



NINETY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Freetown, 16 – 17 July 2026

REGULATION C/REG.3/7/26 RELATING TO ROAMING ON PUBLIC MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, as amended, particularly articles 10, 11 and 12, establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the said Treaty, particularly article 33 which provides that Member States shall, in the area of telecommunications, develop, modernise, co-ordinate and standardise their national telecommunications networks to provide a reliable regional interconnection, and mobilise financial resources through participation of the private sector in the provision of telecommunications services;

MINDFUL of Supplementary Act A/SA.1/01/07 on the harmonisation of policies and the regulatory framework of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector;

MINDFUL of Supplementary Act A/SA.2/01/07, particularly article 13, on access and interconnection in respect of ICT sector networks and services;

MINDFUL of Supplementary Act A/SA.6/01/07 on Universal Access/Service;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.14/01/05 Relating to the Adoption of a Regional Policy on Telecommunications and Development of Regional GSM Roaming in the West African Region;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.21/12/17 on Roaming on Public Mobile Communications Networks in the ECOWAS Region which has demonstrated the need to clarify certain provisions relating to the pricing, wholesale arrangements, and implementation of Community roaming services, to ensure their effective application and long-term sustainability;

CONSIDERING that ECOWAS is strongly committed to establishing an appropriate legal framework for the reduction or even elimination of Community-wide roaming charges with a view to creating an integrated ICT market in the region;

NOTING that Community-wide roaming is a tool for borderless communication and regional integration that can significantly improve the daily lives of citizens who move

within the Community, and also provides a business opportunity for mobile network operators;

CONSCIOUS that the reduction or elimination of Community-wide roaming charges will achieve digital ubiquity and further facilitate the integration of people within ECOWAS;

CONSIDERING that experience has demonstrated the need to clarify certain rules relating to pricing, wholesale agreements, and the implementation of Community roaming services, in order to ensure their effective application and long-term viability;

CONSCIOUS that the reduction of Community roaming charges must be accompanied by appropriate safeguards, including fair use of roaming services, transparency, and measures aimed at preventing abuse and circumvention, so as to protect both consumers and the integrity of the Community roaming market;

RECOGNISING that Community roaming services involve distinct retail and wholesale components, and that clearer articulation of wholesale roaming arrangements contributes to the prevention of disputes, the reduction of market distortions, and the promotion of non-discriminatory access among operators;

NOTING the importance of coordinated monitoring, cooperation among National Regulatory Authorities, and timely exchange of information in addressing cross-border issues related to Community roaming services, including quality of service, inadvertent roaming, and dispute resolution;

AFFIRMING that this Regulation concerns only Community roaming services and does not seek to regulate international mobile communications services or termination rates outside the scope of Community roaming;

DETERMINED to develop a harmonised framework for roaming services in the ECOWAS region;

DESIROUS of strengthening the implementation framework for Community roaming services through the adoption of accompanying guidelines, to facilitate consistent application, technological neutrality, and adaptation to evolving market conditions;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications and ICT held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on the 27 of March 2026;

UPON THE OPINION of the ECOWAS Parliament at its First Ordinary Session held in Abuja from the 4-17 May 2026.

ENACTS:

CHAPTER I—DEFINITIONS, OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

ARTICLE 1:DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

wholesale roaming access means direct wholesale roaming access or wholesale roaming resale access which involves making available facilities and/or services by a mobile network operator to another undertaking, under defined conditions, for the purposes of providing Community-wide roaming services to roaming customers;

Community roaming arrangements means the agreement between operators in different Member States governing their relations with respect to their Community-wide roaming offers;

Community roaming call means a mobile voice call made by a roaming customer, originating on a visited network and terminating on a public communications network within the ECOWAS region or a mobile voice call received by a roaming customer on a visited network, where such a call originates on a public communications network within the ECOWAS region;

roaming customer means a customer of a provider of public mobile communications services, by means of terrestrial public mobile network situated in the Community, whose contract or arrangement with that Community roaming provider permits the use of roaming services in the ECOWAS region;

Community roaming provider means an undertaking that provides a roaming customer with Community-wide retail roaming services;

