

Meeting of the Strategy and Policy Group (SPG)
of the Sahel and West Africa Club

Paris, 11 June 2012

Summary Record

Content

INTRODUCTION	5
I. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK	5
II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2011-2012 PROGRAMME OF WORK	6
<i>Food Crisis Prevention and Management</i>	6
<i>Initial findings of the West African Futures programme (WAF): settlement, market and food security</i>	8
III. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS	10
V. REVIEW OF THE SWAC MANDATE AND OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CLUB AND THE OECD BEYOND 2012	12
VI. ORIENTATIONS OF THE 2013-2014 PROGRAMME OF WORK	12
VII. PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN OUAGADOUGOU IN DECEMBER 2012	13
ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	14
ANNEX 2: OPENING STATEMENT BY FRANÇOIS-XAVIER DE DONNEA, SWAC PRESIDENT	18
ANNEX 3: THE TWO FOCUS AREAS PROPOSED BY REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOR 2013-2014	20

INTRODUCTION

The SWAC Strategy and Policy Group met on 11 June 2012 at the OECD Headquarters in Paris. The list of participants is included in Annex 1 and the opening statement by the SWAC President, Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea in Annex 2.

The following agenda items were addressed:

- Food Security Situation and Outlook;
- Status Report on Programme of Work 2011-2012;
- Institutional Relations;
- Overview of the "New Club" since January 2011 and the Club's outlook beyond 2012;
- Review of the SWAC Mandate, and the MoU between the OECD and the SWAC beyond 2012;
- Main Orientations of the Programme of Work 2013-2014;
- Preparation for the annual meetings (Ouagadougou, December 2012).

I. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Professor Alhousseini Brétaudeau, CILSS Executive Secretary emphasised the following points:

- Global acute malnutrition of children under 5 years of age has been reaching a critical threshold (no less than 10%) in the Sahel for over 10 years. This situation is likely to deteriorate as populations face increased difficulties in accessing food, and governments lack financial means to fully implement their food crisis response plans. Six million people are currently suffering from severe food insecurity.
- There has been an overall deterioration of pastureland in the Sahel. Surface water resources have become scarce in the Sahel transhumance zones (Burkina Faso-Mali and Benin-Niger). This is the third consecutive year that Niger, north-eastern Mali and Burkina Faso have faced this issue. Moreover, cattle transhumance has been highly disrupted by the conflict in northern Mali and insecurity in northern Nigeria.
- In the absence of a rapid solution to the Malian conflict, a humanitarian crisis in the northern part of the country is likely to develop. This would have a negative impact on border zones (primarily Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger).

Comments of the SPG:

- The co-ordination between stakeholders regarding the food security situation and outlook has been insufficient in providing an analysis of the situation and in implementing the necessary responses. Regional governance of food security is crucial. Accordingly, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS have significantly increased their collaboration in the last few months. The three organisations, which have the political and technical mandate for food crisis prevention and management, must be at the core of a system that co-ordinates the actions of all involved

stakeholders. This co-ordination should be based on the principles of the “Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management”, which was approved in November 2011 by member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS. The SWAC should continue to support this process.

- Beyond crisis management, the West Africa region also needs to intensify efforts to address the root causes of malnutrition and structural problems in the agriculture sector. While it is necessary to continue investing in production and, particularly, in irrigation systems, it is also important to focus on governance issues, which impede agricultural development in West Africa. In this regard, SWAC has to play a significant role in driving innovative approaches.
- The region also needs to pursue the implementation of its Regional Food Reserve strategy, which is a priority of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Investment Programme. A Task Force composed of members of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, CILSS and other stakeholders as well as SWAC Secretariat, has been set up to co-ordinate all initiatives supporting the Regional Food Reserve strategy. These include the RESOGEST initiative, a similar initiative within UEMOA countries, and the Emergency Food Reserve project supported by the G20. The European Union would like to be associated with the work of this Task Force.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2011-2012 PROGRAMME OF WORK

Mr. Laurent Bossard, SWAC Secretariat Director, presented a review of the principal projects of the Club’s work programme.

