.

Opening Ceremony

3. The Guinea Minister for Mines and Geology was the special guest of honour. The various stakeholders of the Guinea mining fraternity were present.

Speeches delivered

4. Welcoming the distinguished guests, the President of the Guinea Chamber of Mines Mr. Malick N'Dianye thanked the invited guests for coming, especially members of EFEDCOM.
5. Some members of the EFEDCOM Executive Council took turns to present brief messages:

Mr. Sulemanu Koney, Executive Director of EFEDCOM & Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Chamber of Mines

6. Mr. Koney traced the history of the establishment of EFEDCOM and thanked the ECOWAS Commission for its support. He indicated that EFEDCOM was currently taking part in the formation of the Association of Chambers of Mines & Other Mining Associations of Africa (ACMMAA). He invited members to the forthcoming meeting of the ACMMAA in Kampala, Uganda.

Mrs. Christine Logba-Kossi, Executive Director of the Groupement Professionnel de Mines of Cote D'Ivoire.

7. In her comments, Mrs. Logba-Kossi appreciated the fact that her country is a member of the Federation and took the opportunity to invite the audience to the 2nd ECOWAS Mining and Oil Forum (ECOMOF) to be held in October, 2018 in Abidjan. According to the Executive Director, her country was hoping to develop its national economy on the back of its mineral resources.

Barrister Roseline Nwosu, Vice President (Mines) Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) of Nigeria

8. Barrister Roseline Nwosu was glad to be in Conakry for the meeting, and this demonstrates ACCI's commitment to the tenets of EFEDCOM. The Vice President hoped that all stakeholders would be committed to the roadmap. There was an admittance that Nigeria has depended almost exclusively on Oil, but now it is diversifying into agriculture and mining.

Alhaji Mohammed Shehu Sani, President of Miners Association of Nigeria (MAN)

9. The President of MAN, Alhaji Shehu Sani expressed his appreciation for the warm reception and stated that the big players within the Nigeria mining fraternity are engaging with the Federal government on the issues affecting them. Alhaji Sani stated that the 3rd Nigeria Mining Week would take place in October, 2018 and details would be announced shortly.

Hon Abdoulaye Magassouba, Guinea Minister of Mines & Geology,

10. The Guinean Minister of Mines & Geology, Hon. Abdoulaye Magassouba delivered the key note address as the Special Guest of Honour. He welcomed all visiting dignitaries to the programme on behalf of the President of the Republic and wished EFEDCOM members fruitful discussions. He stated that mining is playing an important role in ongoing policy reforms in his country. According to the Honourable Minister, the government is reforming its mining policy, and thanked the Guinea Chamber of Mines for the collaboration his ministry has had in the process.
11. He stated that the private sector is a partner for development and therefore the support of the ECOWAS Federation of Chambers of Mines, as a strong sub-regional body to ensure efficiency is key. He mentioned that there are several ongoing initiatives in which he would expect the effective participation of mining companies.

Mr. Kwame Addo Kufuor, President of EFEDCOM

12. Mr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor expressed his appreciation to Guinea for hosting the meetings and congratulated the country for the strides it has made in its mining industry.
13. He stated that EFEDCOM would seek to improve the exploitation of more minerals to help improve on the livelihood of the people in mining countries in West Africa. He pointed out that as a regional body, the various Chambers and Mining Associations need to work together and also share lessons on various aspects of mining.
14. The President of the General Assembly recommended that host governments need to share information with private sector players. In addition, he advocated for deliberate efforts to deepen private sector and government engagements. Mr. Addo-Kufuor was worried that trust between government and mining companies seems to be eroding and wondered whose fault it was, for this unfortunate situation to arise. He lamented trust deficit will take a toll on accountability and responsibility.
15. Concluding, Mr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor stated that all stakeholders need to work together to grow the mining cake.

H.E. Lilian Alapini, ECOWAS Resident Representative in Guinea

16. The ECOWAS Resident Representative in Guinea, H.E. Lilian Alapini, congratulated the Federation for its formation and wished its members successful deliberations. She indicated that ECOWAS supports sustainable development of infrastructure in mining communities.
17. According to the Resident Representative, ECOWAS is supporting the integration of the sub-region, because that was one of the mandates of the establishment of the Commission. The mining sector was key in the realization of this mandate and commended the Chambers of Mines of Ghana and Guinea for entering into Memorandum of Understanding, which eventually led to the establishment of the Federation.
18. The Resident Representative pointed out that harmonization of mining regimes, strong cooperation between the Chambers and Mining Associations within the sub-region and the sharing of information on progress made in the mining sector, are areas

that ECOWAS Commission is paying greater attention to. She intimated that, it is the wish of the Commission that EFEDCOM would provide the platform through which ECOWAS will realise these goals.

19. She wished the Federation fruitful deliberations and invited the audience to participate in the forthcoming 2nd ECOWAS Mining and Oil Forum (ECOMOF) in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

H.E. Marc Rubin, UNICEF Representative in Guinea

20. In a speech read on his behalf H.E. Marc Rubin, the UNICEF Representative in Guinea pointed out that there is the need for the reinforcement of cooperation between governments and the private sector. He indicated that mineral resources must be used to develop host countries, particularly fringe mining communities. He further advocated for collaboration among community based groups. Further, he advised that the matter of climate change should feature in EFEDCOMs discussions.

22. Key Decisions of the meeting of the 4th General Assembly of EFEDCOM:

- a. Collaboration with Africa Centre for Economic Transformation to organise workshops for members of EFEDCOM
- b. Admission of Association Professionnelle des Industries Extractives du Togo (APIET) into the membership of EFEDCOM
- c. Adoption of a position paper by EFEDCOM on the African Mining Vision & Private Sector Compact (copy attached)

The following EFEDCOM Executives attended the 4th meeting in Conakry, Guinea:

- ✓ Mr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor, President- EFEDCOM
- ✓ Mr. Malick N'Diaye, President, Guinea Chamber of Mines
- ✓ Alhaji Mohammed Shehu Sani, President – Miners Association of Nigeria
- ✓ Mr. Chaikou Yaya Diallo, Executive Director, Guinea Chamber of Mines
- ✓ Mrs. Roseline Nsowu, Vice Pres.(Mines), Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- ✓ Mrs. Christine Logba-Kossi, Executive Director, Groupement Professionnel de Mines of Cote D'Ivoire
- ✓ Mr. Toussaint Bamouni, Executive Director, Burkina Chamber of Mines
- ✓ Mr. Sulemanu Koney, Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Chamber of Mines
- ✓ Mrs. Sheila Minkah-Premo, Legal Consultant, EFEDCOM
- ✓ Mr. Isaac Glover, Administrator, EFEDCOM