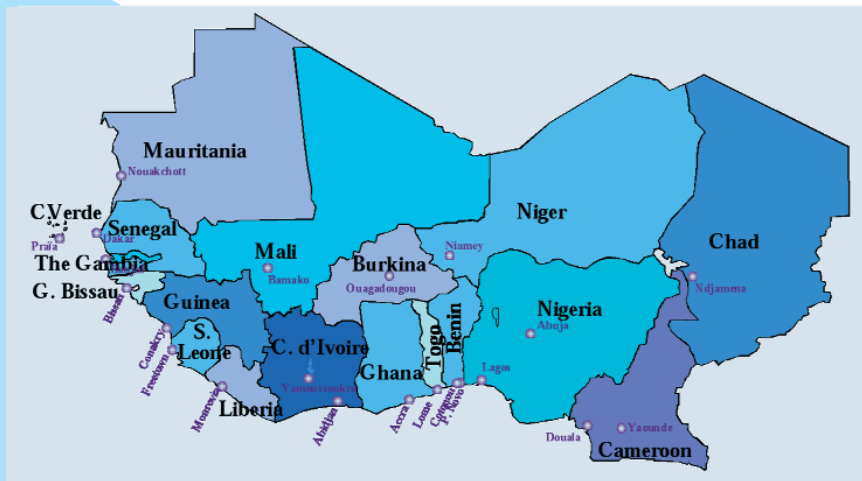


Thematic Meeting of the
Strategy and Policy Group

*“Medium and Long-Term Development Perspectives
of West Africa”*

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 29 June 2006



October 2006/Or. Fre.

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This document (Volume 2) groups together the interventions made at the Strategy and Policy Group thematic meeting. It is a supplement to the meeting's Summary Record (Volume 1).

*The working documents represent the views and analyses of the authors alone.
It does not reflect the positions of the SWAC Secretariat or the OECD.*

Statement by OECD Deputy Secretary General Kiyo Akasaka

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2. **Demography and Development: Where does West Africa come from? Where is it now? Where is it going to?** by Pr. Dieudonné Ouedraogo, Demographer and Dr. Zourkaléini Younoussi, Ph.D.
3. **Indices, Medium- and Long-term Development Perspectives** by Mr. Hamza Ahmadou Cissé, Permanent Secretary to the President of the WAEMU Commission.
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5. **Future of the West African Region: The Bank's Vision and Intervention Strategy** by Mrs. Sylvie Condé, Senior Economist, AfDB.
6. **West Africa: Situation and Medium- and Long-term Perspectives** by Mrs. Joséphine Ouedraogo, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
7. **The Role of Women in West Africa: Current Situation and Perspectives** by Mrs. Bintou Sanankoua, Researcher, West African Women's Group.

8. **OECD/Sahel and West African Club, 1976-2006. Thirty years of exemplary partnership between policy-making and research communities** by Prof. A.I. Asiwaju, Researcher.

1. **Evolution of the City of Ouagadougou over the Last 30 years** by Mr. Simon Compaoré, Mayor of Ouagadougou.
2. **West Africa: Current Situation and Medium- and Long-term Perspectives** by Mr. Georg Charpentier, UNDP Resident Representative in Burkina Faso.
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5. **Trends and Prospects of the Role and Place of Youth in the Economic, Political, Social, and Family Life in West Africa: Changes, Progress and Challenges to address** by Mr. Mody Ndiaye, West Africa Youth Co-ordinating Unit.
6. **Evolution of the Private Sector in West Africa** by Mrs. Aimée Mendy, Director of Public Relations of the African Industrial Association (AIA).
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8. **Culture, governance and development** by Mr. Raymond Weber, Director General of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency.

Written message by Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle, in Celebration of the Sahel and West Africa Club's 30th Anniversary

Words of Farewell of Mrs. Sunhilt Schumacher, Deputy Director of the Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD

Statement by OECD Deputy-Secretary General Kiyo Akasaka

Excellencies, representatives of OECD and SWAC members and partners, dear colleagues,

This gathering in Ouagadougou organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club provides an important occasion to examine the medium and long term development perspectives for the West Africa region. Participation of SPG members attests to the importance you attach to West African development and the role played by the Sahel and West Africa Club. This is also a significant occasion as it marks the 30th Anniversary of the creation of this special forum for dialogue between OECD countries and West Africa. I therefore very much regret that I could not join you myself on this occasion due to a conflicting mission.

This note addresses five points which I hope will be a useful input to your discussions:

- The context of economic growth in Africa
- OECD's mandate to work on development and the importance it places on Africa
- OECD initiatives concerning Africa
- The Sahel and West Africa Club and its initiatives related to the medium and long term perspectives of the West Africa region
- Important medium and long term development trends and perspectives in West Africa

I. The African Context: Growth, Investment Needs and Risks

Over the last four decades, West Africa has experienced significant transformation. It is a region in constant evolution, and capable of significant adaptation and progress.

According to the African Development Bank and OECD Development Centre's joint Annual African Economic Outlook for 2006, the outlook for much of Africa continues to be more favourable than it has been for many years. According to the OECD's African Economic Outlook, economic activity in Africa is estimated to have risen by nearly 5 per cent in 2005, and is expected to increase to 5.8 % and 5.5% in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Continuing global expansion – with concomitant sustained demand for oil and other industrial raw materials at higher prices coupled with a significant increase in official development assistance to Africa - and improving macro-economic stability have all contributed to this more positive economic outlook. Inflation has remained low, trade balances have improved and the gains from commodity prices have improved public finances.

At the same time, commitments made by G8 leaders and donors in 2005 to provide an extra \$ 25 billion per year in development assistance to Africa mean that annual Overseas Development Assistance to Africa is set to more than double by 2010. These are encouraging developments that the OECD is monitoring carefully.

These gains will need to be managed carefully with a sizeable proportion used for investment in transport and other infrastructure, along with human resource development, to lay the basis for sustained economic growth.

However, this growth is not evenly spread and may not be enough to achieve MDG targets given the rapid pace of population growth. Oil-exporting countries, for example, are outpacing others by a substantial margin. Others face humanitarian disasters, such as the Darfur region of Sudan, chronic food insecurity, such as in areas of West and Eastern Africa, or violent conflict. Infrastructure is also often poor. Indeed, West Africa in particular has actually had lower growth than other parts of Africa and has particular constraints regarding infrastructure, climate and resource availability.

While international development assistance is necessary, it is not sufficient. Indeed, trade, investment, debt-related issues, mobilisation of national and local human and financial resources are also of critical importance. In this context, as a strategic framework for concrete action in Africa, NEPAD has an important role to play, in conjunction with the efforts made at the local, national, regional (e.g. ECOWAS) and continental (e.g. African Union) levels.

II. OECD's Mandate to Work on Development and the Importance it Places on Africa

The founding Convention of the OECD mandates the Organisation to promote economic growth in its member countries and, simultaneously, economic development and poverty reduction in non-member countries.

To this end, work on development issues is carried out across the OECD. The OECD's member countries have made efforts to strengthen the coherence of this development-related work with a view to improving its relevance and impact. Thus, a Development Cluster was created in 2002 to bring together the key Directorates working on Development (namely, the Development Cooperation Directorate, the Development Centre, the Sahel and West Africa Club and the Centre for Cooperation with Non-Members) which I coordinate as Deputy-Secretary-General responsible for the OECD's work on development.

The OECD's work on development is not limited to the work of the Development Cluster however. Now, almost all OECD Directorates undertake some development-related work. This work needs to be coordinated and coherent to ensure impact. Therefore, early this year the OECD Council agreed to build a Coherent Framework for the OECD's work on development in 2007-8. This framework identifies four key thematic areas for the OECD's future work on development where it can most add value:

- (i) Engaging with developing countries to maximise the benefits of globalisation for all, supporting policy reform for growth and poverty reduction;
- (ii) Supporting capacity development and promoting good governance;

- (iii) Mobilising resources for development and improving the effectiveness of their use;
and
- (iv) Addressing shared risks.

The OECD's work on Africa will cover some of these areas and we will endeavour to create synergies and work in complementarity with other organisations both inside and outside Africa on these themes.

III. OECD Initiatives concerning Africa

From the outset, in the OECD Development Assistance Committee and other OECD fora, it has been emphasised that we need to bridge the gap between the developed and the not so developed countries. With the majority of the least developed countries being in Africa and 12 out of 15 countries in West Africa belonging to that low income category, there is no question that a high priority has to be given by the international community to that part of the world. Not only for a better future for the region but also for greater security for all.

As with its broader work on development, the work on Africa across the OECD has grown rapidly in recent years, with most Directorates and Committees now undertaking some work on Africa. To strengthen this work, we have established an Intra-Secretariat Africa Group to share experiences from work on Africa and promote synergies across the OECD.

Furthermore, in a significant recent development, the OECD has agreed to host a Support Unit for the Africa Partnership Forum, which was established by the G8 and African countries at the G8 Evian Summit in 2003. The APF brings together high level representatives from African and OECD countries, the African Union and NEPAD and multilateral institutions. Its existence reflects the aim of African countries and their partners to place African development at the top of the international development agenda. The APF plays a particularly important role in tracking progress against agreed development targets by African countries and their partners, and monitoring and promoting regional, continental and cross-border mechanisms.

The APF Support Unit hosted by the OECD will help the Forum achieve its objectives in support of African Development. This Unit will be operational shortly with its team based in Paris. The establishment of the Unit will strengthen the capacities of the APF to implement its work programme effectively and it will be mutually beneficial to African countries and their partners in the APF and its establishment is an important step towards further strengthening OECD's relationship with, and impact in, Africa. Through the hosting arrangement with the OECD this Unit will provide a new opportunity for close interaction between the OECD and African policy makers, and to share experience and lessons from practice to contribute to the process of Africa's development.

Recent events organised by the OECD on Africa include a two-day Global Forum on Agriculture held in May which this year for the first time addressed agricultural development in Africa. This Forum discussed the main constraints to agricultural development in Africa, the action needed to overcome these constraints as well as the priorities for analysis and action. It was already envisaged that this meeting would be followed-up by another in Dakar in October, within the framework of the *OECD/IFAD/France Support for African Agriculture Project*.

Another important contribution of the OECD concerns the publication of the African Economic Outlook, jointly produced by the African Development Bank and the Development Centre. The promotion and financing for the development of transport infrastructures is the central theme of this publication. It was officially launched in May here in Ouagadougou, at the Annual Assembly of the African Development Bank.

Furthermore, the OECD will continue to participate in international meetings on issues such as water, migration, youth and their importance in the development process, topics of key interest for the African continent.

IV. Sahel and West Africa Club and its Initiatives related to the Medium and Long Term Perspectives of the West Africa Region

Since its establishment in 1976, the Club has tracked the significant social, cultural, institutional, economic and political changes in the region. The Sahel and West Africa Club continues to play its facilitating and bridging role between OECD Member countries and countries of your region, while keeping other Development Cluster Directorates informed of the challenges facing West Africa within these different sectors.

The specificity of the Sahel and West Africa Club is its capacity to mobilise West African actors, to make the voices of Africans heard and to listen closely to its partners in Africa and OECD Member countries. This makes the Club an essential link between the regions of the world which sometimes have difficulty understanding one another. For the OECD, the Sahel and West Africa Club is therefore a window to the West African region. Its approach connects the different levels (local, national, regional and international) and its interest for the medium and long-term development perspectives without neglecting the current challenges. This provides us with a better understanding of the specific challenges facing the region. Finally, the Club's balanced perception of the region is key.

We are very pleased that the Sahel and West Africa Club is now more closely linked to the OECD and its Development Cluster than ever before. It can feed in the analysis and perspectives of African actors to the wider work of the OECD. Also, in this way, the Club can play a key role in helping to shape the overall work of the OECD on development as a whole and Africa in particular. For us, the Club sheds light on the economic and political evolution of West Africa and informs the OECD of its development strategies. Its involvement in the coordination between development actors, its results-oriented partnerships, its dynamic approach in favour of the development of West Africa are all precious resources for the OECD.

In 2004, the Club clarified its role, its operational and methodological approaches, and its partnerships within and outside the region, within and outside the OECD. The Club Secretariat has continued to attach a high priority to giving a bigger and louder voice to Africans themselves.

A case in point is the meeting organised by the Club Secretariat at the OECD Headquarters on the desert locust outbreak in West Africa in autumn 2004. The purpose of that meeting was to support the calls by African leaders and international agencies for urgent action. But equally important, the purpose of the meeting was to draw lessons from the past and explore the identification of medium- and long-term institutional, operational and financial mechanisms to help prevent the repetition of such a catastrophe for the region.

The Club now focuses its work in four areas:

- Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives
- Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development
- Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration
- Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security.

While taking into account the problems and challenges of the region, the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat along with its African development partners has developed a prospective vision of West Africa which focuses on the identification of the dynamics of change as well as the drivers of change.

I would like to highlight a few important areas where the Club has focused its work on the medium and long term perspectives and trends in the region this year and identify one or two of its main areas of work in the coming months.

- At the private sector level, the Club organised a workshop in Conakry in June on the **Opportunities for Sustainable Shrimp Farming**. This meeting enabled the identification of actions to develop an under-exploited economic sector in West Africa while taking into account the ecological and environmental concerns that are essential to sustainable growth.
- **Cross-border initiatives have** continued in many parts of West Africa, between Niger and Nigeria, and the area between Mauritania and Mali. These respond to a request by Heads of State for work in this strategic area to promote regional integration expressed at the last ECOWAS Summit in Niamey in January 2006. These initiatives are also of vital importance for local populations in the process of regional integration.
- A **Regional Atlas** is being produced, with different thematic chapters. This will be a useful tool to inform development actors and decision-makers, providing a better understanding of the region. Currently, there is nothing of this scope in circulation.
- The **Food Crisis Prevention Network** meetings that the SWAC Secretariat coordinates regularly with the CILSS, demonstrate that the Club continues to be committed to work to address structural and temporal food insecurity over the medium and long term. A meeting held in April at the OECD co-organised by the SWAC, CILSS and ECOWAS brought a range of actors together to discuss action needed to monitor and address structural vulnerability and food insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa.
- The Club's activities as regards **conflict prevention and governance**, with particular emphasis on the role of West African women and youth, are essential in a region where sources of insecurity persist. Without peace, development is not possible; and without development, peace is difficult.
- The Club is also committed to strategic thinking on topics important to OECD Member countries, as in African countries, namely migration, youth and women. The **Inter-generational Forum on Endogenous Governance**, which took place this week, was a significant event to promote thinking on this complex and delicate issue the region.
- Finally, the Club continues to build on its work in partnership with regional actors to understand the **processes of transformation underway in West African agriculture and the rural world**. It is undertaking strategic analysis and reflection

with regional actors on issues such as the regional agricultural policy, the impacts of agricultural policies in the region and the economic and social importance of specific sub-sectors, such as cotton.

There are many opportunities for the Club to work in partnership with other parts of OECD and with its regional partners on these issues, drawing on its regional approach.

V. Important Medium and Long Term Development Trends and Perspectives in West Africa

Finally, I would like to submit for your reflection and discussion four important medium and long term trends and development challenges in West Africa that need to be addressed in the coming years.

- **Regional integration.** The process of regional integration to which ECOWAS is dedicated is an important challenge. With an ever increasing population – from 40 million in 1930 to 85 million in 1960 to 260 million in 2003 and more than 360 million by 2020 - the process of regional integration will become increasingly more significant to help address issues such as governance-related issues, employment and migration, investment, trade, poverty reduction and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The workshop co-organised by ECOWAS, the SWAC and the West African Borders and Integration Initiative on cross-border cooperation is a concrete example of the vital importance of regional integration for the benefit of local populations.
- **The challenge of good governance, conflict, peace and security.** Côte d'Ivoire is now at the centre of a conflict and instability in the area. Bilateral and multilateral authorities like the United Nations, the African Union ECOWAS play an important role in the peace process. The SWAC can offer its expertise in networking and analysis to better inform the actors involved on the key stakes of the conflict, and to deepen understanding of the fundamental causes - economic, social, regional and historic - of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.
- **The transformation of agriculture and the rural world.** Key questions need to be considered, for example: How can the transformation of agriculture be facilitated so as to maximise its contribution to economic development and poverty reduction in the context of rapid urbanisation? What are the roles of family farms and commercial farms? How can the sensitive issue of land tenure, and land-related conflict, be better addressed at the regional, and national and local levels?
- **Demographic change.** In the years to come, West Africa must adapt to a considerable increase in population, around 100 million people in the 15 ECOWAS countries from now until 2020. This means that: a younger and younger population, mobile and migrant will be looking for employment; there will be overcrowding in large cities and enormous pressures on land and services. Can these populations count on the right to free circulation in the region? The right to set up businesses in other countries? The right to vote in other countries? If Africans themselves cannot develop a vision on the possible futures for the region – a medium- and long-term vision which does not stop at the borders of each country – it might be difficult to cope with future developments and crises in the region, as shown by the case of Côte d'Ivoire.

Conclusion

To conclude, the support provided to the SWAC by its regional partners and the international community is of critical importance to allow it to play a significant role in support of West Africa's development efforts.

I sincerely hope that this SPG meeting will provide a forum for open and fruitful dialogue and learning, and also provide guidance and support for the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate in the coming years.

Session I





Economic Community of West African States

The Current Situation in West Africa, the ECOWAS Agenda and Partnership with SWAC

Intervention by Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas
Executive Secretary
(text presented and read by Mr. William Kaniyrige,
Head of the Executive Secretary's Office)

*Mr Charles GOERENS, President of OECD/Sahel and West Africa Club,
Mrs. Josephine Ouedraogo, Deputy Ex. Sec. UNECA,
The representatives of the ADB, the WAEMU and the CILSS,
Other distinguished panelists,
Mr. Normand Lauzon, Director of Sahel and West Africa Club,
Distinguished Members of the Strategy and Policy Group,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is with great pleasure that I accepted your kind invitation to participate in the activities marking the 30th anniversary of the Sahel and West Africa Club, an institution that has earned its position as a key player in the West African integration process and an invaluable and respected partner of ECOWAS in our joint efforts to assure progress, human security and dignity in the sub-region. Coincidentally, ECOWAS marked its own 30th anniversary only last year and the SWAC, our strategic partner, actively participated in the activities.

On this auspicious occasion of your anniversary, I would like to convey, on behalf of ECOWAS and in my own name, warmest felicitations to you, Mr. President, and to the Club as a whole. As your partners, we have followed with keen interest the Club's trajectory as it tried to create a niche and focus for itself in this challenging terrain, up until its current position as a strategic partner to ECOWAS in our common desire to promote human security in the sub-region.

I, however, would like to express my sincere regrets for being unable to personally participate in your 30th anniversary stock-taking exercise as I have to be present in Banjul, The Gambia, where our sub-region is at this very moment hosting the AU statutory meetings in Banjul, The Gambia.

I have been requested to engage you in a discourse on the current state of affairs in West Africa, the role of ECOWAS in the unfolding momentous processes, our responses in the medium and long-term, as well as perspectives of ECOWAS-SWAC collaboration.

When ECOWAS was established in 1975, its agenda was to promote market integration through policy harmonization and coordination; and the development of physical infrastructure. ECOWAS has made modest inroads into meeting these challenges. However, the worsening security environment at the time impeded greater achievement. The ensuing attempts to address the issues of peace and security were informed by the realities and politics of the time, and the rationale was that the dynamics and nature of conflicts were limited to external threats. The adoption of the 1978 Protocol on Non-Aggression followed later in 1981 by the Protocol on Mutual Assistance in Defence was informed by this thinking. However, fast-forwarding to the 1980s and as I hinted earlier on, new global dynamics and local responses had emerged to threaten a derailment of ECOWAS integration efforts.

Overview of the current state of affairs in West Africa: New Threats to Development, Peace and Security

You will recall that with the easing of cold war tensions, Africa witnessed a dramatic fall in the instances of inter-state conflicts although this was in turn accompanied by a dramatic rise in violent internal power struggles that threatened state implosion across the continent. It did not take long before ECOWAS realised the changing nature of threats to stability. It became obvious that a nexus existed between internal conflicts, sparked largely by governance deficiencies, increasing poverty and identity crises on the one hand, and our collective developmental efforts, on the other. Barely a decade after the creation of ECOWAS, violent internal conflicts erupted in Liberia and Sierra Leone as a new phenomenon not confined to the borders of individual nation states, with serious regional implications, both in their causes and effects. Starting off as internal struggles for power and control over resources, these devastating conflicts soon took on a regionalized nature, fuelled by the illegal exploitation of and exchange of natural resources for the acquisition of small arms and light weapons and characterized by the proliferation of private armies made up of mercenaries, dispossessed youths and bandits.

It quickly became clear that the mechanisms that were put in place to safeguard national sovereignty and ward off external aggression were grossly inadequate to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent region in which the ripples of internal dynamics were instantly felt far beyond national borders, in the form of refugee flows, disrupted infrastructure, the proliferation of weapons and the export of violence. Thus, ECOWAS had to act locally to avert the looming disaster in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The creation of the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to intervene in Liberia and Sierra Leone was, therefore, an act of absolute necessity dictated by the unfolding realities.

It is gratifying to note that the West African sub-region is gradually turning the corner with regard to violent conflicts. Both Sierra Leone and Liberia are currently in post-conflict peace-building phases. With the lessons learned in those countries, ECOWAS has enhanced its capacity for early response, as amply demonstrated by its reaction to, and continued engagement in a number of member-states.

However, our efforts to contain violent conflicts are not enough to sustain our peace and development efforts. Our goal is not to return war-torn countries to the *status quo ante* but to move these countries, along with those not at war, to a higher level of sustainable

development, human security and resilience to violent conflict. The reasons for this thinking are obvious. In the last two decades, the ECOWAS zone has witnessed a positive constitutional convergence process where unconstitutional accession to power is fast becoming a thing of the past and where democracy, the rule of law and adherence to fundamental human rights are taking root. This is a very positive development in our region. However, increasing democratization is yet to translate into tangible dividends for the populations. Poverty remains a seemingly insurmountable obstacle,

West Africa remains one of the poorest regions in the world, with two-thirds of our Member-States among the poorest. The sub-region is also among the poorest performers with regard to our capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). Africa's unfavourable position in the unfavourable global trade relations, the worsening brain drain and capital flight, the population bulge and the spread of malaria, HIV/AIDS and other killer diseases, paint a bleak future for the sub-region. To appreciate the enormity of the challenges ahead, we need not go further than to scrutinize the gloomy statistics that your organization, the Sahel and West Africa Club and others, have meticulously compiled over the years on environmental, trade and demographic trends.

Against the backdrop of stagnant or weakening state capacity to provide or facilitate opportunities for addressing basic needs of populations, these realities are laden with foreboding implications and constitute a key element to consider for those looking at or managing the affairs of our societies. In the conflicts that ravaged the West African sub-region only a few years ago, the unemployed and unemployable youth became the pool from which warlords and other adventurers recruited foot soldiers and marauding bandits to terrorize their populations. The roots of the phenomenon of warlordism, non-state combatants and child soldiers can be traced to the problem of the youth crisis. We must rightly condemn such despicable acts and combat them, but beyond that we need to critically examine the factors that engender them. I believe the Forum that immediately preceded this meeting sought to throw more light on this.

To build and sustain peace and stability, there is the need to go beyond containment, often by military measures, towards strategies aimed at the core causes of societal discord. Indeed at the core of the root causes of conflict is alienation borne out of the unequal burden of poverty, the scramble for limited economic opportunities and power which, in turn, set off institutional corruption, systemic marginalisation, and exclusion. Against the backdrop of a population boom in West Africa, the pressures on the economies and the entire society cannot be underestimated. Addressing the structural causes of instability calls for a comprehensive agenda to assure the attainment of human security, whose basic elements are:

- food and environmental security;
- infrastructure development,
- forward-looking demographic policy, skills and employment opportunities,
- enhanced intra-African trade,
- access to markets;
- democracy and good governance predicated on the rule of law, guarantee of basic freedoms and responsible resource management;
- institutional and human resource capacity building (to effectively face the challenges above);
- sustained dialogue with development partners.

The ECOWAS Response

1. Since 1990, ECOWAS has been systematically reviewing its agenda to meet the new challenges. This review has involved the updating of ECOWAS normative framework documents, institutional transformation, the development of an overall strategic framework, as well as a conflict prevention strategy for the organization. These processes are driven by our determination to achieve accelerated integration and development in a borderless West Africa, where the peoples transact their business and activities freely, under the rule of law, while living in peace and security as part of the larger continental bloc, in a global village.

Three principal legal instruments provide the supra-national mandate for ECOWAS interventions in West Africa. These are:

- a. **The Revised Treaty of ECOWAS (24th July, 1993)**
- b. **The Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping and Security (10th December, 1999)**
- c. **The Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (21st December, 2001).**

The Mechanism provides a comprehensive legal framework for confronting the threats to peace and security on a more permanent basis by boosting ECOWAS' conflict prevention capabilities to pre-empt potential outbreak of violence, resolve conflicts when they occur and to engage more effectively in post-conflict reconstruction in places, where peace has been restored. The Supplementary Protocol, on the other hand, sets out the constitutional convergence criteria for Community membership based on the principles of good governance – respect for the rule of law, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, the promotion of non-partisan and responsible press, the democratic control of the armed forces and the strict adherence to constitutional norms that rejects the unconstitutional accession to power. Together, the instruments propel ECOWAS from a reactive mode to a proactive posture within the framework of conflict prevention, human security and regional integration.

The instruments provide institutions and organs, such as the Early Warning System, the Council of Elders and the Peacekeeping Monitoring Group (the ECOWAS Stand-by Force/Mission) through which the organisation undertakes diverse conflict prevention activities through quiet diplomacy, fact-finding missions, diplomatic pressure, mediation, peacekeeping and enforcement in collaboration with development partners.

Under the same instruments, ECOWAS facilitates the creation of the right environment for sustainable development through its infrastructure and integration programmes, such as the process towards Monetary Union, the West Africa Gas Pipeline project, the West African Power Pool and initiatives in free movement and community citizenship.

Thus, the ECOWAS concepts of conflict prevention and human security are anchored in the understanding within the UN system, where *conflict prevention* is understood to mean activities designed to reduce tensions or prevent the outbreak, escalation, spread or recurrence of violence. Conflict prevention strategies may distinguish between *operational prevention* (measures applicable in the face of imminent crisis) and *structural prevention* (measures to ensure that crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do not happen again). Thus, conflict prevention comprises:

- ***operational prevention***, including early warning, mediation, conciliation, preventive disarmament and preventive deployment using interactive means;

- **structural prevention**, often elaborated under peace-building initiatives and comprising political, institutional (governance) and developmental reforms, capacity enhancement and advocacy on the culture of peace.

In the same vein, the term **human security** is understood to mean the creation of conditions to eliminate pervasive threats to people's and individual rights, livelihoods, safety and lives. The protection of human and democratic rights and the promotion of human development initiatives becomes the *sine qua non* for assuring **freedom from fear** and **freedom from want**.

