



## *Human Security in West Africa:*

### *Challenges, Synergies and Action for a Regional Agenda*

Workshop organised by  
Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD

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### **Volume 1 ♦ Summary Report**

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Le Seine Saint-Germain  
4, Boulevard des Îles  
92130 ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX  
Tél. : +33 (0) 1 45 24 89 87  
Fax : +33 (0) 1 45 24 90 31  
<http://www.oecd.org/sah>

Adresse postale :  
2 rue André-Pascal  
75775 Paris Cedex 16



## Workshop

*« Human Security in West Africa:  
Challenges, Synergies and Action for Regional Agenda »*

### Volume 1 ♦ Summary Report

prepared by

Governance, Conflicts Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit  
Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD

Head of Unit, Mr. Massaër Diallo,  
[Massaer.diallo@oecd.org](mailto:Massaer.diallo@oecd.org)

Program Officer, Ms Gwénola Possémé-Rageau,  
[Gwenola.posseme-rageau@oecd.org](mailto:Gwenola.posseme-rageau@oecd.org)

Responsible for logistical arrangements, Ms Jamila Yahi,  
[Jamila.yahi@oecd.org](mailto:Jamila.yahi@oecd.org)



# Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>1. RATIONALE, ISSUE AND OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>8</b>
BACKGROUND.....	8
THE WORKSHOP’S OBJECTIVES.....	9
KEY QUESTIONS.....	10
<b>2. WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
2.1 FIRST SESSION: HUMAN SECURITY: SIGNIFICANCE AND SCOPE .....	13
2.2 SECOND SESSION: HUMAN SECURITY AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE WEST AFRICAN CONTEXT ...	17
2.3 THIRD SESSION: CHALLENGES TO HUMAN SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA .....	20
2.3.1 <i>The social aspect of insecurity</i> .....	20
2.3.2 <i>Security challenges related to nature and the environment</i> .....	23
2.3.3 <i>Conflicts and other Human Factors Challenging Human Security</i> .....	25
<b>3. CONCLUSION AND WORK PERSPECTIVES</b> .....	<b>31</b>
3.1 FINAL SUMMARY .....	31
3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	34
A) <i>The Social Dimension</i> .....	34
B) <i>The health dimension</i> .....	34
C) <i>The Environmental dimension, related to natural disasters</i> .....	35
D) <i>Disasters of Human Origin</i> .....	35
E) <i>Food security</i> .....	35
F) <i>Challenges to Governance</i> .....	36
G) <i>Challenges to Peace and Security</i> .....	36
<b>ANNEX 1: AGENDA</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</b> .....	<b>42</b>



## Introduction

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The Workshop on Human Security was held at the Hotel Sarakawa, Lomé on 28 March 2006 with the participation of the President of the Sahel and West Africa Club, Mr. Charles Goerens, and the Director of the Sahel and West Africa Club, Mr. Normand Lauzon, two representatives of ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, Colonel Yoro Koné and Mr. Mai Manga, as well as the Representative of UNREC, Mr. Richard Fung.

This first meeting on Human Security organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club from 28 to 30 March 2006 brought together representatives of:

- (6) six international and regional organisations: SWAC/OECD, ECOWAS, UNREC, UNESCO, UNOCHA, and UNOWA;
- (5) five regional networks: WANSED, WANEP, WILDAF, Aide et Action, ICG, and ROPPA;
- (17) seventeen research institutes and civil society organisations;
- (5) five governments (Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo).
- (3) three development partners (France, United States, and the European Union).
- (14) fourteen West African countries; only the invited representatives of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Chad and Cameroon could not participate in the workshop.

# 1. Rationale, Issue and Objectives

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## *Background*

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Human security today has become a major issue on the international political agenda. Even though there are a wide range of approaches (United Nations system, regional and international organisations, bilateral cooperation, civil society organisations, etc.), all actors realise that security is no longer limited only to the traditional view of protecting State borders and territories against external threats. Emphasis is increasingly placed on human security focused on the citizen rather than the State. As specified in the 1994 UNDP Human Development Report, the concept of human security stresses the protection and promotion of human life and dignity. It is important to underscore, however, that these various approaches do not envisage replacing State security with human security. Rather, they emphasise the need to examine these two aspects of human security, taking into account the various possible threats at different levels (local, national and regional).

Human security entails a global approach linking security, governance, solidarity and development issues.

Whether it concerns civil wars with their dramatic consequences, natural accidents, natural disasters or yet health crises and major pandemics, populations face life-threatening dangers.

The concept of human security addresses security in a broad sense that includes all of these political, economic, social, economic and environmental dangers.

At its 2000 Summit in Syrthe, the African Union took human security into account in its African security policy. ECOWAS has also incorporated human security at various levels in its strategy to build a regional security system, as demonstrated by its crisis prevention and peacekeeping mechanisms and its programmes to stop the proliferation of small arms and the practice of recruiting child soldiers. It is also promoting a category of social and political rights through its Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

Human security is an extremely serious issue in West Africa. Many internal conflicts have undermined security over the past two decades. Political instability, civil wars, under-development and poverty have weakened governments (responsible for their populations' security) and rendered large sections of society increasingly vulnerable.

Many of the conflicts are regional therefore spreading insecurity far beyond the original crisis area. Synergising efforts to find sustainable solutions to the various challenges is essential in such a situation. As a priority, populations, especially



the most vulnerable, need to be protected and their basic needs met. They need to be protected from all detrimental threats to their dignity and physical and moral integrity.

Should human security for these people also mean protection from life-threatening deprivation and extreme poverty?

The challenges to human security concern not only countries shaken by conflict but also those emerging from conflict or at peace. They are linked to natural, human and political factors. Human security can be considered as a worldwide or regional public good. Involvement of development partners, multilateral organisations and civil society is important alongside governments and regional institutions. This should encourage the development, implementation and success of strategies, policies and action to provide human security for all in West Africa.

### *The Workshop's Objectives*

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The Sahel and West Africa Club is highly aware of this reality and the stakes involved, as seen at the level of the African Union, ECOWAS, networks and institutions working on security (WANSED and ASSN, among others), West African civil society organisations, and governments (which are increasingly establishing mechanisms and policies to cope with the situation).

The workshop on human security should contribute to strengthening the impact of such awareness, as well as the mobilisation and actions that influence policy-makers, and State and non-State actors at both the national and regional levels.

It should, on the one hand, deepen informed debate and strategic thinking at the regional level, and on the other, contribute to building sustainable synergies between actors for them to take joint responsibility in the promotion of human security at the regional level.

The workshop's main goals were to:

- Facilitate constructive and informed exchanges between West African actors and international partners on the stakes and challenges to human security in the region and prospects for the future;
- Enable lessons learned from national, regional and international human security experiences to be shared;
- Help identify the roles and responsibilities of each category of actor to better promote human security at all levels;
- Contribute to bringing together various categories of actors to devise a regional approach for the promotion of human security.

## *Key Questions*

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- How and where does the concept of human security re-address the overall issue of security?
- How urgent and important is human security in the West African political, legal, economic and social context?
- What are the human security challenges in the sub-region?
- What are the policies, mechanisms and protection as regards human security in West Africa? How and to what extent can they be improved given the various experiences and hardship faced by the populations over the past decade?
- At what level does human security figure on the region's security agenda?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the various actors concerned?
- How, within this framework, can synergies between governments, development partners, regional institutions, international organisations, civil society and local authorities be organised and improved so as to meet the challenges together?
- In view of past experiences and lessons, what new prospects of action can be suggested to promote human security at the local, national and regional levels?

## 2. Workshop Sessions

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The workshop was opened by the President of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD), Mr. Charles Goerens, the Director of the Sahel and West Africa Club, Mr. Normand Lauzon, as well as the representatives of UNREC, Mr. Richard Fung, and of ECOWAS in Togo, Mr. Boukar Mai Manga.

**Mr. Goerens** welcomed and thanked the participants for having accepted to participate in the workshop. He underscored the importance of a structure like the Sahel and West Africa Club of which he has been President since 1 January 2006. According to him, the SWAC is unique because it brings together very diverse actors. He stressed that he had come to the workshop to learn. He also underscored the need to encourage the positive aspects of development, of which he had seen some examples as former Minister of Cooperation of Luxemburg. He pointed out that over and above the problems, the African continent was full of hope and potential with plenty of opportunities. He observed that in its interface role, the Club helped establish dialogue between actors ready to make progress, develop common points and strengthen strategic partnerships. He hoped that these three days would be a new opportunity to see to what extent the development partners and African countries were interested in succeeding together. Drawing on the example of his country, one of the smallest countries in the European Union, he stressed that it was understood long ago that Luxembourg was too small to meet major economic and security challenges. Consequently, he underscored the importance for African countries to act together, particularly during international conferences in order to best defend the interests of the continent.

In his introduction, **Mr. Lauzon** placed the issue of human security within the specific context of West Africa. He provided a brief overview of the concept of human security since the 1990s, stressing that the concept had become not only a concern of defence and humanitarian actors, but also an important stake in the fight against poverty and at the core of civil society concerns.

He recalled that at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, the United Nations Secretary-General had emphasised the need for an approach to security that is more focused on the individual. He insisted on its multidimensional aspect, pointing out that human security covered economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security, to mention the aspects identified by the UNDP in its Development Report.

He underscored the complementarity at the various levels (local, national and sub-regional) to grasp this issue, recalling that there were already a number of mechanisms in Africa which were positive steps towards the development of an African security framework.

Fully aware of the conflicts of interest generated by this issue, Mr. Lauzon urged participants to adopt a pragmatic approach in exchanges, to avoid the trap of excluding one form of security in favour of another, and to try to reconcile their complementarity. He reaffirmed that human security was “a public good” of utmost importance for State stability as well as for the well-being of individuals and communities.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the workshop would strengthen existing exchange networks in the region, and that decisions would be made to ensure better human security for all.

In his intervention, the Director of United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC), **Mr. Fung**, presented his organisation’s approach to the concept of human security in Africa. Five years ago, UNREC began working with ECOWAS on the problem of child soldiers so as to eliminate their threats to human security. Since then, UNREC has also established, with Canada’s assistance, a programme on the impact of the proliferation of small arms on human security. Mr. Fung expressed his confidence in the future, and hoped that all of these various initiatives would result in a Regional Action Plan for Human Security so that the concept can become a reality.

The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat was represented by **Colonel Yoro Koné**. On behalf of Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, ECOWAS Executive Secretary, and of Colonel Touré, Assistant Executive Secretary responsible for defence and security issues, Colonel Yoro Koné reiterated the regional organisation’s interest in human security issues. Furthermore, he indicated that the partnership with the SWAC since October 2004 was fruitful and dynamic, and based on concrete actions. Concerning human security, he stressed that this was a cross-cutting theme involving the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and Parliament, and in particular his Department, responsible for Early Warning.

