

THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB SECRETARIAT'S NEWSLETTER



Regular information on SWAC work,
publications and events.

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DIRECTOR'S EDITORIAL

The 2013 edition of the Sahel and West Africa Week ended on 29 November in Abidjan after five days of hard work.

The Week was made an outstanding success by the presence of a large diversity of actors - ministers, entrepreneurs, farmers and livestock breeders, high-level representatives of regional organisations and development co-operation agencies, researchers, local officials, and civil society leaders. The Week was, in fact, their success. This was highlighted by Members and friends of the Club during our Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) meeting on 29 November. We are delighted and grateful for this positive judgement.

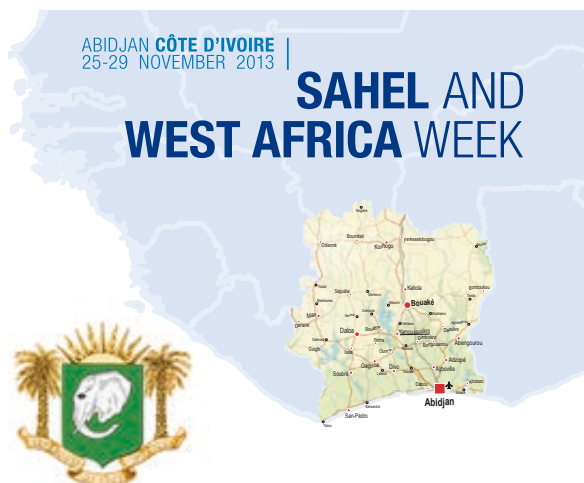


Laurent Bossard
SWAC Secretariat Director

We must re-emphasise the warm welcome and effective support received from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, under the leadership of Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles Koffi Diby and the Minister of Agriculture Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly; their respective teams worked alongside us tirelessly, day after day.

What have we learned from this experience? It is equally important to learn as much from success as from failure.

The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) has established itself as a reference for dialogue on food security and resilience. The United Nations will now draw on the Network's analyses and recommendations to formulate their annual humanitarian appeals for the region. Here again, this success is that of the members of the Network. Represented at decision-making level with a growing number of participants, they work together in a harmonised manner, using the same concepts and tools such as the laboriously negotiated Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management or the Harmonised Framework. This illustrates that processes that are rooted in dialogue, though lengthier, are stronger and more sustainable.





The Network also hosts the decision-making body of the Global Alliance for Resilience - Sahel and West Africa (AGIR). Since September 2012, the concept initiated by the EU and West African regional organisations has evolved into a joint policy framework with strategic orientations shared by all stakeholders (a regional roadmap and a working method for the formulation of “National Resilience Priorities” (NRP-AGIR). The ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions as well as CILSS fully assume the political and technical leadership. Almost a dozen Sahelian and West African ministers attended the meetings in Abidjan, demonstrating the commitment of their respective governments. The key challenge for the year ahead, for regional governments and their international partners, is the formulation of the NRP and their translation into action on the ground.

In short, the RPCA is performing well. So much so that by welcoming an increasing number of stakeholders and participants, it may become a “victim of its own success”. Against this background, how to find the right balance between technical analysis and consensus-building around policy guidelines in the short- and long term? Many believe that it is time for the Network’s stakeholders to address these issues. Drawing on consultations with Network members, the meeting of the 30th RPCA anniversary next December will provide an opportunity to present some ideas for action.

Dedicated to the future of the Saharo-Sahelian areas, the annual Forum of the Club benefitted from a balanced combination of analysis and policy debate. Participants agreed that the work carried out by the Club on a very complex and sensitive subject shed light on the Saharo-Sahelian realities, using innovative approaches. For example, this work highlighted the gap between the national territorialisation approach of the Sahel strategies and the threats that operate in mobile social networks across borders. Addressing the Saharo-Sahelian challenges in all its dimensions will require cross-regional dialogue without which no lasting solution can be found. The construction

of this dialogue is per se a goal and a challenge; the Forum has modestly contributed to advancing this agenda. In the field of security, the process will be long and complex and the progress slow; this is exacerbated by the internal fragility of some States and geopolitical disagreements. However, in the short term, it seems that it will be easier to foster dialogue on trans-Saharan economic co-operation, trade, investment and infrastructure, as illustrated by the presence and active participation of representatives from North Africa and the Sahel. Jointly building trans-Saharan roads, developing joint economic and social areas, multiplying the twinning of cities/towns and promoting cross-border co-operation, - these are some promising areas of work linking security and development. Beyond aspirational statements, it is urgent to act while, in parallel, pursuing reflection on innovative financing instruments, on instruments of intervention that combine development and security, and on the critical co-ordination mechanisms that the international community calls for within the framework of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

In addition to the other two meetings which were formally placed on the agenda - the Committee of CILSS Partners and the SPG meeting of the Club - many side-events were held in Abidjan (for example, the Group of Technical and Financial Partners of ECOWAS, the UEMOA Regional Fund for Agricultural Development, a meeting on the Regional Food Reserve...), in addition to a myriad of bilateral meetings. All stakeholders recognise the usefulness of the Sahel and West Africa Week as an excellent opportunity to advance projects, build relationships and develop networks. We hope to maintain this positive momentum in the next edition, which shall be held in the week of 8-14 December, most likely in Monrovia or Freetown.

Save the date!

LAURENT BOSSARD
SWAC Secretariat Director



2013 Sahel and West Africa Week

under the auspices of His Excellency Alassane Ouattara,
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

co-organised by ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS
and the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD)



→ www.oecd.org/site/sahelandwestafricaweek2013

→ Images are available on Flickr at: www.flickr.com/photos/swac

“

YOU MADE
THE WEEK
THANK YOU ALL!

”

SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA **Club** DU SAHEL ET DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

SWAC Members

Austria: Austrian Development Co-operation → www.entwicklung.at/en

Belgium: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation → <http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en>

CILSS: Secretariat of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel → www.cilss.bf

ECOWAS: Commission of the Economic Community of West African States → www.ecowas.int

France: Ministry of Foreign Affairs → www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en

Luxembourg: Ministry of Foreign Affairs → <http://cooperation.mae.lu/fr>

Netherlands (The): Ministry of Foreign Affairs → www.government.nl/ministries/bz#ref-minbuza

Switzerland: Federal Department of Foreign Affairs → www.sdc.admin.ch

UEMOA: Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union → www.uemoa.int

United States: U.S. Agency for International Development → www.usaid.gov

The French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union (EU) are strategic partners of SWAC and contribute to the financing and implementation of its programme of work.



29TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FOOD CRISIS PREVENTION NETWORK

Abidjan, 25-27 November 2013



Organised by the CILSS Executive Secretariat and the SWAC Secretariat, under the patronage of ECOWAS and UEMOA, the 29th Annual RPCA Meeting brought together the region’s food security stakeholders to assess the preliminary prospects of the current agro-pastoral campaign and analyse the current trends of the agricultural market and its impact on the food and nutrition situation of the most vulnerable populations. Drawing on the discussions, Network members made recommendations which are published in the Final Communiqué.