Initiatives undertaken by ECOWAS within the new paradigm include:

a. The Early Warning Mechanism

ECOWAS has established the Early Warning System comprising an Observation and Monitoring Centre at the Secretariat and backed by a Zonal Bureau each in four identified conflict clusters to collect and analyse data impinging on human security and preparing options for critical actors within ECOWAS to guide their actions aimed at mitigating the causes and effects of conflict.

b. Preventive diplomacy and Mediation

As part of the activities to boost its conflict prevention capabilities to pre-empt potential outbreak of violence and to engage more effectively in post-conflict reconstruction, ECOWAS utilises the good offices of the Council of Elders, an organ under the Mechanism made up of eminent political, traditional, religious and female figures, in different mediation efforts. These include exploratory missions, observation and monitoring of elections, The Executive Secretary also deploys Special Representatives and Special Mediators to conflict zones to interface with local actors, AU, EU and UN representatives on the ground to monitor daily developments and intervene in a timely manner to diffuse potential tensions and coordinate peace-building efforts.

c. The civilian component of Peace Support Operations

Since 2004, ECOWAS has been developing its civilian standby capabilities for future deployment alongside the military component in future complex emergencies and in line with the AU Standby Force doctrine. To this end, the structures of the civilian component of the ECOWAS Standby Force and the Civilian Emergency Response Unit are being developed with the help of development partners by the ECOWAS Secretariat in conjunction with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra. The aim of the initiative is to put into practice the concept of the democratic control of the armed forces, prevent the recurrence of disturbing human rights violations that characterised past purely military interventions and to develop comprehensive packages for preventive and post-conflict mission deployments.

d. Conflict-sensitive development

ECOWAS emphasises the mainstreaming of conflict-prevention concerns into its development agenda. Among the concerns are gender-sensitive and youth empowerment initiatives, as well as the fight against the proliferation of small arms, light weapons, non-state armed groups and militias. In its efforts to stem the flow of small arms and light weapons, ECOWAS adopted a Moratorium in 1999 on the importation and exportation of weapons and promoted in-country as well as cross-border initiatives in a micro-disarmament drive. At the June 2006 ECOWAS Summit, the ECOWAS Authority adopted the Convention on Light Weapons that transforms the Moratorium into a binding instrument to counter this scourge. Further, a dedicated **Small Arms Unit**, complemented by a UNDP-supported operational field unit in

Bamako – the **ECOWAS Small Arms Control Program (ECOSAP)**, has been set up at the ECOWAS Secretariat to provide a strategic framework for micro-disarmament and other initiatives to combat weapons proliferation.

e. Cross-border initiatives

Similarly under the UNOWA-EU-ECOWAS framework for peace and security, a wide range of cross-border initiatives are underway in the sub-region. These initiatives include the promotion of cross-border cooperation among security forces, preventive disarmament, the removal of road blocks in border areas to facilitate the freedom of movement of persons and goods and the promotion of good neighbourliness through the setting up of model 'Border Communities' with modern amenities, empowerment projects and culture of peace programmes.

f. Deepening Democratic Culture – The Electoral Assistance Unit

ECOWAS' determination to pursue the policy of 'zero tolerance' towards unconstitutional and violent usurpation of power, backed by a strong determination to ensure credible, transparent, and free and fair elections in the sub-region has been amply demonstrated by the proactive steps that the organisation has often taken to oppose military coups d'état and other attempts at unconstitutional ascension to power. Further, ECOWAS has established the practice of fielding pre-election fact-finding missions, election monitoring and observation teams in the course of electoral processes in West African States. This assures proper national preparations towards elections, reduces election-induced violence and enhances the credibility and transparency of elections in the sub-region. Over the last decade, the sub-region has recorded measurable progress in the consolidation of democracy in several countries. To streamline and operationalise election intervention, ECOWAS has established the **Electoral Assistance Unit** within the secretariat to work with Member States and civil society institutions in West Africa to enhance the evolution of credible electoral management institutions based on harmonised systems, processes and electoral procedures that produce transparent, free and fair outcomes.

g. Interaction with civil society and the private sector

ECOWAS recognises the strategic role civil society can play as a veritable partner in the promotion of peace and security. ECOWAS broke new ground in this area by helping to facilitate the emergence of the **West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOF)** - a coordinating structure for civil society groups in West Africa - in 2003. The objective is to mobilise critical civil society inputs across the sub-region to strengthen and accompany ECOWAS peace and security interventions and dialogue with external partners. The civil society network, **West Africa Network for Peace-building**, is a strategic partner to ECOWAS in the elaboration of its early warning mechanism.

In the same spirit to harness external inputs into its activities, the newly established **Policy Analysis and Strategic Planning Unit** in the Office of the Executive Secretary, plans to network with regional research institutions and think-tanks to help the Secretariat cover its research, strategic planning and policy coordination deficit. As a consequence, with the help of ECOWAS and material support from DFID (UK) and Canada, the **West African Network of Think-Tanks and Research Centres** was inaugurated in March 2006.

The private sector constitutes another valuable partner to ECOWAS, especially in the development of pan-West African infrastructure, trade and employment opportunities. A lot of work remains to be done in this sector in a more meaningful way.

h. Institutional Transformation and Capacity Building

Currently, ECOWAS is undergoing institutional transformation, which is expected to affect it in at least three distinct ways:

- 1. Organizational restructuring**
- 2. Quality and nature of activities pursued by ECOWAS institutions and units geared towards fulfilling the ECOWAS mandate and mission**
- 3. perception of ECOWAS by others**

Accordingly, the ECOWAS Summit in Niamey in January 2006, made the landmark decision to restructure ECOWAS institutions with a view to adding value to the current integration and development processes. Thus, beginning January 2007, the ECOWAS Secretariat will be transformed into a nine-member Commission with a President and a Vice-President, while the other seven Commissioners cover different sectoral issues affecting the sub-region. Similarly, the Community Parliament and the Community Court of Justice are also being restructured to enable parliamentarians and judges to concentrate on their core competences.

Indeed in the case of the Executive Secretariat, reforms already started a couple of years earlier with the implementation of what is now called the ECOWAS Capacity Building Action Plan, with the active support of development partners.

i. NEPAD Initiatives

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) recognises infrastructure development, good political and economic governance as necessary pre-conditions for human security. West African leaders, while acknowledging that NEPAD programmes and projects coincide with those of ECOWAS, designated ECOWAS as the focal point for the realisation of NEPAD objectives in the sub-region. NEPAD offers a platform to tackle the non-military threats to human security, such as corruption and bureaucracies that do not lend themselves to transparency and scrutiny. The ECOWAS/NEPAD agenda places a high premium on integration efforts, the deepening of democratic culture, good governance, corporate responsibility and human rights. The operative phrase for us in ECOWAS is **new partnership**, both internal and external; internal as it relates to public-private/civil society partnerships to mobilize all available material and human resources within the region and in the Diaspora; and external as it relates to our collaboration with developing partners in order to complement these efforts and promote the sharing best practices.

j. Strategic partnership with development partners

The current strategic partnership is facilitated by the **coordination mechanism** created by ECOWAS and its partners. Under this architecture, ECOWAS holds monthly, quarterly and annual meetings to discuss priority projects, as well as review and monitor implementation of on-going initiatives. Through this arrangement, ECOWAS has evolved an ECOWAS Capacity-Building Action Plan supported by partners and the first ECOWAS Pool Fund initially subscribed to by Canada, France and the United Kingdom was also recently launched,

Furthermore, ECOWAS has put together a framework for resource mobilization to support its interventions in peace and security with considerable contributions from Member-States (the Community Levy), the EU and its member-States, the United States, Canada, Japan and China, as well as the UN system. In a further innovation to these efforts, **the ECOWAS Peace Fund was set up in 2005** with initial seed capital

from the African Development Bank, ECOWAS Member States and development partners. The Fund is to be used generally as an **emergency fund** to meet requirements for early response to specific and sudden crises. However, its uses are being modified to meet broader **capacity-building challenges** in a structured manner to enhance ECOWAS responsiveness and quality of interventions.

The appreciable progress that ECOWAS and its Member-States have made in the areas of peace and security, development, democracy and good governance will have been more difficult to attain without the understanding, effective support and collaboration of development partners and other sister institutions, such as the Sahel and West Africa Club. I would like to conclude my presentation by turning to the evolving partnership between ECOWAS and the SWAC.

ECOWAS-OECD/Sahel and West Africa Club Collaboration

Over the past couple of years, ECOWAS has been rationalizing and deepening its relations with partners to mobilize the appropriate human and material resources as well as best practices with a view to helping drive our integration and development. The OECD/Sahel and West Africa Club has actively participated in this process and played its role in helping the existing and thriving ECOWAS/Development Partners Coordination mechanism. More specifically, the ECOWAS/Sahel and West Africa Club partnership has revolved around the recognized comparative advantage of the Club, namely in the domain of research and policy analysis. The SWAC has undertaken very significant reviews of critical sectors underpinning human security in West Africa, including shrimp farming, cotton trade policy, private sector development and medium to long-term strategy for ECOWAS, just to mention a few.

Thus on 25-26 May, 2005, as part of the ECOWAS 30th Anniversary celebrations, the Club partnered the Executive Secretariat to organize a symposium on the perspectives of short and long-term development in West Africa. The need that the symposium sought to address was the challenge of long-term strategic planning capacity that the Executive Secretariat is currently tackling. Indeed earlier in May 2002, the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) organized a special event in Accra under the co-chairmanship of Presidents Alpha Oumar Konare and John Agyekum Kufuor of Mali and Ghana respectively. The aim was to help raise awareness about the evolution of regional integration by encouraging a political commitment through an informal and informed debate between OECD and West African States. The meeting also provided a platform to examine NEPAD implementation in West Africa, and as you may know, West Africa was the first sub-region to effectively internalize the NEPAD agenda within its mainstream activities, following the May 2002 Yamoussoukro ECOWAS Summit.

Other areas of the OECD/SWAC and ECOWAS collaboration have covered the development of a Regional Food Security Policy and the Peace and Good Governance sector. It must be stressed, though, that the evolving collaboration on cross-border initiatives promises to have even more far-reaching impact if properly handled and executed.

I have also had the occasion to assure the President of the OECD/SWAC that ECOWAS on its part will ensure ownership of the programmes and projects and work to execute them while counting on the continued support of the OECD/SWAC.

In conclusion, it is my hope and conviction that the fast developing ECOWAS/SWAC collaboration will blossom and find new expression within the evolving ECOWAS strategic framework that entails institutional reforms, conflict prevention, policy analysis and strategic planning at the Secretariat and national levels. If, at the ECOWAS 30th Anniversary last year the Club partnered us to take stock of ECOWAS capacity for medium to long term strategic planning and focus, this year's SWAC 30th Anniversary has provided a fitting follow-up platform for ensuring that in carrying out the task we are mindful of the need to go back to our roots and pick up the relevant best practices. Once more let me congratulate the OECD/Sahel and West Africa Club for the thriving partnership its has engaged in with our sub-region over the past three decades and I look forward to an even deeper and broader collaboration as ECOWAS Secretariat is transformed into a Commission by January 2007.

I thank you for your kind attention.



Demography and Development: Where does West Africa come from? Where is it now? Where is it going to?

Prof. Dieudonné Ouedraogo
and Zourkaléini Younoussi, Ph.D

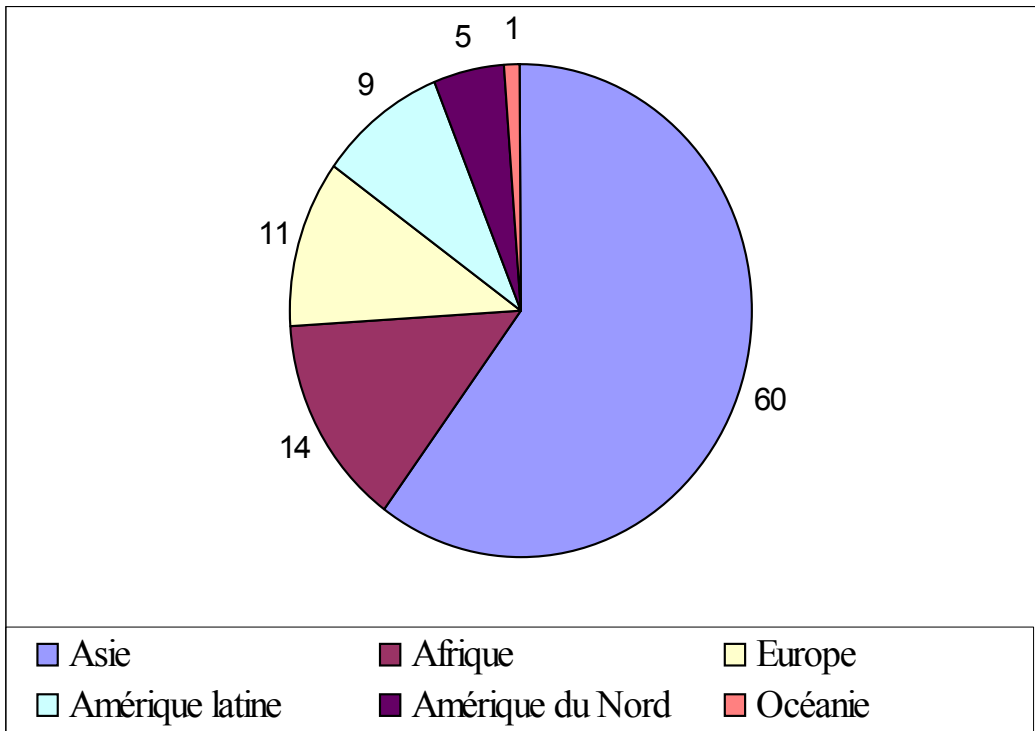
I. Where does West Africa come from?

- We know very little about it up to the 1960s (lack of reliable data)
- What we know about Africa as a whole:
 - Decline or stagnation of the population between the 15th and 19th centuries for the following reasons:
 - The slave trade from the 15th to 19th century
 - Tragic consequences on the social and population dynamics
 - Its demographic weight in the world has only been declining following the example of Africa (17% in the 16th to 6% at the end of the 19th century)
 - Intensive colonization (1880-1920)
 - Drastic population decrease in certain areas
 - Low population growth (less than 0.20%)
 - Rapid increase in the population as of 1920 and especially towards 1950 as a result of the improved food situation

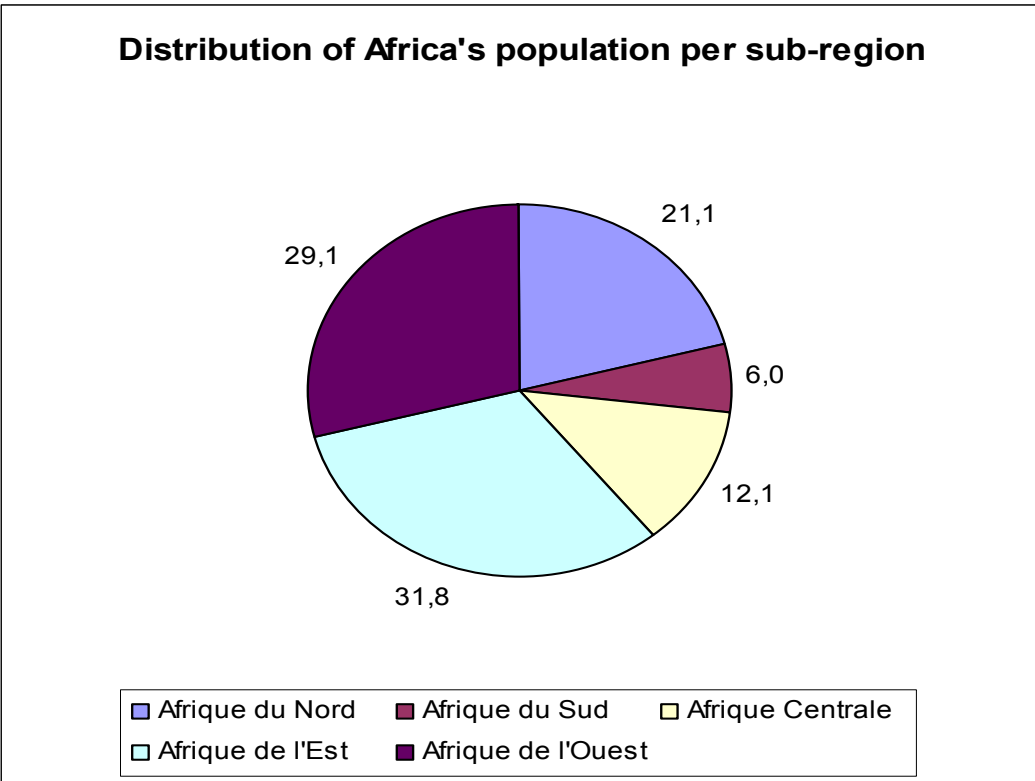
II. Where is it now?

- Global demographic weight regained
- A young population
- Second phase of the demographic transition
- Less urbanized than the other parts of the world
- One of the strongest population increases in the world

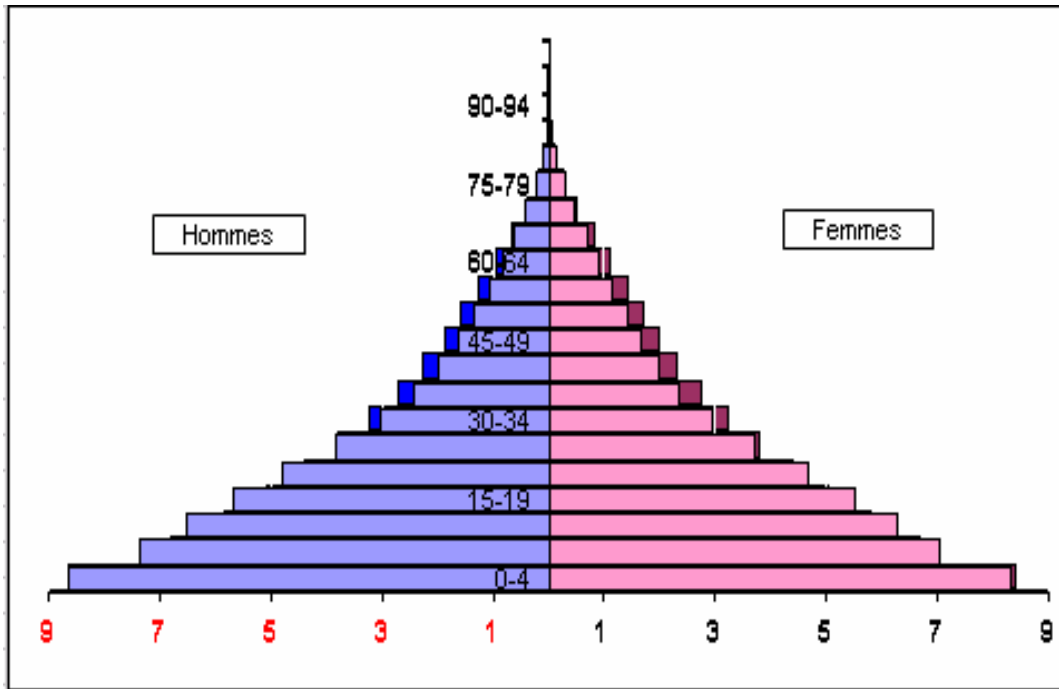
Global population distribution per major regional blocs



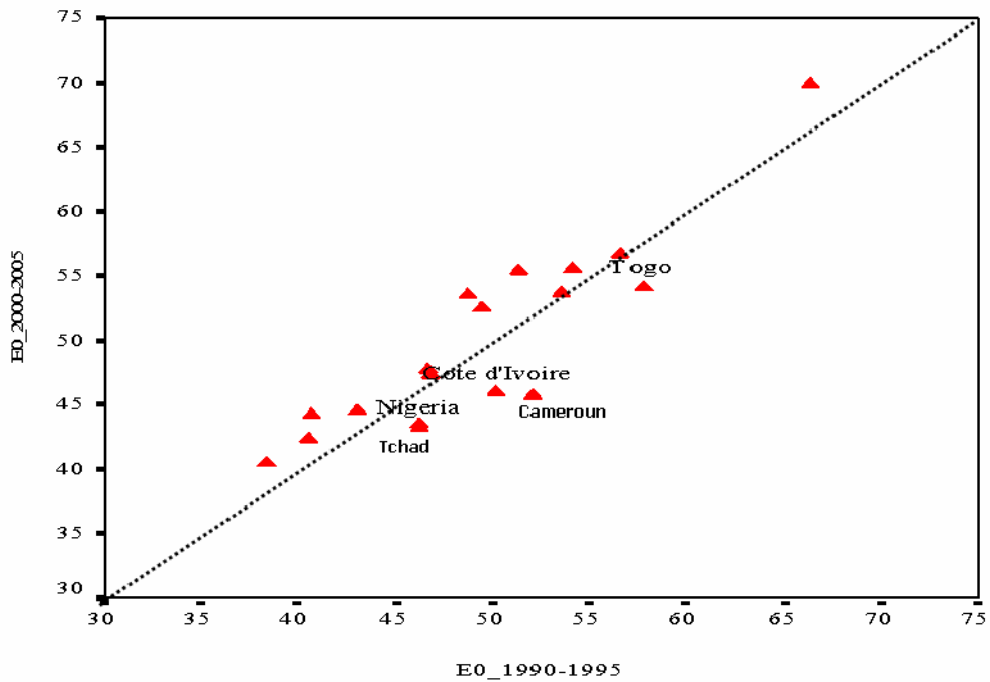
Distribution of Africa's population per sub-region



West Africa's double stacked pyramids of 1950 (in the background) and 2005

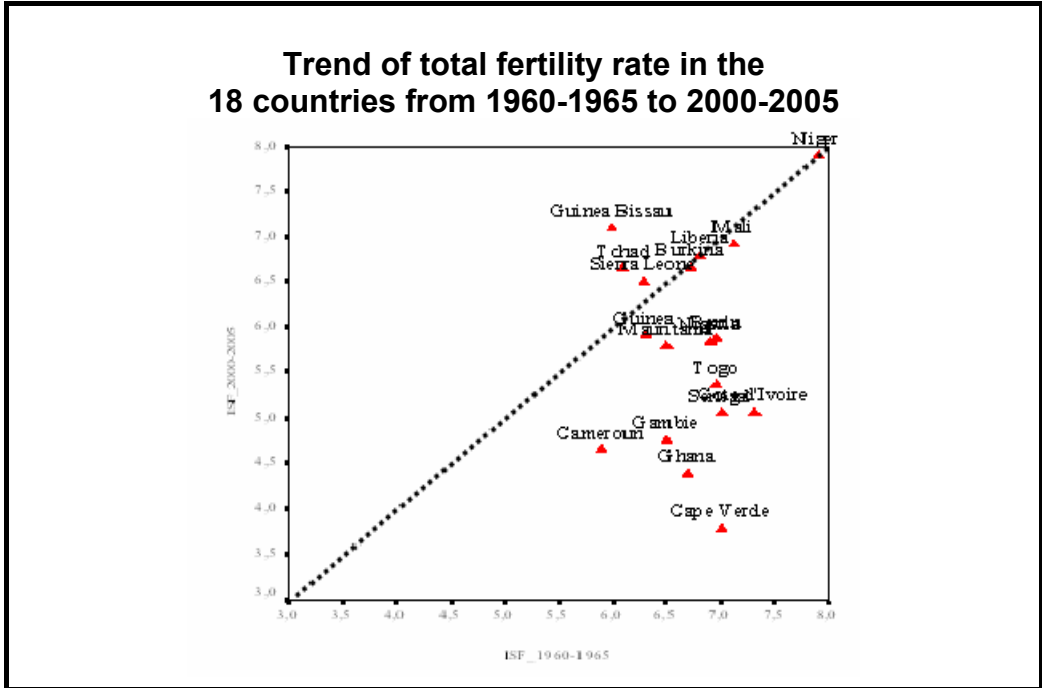
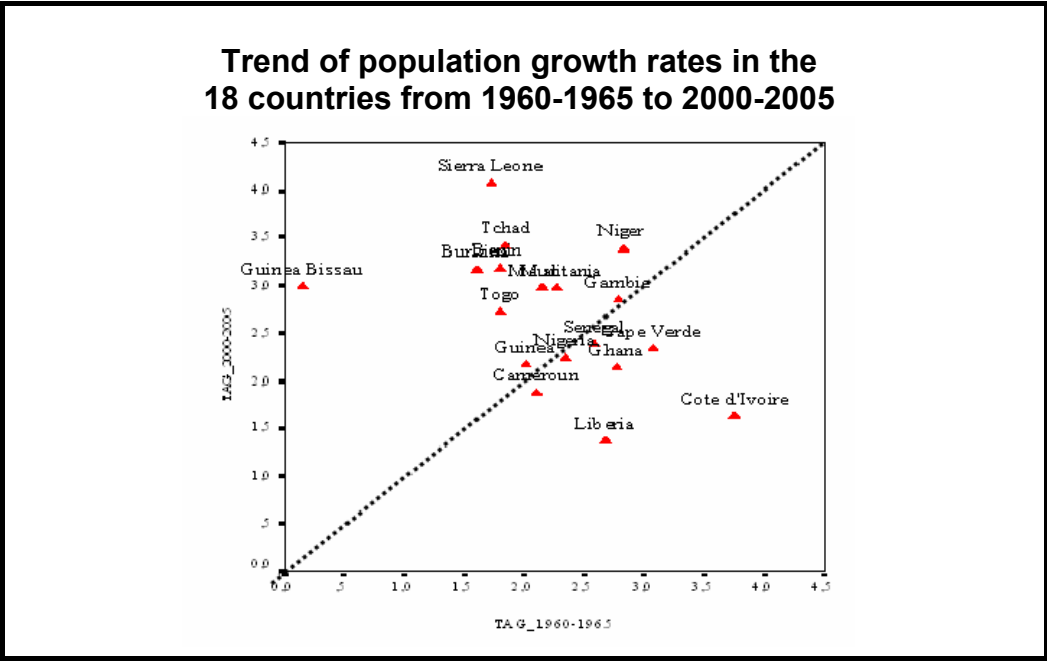


Trend of life expectancy at birth in the 18 countries from 1990-1995 to 2000-2005

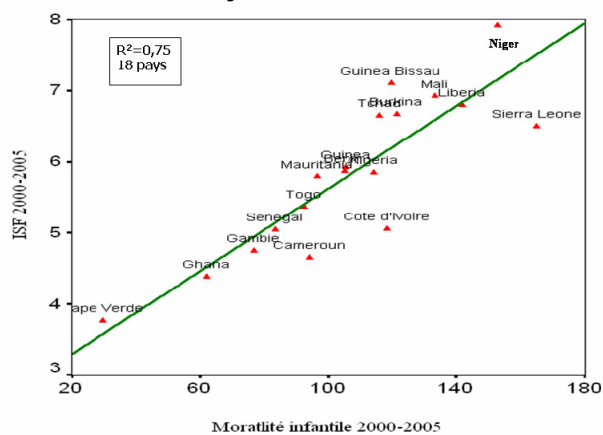


III. How did it get there?

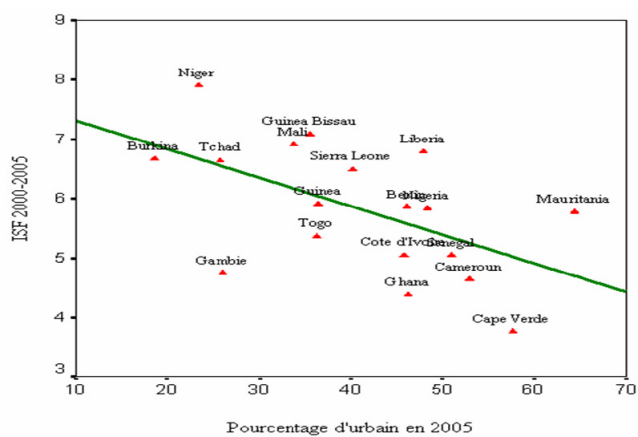
- Rapid population growth followed by a slowing down
 - Decline in mortality rate
 - High fertility rate followed by a drop
 - Decline in infant mortality rate
 - Urbanization
 - Education



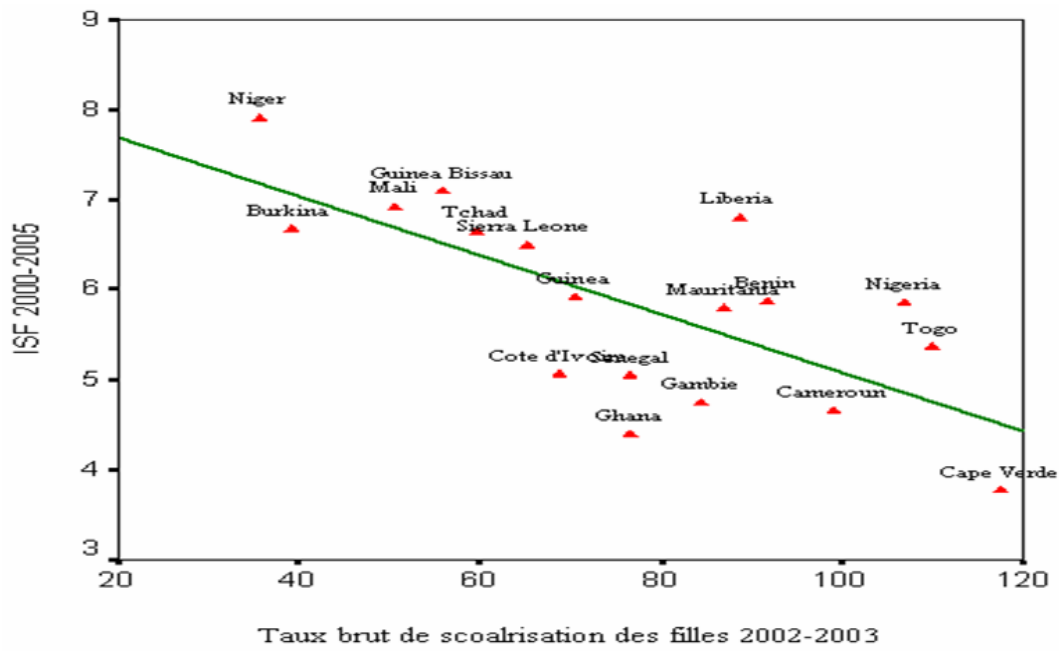
Relationship between the total fertility rate - infant mortality in the 18 countries