Community roaming means the use of mobile communications services by a roaming customer in the ECOWAS region, while in a Member State other than that in which the originating network is located, by means of arrangements between the home network provider and the visited network operator;

visited network means a terrestrial public mobile communications network situated in an ECOWAS Member State other than that of the roaming customer's home network, through which she can enjoy Community-wide roaming services;

home network means a public communications network situated in an ECOWAS Member State used by a Community roaming customer;

Community data roaming service means a roaming service that makes it possible for a roaming customer to use data, send and receive MMS messages when she is connected to a visited network;

Community roaming SMS message means an SMS message sent by a roaming customer, originating on a visited network and terminating on a public communications network within the ECOWAS region, including the visited country or received by a roaming customer, originating on a public communications network within the ECOWAS region, including the visited country and terminating on the network visited by the customer;

Community roaming tariff means any tariff not exceeding the Community's maximum charge, which a roaming service provider may levy a roaming customer in the ECOWAS region for the provision of Community roaming calls;

fair use of roaming services means the use of Community roaming services by a roaming customer in the context of periodic travel within the ECOWAS region, consistent with the objective of facilitating mobility without enabling permanent or abusive use of roaming services as a substitute for domestic mobile services ;

abusive use of roaming services means use of Community roaming services that is inconsistent with fair use of roaming services, including practices intended to circumvent applicable roaming conditions, obtain undue commercial advantage, or undermine the integrity of Community roaming arrangements;

affiliated undertaking has the meaning given to it under applicable ECOWAS competition law and includes undertakings under common control or significant influence.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. The purpose of this Regulation is to set out a harmonised legal and tariff framework for roaming on public mobile communications networks within Member States.
2. This Regulation shall apply to:
 - a. all mobile communications service operators and providers established in a Member State.
 - b. all mobile communications services originating and terminating in a Member State, regardless of their nature.
3. This Regulation shall not apply to mobile communications services not available to the public, as well as those provided by non-terrestrial networks.

CHAPTER II—OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-WIDE ROAMING SERVICES

ARTICLE 3: COMMUNITY WHOLESALE ROAMING ACCESS

1. A mobile communication service operator or provider shall:
 - a. meet all reasonable requests for Community wholesale roaming access, under objective, transparent and non-discriminatory conditions;
 - b. enter into roaming arrangements with all operators in other Member States to ensure effective provision of Community wholesale roaming services;
 - c. ensure that Community roaming traffic between Member States is conveyed through interconnection arrangements that are economically efficient, technically reliable, secure, and transparent for settlement and monitoring purposes;
 - d. assess, where technically and economically reasonable, the establishment of direct regional interconnection arrangements with roaming partners,

considering traffic volumes, service quality, fraud prevention requirements, and overall market efficiency.

2. A wholesale roaming access shall cover access to all network elements and associated facilities, relevant services, software and information systems, necessary for the provision of Community roaming services to customers.
3. The establishment of direct interconnection arrangements shall not preclude the use of hub-based, IPX, clearing, or other third-party intermediation solutions, provided that such arrangements remain consistent with the objectives of this Regulation, including integrity, non-discrimination, and sustainability.

ARTICLE 4: SEPARATE SALE OF RETAIL ROAMING SERVICES

1. A mobile communication service operator or provider shall enable their customers, where technically and commercially feasible, to access Community roaming services separately from their domestic mobile service offers, including through alternative Community roaming providers, subject to compliance with this Regulation.
2. Access to Community roaming services may be implemented through technically appropriate mechanisms, including but not limited to eSIM provisioning, multi-IMSI arrangements, resale models, or other interoperable solutions consistent with international standards.
3. A mobile communication service operator or provider shall meet all reasonable requests for access to facilities and related support services relevant for the separate sale of Community retail roaming services.
4. Access to such facilities and support services that are necessary for the separate sale of Community retail roaming services, including user authentication services shall be free of charge to customers.

ARTICLE 5: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ROAMING ACCESS

1. A Community roaming customer shall access emergency numbers of the visited Member State and receive emergency alerts under the same conditions as subscribers in that State.
2. A call to any emergency number and any emergency alert shall be free of charge for the Community roaming customer.
3. A mobile communication service provider shall transfer, free of charge, all calls and other electronic communications to emergency numbers under the Community roaming regulation.