The RPCA meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange on the acceleration of the implementation of the Harmonised Framework, the evaluation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, as well as to take stock of the on-going inclusive dialogue process of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) – Sahel and West Africa > see pages 6 and 7).

Addressing the central theme of the 29th annual meeting of the Network, namely “Indicators and methodological tools for measuring resilience”, participants commended the many initiatives in progress in the region. However, given the multitude of tools developed, they recommended the formulation of “a framework for a harmonised approach to measuring resilience”, under the leadership of the regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS).

Of the 250 participants, almost a dozen Sahelian and West African ministers participated in the debates. The sessions were chaired by Lapodini Marc Atouga, ECOWAS Commissioner; Djimé Adoum, CILSS Executive Secretary; and Guy Evers, Deputy Director, FAO Investment Centre. The Ivoirian Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, chaired the opening ceremony of the three-day event.

→ RPCA documents and presentations are available online at: www.oecd.org/site/rpca/meetings/29thrpca.htm

- 1. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, Minister of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire
- 2. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President
- 3. Lapodini Marc Atouga, ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources
- 4. Djimé Adoum, CILSS Executive Secretary
- 5. Guy Evers, Deputy Director, FAO Investment Centre
- 6. Forum Participants
- 7. VIP of the Opening Ceremony
- 8. Mamadou Cissokho, ROPPA Honorary President; Eponou Valérie Acka, Planning Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire



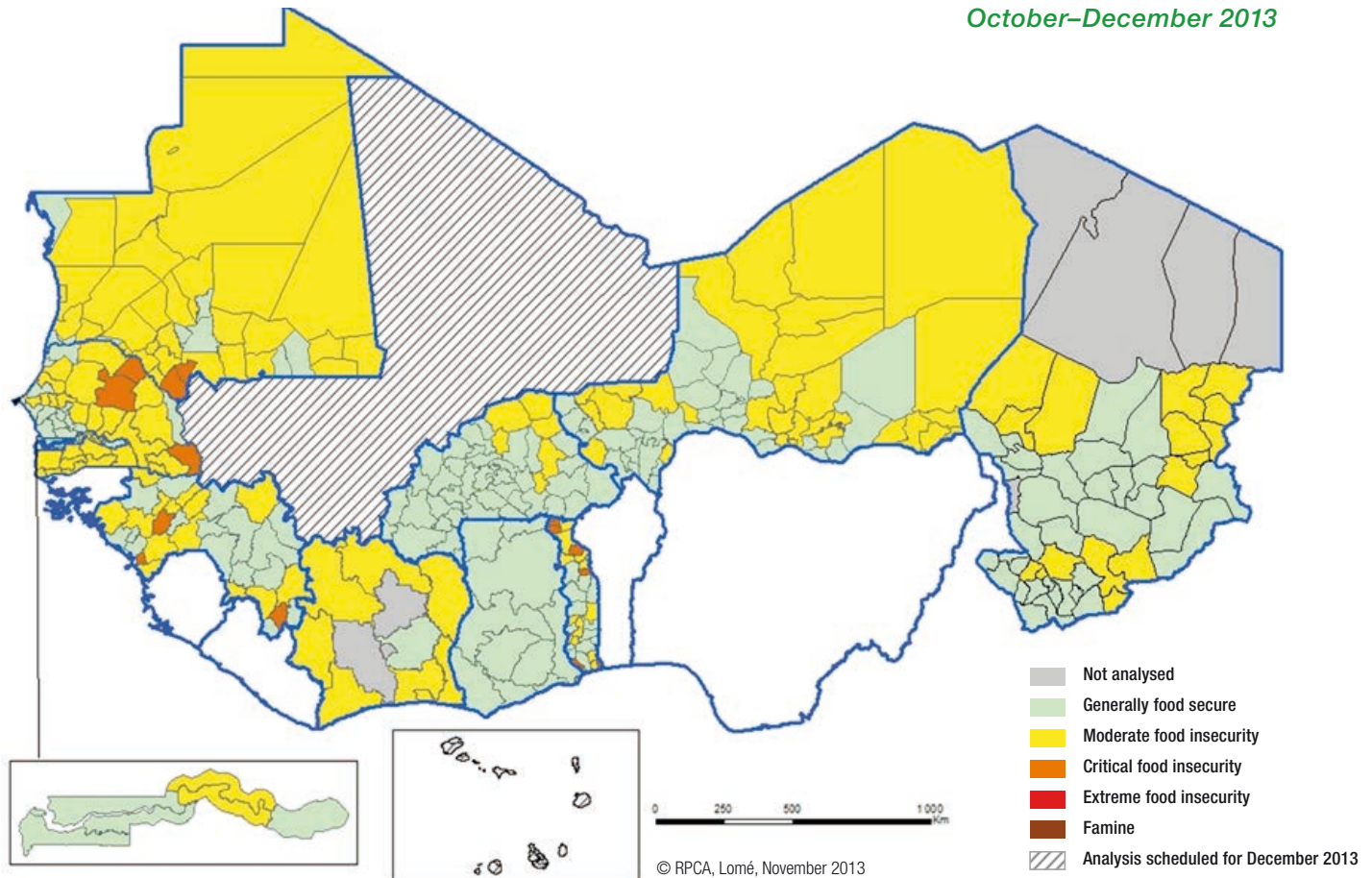
→ Contact: sibirjean.zoundi@oecd.org





Regional Analysis of the Harmonised Framework on the Food and Nutrition Situation

October–December 2013



RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

“The Sahel and West Africa cereal production is estimated at 57 million tonnes, up by 16% compared to the average of the past five years – rice production particularly increased significantly by 31%.

Despite the good supply of markets with the arrival of new crops, there are localised food and nutrition risks because of persistent high food prices compared to the last five-year average as well as risks that the situation of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists weakens due to localised forage deficits in perspective associated with an early drying of water points. The vulnerability analysis reveals that nearly 13 million people are food and nutrition insecure. Global acute malnutrition has affected nearly 4.5 million children under five years of age in 2013.

Faced with this situation, several recommendations were made, including the need to develop structural measures and response plans in favour of food and nutrition insecure populations, including flood victims as well as refugees and displaced persons. The Network also stressed the urgency of rebuilding national food stocks, as well as the need to strengthen the governance of States in agricultural statistical systems to better guide and inform food and nutrition policies.

Examining the state of implementation of instruments for the regional governance of food and nutrition security, the participants welcomed the relevance of the programme for accelerated implementation of the Harmonised Framework for the identification and analysis of risk areas and vulnerable populations. They recommended that consultations be undertaken quickly amongst regional organisations to examine ways of funding its implementation, including the mobilisation of additional resources from partners. The participants also discussed the draft grid of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management. They validated the roadmap leading to the implementation of the first external evaluation in 2014. They also welcomed the relevance of the programme to build the capacity of the civil society for a citizen-monitoring of the implementation of the Charter. Finally, they urged the regional organisations and their partners to jointly review the modalities of its implementation.

→ Extract from the Final Communiqué

Maty Ba Diao

Head of the Information and Research Department, Agrhyment/CILSS

“The 2013-2014 agro-pastoral campaign is globally good. However, we should not hide the difficulties of vulnerable populations who are struggling to access food due to high food prices. Regardless of a good or bad agro-pastoral season, these most vulnerable populations are always affected by food insecurity, and thus need substantial support to strengthen their resilience enabling them to break this vicious cycle.”