At the end of these interventions, the ECOWAS Representative in Togo, Mr. Boukar Mai Manga, officially declared the workshop on human security open.

## 2.1 *First Session: Human Security: Significance and Scope*

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At the first working session (28 March 2006), the human security issue was introduced to the participants, and the expected results were set out.

As an introduction, **Mr. Massaër Diallo**, Head of the SWAC Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit, reiterated the Club's major objectives in organising such a workshop:

- Bring actors together;
- Report on human security in West Africa;
- Decentralise practices and approaches;
- Establish dialogue practices;
- Put actors in synergy.

He stressed that the major outcomes expected from the workshop were to:

- Establish working perspectives at the regional level;
- Network the various actors to ensure appropriation of human security challenges at the regional level.

Opening the first session of the workshop, **Mr. Goerens** stressed the position of Africa within the global context and the relationship between the continent and the outside world. He recognised that countries could not be requested to take risks without safety nets and completely open their markets without protection as is the case with African countries, particularly at the economic level. According to him, this is an essential development stake. He urged countries to increase trade at the regional level so as to strengthen their position and better protect themselves in global competition.

He stressed that poverty reduction is an essential condition for the youth of West Africa to have hope. He recognised that the Structural Adjustment Plans were not successful, bleeding the States white. He stressed that the Millennium Development Goals were an inadequate response because they were based on the admission of failure, demanding that poverty be reduced only by half. On the basis of the shared assumption that poverty was one of the underlying causes of conflict, he suggested that initiatives be developed to transform the vicious circle into a virtuous one. To that end, he encouraged countries to take into account the dynamics of transformation and that there should be massive investment in basic sectors in order to respond to the expectations of the younger generations. He defended the idea of a substantial increase in assistance and intelligent management in order to make better use of this aid.

He insisted on the important role of Panafrikan and regional organisations, such as the African Union and ECOWAS, in conflict management, observing that their successes do not make news headlines.

In his intervention, **Mr. Fung**, provided a brief historical review of the concept of human security, which appeared for the first time in a United Nations Security Council Resolution in 1992. However, there is, to date, no unanimous definition of human security. There are many legal texts which each address a different aspect of human security. He stated that despite these various perceptions of this concept, human security involves the full satisfaction of basic human rights, namely: (1) the right to live free from want; (2) the right to live free from fear, and (3) the right for future generations to inherit a healthy planet. The concept therefore goes beyond human rights.

For Mr. Fung, the concept of “human security” consists in safeguarding international stability by promoting values such as:

- The rule of law,
- The respect for democracy,
- The defence of human rights,
- Good management of public affairs,
- Peaceful resolution of conflicts, and
- Environmental protection.

As regards the legal aspect, he recognised that while the State remained the core subject of conventional Public International Law, the notion of human security, which places humans at the core of concerns, also has undisputed legal bases that guarantee relevance and sustainability for better implementation. This human dimension is present in Humanitarian International Law, the United Nations Charter, and International Human Rights Law. There are nearly 350 treaties, including texts completely or partially devoted to human security.

With the taking into account the human security issue, the notion of sovereignty is increasingly re-examined, Mr. Fung said. Consequently, the United Nations Secretary-General has distinguished two conceptions of sovereignty: that of the State and that of the individual, with one taking precedence over the other: “... Today, it is widely accepted that the State is at the service of its population, and not the contrary.” As underscored by Mr. Fung, the problem is to reconcile human rights with the rights of the State and between States.

In the last part of his intervention, Mr. Fung analysed two factors of insecurity in Africa, namely the proliferation of small arms and the propagation of HIV/AIDS in armed conflicts, and presented the various ECOWAS mechanisms and provisions for the promotion of peace and collective security.

In conclusion, he said he was confident that, given the increasing willingness of most African States to seek “consensus” in foreign policy in line with ideals widely shared at the international level as regards the promotion of human security, the evolution of relations between States and the society and the changes in International Public Law and Cooperation and Solidarity Law, the problem of human security would be given due consideration.

The workshop acknowledged the contribution concerning the problem of Human Security (see Annex) by **Mrs. Mehrnaz Moustafavi**, Programme Manager, Human Security Division, UNOCHA, New York, who could not attend the workshop.

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### Discussion:

The discussion focused on the identification of the various factors of human insecurity in the region. The range was very broad because it included both exogenous and endogenous factors.

Indeed, some participants felt that Africa was absent from strategic thinking. According to them, Africa should be able to identify its enemies, particularly those who were not interested in the development of the continent. *Africans need to assume ownership of the concept of human security in a world of rivalry and struggles.*

However, even though there are **conflict prevention mechanisms** in Africa, they must become operational. Within the African Union or ECOWAS, debate has been initiated on the new structure of political thought and conflict prevention. Discussions concern external as well as internal threats. Indeed, countries in the region have been facing new threats to human security since the end of the cold war; these include internal conflicts and civil wars.

The State, through the armed forces and police, is responsible for protecting the populations from various threats. Individual security should not oppose that of the State. One of the roles of the State is to protect its population.

### The human insecurity factors identified include:

- **Poverty** is a threat to security and one of the main underlying causes of conflicts. Without development, there is no security; and without security there is no development. Development efforts are undermined by violence and political instability. Insecurity hinders freedom because it prevents populations from fully taking advantage of their rights.
- **Natural Resources:** Although they potentially represent financial windfalls, natural resources in Africa are the object of greed. Even though they constitute great assets, they paradoxically often threaten the stability of countries. Politics should succeed in transcending this vicious circle.
- **Migration:** Today, migration falls under human security. The forms of migration have changed. Human flows across African countries could ultimately be felt as a threat to the security of local populations. However, mechanisms for free movement of persons and goods should not be violated; such free movement is a universal principle guaranteed by ECOWAS at the regional level, but there have been problems in its full implementation.

- **The role of the State in human security:** The armed forces are established to ensure the security of the country, and the police to protect the people. There are situations in which the State becomes an enemy of the population. The United Nations has established a Code of Conduct for the armed forces in States, but this mechanism does not yet exist in ECOWAS.
- **The struggle for power** is a threat to the security of individuals in countries because it is generally settled with arms and often leads to situations of instability and even chaos.
- **The impunity** of those responsible for crimes against populations may be a factor of insecurity. It is sign of the malfunctioning of justice, one of the pillars of the rule of law. It indicates that the State does not fully play its role as protector of the population.
- **Internal conflicts and their spread** to neighbouring countries constitute a threat to human security. Hence this issue should be viewed from a regional perspective. Similarly, cross-border crimes linked to drug trafficking, the proliferation of small arms and human trafficking threaten peace and stability of States, as well as the security of not only populations but also neighbouring countries' populations.
- **The proliferation of small arms:** Small arms are produced in Ghana and Burkina Faso and then sold cheaply. Efforts have been made to control small arms production at the regional level. A regional Convention on Small Arms will be signed by ECOWAS member States during the next Heads of State Summit<sup>1</sup>. It will regulate arms production, importation and exportation within the ECOWAS zone.

### Questions:

- Is there opposition or complementarity between State security and human security?
- How can the free movement of persons and goods, recognised in the Supplementary Protocol, be promoted while ensuring protection of countries' borders?
- Is globalisation an obstacle or an opportunity for solving human security problems in Africa?

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<sup>1</sup> On 14 June 2006, ECOWAS adopted a Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, a legal instrument intended to stop illegal arms trafficking in the region. It now must be ratified by the signatory States who will have to revise their national laws or adopt others to conform to the Convention.



## 2.2 *Second Session: Human Security and its Importance in the West African Context*

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The second session (afternoon of 28 March 2006), devoted to human security and its importance in the West African context, shed light on factors in the evolution of human security.

**Mr. Antoine Sawadogo**, former Minister of Burkina Faso, President of the NGO ACE-RECIT, Burkina Faso, presented a paper entitled: *Human Security in the West African Context*. First, he divided and prioritised the various levels of responsibility of human security - the village, the district, the province and the region – basing his examples on Burkina Faso. He asserted that with the advent of Nation States, human security areas were dislocated. Then he placed this concept in the West African context, insisting particularly on factors of disruption of balance between security and human security.

The second paper entitled “*The importance of human security in West Africa*” was presented by **Mr. Nnamdi K. Obasi**, Head of the Department of Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs at National War College (Nigeria) and Member of the WANSSED network. Mr. Obasi presented the different definitions of this concept according to the two main schools of thought. He also highlighted the importance of considering human security when analysing security as a whole in West Africa. After reviewing the various mechanisms at the country and sub-regional levels, he advocated greater integration of the human security paradigm into the sub-regional global security policy. He suggested that a human security index be developed for West Africa; the index would measure State performance in providing security to citizens. This instrument would be very useful in carrying out preventive actions, notably within the framework of the ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism for Conflict Prevention.

**Mr. Yao Gebe** from Legon University (Ghana) and member of the WANSSED network focused his analysis on the “*Constraints and level of integration of human security on the regional agenda*”, presenting an overview of existing legal instruments and evaluating their level of implementation. He particularly stressed the need to strengthen capacities of civil servants to implement all these mechanisms, which are currently inoperative. His paper also underscored the added value of the concept of human security, namely a human security approach centred on the individual and no longer on the State.

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### **Discussion:**

For the past thirty years, West Africa has experienced profound changes and imbalances that have led to a number of social, cultural, political or economic crises which are factors of insecurity.

- **Identity Crisis:** West Africa is facing an identity crisis. The villages of Africa are no longer functioning. Exclusion is developing in African towns which reflect a form of **social insecurity**. Today, entire sections of societies are insecure: children, women and the elderly who are not adequately protected by laws or social relations.
- The stability of countries starts with that of the family, which is the first level of society. The essential role of fathers in the education of their children to promote peace was emphasised. Today, West Africa has also been affected by the breakdown of the family with divorces often leading to abandonment of women and children. Many of these children are easy recruits for armies and candidates for immigration.
- Discrimination against women: The State is inadvertently responsible for the **legal insecurity** experienced by women through existing discrimination. Certainly, there are legal frameworks that guarantee women’s rights, but which have not been ratified by the States. Advocacy was undertaken to encourage States to ratify the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women, which entered into force in November 2005. The ratification would be a good sign to guarantee women’s rights and protect them against some forms of insecurity to which they are exposed.
- **Cultural aspects of human security** and endogenous protection mechanisms that resort to “magic” or “religious” rites were mentioned. Similarly, emphasis was also placed on risks of the reappearance of “ethnicization” as an **identity security** mechanism for protection from other groups, a phenomenon that undermines human security and from which no State is protected.
- In view of these yet unachieved social changes, patriotism does not ring throughout Africa except in football stadiums. A new form of citizenship needs to be developed.
- Human security is a concept that is evolving in States and armies. However, for the moment, their perspective of the issue is still conservative. At the continental or regional level, there are many instruments, but it is up to the States to make them operational, which is rarely the case. Yet, States have to manage new forms of insecurity, such as the appearance of private armies, which elude State control and can cause instability.
- **Privatisation of security in Africa:** The proliferation of security companies in West Africa is cause for concern. Some participants considered that these companies threaten human security in the region. They challenge the role of the State in its capacity to solve security problems. Some participants agreed on the need to have strong States with armed forces capable of protecting their citizens from internal or external aggressions without resorting to mercenaries or private armies. It was also suggested that parliament should be given more responsibility for security issues.

