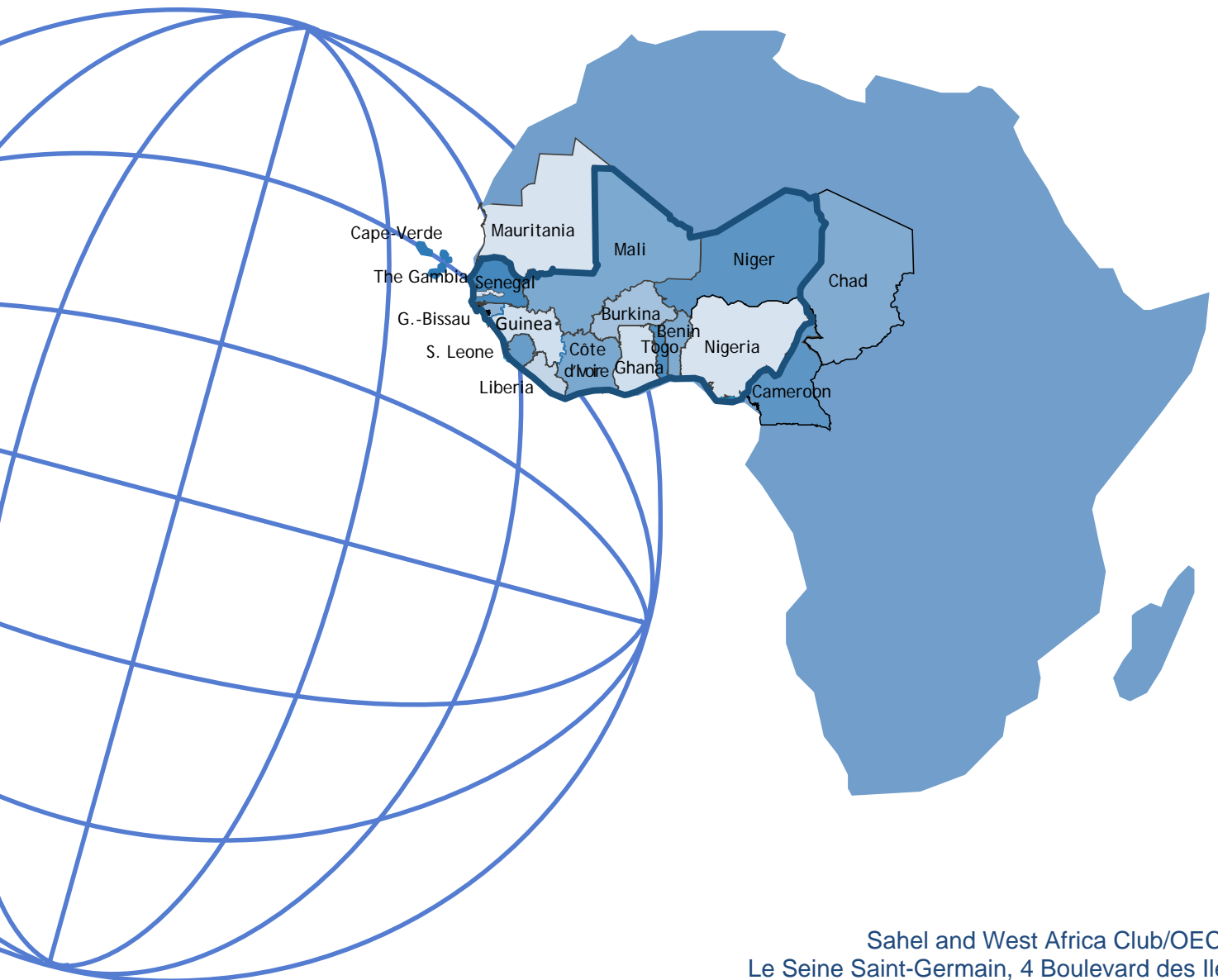




SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB / OECD  
**2008 WORK PROGRAMME**



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**2008 WORK PROGRAMME  
OF THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB / OECD**

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## INTRODUCTION

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At the SPG meeting held on 31 January and 1 February 2008, SPG members examined the proposed 2008-2012 Orientations and the SWAC's financial situation. At this meeting, the SPG asked the SWAC team to produce a short note setting out the priorities of the 2008 Work Programme.

This Note does not summarise the 2008-2012 Work Plan but rather sets out the priorities based on the SPG's guidelines and recommendations.