CHAPTER III—REGULATION OF COMMUNITY ROAMING CHARGES

ARTICLE 6: RETAIL ROAMING CHARGES FOR VOICE CALLS AND SMS

1. The local retail charge, excluding VAT, that a Community roaming provider may levy on its customers travelling in the ECOWAS region for the provision of a Community roaming

call originating on that visited network and terminating on any network of the visited Member State shall not exceed the highest tariff for local calls in the visited State.

2. The intra-Community retail charge excluding VAT, that a Community roaming provider may levy on its customers travelling in the ECOWAS region for the provision of a Community roaming voice call originating on that visited network and terminating on a public communications network in another Member State shall not exceed the highest tariff for international calls from the visited Member State to other Member States.
3. The local retail charge excluding VAT, that a Community roaming provider may levy on its customers travelling within the region for the provision of a Community roaming SMS originating on a visited network and terminating on any network of the visited country shall not exceed the highest tariff for local SMS in the visited Member State.
4. The intra-Community retail charge excluding VAT, that a Community roaming provider may levy on its customers travelling within the ECOWAS region for the provision of a Community roaming SMS originating on a visited network and terminating on a public communications network in another Member State shall not exceed the highest tariff for international SMS from the visited Member State to other Member States in the ECOWAS region.
5. Reception of Community roaming voice calls and SMS shall be free of charge to the roaming customer.
6. The maximum retail charges set out in this Article shall apply without prejudice to the ability of Member States in consultation with roaming service providers and acting through their competent National Regulatory Authorities to agree on lower or otherwise adapted maxima, provided that such arrangements:
 - a. enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, or consumer benefits of Community roaming;
 - b. remain consistent with the objectives of this Regulation; and
 - c. are notified to the ECOWAS Commission.
7. Community roaming providers shall implement in roaming arrangements respecting the maxima established pursuant to paragraph 6 of this article within their respective jurisdictions.

ARTICLE 7: WHOLESALE ROAMING CHARGES FOR VOICE CALLS AND SMS

1. The local wholesale charge that the visited network operator may levy on the customer's Community roaming provider for the provision of a Community roaming call originating on that visited network and terminating on any network of the visited Member State shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the retail charge for a local call.
2. The intra-Community wholesale charge that the visited network operator may levy on the customer's Community roaming provider for the provision of a Community roaming

call originating on that visited network shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the intra-Community retail charge.

3. The local wholesale charge that the visited network operator may levy on the customer's Community roaming provider for the provision of a Community roaming SMS originating on that visited network and terminating on any network of the visited Member State shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the retail charge for a local SMS.
4. The intra-Community wholesale charge that the visited network operator may levy on the customer's Community roaming provider for the provision of a Community roaming SMS originating on that visited network and terminating on another Member State's network, including the home country, shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the intra-Community retail charge.
5. The maximum wholesale charges set out in this Article shall apply without prejudice to the ability of Member States in consultation with roaming service providers and acting through their competent National Regulatory Authorities to agree on lower or otherwise adapted maxima, provided that such arrangements:
 - a. enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, or consumer benefits of Community roaming;
 - b. remain consistent with the objectives of this Regulation;
 - c. are notified to the ECOWAS Commission; and
 - d. do not result in a structural margin squeeze or otherwise undermine fair and effective competition between Community roaming providers.
6. A wholesale roaming arrangement for a Community roaming voice service shall be implemented in a manner that is sustainable and consistent with the objectives of this Regulation, including the facilitation of Community mobility and the protection of consumers, while allowing operators to recover reasonable wholesale costs.
7. A wholesale arrangement applicable to inbound a Community roaming voice call shall be implemented in a manner that avoids the imposition of systematic unrecovered costs on any mobile network operator, while preserving the principle that the reception of Community roaming voice calls remains free of charge to the roaming customer.

ARTICLE 8: CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY DATA ROAMING SERVICES

1. The retail charge, excluding VAT, that a Community roaming provider may levy on a customer for the provision of Community roaming data services shall not exceed the highest megabyte rate in the visited Member State.
2. The wholesale charge that a visited network operator may levy on the customer's Community roaming provider for the provision of Community roaming data services originating on that visited network shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the retail charge.

