

# ECOWAS

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**Context-** Recently, there have been suspicions about the intervention of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) in Niger after a military coup in the country.

## Key Highlights

- Nigeria's military in West Africa named General Abdourahmane Tchiani as head of state after the ouster of President Mohamed Bazoumi.
- The regional bloc ECOWAS gave Niger's coup leaders a week to return power to Bazoumi or face the consequences.
- ECOWAS previously intervened in The Gambia to restore democracy.

## What is ECOWAS?

- It is a regional group established by the Lagos Agreement in 1975, whose mission is to promote the economic integration of its members.
- ECOWAS has 15 members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.
- **Headquarters:** Abuja, Nigeria. Administration: In 2007, the Secretariat of ECOWAS was transformed into a Commission.
- The Commission is led by the President assisted by the Vice President, thirteen Commissioners and the Auditor General of ECOWAS Institutions.
- ECOWAS is working towards a common common currency and one major trade group in the fields of industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, finance and social and

cultural issues.

- **Vision:** To create a well-integrated borderless region.
- “ECOWAS is meant to be a region governed by the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance.”
- **Other Tasks:** In addition to its economic cooperation goals, ECOWAS sought to suppress military conflicts in the region.
- ECOWAS has also previously conducted a regional peacekeeping operation in Liberia and Sierra Leone.