

Strategy and Policy Group Meeting

Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD)

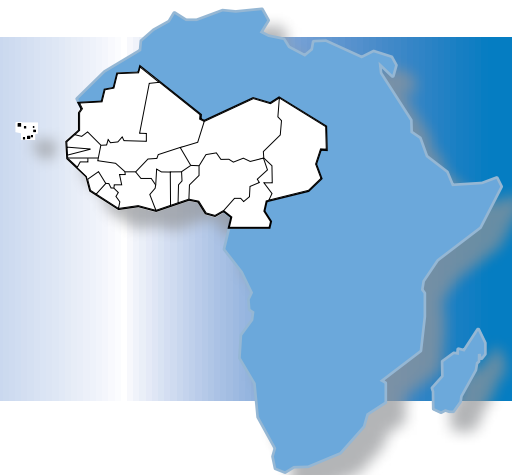
9 - 10 December 2009

Bamako, Hotel Azalaï Salam

Agenda

draft

> www.oecd.org/swac/spg



Presentation

The meeting of the Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) will follow a new format.

The first day will consist of a conference open to all of the stakeholders concerned by a topical issue. Every year a subject shall be chosen by SPG members. This year it will focus on “*Pressures on West African land*” (see www.oecd.org/swac/land). In line with the recommendations made at the last G8 meeting and proposals by the United Nations, this meeting will bring together representatives of farmer organisations, producers, civil society, investors, Ministers from West African and OECD countries, parliamentarians from the North and South, high-level representatives from the AfDB, AU, CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA, researchers, representatives from co-operation agencies as well as international organisations. The objective of the meeting is to define a roadmap that would focus on:

- Raising awareness among leaders of frameworks respectful of human rights, the economic, land and social environment for investment in West African land;
- Promoting dialogue in order to take into account these frameworks in the evaluation and agricultural investment policy reform processes in OECD and West African countries.

All of the participants in the 25th annual meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), being held simultaneously in Bamako from 8 to 11 December 2009 (see: www.oecd.org/swac/rpca), will also be associated with this conference.

The second day will be a more restricted meeting with SWAC members (representatives of contributing countries, West African states and regional organisations such as CILSS, ECOWAS and UEMOA as well as observers (networks and civil society associations). It will examine the SWAC’s strategic orientations and programme of work and budget. Particular emphasis will be placed on the strategic thinking process which, in 2010, should better define the SWAC’s mandate and operational modalities. Over the last few years, the geography of development and the geo-political world have changed greatly. West Africa is being offered new opportunities while at the same time facing new challenges. Much has changed also in the world of development aid. The SWAC has already proven its capacity to adapt and must take into account this new configuration by:

- Widening the scope of its West African members and partner countries in the region;
- Relying on the support of the partner countries and optimising their political and scientific capital;
- Promoting regional expertise and the Secretariat’s network of partners;
- Optimising the Secretariat’s position within the OECD.

WEDNESDAY 9

DECEMBER
Pressures on West African land:
Reconciling development and
investment policies

8.15-8.45: Introduction

Introduction by Mr. Laurent Bossard, SWAC/OECD Director *ad interim*
Mr. Charles Michel, Minister of Co-operation of Belgium (timing of intervention to be confirmed¹)

8.45-10.30: Interpretation of Human Rights principles in land acquisition negotiations in West Africa

8.45-9.00

Introduction by Professor Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

9.00-9.15

What is the scope and the rationale of the principles set out by the Rapporteur on the process of elaborating the rural land law in Burkina Faso? Mr. Mahamoudou Kiemtoré, Sociologist, Member of the Inter-Ministerial Commission set up to review texts by the Réorganisation Agraire et foncière (RAF).

9.15-9.30

Regional initiatives and reforms of national land policies: What are the possible synergies to secure land tenure in view of large-scale land acquisitions? Mr. Moussa Djiré, Jurist, Faculty, Legal and Political Sciences, University of Bamako

9.30-9.45

Promote responsible foreign investment in agriculture in the developing world. Representative of Japan

9.45-10.30: Discussion led by Professor Olivier de Schutter.

10.30-10.45: Break

10.45-12.30: Risks, opportunities and human rights with regard to investment in West African land: exchange of views by farmer and producer organisations

10.45-11.45

Roundtable of farmer and agricultural producer organisations: Representatives of the Network of Farmer Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA), the All Farmers Association of Nigeria and farmer organisations working in network with the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV). These farmer organisations are contributing to the debate with results from a dialogue launched in November 2009 in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Niger on their perception of commercial pressure on land.

11.45-12.30: Discussion led by Mr. Michael Taylor, Programme Manager, Global Policy and Africa, International Land Coalition Secretariat.

¹ Mr. Michel will intervene either at the beginning of the meeting or during the day.

12.30-14.00: Lunch Break

14.00-18.15: What policy levers could be used to reconcile development and investment issues?

14.00-16.30 Roundtable of political representatives and parliamentarians from West African and OECD countries

Chair: Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea (SWAC/OECD President)

Facilitators: Political representatives and parliamentarians from West African and OECD countries

The discussion should promote and initiate long-term negotiations that respect human rights, food security, current environmental concerns and investment law.

14.15-14.30

Mali Biocarburant's policy concerning energy crop production. Mr. Hugo Verkuijl, CEO, Mali Biocarburant.

14.30-14.45

The position of BioFuel Africa Ltd. Mr. Steinar Kolnes, CEO and Director, Biofuel Africa Ltd, Ghana

14.45-15.00

Foreign direct investments in agricultural land in Mali. Dr. Ing. Godihald Mushinzimana, Programme d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales (PACT), Bureau GTZ, Mali.

