

ECOWAS Mechanisms for Democratic Consolidation in West Africa: Lesson from the 2016 Political Impasse in the Gambia

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Abstract: *The study explores the mechanisms of ECOWAS that restored democratic governance in the Gambia after the 2016 Presidential election. The study uses a case study research design and triangulation of data to explore the ECOWAS institution and Mechanisms that help consolidate democratic governance in the Gambia. This method helps me to compare different sources of data to establish a broad understanding of the mechanisms of ECOWAS that foster democratic consolidation in the Gambia. The finding revealed that the political Impasse in the Gambia in 2016 was caused by errors made by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in the vote's tabulation. Even though former President Jammeh initially accepted the results and congratulated President Elect-Barrow, the findings show that this mistake by the IEC made Jammeh renege on his decision. The finding shows that ECOWAS stood by the Gambian people to restore democracy through its ECOMIG intervention mission and through proactive mediation and preventive diplomacy, which saw Jammeh leave the country on 19 January 2017 to Equatorial Guinea. The study recommends institutional reforms and strengthening civil society and media to help consolidate democracy in the Gambia. The study also recommends the government of the Gambia and ECOWAS foster national unity and strengthen security sector reform in the Gambia as a recipe for democratic consolidation and sustainable development.*

Keywords: ECOWAS, Democracy, ECOMIG, Impasse

INTRODUCTION

This research explores the mechanisms of ECOWAS in fostering democratic consolidation in West Africa with the case study of the Gambia. The study scrutinizes the institutional and policy reform process undertaken by ECOWAS to consolidate the practices of democracy in West Africa. The Establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 1975 was originally meant to promote economic integration among its 15 member states. Because of the occurrences of political instability and conflict in the Sub-region, ECOWAS is transformed to promote democratic governance as a solution for peace and development in the Sub-Region. ECOWAS promotes democratic consolidation to respond to Conflicts and violent political transitions in the sub-region. Aggad and Miyandazi (2017) agreed that military coup d'états have become the standard procedure for political transition in West Africa. They contend that due to conflicts in democratic transitions in West Africa, ECOWAS developed a framework, for conflict Management and Prevention, to prevent unconstitutional changes of government and stimulate democratic consolidation, the rule of law, and human rights in the sub-region.

Unuoha & Ngwu (2017) maintain that ECOWAS promotes shared values based on aspirations for democratic accountability and sustainable development. He argues that ECOWAS develops principles that identify the needs and aspirations of member states to achieve a sustainable democratic consolidation in the sub-region. Daffeh (2014) contends that ECOWAS has Executive, Judiciary, and Legislative arms to coordinate and enforce the principles of democratic consolidation and governance in the sub-region. Diallo (2005) contends that ECOWAS arms of governance support the monitoring and implementation of its democratic governance norms and standards and promote democratic consolidation in West Africa. Aggad and Miyandazi (2017) maintain that the Directorate of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) under the ECOWAS executive branch, headed by the ECOWAS President monitors the progress of democratic governance in West Africa and reports to the Authority of Heads of State and Governments and the Council of Ministers. He contends that PAPS is divided into four directorates: Political Affairs, Peacekeeping and Security, the Early Warning and Observation and Monitoring as well as provide mediation felicitation for ECOWAS. Based on the ECOWAS handbook (2008) these directorates implement protocols relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security. They also implement the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework to consolidate democratic governance in West Africa. Hartmann and Razaq (2020) reason that the Mediation and Security Council (MSC) of ECOWAS takes action for Conflict Prevention, Management Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security. They argue that The MSC comprised nine Member States, including the ECOWAS Chairperson, immediate past Chairperson, and seven members elected by the ECOWAS Assembly. Daffeh, Wahid & Bangura (2024) argue that the Mediation and Security Council decides on political and military interventions in member states in the event of human rights violations or military overthrow of democratic government. Goodridge (2019) claims that the ECOWAS Council of the Wise plays an important role in ensuring the implementation of democratic governance norms in West Africa. He contends that the Council of