3. The maximum retail charge set out in paragraph 1 of this article and the maximum wholesale charge set out in paragraph 2 of this article shall apply without prejudice to the ability of a Member State, acting through its competent National Regulatory Authority, to agree bilaterally on lower or otherwise adapted maxima, subject to the conditions set out in Articles 6(6) and 7(5) of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 9: COMMUNITY ROAMING VOICE MESSAGE

Receiving and listening to a voice message, while roaming, shall be free of charge.

CHAPTER IV—TRANSPARENCY IN THE SUPPLY OF ECOWAS ROAMING SERVICES

ARTICLE 10: GENERAL TRANSPARENCY RULES FOR ECOWAS ROAMING SERVICES

1. When the roaming customer enters a Member State other than that of the domestic provider, the latter shall deliver automatically, immediately and at no cost, by an SMS, e-mail or a pop-up window on the mobile device, basic personalised information on the roaming tariff, VAT included, applied once the customer makes or receives calls or SMS, or uses data services in the Member States visited.
2. The basic personalised pricing information shall include charges, in the currency of the home bill provided by the customer's domestic provider, to which the roaming customer within ECOWAS may be subject, for:
 - a. making roaming calls within the visited Member State and back to the Member State of the domestic provider, as well as for regulated roaming calls received;
 - b. sending roaming SMS messages while in the visited Member State; and
 - c. using roaming data services while in the visited Member State, expressed in price per megabyte.
3. Each Community roaming provider shall inform roaming users of harmonised roaming rates for voice calls, SMS and data services while roaming within the Community, as well as the roaming rates for their network.
4. An operator shall provide clear, precise and up-to-date information on ECOWAS roaming services, on its website and through printed material.
5. A Community roaming provider shall also provide its roaming customer with updates on applicable roaming charges without undue delay, in the event of any change.
6. A roaming customer shall have the right to request and receive, free of charge and irrespective of the location within ECOWAS, through a mobile voice call or by SMS, more detailed personalised pricing information on the roaming charges that apply in the visited network to voice calls, SMS and data services, and information on the transparency measures applicable by virtue of this Regulation. Such a request shall be

made to a toll-free number designated for this purpose by the Community roaming provider.

7. A Community roaming provider shall make available to its customer information on how to avoid inadvertent roaming in border regions.

ARTICLE 11: SPECIFIC TRANSPARENCY RULES FOR ROAMING SERVICES WITHIN ECOWAS

A Community roaming provider shall:

- a. provide basic personalised pricing information on roaming voice, SMS and data services automatically, by voice call, free of charge, to blind or partially sighted customer upon request;
- b. notify roaming customers of the duration and cost of each call made while roaming within the ECOWAS region;
- c. inform its customer, before the conclusion of a contract and at regular intervals thereafter, of the risk of automatic and uncontrolled data roaming connection and download;
- d. notify to their customers, free of charge and in a clear and easily understandable manner, how to switch off these automatic data roaming connections in order to avoid uncontrolled consumption of data roaming services.

CHAPTER V—CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITY ROAMING SERVICES

ARTICLE 12: FAIR USE OF COMMUNITY ROAMING SERVICES

1. A Community roaming provider shall apply the regulated Community roaming conditions established under Articles 6, 7, and 8 to a roaming customer under fair use conditions for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days during travel within the ECOWAS region.
2. Where a roaming customer has benefited from the regulated Community roaming regime for a continuous period of thirty (30) consecutive days, the customer shall not be eligible to benefit from the regulated roaming conditions again until the customer has resumed and maintained active use of services on the home network for a minimum period of seven (7) consecutive days.
3. For the purposes of this Article, consecutive days shall be calculated based on continuous presence on visited networks within the ECOWAS region, irrespective of movement between Member States, and “active use” shall mean the use of voice, SMS, or data services on the home network.