Food Crisis Prevention and Management

The Secretariat has continued to support the networking process of food stock boards and other organisations in charge of national food security stocks (RESOGEST). In March 2012, West African countries committed to dedicating 5% of their national food security stocks to regional solidarity in case of food crisis. In addition, the Secretariat has supported the responses of regional organisations to the current crisis:

- The UEMOA High-level Committee for Food Security, chaired by the President of Niger, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, and at which the SWAC Secretariat participates as a member. The Committee met twice and took major decisions such as the allocation of F CFA 40 billion to the countries affected by the crisis in 2012. In addition, the ECOWAS Commission allocated USD 9.5 billion.
- A proposal at the restricted meeting of the RPCA in Paris led to a joint ECOWAS/UEMOA Ministerial Meeting in Lomé on 5 June in response to the 2012 food crisis.

All these initiatives have been conducted in close collaboration with CILSS, which is the technical branch of ECOWAS and UEMOA in terms of food crisis prevention and management.

The “Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management” was finalised and is available in English, French and Portuguese. It highlights both the ECOWAS and UEMOA logos which illustrates the decision taken by

these organisations, in full concordance with CILSS, to take on the regional leadership in the governance of food security in West Africa. This decision is based on two principles: 1) a strong leadership is needed to build consensus; 2) this leadership can only be West African.

Building on these principles, the Secretariat has facilitated and supported the following actions during the first months of 2012:

- The restricted meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) held on 12-13 April in Paris introduced a new feature: the meeting was chaired in tandem by the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissioners in charge of agriculture.
- A strategy to strengthen the political impact of the RPCA network was formulated together with the three concerned organisations based on three pillars: 1) decision-making tools 2) visibility, and 3) enlarging the target audience.

Supporting West African leadership also means helping to increase its impact at the international level. Within the margin of the RPCA meeting, the SWAC Secretariat facilitated meetings between the three regional leaders (Mr. Marc Atouga, ECOWAS Commissioner, Mr. Ibrahima Diémé, UEMOA Commissioner and Professor Brétaudeau, CILSS Executive Secretary) and high-level officials at OECD. These included the French Ambassador to OECD, Mrs. Pascale Andreani, the Mexican Ambassador to OECD, Mr. Agustin García-López Loaeza, Mr. Rintaro Tamaki, OECD Deputy-Secretary General in charge of the Development Cluster, and the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, Mrs. Gabriela Ramos. They also attended a working meeting with the French Sherpa for Development at the Ministry for Development Co-operation. As a result of these discussions, Commissioner Atouga was invited to participate in the G20 Task Force on Development, which was held in May in Los Cabos (Mexico), where he presented the West African agenda regarding a Regional Food Reserve. The G20 subsequently renewed its commitment to support this initiative.

Moreover, the Secretariat and the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative finalised the review of the **“Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture in Burkina Faso”**¹. This framework is now the reference tool used by the Government of Burkina Faso and its main development partners when dealing with agricultural investments. Furthermore, building on this framework, the Government of Burkina Faso requested support from the OECD to draft a **“Code for Investment in Agriculture”**, which does not currently exist.

This is a good practical example of how the SWAC Secretariat can use its position within the OECD to help West African countries to benefit from the OECD resources and expertise.

Other requests have come from various countries of the region and the OECD have agreed to develop a more ambitious regional programme for West Africa. The Secretariat proposes to help formulate the programme, mobilise funding and promote this initiative, which would be implemented by the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative. The Secretariat will participate as a member of a Monitoring Committee and ensure a strong involvement of West African stakeholders, including regional and socio-professional organisations.

¹ OECD member countries and their partners, including six African countries (Egypt, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania), developed the Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) which is the key OECD tool for boosting investment.

Initial findings of the West African Futures programme (WAF): settlement, market and food security

This programme fulfils some essential functions of the Secretariat, which are:

- to conduct factual analysis capitalising on the large number of already existing studies;
- to conduct these analyses independently; this does not exclude a participative and open thinking process;
- to consider the future, not in abstract terms but in practical terms: to draw up strategic orientations for regional policy guidelines and to develop, whenever possible, policy and decision-making tools.