the Wise is the Commission’s main structure for conflict mediation, and serves as the special envoy of the ECOWAS President to foster democratic consolidation in West Africa. According to the ECOWAS Handbook (2008), the Council of the Wise members are distinguished individuals and provide an instrumental role in leading ECOWAS election fact-finding missions. The ECOWAS Court of Justice supports the implementation of democratic Governance consolidation and human rights standards in the sub-region. It has jurisdiction to adjudicate cases involving the failure of member states to comply with ECOWAS policies. Hartmann (2017) reasons that ECOWAS is the first African sub-regional body to develop legal standards and protocols for democratic governance consolidation. He points out that ECOWAS has several treaties to promote peace, security, and democratic governance in West Africa. He contends that The Cotonou Treaty promotes peace and security standards and fosters democratic governance norms. He argues that from the 1990s and early 2000s, ECOWAS strengthened reforms on democratic governance and democratic consolidation in the sub-region. ECOWAS has developed standards and norms that go beyond immediate concerns for peace and security and put importance on democratic consolidation and Governance. It has incorporated democratic standards and norms by Both the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the AU to strengthen the culture of democratic consolidation in West Africa. Effiong (2016) argues that in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, ECOWAS revised its treaty and introduced changes regarding its objectives and institutional arrangement. D’ Aiello (2018) suggests that ECOWAS established the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights and the African Economic Community in 1991 to address undemocratic changes of power, and human rights violations, and strengthen democratic governance in West Africa. They noted that the Cotonou Treaty (1993) strengthened the institution’s promotion of democratic consolidation, and elections in West Africa. Tejpar and Akenroye (2012) reason that the institution strengthens the calls for the promotion and consolidation of a democratic system of governance in each Member State and fosters democratic accountability, and economic development in the sub-region. They argue that ECOWAS introduced the Court of Justice, and Parliament, to provide oversight for democratic accountability in West Africa. The objective of this article is to understand the factors that triggered political Impasses in the Gambia in 2016 and the role of ECOWAS mechanisms in fostering democratic governance in the Gambia during and after the 2016 Impasse.

Table 1: ECOWAS Norms and Standards

This table shows the norms and standards adopted by ECOWAS since 1975 to foster and consolidate democratic governance practices in West Africa and peaceful coexistence.

Year Adopted	Norms and Standard
1975	Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States
1979	Protocol Relating to Free Movement
1991	Declaration of Political Principles
1993	Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States
1999	Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, and Peace-Keeping
2001	Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance
2008	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework

Source: Author’s creation from the Literature, 2024.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews the concept of democratic consolidation and the theory of new institutionalism relevant to the understanding of this article to explain the institution of ECOWAS and how it helps promote democracy in West Africa. The section also discusses empirical factors that trigger political impasse in the Gambia and the role played by the international community.

Conceptual Review

The Concept of Democratic consolidation

Ratsimbaharison (2016) argues that the conceptual understanding of democratic consolidation is based on the actors of democracy and the structures that facilitate the practices of democratic consolidation. Diamond (1994) maintains that the transition of a country to a consolidated democracy includes the presence of a strong and viable civil society organization and a free and robust media. He argues that structural factors such as the economy, political culture, and level of development are also important variables to test if a new democracy will be consolidated or slide back to transition. Schedler (1998) argues that democratic consolidation means making the formal structures of democracy more accountable and accessible to the people. He argues that consolidated democracies ensure decentralization and devolution of power to local actors and put security under civilian control. Dahl (1971) argues that frequent free and fair elections, Control over government decisions about policy constitutionality vested in elected officials, and universal

adult suffrage are major ingredients for democratic consolidation. He explains that the right to run for public office, freedom of expression and access to alternative sources of information that are not manipulated by the government or any other single group are vital mechanisms for the consolidation of democratic governance practices. Dahl's conceptualization of democratic consolidation sets a foundation for the understanding of basic civil liberties that should in principle guarantee that the democratic process is inclusive, free of repression, and enables citizens to participate. Pettit (2017) claims that the wave of new democratization in the developing world since the 1980s suggests that the process of democratic governance entails the consolidation of the democratic system. He noted that scholars are turning towards a more substantive theory of democratic consolidation that gives greater value to the role and importance of democratic accountability. Darl (1966) argues that consolidated democracies enable citizens to hold their political leaders to account through the electoral channel at a specific point in time. O'Donnell (1996) argues consolidated democracies empower civil societies and Media to provide oversight over the actions of government and its officials. He maintains that democratic consolidation ensures free and fair elections, respect for basic civil rights, and responsiveness to the tenets of democratic principles.