4. The home network operator shall notify its roaming customer at least seven (7) days before the end of the thirty (30) consecutive day period, by message or voice communication, that the period of fair use is approaching its limit.
5. Upon expiry of the thirty (30) consecutive day fair-use period, a Community roaming provider may apply appropriate corrective measures in accordance with this Regulation and any implementation guidelines adopted pursuant to this Regulation. All measures shall be objective, proportionate, transparent, and non-discriminatory and may include:
 - a. the application of regulated roaming surcharges;
 - b. the application of alternative tariff conditions consistent with national retail pricing;
 - c. temporary usage limitations; or
 - d. suspension of preferential roaming conditions.
6. In the interest of safeguarding the sustainability and integrity of the Community roaming regime, a National Regulatory Authority may, for a defined and time-limited period, adopt additional objective and proportionate measures to reinforce fair use of roaming services, where justified by demonstrable evidence of abuse, traffic imbalance, or sustainability risks.
7. A National Regulatory Authority shall ensure that the measures in Paragraph 6 of this Article are precautionary in nature and shall not undermine the ability of end users to benefit from the principles established under Article 12 paragraph 1 of this Regulation. These measures shall:
 - a. be transparent and non-discriminatory;
 - b. be based on objective criteria;
 - c. be proportionate to the identified risk;
 - d. not restrict access to emergency services;
 - e. be notified to the ECOWAS Commission and other National Regulatory Authorities; and
 - f. be subject to periodic review and shall automatically lapse after the defined period unless expressly renewed in accordance with this Regulation.

ARTICLE 13: INTEGRITY OF COMMUNITY ROAMING SERVICES AND PREVENTION OF ABUSE

1. A Community roaming service shall be provided and used in a manner that ensures the integrity, sustainability, and proper functioning of Community roaming arrangements within the ECOWAS region.
2. A Community roaming provider and visited network operator shall not engage in, facilitate, or tolerate practices that are intended to circumvent the provisions of this Regulation or to obtain undue commercial advantage, including:

- a. the artificial routing, reclassification, or refiling of traffic to benefit improperly from Community roaming conditions;
 - b. the systematic use of Community roaming services for commercial resale, termination bypass, or similar purposes inconsistent with the objectives of this Regulation;
 - c. the generation, stimulation, or manipulation of artificial traffic volumes designed to extract wholesale roaming or termination payments.
3. Community roaming providers and visited network operators shall cooperate with one another and with the Competent National Regulatory Authority in preventing, detecting, and addressing abusive or fraudulent use of Community roaming services, in accordance with this Regulation and the applicable guidelines.
4. A national regulatory authority shall have the power to require corrective measures where it determines that practices referred to in Paragraph 2 of this article are occurring, including, requiring the:
 - a. cessation or modification of such practices;
 - b. adjustment, suspension, or withdrawal of preferential roaming conditions;
 - c. provision of information necessary to assess compliance with this Regulation.
5. Any measure taken pursuant to Paragraph 4 of this article shall be objective, proportionate, and non-discriminatory, and shall consider the need to distinguish between legitimate roaming use by consumers and systematic or commercial abuse of roaming arrangements.
6. Any measure taken under this Article shall not restrict access to emergency services and shall be subject to appropriate procedural safeguards, including notification and the right to complaint or review in accordance with national law.
7. The ECOWAS Commission, in consultation with national regulatory authorities, shall adopt guidelines on the prevention of abuse and protection of the integrity of Community roaming services, including guidance on indicators of abusive practices, cooperation mechanisms, and coordinated regional responses.

ARTICLE 14: QUALITY OF COMMUNITY ROAMING SERVICES

1. Roaming services provided to users roaming within ECOWAS shall be of comparable quality to those offered by the operator of the network visited to its subscribers.
2. No Community roaming provider, home network operator or operator of a visited network shall modify the technical features of Community roaming services in such a way as to make them different from the technical features of the same services provided in its national market.

CHAPTER VI—CONTROL AND MONITORING OBLIGATIONS

ARTICLE 15: MONITORING, FILING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