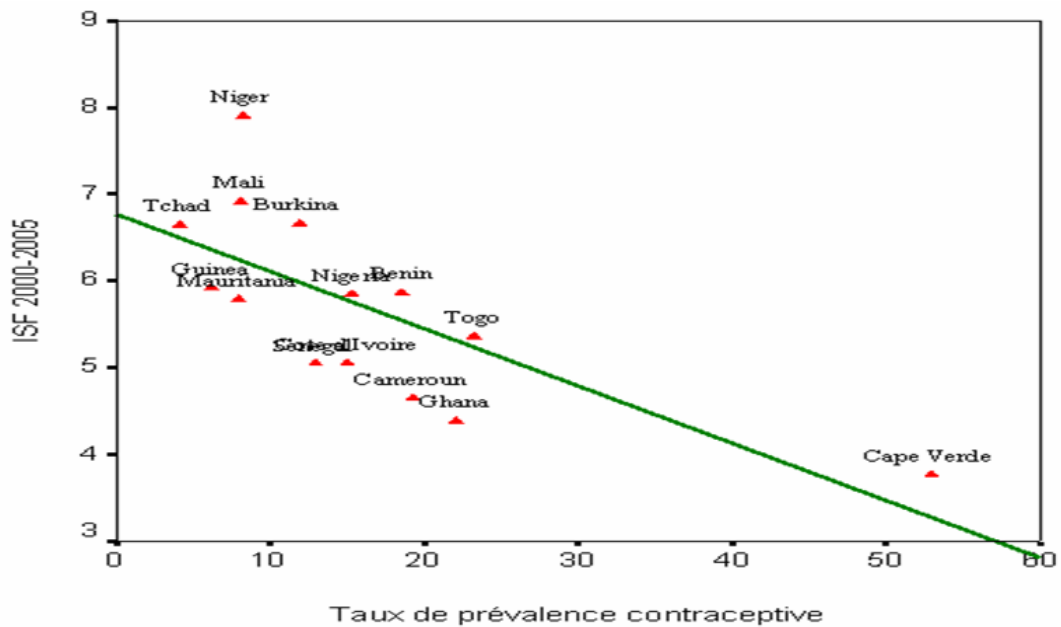
Relationship between total fertility rate - urbanisation in the 18 countries



Relationship between total fertility rate – education of girls



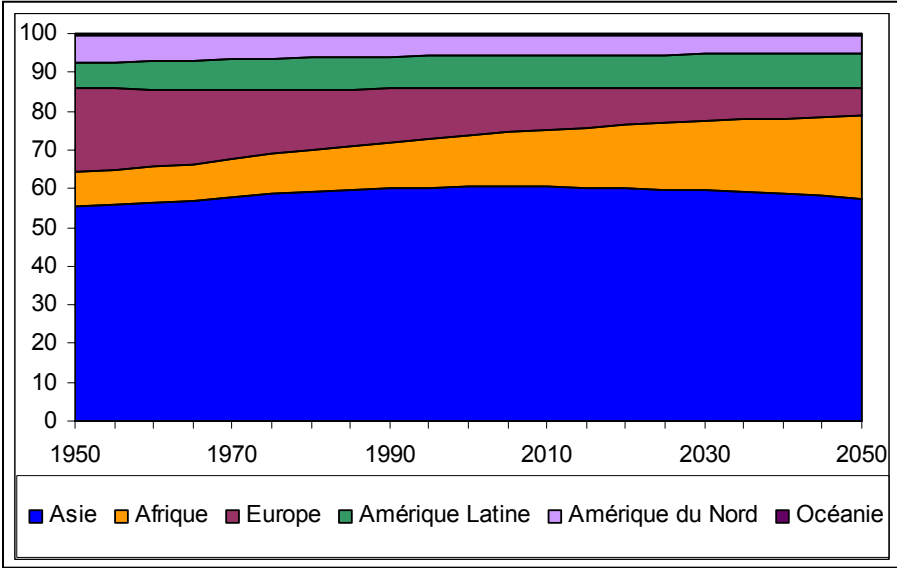
Relationship between total fertility rate – prevalence of contraception



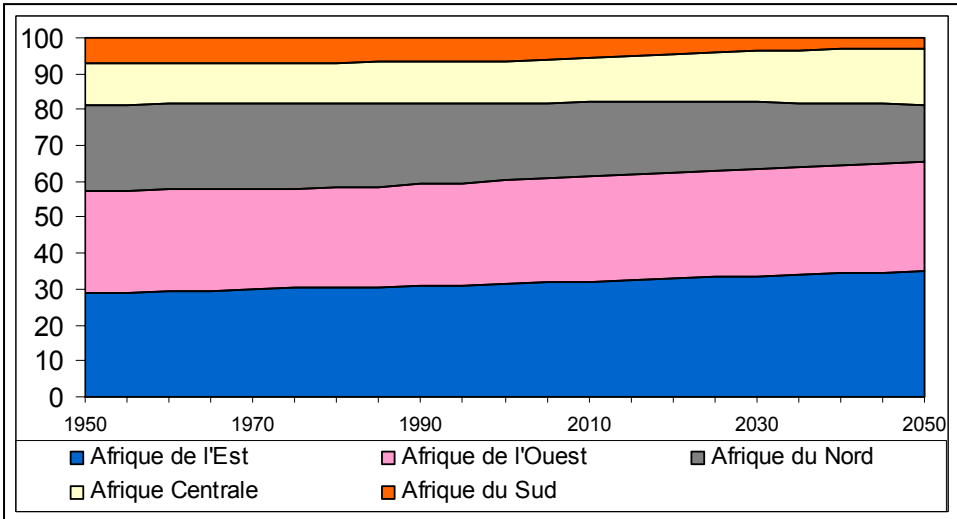
IV. Where is it going?

- Growing influence in the world and in Africa in particular
- Rapid urbanization
- Declining fertility rate
- Population growth slowing down
- Great change of the mortality map
- An ageing population

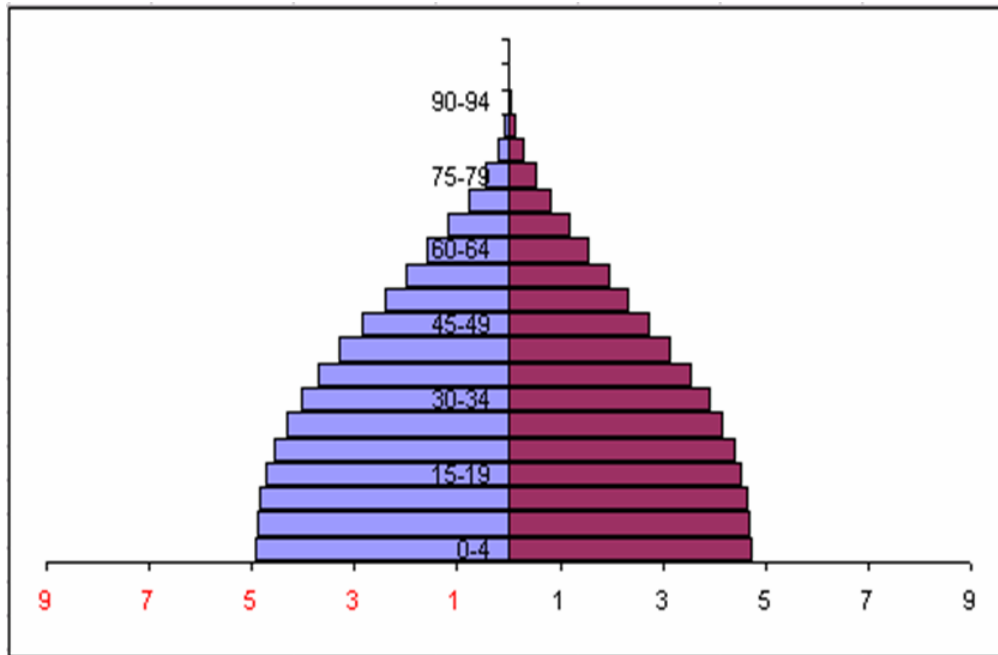
Trend of each major region's share of the world's population



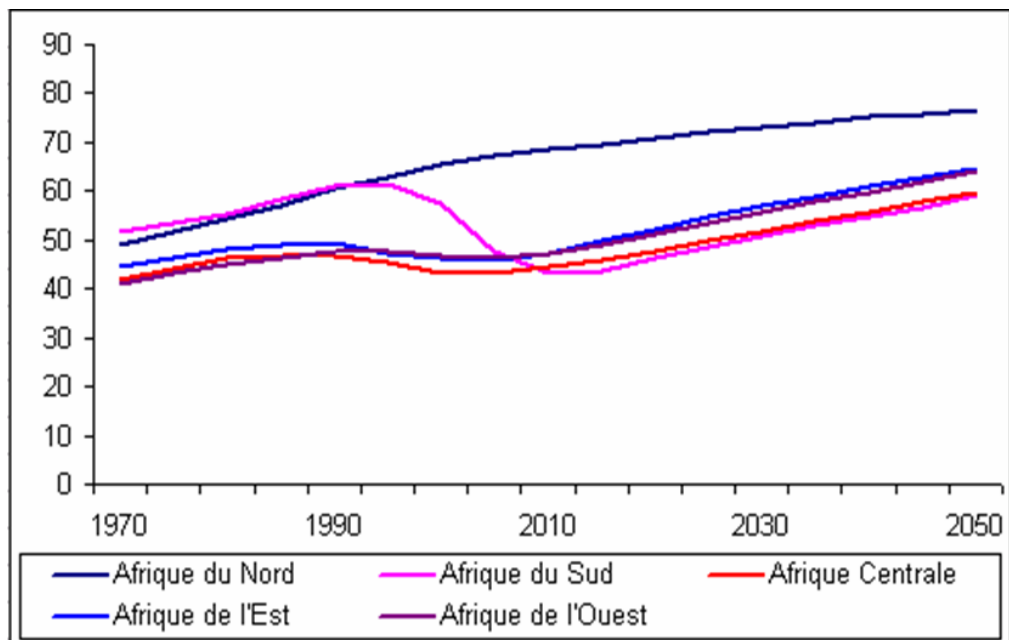
Trend of each region's share in African population



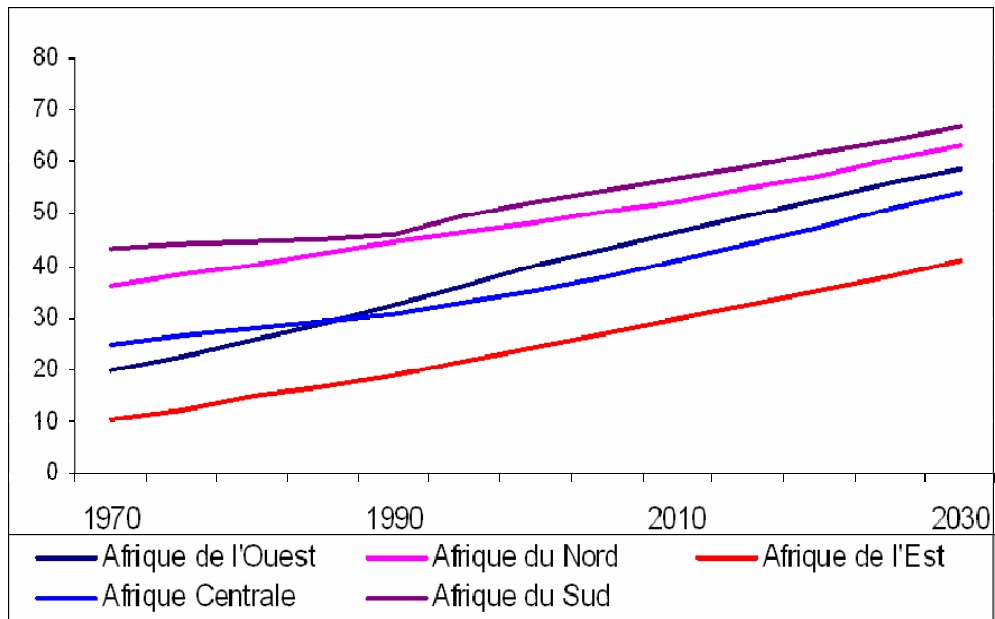
West Africa's age pyramid in 2050



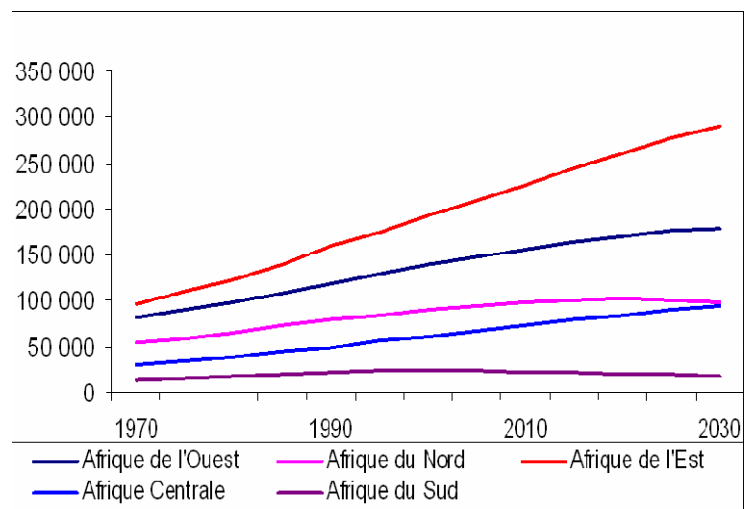
Trend of life expectancy in the five African regions: 1970-2050



Trend of urban percentage in Africa per region



Trend of the rural population size in Africa per region



The population/development issues

- Meeting an increasing social demand
- Taking advantage of the slowing down of population growth to promote sustainable development
- Managing urban growth
- Anticipating problems related to an ageing population
- Ensuring better knowledge of the relationship between population, development, resources and environment



**West African Economic and Monetary Union/
Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine**

Indices, medium- and long term development perspectives

by M. Hamza Ahmadou Cissé
Permanent Secretary to the President of the WAEMU Commission

Summary

Introduction

- I. Social and economic performance indices
 - 1.1 Macro-economic and financial situation of member states
 - 1.2 Social situation and human development indicators
 - 1.3 Socio-political situation
- II. Medium- and Long-Term Perspectives
 - 2.1 Strengthening the economic competitiveness member countries of the WAEMU
 - 2.2 Visibility of the integration process for the populations

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE UNION

Mission and mandate

To promote economic and monetary integration in the sub-region as a lever for the development of member states.

Main objectives

1. To strengthen economic and financial competitiveness of member states.
2. To ensure the harmonisation of macro-economic policies and performances of member states, by instituting a multilateral monitoring mechanism.
3. To create among member states a common market based on the free movement of persons, goods, services, capital and the right to settle in any member country

4. To coordinate National Sectoral policies
5. To harmonise economic and financial legislation.

THE STAKES OF INTEGRATION

- To accelerate the implementation of poverty reduction strategies.
- To facilitate economic and trade relations among member states
- To improve the macro economic framework and the business environment

I. Social and economic indices

1.1 Macro-economic and Financial situation of member states

- Low economic growth rate (4.3% in 2005 compared to 3.0% in 2004)
- A perpetual precarious public finance situation
- A relatively high inflation rate in 2005 (annual average inflation rate of 4.3% compared to 0.6% in 2004) linked to the decline in cereal production during the 2004/2005 agricultural campaign and the continuous rise in the prices of petroleum products.
- Intra-community trade remains at relatively moderate level due to the persistence of some non-tariff barriers.
- A slowdown of the convergence rate.

CONVERGENCE CRITERIA		Achievement of the criteria in 2005 ⁽¹⁾ by country and performances in 2003 and 2004								Number of countries who respected the criteria		
		Benin	Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea Bissau	Mali	Niger	Senegal	Togo	2005	2004	2003
1	Basic budgetary balance over nominal GDP (standard >=0)	0,0	-2,5	-1,4	-7,6	0,6	-1,5	1,6	-2,5	3	3	3
2	Annual average inflation rate (standard <=3%)	5,4	6,4	3,9	3,4	6,4	7,8	1,7	6,8	1	8	6
3	Outstanding discounted bills of total public debt brought forward over nominal GDP (standard <=70%)	40,1	41,3	87,1	358,6	61,3	64,5	45,9	97,6	5	4	3
4	Unaccumulated arrears on payment (in billions)	0	0	458,3	20,0	0	2,2	0	51,6	4	4	5
4.1	Arrears of internal payment	0	0	17,5	5,1	0	2,2	0	22,0	4	4	5
4.2	Arrears of external payment	0	0	440,8	14,9	0	0	0	29,6	5	5	5
5	Salary weight over fiscal revenue (standard <=35%)	39,0	40,0	45,2	109,3	30,9	34,7	30,0	30,4	4	3	4
6	Investments funded on internally generated resources, over fiscal revenue (standard >=20%)	19,8	44,0	10,7	5,7	22,0	38,3	31,4	8,4	4	4	5
7	Current external balance outside aid over nominal GDP (standard >=-5%)	-7,2	-14,7	0,1	-15,7	-9,5	-10,9	-9,7	-15,3	1	1	1
8	Rate of fiscal pressure (standard >=17%)	14,5	11,3	14,4	11,2	15,4	10,6	18,7	14,6	1	1	1
Number of criteria respected by country	2005	3	3	1	0	5	3	7	1			

1.2 Social situation and human development indicators

- Poverty remains a major problem in member countries, a situation exacerbated by problems such as AIDS, malaria and illiteracy.
- Human development indicators are at a less than satisfactory level (estimated 45% of the total population is living below the poverty line; life expectancy at birth is 47%. Almost half of the adult population (44%) is illiterate and more than 50% do not have access to potable water in the rural areas).

1.3 Socio-political situation

- Socio-political instability especially in Togo, Guinea Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire.
- Impact of the Ivorian crises on the economies of neighbouring countries and on the economy of the sub-region as a whole.
- A couple of violent clashes which lead to precarious living conditions, displacement of the population of the sub-region and the increased large labour-related migratory flows from member countries to developed countries.

II. Visions and perspectives

2.1 Strengthening the economic competitiveness of countries in the WAEMU

- Strengthening of the customs union and the common market through monitoring the implementation of agreed upon reforms (related to the free circulation agricultural, livestock, handicrafts and industrial products, not applicable to entry taxes and various customs duties or charges; entered into force since 1 January 2000, the setting up of a customs union based on the Common External Tariff (CET) which sets import duties at 22%; set up a trade monitoring mechanism; adoption of community laws regulating competitiveness and trade as well as the creating observatories to monitoring illicit practices in the area of the free circulation of goods, adoption of laws concerning the right to establish liberal professions, etc.)
- Implementation of sectoral policies (policies adopted until now concerning industrial sectors (1999), mines (2000), handicrafts, agriculture and energy (2001), transport and territorial development (2004) and telecommunications (in 2006)

2.2 Visibility of the integration process for the populations

Two important frameworks have been defined:

- THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROGRAMME (REP)

OBJECTIVES

- Rehabilitating and modernising basic infrastructure in the WAEMU.
- Strengthening political and economic good governance.
- Improving competitiveness of WAEMU industries and promoting SME/SMI
- Valorisation and processing of natural resources.
- Cost: 2. 910 billion CFA franc of which 908 (31.2 %) has been acquired and 2 002 (68.8 %) is sought.

- THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY (SDRP)

OBJECTIVES

- Creating wealth
- Creating non-agricultural revenue in the rural areas
- Strengthening capacities of the private sector
- Building capacities and promoting basic social services

VISIONS AND PERSPECTIVES (CONTINUED)

Expected results from the REP and SDPR

- Expected results from the implementation of REP

Achievement of an annual average growth rate of more than 7% GDP

Strengthening economic competitiveness of the countries in the WAEMU by reducing the cost of production

Development of basic infrastructure within the framework of an open and competitive market in a legally-harmonised environment

Expected results from the implementation of the SDPR in the region are:

- Intensification of intra-community trade
- Diversification of production and exportations
- Achievement of MDGs by the year 2015
- Restoring peace in the sub-region
- Promoting both economic and political good governance



**Permanent Interstate Committee for
Drought Control in the Sahel**

The Sahel and West Africa: Current Situation and Prospects in terms of Food Security, Natural Resource Management and Desertification Control

by M. Issa Martin Bikienga
CILSS Deputy Executive Secretary

OUTLINE

- I. Summary introduction of the CILSS
- II. Food security trends in the Sahel
- III. Natural Resources Management and Desertification Control
- IV. CILSS-SWAC Partnership

1973

A date that left lasting marks on the Sahelian populations and the International Community

Characterised by many imbalances

1. Ecological imbalance resulting from the downward trend of rainfall, persistent drought and anthropogenic pressure on the natural resources, leading to accelerated desertification;
2. Socio-economic imbalance caused by urbanization, with the calling into question of the traditional risk management systems, an increase in monetary requirements and diminishing traditional solidarity ties, etc... ;
3. Public policy imbalance due to heavy indebtedness of the Sahelian countries leading to agricultural and food policy reforms and a downsizing of their ambitions.

Today, the word "Sahel" refers to both an agro-climatic zone and "geopolitical" entity. Because the zone spans over a number of States commonly known as "Sahelian" states, gathered within a common organisation, i.e.,:

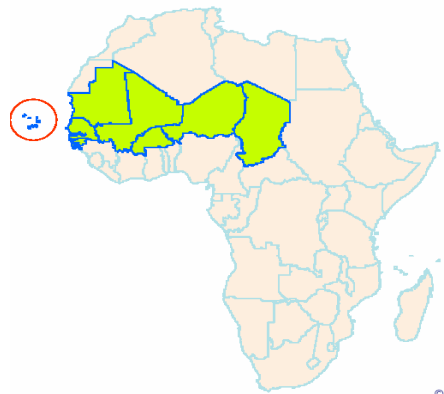
CILSS

(the Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel).

I. Summary Presentation of the CILSS

An inter-governmental Organisation established on 12 September 1973. The CILSS brings together nine (9) Sahelian countries, namely: Burkina Faso, Cape-Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

Its headquarters are based in Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso. The CILSS has an Executive Secretariat and two Specialized Institutions: the Sahel Institute (**INSAH/Bamako**) and the **AGRHYMET** Regional Centre/**Niamey**.



Mandate

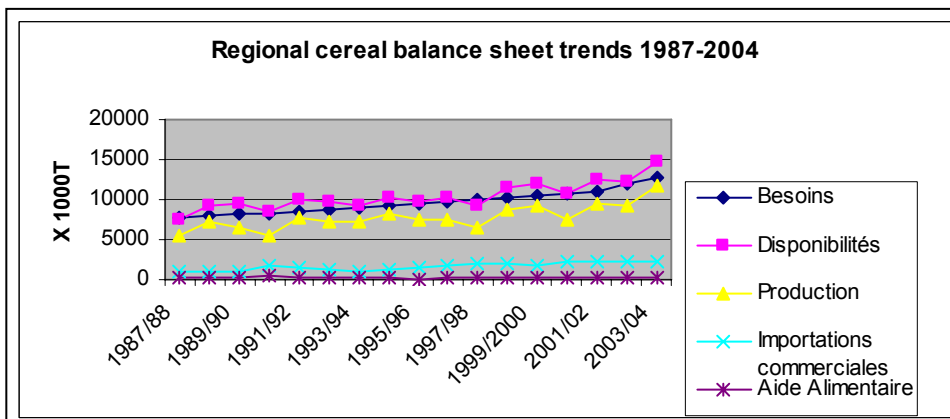
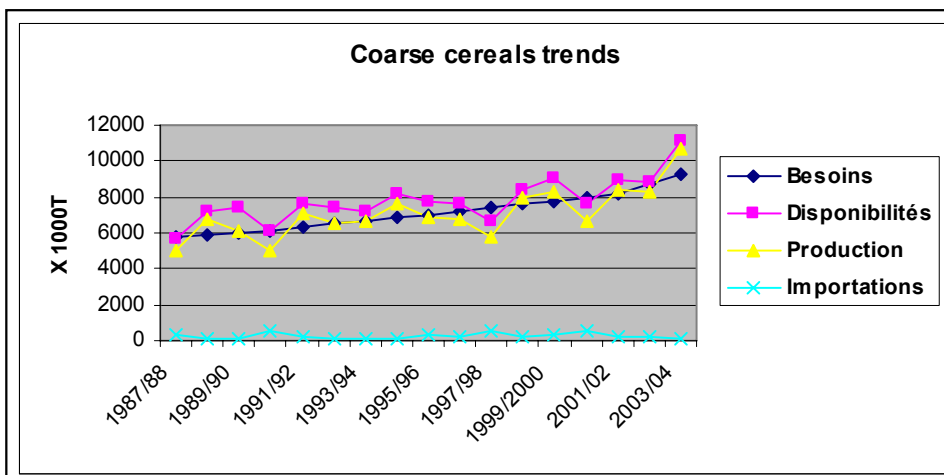
The CILSS' initial mandate was: to coordinate all activities aimed at combating drought and its effects within the region

The current mandate of the CILSS is to: **“Devote efforts towards the quest for food security and combating the effects of drought and desertification for a new ecological balance of the Sahel”**.

Programmes/Projects developed by the CILSS

- Agricultural Statistics
- Research – Training
- Agriculture – Livestock - Water Resources Management and Forestry
- Infrastructures-Transports
- Coordination (regional emergency plan)

II. Food Security trends in the Sahel



Outcome of the cropping season 2005-2006 in the Sahel

	Total Production 2005/2006 (x1000 T)	Variance (%) compared to 2004/2005
Burkina Faso	3 649	+26
Cape Verde	4	-64
Gambia	241	+8
Guinea Bissau	212	+24
Mali	3 137	+10
Mauritania	202	+77
Niger	3 737	+36
Senegal	1 433	+28
Chad	1 963	+62
CILSS	14 580	+28

Provisional cereal balance-sheet 2006-2007

Based on the outcome of the cropping season 2005-2006

Gross surplus: Burkina Faso (493 700 T), Mali (32 400 T), the Gambia (32 600 T), Chad (248 200 T)

Gross deficit: Cape Verde (94 400 T), Guinea Bissau (76 900 T), Senegal (931 800 T), Niger (85 900 T), Mauritania (401 000 T)

Taking into account planned imports (1 Nov.2006 – 31 Oct. 2007)

Surplus countries, after imports:

Burkina Faso (704 500 T), Guinea Bissau (2000 T), Senegal (83 900 T), Chad (313 200 T), Niger (227 000 T), Mali (2294 200 T), the Gambia (145 900 T)

Deficit countries, after imports: Mauritania (64 600 T),
Cape Verde: balance

III. Natural resources management and desertification control

LAND TENURE ISSUES IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

- Current events characterised by: (i) persistent and more and more serious land tenure related crises and; (ii) land security, a requirement for sustainable development and effective poverty reduction.

- 5 emerging issues were identified as a source for major concern: (i) land security options; (ii) equitable access to natural resources; (iii) decentralisation and land tenure; (iv) land tenure and sub-regional integration; (v) land tenure and sustainable agriculture.

THE CILSS RESPONSES TO MEETING THE CHALLENGES

- Development and implementation of several regional programmes on food security, natural resources management and climate monitoring, including *inter alia*: (PRASET, PADLOS or underway - RSP I and II, PREDAS, FLCD/RPS, IREM/LCD, Adaptation to Climate Change Project etc.).
- The CILSS has been leading, since 1984, various consultations and policy dialogues around the land tenure and natural resources issue, among the stakeholders the latest of which was the meeting in Bamako in 2003 (an assessment of the Praia encounter in 1994).
- The CILSS also developed important environmental governance tools in support of the decision-makers and actors, especially the regulatory frameworks (on pesticides, biotechnologies, bio- safety), and environmental and ecological monitoring systems.

PROSPECTS

- Implementation of a land charter for West Africa;
- Surveillance/environmental monitoring of land tenure conflicts resulting from the use of natural resources;
- Capacity building of NRM stakeholders in the Sahel and development of synergies and promotion of consultative bodies about NRM;
- Promotion of investment in NRM and development of sound economic arguments for the case of NRM;
- Promotion and development of alternative energies in the Sahel;
- Other new priorities for the CILSS (organisation of regional consultations for the development of a land vision in Africa, implementation of the SRAP/WA, implementation of some action sub-programmes of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy, the regional seeds catalogue, regional master plan for the management of the WAEMU zone etc.).

Regional issues and challenges

A demographic challenge: what is at stake is to feed:

- ➔ 85 million Sahelian people by 2015
- ➔ 100 million by 2025 (more than 60 % will be living in towns and will get their food supplies from the market)

A moral challenge:

- ↗ What is at stake here is to guarantee respect for the right of each person to food: nowadays 17 million Sahelians are exposed to hunger and malnutrition

↗ *Though the other West African countries are less subjected than the Sahelians to climate related circumstantial crises, the situation is nevertheless also worrying there: poverty, conflicts, etc.*

An economic challenge

The Sahelian countries have a very limited and fragile export base

A social challenge

Improving the regional social environment is a key factor to the economic revival needed for alleviating poverty, especially in the rural areas

A challenge for the economic integration within West and Central Africa

Food security based primarily on the region's resources requires greater integration of West and Central African markets

A challenge for the on-going democratisation and sub political -regional integration processes

Domestic or cross-border conflict prevention and resolution in the sub-region are key elements for food security and agricultural development in the broad sense

Challenges

The Sahel has many challenges to face:

- Permanent food insecurity (fragile areas)
- Poverty reduction,
- Combating desertification,
- Access to drinking water,
- Alarming malnutrition rates,
- Locust invasion,
- HIV/AIDS and its consequences on the production system of the Sahel,
- Recent outbreak of avian influenza,
- Strengthening good governance as regards Food Security and Natural resources Management.