Theoretical Review

The theory of new institutionalism

The new Institutionalism theory studies social facts as Emil Durkheim earlier theorized. In contemporary political science scholarship, new institutionalism presents a unique approach to the study of economic social, and political phenomena of institutions. It is an approach to the study of institutions and how policy formulations in institutional settings are done (Peters 2016). Peters conceptualized that the institutionalism model of governance provides a robust understanding of how policies in an organization resonate with individual choices. His conceptualization forms a path dependent on the constraints and enabling effects of formal and informal behaviors of individuals as well as rules that govern such behaviors for governance, his initial work focusing on Institutions and policy. Peter (2014) provides stout guidelines for understanding economic and social behaviors and how such behaviors contribute to the growth of systems to ensure compliance with a sound governance framework. Hodgins, O'Connor & Buckley (2022) suggest that Adam Smith's seminal work, *The Theory of Knowledge* (1795) provides a classical foundation for the understanding of the new institutionalism theory. They agree with Smith that a systematic approach to organizational governance can help the current world order achieve a coherent body of knowledge. Smith's contention gives greater insight into the decision-making process of democratic governance. They suggest that strong cultures contribute to the survival of organizations. This view is in alignment with preconditions scholars of democracy that democratic survival requires some basic preconditions such as 'political will' and informed citizenry, scholars such as Darl (1971) argue that democratic governance requires certain minimal conditions such as freedom.

Meyer and Rowan (2006) give a conceptual premise for the theory of new institutionalism. Their work provides a conceptual clarity on institutional paradox and governance, they argue that changes in organizations are driven less by functional consideration but by symbolic actions and external influences. This assumption by the duo brought to light the relevance of this theory to my work and how it perfectly fits this research to understand the role of ECOWAS as an external institution to help consolidate democracy in the Gambia. DiMaggio, Tracey & Haugh (2009) agree with Meyer and Rowan but they provided a second layer to the understanding of new institutionalism theory and its relevance to democratic governance by outlining three mechanisms such as: coercive, normative, and mimetic. They argue that through these factors institutional demands are diffused. According to March and Olsen (1986), New institutionalism provides a broad movement in contemporary democratic governance literature. Their argument clarifies and refines the study of institutions as important variables in understanding political governance and gives the required framework needed for nation-building. The crux of this theory based on their analogy rests on the firm assumption that credible democratic governance is premised on the rule of law and strong institutional systems. This theory provides an understanding of how ECOWAS as an institution can facilitate democratic consolidation through policy reforms and by nurturing a culture of accountability in the Gambia. This theory supports the claim that the ECOWAS protocol on Democracy and good governance, as well as its numerous other policies, should provide the necessary ingredients for democratic governance in the Gambia.

Phillips, Tracey, & Karra (2009) argue that the new institutionalist approach to management and governance was borne out of the orientation that the old institutionalist approach to political governance provides less pragmatic solutions to global order and conflict resolutions. Scholars such as Scott (2013) strengthened DiMaggio and Powell's earlier work. Their view is that new institutionalism provides pragmatic decisions that involve the discovery through research and negotiation of what is the best practice in the current circumstances of the institutions. Several new institutionalism scholars such as Kostova, Roth, and Dacin (2008), question the old institutional theory and describe the new institutionalism as the government's action in the organizational fields. They argue that the institutions in the new institutional conceptual framework are considered as the agents' resources and rational actors to obtain the core value of institutional advancement and growth. Rutherford (1995) believes that institutions are outlines, norms, and human-devised regulations that allow and constrain the behavior of the social actors and make social life Predictable and

significant for institutions. De Castro (2019) argues that the conceptual basis of new institutionalism is anchored on the notion of democratic governance. He maintains that strengthening governance, ensuring democratic accountability processes, and strengthening mechanisms of the rule of law through sound macro-economic policy formulations provides a just comprehension of new Institutionalism theory. Levi & Menaldo (2015) signaled that the new institutionalism theory provides the basis for the emergence of Good governments that will be the product of democratic accountability. This theory, therefore, gives a broad understanding of how ECOWAS institutions through good governance and democratic protocol can be used as a barometer to help strengthen democratic consolidation in the Gambia.