Maty Ba Diao presents the provisional results of the on-going agricultural campaign every year at the RPCA.



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RESILIENCE (AGIR) – SENIOR EXPERTS’ GROUP MEETING

Abidjan, 27 November 2013

Within the framework of the RPCA, the Senior Experts’ Group (AGIR-SEG) met to take stock of progress made in the implementation of AGIR since its launch in Ouagadougou in December 2012. The validation of methodological tools for the conduct of country inclusive dialogues during the regional workshop of August 2013 in Cotonou and the acceleration of the recruitment process of experts for the AGIR Technical Unit, are among the key achievements. A round table debate provided an opportunity for country representatives to present progress made by their respective governments in the national dialogue processes which are currently underway in the 17 countries concerned by the Alliance. Some countries were represented at ministerial level. Government representatives urge their regional organisations to strengthen communication and political lobbying at the State level, and to provide all necessary technical and financial support for accelerating the implementation of country inclusive dialogues. They also recommend speeding-up the operationalisation of the AGIR Technical Unit and set the RPCA restricted meeting in April 2014 as a deadline for the progress review of country dialogue processes. AGIR stakeholders acknowledged the driving role played by the SWAC Secretariat, providing a common space for dialogue, debate, lobbying and advocacy for the Alliance.

Coming together on the side-lines of the AGIR-SEG meeting, the stakeholders of the Platform of Technical and Financial Partners (PTFP) recalled the three key elements of added value defined in the Regional Roadmap: 1. Creating a favourable environment for placing resilience at the heart of food security and nutrition strategies and policies; 2. Aligning individual and collective actions within the Resilience Results Framework; and 3. Promoting mutual learning and exchange of best practices. The Technical and Financial Partners of AGIR (TFPs) re-iterated their commitment to ensure better co-ordination among them and better alignment with national priorities in line with the commitments of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The EU continues its mobilising role on AGIR, as leader of the TFPs.

The EU, USAID, France, Spain, Canada, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, OCHA, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNESCO, WFP, UNDP), the World Bank and the African Development Bank participated in the PTFP meeting.

→ Contact: sibirjean.zoundi@oecd.org

→ AGIR key documents and presentations are available online at: www.oecd.org/site/rpca/agir/agirkeydocuments.htm

- 1. **Kristalina Georgieva**, European Commissioner and **Daniel Kablan Duncan**, Prime Minister, Government of Côte d’Ivoire
- 2. **High-level Representatives**
- 3. **Saga Pascal Yves Ilboudo**, Permanent Secretary (SP/CPSA), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Burkina Faso
- 4. **Adelina Vicente**, Director SP/CONACILSS, Ministry of Rural Development and **Eva Ortet**, Minister of Rural Development, Cape Verde
- 5. **Ibrahima Dieme**, UEMOA Commissioner, Department of Food Security, Agriculture, Mines and Environment
- 6. **Technical & Financial Partners (TFPs)**
- 7. **Charles McClain**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture in charge of Planning and Development, Liberia; **Nango Dembele**, Deputy Minister in charge of Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security, Mali; **Dieh Sidi Heiba**, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Rural Development, Mauritania
- 8. **Harouna Ibrahima**, Director-General of Agriculture and **Amadou Diallo Allahoury** High-Commissioner of the 3Ns Initiative, Niger





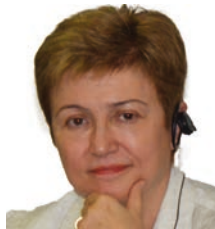
Daniel Kablan Duncan
*Prime Minister,
Government of
Côte d'Ivoire*

"This extreme fragile situation, particularly in the Sahel, still causes too much suffering for our compatriots, potentially provoking famine and malnutrition. This is not acceptable and requires the solidarity of other States, even if they are not directly exposed to such crisis due to their geographic location. [...] I would also like to encourage all members of our common space to invest in the implementation of AGIR. For our part, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire will do everything possible to finalise and adopt the areas of intervention related to this Alliance."



Fernando Moran
*Ambassador of
Spain to Côte
d'Ivoire*

"The technical and financial partners are ready to support the efforts of the region and its Member States. We have done this in the past and will continue to do so in the future. The following key principle is guiding us: the leadership must be provided by the African regional organisations and its Member States, making use of their own resources. Moreover, it is necessary to assess the resources already available and the absorption capacity of institutions. [...] Finally, we must all strive to improve co-ordination between the different projects and dialogue mechanisms. AGIR should help us guarantee better co-ordination and the inclusion of resilience in regional and national policies/priorities. [...] In this collective effort, Spain will continue to be a key player. West Africa has always been a priority for our country. We believe that regional integration contributes to economic growth and good governance. The Spanish co-operation counts on the ability of ECOWAS and its Member States to carry out these initiatives with the support of its partners."



Kristalina Georgieva
*European
Commissioner,
Intern. Affairs,
Humanitarian Aid
& Crisis Response*

"Since we launched AGIR in Ouagadougou, we have come a very long way in just one short year. Firstly, we now have a number of countries developing their national action plans: what they can specifically do to make communities more resilient to recurrent shocks of droughts and floods; secondly, we have mobilised significant financial commitments from the EU: 1.5 billion euros that are going to underpin the measures that countries identify; and thirdly, we have very significant engagements not just from the agriculture sector where we started on the issue of food security, but also from the health and social affairs sectors, - for example, from ministries but also from bottom-up community organisations. In fact, what is happening right now: the regional organisations provide the platform, the national governments provide detailed action plans and bottom-up community engagement allows this to become reality - with funding from governments, including from the EU."



Khady Fall-Tall
*Representative of
the Civil Society
and the Private
Sector*

"We believe that much more must be done to capitalize on the results of research. This will support our advocacy work with local communities and we could better apply the research findings for the benefit of our citizens. We also believe that a stronger focus must be placed on gender, in particular on the ground. Gender is a key element of analysis because resilience affects mainly women who are at the heart of society. Eventually, the role of civil society and women must be reconsidered in terms of actions within AGIR; because the technical and financial partners work exclusively with States. We believe that civil society has become a major player which one can count on and which needs to become more involved in the discussions."



Franklin C. Moore
*USAID Deputy
Assistant
Administrator,
Africa Office*

"We very much applaud the regional organisations and the leadership they have taken and we pledge to support their efforts. We applaud the space in AGIR created at the stakeholder table here for civil society organisations and farmers. We also applaud their response to the invitation. However, we believe that women make up a critical part of the humanitarian caseload, are a critical part of the solution and that gender is underrepresented in our conversations and strategies. We also believe it is important to take up the challenge of greater private sector involvement. They are a very important missing component at our table. [...] The term resilience has become very popular. We have a small concern if resilience comes to mean everything, then it comes to mean nothing. So we are very interested in making sure that not everyone says that everything that they are doing is related to resilience. [...] I return to Washington with a renewed excitement about resilience and the certitude that resilience is alive and well here in West Africa."