Key findings of this two-year programme will be presented and discussed at the next SWAC Forum, to be held in Ouagadougou in December.

Examples of key findings:

- **Lack of reliable data of total and urban population.** The programme confirms the strong demographic growth which is currently underway in West Africa. However, in applying the same definition for urban populations across the region, the WAF programme highlights that urban populations are not as high as estimated by official statistics. In some cases, it also raises questions about the reliability of total population estimates. The WAF programme therefore encourages support for current ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS initiatives aimed at harmonising national statistics. It is urgent to develop sustainable programmes to remedy the lack of reliable statistics in order to efficiently fight poverty.
- In the same way the absence of reliable and harmonised data at the regional level on agricultural population leads to significant biases when analysing West African agricultural performance. For instance, **distinguishing between rural population and agricultural population provides significantly different analyses of agricultural productivity.** Today, a quarter of the rural population does not work in agriculture and this proportion may reach 40% in 2050. New data collection methods which better assess the number of agricultural producers will provide more realistic analyses of agricultural productivity. In the medium-term this data should systematically be covered by agricultural surveys. However, in the short-term, only an analysis based on modelling – as proposed by the programme - can provide these data in an harmonised manner.
- **Agricultural land resources in West Africa are overestimated.** Between 1980 and 2000, the total area cultivated annually was multiplied by 2.6 (from 27 to 70 million ha) while the total population multiplied by less than 2. The ratio between fallow land and cultivated land was 7 in 1980 and dropped to 2 in 2000. At the same pace, in 2050, the remaining 236 million ha of farmable land will be entirely cultivated and fallow land will be almost inexistent. It is therefore urgent to develop policies which aim to support the necessary transformation of agricultural systems.
- **The absence of regional trade data represents a significant constraint to good food crisis prevention and management.** For example, in 2003, the available food per capita in Burkina Faso was overestimated by 20% for sorghum and corn, and underestimated by 25% for rice.

The WAF programme will provide some estimates of regional trade flow quantities. However, the true question remains “how do we account better for intra-regional flows of agricultural products?” The region and the international community should compare the costs of developing a monitoring system of regional trade flows to the costs caused by not properly accounting for those flows in food security evaluation and management.

- **At present, 70% of the food products consumed in West Africa are purchased on the market.** The major challenge is not agricultural production (which is increasing) but problems along the marketing channels (infrastructures, institutions, services). Food security policies should thus not be restricted to rural development policies.

Comments of the SPG and clarifications from the Secretariat:

- Members were very pleased with the work accomplished in both fields presented, as well as with the work on “security and development” and communications, which was not presented at this session. They gave emphasis to the following:
 - the need to continue to support and help strengthen West African leadership in regional governance on food security;
 - the need to put in place the necessary means to integrate the WAF programme recommendations and tools in regional policies;
 - the need to reinforce collaboration with other OECD bodies and working groups (*clarification from the Secretariat: the SWAC Secretariat has strongly developed relationships within the OECD during the past 18 months, for example: close collaboration with the OECD Directorate for Trade and Agriculture on the G20 Africa Outreach Session; the forthcoming presentation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management to the Development Assistance Committee; joint work with the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs on the Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture in Burkina Faso; information-sharing with the INCAF network of the Development Cooperation Directorate regarding “Security and Development”; a very active contribution to the OECD Africa Gateway; and the involvement of the International Energy Agency in the production of the Atlas on renewable energies*).
- Harmonising statistics at the regional level is a key issue that can raise political problems. (*The Secretariat highlighted that a workshop on this subject had been held with the statistics departments of the three regional organisations at the UEMOA headquarters on 15 and 16 February 2012. Moreover, a training session on the use of WAF modelling is scheduled for October*).
- SPG Members recalled that there are several projects regarding the monitoring of regional trade flows. (*The Secretariat specifies that the WAF programme relies on existing project findings which are, however, insufficient in number. Moreover, AFRISTAT is involved in the Task Force that monitors the implementation of the WAF programme.*)

III. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea recalls that in January, he informed Members of his intention to undertake a series of consultations to reinforce the linkage of the Club with its Members and friends. The following exchanges and missions had been undertaken².