Peltonen (2018) contends that the new institutionalism theory offers a powerful approach to the understanding of political governance and international management. The choice of this theory centered on understanding the role of ECOWAS in the democratic consolidation of the Gambia. Bulmer and Solomon (1997) proffer that new institutionalism offers a crucial opportunity for reforms in countries' governance, peace, and security policies by benchmarking the best practices of other external institutions. They opined that states review their governance strategies and re-evaluate their governance institutions' practices to enable them to provide the best possible alternatives for their people. Their view is that State institutions have an important role in establishing and implementing the state's governance policy which is made easy through the adoption of new institutionalism theory in political governance. Kostova, Roth & Dacin (2008) challenge the validity of the new institutional theory. They argue that the theory overemphasizes the electoral and legislative arenas and in general the input side of politics. Silva (2002) aligned with Kostova, Roth & Dacin, contends that the theory overestimates the importance and causal impact of formal rules and institutions. According to them, it does not explain the origins of political change and often suggests a static image of political development. Other scholars pointed out that it offers an incomplete analysis of institutional creation by neglecting the importance of political beliefs. He suggests that it cannot fully account for macro-political governance. Despite the divergence of the mainstream scholarship on the new institutionalism theory, its relevance and application to this study remain significant to this research. The selection of this theory for this study is to facilitate an in-depth intellectual inquiry into ECOWAS institution and how its policies can facilitate democratic consolidation in the Gambia. The new institutionalism theory thus provides a grounding philosophical approach to this study.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW: FACTORS THAT TRIGGER POLITICAL IMPASSE IN THE GAMBIA AND THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE POST-TRANSITION PERIOD.

Njie and Saine (2019) discuss after the 2016 election in the Gambia, former President Jammeh declared the electoral results unfair and maintained that his protest to reject the election results was because the results were marked by irregularities. Unuoha and Ngwu (2017) maintain that President Jammeh claimed that his supporters were denied voting by the polling stations and complained of errors made by the electoral commission in vote tabulation. Bavier (2017) argues that the IEC admitted committing some errors in the vote's tabulation, however, it insisted that Adama Barrow still won because the errors were marginal and not sufficient to cancel the result. Maclean (2016) contends that the development heightened insecurity in the Gambia and ECOWAS stood by the Gambians through its EOWAS Mission in The Gambia (ECOMIG) to support and restore the verdict of the Gambians. Daffeh (2023) applauds that ECOWAS supported the Gambia's democratic transition and helped restore democratic values and institutional building in the Gambia. Jaw & Twum (2021) argue that when the process of democratization started in the Gambia in 2017, the country enjoyed global solidarity and support towards the reconstruction of its democratic projects. Jaw (2020) contends that the international community including ECOWAS, AU, and the EU provided technical and moral support towards developing a new democratic constitution for the Gambia. Secka (2018) argues that a global resource mobilization scheme was convened by the European Union in 2018 in Brussels and 1.45 billion Euros was mobilized in the form of pledges to increase financial support for the Gambia to build a stable and consolidated democracy through constitutional building, Strengthening Civil Society Organizations ensuring free and vibrant media and reforming the democratic institutions in the country. With the volume of international partners and multilateral donor commitments in reconstructing the Gambia's democracy in 2017-2018, the assumptions are that the Gambia will become a full-fledged consolidated democracy by now.

