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Framework for Cooperation

between

the Executive Secretariat of the Permanent Inter-State Committee
for Drought Control in the Sahel
(CILSS)

and

the Sahel and West Africa Club
(SWAC)

Attached to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
(OECD)¹

¹ Original version French

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October 2006

I. This framework for cooperation between the Executive Secretariat of the CILSS and the Sahel and West Africa Club is the outcome of a series of bilateral working meetings in January 2004 in Nouakchott, on 3 August 2005 in Paris, and on 28 June 2006 in Ouagadougou, as well as other technical working sessions between the various specialised services of the two institutions. These various meetings helped identify and specify the areas and modalities of their collaboration. This framework also takes into account the observations made by the CILSS in March 2006 on the Summary Record of the SWAC's Strategy and Policy Group meeting which, *inter alia*, underscored the need to prepare a strategic partnership document between the Club and the CILSS.

II. Considering that the CILSS was established on 12 September 1973 as an inter-governmental organisation with the mandate to seek food security and desertification control in order to create a new ecological balance for the Sahel. Furthermore, considering that the Sahel and West Africa Club, established in 1976 to serve as a forum for consultation and advocacy encouraging increased and sustained support from the international community to countries in the region victims of the drought, expanded its geographical coverage in 2001 to all of West Africa.

III. Recognising that cooperation between the two institutions is not new and that it dates back to the establishment of the SWAC in 1976, this agreement is intended to further consolidate the existing partnership. Accordingly, the two institutions have agreed to strengthen their cooperation over the next five years on joint initiatives relating to priority development problems of the Sahel and West Africa. The selected areas of cooperation are consistent with the SWAC's strategy as validated by its Strategy and Policy Group (SPG), the equivalent of its Board of Directors. The areas are closely linked to the Club's four areas of concentration, and are of interest for the region and the international community on the whole; they are:

- a. Medium and long-term development perspectives;
- b. Rural Transformation and Sustainable Development;
- c. Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration;
- d. Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security.

The areas are also consistent with the CILSS' action priorities and directly linked to the three key programmes adopted by the Council of Ministers in June/July 2004 within the framework of the CILSS' reform, namely:

- a. Food Security and Desertification Control;
- b. Water Control; and
- c. Access to Markets.

IV. Accordingly, the two parties have agreed to focus on the following areas of cooperation:

► **Food Security**

The SWAC has confirmed its willingness to cooperate with the CILSS to define a mechanism for the prevention and sustainable management of food crises. To that end, a number of joint initiatives shall be carried out:

- CILSS-SWAC joint management of the network for prevention of food crises in the Sahel. The CILSS and the SWAC shall together provide leadership for the Food Crisis Prevention Network for the Sahel (RPCA), organising network meetings, as well as capitalizing on their recommendations and regularly monitoring the implementation of these recommendations;
- CILSS-SWAC co-organisation of regular evaluations of the Food Aid Charter;

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- Joint strategic thinking for the establishment of a sustainable mechanism for desert locust monitoring and control. To that end, the SWAC and the CILSS shall jointly, with ECOWAS, undertake strategic thinking that would lead to the establishment of a Regional Desert Locust Monitoring, Alert and Response Mechanism in the Sahel and West Africa;
- Creation and joint management of the Food Crises Prevention Network website;
- Joint initiative with the CILSS on a socio-economic evaluation of the impact of avian flu on food security in the Sahel and West Africa;
- Joint strategic thinking on issues relating to agricultural innovation and biotechnology;
- Co-organisation, with the CILSS and FewNet, of a regional consultation based on capitalising on the results of studies relating to food crises prevention and management;
- Co-management of the process from cereal to food assessment;
- Support to the implementation of a harmonised framework for analysis and identification of risk areas and vulnerable groups in the Sahel;
- Collaboration for the promotion of regional trade of agricultural and agro-food products and the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring cross-border flows.

► Water, Land and Desertification Control

In light of the stakes linked to natural resources, and in particular the impact of socio-economic and political changes as regards these resources, the CILSS and the SWAC have agreed to strengthen their partnership around the following joint actions:

- SWAC-CILSS co-organisation, with ECOWAS, of a regional forum on "*Land Policies and Reform in the Sahel and West Africa*". This action, which establishes a link with the Africa Land Initiative (African Union – African Development Bank and Economic Commission for Africa), will help define framework principles for land policy in the region;
- Co-organisation of strategic thinking on the CILSS initiative, "Global Coalition for Water Control in the Sahel and West Africa". In partnership with ECOWAS, the SWAC and the CILSS will co-organise technical meetings of experts, and facilitate a roundtable of technical and financial partners;
- Co-organisation, within the framework of desertification control, of joint strategic thinking on ways to mobilise: (i) national policy-makers in order for Desertification Control to be better taken into account in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers; (ii) the donor community for increased financial commitment to Desertification Control;
- The SWAC's contribution to the design and management of an environmental monitoring mechanism, which the CILSS intends to create in the course of 2006.