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## I. STRATEGIC ISSUES AND MEETINGS

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In 2008, the SWAC's Management and President intend to implement the SPG's recommendations focusing on three main aspects: *regional approach, political impact, innovation*.

**The Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in September 2008** should be an opportunity for SWAC members to place "regional cooperation" on the table. This topic currently appears neither in the Paris Declaration nor in any of the references to infra-national territories or to their actors. In coordination with representatives of OECD member countries participating in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the SWAC intends to send an analysis letter and concrete proposals to the DAC Chairman on this subject. One of these proposals is to organise a roundtable on the advantages of a regional approach to improve aid effectiveness within the context of the Accra Forum. This roundtable could be an opportunity to present operational lessons from the work carried out by the SWAC: an innovative programme on the national approach to regional cooperation (Ghana and Guinea Bissau), concerted management of food security issues (Food Crisis Prevention Network), regional approach to the DDR, regional post-conflict policy, development of a regional approach to security and conflict prevention.

**Improving Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States** will be closely examined within the framework of "national-regional" strategic thinking set out above. Facing the challenge of fragility is part of the converging objectives of countries of the region, their regional organisations and members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. In support of and in partnership with these actors, the SWAC will explore the cases of Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, and Côte d'Ivoire.

**The Second Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development** (Paris 20 – 21 October 2008) will be a key political event on the 2008 West Africa calendar. ECOWAS' objective, for which member States have a common approach, will be to demonstrate the advantages and modalities of a common approach to migratory issues. The SWAC will continue to support this West African goal (through a review of migratory policies, strategic thinking on various aspects of the regional approach, creation of a regional migration observatory). The SWAC and ECOWAS intend to present the results of the Paris Conference at the Regional Forum on the Younger Generation's Future and Migratory Issues.

**With regard to coherency issues / aid effectiveness and the regional approach**, the revision of the Food Aid Charter for the Sahel and West Africa is a major challenge for the region and its partners. Begun in 2007, this concertation process will be continued. As a new approach to the structural causes of food insecurity, the creation of "**Food Security Country Profiles**" will be pursued in support of a concerted approach for countries of the region and their development partners.

The SWAC proposes to facilitate and lead, within the framework of the SWAC, **intense strategic thinking on the institutional structure of regional cooperation in West Africa**. At the last SPG meeting, the CILSS, ECOWAS, and UEMOA agreed that the SWAC could be a framework for operational strategic thinking on their complementarities. The President of Burkina Faso, the Acting President of ECOWAS and the UEMOA have also made this request to the SWAC. The SWAC's partners approved this idea and underscored that such an initiative would clarify the SWAC's position. In coordination with the departments of SWAC member multilateral cooperation agencies, the SWAC would like to pursue in 2008 technical and political coordination with the main regional West African organisations. A draft process (analyses, debates, proposals) could be the result of such concertation and could be financed by specific contributions as from 2009.

**The approach set out above will be preceded and supported by an evaluation of the SWAC/ECOWAS partnership.** The results of this evaluation will be presented to the SPG in January 2009.

**As a symbol of this partnership, the first SWAC-ECOWAS "West Africa 2007-2008" Report focusing on resources for development** will be available in September 2008. In a rapidly changing environment, it demonstrates that an up-to-date general and regional description of West African realities and issues need to contribute to the debate on the region's future. With this same conviction, chapters of the Atlas on Regional Integration and the setting up of an ECOWAS/SWAC information portal on West Africa and its actors will be pursued.

The SWAC's President and Management will also focus on the SWAC's financial prospects. As agreed at the SPG meeting of 31 January and 1 February 2008, a special meeting of the SWAC's financial donors will be organised in June 2008.

In wanting to provide better support to its donors, even more than has been done in the past, emphasis will be placed on the focus of the SWAC's work and its strategy to mobilise funds. How can the SWAC's action be understood as implicitly most effective? Discussion regarding this issue should, between now and June, be demonstrated through the implementation of specific partnerships, including financial partnerships, on issues responding to members' needs as well as to *their SWAC's mandate*.

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## II. COMMUNICATIONS

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The approach will be based on dissemination tools (*outreach*) through *electronic communications* (website, contact database), of targeted communications products (flyers, CD-ROM, electronic products, on-line services, etc.) towards West Africa and its partners.