- **Economic insecurity:** It was accepted that economic insecurity was not a problem of economic resources but a problem of governance. It seems that countries which have the most natural resources are not those that fair best. Very often financial income from the resources is redistributed inequitably; the bulk of the income goes to a handful of privileged persons. This creates a situation of injustice and can lead to conflicts which constitute a source of insecurity.
- **The insecurity of countries as a result of globalisation:** A link was established between trade liberalisation and the threat it poses to the smallest and weakest States. By asking countries to reduce their customs barriers, States' capacity to collect taxes is reduced, resulting in less revenue to protect the State. Furthermore, countries are asked to liberalise their economies and open their borders, whereas they do not have the means to protect themselves.
- The proposal to create a **human security index** in West Africa was considered interesting. It could supplement ECOWAS texts on the evaluation of peace and conflicts, which are not widely disseminated.

**Questions:**

- How can States and civil society be brought together on these issues? How can they be made to work together?
- Given the privatisation of human security in West Africa and the proliferation of private security companies, what can be done to address the situation? What attitude could be adopted?
- When Africa wants to return to its past democratic values, what values are we talking about?

## 2.3 *Third Session: Challenges to Human Security in West Africa*

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This third session was devoted to the social and health aspects of human security.

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### 2.3.1 **The social aspect of insecurity**

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The third session was introduced by **Mr. Yoro Fall** (UNESCO, Accra) with a paper on *“Extreme Poverty as a form of Human Insecurity”*. After tracing the strategic thinking process of human security since 1995 in UNESCO, he presented research conducted on this issue in Mali. Discussions with the urban, peri-urban and rural populations of Mali were based on the UNDP analysis grid presented in the 1994 Human Development Report taking into account the 7 dimensions of the concept of human security. The analyses showed that the “security” concerns of these populations were close or similar to what international cooperation circles refer to as “multidimensional” poverty. They also illustrated that the main aspect of human insecurity in Mali was the risk of being alone and/or without social ties, and therefore being excluded socially. Furthermore, the study highlights the vulnerability of women and young girls to exclusion and human security more generally.

In her paper entitled *“Health dimensions of human security: the challenge of pandemics at the sub-regional level and current integrated responses in West Africa”*, **Prof. Yoman Ndri** (University of Abidjan, Cocody) noted that health reforms carried out in the 20<sup>th</sup> century had not resulted in the collective improvement of health. According to her, Africa faces two obstacles: the persistence of transmissible diseases and malnutrition, and the spread of non-transmissible diseases (diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases). She also pointed to the low budgets allocated to health and which are used mainly to pay the salaries of health staff. After a brief historical review of the major global health policies, she highlighted the main human security challenges as regards health by analysing the socio-economic impacts of the major pandemics affecting West African populations: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. To meet these challenges in West Africa, she advocated an integrated sub-regional approach to health policies which would enable health actors to network and share experiences. Lastly, she suggested that the health issue be highlighted as an obstacle to the sustainable development of States.

**Mr. Daniel Eklu**, Director of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment in ECOWAS addressed a topical issue in public health – the threat posed by the avian flu in West Africa. Indeed, in his presentation he underscored the impacts of this threat at the health, economic, social and nutritional levels. At the health level, he pointed out that there was great risk of this disease being transmitted to humans. At the social level, the slaughter of poultry was a considerable loss for breeders who were not

adequately compensated. Furthermore, for fear of losing their stock, some breeders were tempted to sell their poultry to less strict neighbouring countries. At the nutritional level, this has led to a change in eating habits. Populations will consume more red meat with risks of cardio-vascular diseases. He also mentioned measures taken by ECOWAS since the appearance of the disease in West Africa, the political reaction of several States which, in the Dakar Declaration, advocated the adoption of a regional response to eradicate the disease.

**Dr. Mamadou Bousso Leye**, Ministry of Livestock (Senegal), presented the report of the Dakar sub-regional Meeting on the Avian Flu (22 and 23 February 2006) during which the Dakar Declaration was adopted. Senegal was designated to chair, for one year, the Sub-regional mechanism for coordination, prevention and response to the avian flu established during the meeting. The idea was to act, in a concerted manner and at the regional level, in agricultural sectors affected by the pandemic.

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## **Discussion:**

### Health-related Challenges:

- It appeared that as regards health, the regional approach was best adapted to cope with pandemics and/or health crises. This approach should help disseminate information more effectively in all the countries given the porous nature of borders in cases of pandemics and spread of the virus. However, this should not stop countries, each at its level, from taking preventive measures in case of confirmed crisis and from acquiring the means to address the situation.
- In the specific case of avian flu, the issue of compensation for breeders was raised several times. Compensation goes beyond the financial aspect. It was considered as one of the conditions for effectively fighting against the spread of the disease at the regional level. It was also recommended that the amount of compensation for breeders should be harmonised at the regional level in case of slaughter of contaminated poultry so as to curb cross-border traffic of contaminated birds.
- Pandemics should be considered as obstacles to the sustainable development of West African States. The high prevalence of AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria has negative impacts on countries' economies.
- In the management of a health crisis, such as the crisis that could result from the avian flu, the socio-cultural aspect should be taken into account. Instructions to avoid contact between poultry likely to be infected and the human being in case of mutation of the virus could clash with the practices of traditional healers as well as women, the most exposed, especially when preparing food. Strategies could then be adopted to bend the rules, as has been the case with AIDS.

- In the treatment of diseases such as AIDS, there are still cultural constraints. For example, out of the 80% of women who accept to be tested, 50% obtain their results and only 20% of the HIV-positive cases accept treatment. This is also the case in the prevention of some well-controlled diseases. In certain regions of West Africa, polio, which had been virtually eradicated, reappeared following the refusal of some religious groups to vaccinate children, under the pretext that it was unhealthy.
- Endogenous knowledge in the treatment and management of health crises should be taken into account. For the populations to better deal with the avian flu, for example, it was suggested that existing knowledge on avian diseases be sought from communities.

#### The urban phenomenon:

- Security or insecurity develops mainly in urban areas. As regards health, the concentration of populations in towns, insalubrities, pollution, and poor water quality are some of the factors of insecurity linked to the development of large urban areas in Africa. Hence, it is important to take into account town management.
- Social exclusion is the main aspect of human insecurity. This situation is prevalent in urban areas. The main cause of poverty stems from being alone. Other forms of solidarity, such as family or associations, are very important. If these links disappear and the State does not fill the gap, human security begins to diminish. Thus, single women (divorcees, widows, and spinsters) as well as young girls are vulnerable and are the object of insecurity.

#### Education-related challenges:

- The importance of education: Education for all has been a slogan for long time but has not yet been transformed into policies. Emphasis should be placed on information and education of the African populations. To protect themselves, populations should also understand and appropriate texts relating to their security. To that end, the texts should be translated, adapted and made available to the populations.
- Academics are requested to play a more important role in crisis prevention, taking into account the context of the country. Scientific discourse should be contextualized. Emphasis should be placed on the need to work harder towards seeking action.

### Questions:

- As regards health, how can we break these vicious circles affecting the West African region? Should we adopt an individual response (by each State) or an integrated sub-regional response?
- With respect to crisis prevention, how can the national approach be reconciled with the regional approach?
- How can knowledge of the health security situation be improved?
- To ensure effectiveness, how can we develop an approach adapted to the African context, given a global challenge such as the avian flu or AIDS, for example?
- How can education be made a priority framework for development in State budgets?
- What efforts could the international community undertake to promote education?
- How do communities perceive insecurity?
- In what ways can cultural phenomena constitute constraints on human security?

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### 2.3.2 Security challenges related to nature and the environment

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In his paper, *“Natural disasters and food crisis: challenges and current responses in West Africa”*, **Dr. Gueye** (UNOCHA, West Africa Office) considered human security from the perspective of food crisis, taking the example of Niger and Mali. He made a detailed presentation of responses provided by the United Nations, and assessed these operations; he underscored the importance of coordinated action between the various levels of intervention: at the State level, at the UN level – which is OCHA’s mission, and at the level of donors and organisations outside the UNS.

**Mr. Sylla**, Director of the National Disasters and Environmental Emergencies Management Service at the Guinean Ministry of the Environment, presented a paper on the theme *“Environmental Pollution, Crime and Protection policies in Guinea”*. He offered a general overview of civil protection structures and mechanisms. He underscored the need to consider the three stages in crisis management: before, during and after. He illustrated his ideas with examples from the environmental crisis suffered in Guinea during the discharge of toxic products on Kassa island, in the bauxite mines, and the consequences at the human, environmental and economic levels. He stressed the need to develop a culture of prevention in the countries of the region.

**Mr. Nnamdi K. Obasi** considered “*The Example of the Delta in Nigeria*” between the Atlantic Ocean and the Niger River a region constantly threatened by environmental and humanitarian crises. Made up of mangrove forests and swampy areas, it is a zone rich in biodiversity. However, it is also in this very area that all the problems relating to oil production are concentrated: bursting of pipelines, fires, water pollution, malnutrition as a result of pollution, conflicts between the communities, and proliferation of small arms.

### **Discussion:**

- Some human practices are the cause of **natural disasters**: the construction of houses in flooded areas, the introduction of toxic waste, forest fires, the destruction of mangrove forests, etc. To address the situation, it is important to have prevention, management and mitigation mechanisms for disasters (aimed at reducing impacts before they occur). The prevention of disasters should become a cultural fact.
- The **role of civil society**: As regards the environment, civil society organisations have, for the past several years, played an increasingly important role. Oil production in the Niger Delta has adverse impacts on human security. In this marshland area populations suffer from malnutrition due to the pollution in the area; there are conflicts between the communities because of oil; there are also conflicts between the militias, private security agencies and the populations. This leads to the proliferation of small arms and instability in the area. Civil society is trying to play a role notably in addressing ecological problems.
- The “**traceability**” of foodstuffs: West Africa imports many foodstuffs, but does not have the means of controlling their quality and origin. In the case of the avian flu, for example, due to inability to control the origin of poultry, regional structures preferred to adopt a policy of deprivation by stopping imports. African consumers are not necessarily aware of the origins of these food products. It is necessary to encourage Governments to adopt policies to inform people better on the origins of food products. Furthermore, some participants felt that one of the elements of food security would be to monitor endogenous eating habits and not consume products from unknown origins.
- **Management of myths in Africa**: Africa, like Europe in the 18th century, must come out of obscurantism. African populations have a very strong mythical or magical mentality. This strengthens the need to emphasise education because the education of today will be the tradition of tomorrow. However, other participants felt that some African myths can be cultural levers, particularly those which promote the conservation of forests. For example, on the basis of myths Guinea has classified its forests and regulated their management.