ECOLOGICAL BALANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY

To restore the ecological balance and ensure sustainable food security, the CILSS took the lead and encouraged Heads of State and Governments of its member States to adopt in December 2000 in Bamako (Mali), **a Sustainable Food Security Strategic Framework with a View to Poverty Reduction.**

Overall objective of the Strategy Framework:

*“To ensure access to food, permanently, for all Sahelian men and women, needed to lead active and healthy life **by year 2015**”.*

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE CSSA (Food Security Strategic Framework):

Specific objective No. 1:

Promote a more productive, diversified, sustainable and more regionally integrated agriculture .

Specific objective No. 2:

Develop the national markets and make them more developed and more fluid and better integrated within the sub-region.

Specific objective No. 3:

Improve, on a sustainable basis, the conditions of access to food and basic social services for the vulnerable groups and zones.

Specific objective n° 4 :

Sustainably improve the systems for the prevention and management of cyclic crises consistent with the development of food security.

Specific objective No. 5:

Develop the capacities of the stakeholders and ensure the promotion of good governance on food security.

IV. CILSS–SWAC Partnership *

Background of the CILSS –SWAC cooperation*:

Since its creation in 1976, the SWAC has developed close relations with CILSS in the field of Food Security.

This cooperation was full of ups and downs, because:

- from 1976 to 2000, the collaboration was very fruitful,
- from 2000 to 2004, there was a pause,
- It then took off again in 2005.

The Sahel development programme (supported by SWAC)

(Getting the Sahel make progress towards food self sufficiency)

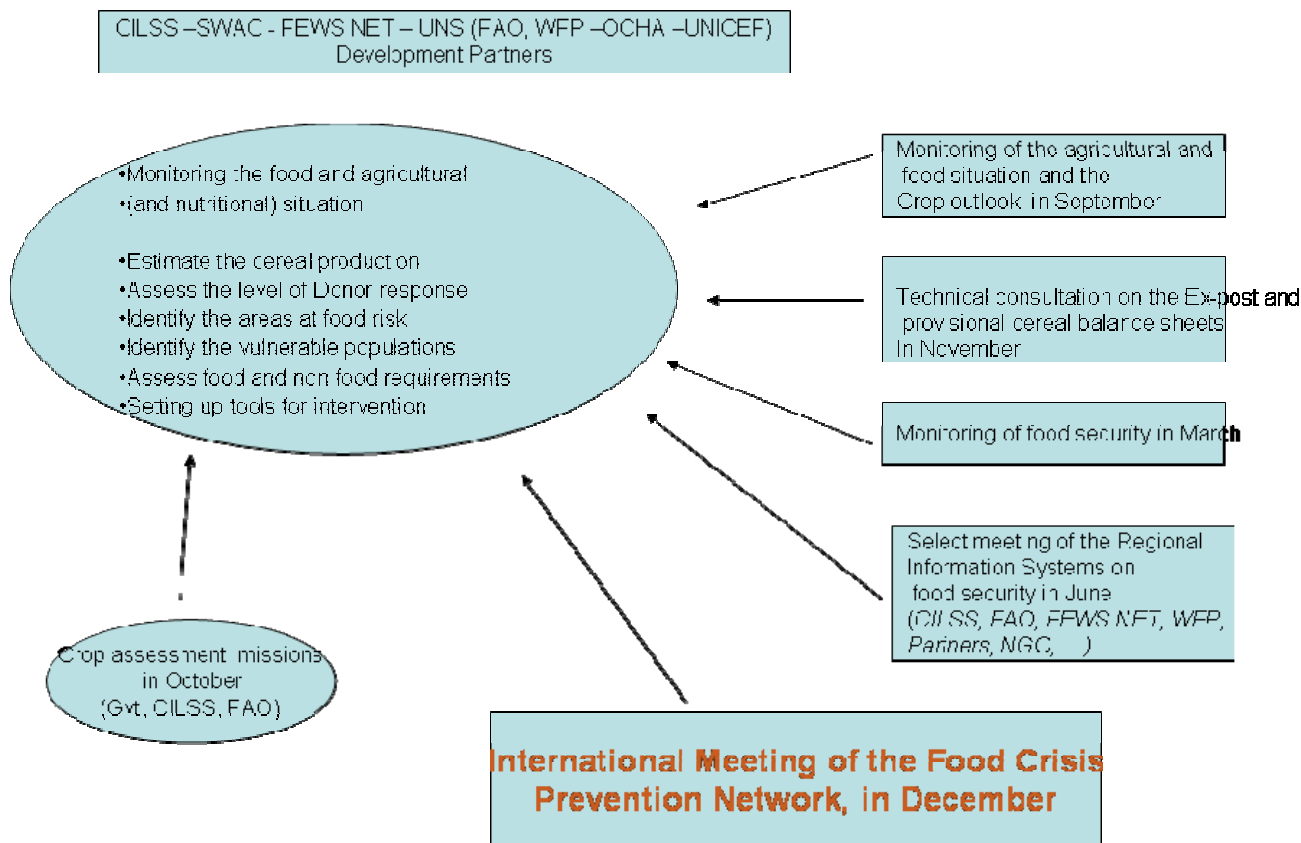
- CILSS/SWAC sectoral meetings
- Setting up of the first generation programme within the framework of the 1977-1982 global aid
 - Target sectors: dry crops, *irrigated crops*, *village water supply*, *animal husbandry*, *crop protection*, *ecology/forests*, *marketing*, *transportation and human resources*.

PROSPECTS FOR THE CILSS - SWAC COOPERATION

- **Strengthen the cooperation in the field of prevention and management of food crises**, with an active and multi-faceted participation of SWAC in the FCPN (Food Crises Prevention Network in the Sahel),

- **Initiate a new base for collaboration in the field of food security (water control, livestock, ...)**
- **Carry out actions to combat desertification** by promoting joint projects geared towards concretely stopping desert encroachment and mitigating the effects of drought.
- **Develop the organisational capacity of grassroots stakeholders** in the field of FS (food security) and NRM (natural resources management) so as to promote the sound management of their organisations as well as their participation in the various projects and programmes,
- **Support CILSS in the global implementation of the Sustainable Food Security Strategic Framework (CSSA) for the period 2005 – 2015.**
 - (i) Reactivation of the land tenure charter development process for West Africa;
 - (ii) Implementation of an environmental surveillance system including the monitoring of conflicts arising from the use of natural resources;
 - (iii) Putting the SRAP/WA (Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in West Africa) into operation;
 - (iv) Development of arguments to the benefit of NRM through “The Sahel Study”.

Facilitation of the regional food security monitoring system



Succinct report of the FCPN meeting (April 2006)

Main topics addressed:

- *The priorities and tools for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made at the various meetings on food security since 2000 and more particularly those from the annual meeting of the Network in December 2005 .*
- *Proposals of items to be included in the agenda for the next annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network.*

Main recommendations of the FCPN meeting (April 2006):

- **Follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations** on food security from 2000 to 2006: each member of the network is invited to take the responsibility of carrying out a few activities, in line with the recommendations of the network.
- **Solve** the problem of resources for the regional monitoring system; sensitisation of CILSS and SWAC on “how to do” so as to address the problem of malnutrition.
- **Need for** improving communication and information for the national and regional information systems.
- **Monitor** the bird flu and study its impact on food security especially the poor sales of poultry and the drop in price on the income of the households.
- **The necessity to work closely with WAEMU and ECOWAS.**
- **Work towards enlarging the membership of the network :**
Here the question which deserves special consideration is: how to maintain and better involve the economic operators, the humanitarian agencies, the NGOs as well as the new donor countries (like Japan for example, which is a steady and regular donor of the Sahel countries) in the Network’s discussions while maintaining the informal nature and the select framework favourable to the discussions.

THE FCPN PROGRAMME FOR 2006

- 1- Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations on food security in the Sahel and in West Africa (CILSS/ES)
- 2- Agricultural, food and nutritional situation in West Africa (CILSS/ES-ARC) and assessment of the food aids in the Sahel and worldwide (WFP / Interfaix)
- 3 - Presentation of the harmonised framework and implementation of the food balance sheet (CILSS/ES)
- 4 – Assessment of the activities to monitor the markets and cross-border trade in West Africa (CILSS/ES, SWAC-FEWS NET, MIFRAC, WFP ...)
- 5- Land tenure, agrarian reforms and food insecurity (FAO/SDR)
- 6- Consideration of the nutritional aspects in surveillance and early warning (CILSS/ES)
- 7- Evaluation of the food aid charter (CILSS/ES-SWAC)
- 8- Quality Charter for statistical data, case study of Burkina Faso (CILSS/ES)
- 9- Study on the behaviour of the various stakeholders as regards storage (CILSS/INSAH)
- 10- Assess the coordination and policy dialogues between the IGOs (ECOWAS, CILSS, WAEMU) and the FCPN on food security issues.



African Development Bank

Future Of The West African Region: The Bank's Vision and Intervention Strategy

by Mrs. Sylvie Condé
Senior Economist at the ADB

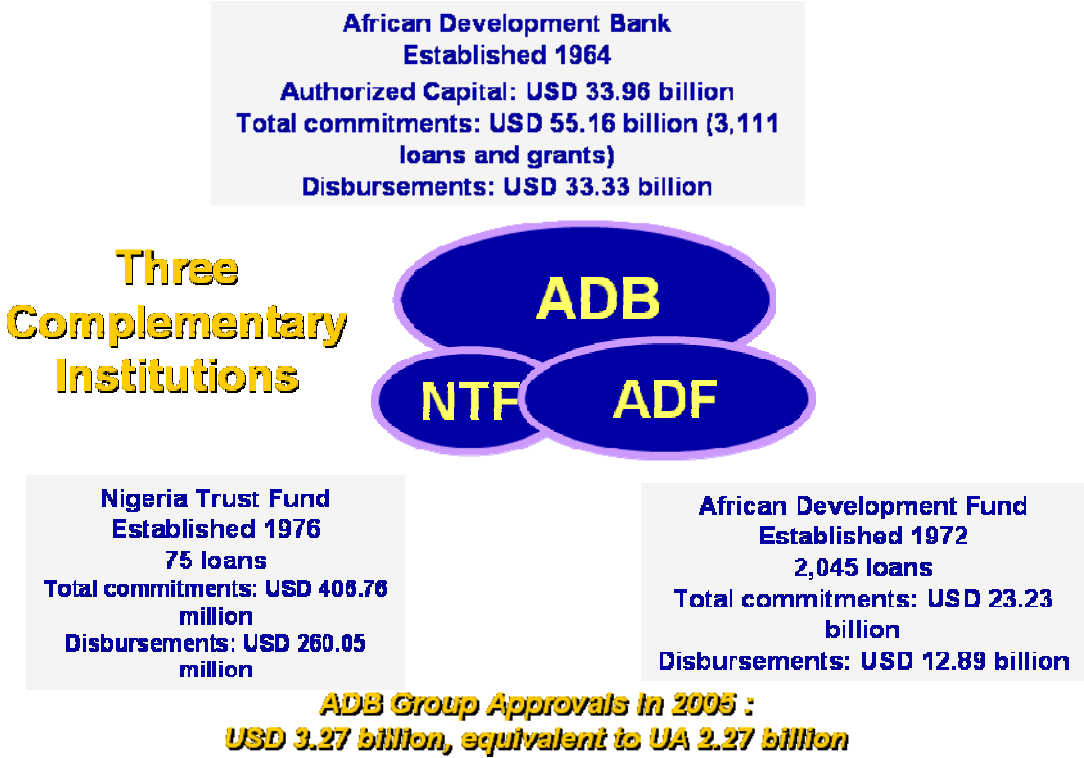
PRESENTATION PLAN

- I. THE BANK GROUP
- II. INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS
- III. THE FUTURE OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGION: THE BANK'S VISION
- IV. STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS OF THE BANK AND INTERVENTION STRATEGY
- V. OVERVIEW OF THE 2005-2007 LENDING PROGRAMME
- VI. AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH THE CLUB

I. The Bank Group

Mandate

- Contribute to the economic development and social progress of Member States individually and **collectively**
- Finance **investment projects and programmes** in order to reduce poverty
- Mobilise resources, particularly through **co-financing** with multilateral and bilateral development agencies
- Provide **technical assistance** required for conducting studies, as well as preparing, financing and implementing development projects and programmes

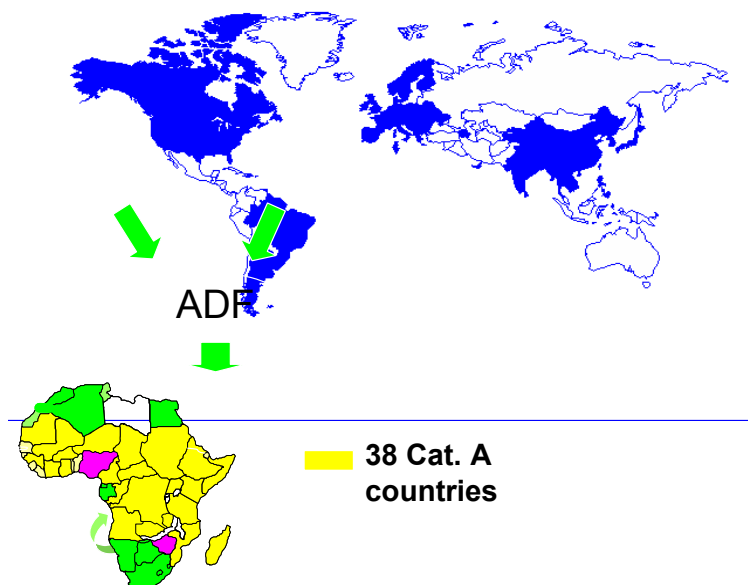


ADF: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY FOR CONCESSIONAL RESOURCES

ADB and 26 Participant States

	Year	USD billion
ADF I	1976-78	0.327
ADF II	1979-81	0.712
ADF III	1982-84	1.00
ADF IV	1985-87	1.50
ADF V	1988-90	2.80
ADF VI	1991-93	3.42
ADF VII	1996-98	3.20
ADF VIII	1999-2001	3.38
ADF IX	2002-2004	3.67
ADF X	2005-2007	5.27

Total subscriptions:
USD 13.89 billion



II. Institutional Reforms

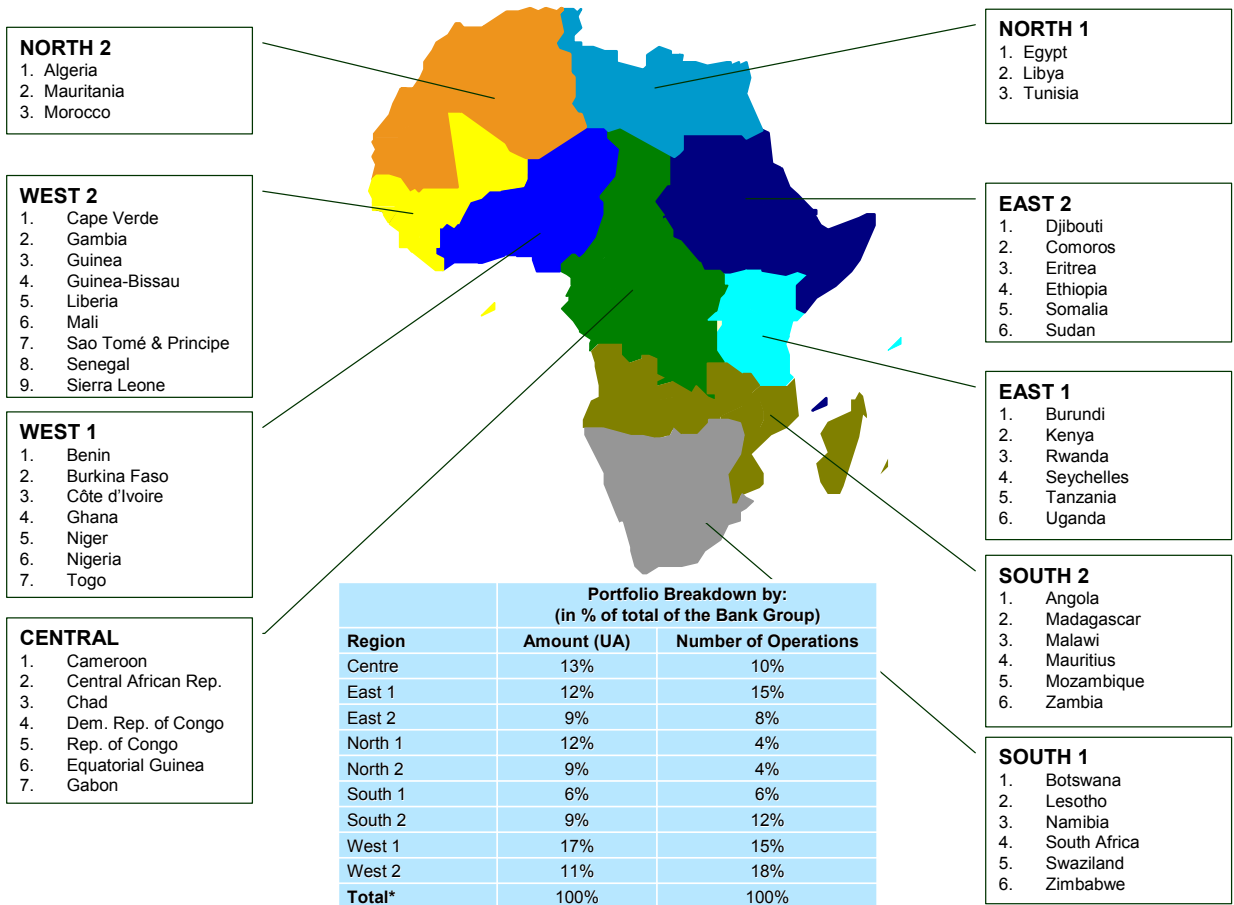
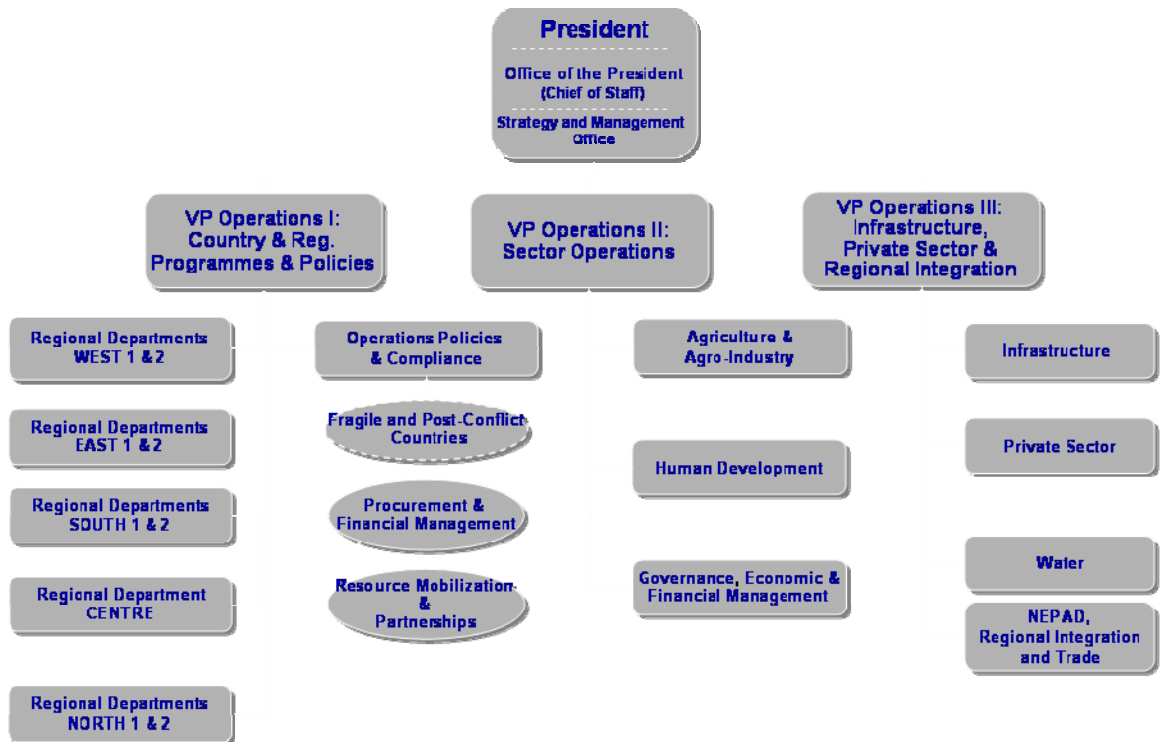
- **The New Structure adopted in April 2006**

Situation:

- Difficulties of RMCs in achieving MDGs
- Need for an efficient institution
- New international opportunities

Objectives:-

- Change the Bank's culture
- Prioritize country and regional focus
- Promote alignment and harmonization, as well as management for results in accordance with the Paris Declaration



III. Future of West Africa and the Continent: the Bank's Vision

- **Recent Trends**

- Sustained growth rate of 4.4% in 2005 as compared to 4.5% for the continent

- **Causes:**

- Stability of macro-economic framework: pursuance of prudent budget policies
- Improvement of terms of trade
- Strong mobilisation of the International Community: G8 and the Multilateral Debt Initiative, Consortium for Africa
- Dynamism of regional organizations: ECOWAS and the WAEMU

- **Continuing constraints**

- **Exogenous Constraints:**

- Fluctuation of prices of exports and imported raw materials
- Vulnerability of economies to climatic conditions and parasites
- Sub-regional instability

- **Structural Constraints:**

- Weak administrative capacities and absorptive capacities of economies
- Fragile situation of public finance
- Limited diversification of economies
- Weak private sector

- **Sectoral Constraints**

- Lack of relevant sectoral policies with result indicators (employment and infrastructure)

- **Governance Deficit**

- Good governance covers the following concepts: (i) an effective State; (ii) a mobilised civil society; and (iii) an efficient public administration and private sector.
- Transfer of skills between generations, etc.

- **Major Challenges:**

- Promotion of sustainable development to reduce poverty and create jobs (increase in population and high proportion of youth); 55% of population below 20 years of age;
- Successful integration of economies into globalisation. West Africa 1% of world trade and investments. This calls for improvement of economic competitiveness;
- Strengthening of regional integration to construct a viable common economic, political and social zone;
- Improvement of governance to promote sound management practices, as well as conflict prevention and reduction.

IV. Strategic orientations of the Bank: the vision

- The vision's priority intervention areas are as follows:
 - **At the national level :** Agriculture and rural development; social sectors and private sector development.
 - **At the regional level :** Sustained support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).
 - **Cross-cutting activities:** Promotion of environmental management and gender parity; promotion of good governance, and control of sexually transmitted diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS
- Furthermore, the Bank will continue to support structural reforms and debt relief operations in RMCs through debt relief proposals made by the G8.

Overview

- Medium-term development strategies based on achieving the MDGs focusing on reducing poverty by half by 2015.

Main Pillars for Achieving the Strategy:

- Strong and sustained growth (about 7%), prioritizing:
- better access to basic social services;
- job creation; and
- promotion of good governance practices.

- **Intervention Instruments:** Project and Non-Project Loans

- **Non-Project Loans**

- The Bank contributes to the financing of reform programmes aimed at:
 - Improving the macro-economic framework;
 - Pursuing structural reforms to improve competitiveness and diversification;
 - Formulating sectoral policies; and
 - Strengthening public sector management.

- **Lending Instruments (cont'd) Project Loans:**

- The major sectors of the vision's intervention, in particular agriculture, water initiative, etc.
- Strengthening countries' administrative capacities
- Support for private sector development.

Multinational Operations: Infrastructure

V. Overview of 2005-2007 lending programme

WEST REGION – 2005-2007 INDICATIVE LENDING PROGRAMME						
SECTOR	National Projects			Multinational Projects		
	Number	Amount	%	Number	Amount	%
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	23	272.15	24.7	4	66.43	21.7
TRANSPORTATION	7	108.44	9.9	6	173.56	56.7
RURAL ENVIRONMENT WATER AND SANITATION	7	218.00	19.8			
ELECTRICITY	2	24.20	2.2	2	25.60	8.4
FINANCE	1	8.00	0.7			
SOCIAL	12	197.74	18.0	2	21.30	7.0
POLICY-BASED LENDING	11	248.18	22.6			
CAPACITY BUILDING	9	23.20	2.1	3	19.11	6.2
TOTAL	72	1,099.91	100.0	17	306.00	100.0

VI. Areas of collaboration with the Sahel and West Africa Club

- Between the Bank and the Club, collaboration exists within the OECD in the annual publication of the review "African Development Outlook". An agreement between the Club and the Bank is being prepared.
- In light of the Club's mandate, prospects for collaboration exist in the following areas:
 - ESW: Conducting studies and consultation seminars on all sensitive development issues: medium-term development perspectives, analysis of governance issues;
 - Updating of the Vision: Launching strategic thinking on the relevance of updating the Bank's vision in light of significant transformations in countries of the sub-region;
- Agricultural development and food security issues: priority areas of Bank intervention.
- Population Issues: Attention to impact of immigration on West African economies in order to define the demographic aspects of immigration and emigration

- Regional integration: Finalization of assistance strategy for West African regional integration
- Analysis of requirements for capacity building in countries of the sub-region so as to pursue strategic thinking on endogenous governance.
- Strengthening collaboration with the Bank's field offices in the sub-region to organize workshops on issues of common interest, gender, population, regional integration, and results of joint evaluations.
- Four field offices have been opened in the West African Region:
 - Nigeria-NGCO,
 - Mali-MLCO,
 - Senegal-SENRO
 - Burkina Faso-BFCO.
- Financing joint studies to promote the private sector and studies on agricultural sub-sectors

Thank you for your kind attention.

Our Website: <http://www.afdb.org>



United Nations

Economic Commission for Africa

West Africa: Situation and Medium and long term Perspectives

by Mrs. Joséphine Ouedraogo
Acting Deputy Executive Secretary

Introduction

- First allow me to thank the Sahel and West Africa Club for associating the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with the celebration of its thirtieth anniversary. The ECA acknowledges and values the work accomplished by the Club over these last three decades, which provided impetus for efforts made by political and social actors in countries involved, especially those of the CILSS, while mobilising increased and sustainable support by the international community for development programmes in the region.
- The ECA and the Sahel and West Africa Club share a number of concerns, notably in the area of regional integration, sustainable development, and governance. Hence we join the Sahel and West Africa Club in acknowledging the core issue we must address today: **where and how will the 430 million West Africans live by 2020?**
- We believe that all the political decision-makers meeting right now in Banjul for the African Union Heads of State Summit should think about the same question concerning the billion of inhabitants who will live on the continent by 2025. The Millennium Development Goals, as well as NEPAD, provide only partial answers to this question. **How are changes to be instigated which will inescapably lead to achieving the MDGs and NEPAD's expectations? This is the challenge we face today.**
- The Forum that brings us here is very timely because it provides another opportunity for us to consider together these issues, at least for the West African region.
- The ECA's contribution to this discussion will mainly focus on the three following aspects:

- A- A cross reading of the situation in the region shows positive developments in terms of political and social dynamics, whereas some recurrent phenomenon such as poverty, transcontinental migration, endless conflict and famine, reveal the failure of the economic systems in force.
- B- Based on current trends, what are the medium and long term development prospects? While responding to this question, the conditions needed to reverse the negative trends must be examined.
- C- What type of multilateral partnership could contribute to modifying the negative trends and what are the areas involved?

First Part: Perception of the situation in the region

Every year the ECA conducts, through its five (5) sub-regional offices, a survey on the prevalent economic and social conditions in Africa.

For the Sahel and West Africa region, the analysis made by the Sahel and West Africa Club in its January 2005 Newsletter is as comprehensive as possible and very interesting.

- (a) To paraphrase the Sahel and West Africa Club, we only have to support the unprecedented and unique population explosion in the world (in the sub-region and West Africa?), with an increase in urban population by 15 to 45 % of the overall population within the space of 25 years (to be confirmed). However, it would be important to understand the contributory factors to population growth. Furthermore, it is rather exceptional growth given the fact that Burkina Faso was the first sub-Saharan African country to adopt a family planning policy in 1985.
- (b) By contrast, economic growth was uneven in the sub-region over the last 5 years. From 3.5% in 2001, it dropped to 1.6% in 2002, and then, increased to reach 7.1% in 2003. There was a decrease in 2004 with a growth rate of 3.4%, followed again by a rise of 5.8% in 2005. According to preliminary estimations, there will be a slight drop in 2006 with a growth rate of about 5.3%.