Lapodini Marc Atouga
*ECOWAS
Commissioner,
Agriculture,
Environment,
Water Resources*

"In implementing the meeting recommendations, we fully assume our responsibilities as leaders in regional strategies. The UEMOA and ECOWAS Commissions as well as the CILSS Executive Secretariat can only be satisfied whenever all stakeholders undertake to harmonize their approaches in order to facilitate the implementation of national and regional agricultural investment policies. They reflect both our vision and objectives to deeply and positively transform West African agriculture. [...] We are convinced that the synergy of actions driven by AGIR will lead to even more powerful successes for the benefit of agricultural actors."

FORUM: THE FUTURE OF THE SAHARO-SAHELIAN AREAS FROM A TRANS-REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

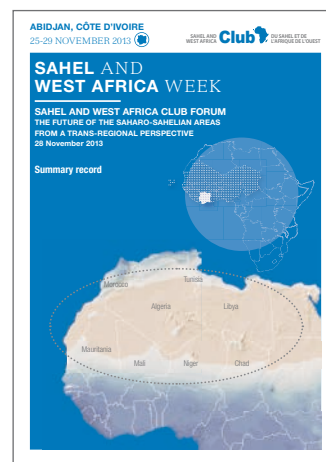
Abidjan, 28 November 2013

Bringing together a representative panel of stakeholders (high dignitaries, African ministers, regional and international organisations, technical and financial partners, researchers, local political and economic actors), the Forum offered a platform for dialogue on the development potential of the Saharo-Saharan areas and the impact of increased co-operation between North, West and Central Africa, in particular in the field of security.

The presentations and debates explored the political, economic, geographic and security-related characteristics of the Saharo-Saharan region. Participants questioned “security and development” initiatives, their coherence and the

geographic scale of intervention. They were able to share experience and discuss innovative mechanisms and scales of intervention aimed at promoting the development and security of populations living in the Saharo-Saharan areas.

The Forum was co-chaired by Pierre Buyoya, AU High-Representative for Mali and the Sahel and François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President. The sessions were moderated by Santiago Martinez-Caro, General-Director of Casa África, Djimé Adoum, CILSS Executive Secretary and Michel Reveyrand de Menthon, EU Special Representative for the Sahel.



→ Summary Record of the Forum available in English, French & Arabic

→ Documents and presentations of the Forum are available online at: www.oecd.org/site/sahelandwestafricaweek2013/swacforum.htm

1. **Pierre Buyoya**, AU High-Representative for Mali and the Sahel and **François-Xavier de Donnea**, SWAC President
2. **Abdourahamane Maouli**, Mayor of Arlit, Niger and **Hansjürg Ambühl**, Head of West Africa Division, SDC, Switzerland
3. **Santiago Martinez-Caro**, General-Director of Casa África
4. **Michel Reveyrand de Menthon**, EU Special Representative for the Sahel.
5. **Djimé Adoum**, CILSS Executive Secretary
6. **Forum Participants**
7. **Boumédiène Guennad**, Ambassador of Algeria in Abidjan; **Kamel Abid**, Advisor, Embassy of Algeria in Abidjan; and **Thomas Palé**, Deputy Minister in charge of Regional Co-operation, Burkina Faso
8. **Ismail Chekkori**, Plenipotentiary Minister, Morocco



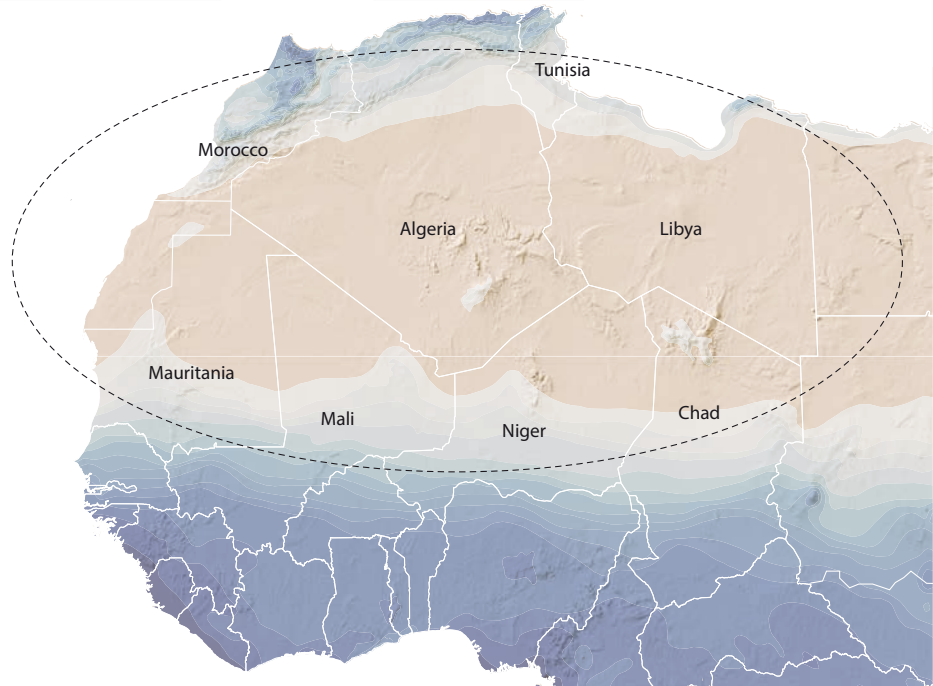
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philipp.heinrighs@oecd.org



The Forum is articulated around work led by the SWAC Secretariat in the framework of its biennial “West African Futures” programme dedicated to the Sahara-Sahel in 2013-2014. The area under study is shared between Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia. It represents almost half of West Africa’s territory, two thirds of Chad, 80% of the Maghreb, and almost all of Mauritania. The area disposes of real economic potential, which is today insufficiently exploited. It constitutes a set of ancient civilisations united by a long tradition of trade and cultural and social exchange. The debates highlighted that these zones are increasingly connected to broad/global networks of instability, requiring and extending of the analysis to other countries of West, Central and North Africa.



Debates

The debates highlight the following:

- The security threats that weigh on the Saharo-Sahelian areas are transnational in nature, and they affect West, Central and North Africa and the international community.
- The dynamics of the current conflicts are complex and multidimensional. They can only be thwarted by strategies that articulate the short, medium and long-term, and that take into account that security and development concerns are intrinsically linked, and that adapt responses to these realities.
- The Saharo-Sahelian areas dispose of shared potentials able to guarantee the common development, and to support the development of the countries and regions that they belong to.

DID YOU KNOW?

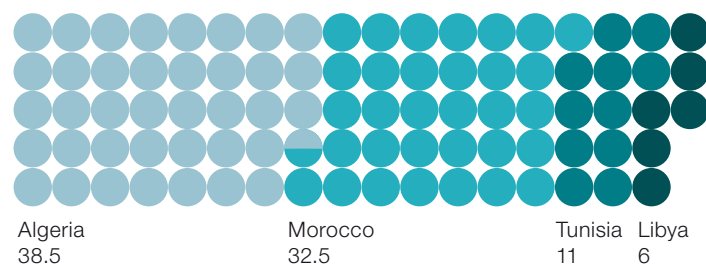
- The Saharo-Sahelian region accounts for 40% of the total land area of ECOWAS, 50% of UEMOA and 70% of Sahelian countries.
- The Saharo-Sahelian areas are home to only 5% of the regional population (roughly 15 million inhabitants) and account for less than 3% of the regional GDP.
- Since 2000, economic growth in West Africa has outpaced economic growth in North Africa. Yet, the combined GDP of the four countries North of the Sahara exceeds that of their Southern neighbours by a factor of 14 (USD 412 billion versus USD 33 billion).