### Questions:

- How to be prepared to cope with long-term disasters, such as disasters related to the exploitation of natural resources, particularly minerals?
  - What should civil society do when the State becomes an envoy of insecurity?
  - In Africa, there are fears of cultural origin. Which are normal fears? From which fears do people have the right to free?
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### 2.3.3 Conflicts and other Human Factors Challenging Human Security

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#### Panel 1: Political and Humanitarian Crisis in West Africa

**Mr. Beret Tcha** of the Togolese NGO “Aide et Action”, made the link between political crisis and humanitarian crisis. Political crises are generally the cause of great human suffering. He also emphasised the role of education as a means of crisis prevention, citing several examples of intervention in the West African region, as well as the need to continue educative activities during crises despite the collapse of structures. Indeed, war lords recruit from the uneducated populations whom they use as human shields.

**Mr. André Bogui**, President of the NGO “Paix, Assistance et Solidarité” in Côte d’Ivoire, showed how the stubborn quest for democracy, which is supposed to lead to self-fulfilment of the human being, can result in crises. To illustrate his point, he chose to assess the crisis in Côte d’Ivoire.

**Mr. Ayayi Apedo-Amah**, Representative of the Togolese Human Rights League, presented an analysis of democracy in West Africa, stressing that democracy cannot be legislated; rather, it is achieved through the education of citizens, political parties, civil society and leaders which is the only way it can become a tradition in African countries. He rejected the myth that democracy equals development. He reintroduced the notion of *democratatorship*<sup>2</sup> to describe a number of regimes in West Africa. He noted that nearly one-half century after independence, ethnic groups constituted the main reality of States. He denounced the illusion of thinking that the organisation of elections would be the solution to political crisis, or in case of conflict, the restoration of peace. Concerning the role of the army, he regretted that the army was not there to carry out its traditional mission of protecting the people, but rather repressing them. Indeed, he noted that in West Africa, the enemy of these armies, organised after independence, had always been internal; the enemy was the people. He concluded that to put an end to political and humanitarian crises, the people and civil society need to have more control over the exercise of power and that West African countries should

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<sup>2</sup> This term was coined in 1992 by the political scientist, Max Liniger-Goumaz, in his work: “La démocratie, dictature camouflée, démocratie truquée”.

have reliable armies and democratic institutions that would act as checks and balances to control the excesses of the Executive Power, which firmly believes that it is not accountable to any body.

### Discussion:

- **The fragility of democracies** in certain African countries, which some people describe as “democratatorship”, is a source of insecurity. This lack of democracy and its consequences cause certain groups to flee their countries seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. These populations, particularly youth, are potential recruits for improvised armies placed at countries’ borders and ready to intervene when the appropriate occasion arises.
- **Democracy**, as practiced in some countries, is based more on ethnic groups. Generally, political parties are formed in some cases on a regional basis. It would be interesting, ten years after the advent of democracy in West Africa to assess the situation, determine what is not functioning, and make plans for the type of democracy which West African populations would need by the year 2025, a democracy that conforms to African values.
- **The displacement of populations:** Political crises often lead to humanitarian crises, particularly to the displacement of populations. Populations seeking refuge do not move about aimlessly; they go where they can be protected by kinship and/or ethnic group. Most of these displaced populations are not educated and become easy prey for armed gangs, either as victims or as human shields even if they do not support the cause being defended. To protect these populations, it would be better to organise their movement; all West African States need to take these issues into account and organise not only the arrival of these populations, so that the refugees do not become the “wretched of the earth”, but also their return. The possibility of free movement within the ECOWAS zone should facilitate such efforts.
- It is essential to carry out basic educative activities to resolve current and future humanitarian crises. It was recommended that cross-border projects be developed to educate people on peace and security.
- The role of the press, particularly in periods of crisis and conflict, was mentioned, and the press was often accused of stirring up conflicts and not playing their informative role.

### Questions:

- What model of society should be developed for displaced children?
- What is the future for these youth caught up in conflicts?

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## **Panel 2: Human rights and security of the populations in crisis situations in West Africa**

In his paper entitled *“Long crises and the security of populations in West Africa”*, **Mr. Gilles Yabi**, from the NGO “International Crisis” examined the example of Côte d’Ivoire which has been unstable since 2002. He highlighted the permanent and long-lasting adverse impact on the populations in the situation where the State is neither at war nor in peace as well as the violations of basic rights.

**Honourable Cheik Traoré**, Member of Parliament in Guinea, presented a historical overview of the attack of his country on 1 September 2000 by rebels from neighbouring countries. He highlighted the patriotic response of Guineans, particularly the youth, who came together to defend their country against this attack. He also underscored the importance of non-rational factors in the management of war, in particular the use of occult forces and compliance with ancestral border pacts between some communities. He pointed out the disastrous consequences of the attack at the human (refugees), material (destruction of infrastructure), social and economic levels.

**Mrs. Marie Thérèse Keita-Bocoum** (UNOWA), who could not attend the workshop, sent her paper on the theme: *“Human security and the issues of human trafficking”*. She reviewed various agreements supported by ECOWAS and the United Nations aimed at fighting human trafficking and more particularly the situation of the most vulnerable persons (women and children). (Text in Annex)

**Colonel Yoro Koné**, from ECOWAS, presented a paper on the theme *“Position and role of ECOMOG in the protection of populations in crisis situation: experiences and lessons to be learned”*. He highlighted the limits of such a force, especially from the humanitarian perspective and the constraints on its implementation. He explained that ECOWAS had learned some lessons from its interventions and it now could propose new types of forces that are much better prepared to meet multidimensional needs. He also insisted on the need to consider women’s role in conflict.

### **Discussion:**

- The nature of conflict has evolved in West Africa. Most conflicts are internal today whereas the instruments set up at the regional level concern external aggressions (e.g.: the Protocol of Non-aggression, the Protocol of Mutual Assistance).
- In periods of crisis, military means alone are not sufficient; responses need to be multidimensional.
- The regional peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, created to respond to emergency situations in an atmosphere of mistrust, has left a bitter taste because it has not fulfilled a humanitarian role, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone. ECOMOG carried out its mission defeating rebels despite numerous human security abuses.

To ensure that in the future the region will have a peacekeeping force that protects people, ECOWAS is currently working towards improving the implementation of the Conflict Prevention Mechanism, particularly aspects relating to stabilisation, humanitarian action, human rights and social rights. In this context, soldiers of regional forces should be trained and have a clear understanding of the legality of their acts and fundamental humanitarian rights.

- The mobilisation of youth: It seems that in crisis situations, youth are mobilised to fight or to resist. However, in times of peace, little attention is paid to the youth. Strategic thinking should be carried out on the constructive mobilisation of youth in times of peace.
- ECOMOG should be an armed forces model as regards respect for Human Rights and protection of citizens in all countries of the region.
- State sovereignty: The State should be able to cope with external aggressions without resorting to the mobilisation of citizens and external forces.

### **Questions:**

- For how long will Africa depend on the outside world to take its destiny into its own hands?
- What role is West African society ready for women to play in conflict prevention?
- What type of army should be developed for independent and strong States?

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### **Panel 3: Disasters of Human Origin: Governance problems, lessons and perspectives for prevention**

The paper presented by **Mr. Nassardine Aïdara**, President of the Youth and Development Association and President of Scouts in Senegal, entitled "*The Joola Tragedy in Senegal : Problems of governance and social causes of a disaster*" was a painful illustration of the challenges of human security in the region. Indeed, this family head, very committed in associations, lost four of his children in this tragedy that took place in the night of 26 to 27 September 2006 off the coasts of Senegal. To pay tribute to his children he wrote a book on the first eight days of the tragedy. It was therefore with much courage and dignity that he shared his analysis of the factors that led to the tragedy.

According to Mr. Aïdara, one of the key factors for the passengers of the Joola to decide to go by sea rather than by land from Ziguinchor to Dakar was insecurity of roads in the region. He then identified and developed other underlying causes of the accident as problems of governance, nepotism, non-compliance with standards, lack of transparency in the management of public funds, limited capacity of assistance and intervention, weak role of civil society, absence of justice and impunity, lack of statistics, lack of communication, incompetence of the actors and laxity.

In her comments as discussant, **Mrs. Juliette Sow**, *jurist*, examined the Joola tragedy as a Senegalese citizen indirectly affected by the tragedy. She provided additional information on the situation. She explained that the entire population was shocked by what had happened but no lessons were learned. After the tragedy, the population became somewhat prudent. For example, no one would enter an overcrowded vehicle. But this lasted for only three months. She also underscored the silence of the press, which had a duty to inform the population during the boat's inaugural journey in which some problems had been detected. She regretted that civil society was not informed of the matter. She deplored the lack of a prevention strategy in the States and the absence of a warning mechanism.

### **Discussion:**

The discussion involved several actors present at the time of the accident.

- The Joola tragedy is the sum of small facts. There was collective liability.
- In this tragedy, the State was requested to provide a response worthy of a nation united facing such a situation. But the State's response did not meet the expectations of the victim's families.
- **The role of the civil society:** Some participants wondered why civil society was not mobilised to ensure that the boat which replaced the Joola complied with the standards. Civil society in African countries is often focused on issues of international interest and not sufficiently interested in problems within their own town or country.
- **The role of the press:** After the inaugural journey of the boat, when defects were detected, the press was unresponsive and did not warn the population. The press did not play its monitoring role nor inform the citizens.
- In the case of the Joola tragedy, African solidarity was not demonstrated. Senegal felt alone as it managed the disaster. There were regional mechanisms, but they were not operational. ECOWAS learned some lessons from the disaster. In 2003, the Council of Ministers recommended the creation of a technical committee responsible for the prevention and management of disasters including epidemics, fires and locust invasions. Some States are lagging behind in reducing risks which should be included in development programmes. Priority actions have been identified with member States to reduce the risks of disasters and manage them when they occur. What remains today is providing financing for operations.

