

Meeting of the Strategy and Policy Group (SPG)
of the Sahel and West Africa Club

Ouagadougou, 8 December 2012

SUMMARY RECORD

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Introduction

1. The Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) met on 8 December 2012 in Ouagadougou. The list of participants is included in Annex 1. The agenda was as follows:

- Activities and budget report (January-October 2012)
- Programme of work and budget 2013-2014
- Governance of the Club and management of the Secretariat

This summary record contains only the observations and decisions of the SPG, as well as the Secretariat's responses. The Secretariat's presentations can be found in working paper [SWAC/GOP\(2011\)1](#).

2. Mr. Ibrahima Diémé, UEMOA Commissioner for Rural Development, Natural Resources and the Environment, welcomed the participants to the Commission's headquarters. He noted that the Commission's Chair had signed the Club Mandate the day before the meeting (7 December), confirming the UEMOA's confidence in the SWAC. In his introduction, François-Xavier de Donnea, President of the SWAC, welcomed the success of the first Sahel and West Africa Week, which was marked by the launch of the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative – Sahel/West Africa (AGIR).

I. Activities and budget report

3. After the presentations by the Secretariat presentation, the members expressed the following views:

- France highlighted the excellent work of the Secretariat and the genuine renaissance of the Club, which has succeeded in becoming part of the international agenda (notably the G20), as well as providing useful information for understanding security issues, and contributing effectively to the launch of AGIR.
- Switzerland congratulated the Secretariat and highlighted the paradigm shift that the Club has undergone to put Members back at the core of its actions. Switzerland asked that in future activities reports, the Secretariat describes the impact of the Club's actions have had.
- The European Union commended the work undertaken and noted that the report did not convey all of the positive influences of the Club's work.
- Belgium added its congratulations to those of France, Switzerland and the European Union. It expressed a particular interest in the Club's work in the areas of security and development, and food security.
- Luxembourg also recognised the success of the new Club and its impact on the ground, and felt it was important to ensure that the Secretariat's work in support of AGIR did not overburden the organisation at the expense of other activities.
- Austria expressed its satisfaction at its renewed Membership and pledged to contribute its experience to future discussions.
- The United States expressed a very positive view of the work undertaken in the fields of food security, and security and development. With respect to AGIR, the United States would like the

Secretariat to clarify the exact role of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and to explain how the Alliance would be deployed at the national level.

- Canada thanked the members for continuing to welcome it as an Observer and commended the Club for its important contributions.
- The African Development Bank noted that the Club could become one of its strategic partners, particularly in the field of food security.
- The CILSS highlighted the Secretariat's beneficial role in developing synergies among the three regional organisation members in the field of food security.
- ECOWAS welcomed the Club's role in mobilising the international community around West Africa's food and nutritional security agenda.
- The UEMOA congratulated the Secretariat and highlighted the President's key role in the Club's success.

4. The Members approved the Activities Report. The Secretariat will produce a financial implementation report for January-December 2012 in the first quarter of 2013 and submit it to the Members for approval.

II. Programme of work and budget 2013-2014

5. After the Secretariat's presentation of the draft work programme and budget, the Members made the following remarks:

- As requested by the members, the work programme is a continuation of the programme adopted for the two-year period 2011-2012.
- The Secretariat was asked to further develop the need to work on household food consumption statistics in implementing the programme of work.
- The Secretariat was asked to include the Liptako-Gourma Authority in its pastoral livestock work.
- The members asked the Secretariat to establish clear linkages between the work programme and the USAID/ATP/CILSS programme on regional food and livestock trade.
- The Secretariat was also asked to continue to work on security and development issues (as part of its prospective thinking on the Saharo-Sahelien region).
- Particular attention should be paid to the West Africa Gateway web portal and its role in promoting the actions of regional organisations to a wide audience.

III. Governance of the Club and management of the Secretariat

8. The Members noted the approval of the new Club Mandate by OECD External Relations Committee. The Mandate should be signed in the coming weeks by the Members; the UEMOA was the first to sign the Mandate the day before the SPG.

9. In accordance with Article 3.1 of the Mandate, the Members asked François-Xavier de Donnea to continue to serve as President of the Club for the two-year period 2013-2014. Mr de Donnea accepted and thanked the members for their trust.

10. The Members agreed that the next SPG meeting would be held in Paris on the following dates: 10/11 June or 17/18 June.

11. The Members agreed that the next "Sahel and West Africa Week" would be held in Côte d'Ivoire at the invitation of the country's authorities; Côte d'Ivoire currently holds the rotating presidency of ECOWAS.