Next Steps

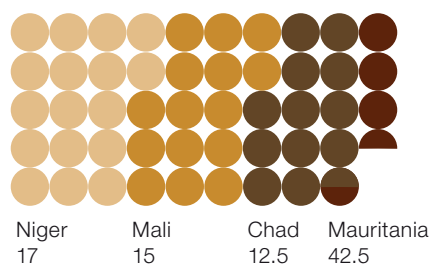
Capitalising on the debates and analyses underway since Mid-2013, the SWAC Secretariat will publish an Atlas within the OECD West African Studies series. The following focus areas will be analysed: history and bi- and multilateral political relations; crises, conflicts and insecurity; economic co-operation between North and West Africa; transport infrastructure; borders, cross-border co-operation and free movement; geography and migrations; nomadism; and petrol, gas and mining. Maps and graphs will illustrate the thematic chapters.

TOTAL POPULATION OF SAHARO-SAHELIAN COUNTRIES (2012)

North Africa (89 million inhabitants)



Sahel (48 million inhabitants)



Source: The World Bank 2013

Maghreb and Sahel: historical ties and incomplete co-operation

The dissemination of cultural, religious and linguistic schools of thought and the flow of people and trade are examples of the age-old ties that exist between North Africa and the Sahel. In the Middle Ages, the Sahara was criss-crossed and structured by caravans and trade routes. One such route has linked Tahert, Algeria to Gao, Mali since the middle of the eighth century AD. Another route emerged between Sijilmasa, Morocco and Koumbi Saleh in southern Mauritania. To the East, Egypt has been linked with Gao since the ninth century AD by routes running along Lake Chad or Cyrenaica before going deep into the desert. Another route runs from Libya's Gulf of Sidra to Gao via Fezzan, Tassili n'Ajjer, the Hoggar Mountains and the Adrar des Ifoghas.

Ancient cities, such as Timbuktu and Djenné, flourished from this trade. Further East, Agadez, Zinder, Katsina and Kano became vital hubs for trading networks and the flow of goods and people between the Hausa region and Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

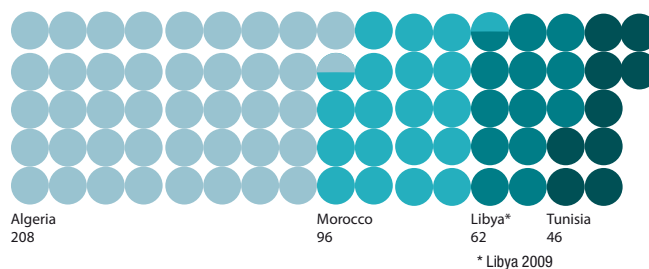
For European colonisers, the Sahara was of little economic interest. This lack of vision was reflected in how territories were administratively organised. After division amongst the multiple powers, the French Sahara was made up of three main territories: the territories of southern Algeria (the departments of Oases and Soura), French West Africa (Mali and Niger) and French Equatorial Africa (Chad, Congo, Gabon and what is now the Central African Republic). As a result, the Saharo-Sahelian regions were politically separated from North Africa. In terms of economic development, desert areas were neglected, as attention was focused on the Mediterranean coastline and the Sahelian areas, that were linked to southern port cities. Trade across the Sahara was thus refocused on regional and local scales. The economic reach was abbreviated, with trade becoming predominantly driven by pastoral mobility, regional solidarities and reciprocal obligations.

After independence, however, the countries of the Maghreb started developing relations with their southern neighbours. These ambitions, which unfolded simultaneously with the development of the natural resources of the desert, were underlined by the various Arab-African co-operation efforts driven by diverse motivations within a context of decolonisation, the African unity movement and cold war fault lines. Two types of policies emerged.

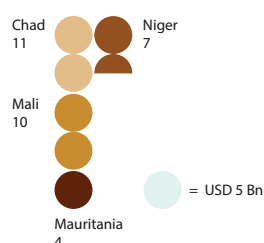
The first type of policies, characterised by Morocco and Tunisia, were aligned with Western positions and struggled to thrive. The second type of policies, characterised by Algeria and Libya, embodied ambitious and uniquely African policies. For instance, Algeria's African policy and its economic expansion towards its southern neighbours were integral parts of an African post-independence socio-economic development discourse. What's more, Colonel Gaddafi espoused a pan-Arab policy and launched numerous bilateral accords. Beginning in 1974, a series of agreements were signed with African countries to create

GDP OF THE SAHARO-SAHELIAN COUNTRIES (2012)

North Africa (USD 412 billion)



Sahel (USD 32 billion)