- **The lessons learned** from this disaster have not been followed up due to lack of resources. Furthermore, it was stressed that the collapse of some States, which some people attribute to the structural adjustments, has reduced the capacity of States to ensure security. Rescue operations in Senegal are currently conducted with rudimentary equipment. There is no hope of better crisis management in case of another disaster such as that of the Joola.
  
  - Too much is expected of the States and regional organisations. People should be individually aware of human security. Individuals need to adopt responsible attitudes as regards human security. Families spend considerable resources on funerals, for example, sometimes compromising health, education and security. As regards transport, overcrowding urban transport (bus and taxi) is a normal occurrence. However, most road accidents are related to overcrowding. Citizens are caught between the need for transportation and limited supply.
  
  - **Education of citizens:** Citizenship cannot be ordered; it is acquired through education. One of the problems faced by ECOWAS is that it does not have citizens' representation. The lack of citizenship at the national level is reflected at the regional level.
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An additional paper was presented at the workshop at the end of the session on the theme *“Mali within the human security network and implementation of strategies, mechanisms and policies to promote the concept”*, by **Mr. Mohamed T. F. Maiga**, *“Chargé de mission”* at the Ministry of Cooperation in Mali, for information; since Mali is the only African country that is an active member of the Human Security Network, which brings together 13 countries of the North.

### 3. Conclusion and Work Perspectives

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#### 3.1 *Final Summary*

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##### **Promoting human security at the regional level: Synergies and Strategies**

In conclusion, **Mr. Diallo** presented a summary of the three days of discussion as follows:

The workshop we have held with all the partners, international organisations, regional networks, research institutions, civil society organisations, experts, citizens, and governments has addressed an issue which is a concern shared throughout the world, that of security which has become very acute since 11 September 2001. It concerns all countries, all States, in terms of what has become no longer State security but human security. This workshop has made it possible to discuss the situation.

For a long time, security has been a State affair, perhaps even a secret affair, which only brought together those involved, whatever the country. Through painful events security has become everyone's problem and a very serious problem. These events have facilitated the emergence of the concept of human security, which is not always well-received, in any country, neither in the West nor on the African continent. At the United Nations, it is still being discussed. Throughout the world this idea, which emerged when security was top priority, must refocus security so as to take into account the essential aspect, which is the human being who is the ultimate goal of the States, structures and policies.

Africa is not lagging behind at all, nor is it standing aside. For the continent to solve its own problems, emphasis must be placed not only on State security, the security of an organisation, but also on the security of men and women who live in these States, without prejudice to what State security can be; while the State ensures its own security, it must also guarantee and maintain the security of each person.

The workshop was aimed at sharing and ensuring that various actors, with sometimes contradictory or contrasting interests, take this concern into account in the strategic thinking on security focusing on human beings. Not to mention the other dimensions through which the lives of men and women can be organised, developed, and protected from want, fear and disease.

For these three days, representatives of States, organisations operating within or outside the region, and networks working on security issues have come to work and share on an issue: security as a challenge for West Africa; what it means and how it constitutes a challenge? What does this imply in terms of security approach which should be adopted in the various interests by governments and by the governed? By the State, but local communities; by the structures and also by the citizen; by those who hold power and also by those who seek power through legal and normal means?

The workshop has discussed what the issue means within the West African context. Strategic thinking indicates, for example, that at the core of freeing man from fear are various socio-cultural issues. There is, of course, the fear of disease, and also the fear of “witchcraft”, a phenomenon in the West African context; hatred of proximity is a phenomenon which indicates that human security in Africa is the same as elsewhere, and also takes forms which call for better understanding of our mechanisms, structures and values; how can they be taken into account in the efforts to free man from fear as from disease?

Contextualising the discussions has enabled us to share a number of views which are not found in books and publications but in which one day they will perhaps appear. That is the role of the work we are doing by bringing together people with different skills and experiences, as well as from different origins, as has been the case over the past three days.

Secondly, the aim of the workshop was also to establish dialogue between these poles and forms of understanding and interests so as to find, through their diversity, a common point, a thread that will enable us to address this issue of security alone because it underlies the idea of human security.

In order to achieve and maintain this dialogue we need to explore how we can develop synergy between these different types of components and actors. How can human security be sustainably achieved through consistent inclusive and rallying actions and policies?

The conclusions of the meeting and working perspectives have considered this aspect. The workshop, in its conclusions, has recognised that the human security approach was a good way of addressing security. Such an approach takes into account both State security and the security of citizens as well as considers poverty as a challenge, and also fear, aggressions, criminality as factors of insecurity.

The workshop considered the need to pursue a better understanding not of the concept but of its reality within the regional, social and cultural context. The workshop identified the diversity of levels and forms of human security issues:

- The social level, such as extreme poverty;
- The cultural level, such as witchcraft and other practices which effectively impede non-conflictual cohabitation between human beings of the same origin;
- The political level, namely that democracy should be a framework for living together based on shared rules, which does not exclude contradiction but averts violence.
- The health and natural level, since man is always facing challenges from nature; issues relating to the avian flu and pandemics also form part of this level;
- The environment as a challenge to human security issues;



- The military level, in which the structures and armed and security forces should have an operational concept and the means to contribute to the achievement of human security.

All these elements led to an awareness of the situation and the determination to work first towards a better understanding of this phenomenon; and also towards a large dissemination of these ideas, shared not only by the participants but also by external actors.

In this light, the workshop recognised and welcomed the principle that a network of all the participants can be created by the Sahel and West Africa Club to continue the work started here, ensure its follow-up, deepen and develop it with a view towards synergy. This synergy should aim at establishing dialogue and joint action by the States as well as civil society organisations, networks, international organisations and development partners present in the region.

The Sahel and West Africa Club and ECOWAS are invited to disseminate to their Heads of State and the various actors concerned in the region the outcomes of this meeting so as to obtain a concerted regional agenda for the promotion of human security.

## 3.2 Recommendations

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The workshop resolved to contribute to the dissemination and implementation of a number of recommendations. These recommendations cover the various areas addressed.

- A) The social dimension
- B) The health dimension
- C) The environmental dimension, linked to natural disasters
- D) Disasters of human origin
- E) Food security
- F) Challenges relating to governance
- G) Challenges to peace and security

### **A) The Social Dimension**

- Consider extreme poverty as the primary challenge to human security: The workshop recommended that all should be done for actors to contribute to actions that can facilitate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as regards poverty reduction in Africa, and particularly in West Africa, where one out of every two Africans lives in extreme poverty.
- Ensure greater involvement of women and youth at all levels in the mobilisation and monitoring so that they are better represented in all decision-making and negotiation structures.

### **B) The health dimension**

- Implement the Sub-regional Mechanism for Coordination, Prevention and Response to the Avian Flu for ECOWAS countries and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- Replenish the Emergency Fund created by the Mechanism so as to ensure balanced and proper management of compensations in case of slaughter of poultry and revitalisation of the sub-regional poultry sector.
- Adopt a multidimensional approach to information and sensitisation of the actors and populations taking into account the local cultural values and practices.
- Consider prevention and control as long-term activities which can, after emergency situations, meet health, nutritional, economic, social and environmental challenges; the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) is the appropriate framework.

- Encourage political ownership of prevention plans and contribute to advocacy for the mobilisation of internal resources by States of the region and development partners.
- Strengthen sub-regional health integration with better coordination and harmonisation of resources, policies and skills.

### **C) The Environmental dimension, related to natural disasters**

- Strengthen the effectiveness of collective and individual responses to disasters, and thereby develop a shared culture of security.
- Use endogenous cultural levers and mechanisms where they can contribute to the prevention of disasters or conflicts and the fight against insecurity.
- Contribute to the implementation of the ECOWAS Disaster Prevention and Management Mechanism at the local, national and regional levels.

### **D) Disasters of Human Origin**

- As regards the fight against disasters of human origin, learn lessons from the tragedy of the Senegalese boat, the Joola, remember the disasters and reinforce the assistance and intervention capacity.
- Involve the populations in prevention policies relating to human security.
- Formulate and implement instruments for the management of disasters (emergency plans, etc.).

### **E) Food security**

- Strengthen local, national and sub-regional mechanisms collecting, analysing and exchanging information on food security as well as on the nutritional status and its key factors in the Sahel and coastal countries (CILSS, SAP, States, and UN).
- Tackle the structural causes of malnutrition particularly as part of poverty reduction efforts. Implement national food security programmes based on integrated/multisectoral approaches aimed at availability and access to food.
- Revitalise and operationalise a sub-regional structure for the control of locust outbreaks, such as OCLALAV.

## **F) Challenges to Governance**

- Include human security and social protection as an ethical standard in democratic governance and as a strategic area in development policies, programmes and projects; evaluate performance taking into account the results obtained in the promotion of human security.
- Adopt a strategy which helps those who govern to realize that their legitimacy depends on promoting human security aspects.
- Develop, at the regional level, scientific and technological capacities in controlling the prevention and management of natural and industrial environmental hazards.
- Initiate and develop research-action on the numerous forms of human insecurity as a result of natural and human disasters, armed or latent conflicts, long political crises or economic and social marginalization; develop specific indicators for human security so as to create databanks and information tools to be used in economic, social and cultural policies.

## **G) Challenges to Peace and Security**

- Train, at the national and sub-regional levels, armed and security forces in the areas of human rights and international humanitarian law within a democratic context.
- Develop programmes for strengthening mutual confidence between civil society and the defence and security forces.
- Review, update and disseminate legal texts and instruments regulating the operation of the armed and security forces within the ECOWAS zone.
- Participate, in a coordinated manner, in the fight against the proliferation of light weapons and small arms. Implement the relevant ECOWAS convention.
- Sensitise ECOWAS Heads of State on the need for political consideration of human security both at the national and regional levels. Take advocacy initiatives within this perspective.
- Incorporate in school programmes, education modules on democracy, peace and citizenship.
- Contain private security initiatives within the strict limits of legality, as well as respect for the rule of law and human rights.

The workshop was closed by Mr. Kondi Charles Agba, Minister of State in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, representing the Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo.

## Annex 1: Agenda

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### Tuesday 28 March

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Opening and introduction to the workshop, chaired by the ECOWAS representative in Lomé

09h00 – 10h00      **Welcoming participants**

10h00 – 10h30      Presentation of the SWAC and welcome message by Mr. Normand Lauzon, Director of the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat

Introduction by Mr. Charles Goerens, President of Sahel and West Africa Club

10h30 – 10h45      Opening speech by the Colonel Yoro Koné, Executive Secretariat, ECOWAS

10h45 – 11h00      *Coffee break*

11h00 – 11h15      Presentation of the workshop and expected results by Mr. Massaër Diallo, Head of Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit.