These variations are good examples of the fact that the economic growth in most of the countries involved still greatly suffer from climatic threats, especially rainfall, given the fact that these countries' economies rely mainly on primary agricultural production, except Cape Verde, which for a long time has the highest GDP with \$ 2562 per capita in 2005 for a regional average of \$ 602.

The analysis of growth rates raises again the issue related to the structure of the national economies. It is obvious that without economic diversification based on industrialisation able to generate higher employment rates, economic growth will remain dependent on rainfall and local product price fluctuations. However, such economic diversification and industrialisation must be developed by taking into account the needs in terms of industrial and agricultural inputs (equipment and machinery, fertilizers, other chemical products, for example), as well as the need for high level food and agricultural product processing industries to meet the increasing demand by increasingly urbanised consumers.

Central Africa has displayed a growth rate of 8.7%, which is above the average in the other African regions. These rates show a very large disparity between countries of the region, ranging from 33.6% in Chad, to 1.2 % in RCA. High growth rates recorded in Chad, Angola and Equatorial Guinea result mainly from the steady increase in oil prices and in oil production. But this does not necessarily signify improvement in living conditions of the majority of the population over the same period.

- (c) *The structure of the Sahelian countries' economies explains increasing poverty, which some years develops into famine* (Niger, Mali, and Burkina) and leads to the aggressive migratory phenomenon of youth towards Northern countries.

According to a survey conducted by Majid¹ in 2001, "working poverty", i.e. those who live with less than \$1 per day, accounted for 75% of workers in 1997 in Sub-Saharan Africa. For example, in Niger they account for 70%, in Burkina 65%, as opposed to 7% in Botswana, 21% in Cameroon and 39% in Namibia. The majority of the workers are concentrated in the informal sector.

During the 1990s, the informal sector employed 72% of non-agricultural workers in Sub-Saharan Africa of which women were the majority.

In the absence of adequate salaries and savings, rural populations remain extremely vulnerable to severe food shortages caused by low rainfall. This is the main cause of famines that emerge frequently in some regions.

Positive changes in the Sahel and West African countries were generally well described by the Sahel and West Africa Club: they occurred namely at the political level with the democratic opening and the emergence of the political role of civil society through their professional and associative organisations. The Mali and Burkina Faso Cotton Producers Movement is a good example of this. The fact that in Senegal a Farmer's Political Party is recognized and is a Member of Parliament is also an illustration of the evolution of civil society. Rural and urban women and youth organisations are becoming increasingly essential within the local socio-economic fabric. Decentralisation in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal is changing the relationships between the State and the populations within local communities.

It is in West Africa, even though it was not in a Sahelian country, that a woman was elected for the first time to the highest office on the continent.

- (d) The West African regional institutional fabric is one of the densest and most performing compared to other regions of the continent. West Africa has already largely achieved regional integration (Francophone countries) in terms of currency, movement of persons and road network density. Organisations, such as the Senegal River Development Office (OMVS), the Niger River Basin Authority (ABN), the Liptako N'gourma, the Council of Alliance, ECOWAS, and Air Afrique pioneered the integration process. Achievements made by the WAEMU and ECOWAS are promising.

From this brief analysis of the situation, what can we see as the medium and long term perspectives?

¹ "Size of the Working Poor in Developing Countries", Nooman Majid, International Labor Review (ILO), Vol.140, No. 3, 2001

Second Part: Perspectives by 2020-2025

Ideas put forward here are strictly personal because I did not have time to consult documents available at the ECA, especially at our Sub-regional Office for West Africa, which would have given me useful details.

I will therefore just outline some leads on the basis of the problems raised above.

- (a) Concerning economic prospects, there is no evidence that the region will escape the forecasts already established by economists that Africa cannot achieve and maintain an average growth rate of 7% by 2015. This rate was estimated by the ECA and endorsed by NEPAD as a requirement for reducing poverty by 50%. However, this sustainable growth rate may well be achieved over the next 20 years.

To make accurate estimates regarding economic growth outcomes, it is important to understand the list of large economic projects set out in government plans (namely in terms of investments in agro-industry, energy development, transportation and intra-regional trade).

In this respect, WAEMU and ECOWAS representatives are in a better position to talk about this within their institutions.

- (b) It is known that economic growth alone, in absolute terms, does not necessarily lead to poverty reduction, unless such growth proceeds are widely distributed and re-invested in social sectors so that all populations can benefit. Poverty is increasing and the gap between the rich and poor is widening, despite the obvious creation of prosperity in most countries of the region, namely in urban areas and within business circles, due to the fact that economic growth is obviously concentrated.

To what extent will the gap widen? What will be the medium and long term consequences? Will Sahelian cities be able to protect and provide food, housing and health care for the hundreds of thousands of refugees suffering from poverty? Will a more comprehensive development of the agricultural and food sectors, with special emphasis on agricultural industry and agribusiness, be a largely shared means for economic growth that will enable paid jobs to be created, generate income and reduce poverty for the majority of the population?

- (c) Will the spread of HIV/AIDS be controlled by 2020? Will annual meningitis and measles epidemics become a distant memory? The region records the world's highest maternal mortality rate (180/00 in Niger?). What will happen in 2020?
- (d) The climate is and remains a determining factor regarding the situation and the social and economic trends of most of the countries in the region. What economic choices should be made today to cope with more accentuated and frequent medium and long term climatic variations and long term inescapable climatic changes?

These issues are closely connected to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. What are the chances for achieving these goals by 2025?

The answer to this question depends on the political and economic choices that all Governments and their internal and external partners will make on the basis of a collective responsibility approach.

Governments, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations and the international community, as a whole, have developed viable policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at achieving, over the long term, the well-being of the population and political stability.

In my opinion, what hampers and hinders the rapid implementation of these initiatives is:

- On one hand, the lack of coherence between commitments made by various actors and actions implemented, and;
- On the other hand, the lack of coherence between initiatives started here and there and the medium and long term mutually defined objectives.

These inconsistencies are caused by the failures of the monitoring, control and implementing institutions: while civil society organisations proved to be powerful in the war that led to the progressive establishment of democracy in some countries, Parliaments and legislative bodies on the contrary have not yet succeeded in developing mechanisms that will compel Governments to account for the outcomes of their policies.

Similarly, as far as international, bilateral and multilateral aid are concerned, there is still a lack of coherence between the known choices of partners and development priorities displayed by countries. There is also no coherence between partners' statements and actual amounts, aid regularity and modalities. This issue is on the agenda of NEPAD political meetings.

Furthermore, the ECA and the OECD have been mandated by the Heads of State in 2003 to carry out a joint study on mutual responsibility as regards development aid.

With this item, I now move on to the last component of my presentation.

Third Part: What type of multilateral partnership could help promote economic and political choices for the development of the region?

Best choices are made on the basis of available and accurate information, and thereby through viable analyses.

- (a) *One of the failures of economic governance instruments in African countries is the limitations of information systems, which, when available, have always been questioned by development partners.*

In this respect, the ECA and the OECD called upon governments several times to develop their internal expertise so as to provide strategic support to national statistics offices.

A multilateral partnership between the ECA and the OECD, through the Sahel and West Africa Club and the sub-regional Office for West Africa could be highly useful in this area.

- (b) *Due to the lack of accurate information, it is impossible to conduct prospective surveys. Structural adjustment programmes, and priority given to re-establishing macro-economic balances, has seriously reduced African governments' capacity to conduct prospective analyses and planning to the extent that ministries in charge of such issues*

were purely and simply suppressed. Today, it is urgent that these capacities be restored to enable Africa to harness adequate human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of NEPAD and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At this level also, the ECA is increasingly asked to provide support to States in conducting prospective surveys over 20-25 years.

A partnership between the ECA and the Sahel and West Africa Club in this area could produce useful results.

- (c) *The region is just coming out of a long period of political instability and armed conflicts: There is a need to continue to support the reconstruction of the social and economic tissue of countries emerging from conflict, even if they are not located in the Sahel region, because conflicts have impacts on economic balance at the regional level. In addition, it is urgent to work towards conflict prevention both at the political level and the social level.*

The ECA had an interesting experience in the rehabilitation of the “Mano River” region in the sense that lessons that we learned could be used to help us be more efficient on other fronts in the future.

The ECA is ready to contribute to joint strategic thinking on conflict management as well as on social and economic reconstruction issues.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again the Sahel and West Africa Club for associating us with this Forum. Discussions that will follow the various presentations are surely enriching for all of us.

The role of women in West Africa: current situation and perspectives

by Mrs. Bintou Sanankoua,
Researcher, Mali West African Women's Group

Women make up more than half of the 210 million inhabitants of ECOWAS countries, ECOWAS being the main West African integration organisation. Women's representation in decision-making bodies reflects neither their demographic importance nor economic, social or cultural status.

I. Current situation

Constitutions in most ECOWAS member countries provide for equal human rights. In 2000, the vast majority of these countries (13 countries out of 15) had ratified the Convention on the elimination of any forms of discrimination against women. However, women in ECOWAS countries are still today victims of many types of discrimination, bias and other social stereotypes.

An ECOWAS² study highlights the fact that women are less integrated than men in the economic sector and that women essentially work in the informal sector and in subsistence farming³. Housework, which helps maintain the lives of family members and significantly contributes to the collective welfare remains invisible in national income accountings⁴.

There is a big difference in men's and women's representation at the policy-making, management, administration and decision-making levels.

Women are among the poorest and less educated and have serious health problems.

This unfortunate situation, reflecting the day-to-day life of West African women, has become clearer over the last thirty years due to the combined effects of several factors.

² ECOWAS: Gender Policy Project.

³ African women produce up to 75% of the continent's food (UNECA and World Bank, Gender in Africa)

⁴ In 1995, women's unpaid housework was estimated by UNDP at \$ 11, 000 billion, i.e., approximately half of total GDP, amounting to \$ 23, 000 billion.

Contributing factors to the evolution in women's situation

- a) The United Nations' total commitment to fight discrimination against women

The United Nations International Year and Decade for Women, in Mexico City in 1975; Copenhagen in 1980; Nairobi in 1985 and its prospective strategies; the African Women's action platform of Dakar in 1994 and especially the Beijing Conference in 1995 at which an action plan to fight discrimination against women was developed. This plan involves all States.

- b) The impact of the major droughts

In 1970, an endemic drought hit the Sahelian States, destabilising almost all sectors. Women remaining in the drought-affected areas were brought to the front position to care for the children and old people left behind. This was a radical change in the role reserved for women in the society.

- c) The introduction of democracy and the multi-party system

In the 1990s, democracy and the multiparty system were introduced through popular protest and under various conditions in all West African countries (National Conferences, either accepted or imposed, successful or violently repressed popular revolution, etc). This resulted in significant progress for women who actively participated in the change. Their rights are recognised (e.g. codes related to trade, women's rights to travel, or, in Mali, allocation of plots of land). Women operate henceforth in the open and in all sectors.

- d) West African integration

The progress achieved in the integration process within the WAEMU and ECOWAS contributes to lifting barriers and to the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services. Women have seized this great opportunity to expand the scope of their action. Women are very active in cross-border trade and are the main users (70%) of regional transportation facilities. While the majority of women still work in the informal sector, their impact on the economy is increasing and becoming ever more diversified.

- e) The poverty reduction plans

Most ECOWAS countries have adopted poverty reduction plans. Since women are poorest among the poor, they are the primary beneficiaries of these plans that target the most vulnerable segments of the population and take the gender aspect into account in their approach. In Mali, the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) framework is presently at the end of its first phase. The PRSP was developed with the participation of civil society, particularly women.

Other local events supplement these factors to positively impact the role and place of women in all activity sectors:

- The economic sector

While women remain the majority in subsistence farming and informal sectors, they benefited from the recognition of their rights, acquired new rights (constitutions and international conventions) and capacity-building strategies in order to gradually become economic development actors. Women are involved in all sectors of the economy, including the mining sector. Female entrepreneurs no longer limit their activities to only the food-processing sector. Women have access to landed property in State-developed areas, and credit under certain conditions. A micro credit system, adapted to their reimbursement capacity has been set up in several countries. Some women have taken advantage of sub-regional integration and globalisation and have adopted new information technologies. They do business via Internet with partners from other continents.

- The political sector

Women's increased role is more visible in the political sector. Their rights are recognised and guaranteed by the Constitutions. Governments sign and ratify all International Conventions on discrimination against women. Women are far from being massively represented in the decision-making bodies, parliaments, municipal councils or in political party leadership for them to bring their points of view to the forefront or make decisions; however, there decisions can no longer be made nor actions taken in these countries without women's participation. There are women's associations which constitute an active component of civil society. As soon as they find the appropriate strategies everything will change very quickly.

All African women are very proud of Wangari Mathai's nomination for the Nobel Prize and for the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as President of Liberia following a democratic election. This is a victory for all African women, which shows that the glass ceiling can be accessible to women.

- The social and cultural sectors

Both the globalisation process and the developments in the international environment have deeply impacted African societies and cultures over the last thirty years. The sudden emergence of television in households and the hinterland, showing programmes and economic and social values from elsewhere, has led African people and particularly the youth to lose sight of their reference points.

The increasing and large-scale impoverishment of the population accelerates the disintegration and disorganisation of society. The traditional channels for the preservation and transfer of rules, values and knowledge are no longer working well. This activity was reserved for women who must now find transitional or alternative solutions.

In the cultural sector, there are a great many Africans proudly participating in the arts throughout the world (songs, music, painting, etc.) However, no firm commitment has been made as regards other important sectors, such as language, which is the main cultural vector. The role and place of women are not visible in the *Académie des Langues Africaines* (African Languages Academy) of Bamako as well as in the feeble attempts made towards introducing national languages into the teaching systems. National policies in this regard do not take this important issue into account.

II. Challenges

Despite the undeniable progress concerning the promotion of women in West African countries, there are still many challenges to face in order to ensure equity and equality between men and women. These challenges include:

a) Education, literacy and training

The pretext held almost everywhere and by everybody is that women cannot occupy responsible posts simply because they do not have the necessary qualifications. More seriously, we all know that education and training are prerequisites to progress and development. Educating young girls and adults constitutes an asset for building their own future as well as that of the nation as a whole. If a great many women could acquire knowledge, then they would more easily and in large numbers have access to power, and many issues such as health, citizenship, etc, would be resolved more quickly.

b) The challenge of peace and security

The West Africa region has been devastated by violent conflicts for many years. Peace and security are conditions for development, democracy and good governance. Women, who are the first victims, must play a predominant role in the prevention of conflicts, restoration of peace, and post-conflict management.

c) The challenge of democratisation and good governance

Women in West Africa represent more than half of the population. Only democracy and good governance, which involves normal functioning and respect of republican institutions along with effective separation of powers and the real possibility of change of power, can end discrimination against women. This would allow them to participate in nation-building efforts by attaining decision-making positions so as to participate in defining policies and strategies that would enable countries to adapt to the on-going evolutions.

d) The challenge of decentralisation

Decentralisation is carried out at community-level. It enables women, at the local level, to assume real responsibilities without being passed over due to illiteracy or any other pretext. Decentralisation prepares the ground for women's participation in politics at the local level, and strengthens their role in the economy.

e) The challenge of becoming aware of their power

Women must be aware of their real power within society and not be content with false promises made by public authorities. Various women's associations should not wait to be invited to speak out on issues that would, in fact, not be taken into account. Associations' leaders must train their members, raise their awareness and provide them with a feeling of responsibility as a pressure group through appropriate strategies, able of compelling decision-makers to implement constitutional provisions and international conventions against discrimination signed by the States. They must be involved in both the definition and implementation of any women's welfare promotion policy.

III. Perspectives

For thirty years, women have been leading the same struggle for recognition of their rights; the elimination of inequalities of which they are victim and increased access to decision-making bodies. Today, the issue related to the legal and institutional aspects has been solved. In practice, all West African countries' Constitutions guarantee equality among citizens. All countries have signed or ratified, often with no reservation, all of the international conventions against discrimination against women. But, in fact, in practice the situation has not changed structurally for women. A government can no longer be formed without a woman being part of it. But how many women are there in the government? Which positions do they occupy? A political party can no longer present a candidates' list for election without a woman on that list. But, how are women positioned on the list? How many are eventually elected? Their presence in parliaments and in responsible and decision-making positions is so insignificant that they cannot change anything. Thus, if things continue as such by the year 2025, women will still be fighting for the same things.

For West African women to become full citizens by the year 2025, benefit from the same rights as men, and be greatly represented in decision-making positions, they should change the methods they have been using up to now to fight for their rights.

They should no longer be content with formal equality; but rather capitalise on their genuine importance to urge their various authorities to implement all their rights as set out in the various national and international conventions. In order to be more influential and be able to act, women need to be strongly represented in decision-making bodies at the national and sub-regional levels in order to have an impact on the strategies. The peer review mechanism should include women.

Whatever their rights, women can only develop and realise their full potential, like any other component of society, if there is peace and security. There cannot be lasting peace and security without women's participation. This seems to have finally been understood. But the way in which women have gotten on the bandwagon does not make it possible for them to fully demonstrate their capabilities. Granting a decision-making role to women in this regard would be an innovative approach. Until now, the concern has been to end conflicts which could be not prevented. Negotiations are focused on the combatants, with the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation, Re-integration Program). This approach must change in order to manage conflicts and their end according to the interests of the first victims, i.e. women and children. Consequences of conflict on women and children do not stop with the end of the fighting and the disarmament of combatants. Placing women at the centre of the conflict resolution process, by involving them in negotiations with the aggressors, signing of peace agreements and post-conflict management will increase the chance of ending conflict irreversibly. The African Union and ECOWAS, which manage conflict prevention and management in Africa, should solicit women to play a significant role from the beginning to the end of the process. This can be done. The AU (African Union) Heads of State adopted a solemn declaration on gender equality in Africa, during the 3rd session of their General Assembly in July 2004. ECOWAS has set up a gender development centre.

The democratic and decentralisation option, if successfully and properly implemented, can present great opportunities for women. A true democracy cannot afford to leave the largest proportion of the population by the side of the road. Within the context of decentralisation, women are managing social infrastructure and assuming greater responsibilities at the local level.

Currently in West Africa, the democratic and decentralisation option will not have the expected effects without the use of national languages. The current level of women's education does not enable them to go beyond the decentralisation process. The use of national languages helps them manage their problems at any level.

Women should be prepared, there is a looming danger and threat to delay or totally compromise the results women have attained in their long standing struggle: Islamic religious fundamentalism. Islamic fundamentalism is very dangerous, even in those countries where it is not yet visible. For instance Mali has not been able to adopt a family code that was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2002!

The Nation-State's selfishness is undermining ECOWAS' integration process which is already threatened by various conflicts. It also threatens the entire integration of the gender programme into the Community's programmes of integration and the promotion of women within the framework of ECOWAS' Treaty objectives and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on gender equality.

The uncontrolled liberalisation, the privatisation of vital economic sectors (i.e. water and electricity) and the declining role of the State, so that regional disparities are even more significant and collective services are not ensured, pose real threats to the future. In our countries, the State is the major development actor and guarantor of social cohesion. Unless such a policy is corrected, poverty reduction strategy plans are likely to be ineffective and national wealth will continue to be redistributed inequitably.

West Africa has many assets that can help her enter 2025 peacefully and democratically, with all the basic needs of its population fully met. Indeed, West Africa has increasingly more educated women in all sectors (policy, administrative, technical) capable of raising and solving problems in tandem with competent men according to the national and regional interests. These women and men are also able to anticipate trends in order to prepare their region for future global developments and prevent children from turning to migration as the only way to lead a better life, even at the risk of their lives.

The region's cultural heritage enables it to manage environmental problems and governance issues.

As Amadou Hampaté Ba emphasised in a letter to the youth, "African civilisation was first and foremost a civilisation of responsibility and solidarity at all levels. A man was identified with his word, which was sacred. Very often, conflicts were settled peacefully through discussion... Coming together to discuss, as the proverb goes, is to put everybody at ease and to avoid disagreement... Peace, peace only is the key words of all African ritual greetings".

IV. Partnership with the Sahel and West Africa Club

The interest for a partnership with the Sahel and West Africa Club lies in the Club's approach to issues which consists of favouring the identification and promotion of dynamics of change, and those who impel such change; which is indeed, an innovative and positive approach.

The Club's flexibility enables it to take into account, as the need arises, the concerns expressed by actors on the ground, and to refer to endogenous knowledge and practices for addressing such concerns.

The Club's four areas of intervention, as suggested by its partners on the ground include: Medium and Long-Term Development Perspectives; Rural Transformation and Sustainable Development; Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration; and Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security. These constitute priority fields of action which will help shape Africa's future.

By involving women in its activities, by helping them form groups and set up networks to capitalise and share their experiences and know-how thereby strengthening their skills, the Club takes into account a category of major actors whose weight and importance are recognised on paper but have not been transformed concretely on the ground.

The Club's challenge would be to take advantage of the fruitful partnership it has established with the sub-regional (the WAEMU, ECOWAS) and regional (African Union) organisations in order to help women join their decision-making bodies, for women to provide their intuitiveness in the identification and resolution of problems. The Club should continue its capacity-building activities in order to help the Women's Group within each country become a moving force for civil society as regards conflict prevention and governance.

OECD/Sahel and West Africa Club, 1976-2006

Thirty Years of Exemplary Partnership Between Policy -Making and Research Communities

By Prof. A.I. Asiwaju
President of the African University Institute, Imeko, Ogun State (Nigeria)

First, I wish to thank Mr. Normand Lauzon, Director of the Club and, indeed, the entire Club for the invitation extended to me to participate in this historic meeting of the Club's Strategy and Policy Group (SPG), the equivalent of its Board of Directors, in Ouagadougou on 29 June 2006.

As I congratulate the Club on this occasion of its eventful thirtieth anniversary, I wish to reflect on the event as one of celebration of a truly exemplary partnership between, on the one hand, the world of socially relevant academic research and, on the other, that of responsive policy-making. In this brief reflection, I cannot help remembering the thought credited, I believe, to Woodrow Wilson, America's 28th President, that for any society to know real progress, there must be such active collaboration between the man of affair who has no time to collect and analyze the data that are so much required to take sound policy decisions, on the one hand; and, on the other, the man of science with the patience for data collection and analysis but who has no power of policy decision.

Today in Africa, where the gap between policy making and academic research has continued to widen, OECD's Sahel and West Africa Club has proved to be an exemption worthy of emulation. As one of those whose original academic and policy research has been privileged as inputs into the Club's elegant work till date, I should seize this opportunity to reflect on the association, if not on the influence, which I think my research has had and would continue to have with or on the good work that the Club has done and would continue to do.

The Club was born out of a concern for mitigating the tragedy of the devastating drought that struck the entire Sahelian region from Cape Verde on the Atlantic Ocean to Djibouti on the Red Sea coast in mid-1970s. The OECD's intervention, which gave birth to the Club, was aimed at finding a lasting solution to a regular cycle of environmental disasters that is by definition and specific impact, regional and characteristically disrespectful of inter-sovereignty boundaries especially the ubiquitously artificial ones irrationally imposed on Africa by European imperialism. The early realization of the need for a regional approach to the problem was the point of convergence between the Club's mission in the Sahel on the one hand; and, on the other, the instant relevance of an emerging trend of borderlands research which, with John Igué (the economic geographer from Benin), I have had the privilege of pioneering in West Africa, beginning with the Yoruba case

study astride the Nigeria-Benin border contained in the book **Western Yorubaland under European rule, 1889-1945: A comparative Analysis of French and British Colonialism** (London: Longman, 1976).

Policy makers are not famous for acknowledging the scientific sources of their policy decisions. As men and women of power, they ride on the shoulders of humble men and women of science whose own pleasure also is less in being explicitly acknowledged than in the uses made of their ideas for the betterment of society. That is why I am especially pleased to see in the new policy concept of "pay frontières" or "Cross-border area" and its promotion from a Malian national articulation to an ECOWAS 'Cross-border Initiatives Programme' the obvious impact of my original research with findings in several publications, including especially **Artificial Boundaries les frontières artificielles** (Lagos: University of Lagos Press, 1984) and **Partitioned Africans: Ethnic Relations Across Africa's International Boundaries, 1884-1984** (London/New York: C. Hurst & Co. Publishers and St. Martin's Press, 1985).

Ogunsola John Igué, who has been the most visible African intellectual influence on the Club, has been my academic partner for close to forty years, beginning with our accidental meeting in Porto Novo in 1967 when both of us were working on our doctorates (I in History for Ibadan and he in Geography for Paris). This initial contact eventually blossomed into a most productive life-long academic partnership that came to be internationally dramatized in our collaboration to achieve the highly successful Nigeria-Benin Cross-border Cooperation workshop, Topo, Badagry, Nigeria, May 8-13, 1988, which began the conflict-prevention series that I initiated between Nigeria and each of her neighbours and should be seen as the antecedents for the pilot launching of the ECOWAS Cross-border Initiatives Programme in Sikasso and Ziguinchor in September and October 2005.

The other probable routing of our academic impact on the Club's work was Bamako, Mali; and it came with the totally unexpected opportunity of the discovery of President Alpha Oumar Konaré's instinct for cross-border cooperation and regional integration policy promotion.

The occasion was the hosting in Bamako in March 1999 of the international seminar on "Boundaries in Africa from 12th to 20th Century", jointly sponsored by the "Comité International des Sciences Historique (CISH) and UNESCO within the context of the latter's prevailing engagement with the promotion of the Culture of Peace. At the elaborate reception dinner given the participants at the Presidency, I was specially introduced to the President to whom I made a special presentation of my key publications all of them focused on issues of Cross-border areas and cross-border cooperation as the most viable approach to regional integration in West Africa, a subject of long-standing national constitutional interest to Mali.

By 2002, when Mali launched the policy Concept of Cross-Border Areas in Sikasso, both the older partnership with Igué, then full-time consultant with the OECD's Sahel and West Africa Club in Paris, and the relationship being forged with the Presidency in Bamako would appear to be very much at work. The relationship with Mali was consolidated with the invitation I extended to Ambassador A.S. Diarra, Director of International Frontiers in the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Administration and arrow head of the Malian policy, to an International Sensitization Workshop on Cross-border Cooperation and Regional Integration in Africa, hosted by the Centre for African Regional integration and Border Studies of the University of Lagos, December 10-12, 2002. I was, then, the Director of the Centre and organiser of the Workshop.

The workshop focused on the comparative perspective with special reference to the European Union, and Ambassador Diarra had fruitful interaction with Professor Malcolm Anderson, Europe's topmost political scientist and expert on the boundary politics of the European Unions, who has also been invited to the workshop in Lagos. This interaction and the lots of literature that Ambassador Diarra was loaded with, including my own published and widely disseminated European comparative materials, must have helped the injection of the European comparative perspective to the policy vision being piloted for the West African Sub-Region by the SWAC in active partnership with Ambassador Diarra's Directorate of International Frontiers in the Malian Ministry of Interior and Territorial Administration. As a matter of fact, my wish for this injection was first expressed in early 2002 when, following the Sikasso Seminar in March, I had suggested that the SWAC's Special Event, which eventually took place in Accra in May of that year, should be organised in Europe to enable African policy makers to learn lessons directly from the trends in integrating Europe.

However, when the first Africa-Europe Conference on Cross-border Cooperation is held in 2007 as being currently planned and when ECOWAS would have adopted the draft regional instrument already submitted to it, on the model of the 1984 European Outline Convention on Cross-border Cooperation Between Territorial Authorities and Local Communities, then all the recommendations made in my inaugural Lecture of 12 December 1984 and concurrently published as **Artificial Boundaries** would have been fully implemented under driving force of the SWAC.

To be sure, the OECD/SWAC has not been the only policy-making arena that would appear to have benefited from our scholarly research and publication activities. Apart from the indelible imprint as foundation Commissioner (International Boundaries) of Nigeria's National Boundary Commission from 1989 to 1994, when I exercised widely acknowledged influence on the nation's cross-border cooperation and border region development policy vis-à-vis neighbouring countries in West and Central Africa sub-regions, there have also been vital invitational consultancy services rendered to several international and African regional bodies. These include such United Nations Organization sub-institutions as the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Lomé, Togo, Centre for Regional Development Africa Office, Nairobi, Kenya, and the Office for West Africa, Dakar, Senegal, as well as the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS, all in respect of the cross-border initiative interests of these bodies.

But, while the SWAC is not our sole customer, none has beaten her in terms of sustenance, consistency and focus. The SWAC's drive for cross-border cooperative initiatives and bottom-up approach to regional integration in West Africa has, more than others, helped to play up the policy visibility of research careers, like mine, focused on African cross-border area studies.