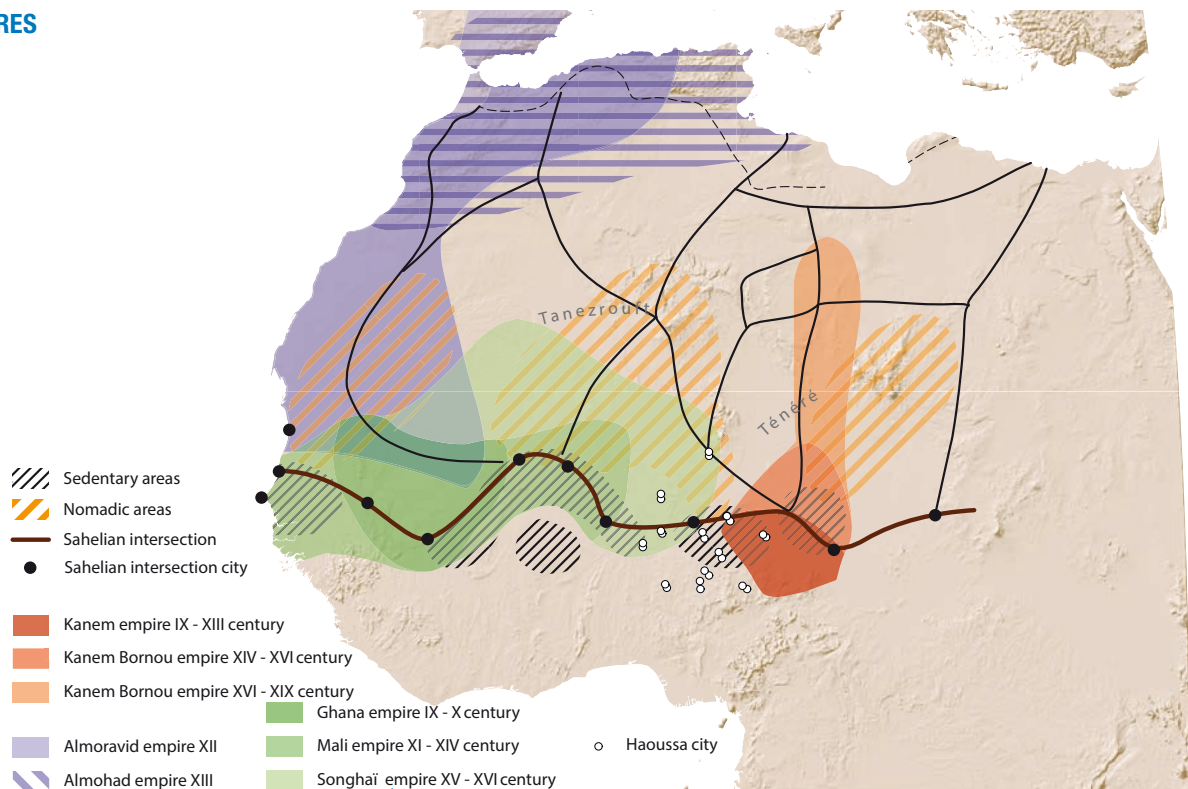
Source: World Bank 2013

joint Libyan-African commissions – agreements that were later strained by conflict, particularly by the dispute with Chad over the Aouzou Strip. The final settlement of the conflict between Chad and Libya, marked by Libya's acceptance in April 1994 of the International Court of Justice in The Hague's verdict which attributed sovereignty over the Aouzou Strip to Chad, enabled the border to be reopened and cross-border trade to be resumed.

At the same time, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia also strengthened their relations with sub-Saharan Africa. The increasing competition on European markets helped motivate a reorientation of Maghreb trade relations, particularly towards southern sub-Saharan Africa. Initially, this renewal of relations was translated by the development of bilateral co-operation arrangements (joint commissions), by numerous official visits to West African countries by government officials and business leaders, and by the establishment of national interests in the economies of sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the demand for low-skilled labour in the southern areas of Algeria and Libya encouraged regular labour migration from their southern neighbours.

A number of major development projects were launched, including: the road linking Tangier, Nouakchott and Dakar (which should ultimately be extended to Lagos); investments in telecommunications infrastructure linking Morocco and West Africa; the port of Tangier-Med; the Trans-Sahara interconnection; and the proposed gas pipeline between Algeria and Nigeria. However, on the whole, the Maghreb and the Sahel are still insufficiently connected, with some exceptions in the northern border regions of a few Sahelian countries, such as northern Niger, with cross-border Libyan influence, or northern Mali, with Algerian influence.

ROUTE EMPIRES



Illegal activities also account for some share of economic activity in the region, as the Sahara interconnections are favoured trafficking routes for drugs, arms, migrants and various consumption goods. The subsidisation and protectionist policies of Algeria and Libya in particular present important opportunities to sell subsidised products on the other side of the border, to avoid customs duties, to evade import and export bans and to avoid problems related to the non-convertibility of Maghreb currencies.

Despite the states' shared desire to develop trade and the dynamism of the informal economy, relations amongst the countries of the Sahara have remained limited since decolonisation. And yet, there remain many factors of convergence, including: the struggle against armed factions and trafficking; the presence of sub-Saharan migrants in North Africa; new communication and trade infrastructures; emerging economic opportunities; and the collective challenges posed by the development of the Maghreb and Sahelian states.

Pre-colonial empires and route empires

The pre-colonial empires of the Maghreb and Sahelian regions were all route empires. They succeeded each other in the function of ensuring the security and permanence of trans-Sahara passage in the context of sparse human settlement and remote trading posts, which later became oasis towns.

Each of the states of the Saharo-Sahelian region, whose borders were drawn according to the colonial conception of the territory reflected the combination of a sedentary core and a route. Against this background, the Saharo-Sahelian area is shared by four zones: (1) Mauritania-Senegal, with their shared Senegal river; (2) Mali, centred on the Niger River; (3) Niger, initially linked to the network of Hausa cities before also being linked to the Songhai-

Djerma River; and (4) Chad and Lake Chad. Throughout the geographical history of these zones that make up the Saharo-Sahelian areas, the nomadic and sedentary groups have remained in permanent contact – not separated by latitudinal boundaries based on measures of aridity.

Hence, while the division into geographical regions via implicit borders was necessary, these ancient trade routes have continued to provide connections that have remained unchanged for centuries.

The main trans-Saharan trade routes run diagonally, linking the bends of Senegal and Niger Rivers to the Mediterranean, to the Nile and to the Middle East. Another diagonal route links Lake Chad to the Nile. These diagonal routes are thousands of years old and attest to the people's enduring resistance to aridification by mobility. The diagonal routes were complemented over time by vertical routes, which testify to a projection across a space without continuous human settlement. The connections between settlements on the northern and southern edges of the desert drove the establishment of routes and trading posts. Based on social and political considerations, oases were established by literally relocating populations from outside the desert. Contrary to common belief, oases were not built where water was found; rather, they were located at the junctions of trade routes, and water needed to be found subsequently. In the desert, one does not live off the offerings of the desert, but off trade.

Today, however, the majority of the Sahara-Sahelian population is considered to be farmers and pastoralists. Still, the Saharo-Sahelian zones, purely defined on rainfall isohyets, remain a land of towns and roads. Human settlement in the areas is it not driven by claiming land and borders, but by the conjugation of roads and towns.

→ Extract from analytical work conducted within the framework of the Atlas, in particular by S. Clairet, D. Retailié, A. Tisseron, O. Walther – to be published within the OECD West African Studies series.

What strategy for the Sahel?

If the definition of one integrated strategy shared by all actors remains but a dream, a harmonisation of strategies and a reflection on common concerns are within reach. When strategies are defined in emergency situations, are they negotiated with the relevant countries and regional institutions? How can the objectives of the fight against terrorism and the objectives of development be made to converge? What are the adequate geographic scales of intervention? What are the appropriate mechanisms for implementing and financing multilateral initiatives?



Pierre Buyoya
AU High-
Representative
for Mali and the
Sahel



**Michel
Reveyrand
de Menthon**
EU Special
Representative
for the Sahel



**Peter Robert
Sampson**
Head of
Mediation
Support/Advisor,
UNOWA

“The strategy of the African Union aims to address three major challenges: security, governance and development, including the humanitarian aspects. How to encourage co-operation in the field of security between the countries of the Sahel and of the Sahara-Sahelian areas? This strategy is implemented through what we call the Nouakchott process. Firstly, we aim to create, together with the countries of the region, a co-operation mechanism at the strategic and operational levels in order to address the security problems that we encounter. Secondly, what are the common governance issues of the region? For example, religious radicalisation, decentralisation, issues related to the marginalisation of minorities, the problem of youth employment, etc. We try, together with the countries of the region, to deepen the reflections on how to deal with these issues. The third pillar of our strategy is based on the economic development. We must recognize that security and development are two sides of the same coin. Insecurity in the Sahel is closely linked to poverty and we need to improve the resilience of populations through programmes aimed at strengthening agriculture, the livestock sector and the fight against climate hazards. We can then address issues to transform in the long term the economic face of the region.”