**11h15 – 13h00      FIRST SESSION:  
THE SIGNIFICANCE AND RANGE OF HUMAN SECURITY**

Moderator:    Mr. Massaër Diallo (SWAC Secretariat)

Discussant:    Colonel Yoro Kone (ECOWAS)

11h00 – 11h30      Intervention by Mr. Charles Goerens, President of the Sahel and West Africa Club

11h30 – 12h00      Intervention by Mr. Richard Fung, (Director UNREC, Togo)

**12h00 – 13h00      Discussions**

13h00 – 15h00      *Lunch*

**15h00 – 18h00      SECOND SESSION:  
HUMAN SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA CONTEXT**

Moderator:    Mr. Massaër Diallo (SWAC Secretariat)

Discussant:    Colonel Yoro Kone (ECOWAS)

- 15h00 – 15h30      *Security and human security in the West African context*  
Mr. Antoine Sawadogo, (ACE-RECIT, Burkina Faso)
- 15h30 – 16h00      *The importance of human security in West Africa*  
Mr. Nnmadi Obasi, (WANSED/ National War College, Abuja)
- 16h00 – 16h30      *Constraints and extent of incorporating human security on the regional agenda*  
Mr. Yao Gebe, (WANSED/Legon University, Ghana)
- 16h30 – 18h00      Discussions**

∞ End of working day ∞

## Wednesday 29 March

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### THIRD SESSION:

#### CHALLENGES TO HUMAN SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

Moderator: Mr. Massaër Diallo (SWAC Secretariat)

Discussant: Mr. Agbobli Atsusé (Togo)

09h00 – 13h00

#### **Social dimension of insecurity**

09h00 – 09h30

*Extreme poverty as a form of human insecurity*

Mr. Yoro Fall, (UNESCO, Accra)

09h30 – 10h00

*Health dimension of security: the challenge of pandemics at the sub-regional level and current integrated responses in West Africa*

Prof. Yoman Ndri (Université d'Abidjan Cocody)

10h00 – 10h30

*ECOWAS facing the threat of the avian plague in West Africa*

Mr. Daniel Eklou (ECOWAS Director of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment)

10h30 – 11h00

*Coffee break*

11h00 – 11h30

*Summary Record of the sub-regional meeting in Dakar on the avian plague*

Dr. Mamadou Bousso Leye (Minister of Livestock Breeding, Senegal)

11h30 – 13h 30

#### **Discussions**

13h30 – 14h30

*Lunch*

14h30 – 17h00

#### **Challenges to security related to nature and the environment**

14h30 – 15h00

*Natural disasters and food crisis: challenges and current responses in West Africa*

Mr. Thierno Seydou Gueye (UNOCHA, West Africa Office)

15h00 – 15h30

*Environmental pollution and crime and protection policies in Guinea*

Mr. Gaoussou Sylla (Environmental Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Guinea)

15h30 – 17h00

#### **Discussions**

☞ End of working day ☞

## Thursday 30 March

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09h00 – 13h30      **CONTINUATION OF THE THIRD SESSION:**  
**CONFLICT AND OTHER HUMAN FACTORS CHALLENGING HUMAN SECURITY**

09h00 – 10h00      **Panel 1: Political and humanitarian crisis in West Africa**

Moderator:    Mr. Thierry Zang (UNREC, Togo)  
Discussant:    Mr. Massaër Diallo (SWAC Secretariat)

Speakers:

- Mr. Tcha Beret, Aide et Action, Togo
- Mr. André Bogui, Assistance and Solidarity, Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Ayayi Apedo Amah, Representative of Togolese Human Rights League

10h00 – 11h00      **Panel 2: Human rights and the populations' security in West Africa's lengthy crises**

Moderator:    Mrs. Victoria Kunbour (WANEP, Ghana)  
Discussants:   Mrs. Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson (WILDAF, Togo)

Speakers:

- Mr. Gilles Yabi, International Crisis Group: "Lengthy crises and the populations' security in West African"
- Mr. Cheik Tidiane Traoré, Guinean Deputy: "The role of civil society in the resistance to aggressions of 1 September 2000"
- Colonel Yoro Kone representing the ECOWAS Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs, Defence and Security: "ECOMOG's place and role in the protection of populations in crisis situations: experiences and lessons to be learned"

11h00 – 11h15      *Coffee break*

11h15 – 12h00      **Panel 3: Human-instigated disasters: governance problems, lessons, and prospects for prevention**

Moderator:    Mr. Yoro Fall (UNESCO)  
Discussants:   Mrs. Juliette Sow (IEPS, Senegal)  
Colonel Charles Guèye (Senegal)



Introductory speakers:

- Mr. Nassardine Aïdara (Youth and Development, Senegal): “The tragedy of the Joola in Senegal: governance problems and social origins of disasters”
- Colonel Yoro Koné (ECOWAS): “ECOWAS coping with disasters in West Africa: disaster prevention and management mechanism and policy”

**12h00 – 13h30**      **Discussion on the session’s panels**

*13h30 – 15h00*      *Lunch*

**15h00 – 18h00**      **FOURTH SESSION:**  
**PROMOTING HUMAN SECURITY AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL: SYNERGIES,**  
**STRATEGIES AND ACTION**

**Panel 4: A regional approach to human security**

| Moderator:    The SWAC Secretariat

**15h00 – 15h30**      **Intervention**

Mr. Mohamed Maïga (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mali): “Mali within the Human Security Network and the implementation of strategies, mechanisms, and policies promoting the concept”

**15h30 – 18h30**      **Discussions on:**

- Role and responsibilities of actors as regards human security;
- Synergies for a regional agenda for the promotion of human security
- Recommendations by participants

**18h30 – 19h00**      **Synthesis and conclusion of the work undertaken**

**19h00**                      **Closing ceremony**

Closing speech by the Togolese Minister of State, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Charles Kondi Agba

**19h30**                      Closing cocktail



## Annex 2: Final List of Participants

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### I. COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

#### Benin

M. John IGUE  
Club de veille  
Directeur Scientifique du LARES  
08 BP 0592  
Cotonou

Tel : (229) 21 30 76 95 / 21 30 52 40  
Tel : (229) 21 30 76 73  
Fax: (229) 21 30 52 41  
E-mail: [clubdeveille@yahoo.fr](mailto:clubdeveille@yahoo.fr) / [lares@intnet.bj](mailto:lares@intnet.bj)

#### Burkina Faso

M. Antoine SAWADOGO  
ACE-Recit  
10 BP 13373  
Ouagadougou 10

Tel : (226) 50 36 90 47 / 50 39 12 92  
Port : (226) 70 20 05 90  
Fax : (226) 50 36 09 29  
E-mail : [ace.recit@fasonet.bf](mailto:ace.recit@fasonet.bf)  
E-mail : [raogoantoine@yahoo.fr](mailto:raogoantoine@yahoo.fr)

#### Cape Verde

Commandant Carlos REIS  
Fundação Amílcar Cabral  
B.P. 700  
Praia

Tél : (238) 261 03 35  
Tél : (238) 262 26 88 (dom)  
E-mail : [carlosnfreis@gmail.com](mailto:carlosnfreis@gmail.com)  
E-mail : [carlosr@palgov.gov.cv](mailto:carlosr@palgov.gov.cv)

#### Côte d'Ivoire

Colonel Aimé KATTIE  
Abidjan  
27 B.P. 933 Abidjan 27

Tél : (225) 05 98 38 61  
Email : [akattie@cnddr-ci.org](mailto:akattie@cnddr-ci.org)

Pr. Aya Thérèse NDRI-YOMAN  
Plate forme de la Société civile pour la Paix  
(OFEP)  
BP 412  
Abidjan

Tél: (225) 05 09 94 17  
Tél: (225) 22 43 13 26  
Fax: (225) 20 33 52 14  
Email [yoman-therese.ndri@pacci.ci](mailto:yoman-therese.ndri@pacci.ci)

M. André BOGUI  
Président  
ONG Paix Assistance et Solidarité  
08 BP 1078 Abidjan 08  
11 B.P. 646 – Abidjan 11

Tél : (225) 21 27 65 87 / 20 33 52 14  
Port : (225) 08 54 73 03 / 07 12 01 37  
Fax : (225) 20 33 52 14 / 21 27 80 09  
Email : [fefeedes@aviso.ci](mailto:fefeedes@aviso.ci) - [ong\\_pas2006@yahoo.fr](mailto:ong_pas2006@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [fefeedes@yahoo.com](mailto:fefeedes@yahoo.com)

## The Gambia

Mme Pamela COLE  
WANEP  
51 Garba Jahumpa Road, Bakau  
PO BOX 2252  
Banjul

Tél : (220) 449 77 61  
Tél : (220) 993 43 49  
Email : [wanepgambia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wanepgambia@yahoo.co.uk)  
Email : [kehinlecole@yahoo.com](mailto:kehinlecole@yahoo.com)

## Ghana

Dr. Boni Yao GEBE  
Legon Centre For International Affairs  
(LECIA) / WANSED  
University of Ghana  
P.O. Box LG 25  
Legon

Tél : (233) 21 50 10 25  
Mob : (233) 02 44 23 24 16  
Fax : (233) 21 50 13 11  
E-mail : [lecia@ug.edu.gh](mailto:lecia@ug.edu.gh)  
E-mail : [yadzubon55@yahoo.com](mailto:yadzubon55@yahoo.com)

M. Prosper Nii NORTEY ADDO  
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping  
Training Centre (KA IPTC)  
PMB CT 210, Cantonments  
Accra

Tél : (233) 21 718 202/3 (ext 2006)  
Mobile : (233) 244 63 26 94  
Fax : (233) 21 71 82 01  
Email : [rossipnn@hotmail.com](mailto:rossipnn@hotmail.com)  
Email: [prosper.addo@kaiptc.org](mailto:prosper.addo@kaiptc.org)  
Email: [prosperaddo@yahoo.com](mailto:prosperaddo@yahoo.com)

Mme Titi AJAYI  
ASDR (African Security Dialogue of Research  
27 Kofi Annan Avenue  
North Legon  
PO BOX 347  
Legon, Accra,

Tél. (233) 21 510 515 (Office)  
Mobile : (233) 244 730 105  
Fax : (233) 21 510 515  
Email : [titi@africansecurity.org](mailto:titi@africansecurity.org) / [titiajaji@gmail.com](mailto:titiajaji@gmail.com)

Mr. Daniel KONDOR  
West Africa Network for Peacebuilding  
(WANEP)  
P.O. BOX CT 4434  
Cantonments, Accra

Tél. (233) 21 22 13 18/88  
Mob. 02 432 31 846  
Email : [dkondor@wanep.org](mailto:dkondor@wanep.org)

## Guinea

M. Sékou Gaoussou SYLLA  
Directeur du Service National de gestion des  
Catastrophes et urgences environnementales  
B.P. 1299  
Conakry

