



ECOWAS Commission
Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture
Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development

Concept Note

**Regional Launching of the 4th AU BR Process in West
Africa**



A. Introduction

The African Union Biennial Review process for the 2014 Malabo declaration by the African Heads of state and government has had three rounds in 2017, 2019 and 2021 in fulfillment of the 7th commitment of the declaration which was aimed at mutual accountability for results achieved under the declaration. Under the 7th commitment, progress in achieving the targets in the Malabo declaration is to be monitored biennially. With 3 rounds successfully completed, it has become evident that high level dissemination of the process at its commencement would be useful in each round. Many countries usually carry out a launching or inception workshop for each round. Presently, the 4th round of the BR process is about to commence in earnest and the ECOWAS Commission has considered it important to carry out a formal launching of the process at the regional level as a way of encouraging greater inclusiveness and collaboration in the process.

B. Objectives

1. To formally inform the general public of the commencement of the fourth biennial review (BR4) process. This is to allow the general public to have early information on its commencement.
2. To enhance inclusiveness of more players in the process
3. To inform stakeholders (especially those that may be new to the process) of roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders
4. To obtain feedback from the general public on ways to ensure that the goals of the 4th BR process are achieved in West Africa in a more efficient way.

C. Approach

The launch will bring together all major stakeholder groups in the region and will aim to update both old and new stakeholders on the BR process till date as well as the plans for the current round. In doing this, countries that have excelled in the last BR process will be given due recognition as a way of encouraging improved performance. In the course of the launch, effort will also be made to build a consensus on the necessary measures that need to be taken in order to achieve the objectives of the 4th round of the process. This will necessitate a presentation summarizing the areas that need improvement as noted from reviews of previous rounds. Based on this, stakeholder groups can be sensitized on the roles they need to play to better fill gaps noted in previous rounds. At the end of the launch, stakeholders are expected to have a good sense of what is required of them as well as the timeline and expected activities and achievements in terms of process issues from the BR 4 process.

D. Targeted participants

Participants from the 6 major stakeholder groups – government, private sector, civil society, farmers groups, development partners and researchers at national, regional, continental and global levels – will be invited to participate in the launch. The media will be specially invited in order to ensure maximum publicity for the event and the BR process as a whole.

E. Expected outputs and outcomes

The regional launch is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Improved awareness of stakeholders (particularly those new to the process) of the nature and importance of the BR process
2. Stakeholders in the sector would be made aware of the commencement of the process as well as the planned timeline towards its completion
3. Improved awareness of stakeholders of the roles expected of them in the BR process
4. Increased level of inclusiveness guaranteed
5. Stakeholders in the sector would exchange ideas on measures to be taken to ensure that the objectives of the 4th BR process are achieved.

F. Workshop Agenda

Time	Activity	Responsible
10:00am – 10:10am	Introduction (Workshop objectives and expected outcomes)	Moderator
10:10am – 10:20am	Welcome Address	ECOWAS Commission
10:20am – 10:40am	The BR Process – the Journey so far	ECOWAS Commission
10:40am – 11:00am	Discussions	Moderator

Time	Activity	Responsible
11:00am – 11:10am	Recognition of Best Performers in the BR process so far	ECOWAS Commission
11:10am - 11:30am	Preparations for the 4 th Round: Timeline and expected roles for stakeholders	ECOWAS Commission
11:30am – 11:50am	Remarks from representatives of Stakeholder groups	Moderator
11:50am – 12:20pm	General discussions	Moderator
12:20pm – 12:30pm	Next steps	ECOWAS Commission
12:30pm – 12:40pm	Workshop closing	ECOWAS Commission