**Lori-Anne
Théroux-Bénoni**
Senior Research
Fellow, ISS Dakar

“The EU was the first major institution to have developed a strategy for the Sahel that links closely security and development: « No security without development and no development without security”. [...] One of the major challenges today is how to create a regional approach to this Sahara-Sahel crisis. The international community must put in place a framework for managing these crises at the right scale. There are two approaches that can be combined and reinforce each other: one approach is to try to help the States concerned - the states of the Sahel and Sahara - to establish co-operation among themselves at the level of the crisis, particularly in the field of security. It is very important that all States concerned work together; for example, by creating a platform for dialogue or a framework for regular meetings at the level of the Sahara-Sahelian areas. The other aspect concerns the co-ordination of members of the international community that are interested in these crises [...] All these players must find their place, co-ordinate their actions... we must agree on the essentials - we actually do agree on the essentials and that is why we can be optimistic today about the advance of this regional agenda.”

“At present, there are almost a dozen strategies for the Sahel that have been developed or are currently being developed by different actors such as partner states, international organisations, financial institutions, or the Sahelian states themselves. The growing number of strategies is not a problem in itself. The problem is

“Over the last two years, the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel has basically metamorphosed from what was a strategy based on a reaction to the crisis in Libya, to a strategy based on a reaction to the crisis in Mali, and up until now evolving into a strategy that is focused on the needs of the Sahel. The UN strategy is based on three pillars: governance, security and resilience as well as a focus on support for infrastructure. It has a geographic coverage that stretches from Eritrea to Mauritania but with five core countries at the heart of it. Its implementation is co-ordinated by UNOWA. Following the approval of the strategy, the joint visit of the UN, the EU, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank to the Sahel was a key step towards a coherent approach. The visit illustrated first of all the awareness of the international community to the situation in the Sahel; it resulted in the setting up of a joint co-ordination mechanism, and in addition, it provided also an opportunity for countries to articulate their own priorities within each of those three pillars.”

rather to ensure that there is overall coherence between these strategies and, ultimately, make sure that the interests of foreign partners not only respond to their own interests but also to the interests of the target countries both at the government level and at the level of local communities.”

What are the prospects of Trans-Saharan co-operation?

Participants underlined the need to rethink how States can co-operate on a trans-border and trans-national level around the three challenges faced by the Sahel: security (the strength of armed groups vs. the weakness of States); governance (weakness of budgets allocated to justice and the military); and development (in particular, poverty and food insecurity). There are some promising areas for action, for example, in the field of decentralisation, cross-border co-operation and infrastructure development. Here are some viewpoints:



Abdourahamane Maouli
Mayor of Arlit,
Niger

“Most of the situations that we are currently facing derive from one key problem: poverty, misery and lack of means to deal with the situation. I think that the development of communication infrastructure, such as road infrastructure or telecommunications, would boost our economy and thus help develop our region. [...] We also need to build trust. Without trust, all efforts are doomed to failure. Decentralisation efforts must be deepened in order to strengthen direct contact with the populations and support our communities.”



Ali Bensaâd
Lecturer,
University of Aix-
Marseille

“There is a process of deep interpenetration between the Maghreb and the Sahel. It may seem paradoxical to say so when we see how the States of both sides turn their back on each other. However, we can observe the reality of this phenomenon on the ground where thriving networks of informal trade, outside state control, are flourishing. They follow the same pattern as the oases that under the trans-Saharan trade were not hydro-agricultural systems but rather hubs in a relational system. Today, the exchanges are reviving this system. Often States do not want to see this reality.”



Antonin Tisseron
Doctor of History
and Researcher
Fellow of the
Institut Thomas
More

“We must be pragmatic and work with actors on specific programmes in which they wish to participate. Indeed, on the one hand, the existing structures are poorly functioning and on the other, they are marked by mistrust and rivalry between the Maghreb countries – in particular Morocco and Algeria – but also between Sahelian countries. We are thus facing a difficult situation in which we must try to gradually move forward. For example, by making headway at the bilateral level while building, in parallel, a forum to improve co-ordination at the political level.”



Denis Retaillé
Professor of
Geography,
University of
Bordeaux/CNRS

“For many years, the Sahara has remained a blank spot on the map. As this blank spot has been filled with information, the Sahara appears to be empty. However, the Sahara is not empty; it is widely traversed, and rather than insisting on the small size of its population, we should look at the strength of the activity and dynamism that prevails there due to the constant crossings. The Sahara-Sahelian area is an open and animated space. Security and development are best anchored in this vibrancy created by mobility rather than in partitioning and concentrating on a few mining/exploration sites that are directly connected to the outside world. Mobility is a guarantee of integration.”



Salim Chena
Associate Editor
of the review
“Dynamiques
internationales”

“Meetings such as the SWAC Forum, help promote awareness of the need to encourage closer co-operation between North Africa, West Africa and the Sahel with a view to managing the common challenges they are facing. That being said, there is a true demand because countries do co-operate, - even if they tend to co-operate at the bilateral level rather than all together. To move forward, there is also the possibility of working together on very particular and specific issues that directly affect the parties concerned without pinpointing or crystallizing the differences that may exist and which are also legitimate between sovereign states. Looking forward, there are obviously still a lot of things to be done, in particular improving co-ordination between the different programmes and organisations active in the region. But it is a step in the right direction to eventually address the many problems and challenges facing this region by the primary actors concerned who are the sovereign states of these large spaces.”



Olivier Walther
Visiting Assistant
Professor, Division
of Global Affairs,
Rutgers University,
USA

“In studying the Malian conflict, we sought to understand how individuals with such different goals (MNLAs against AQIM) were able to unite against the government of Bamako. We chose to analyse these alliances through social networks. The actors are extremely flexible in their social and spatial strategies. Institutional initiatives could draw lessons from this flexibility to promote development and security in the region.”

SWAC STRATEGY AND POLICY GROUP MEETING (SPG)

Abidjan, 29 November 2013

Within the Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) Meeting, SWAC Secretariat Director Laurent Bossard presented achievements of 2013 and on-going work, which will be pursued in 2014. Members also provided feedback on the 2013 Sahel and West Africa Week (SWAW). Beyond the official programme, SWAW provided an opportunity to

engage in discussions and meetings with colleagues, taking advantage of this coming together of the Sahel and West Africa family. SPG Members agreed that the next Sahel and West Africa Week should take place in an anglophone West African country during the week of 8-14 December 2014.

A PLATFORM FOR NUMEROUS DEBATES

The Week hosted a large number of side-events: the meeting of the Committee of CILSS Partners (CPC) offered an opportunity to the new CILSS Executive Secretary Djimé Adoum to present his vision and priorities. Drawing on 40 years of experience, the CILSS team presented its achievements at a press conference. The UEMOA Commission invited technical and financial partners to raise awareness on its Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (FRDA). Technical and financial

partners of ECOWAS met to take stock of their support activities. A large number of ad hoc meetings contributed to deepening exchanges and advancing the West African agenda. Last but not least, Peter Huyghebaert, Ambassador of Belgium in Abidjan, hosted a reception for Forum participants at his personal residence and the Ivorian government invited all participants to a buffet dinner. All these events offered opportunities for sharing experience and networking.