Tél: (224) 60 33 18 41  
Email: [gaoussou.1@caramail.com](mailto:gaoussou.1@caramail.com)

Honorable député Cheik Tidiane TRAORE  
Conakry  
B.P. 1299  
Conakry

Tél : (224) 60 54 13 27  
Email : [cheickimpex@caramail.com](mailto:cheickimpex@caramail.com)

M. Bakary FOFANA  
Centre du Commerce International pour le  
Développement (CECIDE)  
B.P. 3768  
Conakry

Tél : (224) 63 40 45 99  
Tél : (224) 60 21 37 49 (mob)  
Tél : (224) 46 70 35  
Email: [cecidegn@yahoo.fr](mailto:cecidegn@yahoo.fr) /  
[bakaryfofana@hotmail.com](mailto:bakaryfofana@hotmail.com)

### Guinea Bissau

M. David Vera CRUZ  
Alternag  
Bissau  
CP 343  
Bissau

Tél : (245) 723 81 32 (Mobile)  
Tél : (245) 20 41 98 (Bureau)  
Email: [alternag@hotmail.com](mailto:alternag@hotmail.com)

### Mali

M. Mohamed T.F. MAIGA  
Chargé de mission  
Ministère des affaires étrangères et de la  
coopération internationale  
B.P.E 1236  
Koulouba  
Bamako

Tél : (223) 222 80 17 / 611 17 59 / 673 10 20  
Fax : (223) 222 52 26  
Email : [maigamo@yahoo.fr](mailto:maigamo@yahoo.fr)

### Mauritania

M. Abdoulaye SY  
Membre du Bureau Exécutif  
Association mauritanienne des droits de  
l'Homme (AMDH)  
BP 1780  
Nouakchott

Tél : (222) 682 67 63  
Tél / Fax : (222) 525 80 57  
Email : [syabdoulaye1@yahoo.fr](mailto:syabdoulaye1@yahoo.fr)

Mme Fatma Mint KHOUBAH  
Présidente  
Réseau mauritanien pour la promotion des  
droits de la femme (RMPDF)  
BP 1220  
Nouakchott

Tél : (222) 630 63 82 / 525 45 01  
Fax : (222) 529 40 04  
Email : [rmpdf@yahoo.fr](mailto:rmpdf@yahoo.fr)

### Niger

Mme Amina Abdoulaye N'DIAYE  
ROPPA  
B.P. 160 Zinder  
Niamey

Tél : (227) 98 68 15  
Email : [amyabdoulayendiaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:amyabdoulayendiaye@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [pfp\\_niger@yahoo.fr](mailto:pfp_niger@yahoo.fr)  
Fax : (227) 15 10 193

## Nigeria

M. Auwab Alhaji ABDULLAHI  
Director, Research & Planning and Statistics  
Ministry of International Affairs  
Abuja

Tél : (234) 080 34 72 35 24  
Email : [liadiluq@yahoo.com](mailto:liadiluq@yahoo.com)

Mr Nnamdi K. OBASI  
Head of Department of Peacekeeping and  
Humanitarian Affairs  
African Centre for Strategic Research and  
Training  
National War College  
P. M. B. 323, Garki  
Abuja

Tél : (234) 9 29 06 101  
Mobile: (234) 803 315 5750  
Email : [enobas2003@yahoo.com](mailto:enobas2003@yahoo.com)

## Senegal

Dr. Serigne Mamadou B. LEYE  
Ministère de l'élevage  
BP 45 677 / B.P. 67  
Dakar Fann

Tél : (221) 864 50 91 / 823 34 73  
Fax : (221) 864 50 91 / 823 34 73  
Email : [minel@sentoo.sn](mailto:minel@sentoo.sn) /  
[drsmboussoleye@yahoo.fr](mailto:drsmboussoleye@yahoo.fr)

Colonel Charles GUEYE  
Conseiller en sécurité du Premier Ministre  
Dakar

Tél : (221) 849 18 68  
Fax : (221) 822 77 89  
Email : [genda59@hotmail.com](mailto:genda59@hotmail.com)

M. Nassardine AIDARA  
Jeunesse Et Développement (JED)  
BP 7446  
Dakar

Tél : (221) 825 49 54  
Tél : (221) 835 39 50  
Email : [ced@sentoo.sn](mailto:ced@sentoo.sn)

Mme Juliette Khady SOW  
Directrice Exécutive IEPS (Institut d'Etudes  
Politiques WANSED (West African Network  
for Security and Democratic Governance  
BP 23149 Dakar Ponty

Tél : (221) 842 00 69 / 632 62 22  
Tél : (221) 889 13 92  
Fax : (221) 842 00 69  
E-mail : [jksow2002@yahoo.fr](mailto:jksow2002@yahoo.fr) / [ieps@wansed.org](mailto:ieps@wansed.org)

Pr Alfred Idris NDIAYE  
Université Gaston Berger  
BP 234 - Saint Louis

Tél. (221) 637 08 19  
Email : [alfref@refer.sn](mailto:alfref@refer.sn)

## II. GOVERNMENT - INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### Government of Togo

M. Kondi Charles AGBA  
Ministre d'état chargé de l'agriculture, de  
l'élevage et de la pêche  
Lomé

M. Yao MAGANAWÉ  
Député Rapporteur Commission du  
Développement Socio-Culturel  
Assemblée nationale  
BP 327  
Lomé

Tél : (228) 222 57 91  
Tél : (228) 905 27 28  
Email : [fmaganawe@yahoo.fr](mailto:fmaganawe@yahoo.fr)

M. Liguibe BONAMTE  
Député, Commission Développement  
Economique et Aménagement du Territoire  
Assemblée nationale  
BP 327  
Lomé

Tél. (228) 222 57 91 / 904 06 29  
Email : [asnato@tg.refer.org](mailto:asnato@tg.refer.org)

Chef d'Escadron Yao Kidighan KOUNDI  
Gendarmerie nationale  
BP 366  
Lomé

Tél : (228) 905 70 79  
Email : [kondiyao@yahoo.fr](mailto:kondiyao@yahoo.fr)

Colonnel Abalo NAYIBOU  
Camp Gnassingbé Eyadema  
BP 365  
Lomé

Tél : (228) 222 86 60

Capitaine AGARIM ADRESSIM  
Chef du Service Informatique  
Etat Major Général DESFAT  
BP 938  
Lomé

Tél : (228) 250 11 61

### **Togolese Civil Society**

M. Tsèvi ADOMAYAKPOR  
Directeur Exécutif  
Fédération des ONGs du Togo  
(FONGTO)  
BP 1176  
Lomé

Tél : (228) 221.49.65  
Fax : (228) 21.49.65  
Email : [fongto@syfed.tg.refer.org](mailto:fongto@syfed.tg.refer.org)

M. Ayayi APEDO-AMAH  
Secrétaire Général de la LTDH  
Ligue Togolaise des Droits de l'Homme  
315 Rue Tokoin-Ouest  
BP 2302  
Lomé

Tél / Fax : (228) 220 70 86  
Tél : (228) 918 55 25  
Email : [ltdh@tg.refer.org](mailto:ltdh@tg.refer.org)

M. Akouété BELIKI  
Président  
Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Togo (CSTT)  
14, rue Van Lare  
BP 3058  
Lomé  
Tél : (228) 222 11 17 / 222 77 60  
Fax : (228) 222 44 41  
Email : [cstt@laposte.tg](mailto:cstt@laposte.tg)

M. Gnoukouya Ayedji ASSIMA  
Union Générale des Syndicats Libres (UGSL)  
Président  
BP 30 137  
Lomé  
Tél : (228) 225 32 28 (dom)  
Tél : (228) 905 16 37  
Tél : Fax : (228) 221 29 10  
Email : [ugsltog1@yahoo.fr](mailto:ugsltog1@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [agnoukouga@yahoo.fr](mailto:agnoukouga@yahoo.fr)

M. Tétévi Norbert GBIKPI-BENISSAN  
Union Nationale de Syndicats Indépendants du Togo (UNSI)  
BP 30 082  
Lomé  
Tél : (228) 221 32 88  
Tél : (228) 905 61 65  
Email : [unsit@netcom.tg](mailto:unsit@netcom.tg)  
Email : [lunsit@hotmail.com](mailto:lunsit@hotmail.com)

Pasteur Kodjo Gerson BESSA  
Club de veille / Modérateur  
Eglise Presbytérienne Evangélique du Togo  
1, rue Tokmake – BP 2  
Lomé  
Tél. : (228) 221 53 74  
Tél. : (228) 221 46 69  
Fax : (228) 222 23 63  
Email : [gerson\\_bessa@yahoo.fr](mailto:gerson_bessa@yahoo.fr)

M. André Kangni AFANOU  
West African Youth Network  
Lomé  
Tél: (228) 902 10 38  
Email: [andreafanou@yahoo.fr](mailto:andreafanou@yahoo.fr)  
[andreafanoui@gmail.com](mailto:andreafanoui@gmail.com)

M. N'buéké Adovi GOEH-AKUE  
Syndicat de l'Enseignement Supérieur du Togo (SEST)  
01 BP 544 Lomé  
Tél. (228) 909 78 74 / 225 02 91  
Email : [agoeh@tg.refer.org](mailto:agoeh@tg.refer.org)

Mme Kafui ADJAMAGBO-JOHNSON  
WILDAF-West Africa  
BP 7755  
Lomé  
Tél : (228) 222 26 79  
Fax : (228) 222 73 90  
Email : [adjakafui@yahoo.fr](mailto:adjakafui@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [wildaf@cafe.tg](mailto:wildaf@cafe.tg)

### III. PRESS

M. Koffi TOUSSAH  
Réseau Africain de la Jeunesse  
B.P. 4522 – Lomé  
Tél : (228) 900 41 35 / (228) 221 15 68  
Tél (228) 222 62 62  
Email : [toussah@hotmail.com](mailto:toussah@hotmail.com)

M. Agbobli ATSUTSE  
Afrique Hebdo  
BP 545 – Lomé

Tél : (228) 91 71 764  
Email : [atsutsekokouvi@yahoo.fr](mailto:atsutsekokouvi@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [ak@laposte.tg](mailto:ak@laposte.tg)

M. Yendoube LARE  
NIFOSAL FIELTO  
Organisme de Défense, de Protection de  
Libertés des Droits de l'Homme et de Détection  
des cas de violations  
Directeur du Journal la Colombe  
B.P. 60772 – Lomé - Togo

Tél. (228) 901 31 69 / 911 89 35  
Fax : (228) 222 26 37

M. BAGOUNLY A.  
CERDES (TCHAD)  
Résidant au Togo - Journaliste  
B.P. 60772 – Lomé

Tél. (228) 923 19 62  
Email : [bovia01@yahoo.fr](mailto:bovia01@yahoo.fr)