15.00-16.30

Parliamentarians are invited to respond to the two preceding interventions and provide information on the actions to be carried out and already underway related to investment in West African land in their respective country.

Discussion led by Mr. Laurent Bossard (SWAC/OECD Director *ad interim*) and Mr. Mike Pfister, (Investment Policy Officer, NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD).

16.30-16.45: Break

16.45-18.15: Roundtable of regional institutions: conclusions and closing

Chair: Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea (President of SWAC/OECD)

This roundtable brings together representatives of regional African institutions (AU, CILSS, ECOWAS, NEPAD and UEMOA). Taking into account the day's debates, a road map will be proposed as well as way forward to:

- Raise awareness among leaders of frameworks respectful of human rights, the economic, land and social environment for investment in West African land.
- Launch a dialogue on the taking into account of these frameworks in the evaluation and reform of agricultural and investment policy processes of OECD and West African countries (peer reviews, for example).

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER

Strategic Orientations of the SWAC/OECD

8.00-8.15: Opening

8.00-8.15: Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC/OECD President

8.15-8.30: Mr. Charles Michel, Minister of Co-operation of Belgium

8.30-12.30: Strategic thinking on regional issues/challenges and actions of the SWAC/OECD

Chair : Mr. Charles Michel, Minister of Co-operation of Belgium

Facilitator : Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC/OECD President

This first session should consist of broad strategic thinking on West African regional issues and the SWAC's action based on three activities carried out recently within the SWAC.

8.30-8.45

Results of the discussions held on 9 December regarding commercial pressure on land. Professor Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food.

The SWAC has brought together stakeholders from the North and South to address this issue that concerns local, national, regional and international governance, food security as well as economic development. Placed deliberately within the global debate (G8, United Nations principles, AU guidelines), this segment aimed to define operational ways forward taking into account West African specificities. What are the strengths and potential of such an approach?

8.45-9.15: Discussion

9.15-9.30

The Charter for Food Crises Prevention and Management in West Africa. Mr. Sibiri Jean Zoundi, SWAC/OECD Secretariat and Mr. Dramane Coulibaly, CILSS Executive Secretariat.

At the request of members of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), the CILSS and SWAC/OECD Secretariats have been co-ordinating since 2007 the revision of the 1990 Food Aid Charter in order to adapt to the evolution of food crises and the types of response instruments. In line with the recent global summit on food security, the two Secretariats are proposing that the negotiation of this new charter be among their priorities for 2010. This involves monitoring and co-ordinated action on human security and improving aid effectiveness in the spirit of mutual responsibility. The prospects and structural uncertainties require such an initiative. Analyses indicate that food product prices should continue to increase over the next few years. In addition, although unpredictable, climatic events such as droughts and floods are anticipated. What are the modalities for this negotiation process?

9.30-10.30: Discussion

10.30-10.45: Break

10.45-11.15

Security implications of climate change in the Sahel. Mr. Philipp Heinrigs, SWAC/OECD Secretariat

The Sahel zone is at the core of major security concerns with tensions around energy (oil, uranium) and natural (land, pastureland, water) resources, the resurgence of Tuareg irredentism, human trafficking, drug and weapons smuggling, border disputes, terrorism, etc. Along with these concerns is the climatic vulnerability of an area which is characterised by large rainfall variability. In collaboration with African and specialised international institutions, renowned research centres and with the financial support from France and the United Kingdom, the Secretariat is co-ordinating a team of experts to assess the links between climate changes and security events. What lessons could be drawn from past climatic, socio-economic evolutions as well as the history of conflict? A map of vulnerable zones will be presented in addition to an analysis of the relationship between climatic events and crises. The presentation will also be an opportunity to provide the most up-to-date information concerning long-term climatic perspectives in the zone. This regional study will also be presented at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen. (14 December 2009, 18.00 – 20.00, EU Pavillon).

See: www.oecd.org/swac/climatechange

10.45-11.45: Discussion

11h45-12h15

Lessons from other work carried out within the SWAC/OECD. Mr. Laurent Bossard, SWAC/OECD Director ad interim with the Malian Ambassador H.E. Aguibou Diarra (former Director of the National Borders Directorate of Mali and Director of the African Union Border Programme):

The SWAC/OECD promotes innovation, encourages regional political dialogue, supports the definition and the implementation of regional policies, analyses structural changes, monitors cyclical evolutions, etc. A more general open discussion will be held on West African regional issues and on the relevance of the SWAC's action through several examples of other activities carried out within the SWAC in areas such as regional integration, governance, peace and security as well as prospective strategic thinking.

12.30- 14.00: Lunch Break

14.00-19.00: Orientations of the SWAC/OECD Secretariat for 2010 and beyond

Chair : Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC/OECD President

Facilitator: Mr. Eric Burgeat, CENM/OECD Director

This session, restricted to SWAC/OECD members, will focus on the orientations the SPG would like the SWAC and its Secretariat to follow for 2010 and beyond. A working document will be sent to SPG members.

14.00-14.15: Introduction by Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC/OECD President

14.15-14.45

Progress and prospects of the SWAC/OECD restructuring process; Assessment of 2009 activities, interim 2010 programme of work and budget. Mr. Laurent Bossard, SWAC/OECD Director ad interim

14.45-16.15

Exchange of views with regional institutions (AU, CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA) and other West African partners.

16.15-17.15: General discussion and validation.

17.15-18.15: Discussion on the financial prospects.

18.15-18.30: Any other business and closing.

> www.oecd.org/swac/spg



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