Conversely, the anticipated take-off for a consolidated democracy in the Gambia suffers some setbacks. According to ARTICLE 19 (2023), an apparent pattern of authorities of the Gambia government curtailing free speech, stifling political dissent, and narrowing the civic space has become a norm. They argued that between August and October 2023, five instances of arrests involving journalists, political figures, and human rights activists, were conducted for expressing their opinions, through online platforms, traditional media, or public discourse. Freedom House (2023) raises concern that Gambian politics are being defined by ethnic divisions, they observe that women remain underrepresented in politics. Perfect (2022) argues that only five women held National Assembly seats after the 2022 legislative elections, despite a bill to reserve 16 National Assembly seats for women was introduced in 2021. Sanneh (2023) contends that an anti-corruption bill introduced in the National Assembly in 2019 has yet to be adopted, and a proposed anti-corruption commission has not yet been established. Jobarteh (2023) reasons that other anti-corruption bodies, such as the Financial Intelligence Unit of The Gambia (FIU), have weak enforcement powers to deter corruption in the country.

Although Gambians had greater freedom to express political views under the President Barrow administration, yet, the sedition and Public Order Act that was used by former President Jammeh to victimize opponents' remains in the laws of the Gambia despite

appeals by Human Rights activists to repeal them. Harris & Jaw (2024) maintain that the Gambia's standing in the global Press Freedom Index has declined. The Gambia dropped to 58th Position globally and 10th Position in Africa in 2024 which shows a significant decline from its previous position 46th globally in 2023. This signaled a worrying situation of backsliding for the democracy of the Gambia. ECOWAS and other international partners have made efforts to consolidate democracy in the Gambia but evidence shows that the country still faces a significant challenge to its democracy

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The study used case studies as the research design, I used triangulation as the data collection technique for the study. Data sources for this study were obtained from ECOWAS Commission reports 2016-2024, and ECOWAS policies, Protocols, norms, and standards 1975-2008. Official reports from the government of the Gambia, the interparty Commission of the Gambia, and from seminal literature and published reports and Journal articles. Data was also obtained from Transparency International, Freedom House, Article 19, and the Independent Electoral Commission of the Gambia. This technique of data collection enables me to explore multiple sources of data and test their validity through the convergence of multiple data. These data sources have been verified and found to be dependable sources of information by the government of the Gambia. The data were generated within a six (5) year period (2016-2024). Data analysis in this study was based on content analysis. Data generated were synthesized and critically analyzed to enable me to establish patterns systematically by identifying differences and similarities in data sources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents the results of the study which is flowed by detailed discussions.

Factors that lead to political Impasse in the Gambia

The finding shows that one of the factors that led to the political Impasse in the Gambia was the outcome of the 2016 election. The section presents the results of the 2016 presidential election and the factors that triggered the Impasse.

Table 2: The 2016 Presidential Election

The table obtained from the Independent Electoral Commission of the Gambia (IEC 2016) presents candidates and the percentage score in the 2016 Presidential election. The results show Adama Barrow leads with a smaller margin over Jammeh securing 43.3% of voters in a first pass the poll system

Candidate	Votes	(%)
Adama Barrow	227,708	43.3
Yahya Jammeh	208,487	39.6
Mamma Kandeh	89,768	17.1

Source: Independent Electoral Commission, 2016.

The data shows that three (3) candidates contested the 2016 Presidential election in the Gambia, Jammeh who was the incumbent president from the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) was contesting for his fifth presidential election since 1994. The data shows that Mama Kandeh and Adama Barrow were all making their first appearance as presidential candidates. The results show that Adama Barrow won the election with a total of 227,708 votes securing 43.3% while Jammeh secured 208,487 votes with 39.6% with Mama Kandeh securing 17.1% of the votes cast. This shows that Barrow emerged as the winner of the election securing a simple majority. The Literature shows that this makes a turning point in the Gambia's democratization. M'Bai (2017) argues that Jammeh accepted defeat and congratulated President-elect Barrow, however, according to M'Bai (2017) and in line with the literature, the finding shows that the errors made by the IEC in voter tabulation plunged the country into a political impasse. The literature shows that the IEC (2016) Indicated in a later communique that they made errors in the results tabulation and indicated that this does not affect the outcome of the result of the election. Shaban & Rahman (2016) argue that Jammeh relied on this development to reject the votes and call for a fresh election. Sallah (2023) claims that the situation further worsened, despite diplomatic efforts by AU and ECOWAS. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2017), 45,000 Gambians ran to Senegal and 800 escaped to Guinea-Bissau. ECOWAS intervened through its military mission (ECOMIG) and Jammeh was

forced to leave the country on January 21st, 2017, to seek refuge in Equatorial Guinea in Central Africa. Sallah maintains that this facilitates democratic transition in the Gambia. Jeng (2019) sustains that the country has undergone a democratic transition under the leadership of President Barrow. He upholds that the Gambia has now entered the phase of democratic consolidation, he argues that democracy is established in the Gambia as the system of governance.