### 2.1 *Constantly and regularly providing support to SWAC members and partners*

Providing synthesised information on the structural issues and prospects of West Africa will be pursued:

- Conceived in 2007, the ECOWAS/SWAC West Africa information portal will be implemented.
- The West Africa 2007-2008 Report (see point 3.1) and the chapters of the Atlas on Regional Integration (see point 5.3) will be produced and widely disseminated, as will the monthly Food Security Information Notes (see point 4.1) and the *Policy Briefs* on various sectors.

- The initiative to create a directory of resource persons in West African and donor countries will be launched.
- A West African collective series will be launched in 2008. This publication, containing topical contributions to the analysis of issues and regional prospects for West Africa, will be regularly disseminated once or twice per year (to be specified).

## 2.2 *Improving the SWAC's Visibility*

Development of a new SWAC website ([www.westafricaclub.org](http://www.westafricaclub.org)) providing an integrated vision of its work. More flexible than the previous site, it calibrates the information provided according to current events.

- Monthly dissemination of the newsletter.
- Annual production of a CD-ROM compiling all of the SWAC's products.
- Update of the SWAC's visual identity and its publications.
- Development of press relations: producing an annual review of the appearance of the SWAC's work in the media, improving media coverage of meetings, developing relations with press agencies.

## 2.3 *Improving Internal Communications with the OECD*

The SWAC will improve its internal communications with the OECD so as to capitalise on its position within the Organisation. It intends to systematically disseminate its main documents in *OECD format*<sup>1</sup>. It will disseminate its thematic *Policy Briefs* to the Directorates concerned, DAC delegates as well as all of the OECD delegations. The SWAC will also propose articles to be included in the "*OECD Observer*".

The SWAC will contribute to a series of OECD thematic key sheets entitled, "Did You Know?" highlighting the differences between West African countries and OECD member countries. Proposed joint publications will be submitted to Directorates such as the Development Centre and the Africa Partnership Forum.

Finally, the SWAC will pursue its collaboration with the OECD's Public Affairs and Communications Directorate: (i) exchange of media contacts; (ii) organisation of special events concerning West Africa at OECD Headquarters.

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## III. MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES

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### 3.1 *"West Africa 2007-2008" Report*

The SWAC and ECOWAS have undertaken to develop a report containing a review and a regional analytical framework of West Africa to be made available to regional integration actors. It presents development perspectives of the region by highlighting the common problems and challenges to which cooperation in the region offers opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> This "OLIS format" enables documents to be automatically included in the documentary database consultable on-line by all of the OECD services and delegations.

- The first issue of the ECOWAS/SWAC “*West Africa 2007/08*” Report of which the subject is *resources for development*, will be available in September. After an experts workshop to validate the texts (February), the joint Report will be published during the second semester of 2008. The CILSS and UEMOA will also participate in this publication. A summary of this document could be presented to the ECOWAS Heads of State Summit to be held mid-2008.
- A thematic and media event could be organised concerning one or more subjects addressed in the 2007/08 Report, for example on the theme, “Social Capital: a neglected resource?” This event could be co-organised with a SWAC member country prior to or following the SPG meeting.

### 3.2 *Production of Strategic Notes*

At the request of ECOWAS, the SWAC will regularly produce policy recommendation notes for decision-makers. Based on SWAC work and external analyses and/or expertise, the SWAC will coordinate the production of these Strategic Notes. These Notes will be useful for regional and national decision-makers and could also contribute to strategic thinking and partners’ further involvement with the OECD.

- In 2008 the concept between the SWAC and ECOWAS will be prepared and validated. Two or three Strategic Notes (2 to 4 pages) will be prepared by the end of the year on themes to be jointly defined (for example, climate change, energy, migration, currencies, security, etc.).

### 3.3 *Developing regional capacities for prospective strategic thinking*

With the goal of promoting methods and prospective analytical tools for regional institutions, contributing to strategic thinking and supporting the political decision-making process of regional institutions is the first required step yet not enough. This should be supported by an institutional capacity building process with regard to prospective strategic thinking. Thus, realistic expectations would be able to be expressed through the main regional frameworks so as to ensure the supervision of such exercises led by experts who are familiar with the tools. This process will be drawn up in 2008 with West African partners and developed as from 2009.

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## IV. RURAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Food security (preventing food crises and promoting investment to seek solutions to these structural causes of food insecurity) as well as the revision of the Food Aid Charter and livestock issues within the framework of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy are the main priorities.

