

COLLOQUIUM THE SECURITY-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS IN WEST AFRICA: REGIONAL CHALLENGES

West Africa is facing new and more complex acts of violence that combine identity claims, religious extremism and arms, drug and human trafficking. These dynamics continue to develop while the region deals with structural weaknesses such as the competition for mineral and agro-pastoral resources, environmental degradation, unfinished demarcation of borders, the fragility of some democratic processes, and socio-economic challenges.

The development of these instabilities, and their interdependence, reinforces the need for co-ordinated proposals within the framework of the security-development nexus in which political and operational dimensions are sometimes difficult to reconcile. Cross-border co-operation is an example of a possible response to this challenge.

The transnational dimension of past insecurities, the global dimension of some trafficking and terrorism, and the regional economic integration as part of the ongoing process of globalisation, call for regional responses and a more active participation of West African institutions and representatives in global debates.

OBJECTIVES

- To improve the understanding of West African security-development challenges in the context of recent tensions;
- To promote dialogue between OECD member countries and West African countries on the links between “security and development”.

AGENDA

08:30 - 09:15

Opening address

→ Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, President, Sahel and West Africa Club

→ H.E. Mr. Boubacar Sidiki Touré, Ambassador of Mali to France

SESSION 1

Geographic dynamics of West African security challenges

→ Chair/Facilitator: Mr. Manuel Lopez-Blanco, Director, European External Action Service, EU

09:15 - 09:30

The evolution of instability in the Sahel and West Africa since 2005

What are the key concepts in the correlations between insecurity dynamics (terrorism, arms and drug trafficking)?

What are the economic, social and security consequences of the North African crises on West Africa?

→ Mr. Henry Wilkinson, Head of Intelligence and Analysis, The Risk Advisory Group plc, United Kingdom

09:30 - 09:45

Co-ordinated mechanisms to fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime

Algeria is part of several initiatives with West Africa: consolidating co-operation in the fight against terrorism on the border between Algeria and Mali, in particular on the Algiers-Bamako corridor and the Joint Military Staff Committee of the Sahel Region (CEMOC) whose member states include Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. How are strengthened military and security co-operation and development activities reinforced through this initiative? What are the cross-border co-operation challenges for stabilising these areas?

→ Speaker to be confirmed

09:45 - 10:45

Debate

10:45 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 11:30

Integrating the regional dimension in security and development strategies, Chad and the ECOWAS area

West Africa is an integrated area in terms of its mobilities and its economic and political development. Some insecurity dynamics are also regional in their nature and impact and therefore call for regional responses and development proposals that take into account the regional dimension. In this regard, what role does Chad play in the West African region?

11:00 - 11:30	<p>Two presentations address this topic:</p> <p>Post-crisis challenges in Chad: Converging military and humanitarian strategies with security and development policies → Mr. Moussa Mahamat Dago, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Co-operation, Chad</p> <p>Security, development and regional relations: A historical and geographical perspective based on the experience of Chad → Mr. Géraud Magrin, Researcher, CIRAD, France</p>
11:30 - 12:30	Debate
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 14:30	Roundtable discussion by West African regional organisations on the tools implemented to fight against new forms of insecurity
SESSION 2	<p>Identifying policies and cross-border co-operation practices to address the Security-Development nexus → Chair/Facilitator: Mr. Olivier Ray, Economist, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France</p>
14:30 - 14:45	<p>Coherence of aid policies with regard to security and development Although foreign and security policy is one area which is mostly addressed at the national level, European bodies are increasingly associated through flexible mechanisms. Operational co-operation frameworks with Africa are multiplying and showing greater willingness to exchange in a more balanced and less unilateral way. Does the same trend emerge for policy dialogue between European/OECD member countries and Africa (in terms of socio-economic development, peacekeeping and policy coherence)? → Mr. Félix Nkundabagenzi, Researcher, Royal Higher Institute for Defence, Belgium</p>
14:45 - 15:00	<p>Are the international mechanisms in the fight against insecurity still relevant with the emergence of new forms of insecurity in fragile states? Are the links between security and development sufficiently understood in their political dimension? Should a set of specific response tools for fragile states be designed in order to better target growing criminal networks which are increasingly operating internationally? What role should be played by government institutions and regional organisations? Special emphasis will be placed on mechanisms to fight against terrorism. → Mr. Martin A. Ewi, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa</p>
15:00 - 16:00	Debate
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 - 16:30	<p>Cross-border co-operation as an example of how to converge security and development in the Mano River region Borders symbolise both protection and vulnerability: they mean increased security (for refugees), and insecurity (the development of trafficking, which makes it more difficult for the state to exercise full sovereignty). How does cross-border co-operation between the Mano River Union countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) contribute to address the security-development nexus? → Mr. Francis Keili, Director, Office of National Security, Sierra Leone</p>
16:30 - 16:45	<p>Southern Senegambia: From the Casamance conflict to the development of new trafficking How can conflict reduction be combined with economic and social stability? What actions could be undertaken in cross-border areas? How can strategies be improved in order to better respond to the growing development of trafficking (in particular drugs)? → Mr. Abdoulaye Diallo, Technical Advisor, GIZ – ProCas, Senegal</p>
16:45 - 17:45	Debate
17:45 - 18:00	<p>Synthesis → Mr. Laurent Bossard, Director, SWAC Secretariat/OECD</p>
18:15	Cocktail



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