M. Kossi Blaise AYEIGNON TOVALOU  
Journaliste – Œil d'Afrique  
B.P. 12719 – Lomé

Tél. (228) 921 42 93  
Email : [œil.afrique@laposte.net](mailto:œil.afrique@laposte.net)

M. Séwa TCHOUKOULI  
La Nouvelle République

Tél. (228) 904 32 62  
Email : [wilfried\\_sewa\\_tchoukouli@yahoo.fr](mailto:wilfried_sewa_tchoukouli@yahoo.fr)

M. Edou Joël GBAGBA  
Nostalgie – Lomé  
Correspondant IRIN – WA  
B.P. 8175 – Lomé – Togo

Tél. (228) 933 31 09 / 949 23 93  
[jogbagba@yahoo.fr](mailto:jogbagba@yahoo.fr)

#### IV. TOGOLESE POLITICAL PARTIES

M. Yawovi AGBOYIBO  
Président  
Comité d'Action pour le Renouveau (CAR)  
58, Avenue du 24 Janvier  
BP 6 – Lomé

Tél: (228) 222-05-66  
Fax: (228) 221-62-54  
Email: [yagboyibo@bibway.com](mailto:yagboyibo@bibway.com)  
Email: [doumbiara@yahoo.fr](mailto:doumbiara@yahoo.fr)

Mr. Roger T. DANIOUÉ  
Représentant du Rassemblement du Peuple  
Togolais (RPT)  
BP 30 655 – Lomé

Tél l: (228) 912 98 08 / 925 70 55  
Email: [rogertamasse@caramail.com](mailto:rogertamasse@caramail.com)

M. Jean-Pierre FABRE  
Secrétaire général  
Union des Forces de Changement (UFC)  
59 rue Koudadzé  
Quartier Lom-Nava  
BP 62 168 – Lomé

Tél: (228) 221 33 32  
Fax: (228) 221 33 32  
E-mail : [ufctogo@bibway.com](mailto:ufctogo@bibway.com)  
E-mail : [contact@ufctogo.com](mailto:contact@ufctogo.com)



M. Maurice Dahuku PERE  
Président  
Alliance Démocratique pour la Patrie  
BP 8710 – Lomé

Tél : (228) 226 65 26  
Tél : (228) 927 69 46  
Email: [martipab\\_1958@hotmail.com](mailto:martipab_1958@hotmail.com)

M. Badjow TCHAM  
Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT)  
BP 30 655 – Lomé

Tél : (228) 905 28 48  
Tél : (228) 912 98 08  
Email: [tbadjow@tg.refer.org](mailto:tbadjow@tg.refer.org)

### UNREC Togo

Centre Régional des Nations Unies pour la Paix et le Désarmement en Afrique  
P.O Box 2705 – Lomé

M. Richard Ivor FUNG  
Directeur

Tél : (228) 253 50 10  
Fax : (228) 250 43 15  
Email : [fungi@un.org](mailto:fungi@un.org)  
Email [Rfung@unrec.org](mailto:Rfung@unrec.org)

M. Thierry ZANG  
Coordonnateur  
Programme de réforme du secteur de la  
sécurité en Afrique

Tél : (228) 253 50 10  
Fax : (228) 250 43 15  
Email : [tzang@unrec.org](mailto:tzang@unrec.org)  
Email : [thierryzang@unrec.org](mailto:thierryzang@unrec.org)

M. Arnaud Noël VOULA EMVOUTOU

Tél. (228) 253 50 11 993 57 28  
Tél: (237) 765 12 38 / 231 13 89 - Cameroun  
Email : [arnaud\\_noel1@yahoo.fr](mailto:arnaud_noel1@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [avoula@unrec.org](mailto:avoula@unrec.org)

M. Ekouévi Eucher EKLU-KOEVANU

Tél. (228) 253 50 16 / 931 25 60  
Email : [eucherfr@yahoo.fr](mailto:eucherfr@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [eklukoevanu@unrec.org](mailto:eklukoevanu@unrec.org)

### UNOWA

Mme Marie-Thérèse KEITA-BOCOUM  
Conseillère principale  
Chargée des Droits de l'Homme  
UNOWA  
Dakar  
Sénégal

Tél : (221) 869 85 85  
Fax : (221) 842 50 95  
Email : [keita1@un.org](mailto:keita1@un.org)

## UNOCHA

M. Thierno Seydou GUEYE  
Coordinateur chargé de la protection  
Sacré Coeur III  
VDN – Villa 9364  
BP 45 792 – Dakar Fann

Tél (221) 867 27 19  
Mob (221) 569 96 54  
Fax: (221) 867 26 18  
E-mail: [gueyet@un.org](mailto:gueyet@un.org)  
E-mail : [syj@un.org](mailto:syj@un.org) (secrétaire)

Mrs Mostafavi MEHRNAZ  
Programme Officer  
Human Security Unit  
S-1879 B  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Tél : (917) 367 22 39  
Fax : (917) 367 23 32  
E-mail : [mostafavi@un.org](mailto:mostafavi@un.org)

## UNESCO

M. Yoro FALL  
Conseiller Régional pour la Culture  
PO BOX CT 4949  
Accra, Ghana

Tél : (233) 21 76 54 97  
Fax : (233) 21 77 50 76  
Email : [y.fall@unesco.org](mailto:y.fall@unesco.org)

## International Crisis Group

M. Gilles Olakounle YABI  
Analyst- West Africa Project  
Lot 37/E Sotrac Mermoz  
B.P. 45757 Dakar Fann  
Dakar, Sénégal

Tél : (221) 860 24 58  
Tél : (221) 527 98 89  
E-mail : [gyabi@crisisgroup.org](mailto:gyabi@crisisgroup.org)  
E-mail : [olakounle@hotmail.com](mailto:olakounle@hotmail.com)

## ECOWAS

Colonel Yéro KONE  
60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent  
Asokoro District, PMB 401 A  
Abuja, Nigeria

Tél : (234) 9 314 76 47  
Tél : (234) 9 314 30 05  
Email : [misterkoyo@yahoo.fr](mailto:misterkoyo@yahoo.fr)

M. Daniel EKLU  
60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent  
Asokoro District, PMB 401 A  
Abuja, Nigeria

Tél : (234) 9 314 76 36  
Tél : (234) 9 314 76 46  
Email : [daneklu@yahoo.fr](mailto:daneklu@yahoo.fr)

M. Augustin SAGNA  
Chef du Bureau d'Observation Zone 4  
Cotonou

Mob. (229) 95 96 18 43  
Fax : (229) 21 33 53 95  
Email : [Cos4\\_ecowas@yahoo.fr](mailto:Cos4_ecowas@yahoo.fr)  
Email : [Sagna21cv@hotmail.com](mailto:Sagna21cv@hotmail.com)

M. Boukar MAI MANGA  
Représentant du Secrétaire Exécutif  
Lomé

Tél : (228) 221 68 64  
Email : [maimanga2@yahoo.fr](mailto:maimanga2@yahoo.fr)

## AIDE ET ACTION

M. Beret TCHA  
Coordinateur régional du plateau  
Aide et Action  
B.P. 560 Kpalimé

Tél : (228) 220 74 79 / 949 15 68 / 930 01 11  
Fax : (228) 221 28 49  
Email : [aeatogo@aea-togo.org](mailto:aeatogo@aea-togo.org)  
Email : [bereitcha@yahoo.fr](mailto:bereitcha@yahoo.fr)

## WANEP

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

Mrs. Victoria KUNBOUR  
Regional Coordinator  
Civil Society Policy & Advocacy Program  
West Africa Network for Peacebuilding  
Regional Secretariat  
P. O. Box CT 4434, Cantonments  
Accra, Ghana

Tél : (233) 21 22 13 18 / 22 13 88  
Fax : (233) 21 22 17 35  
E-mail : [vkumbour@wanep.org](mailto:vkumbour@wanep.org)  
[vickumbour@yahoo.fr](mailto:vickumbour@yahoo.fr)

## V. SPG's COUNTRIES AMBASSADORS REPRESENTED IN TOGO

### US Embassy

SEM. David DUNN  
Ambassadeur  
Angle Rue Kouenou et Rue 15 Beniglato  
B.P. 852 - Lomé

Tél : (228) 221 29 91/ 92/ 93 ou 94  
Fax: (228) 221 79 52  
Email : [dunndb@state.gov](mailto:dunndb@state.gov)

### Ambassade de France

SEM Alain HOLLEVILLE  
Ambassadeur  
13 avenue du Golf,  
BP 337 - Lomé

Tél : (228) 223 46 00  
Fax: (228) 223 46 01  
Email : [laurence.nitoux@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:laurence.nitoux@diplomatie.gouv.fr)  
(mail de la secrétaire de l'ambassadeur)

M. Michael NUGENT  
Consultant  
Royaume-Uni & Canada  
Lomé - Togo

Tél : (225)519 59 78  
Email : [nugentmichael@yahoo.fr](mailto:nugentmichael@yahoo.fr)

## VI. SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB / OECD

Le Seine Saint-Germain », Bâtiment A  
4, Boulevard des Îles - 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France

Mr. Charles GOERENS  
Président  
Mathgeshof, Schieren  
L-9184 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg

Tél : (352) 81 21 28 / (352) 021 295 611  
Fax : (352) 81 64 18  
Email : [cgoerens@chd.lu](mailto:cgoerens@chd.lu)

M. Normand LAUZON  
Directeur

Tél : (331) 45 24 90 13  
Fax : (331) 45 24 90 31  
E-mail : [normand.lauzon@oecd.org](mailto:normand.lauzon@oecd.org)

M. Massaër DIALLO  
Chef Unité Gouvernance, Dynamiques des  
Conflits, Paix et Sécurité

Tél : (331) 45 24 96 28 / 637 97 45  
Fax : (331) 45 24 90 31  
E-mail : [massaer.diallo@oecd.org](mailto:massaer.diallo@oecd.org) / [dialco@refer.sn](mailto:dialco@refer.sn)

Mme Gwénola POSSEME-RAGEAU  
Conseillère en Planification stratégique et  
Relations extérieures

Tél : (331) 45 24 95 80  
Fax : (331) 45 24 90 31  
E-mail : [gwenola.posseme-rageau@oecd.org](mailto:gwenola.posseme-rageau@oecd.org)

Mme Soura DIOP  
Assistante de recherche et administration  
Unité Gouvernance, Dynamiques des Conflits,  
Paix et Sécurité

Tél : (331) 45 24 90 47  
Fax : (331) 45 24 90 31  
E-mail : [soura.diop@oecd.org](mailto:soura.diop@oecd.org)

M. Frédéric OCRISSE AKA  
Stagiaire