### 4.1 *Food Security*

Given that **food security** is a major concern and a complex issue, the SWAC will focus its action on supporting coordination among actors (RPCA) and strategic thinking on the structural causes of food insecurity:

- CILSS-SWAC co-management of the Food Crisis Prevention Network will continue its pace as last year with two meetings of Network members (restricted meeting on 10 and 11 April 2008, annual meeting from 24 to 28 November 2008).

- CILSS-SWAC co-management of the RPCA website ([www.food-security.net](http://www.food-security.net)) created in 2006 at the SWAC's initiative. In 2008, the CILSS will take a more active part in the site's management site (recruitment of a manager). The monthly production of the Food Security Information Note (FOSIN) will continue based on the active contribution of Network members.
- Following the support to the development of a new product: *the food security country profiles*, which will provide an analytical overview of the indicators of structural causes of food and nutritional insecurity. Nine *profiles* were produced in 2007<sup>2</sup>. In 2008, eight non Sahelian country *profiles* will be produced. A regional forum will be organised on investing to seek solutions to the structural causes of food and nutritional insecurity.

#### **4.2 Revision of the Food Aid Charter**

The Food Aid Charter, adopted within the framework of the SWAC in 1990, must be revised due to the evolution of food crises (new donors, IGO and civil society's role, nature of the crises, diversification of response tools, etc.) as well as the need to integrate the overall concerns linked to aid effectiveness. In 2007, a draft text of the revised Charter was produced.

- In 2008, there will be a negotiation process prior to the Charter's adoption: (a) national and regional coordination workshops with key actors, (b) coordination with main donors, (c) adoption of the revised Charter.

#### **4.3 Contribution of the livestock sector to the implementation of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)**

In 2006-2007, the SWAC and ECOWAS in collaboration with the CILSS, ROPPA and UEMOA carried out a regional analysis on "*the potential and challenges of the livestock sector to strengthen the regional market*". The Summary Report and the six Policy Notes based on this work should henceforth be submitted to conflicting debate from which a regional vision and strategy could emerge in order to better optimise livestock's contribution to the stimulation of the regional market, food security and poverty reduction.

- ECOWAS and the SWAC plan to organise a regional forum in 2008 bringing together experts, ministers responsible for livestock and trade, professional livestock organisations, civil society organisations and private operators.

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## **V. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROCESS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

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### **5.1 Cross-border Cooperation**

Between 2005 and 2007, the work carried out along with ECOWAS encouraged the implementation of four pilot operations on the ground, the conception of a West African legal framework (Convention on Cross-border Cooperation), placing this issue within ECOWAS' strategic plan (Cross-border Initiatives Programme - CIP) and organisational chart (and other West African and African regional organisations including the African Union). This work has also prompted donors to place cross-border cooperation among the priorities of their regional cooperation support strategies. The SWAC has thus begun an "*Exit option*" phase:

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<sup>2</sup> Of the nine CILSS member countries.

- Seeking financing and development of a joint project with the ECOWAS Commission to set up within the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons Department a “Phase I” project in support of cross-border cooperation<sup>3</sup>.
- Monitoring pilot operations and pursuing capitalisation / dissemination / communications activities: production of experience and good practices key sheets, production of the “Border Diaries” magazine, management of the website <http://www.afriquefrontieres.org>.

## 5.2 National Approach to Regional Cooperation

How to concretely integrate the national approach into national development policies and projects? At the SPG’s request, the SWAC intends to develop and apply a new “national approach to regional cooperation” (NARCO) based on multiple partnerships.

- Production of analysis studies: Ghana, Guinea Bissau and eventually a third country with the support of a cooperation agency. On this basis, a concertation process will be initiated in at least one of these three countries; the objective is to develop and implement regional cooperation actions/projects on the ground. This work will furthermore feed into strategic thinking on the regional dimension of aid effectiveness (see point 6.2).

## 5.3 Atlas on Regional Integration

The SWAC will continue to compile knowledge of the regional issues of West Africa:

- Finalisation of the chapters, “Climate”, “Borders”, “Electricity”, “Regional Organisations”, “Fisheries”, and production of chapters as a result of the NARCO approach described above.
- Development of a long-term project continuing the Atlas and the seeking of financing for this project.