Thus, in Abuja, in October 2004, when the Club held its policy sensitization workshop in the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, great interest was shown in my publications which were purchased for the Club's office in Paris. There were even suggestions for French translation of the books, notably **Partitioned Africans** (already cited) and **Boundaries and African Integration: Essays in comparative History and Policy Analysis** (Lagos; PANAF Publishing Inc., 2003).

I personally look forward to a future of stronger collaboration between the SWAC and the research communities which, as has been specially advocated in one of our older books (**Borderlands in Africa: A Multidisciplinary and Comparative Focus on Nigeria and West Africa**, Edited by A.I. Asiwaju and P.O. Adeniyi and published by University of Lagos press, 1989), must themselves adopt a cross-border collaborative and multidisciplinary outlook, if they are to continue to be relevant to problem-solving as

exemplified in the application to Africa's regional integration process. Since the spectacular outing with the famous Lomé Seminar on Cereal Marketing in West Africa, November 6-9, 1989, the Club du Sahel, that consequently came to appreciate the need to expand its scope and be restructured into today's Club du Sahel et de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Sahel and West Africa Club), has remained steadfast in the tradition of evidence-led action plan and plan implementation. The Club is known to have been both cause and effect of several research and publication initiatives in France, Benin, Senegal and Mali. The Club's own wide range of quality publications now in circulation, leaves nobody in doubt of its commitment as producer and consumer of researched data.

Hopefully, the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary would lead to further widening and deepening of the Club's interest and support for cognate research, including specialised programmes and institutions such as the African University Institute, Imeko, Ogun State, Nigeria, located deliberately in one of West Africa's most dynamic "Cross-Border Areas", to provide research and training support for ECOWAS' Cross-Border Initiatives Programme, much like the European University Institute, Florence, Italy, and the European College, Bruges, Belgium, have been established to support a similar orientation for the regional integration process in Europe. The SWAC's support for this kind of institution in Africa is necessary, not just to enable Africans to occupy the driver's seat; but, even more importantly, to enable them drive their region's integration process to save and secure destination.

Happy Anniversary.

Session 2





Mayor of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

Evolution of the City of Ouagadougou over the Last 30 years

by Mr. Simon Compaoré
Mayor of Ouagadougou
(Summary of his Statement)

Ouagadougou, the Capital of Burkina Faso, is a fast growing dynamic city, which for the past few years, has been welcoming many migrants from Togo and Côte d'Ivoire. It has plenty of advantages but faces many challenges, particularly in the areas of housing, access to water, and employment.

In 1960, Ouagadougou had approximately only 60 000 inhabitants. Today, its population is estimated at nearly 1.5 million people. It comprises 5 districts ("arrondissements"), 30 sectors and 17 villages.

In 1995, the city elected its first Mayor, Mr. Simon Compaoré, for a 5-year term of office. Mr. Compaoré's term was renewed (2006-2011) for the third consecutive time during the recent elections in April 2006. The membership of the Municipal Council was then increased from 90 to 163 members in view of the city's growing population.

In 1995, the town had a budget of 1 billion CFA francs for nearly 1 million inhabitants. In 2006, the budget increased to 7 billion CFA francs, the objective being to reach 10 billion francs in the next few years.

Ouagadougou has adopted a sanitation policy that has given it the reputation of being West Africa's cleanest city. Beyond this anecdotal aspect, the policy has provided jobs to women grouped in the "Green Brigades" currently responsible for keeping the city clean. It has also contributed to reducing some problems which are developing in major African urban centres.

Ouagadougou has a very young population: 70% of its inhabitants are less than 20 years of age. Due to this youthfulness, the city has great potential, a potential that is not yet fully exploited. Indeed, young people face difficulties finding jobs despite the city's economic dynamism with 30% of its activities in the informal sector. The city council is developing a strategy to help young people find jobs so that they may participate fully in society and prosper.

Access to water is one of the main constraints in this capital city. Indeed, the city and the region face problems of drought which have a negative impact on their economic development. To remedy the situation, the city's authorities plan to construct a dam 40 km from the city centre, so as to better regulate the city's water supply. However, as the Mayor of Ouagadougou, Mr. Compaoré has observed that if there is no rainfall, the dam will not solve all the problems.

Another constraint concerns electricity supply, which is essential for the well-being of populations as well as for the development of the formal and informal private sector. In Ouagadougou, the price of electricity (kilowatt/hour) is one of the highest in Africa which hinders the city's economic development.

With a rapidly growing population, demand for housing is very high. Hence the real estate sector is currently flourishing, and many private real estate companies have been created. In order to cope with demand for land and housing, the city council has provided more plots of land, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. Nevertheless, authorities have begun to consider different uses of available space, which must eventually be reduced.

Despite the progress made and the policy implemented to make Ouagadougou a major capital city in West Africa, four issues will be at the core of Mayor Compaoré's concerns, in the coming years:

- How can the increasing population be reconciled with the housing supply, which is inadequate?
- What can be done to have sufficient water quantity and quality?
- How can Ouagadougou's economy be strengthened and efforts be made to create jobs, particularly for youth and women?
- How can wealth be redistributed fairly throughout the entire population?



United Nations Development Program

West Africa: Current Situation and Medium- and Long-term Perspectives

by Mr. Georg Charpentier
UNDP Resident Representative in Burkina Faso

Poverty in West Africa

Current situation of poverty in West Africa

Poverty is no doubt the major challenge facing African countries south of the Sahara especially those of West Africa. Indeed, countries of the sub-region are ranked among the poorest in the world. Almost one in every two persons lives on less than one dollar per day, which is most frequently the case than in any other regional bloc in the world. West African countries are also lagging behind in other areas of human development especially education, health, access to potable water, infrastructures, security, etc.

The countries of the sub-region reacted to this challenge by putting poverty reduction at the centre of their development strategy. Presently, twelve countries of the sub-region have developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP, see Table 1). Generally, the same priorities are set out in these PRSPs: acceleration of growth through a successful diversification of economic productive structures, redistribution of earnings derived from growth for the benefit of the poor and good governance as a process of change in managing the economies.

Monetary poverty just like human poverty in West Africa has become worrisome and its impact remains significant. It varies from 30% in Benin to 72.6% in Togo and 88% in Guinea Bissau. More serious, poverty in West Africa is increasing. Thus, poverty in Burkina Faso increased from 44.5% in 1994 to 45.3% in 1998. This evolution is similar to that of Côte d'Ivoire where the poverty rate increased from 32.3% in 1993 to 36.8% in 1995 then to 33.6% in 1998. The same can be said of Nigeria and Ghana where the poverty rate respectively increased from 42.8% in 1992 to 65.6% in 1996 and from 35.7% in 1991 to 42.6% in 1999.

Growth and poverty

Since the time of structural adjustment programmes, we all know that growth is a necessary component but not sufficient for reducing poverty. In most ECOWAS countries, the average annual economic growth rate hardly exceeds 5% in recent years. Even in countries that achieve the highest rate, the rate is still below the minimum required to be able to effectively fight poverty. Therefore, according to the CEA's evaluations, Benin would need a growth rate of 6.6 % whereas its average growth rate between 1995 and 2000 was 5.1 %. Generally, economic performances have not been sufficient to substantially reduce poverty in the sub-region.

Considering the fact that the majority of the poor are in rural areas, only a substantial increase in revenues in those areas will help reduce poverty. Furthermore, the growth in the primary sector, which involves 80% of the population, was only 4 % for the period 1994 to 2000. At this rate, it will be difficult for this sector to sustainably boost strong and sufficient economic growth in order to reduce poverty significantly.

Table 1: Basic information on West African countries

Countries	HDI 2003		Membership of regional organisations			PRSP	LDC	WTO
			Censad (22)	ECOWAS (16)	WAEMU (8)			
	Lev.	Rank	1998	1975	1994			
Benin	0.431	162	x	x	x	Dec 02	Yes	Yes
Burkina Faso	0.317	175	x	x	x	July 04 / May 00	Yes	Yes
Cape Verde	0.721	105		x	x	Sep. 04	Nes	No
Côte d'Ivoire	0.420	163	x	x	x	Interim PRSP Jan. 02	No	Yes
The Gambia	0.470	155	x	x	x	April 02	Yes	Yes
Ghana	0.520	138	x	x	x	Nov. 05 / Feb. 03	No	Yes
Guinea	0.466	156		x	x	Jan. 02	Yes	Yes
Guinea Bissau	0.348	172	x	x	x	Interim PRSP 09/00	Yes	Yes
Liberia	Not avail.	Not avail.	x	x	x	No	Yes	No
Mali	0.333	174	x	x	x	May 02	Yes	Yes
Mauritania	0.477	152				Dec. 00	Yes	Yes
Niger	0.281	177	x	x	x	Jan. 02	Yes	Yes
Nigeria	0.453	158	x	x	x	Dec. 05	No	Yes
Senegal	0.458	157	x	x	x	May 05 / May 02	Yes	Yes
Sierra Leone	0.298	176	x	x	x	March 05	Yes	No
Togo	0.512	143	x	x	x	No	Yes	Yes

Sources: World Human Development Report (UNDP 2005), World Bank, WTO

Governance

Why good governance?

Good governance is fundamental to reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. Without good governance it is most likely that development policies and strategies will not produce the expected results. It is equally a prerequisite without which investors will not feel secure to invest in the region and create resources.

With regard to good governance, one can say generally that the Sahelian and West African countries are progressing, but slowly because of numerous political, cultural, economic, financial, institutional, etc. constraints. In fact, in most countries in the sub-region, good governance is ever more prominent in the development process through participation, transparency, responsibility, decentralisation, effectiveness, and pre-eminence of democracy and respect of the rule of law. This situation however remains fragile because of some areas of tension and social crises that are observed in some countries. Therefore, efforts need to be continued in order to maintain a positive trend.

APRM

In this context, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is a product of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted on 9 March 2003 by the Committee of Heads of State and Government in charge of the implementation of NEPAD, is an opportunity for Africa to consolidate and strengthen good governance. In fact, though the APRM, the aim is to "stimulate the adoption of laws, policies, appropriate norms and practices that can lead to political stability, strong economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated economic integration at the regional and continental levels".

We should be pleased that since the launching of the APRM initiative, 26 African countries had voluntarily adhered to the mechanism.

After adhering to the mechanism on 9 March 2003, Burkina Faso proceeded last week to sign the treaty with the APRM Forum related to technical reviews and evaluation missions in Burkina Faso. These actions constitute a decisive step towards the materialisation of the APRM process of which the results and recommendations should contribute to strengthening good governance in the country. Also, an African and internal process is in fact most likely to provoke and accelerate positive and lasting changes than the application of external conditionalities.

Integration into global economy

Stakes in negotiations

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted during the Millennium Summit held in 2000. The international community, through the adoption of the eighth objective, is striving to set up a global partnership for development. This partnership should help establish a more open trade and financial system, based on foreseeable regulations (target 12), provide for the specific needs of the least developed countries (LDC), provide drugs to all developing countries in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies (target 17), or make available to everyone all the benefits of technology in cooperation with the private sector (target 18). Trade also plays a significant role in the achievement of other

Millennium Goals like the eradication of extreme poverty or other areas such as health and education. In such a context, the reform of the international trade system which is currently being negotiated at various levels merits further examination.

From all the scenarios that were able to be achieved in order to evaluate the impact of the Doha Round, it appears that Africa will be the continent that benefits the least from trade negotiations as they are currently unfolding. This gap between the initial goals set out in Doha in 2001 and the foreseeable benefits for African countries is expressed first by the content of the ongoing negotiations and the lack of progress made as regards market access, by the absence of real progress on the removal of subsidies and the pressure on non-agricultural products and services. The incapability of African economies to seize the opportunities provided by globalisation constitutes the second factor. Improve on the one hand the capacity to negotiate and on the other hand the capacity of local supply constitutes therefore, the major stakes for the countries of the sub-region.

Besides the multi-lateral negotiations, developing countries are also involved in bilateral or regional negotiations. This is so with West African countries, (ECOWAS member States) which since 2003 have been negotiating a free trade agreement with the European Union that should gradually come into effect as from 2008. Nevertheless, in the current situation, the encouragement of African countries to really engage in the EPA negotiations could be linked to an aid provided for supplementary trade (through initiatives like the integrated framework) in order to develop basic infrastructures necessary for trade and strengthen the institutional and regulation framework.

Aid for trade

The WTO and the OECD (2005) have classified aid for trade into three important categories: (i) trade regulation and policy; (ii) trade development; (iii) infrastructures. The first category “trade regulation and policy” involves supports based on policy analysis, participation in multi-lateral negotiations, analysis and implementation of international trade agreements, definition of technical norms, and support to regional negotiations or strengthening of human resources. The second category, “trade development”, entails business development and economic activities through the improvement of the business environment, facilitation of access to trade credits, promotion of some productive sectors. Finally, the third category, “infrastructures”, covers necessary supports to improve infrastructure and facilitate trade, whether transportation, communication, energy or storing facilities⁵. According to the WTO and the OECD, aid assigned for trade has greatly increased in 2003, especially in the first and second categories.

The Integrated Framework (IF) is one of the major initiatives adopted by the international community as regards aid for trade (United Nations 2005). Following the ministerial conference held in Singapore in 1996, WTO member countries became aware of the particular problems facing the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in integrating into the global economy. The production structure, human capital level, availability of basic infrastructure and also the cost of production significantly influence the impact of open trade on human development and poverty reduction. Some production costs still remain particularly high in the region, especially in landlocked countries like Burkina Faso.

⁵ To some analysts, aid for trade should also involve compensatory financial measures to developing countries in order to compensate for the reduction in the terms of trade and losses in earnings associated with free trade (UNDP 2006)

The Kilowatt per hour is two to three times higher in Burkina Faso and Mali than in coastal countries like Côte d'Ivoire (see Table 2).

For these reasons, it seemed necessary to ensure greater coherence between public development aid policy and the deepening of trade liberalisation. In October 1997, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) launched a joint initiative promoting trade capacity building called the Integrated Framework. This initiative has two objectives: First, putting trade policy at the centre of development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers; and thereafter facilitate the provision of a coordinated technical assistance in the areas of trade.

Table 2: WAEMU, Cost factors in 2000

Factors	Unit	Burkina Faso	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Niger	Senegal	Togo
Water	FCFA/m3 for 100m3	1 206	293	396	315	386	614	257
Transport – roads	FCFA/km	55	34	31	34	42	34	32
Electricity (industry)	FCFA/kwh	110	45	36	81	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.

Source: FIAS, 2004; UEMOA, 2004.

The Integrated Framework, which today has the support of seventeen bilateral and multi-lateral donors, is one of the main instruments for setting up and developing aid for trade. By July 2005, its implementation had reached various stages in twenty-eight Least Developed Countries (LDC), nineteen had been able to conclude their diagnostic studies and are preparing to integrate them into their PRSP.

Senegal and Benin were among the first countries to be implicated in this initiative in 2001 and 2003 respectively. The process has since accelerated and today the "Integrated Framework" initiative has been launched in eight Least Developed Countries (LDC) of the sub-region⁶. Burkina Faso benefits from the initiative since 2005 and a workshop regarding the consensus on major guidelines of the diagnostic study was held at the end of January 2006. This meeting between officials of the ministries concerned with trade and development policies as well as all of the actors concerned enabled a consensus to emerge on three major points: the diversification of the production of exportable goods, improvement of the factors' productivity in order to increase the production of exportable goods; investment and productive capital.

⁶ These are: Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

Conclusion

Development challenges facing countries of the sub-region are enormous. However, significant progress has been made in recent years. Therefore, in Burkina Faso, the gross percentage of children in full-time primary education has appreciably increased over the last few years, from 50.8 % in 2000 to about 60.2 % in 2005. Within the same period, and despite the unfavourable international environment, cotton production has almost quadrupled. Generally, many countries in the sub-region were able to benefit from international initiatives like AGOA thanks to the progress observed in the area of governance. In addition, practically all the countries in the sub-region were provided with a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which underlines the quest for equitable growth and good governance as necessary conditions for the improvement of populations' standard of living.

The acceleration in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) seems today to be based on two complementary pillars: the correct identification, sector by sector, of development needs and also increasing partnership approaches between countries of the sub-region and donors. The development of this partnership approach is based on a better recognition of the efforts made by countries and a strong commitment based on a true partnership and not on a donor/receiver relationship characterised by some conditionalities.

At this juncture, I would like to commend the contribution of the Sahel and West Africa Club for setting up such a partnership through discussions, which it organises between West African and OECD countries, on themes which are essential to the sub-region such as rural transformation, local development, regional integration and governance, peace and security. By inviting some representatives of the public and private sectors and the civil society to different fora, which it organises, the Sahel and West Africa Club contributes to a better understanding of the sub-region, and constitutes a factor of unity between the OECD and West African countries.

The work of the Sahel and West Africa Club clearly contributes to creating a confident environment essential for the creation of a real partnership where risks and investment necessary to achieve or at least move nearer the Millennium goals are shared.

UNDP shares this vision of the Sahel and West Africa Club and is pleased with the strong and constructive partnership that exists between the two institutions.

Thank you!



World Bank

Situation in West Africa

Intervention⁷ by Mr. Célestin B. BADO
Operations Officer for the World Bank, Burkina Faso

Or. Fre

1. Situation in West Africa

West Africa is not a homogeneous region. First example: it brings together oil exporting and net importing countries. Second example: some countries are members of the CFA Franc zone while others do not belong to this monetary union. Third example: some countries are experiencing relative stability while others are in unstable situations. Fourth and last example: geographically and climatically, the region is made up of Sahelian countries and coastal countries. These various elements sometime intertwine to create very different dynamics according to the country.

- However even if the situations are different, there has been significant progress in most of the countries with an average growth rate of over 5% over the last five years.
- Positive aspect: recent growth is due, to a large part, to better macro-economic policies which have enabled countries to face unfavourable external conditions. The example of Burkina Faso is in this sense revealing where the massive deterioration in terms of trade were well-managed.
- Other positive aspects:
 - Satisfactory political developments in Liberia and Guinea Bissau;
 - Multilateral debt relief and the continuation of the HIPC Initiative;
- Negative aspects:
 - Political instability in Côte d'Ivoire;
 - Tensions in the Nigerian Delta;
 - Deterioration of terms of trade (decline in cotton prices, etc.);
 - Growth has not been favourable for everyone. Youth unemployment or under-employment is still too high, leading to emigration in desperation.

⁷ This document has been produced based on the notes used by Mr. Célestin Bado for his intervention.

II. Prospective vision of medium- and long-term development of the region

- Accelerated growth is not at an adequate level to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The average growth rate of 5% over 2004-2005 remains below the 7% required to reduce poverty by half by 2015.
- Many challenges remain:
 - Risks of high oil prices for net importers;
 - Risks as regards cotton prices;
 - Political risks.
- Opportunities and risks: Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with the European Union; AGOA with the United States; regional integration with ECOWAS and the WAEMU.

Generally, prospects are encouraging because policies are adequate and economies are more sound in most of the countries in the region. According to the IMF, growth in sub-Saharan Africa could reach 5.3% in 2006.

The following are some policy areas that should be pursued in order to bring the promises to fruition:

- Pursue good macro-economic management and adequate sectoral policies;
- Encourage open integration: promote regional trade while opening up the region to global trade;
- Continue investment in human capital (health and education);
- Pursue reforms of the business environment based on the indicators set out in the “Doing Business” report;
- Develop quality infrastructures.

III. Partnership with the Sahel and West Africa Club

- The partnership between the World Bank and the Sahel and West Africa Club dates back a long time and is moving forward.
- The analytical and prospective studies carried out by the Sahel and West Africa Club are important elements in the preparation of the World Bank’s operations, especially concerning decentralisation.
- There are complementarities between the two institutions in such areas as rural development, food security, as well as strengthening institutions and rural infrastructures.
- The Sahel and West Africa Club must continue its advocacy role in favour of the region; the Bank with other donors must continue to support the “integrator” projects in the region.



**West African Network of Producer and Peasant Organisations/
Réseau des Organisations paysannes et de Producteurs
de l'Afrique de l'Ouest**

West Africa: Review of the Current Situation and Medium- and Long-Term Perspectives

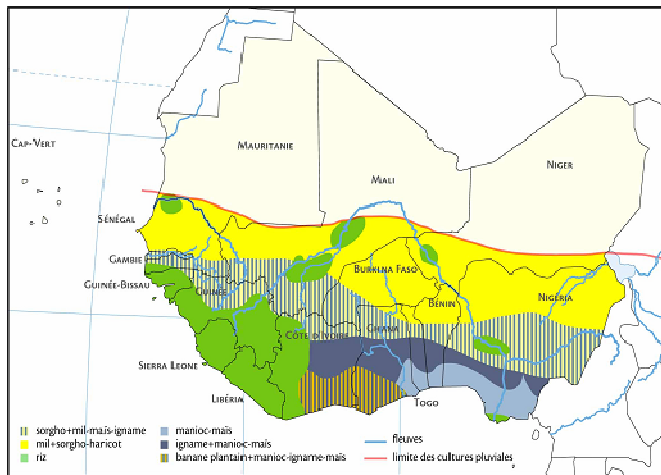
by Mr. Ndiogou Fall
Chairman of ROPPA

PLAN OF THE PRESENTATION

- I – Production Potential of West Africa
- II – Current Socio-economic Situation
- III- Causes of the Current Situation in West Africa
- IV – Agricultural Production Conditions of other Countries
- IV –Proposals by ROPPA

I Agricultural Development Potential

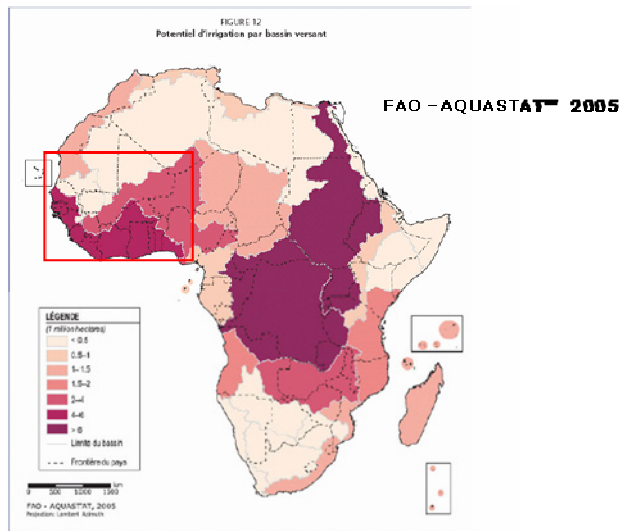
Land resources and complementary production potential



- o Real and diversified ecological and agronomic potentials
- o Natural complementarity between the ecological zones (livestock and dry cereals in the North and water-demanding tubers and cereals in the South)
- o 71.36 million ha of arable land (14% used); 132.2 million ha of pasturelands (25.9% used)
- o Urbanization explosion (increasingly high urban demand). In 2015, 62% of the 400 million inhabitants will be in cities.
- o A possible productivity increase margin

Considerable irrigation potential

- The irrigation potential of the various drainage basins is great: at least 500 000 ha for the small basins
- In the Gulf of Guinea, some basins have a potential of more than 6000 000 ha



Phosphate-rich Subsoils



Most West African countries have huge phosphate deposits that can be processed for soil fertilization; they include Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, etc.

II The Current Socio-economic Situation

Contribution of Production Sectors to Wealth Creation in West Africa

Production Sector	Contribution to GDP in Percentage	Employed Working Population
Agriculture, Livestock	35	65% (190 500 000 people)
Fisheries	1 to 10 depending on the country	10% (30 000 000 people)
Forestry	Approx 1	
Handicraft Industry	29.9	6% (10 800 000 people)
Building and Civil Engineering	3.8	

Increased Degradation of Natural Resources

Forest Variation in WA between 1990/2000 = - 12.6 M ha

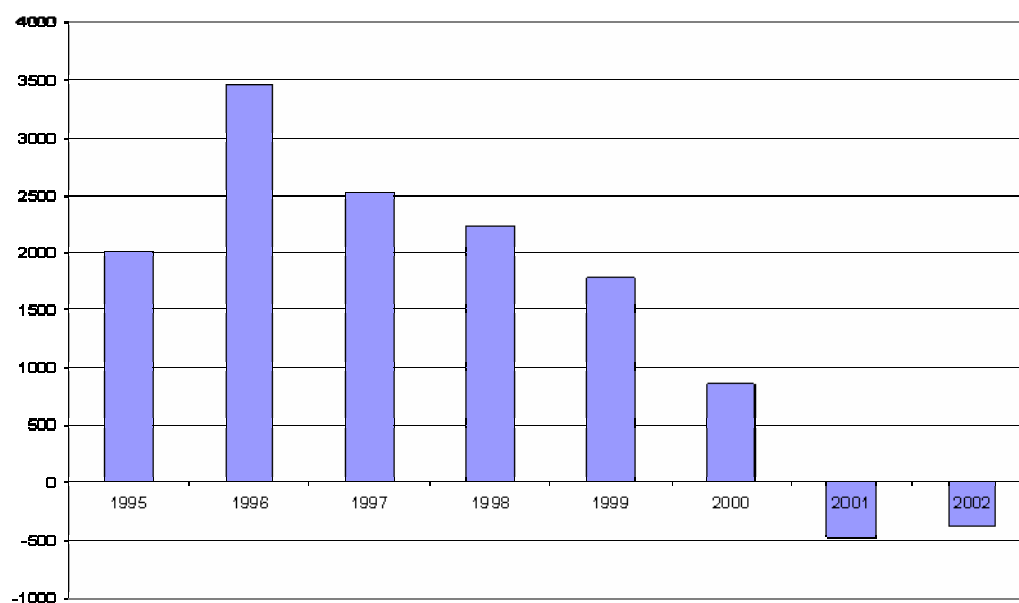
Évolution des superficies de forêts de 1990 à 2000, par sous-région : Afrique

	<i>superficie terrestre totale (millions ha)</i>	<i>superficie forestière 1990 (millions ha)</i>	<i>superficie forestière 2000 (millions ha)</i>	<i>% de forêts en 2000</i>	<i>variations en 1990-2000 (millions ha)</i>	<i>% de variations par an</i>
Afrique centrale	524,3	249,4	240,3	45,8	-9,1	-0,37
Afrique orientale	243,8	38,8	35,4	14,5	-3,4	-0,87
Afrique du Nord	851,0	77,1	67,9	8,0	-9,2	-1,22
Afrique australe	679,8	239,1	222,0	32,6	-17,1	-0,70
Afrique occidentale	605,6	85,1	72,5	12,0	-12,6	-1,53
Ouest de l'océan Indien	58,9	13,0	11,9	20,1	-1,1	-0,90
Afrique	2 963,3	702,5	649,9	21,9	-52,6	-0,7

Source : D'après FAO, 2001b. Note : Les chiffres ayant été arrondis, les totaux ne sont pas nécessairement égaux à leur somme.

Agricultural and Food Trade Balance in Sub-Saharan Africa, in millions of dollars

Source J. Berthelot



Difficulties of Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation

Access to drinking water remains limited in both urban and rural areas. In Ghana, in 2000, only 49% of the rural population and 87% of the urban population had access to drinking water. In Niger, in 2000, 5% of the rural population and 79% of the urban

Pays	Accès à l'eau potable				Accès à l'assainissement			
	% Milieu Urbain		% Milieu Rural		% Milieu Urbain		% Milieu Rural	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
BENIN	-	74	-	55	46	46	6	6
BURKINA FASO	74	84	50	-	88	88	14	16
COTE D'IVOIRE	89	90	49	65	78	-	30	-
CAPE VERT	-	64	-	89	-	95	-	32
GAMBIE	-	80	-	53	-	41	-	35
GHANA	83	87	43	49	59	62	61	64
GUINEE	72	72	36	36	94	94	41	41
GUINEE BISSAU	-	29	-	55	-	88	-	34
LIBERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MALI	65	74	52	61	95	93	62	58
MAURITANIE	34	34	40	40	44	44	19	19
NIGER	65	70	51	56	71	79	4	5
NIGERIA	78	81	33	39	77	85	51	45
SENEGAL	90	92	60	65	86	94	38	48
SIERRA LEONE	-	23	-	31	-	23	-	31
TOGO	82	85	38	38	71	69	24	17

Source : ONUEH, 2001.

III. The Root Causes of Food Insecurity and Poverty in West Africa

Trade policies that do not develop or protect local markets and agricultural products

Low customs duties for sensitive products

Produit	DD dans l'UE-15	TEC de l'UEMOA**
Viande bovine	65% ad valorem (AV)	20%
Lait concentré écrimé	1254 €/t, soit environ 64% AV	20%
Lait concentré gras*	1672 €/t, soit environ 67,5% AV	20%
Riz	416 €/t soit environ 96,7% AV	5%
Blé	95 €/t soit environ 95% AV	5%
Farine de blé	172 €/t soit environ 95% AV	20%
Sucre raffiné	419 €/t soit environ 165% AV	20%
Huile végétale raffinée	6,4 à 12,8% AV	20%

* A plus de 27% de matière grasse ** On ne tient pas compte des droits additionnels appliqués par certains Etats membres de l'UEMOA sur ces produits sensibles.