1. A Community roaming provider and visited network operator shall be subject to monitoring, filing, and reporting obligations as set out in this Article to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of this Regulation.
2. A Community roaming provider and visited network operator shall file with the competent national regulatory authority, in accordance with procedures established at national or Community level, information necessary to verify compliance with this Regulation, which may include:
 - a. Community roaming agreements or structured extracts thereof, including the scope of services covered and the applicable wholesale roaming charges;
 - b. the retail roaming charges applied to roaming customers under this Regulation;
 - c. aggregated data on Community roaming traffic volumes for voice, SMS, and data services, including inbound and outbound roaming traffic; and
 - d. information necessary to assess compliance with fair-use requirements under Article 12 of this Regulation and integrity obligations under article 13 of this Regulation.
3. A competent national regulatory authority shall collect, verify, and analyse the information referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article for the purposes of:
 - a. monitoring compliance with the maximum charges and obligations established under this Regulation;
 - b. assessing the application of fair-use measures and the prevention of abusive or fraudulent use of Community roaming services; and
 - c. identifying systemic risks, disputes, or practices that may undermine the objectives of Community roaming.
4. Competent national regulatory authorities shall cooperate with one another and with the ECOWAS Commission, including through regional mechanisms or committees established for Community roaming, for the purpose of sharing relevant information, coordinating monitoring activities, and addressing cross-border issues arising from the provision of Community roaming services.
5. Information collected pursuant to this Article shall be subject to appropriate confidentiality and data-protection safeguards. Such information shall be used solely for regulatory, monitoring, and enforcement purposes under this Regulation and shall not be disclosed to third parties except where required by law or with appropriate safeguards.
6. The ECOWAS Commission, in consultation with national regulatory authorities, may adopt guidelines specifying the scope, format, frequency, and procedures for the filing, reporting, and exchange of information under this Article, including arrangements for regional coordination and aggregation of data.
7. The obligations set out in this Article shall be applied in a proportionate and non-discriminatory manner without prejudice to the effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 16: MEMBER STATES' OBLIGATIONS

A Member State shall:

- a. comply with this Regulation within its territory and shall provide the public with updated and easily accessible information concerning implementation of the Regulation.
- b. be alert to the particular case of inadvertent roaming in the border regions of neighbouring Member States and shall monitor whether traffic-steering techniques are used to the disadvantage of customers and take the relevant necessary measures.
- c. have the power to require Community roaming providers, subject to obligations under this Regulation, to supply all information relevant to the implementation of this Regulation. These Community roaming providers shall provide such information promptly on request and in accordance with the request by the Member State.
- d. ensure that monitoring, information-gathering, and reporting activities relating to Community roaming services are carried out in accordance with Article 15 of this Regulation.
- e. ensure that operators provide adequate access and interconnection to guarantee the end-to-end connectivity and interoperability of roaming services, in conformity with Supplementary Act A/SA 2/01/07 on Access and Interconnection in respect of ICT Sector Networks and Services.
- f. ensure that all surcharges are removed for incoming intra-Community roaming traffic within the ECOWAS region, within the framework of implementation of this Regulation on Community roaming.
- g. ensure that communication campaigns on Community roaming are carried out in the Member State.
- h. where it notices the violation of the obligations set out in this Regulation within its territory, demand an immediate end to the violation.
- i. in preparing for the review of this Regulation, monitor developments in wholesale and retail prices of voice calls and data, including SMS and MMS, for customers roaming within the Community.

ARTICLE 17: OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETENT NATIONAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

1. A competent national regulatory authority shall be responsible for :
 - a. reviewing and approving relevant service provider roaming agreements;
 - b. putting in place and ensuring reliability of subscriber identification systems;
 - c. establishing and participating in national and regional mechanisms for the prevention, detection, and management of fraud and abuse relating to Community roaming services;

- d. receiving, investigating and resolving the complaints and demands about Community roaming services made by subscribers;
 - e. monitoring developments in wholesale and retail prices for Community roaming services;
 - f. cooperating with one another to reduce inadvertent roaming in the border areas of Member States;
 - g. ensuring compliance with regulations on Community roaming;
 - h. forwarding to the ECOWAS Commission up-to-date information on the implementation of this Regulation;
 - i. forwarding the roaming tariff ceilings provided for in Articles 6, 7 and 8 of this Regulation to the ECOWAS Commission and updating same every two years;
 - j. notifying Community roaming providers of Community roaming tariff ceilings once these have been forwarded by the ECOWAS Commission; and
 - k. cooperating with one another and with the ECOWAS Commission in the development, adoption, and periodic review of Community-level guidelines or frameworks on the management of fraud, abuse, and integrity risks relating to Community roaming services.
2. In performing its obligations under this Regulation, a Competent National Regulatory Authority shall rely on information collected and reported pursuant to Article 15 of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 18: OBLIGATIONS OF ROAMING SERVICE PROVIDERS

A Community roaming provider shall be responsible for:

- a. complying with the monitoring, filing, and reporting obligations set out in Article 15 of this Regulation; and
- b. implementing tariffs consistent with the requirements set out in Articles 6, 7 and 8 of this Regulation no later than three (3) months after a national regulatory authority gives notice of them.