## 5.4 Migration

The joint work carried out by the ECOWAS Commission and the SWAC underscores the need for and the difficulty of a common approach on migration. Efforts still need to be agreed upon so that West Africa can coordinate and provide the international community with regional proposals for political dialogue and action:

- *Launching of the “West African Migration Observatory<sup>4</sup>” Programme* in partnership with IRD (France), University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal), the Centre For Research in Ethnic Relations of the University of Warwick (Great Britain) and the ECOWAS Commission’s Free Movement of Persons Department.
- Review of migratory policies in main northern countries, destinations for African immigration (bilateral agreement, inter-bloc agreements, etc.) and bilateral or regional intra-West African agreements.
- Collective publication on *“The Regional Prospects of West African Migration” which will contribute to the preparation of the Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development to be held in Paris on 20 and 21 October 2008.*

<sup>3</sup> Targeted partners are the European Commission (9th regional EDF), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNDP West Africa, and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (a 10 million € fund to implement the common approach on migration – the common approach action programme includes support for cross-border cooperation).

<sup>4</sup> This two-year programme is financed by the European Commission.

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## VI. GOVERNANCE, CONFLICT DYNAMICS, PEACE AND SECURITY

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The priorities are the challenges facing vulnerable States as well as political dialogue concerning the younger generation's future, migration and new security issues.

### 6.1 *Supporting Governance and Conflict Prevention in a vulnerable political environment*

Democracy is a condition for peace, security and stability. In order for democracy to gain a foothold in the region, actors' actions countering the profound causes of conflict need to be supported.

- **Action Plan Validation Meeting in Dakar-Saly.** A SWAC/civil society/ECOWAS workshop led to the development process of the Dakar-Saly Action Plan (October 2007) to appropriate and implement regional governance and conflict prevention instruments. The SWAC will organise a meeting with all of these actors in order to validate this Plan and launch its **Electoral Governance and Crises Prevention component**. This will involve examining the issue of elections as a democratic regulator while at the same time being a frequent source of conflict and instability.
- **Monitoring the political and security evolution within a fragile state and socio-political context:** *Regional workshop on democratic governance of security forces and elections in West Africa. Case studies:* Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau and Togo.

### 6.2 *Dynamics of Exit from Crisis and Post-conflict*

The SWAC/ECOWAS partnership will contribute to **developing a context-adapted regional post-conflict policy based on challenges, achievements and new risks**. This will be carried out in two phases:

- **Phase 1:** Workshop in Abidjan, monitoring of field missions and studies **as from April 2008**
- **Phase 2:** Synthesis and validation in Abuja **as from October 2008**.

AFD, CIDA, GTZ and USAID will be associated with this process through the Regional Working Group on Post-Conflict and Development.<sup>5</sup>

**SYNERGY COUNTERING VULNERABILITY:** Guinea Bissau will be the focus. SWAC/OECD's DAC/ECOWAS will synergise three types of action:

- **A panel** in order to compare experiences and knowledge with a view to a context-based analysis on vulnerability;
- **A dialogue process among actors** on the issues, challenges, and synergies with regard to political, security and socio-economic vulnerability;
- **A report on Guinea Bissau highlighting the role of the regional approach** in countering vulnerability.

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<sup>5</sup> This Group also includes the AfDB, CPLP, OIF, the World Bank, West African research institutes as well as civil society members and experts from countries in post-conflict situations.

### 6.3 *Political Dialogue, Peace and Security*

**Following the panel on the 2007 electoral year** organised in February 2008, the SWAC will pursue actions on the challenges of democracy in West Africa.

The SWAC initiated strategic thinking on the taking into account of the evolution of these issues with the hybridisation of risks (rebellions, criminal activity and narcotic, arms and human trafficking) weakening the States and the region. In order to understand the scope of these challenges and to contribute to synergy among actors in order to face them, the SWAC will launch two initiatives in 2008/2009:

- A **panel on the assessment of these evolutions and new specific challenges in Mali, Mauritania and Niger**. This panel will include the CRISE<sup>6</sup> of Oxford University, the OECD/DAC's FSG, CERI-Sciences-Po Paris, WANSED and the Regional Working Group on Post-conflict and Development
- A **Regional Forum on Security Issues and Synergies**, to be held in 2009, will be the second phase of this process.

The first ***Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society of West Africa*** (Cotonou 2005) left its mark by its capacity to put into dialogue the three pillars of West Africa society. The second ***Forum on the Younger Generation's Future and Migratory Issues*** could be an opportunity to present the road map established at the second Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development to be held in October 2008.

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<sup>6</sup> Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity.