



# FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL: The context of ECOWAS Biometric Identity Card in the Community

ECOWAS COMMISSION,  
ABUJA



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# Legal Basis for ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card (ENBIC)

- ❖ ECOWAS Treaty: Article 2. Paragraph and Article 27
- ❖ Protocol Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment (A/P1/5/79)
- ❖ Protocol Relating to the definition of community citizen (A/P3/82)
- ❖ ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State Decision A/DEC.01/12/14 on the deployment of the ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card
- ❖ Decision Relating to the Creation of a Borderless region (Abuja 2000)
- ❖ Legislation at Member States level
- ❖ ECOWAS ACT A/SA.1/01/10 on Personal Data Protection within the ECOWAS
- ❖ ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration 2008
- ❖ ECOWAS Regional Migration Policy (in view)
- ❖ Regional and National Border Management Strategy



# Objectives of the ECOWAS National Biometric Card

- Transit from the manual / Hand written documents to Machine Readable and Biometrics regimes.
- The Biometrics is highly focused on the age- long facial and finger and requires the migrant to pass through an approved border in accordance with the provisos enshrined in the ECOWAS Protocol Texts on the right of entry
- Provide the legitimate traveler in possession of proper documentation the access into Member States in accordance with the ECOWAS Free Movement core principles; Right of Entry, Residence and Establishment.
- Ensure compliance with international Standard in tandem with the ICAO Travelers Identification regime





# Objectives of the ECOWAS National Biometric Card Continued

Facilitate passenger clearance at the ECOWAS borders and encourage timely exchanges of relevant data at the joint border posts

- Key into global best practices on management of our common borders by drawing inspiration from relevant texts of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution on safe travels resolution 2178 of 2014 on foreign terrorist fighter fighters 2322 (2016) to address threats poised by terrorist in the ECOWAS Free Movement region.
- To enhance security clearance and ease of data sharing of Cross Border criminal's profile, in accordance with the legislation on data exchanges
- Prevent those seeking to enter Member States territories to commit cross border crime from gaining entry.



# IMPLEMENTATION of the ENBIC

The implementation of the ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card requires;

- ⇒ planning,
- ⇒ implementation
- ⇒ Sustainability

Facilitation of travels and security of borders in accordance with the legal provisions **remains fully with relevant agencies of national authorities of ECOWAS Member State**

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# The role of ENBIC in Integrated Border Management

## Integrated Border Management

### Intra-service cooperation

– Efficient management of processes, information and resources within each agency responsible for specific tasks related to border management.

### Inter-agency cooperation

Close cooperation between all agencies involved in border issues both at the border and at the central level, thus minimizing overlaps and inconsistency and optimizing the efficient use of resources .

### International cooperation

Establishment of communication and coordination channels and procedures at the local, bilateral and multilateral levels in verification of travel documents and profiles



# The role of ENBIC in enhancing regional Border Security

Establishment of Joint Task Force and border patrol

Establishment of an information “clearing house”

Develop joint training programs on border security matters. Training is critical to effective cooperation & coordination between border security agencies

Clear definition of tasks & responsibilities to minimize overlaps of tasks

Build electronic data sharing links to create a collaborative environment for security agencies to share real-time information for security & compilation of statistics.





# The role of ENBIC in promoting Efficient & Effective Information Sharing

❖ Create platform to provide missing links & foster development of partnerships that will lead to more effective investigation

❖ Address data needs of the various agencies

❖ Share information at the right time

❖ Share information with the right people

❖ Minimize data replication

❖ Increase data integrity

❖ Promote confidence, reliability & respect

❖ Think of SMART components in information management

❖ Protect information

❖ Shield source & method of information gathering

❖ Validate info before sharing

❖ Engender transparency in information management

❖ Respect for civil liberty & citizens' privacy





THANK YOU  
MERCI BEAUCOUP  
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DIRECTORATE OF FREE MOVEMENT