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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Thematic meeting

Strategy and Policy Group

**Hotel Sofitel 2000
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

29 June 2006

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genda

B ackground

Since 2005, the Sahel and West Africa Club's Strategy and Policy Group, the equivalent of its Board of Directors, meets twice per year: in November, in Paris, on the Club's ongoing and future initiatives and its financial resources; and in June, in a West African capital around another important Club event. Last year, the SPG meeting was held around the Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society which was held in Cotonou, Benin.

The Strategy and Policy Group is composed of representatives from Northern countries, financial contributors to the Club; representatives of 18 countries of the region covered by the Club as well as regional/continental organisations (the WAEMU, the CILSS, ECOWAS, the African Union) and civil society (ROPPA).

The aim of the June meeting is to undertake strategic thinking around a specific theme on West Africa with the Club's partners, reserving the more formal and administrative discussions for the November meeting.

The SPG meeting which will take place at the Palais des Congrès in Ouagadougou on 29 June, will be held the day after the closing of the Inter-generational Forum on Endogenous Governance (26 to 28 June). The SPG meeting will take place in the context of another special event, the Club's thirtieth anniversary.

Indeed, it was in 1976 that OECD Member countries in collaboration with leaders from Sahelian countries decided to create the Club du Sahel, a semi-autonomous body of the OECD, as a forum for the international community to discuss and encourage strong support over the long-term for countries in the region, victims of the drought. In 2001, taking into account the interdependence and complementarity of the Sahel with other countries of West Africa, the SPG decided to expand the Club's geographic coverage.

Presentation of the panels

Since 1976, West Africa has undergone significant social, cultural, institutional, economic, and political changes. The SWAC has invited to this meeting high-level personalities, leaders of regional, continental and international organisations working in the region so that they can share with SPG members and other participants their strategic thinking on the region. These leaders have something in common: committed for many years, even decades, to the development of Africa, they are also actors as well as observers of this region which is undergoing massive change. Taking into account their unique position, the SWAC found it worthwhile to ask each of them to make an intervention on the following topics:

- 1) West Africa: Review of the current situation and the medium- and long-term perspectives of the region.
- 2) Partnership with the Sahel and West Africa Club.

These participants are from the following organisations: the African Union, ECOWAS, the WAEMU, the CILSS, UNOWA, UNECA, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, UNDP, OECD (Development Assistance Committee, The Development Co-operation Directorate, Development Centre, Africa Partnership Forum). The various interventions will be presented within the framework of two separate panels. A definitive list of speakers will be established during the month of June after their participation has been confirmed.

Schedule of sessions

08h30 – 09h00	Welcome of participants
09h00 – 09h15	Opening and Introduction Mr. Charles Goerens, SWAC President
09h15 – 09h30	Intervention Official Representative of Burkina Faso (name to be confirmed)
09h30 – 09h45	Restitution of the results of the Inter-generational Forum on Endogenous Governance Mr. Massaër Diallo, Head of the Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit
09h45 – 10h00	Presentation of the objectives and composition of the two panels Mr. Normand Lauzon, SWAC Secretariat Director
10h00– 13h00	<u>First Panel</u> chaired by Mr. Charles Goerens Intervention by leaders of regional, continental and international organisations on the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) West Africa: Review of the current situation and medium- and long-term perspectives of the region.2) Partnership with the Sahel and West Africa Club. <i>Exchange of views with SPG members and other participants</i>
13h00 – 14h45	Lunch (at the invitation of the SWAC Secretariat)

15h00 – 17h30 **Second Panel** chaired by Mr. Normand Lauzon

Intervention by leaders of regional, continental and international organisations on the following topics:

- 1) West Africa: Review of the current situation and medium and long-term perspectives term of the region.
- 2) Partnership with the Sahel and West Africa Club.

Exchange of views with SPG members and other participants

17h30 – 18h00 **Summary and conclusions**

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