1. Forum Participants
2. CILSS Press Conference
3. Pierre Buyoya, AU High-Representative for Mali and the Sahel and François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President
4. Reception by the Ambassador of Belgium in Abidjan, H.E. Peter Huyghebaert
5. Information Session on the FRDA, organised by the UEMOA Commission
6. & 7. Buffet Dinner, offered by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire
8. Dance show across the African continent



THE NEW DYNAMICS OF CILSS

Interview with Djimé Adoum, CILSS Executive Secretary

What are your priorities as new CILSS Executive Secretary?

First of all, I would like to remind you that CILSS celebrates its forty years of existence - forty years of high-level technical and scientific expertise and experience in the fight against food insecurity. Even if this wealth of experience brings us hope, we must nevertheless be aware of the many challenges ahead. For example, we need to find innovative approaches in the field of water management; water is the main element: for producing, eating, processing, selling and creating wealth. At present, we use only 20% of the region's irrigable land. I also believe that pastoralism must be one of our top priorities. It is both a production system and a way of life; pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are particularly vulnerable to food crises, chronic nutritional insecurity and environmental problems. Effective water management, pastoralism, food security, resilience, the protection of the environment, these are our key priorities which seem unavoidable. They need to be addressed in an integrated and holistic manner. That is why I attach so much importance to the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR).

Where do you stand with the implementation of the Alliance?

We made good progress on AGIR and the process is now maturing. We are currently setting up the AGIR Technical Unit, which will be hosted within our premises of the CILSS Executive Secretariat in Ouagadougou. The Unit will provide support for governments to help them operationalise the regional roadmap at the national level. Sahelian and West African states have committed themselves to conducting inclusive national dialogues to identify their "National Resilience Priorities" (NRP) building on their respective existing national policies and strategies. The process needs to advance

by April 2014. It concerns identifying resilience priorities for each country, priority projects within existing programmes, the necessary budgets, etc. The AGIR Technical Unit will work on the ground to unlock difficult situations, provide advice... I am confident because I see that all stakeholders, including the international community, are committed. I am grateful to the EU and in particular to the Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, who alongside Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, inspired the creation of this Alliance. We were together in Ouagadougou for the political launch of AGIR, barely a year ago. We have indeed come a long way.

What has changed since your arrival at the Head of CILSS?

Let's be honest, CILSS has extraordinary technical and scientific skills but in terms of visibility, it has lost some ground. We are therefore responding to this challenge and I am confident we will succeed. As you may have noticed, there is a new dynamic! I am reinforcing connections with our Member States; for example, I organised a one-week retreat bringing together all thirteen national CILSS Permanent Secretaries in Niamey; we held lengthy discussions; we provided training sessions; all these team-building efforts are crucial. Similarly, we recently held our "Share Fare" in Ouagadougou involving some 200 participants. The event offered an extraordinary opportunity for networking and I think the CILSS is beginning to thrive. This perception is also confirmed by the renewed interest of the international community in our institution.



How would you describe the relationship between CILSS, ECOWAS and UEMOA?

Institutional relations between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS are excellent and constantly developing. We are here together in Abidjan, working hand in hand: CILSS acts as the technical branch of these institutions. ECOWAS and UEMOA develop their policies on the basis of our technical expertise. As a think tank, we are also approached by other institutions. For example, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) recently visited our headquarters to learn from the experience of CILSS. A field visit to Niamey allowed them to learn on-site about the technical creation of transhumance corridors developed by Agrhymet. This type of exchange is very fruitful and it is our pleasure to see that our reputation extends beyond our region.

What objectives would you like to achieve during your mandate?

In three years, I would like to send a short questionnaire to member countries or simply visit one or two CILSS countries to ask the question "What has changed in your lives?" I believe that it is at the individual level that we must measure the value of what we do. Our work must have concrete outcomes. In three years, I expect that we will be able to witness some improvements in terms of standards of living, production systems, irrigation, resilience, environment, and of course food security. I hope that we can announce that the CILSS has contributed to these achievements.

PUBLICATIONS

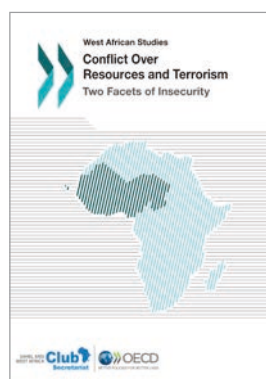
West African Futures: Settlement, Market and Food Security



May 2013

Settlement dynamics have been reshaping West Africa's social and economic geography. These spatial transformations – high urbanisation and economic concentration – favour the development of market-oriented agriculture. With the population of West Africa set to double by 2050, agricultural production systems will undergo far-reaching transformations. To support these transformations, policies need to be spatially targeted, improve availability of market information and broaden the field of food security to policy domains beyond agriculture. They need to rely on homogeneous and reliable data – not available at present – particularly for key variables such as non-agricultural and agricultural population, marketed production and regional trade.

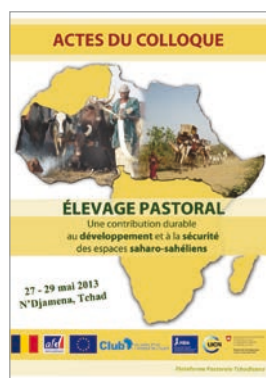
Conflict over Resources and Terrorism: Two Facets of Insecurity



April 2013

This study first analyses an old and recurring form of instability in the region: conflict over resources. A series of case studies will examine the causes of these conflicts with reference to the associated regional challenges and response tools. Secondly, the study addresses terrorism, a relatively new dimension of insecurity. It outlines the development of AQMI and Boko Haram and then focuses on a comparative analysis of legal mechanisms to fight against terrorism. The argument holds that the congruence of these insecurities and the current violent crises present an unprecedented risk of destabilisation for West Africa and the international community.

Summary Record of the Regional Symposium on Pastoral Livestock



September 2013

In May 2013 in N'Djaména, a regional symposium and a ministerial conference sent an important message to policy makers responsible for strategies aimed at stabilising and developing the Saharo-Sahelian areas: pastoral farming is a solution against abandoned space and the related risk of instability. It is at the same time an answer to social, economic and environmental problems and must therefore be placed at the core of stabilisation strategies and policies. Co-organised by the French Development Agency (AFD), the SWAC Secretariat and the Government of Chad, with the support of the EU, IFAD, IUCN and Switzerland, the symposium illustrated that concrete action linking “security and development” can be implemented in the Saharo-Sahelian areas through pastoralism, simultaneously contributing to its revival (→ summary record available in French only).

2014 EVENTS

- 15-16 April, Restricted RPCA Meeting, including the AGIR Senior Experts' Group meeting (AGIR-SEG), OECD headquarters, Paris
- 26-30 May, ECOWAS Regional Forum on Climate Mitigation Strategies, Bamako, Mali
- 17 June, SWAC Strategy and Policy Group Meeting (SPG), OECD headquarters, Paris
- 8-12 December, Sahel and West Africa Week (2014 SWAW), venue to be confirmed

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→ www.youtube.com/user/SWACoecd

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