► Rural Transformation

The CILSS has shown its interest in the initiative concerning "*Rural Transformation by 2025*". Collaboration between the SWAC and the CILSS around this initiative shall focus mainly on:

- CERPOD/INSAH participation in the organisation of thematic strategic thinking within the framework of this initiative;
- SWAC-CILSS co-organisation, in partnership with ECOWAS, the WAEMU and ROPPA, of a regional forum on "*Rural transformation in the Sahel and West Africa: Prospective Vision of the Rural Milieu for the next 20 years and Policy and Investment Implications for the Agricultural and Rural Sectors*".

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► Potentialities and Challenges of Livestock with a view to Strengthening the Regional Market

Within the framework of strengthening the regional market, promoting food security and reducing poverty, the SWAC has carried out strategic thinking with regional actors on conditions for optimising and developing the regional potential of livestock products. The CILSS has shown interest in this initiative, and the partnership with the SWAC shall focus on:

- CILSS participation in the study on the future of livestock in the Sahel and West Africa;
- SWAC-CILSS co-organisation, in partnership with ROPPA and the WAEMU and under the auspices of ECOWAS, of a regional forum on "*Potentialities and Challenges of Livestock with a view to strengthening the regional market*".

► Agro-food Processing

In order to improve access of agricultural products to the regional and international markets, the SWAC and the CILSS shall work together on "Agro-food Processing". To that end, their collaboration shall focus on:

- CILSS-SWAC co-organisation, in partnership with the WAEMU, ROPPA, TCA and ECOWAS, of a study on capitalising on experiences in agro-food processing;
- CILSS-SWAC co-organisation, in partnership with ROPPA, INTERFACE Network, the WAEMU, TCA and under the auspices of ECOWAS, of regional strategic thinking on "*Strategies for Reviving the Agro-food Processing Sector in the Sahel and West Africa with a view to strengthening the regional food products market*".

► Atlas on Regional Integration (ARI)

The CILSS has confirmed its commitment to this initiative implemented by the SWAC with ECOWAS. The SWAC-CILSS collaboration in this area shall focus mainly on:

- CILSS contribution to ARI by providing data available from the ARC in Niamey, particularly the chapter on the vulnerable ecological zone of Sahel countries;
- Development of ARI data by the CILSS so as to contribute to strategic thinking on monitoring vulnerability.

► Cross-border Cooperation

Under the Italy/CILSS LCD RPS Fund, the CILSS has already undertaken strategic thinking on marginal and cross-border areas. The CILSS is already involved in the promotion of regional trade of agricultural and agro-food products, thereby showing its interest in contributing to the various initiatives implemented by the SWAC and ECOWAS. Collaboration between the SWAC and the CILSS shall focus mainly on:

- CILSS participation in the implementation of the Cross-border Initiatives Programme (CIP) implemented by ECOWAS, with the SWAC's support;
- Establishing links between CILSS Website and that of WABI;
- SWAC participation in operating the mechanism for monitoring cross-border flow of agricultural and agro-food products.

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► CILSS-SWAC Joint Publications

The CILSS and the SWAC agree to produce joint publications on certain specific strategic topics of common interest for the two institutions. This approach shall reach a wider public and ensure better dissemination of documents to facilitate decision-making for action.

To that end, and in the short- and medium-term, the SWAC shall work closely in collaboration with the CILSS and other specialised agencies with a view to regular publication of an information note on the food situation in the region.

V. As regards modalities for implementing this framework for cooperation, the SWAC and the CILSS agree as follows:

- Organisation of an annual meeting between the two institutions to take stock of results obtained; agree in a flexible manner on priority activities, their implementation modalities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of each party in achieving the expected results to benefit the populations in the region;
- Mutual and regular exchange of documents;
- Association of third parties in the implementation of joint projects;
- Joint mobilisation of efforts, where necessary, in seeking financial resources for certain joint projects;
- Appointment, by mutual agreement, of a person in each institution to be responsible for monitoring matters relating to this cooperation.

Taking into account the constant evolution of the regional environment as well as the development stakes, the CILSS and the SWAC agree to meet regularly (once every two years) to assess this framework for cooperation, and update the contents of key areas of collaboration.

VI. Joint initiatives between the SWAC and the CILSS shall be included in the Annual Work Programme of each of the institutions.

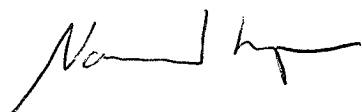
The SWAC and the CILSS shall be the joint holders of all intellectual property rights resulting from work carried out together, particularly under the section relating to joint publications above. Similarly, the parties shall jointly decide on and control the dissemination of the work.

The SWAC and the CILSS also agree that this framework for cooperation shall be in force for five (5) years and that adjustments may be made during this period in line with the situation and needs on the ground. If one party wishes to terminate this framework, it shall notify the other party at least three months in advance.

This framework contains no financial commitment or obligation on the part of each of the stakeholders. It is a framework for partnership to consolidate the collaboration that already exists between the two parties.

Date : 31 OCT. 2006

Mr. Normand Lauzon



Director
of Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD

Date : 31 OCT. 2006

Mr. MUSA M. MBERGA



Executive Secretary
of the Permanent Inter-State Committee
for Drought Control in the Sahel