Disorganization of local markets and food sectors following the structural adjustment programmes of the 1980s et 1990s

Limiting of resources used to promote regional economic integration

Highway	Distance (km)	Number of Control Posts	Control Posts every 100 km
Lagos-Abidjan	992	69	7
Cotonou-Niamey	1036	34	3
Lome- Ouaga	989	34	4
Accra- Ouaga	972	15	2
Abidjan-Ouaga	1122	37	3
Niamey-Ouaga	529	20	4

Many control posts reduce the flow of trade and generate huge costs for operators. On 992 km of highway between Lagos et Abidjan, there are 69 control posts, which means 7 posts every 100 Km.

Source: Official ECOWAS Site

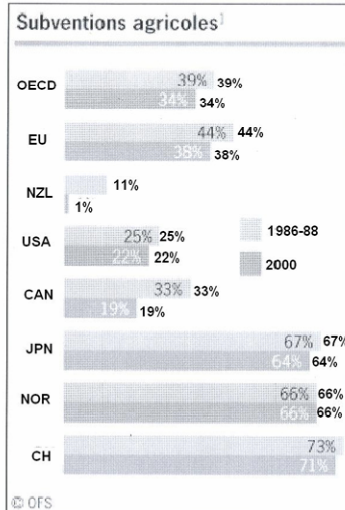
IV Agricultural Production Conditions of Other Countries

→ Overview of the History of the French “Crédit Agricole”

- Created in 1894 from OPAs on a mutual-benefit basis, it did not develop due to lack of resources.
- French law forced the Central Bank to make a significant allocation (40 M francs gold) plus a subsidy of 2 M francs.
- The Law of 2 August 1923 authorized Crédit Agricole to grant its first funding for public utilities. **The impact was immediate: in 1930, 35% of the rural communities had electricity.**
- Crédit Agricole intervened greatly as from 1936 to finance the storage of wheat to combat a fall in prices due to American imports.

➔ **Some Figures on Northern Countries**

Some Figures on Northern Countries



In the Northern countries, the portion of subsidized agricultural production varies from 11% (New Zealand) to 73% (Switzerland).

➔ **A short tour of Quebec to tempt us with a few agricultural subsidy programmes**

Eight (8) subsidy tools/programmes and five (5) other government loans to producers.

- Canadian Agricultural Security Programme
- Programme for financial protection of cereal producers
- First Step Loan
- Etc.

V. Relevant Perspectives for West African Agriculture

Projected increase in food demand in 2030 in Asia, Africa and Latin America

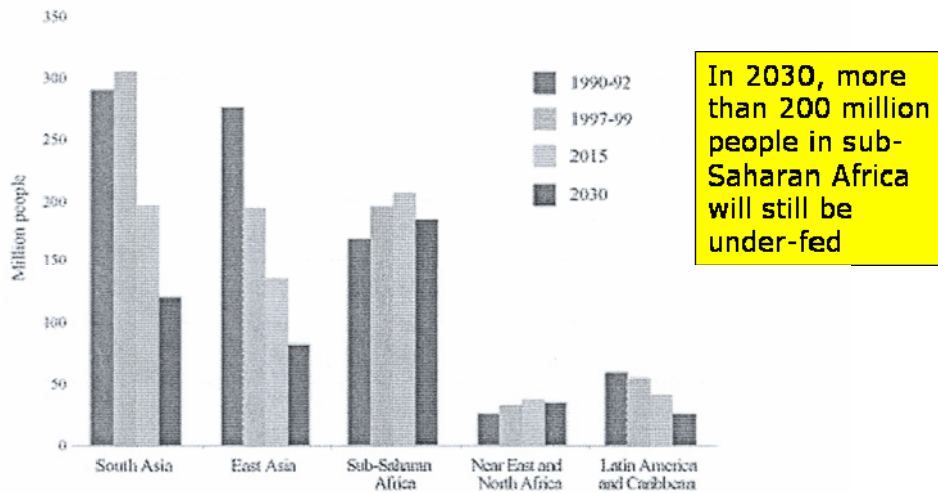
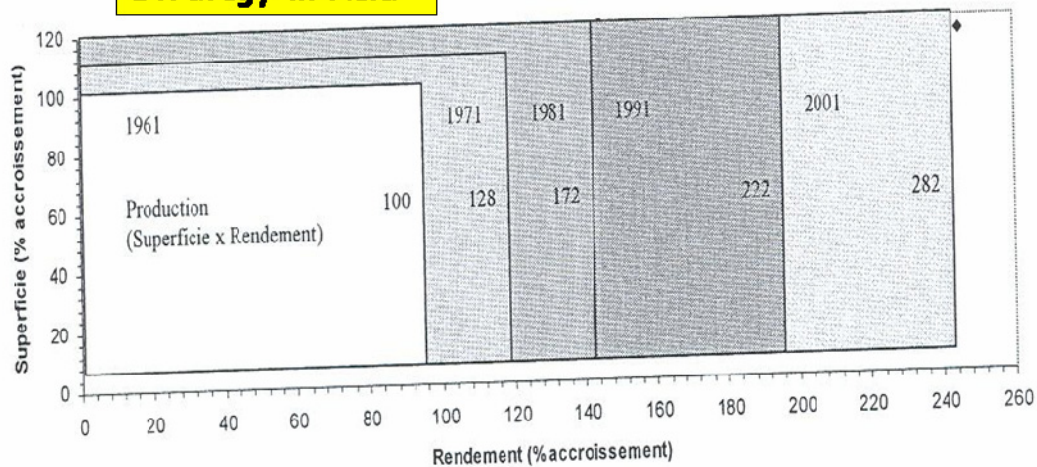


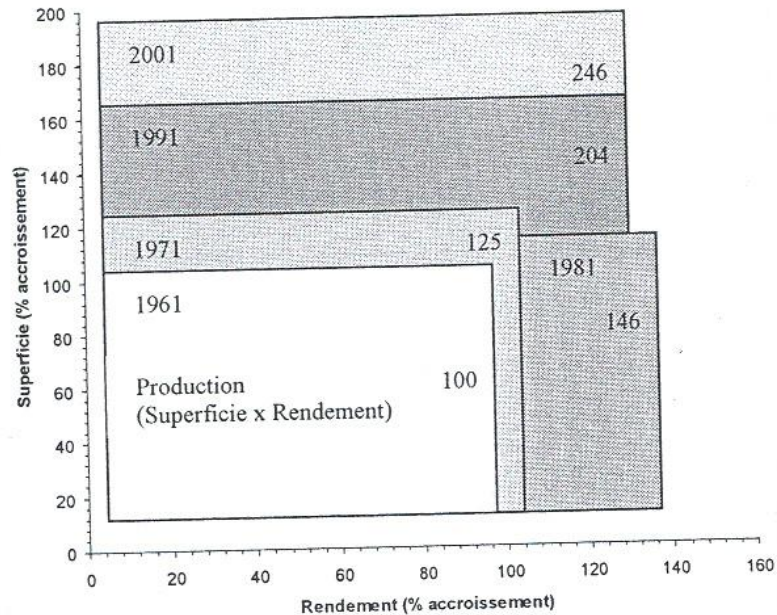
Figure 2. Past and Projected Levels of Malnourished Individuals (FAO, 2003a)

Appropriate strategy for sustainably increasing agricultural production in light of current and future demand of populations

Strategy in Asia



Current Strategy of sub-Saharan Africa



➔ A priority objective: Improve populations' food security

This assumes:

- Improvement of productivity and production to satisfy the food needs of the populations without using a significant portion of the farm areas as is currently the case.
- A reverse of the current trend of increasing food dependence through measures and policies that promote community preference.

➔ Conditions for achieving the objective of improving security/sovereignty

- 1- Development and strengthening of domestic markets (local, national and regional).
- 2- Regional agricultural and trade policies that effectively boost local production: adaptation of economic instruments to integration, protection of markets, etc.
- 3- Collective negotiation of EPAs and within the WTO by highlighting the objectives of development, regional integration, the LDC and developing nation status of the countries, asymmetric opening of markets (case of EPAs), etc.

VI. ROPPA's Perspectives

➔ Perspectives

- 1- Strengthening capacities of national platforms.
- 2- Monitoring the implementation of regional policies (ECOWAP, APU, etc.) as well as bilateral negotiations (EPA) and multilateral negotiations (WTO).
- 3- Strengthening information/communication in POs and monitoring information on family farms and agricultural policies.
- 4- Building networks in Africa and elsewhere (Europe, America, etc.) to monitor, anticipate events and strengthen negotiation capacities.
- 5- Exchanges with other groups of actors

➔ Partnership with the SWAC

- 1- Exchanges/analysis of economic trends and policies.
- 2- Partnership in cross-border projects.
- 3- Capacity building of POs.
- 4- Facilitation of consultation between ROPPA and other actors.

“Africa has the potential required for feeding its populations properly”

Thank you for your kind attention.

Trends and Prospects of the Role and Place of Youth in the Economic, Political, Social, and Family Life in West Africa: Changes, Progress and Challenges to address

by Mr. Mody Ndiaye
West Africa Youth Co-ordinating Unit

Introduction

Since 1960, West Africa has been dealing with the impact of two major events. Internally, the region has undergone tremendous demographic growth. At the same time, it has also been suddenly plunged into a fast-changing international economy. These two simultaneous events have forced the region to undertake profound changes while primarily relying on its own resources.

During this time, issues affecting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 300 millions of West Africans, mainly the under-30 population, went unforeseen. Indeed, this population would be confronted by issues such as health, education, training, and social and professional integration.

The impact of these two events has brought about a veritable revolution within West African societies, while also rapidly and irrevocably upsetting most of the old equilibriums. Over the last thirty years, the principal efforts made by the populations have been directly and indirectly aimed at coping with the changes caused by these two initial events.

This paper will focus on the signification and results of these efforts, as well as their future trends.

Background and Development of Youth Status over the Last Thirty Years

- **A Strongly Urbanised Region**
While 70% of its population was rural during the 1960's, West Africa today is highly urbanised.

The current upward trends in its demographics and urbanisation rank among the highest in documented history. It is estimated that the population could reach 430 million by 2020, which would mean an increase of over 100 million inhabitants in a mere 15 years. As the Sahel and West Africa Club states: "This demographic growth will be predominantly characterised by job-seeking youths, increased urbanisation, pressure on food security, the need for socio-economic infrastructures for an expanding population, and increased migratory movements."

Underlying this phenomenon are the realities of under-employment and the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas, coupled with the false belief that employment opportunities are better in the big cities. These factors must be taken into account in creating policies that aim at reducing unemployment among the youth.

- **A Region in Conflict**

Youth unemployment and its corollary, under-employment, have become core political and security problems in West Africa.

Recent events in Morocco where hundreds of young West Africans attempted to cross over into Europe in small boats have shocked people around the world. However, these scenes risk palling in significance to those that we may witness in 20 years time. This is especially true when we take into account the probability of an enormous increase in the number of unemployed youth in the region, as well as the heightening of their despair as they are faced a lack of opportunities. If serious initiatives are not taken, the region, its countries, and its youth will suffer the consequences.

- **A difficult economic gap to overcome**

Sub-Saharan Africa -accounts for 10% of the world population, contributes to 1% of the world GDP, receives 1% of foreign direct investment, and represents less than 1.5% of international trade.

Due to its weak representation in the global economy, this region is marginalised in terms of development and economic speed. Even worse, the region is at a loss as to how to harness the increasing youth, who are becoming ever more impatient as regards their future.

- **True governance problems**

Although our governance models are built on western experiences, they are not necessarily adapted to our endogenous experiences. We have not taken the time to properly analyse and draw from our own socio-cultural knowledge in terms of governance.

Good governance will never be achieved unless it is experienced at the level of socio-political groups (political parties, trade unions, civil society, and other organizations), institutions, and individuals.

- **A region where three quarters of the population -is under 30 years old**

Three quarters of the regional population is under 30 years old. This creates serious problems of social and professional integration, especially as our States have failed to consider these problems in a timely manner. Nor have they provided strategies for proper management of this youth who turn to actions such as armed conflicts and emigration to find the valorization they lack.

- **Problems specific to youth**

West Africa has not been able to capitalise on the great number of youth as potential for development. Unfortunately, these young people are viewed as burdens who impede the process of economic development. Because of this, their lack of political support leaves them vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised:

- They face various problems of which the most acute are linked to health, education, and professional integration. They suffer from severe social and economic difficulties due to national and international situations. For example, in the area of health, in addition to problems related to the persistence of traditional social practices (forced marriage, early sexual intercourse, female genital mutilation, etc.), youth face new challenges such as STIs/AIDS, early out-of-wedlock pregnancies, abortions, drug addiction, smoking, and their accompanying consequences ;
- Some of the children are left to their own devices, without any protection or education. These children, known as the “street children” or “Talibé” live under miserable conditions, with neither opportunities nor future prospects;
- Young disadvantaged girls, poorly informed and victims of all forms of abuse, face real difficulties in terms of support structures as well as social and economic integration;
- In the area of education, low schooling rate, value crises, and the abdication of parental responsibilities put pressure on this youth left on their own;
- The current social and professional situation of youth is linked to, for the most part, socio-economic crisis patterns. Between the ages of 10 and 25 , the problems are strongly associated with the lack of qualification, idleness, and difficulties in finding a first job;
- There are no support systems for youth who leave school early. There is a lack of training opportunities at the local level and even when training opportunities are available, the cost is prohibitive. Because of this, many thousands of young people who do not have adequate assistance and support are marginalised. In addition, many training programmes are not tailored to the needs of the market;
- Poverty, along with its share of evils, brings about insecurity and increases unemployment and dependence among the young. This situation is compounded by business closures and the need for specialised training. The high unemployment rate is associated with social disintegration. All these conditions lead to increased crime, forced emigration, involvement in armed conflicts, recreational drug use, prostitution, and sexual promiscuity;
- Although they are a main force within the social fabric, the youth are positioned as passive consumers in a world conceived by adults. Their social role is not very important, and they are given only minor responsibilities. The few young people who stand up against adults’ interests (leaders of strike movements, trade union leaders) are often corrupted and invited to share in the wealth;
- Instead of forming citizens in the real sense of the term, the educational system forms young people who are prompted by the desire to get what they want by any means necessary;
- Disadvantaged women, who turn to low-income business activities, face the most difficulties in gaining access to resources for their true social and economic integration, especially when it comes to resources for child care, a domain in which these women have always played an important role in terms of education and also at the socio-economic level. Even though they are often well-organized, they always face difficulties in having access to loans. They are forced to carry out menial household tasks or other unrewarding activities. Yet, studies show that they are able to be productive members of society, participating with credibility, self-sacrifice, and perhaps even greater commitment than men.

▪ **Unfavourable health situation**

Historically, the teenage and youth years have been considered as healthy periods of good health given the fact that the rate of mortality during this period is low. However, little research has been conducted in this area. And yet, the youth have specific needs and concerns that call for special attention.

- More than one -third of the annually estimated 333 million cases of sexually transmitted infections affect young people under the age of 25;
- In 1997, more than half of new HIV infections, about 7,000 a day, occurred among young people;
- One-third of annual births are given by young women, and many of these births are neither desired nor planned;
- In developing countries, maternal mortality among young women under the age of 18 is 2 to 5 times higher than maternal mortality among women between the ages of 18 and 25;
- Adolescents undergo 1 to 4.4 million abortions every year, most of them risky;
- Half of regular smokers who start smoking as teenagers continue to smoke all their lives and will probably eventually die from tobacco's damaging effects (300 million young people are smokers);
- Young people have reached a point where they are capable of doing whatever they want and whatever they can in order to get by: joining in armed conflicts, emigration by boats, etc.

The United Nations agencies have learned by experience that active participation by young people is the most important factor for its programmes to be successful. The challenge for programme initiators will be to increase young people's participation and improve their skills, instead of targeting specific problems.

There are challenges to address and their scope requires that all participants act together to find solutions which respect both human dignity and environmental conservation.

Youth-related challenges by 2025

By 2025, it is likely that the region will attain at least 430 million inhabitants or at most 470 million.

1. Education and Health

The reality of an education for all remains a challenge to be undertaken. . We think it should be accompanied by four variables:

- a quality education;
- a generous and diversified offer;
- a socially and culturally integrated and adapted approach;
- resources which benefit at least 80% of learners.

Four main agencies of the United Nations – World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNAIDS have reached a consensus on 5 major points for improving the health of young people:

- Creating a safe and favourable environment;
- Disseminating information;
- Providing training;
- Providing advisory services;
- Improving health services.

2. Youth Unemployment and Employment

At the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union (AU) on Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction held in Burkina Faso in October 2004, Heads of State reiterated recommendations made by the High-level Personalities Youth Employment Network Committee and stressed the need to develop an integrated employment strategy geared towards entrepreneurship, employment aptitude, equal opportunities, and job creation. Yet, the real commitment of taking concrete actions to solve the problem is much less obvious.

We believe that there is a need today to consider the unemployment problem as a horizontal issue that should be taken into account in all programmes being implemented in the region. Such horizontal considerations should focus on:

- Providing practical job training for youth;
- Diversifying professional training opportunities that meet companies' needs;
- Maximizing vocational training frameworks or structures;
- Rehabilitating and retraining non-graduates through apprenticeship, entrepreneurship, micro-finance;
- Facilitating access to loans and providing technical assistance to youth;
- Promoting a safe environment for investments;
- Targeting youth according to their competencies;
- Involving youth as partners in strategy development and implementation;
- Seeking to ensure employment for young people with disabilities, traumatised young girls, and war veterans;
- Fully involving civil society and creating a favourable investment environment;
- Reviewing and promoting the experiences of schools such as the CIFOP in Senegal (Young graduates and non-graduates Vocational Training Centre, based on the principles and methods of the Boy Scouts) and the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) in Nigeria, which, between 1987 and the present, have trained 600,000 young people, most of them working in rural areas.

3. Drug abuse and delinquency

Young people must be made aware that drug abuse is harmful to their health.

We recommend the creation of resource centres for youth that can provide a listening ear, support, and accurate information on issues related to drug abuse, reproductive health, STI/AIDS, responsible citizenship, and guidance in the area of training and employment, etc.

In general, the reasons leading to drug use by young people are superficial. For some, this is due to lack of information. For others, drugs are a way to take refuge from the injustices of which they are victims.

4. Youth and conflicts

Youth must be made aware that resorting to conflict is not a responsible choice. Conflicts are defined as the consequence of “an attempt by several participants to achieve incompatible goals”. Actually, many factors contribute to the emergence of conflict in Africa: policies of exclusion, spoliation of the national heritage by Governments, economic collapse, persistence of inequalities, lack of clear laws on citizenship, exploitation of ethnic, regional and religious differences for political purposes, influx of small arms, etc. Thus, about one half of African States have been or are victims of violent conflicts. These conflicts discourage foreign investors and lead to the misuse of the limited resources which could have been used for social and economic development. In addition, according to the estimates made by the UN High Commission for Refugees, more than 14 million refugees and nearly 11 million internally displaced persons, many of them children, have been victims of such conflicts. In this respect, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. But, in order to achieve this, we must:

- Consider the potential and the limits of external influence;
- Adopt an attitude of transparency and clear communication of intentions; acknowledge the role of women and youth as full participants in restoring and keeping the peace; reinforce local capacities;
- Increase dialogue among -participants and with partners;
- Ensure that donors co-ordinate their intervention policies.

Indeed, only actions taken by groups at the grass roots level can counteract the problems of the exploitation of young people and the use of ethnic and regional differences for political means. This is a long-term process with low visibility whose results are often difficult to measure. Therefore, communication networks and structures must be put into place in order to overcome the conflict-generating scenarios in which warlords try to imprison the population. Economic resources are another way to prevent these conflicts, especially when the cause is linked to poverty and the scarcity of resources. It is here that micro-credits and co-operatives are invaluable as means to fight against poverty and to curb conflict. Indeed, such networks can become sites of apprenticeship and emergence for new leaders anxious to be accountable to the population for their actions.

5. Young girls and young women

They should be granted special treatment. They are victims of all kind of abuses in both times of war and times of peace.

Even if the strategy of schooling girls has gained ground, it still remains that education and training opportunities provided to young girls could be further diversified. In fact, they also need to be prepared to play an active role in society, to make decisions, and to exercise their rights as well as take control of their political, social, and economic responsibilities.

For young women, their capacities in becoming productive members of society must be further reinforced. Indeed, women's commitment to work and the regulatory role they play in society and in the formation of future generations are matters of historical fact.

6. Full and effective participation of youth in society and in the decision-making process on the political, economic, social and family levels

A new model of youth is needed to promote a new model of youth as an example to follow by investing in youth citizenship, job training, as well as social and professional integration. The society along with its youth must answer the following question: What kind of youth do we want to promote?

While we do not claim to have the answer to the question, we believe that this youth must be a young "C.A.S.C.R.":

Citizen: being a member of local, national, and international communities;

Autonomous: learning to be physically, morally, intellectually, and socially autonomous by taking the time to learn how to achieve self-reliance and develop self-esteem;

Solidarity: showing solidarity with people (younger, elders, women), animals (to safeguard environmental diversity), nature (as protectors);

Committed: being voluntarily and professionally committed in the research, implementation and follow-up of the development strategies for our communities;

Responsible: being responsible to oneself, to others, and to society for one's opinions, actions, and visions.

The Sahel and West Africa Club and the Youth by 2025:

The Club is very much engaged in West Africa. It strongly supports regional institutions and States. From Cotonou 2005, to Abidjan 2006, and Ouagadougou 2006 today, the Club has shown, through its Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit, its skills in conducting and facilitating the decompartmentalisation of common problems and in creating synergy among various West African actors in order to identify and review changes, developments, and prospects in the dynamics of political, social, and economic transformation.

The Club is aware of the need to include women and youth in seeking solutions, in planning, and in implementing strategies for curbing the crisis and achieving development.

The youth call upon the Club to rise to a new challenge of looking for leads to solutions which can be taken with the youth and by the youth to solve the problems which they face.

Today, we hope, under the West African Youth Co-ordinating Unit, which was created after the Cotonou Forum, to mobilise the following entities in order to conceptualise an integrated youth policy at the regional level:

- ✓ Regional institutions, such as the WAEMU, the CILSS, and ECOWAS;
- ✓ Ministers of Youth from Mauritania, Chad and Cameroon and the ECOWAS member States;
- ✓ Regional and national civil society;
- ✓ Media;
- ✓ Religious and traditional representatives;
- ✓ Diversified youth representation;

The recommendations will be widely disseminated among Presidents, National Assemblies, regional institutions, youth and communities. Furthermore, we hope that the Ministers of Youth would make a commitment to its implementation.

In addition, the Co-ordinating Unit calls upon the Sahel and West Africa Club to support and facilitate its structural organisation at the regional and national levels and to eventually advocate and raise awareness for the emergence of a new youth in West Africa.

Conclusion:

While the arguments of investing in youth are often repeated in speeches, especially during electoral campaigns, they are rarely put into practice. . The challenge for West African Governments, development partners, civil society, women, and youth consists in harnessing this huge potential. According to estimates, reducing the youth unemployment rate by half in Sub-Saharan Africa could help to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 19%.



African Industrial Association

E VOLUTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN WEST AFRICA

by Mrs. Aimée Mendy
Director of Public Relations of AIA

Evolution of the Private Sector in West Africa

- ❖ Until the end of the 1980s, Africa produces and exports essentially raw materials to meet the increasing demand of Northern countries.
- ❖ African countries have modest industrial structures; insufficient infrastructure explains the lack of competitiveness and development of the private sector.
- ❖ Need for States to develop an industrial policy enabling businesses to be competitive on the national, regional and international levels.
- ❑ Since the 1990s, industrial activity seems to be developing with the arrival of the IDE
- ❑ Countries in the sub-region draw closer to the private sector, with the improvement of the business environment.
- The 1994 Marrakech Agreements made trade liberalisation possible, while countries in the South were not prepared.
- In fact, with a certain openness to competition, both legal and illegal products have started to flood our markets.
- The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) entering into force with the European Union will solidify the total opening of borders.
- ❑ We are still not prepared to face it.
- ❑ African industries have relatively high production costs compared to those in Asian countries, for example.

- ❑ The obstacles to the development of the African private sector are both numerous and varied:
 - The high cost of energy, telecommunications and logistics hinders industrialisation
 - Lack of qualified personnel is a disadvantage
 - The existence of internal markets does not allow economies of scale in production costs.
- ❑ Accelerate the transfer of technology.
- ❑ Promote basic education and professional training.

The Millennium Goals and African Industries

- ❑ To achieve the Millennium Goals, African industries must adapt. African organisations suggest joint solutions in order to achieve economic growth:
 1. Set up an effective policy regional integration
 2. Develop South/South and North/South cooperation
 3. Create a favourable investment climate
 4. Develop production capacities for more competitive businesses
 5. Set up African standards

A Positive image of African industry

- ❑ African industries have a key role to play in the development of the continent
 - But trade liberalisation has gone too quickly and too far.
 - Hence July 2004, the African Industrial Association (AIA) was created.
 - Major African industrial operators decided to create the AIA to highlight a proactive image of African Industries
 - The AIA is working assiduously to define national, regional and international policies capable of creating favourable conditions necessary to strengthen African industries

A Positive Image of the African Industrial Environment

The AIA is a young organisation which is developing fast. It is open to all those who share its objectives:

- The AIA consists of 23 members –major industrial operators who cover a wide range of sectors
- 15 industrial sectors are represented: textiles, cotton, aquaculture, sugar, flour mills, tobacco, dairy products, arabic gum, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, plastics, cartons, mechanical industries, gas, petroleum transportation, etc.
- Consolidated Capital: 984 billion FCFA or close to 1.5 billion euros, that is a little more than 30% of the GDP of a country like Burkina Faso.
- MORE THAN 250,000 FORMAL JOBS

❑ The AIA in figures

- ❖ 23 Groups in more than 20 African countries and 3 customs unions (the WAEMU, CEMAC, COMESA)

❑ **Our role**

- ❖ A discussion platform for African industrialists and a contact with political national, regional and international decision-makers
- ❖ A force for identifying priorities in order to improve the functioning of regional unions (fiscal-customs issues, non tariff barriers, product specification, standards, etc.)
- ❖ A actor in trade negotiations (Economic Partnership Agreements and WTO Agreements, in particular)
- ❖ A partner in strategic thinking carried out on regional and international private sector aid programmes.

❑ **Our priorities:**

- **Improvement of African industries' competitiveness**
- **Establishment of equitable international trade rules to:**
 - **Allow African industries to be able to compete**
 - **To fight against fraud, forgery and dumping**
 - **To strengthen regional integration in Africa (trade facilitation)**

❑ **Our approach**

- ❖ Support the efforts of local and regional authorities in the definition of a coherent industrial policy
- ❖ Seek assistance from international institutions and donors
- ❖ Involve all local and industrial actors in Africa
- ❖ Work on projects yielding concrete results.

❑ **Our Relationship with the Sahel and West Africa Club**

- Regional integration is essential to the development of the private sector.
- Industrial and private sector development must take place at the regional level.
- The Sahel and West Africa Club focuses on West Africa and recognises the crucial and priority role of the private sector and that of the industrial sector as a driver of medium- and long-term development of the region.
- AIA considers the Club an important partner for West Africa given its characteristics

Conclusion

- ❑ **AIA will continue to move forward:**
- ❖ **African industries should be able to benefit from a favorable environment that will enable them to develop.**

- ❖ **Set up an additional tax in the WAEMU**

- ❑ **The objectives of the aia**

We will work actively at all levels:

- ✓ To take into account the strengths and weaknesses of our industries.
- ✓ To create truly integrated regional markets.
- ✓ To define more balanced and diverse international trade regulations taking into account Africa's specificity.

Thank you for your kind attention

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United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA Dakar / Senegal)

West Africa: Review of the Current Situation and Medium and Long-term Perspectives

by Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Aïssata Keita
Principal Adviser for Human Rights Representing the
United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

*Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to convey to the new President of the Sahel and West Africa Club, Mr. Charles Goerens, the warmest congratulations from Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for West Africa, who delegated me to represent him at this meeting. He requested that I extend his best wishes, as well as those of all UNOWA members, to the entire team of the Sahel Club which is today celebrating its thirty years of fruitful collaboration with our sub-region. Lastly, he requested that I thank you for inviting UNOWA to participate in these important events in the life of the Sahel Club and to express UNOWA's satisfaction with its cooperation with your institution.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this meeting is taking place at a time when the African Union is preparing for its summit meeting in Banjul. It is also a time when the political developments in West Africa give us reason to hope for a better future, even though some concerns are still clouding the horizon.

Dear participants, for many observers, West Africa appears today as a fragile region where peace and security often face very difficult challenges. Since the era of independence, this region has been the scene of many profound changes that signal not only progress, but also stagnation and even regression.