ECOWAS's efforts to restore the verdicts of Gambians and consolidate democratic Governance.

This section presents the efforts of ECOWAS towards consolidating democracy in the Gambia. The section presents the role of the ECOWAS intervention mission in the Gambia and its diplomatic and mediation efforts that brought lasting peace and democracy to the Gambia after the political Impasse.

Table 3: ECOWAS Intervention Mission in the Gambia (ECOMIG)

The table presents the composition of the ECOWAS intervention mission in the Gambia and the countries within ECOWAS that contributed to the intervention force to restore democratic values in the Gambia.

Countries that constitute ECOMIG	Total Number of forces
Senegal, Ghana, and Nigeria	4,000

Source: Authors field work, 2024.

The data shows that ECOWAS sent a military intervention in the Gambia (ECOMIG) led by Senegal and supported by Nigeria and Ghana with the mandate to restore democracy in the Gambia. The data sources that ECOMIG consists of four thousand (4,000) armed soldiers including Air forces under the leadership of ECOWAS to help restore democracy in the Gambia. The mission provides strategic security needs for the president of the Gambia and helps consolidate the verdict of the Gambians. The finding shows that even after former President Jammeh left the country, ECOWAS instructed 2,500 members of ECOMIG to stay for six months after the election to help support the Gambia's transition to democracy. The findings show that 1,000 members of ECOMIG remain in the Gambia after seven years of the democratic transition and provide strategic security leadership for the President of the Gambia. The literature shows that the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS (2016) provided a joint communique during the Impasse and condemned Jammeh's action to reverse the verdict of the Gambian people. The literature shows that ECOWAS and AU declared Jammeh's actions unacceptable and demanded that he respect the constitutional provision of the Gambian people. The finding shows that ECOWAS demanded Jammeh peacefully hand over power to President-Elect Barrow. According to the BBC (2017), ECOWAS convened a delegation of four West African heads of state including the former President of Liberia and former chair of ECOWAS Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the former President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari, former President of Ghana John Mahama, and the former President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma to negotiate with Jammeh to respect the outcome of the election. Reuters (2017) revealed that ECOWAS indicated that President Barrow be sworn in 19th of January, 2017 in Senegal to respect the verdict of the Gambians. The literature shows that ECOWAS enforces the result of the election and ensures that Jammeh left the country on the 19th of January, 2017 to Equatorial Guinea.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The role played by ECOWAS in the Gambia shows that the principle of comparative advantage is significant in fostering democratic values in West Africa. The support of bigger countries in West Africa such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal provide a robust mechanism for Jammeh to relinquish power and respect the verdict of the Gambians. It also shows that rational preventive diplomacy by ECOWAS can provide effective results for West Africa which can foster democratic governance and security in the sub-region. The Barrow administration should understand that the objectives of change in the Gambia were to promote genuine democratic values foster institutional reforms, and ensure a vibrant civil society and independent media that will foster sustainable national development. There is a need to deepen national unity and foster genuine reconciliation to enable the country to heal from the ethnic divisions created by the 2016 Impasse. ECOWAS will need to provide support to the government of the Gambia security sector reform Agenda through training and overall security governance policy review and reconstruction. This will ensure the emergence of a vibrant security force in the Gambia that will be answerable to a civilian force.

CONCLUSION

ECOWAS actions and support to restore Democracy in the Gambia were in line with ECOWAS mechanism, norms, protocols, and stands to promote democratic governance and peace in the sub-region. ECOWAS relied on the protocols on democracy and good governance, the Revised Treaty; and the 1999 Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping, and Security to intervene in the Gambia. ECOWAS acted within the confines of its legal framework to which the Gambia government is a signatory to help restore democracy and peace in the Gambia. The intervention of ECOWAS in the Gambia was timely which helped avoid a full-scale political crisis in the country.

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