ARTICLE 19: OBLIGATIONS OF THE ECOWAS COMMISSION

The ECOWAS Commission shall be responsible for:

- a. consolidating the Community roaming tariff ceilings forwarded by national regulatory authorities;
- b. publishing and maintaining up-to-date records of tariff ceilings for the use of all national regulatory authorities; and
- c. developing within two (2) years a cost model for Community roaming services to ensure that any future revision of the tariff regime is based on reference costs.

ARTICLE 20: REVIEW

1. The ECOWAS Commission shall carry out its consolidation, review, and reporting functions based on information provided pursuant to Article 15 of this Regulation.
2. At least every three (3) years, the ECOWAS Commission shall submit to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers a report on the implementation of this Regulation, including an assessment of the extent to which its objectives on Community roaming have been attained and whether the measures established under this Regulation remain effective and appropriate to achieve those objectives.
3. Where the report shows that the structural measures set out in this Regulation are inadequate to achieve its objectives, including, the strengthening of competition and the progressive reduction of differences between national and Community roaming rates, the Commission shall make appropriate proposals to the Council of Ministers to remedy the situation.

CHAPTER VII—SETTLEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITY ROAMING DISPUTES AND SANCTIONS REGIME

ARTICLE 21: SETTLEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITY ROAMING DISPUTES

1. Where a dispute arises from the obligations set out in this Regulation, among Community roaming providers located in separate Member States, the procedures for dispute settlement stated in Articles 16 and 17 of Supplementary Act A/SA 1/01/07 on the Harmonisation of Policies and of the Regulatory Framework for the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector shall apply.
2. The ECOWAS Commission may adopt applicable guidelines pursuant to this Regulation to provide additional procedural guidance on the handling, documentation, escalation, and coordination of roaming-related disputes, without prejudice to the binding dispute-settlement mechanisms established under the Supplementary Act referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

ARTICLE 22: SANCTIONS REGIME

1. Member States shall determine the sanctions to be applied to violations of this Regulation and shall take all measures necessary to enforce them.
2. The sanctions set out shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.

CHAPTER VIII—TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

ARTICLE 23: APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY ROAMING CHARGES

1. The competent national regulatory authority and community roaming providers shall have six (6) months from the entry into force of this Regulation to implement Community roaming charges.

2. Where Community roaming arrangements already in force at the time of entry into force of this Regulation are consistent with the requirements of this Regulation, such arrangements may continue to apply without interruption.
3. Where existing arrangements are not consistent with this Regulation, competent national regulatory authorities shall ensure their alignment within the implementation period referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article.
4. The transitional period provided for in Paragraph 1 of this article shall be without prejudice to the phased implementation arrangements established under Article 24 of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 24: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

1. The periodic review and update of Community roaming tariff ceilings pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Article 17 of this Regulation shall take into account market developments, sustainability considerations, traffic patterns, and regional coordination outcomes.
2. Updated tariff ceilings shall be forwarded to the ECOWAS Commission in accordance with Article 17, and consolidated ceilings shall be communicated to all National Regulatory Authorities within one (1) month of receipt.
3. Community Roaming Providers shall conclude or update roaming agreements in conformity with this Regulation and implement the applicable retail and wholesale charges within the implementation timelines established by the competent national regulatory authority in accordance with this Regulation.
4. The implementation of revised roaming charges and fair-use measures may be phased, where necessary, considering technical readiness, system validation, and coordination among competent national regulatory authorities.
5. The Competent National Regulatory Authority may provide for time-limited transitional arrangements where strictly necessary to ensure orderly implementation, provided that such arrangements are transparent and do not undermine consumer protection or the objectives of this Regulation.

CHAPTER IX—FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 25

1. This **REGULATION C/REG.3/7/26** shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of its signature by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.
2. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal within the same time frame.

ARTICLE 26

This **REGULATION C/REG.3/7/26** shall enter into force upon its publication.

DONE IN FREETOWN, THIS 17TH DAY OF JULY 2026



H.E. ALHAJI MUSA TIMOTHY KABBA

FOR THE COUNCIL,

THE CHAIRPERSON