First of all, I intend to present an overview of the socio-economic situation and of the political situation in the sub-region. Then, I will highlight specific issues which heighten the vulnerability of the sub-region, as well as new perspectives on the socio-economic outlook. Finally, I will address the issue of cooperation, particularly the one between UNOWA and the Sahel and West Africa Club.

I. Overview of the socio-economic situation

A number of changes in the region are due to natural hazards.

Indeed, some West African countries face recurrent natural disasters, whereas they lack sufficient early prevention and alert capabilities. First of all, there is the problem of unstable climatic conditions. Recent years have been marked by low rainfall, particularly in Sahelian countries, where rainfall has often been below 400 mm. This decline in rainfall has exacerbated an economic situation that is already difficult, and has had adverse effects on food and animal production.

Secondly, there have been invasions of locusts and other predators, which have caused significant losses in production in many areas of the region.

Natural disasters and human activity have led to the continuous degradation of the environment and the progressive desertification of certain areas which were once fertile. This has significantly reduced the availability of land for agriculture and stockbreeding, leading to increasing conflicts between farmers and breeders.⁸ These conflicts considerably affect the relations between communities and sometimes result in physical aggressions and even murders. They can even degenerate into armed conflicts.

Between 1980 and 2005 the food situation in West African countries deteriorated as a result of natural disasters and human abuse of the environment. In 2005, the number of people in Niger, Mali and Mauritania finding themselves in a precarious food situation was estimated at 3.7 million. Other countries experienced similar food shortages at varying levels. According to OCHA, for example, about 500,000 people in Burkina Faso were affected by food shortages in 2005. As regards nutrition in West Africa, it is estimated that 4 million children under the age of 5 (10% of this age group) suffered from severe malnutrition, and 13 million (33% of all children) suffered from chronic malnutrition⁹. The food situation over the past twenty years shows that some countries in the region recorded declines in available food supplies of up to 50% between 1980 and 2003, which accounts for the deterioration in the nutrition levels of young children.

This trend exemplifies the increasing difficulties that countries in the region have to overcome in order to feed an ever-growing population.

Indeed, since independence, the population of West Africa has increased rapidly. Between 1960 and 2005, the population of West Africa increased threefold, from 87 to 260 million inhabitants. It is projected that in 2020 the population of the sub-region will likely reach 350 million inhabitants, half of whom will be living in urban centres. Of course, the rapid population growth has been accompanied by an increase in towns and accelerated rural exodus of youths in search of better paying jobs¹⁰.

It goes without saying that this accelerated growth of the urban population, coupled with diminishing food resources, could pose a serious problem of food security and of security altogether in the very near future.

⁸ Since pasturelands are becoming scarce, breeders often take their cattle across areas usually developed for farming.

⁹ OCHA: Consolidated Appeals Process (CAD), West Africa, 2006

¹⁰ According to some estimates, by 2020, West Africa will have at least 11 large towns of more than 5 million inhabitants and about 600 towns with 100 to 500,000 inhabitants.

Indeed, economic and production growth has not been as rapid as that of the population¹¹. This imbalance between resources and the population has led to a deterioration of the standard of living of the populations, a decline in the production of goods and services, repetitive food crises and an acceleration of poverty.

This situation has consequences that could adversely affect peace and stability in the region; these include frequent food crises, displacement of populations seeking arable land, massive flow of youths into towns seeking jobs and better living conditions, continuous deterioration of the environment, and exacerbation of social tensions. UNOWA is completing a study on the threats of hypertrophic and uncontrollable urbanization to peace and stability in West Africa.

However, despite this rather distressing overview, the region has huge economic potential, particularly in areas of agriculture and livestock.

The agriculture and livestock sectors remain – and will remain for a long time – the major production sectors, given that about 40% of the population are engaged in activities in these sectors. They provide most of the food in rural and urban areas. And, despite constraints relating to the climate and natural disasters, agriculture still has unexploited development potential, particularly in the agro-food sector.

The countries in the region could increase production in this area. They could increase the quantities produced, so as to ensure domestic food self-sufficiency, and generate surpluses enough to supply local processing industries, as well as regional and international markets.

Generally speaking, increased agricultural production in order to fight against food insecurity and malnutrition, and to ensure an industrial boom for the countries as well as regional integration remains an important challenge for West African countries, particularly by improving and ensuring better coordination of agro-food and nutrition policies and by increasing production capacities, diversification and productivity.

The industrial sector remains underdeveloped, and countries in the region still depend heavily on the importation of consumer goods from developed countries; this considerably reduces their capacity to integrate into the multilateral trade system and globalization.

To ensure its socio-economic development, the sub-region needs to meet increasing challenges in governance.

Decades of economic crises and decline in production have contributed to reducing the quantities of available goods and services, which are no longer sufficient to meet the needs of an ever-growing population. Moreover, in many countries, the quality of public institutions has deteriorated substantially, while the motivation of civil servants and efficiency in delivery of services has also declined. Unfortunately, these weaknesses are often accompanied by an increase in the misappropriation of public funds and corruption.

It should be pointed out that economic efficiency cannot be achieved without institutional efficiency, and that it is the complementarity of the different actors - government, private sector, civil society – that allow for the liberation of economic forces and create opportunities.

An analysis of the political situation shows that the same line of thought applies to individual freedoms as well as free and transparent elections.

¹¹ The production growth rate was estimated at an average of 5% in 2005 in the region.

II. Political situation and rule of law

Nearly all single party regimes in West Africa and throughout the continent disappeared during the 1990s. Furthermore, the democratic process as the legitimate means of accession to power has flourished across the continent. Indeed, the organization and conduct of free and transparent elections, which reflect progress in State governance, are gaining ground as a method of designating representatives of the people. Democratic elections have taken place over the past few years in many countries including Sierra Leone and Liberia which, after years of armed conflict, organized free and transparent elections leading to the election of the first woman Head of State in Liberia. Over the past few months, Côte d'Ivoire has undergone a positive evolution in the peace process, particularly in areas of the DDR and identification. However, more efforts need to be made to meet the October 2006 deadline for free and transparent elections. Recent social and political events in some countries, such as strikes, armed movements, kidnapping and seclusion of people, as well as assassinations, may from time to time draw attention to the fragility of sub-regional stability, but on the whole there has been a reduction in large-scale conflicts.

Unfortunately, West Africa remains the region that has witnessed the highest number of anti-constitutional government changes in Africa since independence.

A study published in 2005 by Patrick McGowan indicates that from 1955 (in the case of Liberia) or from the time of independence of the other fifteen States, to 2004, West African States have witnessed 44 successful military overthrows, 43 unsuccessful overthrows, and 82 plots declared as such and attributed to elements in the army. West Africa has also been affected by 7 devastating civil wars¹².

These anti-constitutional methods of accession to power could threaten the peace and stability of the sub-region; their causes should therefore be eliminated.

In his report on the causes of conflict in Africa¹³, the United Nations Secretary-General stressed that: "Where there is insufficient accountability of leaders, lack of transparency in regimes, inadequate checks and balances, non-adherence to the rule of law, absence of peaceful means to change or replace leadership, or lack of respect for human rights, political control becomes excessively important, and the stakes become dangerously high."

UNOWA recently completed a report on this issue, with concrete recommendations on means of facilitating peaceful change of leadership.

It may also be noted that elections, which constitute one of the most appropriate means of democratic expression, are paradoxically the potential causes of conflict in West Africa. Indeed, despite broad pluralist electoral environments and acceptance of the principle of democratic change, many challenges still impede the advent of the rule of law. These include:

- the low participation of populations in the political process;
- the weakness of countervailing powers, including the media;

¹² Patrick J. McGowan, "Coups and conflicts in West Africa, 1955-2004", *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 32, N°1, October 2005, p. 5.

¹³ "The causes of conflicts and promotion of sustainable peace and development in Africa", Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, *A/52/871-S/1998/318* of 13 April 1998.

- the difficulty of establishing constructive and sustained dialogue with civil society;
- the low level of civic and citizenship education.

These weaknesses undermine the credibility of the electoral system, and could affect the legitimacy of the authorities in power, including those chosen through democratic elections. If efforts are not made to improve and broaden participation in the political process, these weaknesses could lead to opposition that really threatens sub-regional peace and security, despite the progress already made.

Overview of human rights in West Africa

Formerly considered as the haven of peace and security, West Africa has for the past few years appeared as a zone of insecurity, and as an area where fundamental rights and human dignity are given very little consideration. Indeed, for more than ten years, West Africa has witnessed internal violent and deadly conflicts, with repercussions beyond national borders. This situation of widespread insecurity has led to serious violations of human rights, ranging from infringement of individual and collective freedoms to violations of collective rights to peace and security, including serious infringement of the right to life and personal security, acts of torture, arbitrary arrests, etc. It can also be noted that insecurity and violations of human rights sustain each other.

Without wanting to generalize the situation of each individual country, it can be noted that in recent years multi-faceted insecurity has developed almost everywhere in West Africa.

Insecurity within West African States is multi-faceted and multi-dimensional. In view of its magnitude, it endangers individual and collective security. Insecurity goes beyond state borders and takes on various forms such as cross-border insecurity, leading particularly to increased trans-national criminality, the proliferation and illegal trafficking of arms, the trafficking of human beings, drug trafficking, and the looting of natural resources.

In addition, there are irregular and uncontrolled migratory movements of populations, forced displacements of populations fleeing armed conflicts, movements of refugees, police harassment of travellers, racketeering, acts of violence and other forms of extortion by the security forces on cross-border West African travellers.

Trans-national criminality dangerously undermines the very existence of democracy, as it destroys the confidence of the populations in the Government and weakens the public administration. It also paralyzes economic growth and instigates an exodus of the labour force.

Economic, social and cultural rights are often impeded by many obstacles, including poverty, illiteracy, ignorance due to inadequate awareness, corruption, indifference and sometimes, simply the lack of determination on the part of those responsible for protecting these rights.

All West African States declare that they are democratic, with the rule of law and committed to regional and sub-regional integration, and the progress made in recent years is considerable, in comparison to the prior situation. However, the progress remains very insignificant compared to accepted international standards. Furthermore, it is constantly undermined by the persistence of numerous and serious violations of personal rights.

West African States are all parties to major international and regional instruments on human rights. It is the disregard for international and national provisions, the inadequacy of some national legislations, impunity and lack of knowledge as well as ignorance of these rights that lead to frustrations and conflicts.

UNOWA has carried out a study on the status of human rights in West Africa and on the link between human rights and sub-regional insecurity. This report, prepared within the framework of conflict prevention in the sub-region, will be discussed by the different actors involved in the protection and promotion of human rights in West Africa, particularly the ECOWAS' partners of. It is expected to lead to the development of an integrated sub-regional strategy and action plan to ensure better protection of human rights. Emphasis is placed on the protection of the rights of women, children and the most vulnerable categories.

III. Specific issues

- v Youth unemployment;
- v Gender disparity;
- v The breakthrough of new trade partners and the proliferation of new information and communication technologies.

A. Youth Unemployment

Over the past two decades, the challenges of unemployment have intensified, as the result of recession and the increasingly limited capacity of the modern sector to meet the growing demand for paid jobs. The increase in job demand accelerated over the past twenty years and remained high, whereas job opportunities in the modern sector, the public in particular, stagnated, and even regressed. The consequences of this situation were often dramatic: persistence of poverty, growing inequality of incomes, brain drain, clandestine migration, increase in number of armed groups, and insecurity, etc.

I wish to examine the issue of clandestine migration, and its consequences on respect for human rights. These migrations are indeed a scourge for sub-regional peace and security. While it is true that clandestine migration is not a new phenomenon, it is evident that today they have taken on a new dimension due to the determination of youth, and sometimes entire communities, racked by despair and distress, to flee poverty at any cost. These populations are increasingly refusing to return to the starting point, which they consider to be a failure; in fact, they try to hold the public authorities responsible for their plight. This situation becomes a source of frustrations, leading to social unrest that can weaken the stability of the countries where they occur.

B. Gender Disparity

With respect to gender disparity, nearly half of the human capital is under-utilized, because women still have only limited access to basic resources (land and credit) which would have enabled them to contribute to production and economic development. However, the crucial role of women in economic production contrasts with the discrimination and/or lack of opportunities of which they are victims, as regards to access to education, employment, financing possibilities, basic resources and technologies required for effective involvement in production and commercial activities.

Consequently, it is necessary to integrate crucial issues of youth employment and gender balance into poverty reduction efforts and economic development, particularly as regards to programmes for reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction, or for refugees, repatriated people and internal displaced people. The United Nations Office for West Africa will soon establish a unit responsible for studying the problem of youth employment. It will first create a database of pertinent information in order to fully assess the scope of the challenge ahead. The activities of this unit should then involve a number of partners to reflect on a common regional platform, and lastly, envisage the integration of job creation and gender balance issues into the poverty reduction and economic development policies of countries in the region.

- C. I would again like to highlight two new efforts. The first is the expansion of new information and communication technologies. In its report on youth unemployment published a few months ago, UNOWA proposes to explore this new initiative to create jobs for youths. The second is the breakthrough of new partners, which broadens the horizons to trade in West Africa.

Strategic thinking on future perspectives of the West African region and Africa, in general, cannot ignore these realities.

IV. Cooperation to be envisaged

It is increasingly evident that economic development policies should be considered within a regional framework.

The United Nations Office for West Africa is generally responsible for strengthening United Nations efforts in order to achieve the priority objectives of West Africa in the area of peace and security within a sub-regional approach. It is an attempt at decentralization and at linking United Nations activities of conflict prevention and strengthening peace at the sub-regional level.

The Office is responsible for:

- Strengthening links between the activities of the United Nations and the other partners in the sub-region by promoting an integrated sub-regional approach;
- Liaising with ECOWAS and other sub-regional partners;
- Following best practices and performing special duties in countries of the region on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General;
- Providing support to the efforts of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission;
- Lastly, following up on the recommendations of Security Council reports on the sub-region. It is the first United Nations regional office for the consolidation of peace and conflict prevention in the world that has the mandate to promote a sub-regional approach, rather than one built on a country by country basis.

Its current activities concern cross-border issues and movement of combatants from one country to another, the sub-regional consequences of the Côte d'Ivoire crisis, cooperation with ECOWAS, the DDR at the sub-regional level, reform of the security sector, youth employment, issues of demographic trends, uncontrolled urbanization and risks of conflict, peaceful change of leadership, problems relating to respect for human rights and sub-regional security, and lastly, migration issues.

In the area of cross-border trade, the idea of "cross-border area" or "local integration" deserves special attention from countries in the region in order to carry out strategic thinking on the best approach for its implementation and accelerate the process of regional integration through community projects, designed by local actors, both public and private.

The partnership between UNOWA, the Sahel and West Africa Club, and institutions in the sub-region on the implementation of integrated strategies for sensitive cross-border areas of Mauritania-Mali-Niger and Burkina-Mali-Côte d'Ivoire has had very promising impacts. As regards to combating child trafficking, a very important recommendation of the Sikasso Colloquium (September 2005) on the establishment of a sub-regional monitoring framework will be implemented next month in Abidjan. UNOWA would therefore like to strengthen cooperation in this area by adding to the two zones already taken into consideration, the border areas of Benin-Togo or Togo-Ghana.

It would also be desirable to develop a partnership for analyzing all facets of the migration issue in the sub-region, and exploring perspectives offered by ECOWAS protocols, particularly on the free movement of persons and goods, in order to find answers to this problem. UNOWA could also envisage a partnership for exploring perspectives offered by the development of new technologies.

Lastly, as regards human rights, a partnership could be envisaged to better involve the different actors to better protect and promote human rights, particularly regarding important issues such as advocacy for the ratification of conventions, sensitization and training in human rights.

I am convinced that participants in this meeting will identify concrete actions to promote and that our development partners will support us in their implementation.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Culture, Governance and Development

by Mr. Raymond Weber,
Director General of Lux-Development, Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency

I. Cultural dimensions of development: an old discourse among culture experts”

It could be said, without exaggerating, that the “discourse” on the cultural goals of development or, more modestly, on the cultural dimensions of development, somewhat falls within the purview of UNESCO, and the Council of Europe (a European Intergovernmental Organization which today brings together 46 democracies of Europe). This is because these two Organizations are based on human rights values which are “cross-cutting issues” found in all policies and strategies.

The first UNESCO text, which places great emphasis on the issues, is its **Constitution** (1945) which declares that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”.

2nd text: the **Declaration of the Principles of Cultural Cooperation** (1966) underscores the dignity of each culture: “Each culture has a dignity and value which must be respected and preserved. Every people has the right and the duty to develop its culture. (...) all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind”.

3rd text: the **Declaration of Mexico** (1982) which adopts an anthropological definition of culture. Culture is “the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs.”

4th and 5th texts: the **Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity** (2001) and the **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions** (2005).

The first text places much emphasis on the key role of “**Cultural rights** which are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent... All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

The second text, which is legally more binding (provided it obtains the required ratifications), insists on “the need to **incorporate culture as a strategic element in national and international development policies**”, and highlights eight guiding principles, including the principle of “equal dignity of and respect for all cultures”, the principle of “international solidarity and cooperation”, and the principle of “the complementarity of economic and cultural aspects of development”. Lastly, the Convention requests States to “integrate culture in their development policies at all levels for the creation of conditions conducive to sustainable development and, within this framework, foster aspects relating to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions”.

All these texts have a common decompartmentalised and cross-cutting vision of culture, placing more emphasis on the processes and dynamics than on goods and services, on the “powers” and energies of culture more than on heritage and identities, which would be rigid and constrained. This culture today draws on cultural diversity and is based on cultural rights, leading to cultural citizenship and governance.

II. Culture and development: a recent problem among economists and political scientists.

At the end of the 1990s, the World Bank started speaking of “a culture (that) counts” (theme of two important conferences organised in Washington and Florence, in cooperation with UNESCO).

Whereas at the Rio de Janeiro Summit on the environment and development in 1992 the cultural dimension was completely absent in the strategic thinking on sustainable development. Such was not the case at the Johannesburg Summit on sustainable development in 2002, where UNESCO, as part of its work on cultural diversity, entrusted Arjun Appadurai (author, particularly of: *Après le colonialisme. Les conséquences culturelles de la globalisation*, published by Payot) with a key study on the links between culture(s) and development.

However, it was especially Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize winner for Economics, and the 2004 UNDP Report on “cultural freedom in a diversified world” which – I think – finally “reconciled” culture with economy and put back culture at the core of development processes. There, it is clearly stated that citizens are free to take part in society and to participate in development without having to abandon the cultural values they have chosen. Globalisation flow is also treated in a “positive” light: flow of investments and knowledge (by including indigenous populations in a globally integrated world), flow of cultural property (by broadening choices through creativity and diversity), flow of persons (by developing multiple identities for the citizens of the world).

One can easily see the extraordinary opportunities thus created for Africa: from very rich cultural traditions and very lively contemporary art, we witness the birth of more exciting, creative and enthusiastic societies. From its economic and trade marginalisation in globalisation, Africa can move on to “a central position” in culture, and the proposal of a new “living-together” in human development based on (human) security and cultural diversity.

It should also be noted that several Development Agencies have adopted strategies that incorporate the cultural dimension in their projects. Such is the case, in particular, with Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (Development Cooperation Directorate: “Culture is not a luxury”), Germany (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) and Spain.

Lastly, mention should be made of strategic thinking on cultural rights and cooperation in development conducted by the “*Institut Interdisciplinaires d’Ethique et des Droits de l’Homme de l’Université de Fribourg*” (Switzerland), in cooperation with UNESCO Chairs in human rights and development, and in partnership with the “*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*” and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Strategic thinking should lead to the establishment of a “Diversity and Cultural Rights Observatory”, which would monitor the implementation of cultural rights in development.

III. Culture is development: What are the consequences of this new paradigm?

Apart from the intellectual consequences (such as the possibility of challenging the concepts of development and governance from the point of view of cultural rights and freedoms), there are a series of more directly operational consequences:

- the incorporation of socio-cultural contexts in the definition and implementation of development cooperation policies;
- the inclusion of cultural factors in sustainable development strategies, on the basis of a series of arguments ranging from recognition to evaluation;
- the need to “empower” development actors (and these include particularly women and youths) and their participation in development strategies and processes, a key aspect of any development strategy;
- by making culture a “driver” for development, we are calling for creativity, innovation and research. However, we are also enabling wise people, poets, artists and researchers to indicate to us the “markers” of the future. Furthermore, cultural freedoms and rights enable us to take a critical and stimulating look at our facts and prejudices within a public space that allows for confrontation of ideas and opens for us avenues for intercultural dialogue;
- by decompartmentalising culture as regards development, economy and trade, we have the possibility of “breaking” the asymmetries and inequalities that we encounter; e.g. in international trade. We can transform the extraordinary African artistic creativity into economic potential, and implement cooperation “at eye-level”, or to paraphrase an expression by Amadou Hampâté Bâ, “the hand which gives is not above the hand that receives”.

Consequently, some African values could serve as “models” for other continents: refusal of the tyranny of time, the different relation to space and to the community and peaceful integration into the environment, acceptance and channelling of passions, particularly through ritualization, resistance to the accumulation of purely material wealth, the radical reform of democracy through negotiation and mediation, social creativity and the faculty to recycle, settling and the power of resistance. In light of all these values, Serge Latouche says that Africa has today become a “laboratory of post-modernity”. By providing a new central position to culture in development, we are also providing a new central position to Africa within the international community;

- The paradigm : culture = development enables us also to develop human security, which no longer depends only on peace, the rule of law and democracy, but also on the fact that each person should feel secure in his identity and recognised in his dignity;
- From an information society, we gradually move today towards a society of learning, or even a society of knowledge. In such a society, what counts above all is the “grey matter”, i.e. knowledge and cultures. This “matter”, unlike raw materials, can be developed by each society from its heritage and creativity!

Let us conclude with two quotations by Joseph Ki-Zerbo: “we do not develop something, we develop ourselves” and “we cannot develop with the culture of others”.

Development that is based on traditions and cultural experiences of the populations and would draw its force from their determination to direct economic, social and cultural change to which they aspire, will enable Africa to return to modernity and “humanized” globalisation.

Annexes

Message by Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle, President of the Club from 2002 to 2005, in Celebration of the Sahel and West Africa Club's 30th Anniversary

Dear friends and new companions,

I send you all my best regards in celebration of this thirtieth anniversary.

At the initiative of some OECD Member countries, for the past thirty years the Club has been bringing together the CILSS, and development advocates, citizens, institutions and political leaders, Africans, Europeans, Americans, Japanese, etc.

The Club's specificity lies in its perseverance in letting it be known that West Africa is a region of the world whose dynamics and constraints are prophetic for those who consider the gap between the richest countries and developing countries.

Let us recall its first ideological struggles: faced with the drought in the Sahel, imagining food security in the region and pondering over the chances and future of agriculture in West Africa. Thirty years later these issues are even more urgent in this inequitable global trade context!

Let us consider fully the work carried out on demographic evolution and population dynamics, which is the main theme for any strategic thinking on the future. Certainly, the mobility of populations is a development dynamic, and this is, indeed, the first strategy for poverty reduction.

Tensions in rich countries' as regards the migration of poor people underscore the importance of the work undertaken by the Club. Which lessons should be updated for African political leaders and regional institutions?

Let us commend the Club on its contributions to the promotion of local development, the foundations for democracy.

Let us admire the first institutions on cross-border cooperation, that is, regional integration created and experienced by the peoples themselves. This is an idea changing the world in Europe just like in Africa and elsewhere!

Let us consider a recent decisive turning point when the Club acknowledged the indissociable trinity of democratic governance, civil peace and regional peace, which are necessary conditions for development.

Let us reiterate the main idea behind these approaches: West Africa is destined for unity. Regional integration is not the business of technocrats but a prerequisite for the development of solidarity for the people.

But what is new, and which extends well beyond the thirtieth anniversary of the Club, is the fact that these West Africans are taking the floor to express themselves as was done at the Bastille; voices of democrats, women and youth must be heard including those crusaders for hope! What a festival!

June 2005: Cotonou's Forum; June 2006: Ouagadougou's Forum! May this meeting of June become an expected and regular event for everyone!

Each generation receives a legacy, which it transfers in its turn to another; but we, which world are we going to transfer to the next generation? This is a serious question at the centre of this Forum for which from afar we await your recommendations.

I wish you all the best in your stormy and friendly debates, in your late night working sessions, and extend my solidarity to the writers of the synthesis paper, to exhausted translators and to all other persons for their efforts in this Forum, who will contribute to shedding light on the future.

Words of Farewell of Mrs. Sunhilt Schumacher, Deputy Director of the Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD

*Distinguished panelists and participants at this meeting,
Dear friends and colleagues,*

After having listened to all of these very interesting analyses, strategic thinking and various points of view, obviously I would like to continue our exchanges. If I can, I would like to speak on a more personal note.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say “*au revoir*” or rather “farewell” to the members and partners of the Sahel and West Africa Club here today on the Club’s 30th Anniversary.

In fact, I am leaving the Club after working in the Secretariat for almost six years, first as a Senior Expert seconded by the German Government and GTZ, and then for the last three years as Deputy Director. I am leaving the Club, as I have reached the official retirement age (65), to settle in Germany. I will join the “Club of the so-called older and wise people” indeed the Club which we spoke about yesterday evening. You can understand that this is an exciting and poignant moment – even melancholic – after a long professional career, of which a good deal was dedicated to working with and for Africa.

As an economist, I started my career in the private sector far from the concerns of developing countries. But my interest and opportunities led to my involvement in international cooperation and aid, notably Africa, within various institutions in Germany such as the KfW and GTZ as well as consulting firms.

It is very symbolic that at the end of my professional career, I find myself in Burkina Faso, a country to which I have travelled many times and for which I was responsible within the GTZ for ten years. This is where I started my apprenticeship on the Sahel and Africa around 30 years ago through visiting villages, a great number of meetings, informal and formal dialogues with the population, government and donors.

With this glance into the past, I consider my work at the SWAC as probably the most challenging, complex and fascinating, not only due to my increased responsibilities with age, but the nature of the Club, its particularity, its mandate, its goals and its challenges. Contrary to international development partners who play an important role, among others, through their financial contributions, the SWAC is not a donor. It is more often solicited for its ideas, knowledge, analyses and initiatives as well as its ability to mobilise actors from all over West Africa and elsewhere.

As you know, the Club Secretariat is a structure which is difficult to compare with other institutions within the “international cooperation world” such as cooperation agencies, research institutes or international NGOs. It has had to clarify and even re-examine its mandate indeed its “niche” several times. I believe that the following (key) elements most characterise the Club and are its strength:

- First its role as facilitator/interface and advocate between countries of the North and West Africa which have enabled it to develop a great many partnerships even complicity at all levels within West African countries. This has contributed to its increased perennial understanding of the countries region and created thus credibility and confidence.

- The second element is its goal of intellectual and organisational rigor in order to produce quality information.
- Finally, its ability to bring together members of society and government around important structural and current strategic topics and its desire to disseminate as widely as possible the realities of the African population who, despite a sometimes painful transition process, are moving forward by leaps and bounds; this does not correspond to the regular image we see in the media nor of that in Northern countries and sometime even Africans have of West Africa.

I am not here to praise the SWAC as I am still part of the Secretariat, but I can affirm and I am convinced that despite its relatively small size and the number of challenges facing West Africa, the SWAC can contribute/generate significant value added; proven by the appreciation and the written and verbal testimonies of many partners who stress the beneficial catalyst and triggering role the Club plays. I take this opportunity to pay homage to all of my colleagues at the SWAC, starting with the Director, for their commitment and the quality of their work and I encourage them to continue on this path.

I also thank the SWAC's partners and friends from Northern countries for their support, sometimes, over many years. Finally, I thank the West African friends and partners for their precious and solidary cooperation with the desire to improve the economic, social and political situation of the populations; this working relationship which has brought me much satisfaction at the professional as well as the human level.

After having listened to all of the panelists present their perspective of the situation in West Africa, I would say there is plenty of work to do. I firmly believe that the Club Secretariat, in close cooperation with the various partners must continue its work in order to help face these challenges through forward-looking thinking, cross-cutting analyses, without cant; some would call it the work of a "pesky fly".

Africa has significant economic and human potential as well as all the programmes, charters and laws that it needs to succeed. However, it seems to be missing the lever, the trigger mechanism or maybe non-complacent discussions on the real underlying problems which are hindering Africa's "take off".

Every one of us should contribute to solving this problem including the SWAC. I will continue to follow from afar, but always with great interest and commitment, the trends in the region and the Club's initiatives. It is not out of the question that we will see each other again in another setting where I may possibly have the opportunity to use my experience and lessons learned during my many years of service for the region.

I would like to thank you again for your cooperation, confidence, even friendship and I wish you all good luck in your various future projects.

Farewell and see you soon.