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SBS Ghana

Strengthening Border Security in Ghana

PRESS RELEASE

Accra, 11 November 2021

Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo to strengthen cooperation on border management

***Under coordination of ECOWAS and support of EU, the four countries committed to a
common declaration for the benefit and security of citizens***

“Ghana recognises the ECOWAS protocols, which affects borders, as well as the mutual benefits through the shared border communities. We also strongly endorse and advance policies that reinforce the principles of the African Union relating to greater integration, improvement in cross border trade, and safe /secure legitimate movement of people across borders.” Mr. Ambrose Dery, Minister for the Interior.

From 8 to 10 November 2021, the SBS Ghana project held a regional conference in Accra with high-level representatives and technical experts of the governments of Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo, to discuss issues related to security and cross-border cooperation.

“The efficient implementation of border management practices, which respects and supports human rights and freedom of movement, contribute to more stable and vibrant societies and citizens’ freedoms, including the right to live in a safe environment. We hope, together with each one of the participating states, to lay the foundation for a joint strategic vision for regional border security cooperation and contribute to increase the effectiveness of border management institutions. The EU is committed to upholding these rights through its support for better border management practices”. H. E Irchad Razaaly, European Union Ambassador to Ghana.



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The objective of the Regional Conference was to propose policy solutions to strengthen coordination and cooperation at the operational level in cross-border areas. The conference, takes a dual format, with both high-level meetings at the Ministerial level and a Technical workshop with border management agencies.

“We have no choice but to come together and work to meet all the security, economic, social and other challenges related to the management our common borders”. Mr. Akobi Messan, Chief Director, Minister of Security and Civil Protection, Togo.

In the final Communique, the four countries acknowledged the importance of ensuring effective coordination of border management, in particular through joint training and awareness raising activities, joint operations and patrols, harmonization of standard operating procedures, risk management, and information sharing. The final communique recommends keeping the conference as a consultative forum for periodic meetings and setting up a technical working group under a specific legal framework. The institutionalisation of informal collaboration frameworks along border areas were also identified as a priority for the four countries.

“We must achieve perfect and frank cross-border collaboration and cooperation between the different agencies. And this through the involvement of non-institutional actors, the interconnection of information systems, the establishment of a platform for the exchange of information and intelligence, and especially capacity building”. Mr Alcide Djedje, Minister of African Integration, Cote d'Ivoire.

The final communique also underlined the importance of capturing those interventions under respective national budgets for securing quality and sustainability of service



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delivery. Effective border delimitation and demarcation was also underlined as a priority by the signatories of the document.

“We are resolutely determined to make border areas with your countries safe living and development spaces, and to do this, security remains the key word.” Clarisse Merindol Ouoba Deputy Minister in charge of African Integration, Burkina Faso.

“I am hopeful that this Regional Conference on Border Management and Security will foster closer collaboration with counterparts in neighbouring countries to enhance and exchange data as well as share information between border control authorities. This would reduce irregular migration, the smuggling of goods and persons, and curb other cross-border crimes within the framework of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.” Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana.

The SBS Ghana project is funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS).

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About EUTF

The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa) aims to foster stability and to contribute to better migration management, including by addressing the root causes of destabilization, forced displacement and irregular migration.

For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica>

About ICMPD

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation with 19 Member States and more than 350 staff members. Active in more than 90 countries worldwide, it takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient cooperation and partnerships along migration routes. Priority regions include Africa, Central and South Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Its three-pillar approach to migration management – structurally linking research, migration dialogues and capacity building – contributes to better migration policy development worldwide. The Vienna-based organisation has a mission in Brussels, a regional office in Malta and project offices in several countries. In Africa, offices are located in Tunis (Tunisia),



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Abuja (Nigeria) and Accra (Ghana). Founded in 1993, ICMPD holds UN observer status.

For more information: <https://www.icmpd.org>

About SBS Ghana

The Strengthening Border Security in Ghana (SBS Ghana) project is funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), and implemented by ICMPD, in cooperation with the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). The specific objective is to contribute to the development of the long-term capability of border control authorities in Ghana; to update border management information and communication systems; and to ensure greater security for citizens and visitors, while guaranteeing the respect for the rule of law and human rights standards.