- A mission to Ouagadougou to meet with the new President of the UEMOA Commission, Mr. Cheick Hadjibou Soumaré, as well as the CILSS Executive Secretary, Professor Alhousseini Brétaudeau, who both confirmed their intention to remain involved in the Club. This mission also provided the opportunity to strengthen relationships with the Member countries' Embassies based in Burkina Faso.
- Joint SWAC missions with representatives of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS to Washington (USAID, US Department of State, and the World Bank) and to Ottawa, (ACDI/CIDA, and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade);
- Meetings with heads of offices in charge of West Africa and development co-operation in Belgium, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland.
- Discussions with the Austrian and Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as the European External Action Service and the European Commission.

Mr. T. Jean de Dieu Somda, Special Representative of the Club President, focused on liaising with the new ECOWAS Commission and particularly its President, Mr. Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo to arrange a meeting between Mr. Ouédraogo and Mr. De Donnea, the SWAC President. This meeting, however, is still outstanding, due to a complex agenda resulting from the political crises in Guinea-Bissau and Mali. These contacts had effectively contributed to increasing awareness of the Club within the ECOWAS Commission, and resulted in the confirmation of the ECOWAS commitment to the Club. Mr. Somda also met with the incumbent President of ECOWAS, Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, to discuss the possibility of a meeting with the SWAC President.

In addition, Mr. Somda represented the Club at the second meeting of the UEMOA High-Level Committee for Food Security (Niamey, 1-2 June). The Committee brings together the UEMOA Ministers of Agriculture, the Governor of the BCEAO, and the President of the AfDB. CILSS is in charge of the technical preparation and logistics of the Committee. This is another demonstration of the efforts of these regional organisations to reinforce synergies in the field of food security.

Mr. Somda also represented the Club at the Ministerial Meeting on the food crisis, which brought together Ministers of Agriculture of the member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS. In close relation with CILSS, the ECOWAS Commissioner Mr. Atouga, and the UEMOA Commissioner Mr. Diémé, the Club Secretariat contributed to the preparation of this meeting, which was proposed by RPCA members at their restricted meeting in April. Participants were able to take stock of the current food situation and outlook, and approve new measures to respond to the crisis. The meeting also provided the

² Within the framework of its work on food crisis prevention and management, the SWAC Secretariat also established regular contact with the West African Ministries in charge of agriculture. It has also developed a privileged relationship with the regional leaders in charge of food security (ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissioners in charge of agriculture and the CILSS Executive Secretary).

opportunity to reassert “the willingness of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS to combine their efforts”³ and to “promote better co-ordination (...) in accordance with the principles of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management”.⁴

Finally, Mr. Somda conducted a mission to Brazil, with whom the SWAC President and the Secretariat would like to increase collaboration. A strong delegation from Brazil participated in the 2011 Forum in Praia, and a mission of West African farmers to Brazil was organised in collaboration with the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in March. Building on these joint activities, the next objective is to involve Brazil in a more sustainable manner within the RPCA network and then, by extension, in the Club. An official letter inviting the Brazilian government to consider becoming a Member of the SWAC was sent to the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Brazil has already accepted to be a special guest at the 28th annual meeting of the RPCA, and will present its “Zero Hunger” programme, which will certainly provide useful lessons for West Africa, and allow for exchange of experiences.

Comments of the SPG

The representative of the African Union Commission voiced interest in collaborating more closely with the Club, and expressed the wish to become an Observer.

IV. FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NEW CLUB AND OUTLOOK BEYOND 2012

- Austria has greatly appreciated the involvement in the Club by West African regional organisations and is considering rejoining as a full Member by paying the annual contribution of 200 000 EUR; the official final decision has yet to be taken. Austria would like to encourage the Secretariat to further develop intra-OECD relations.
- Belgium was very pleased with the Club’s contribution to strategic thinking processes and informed the SPG that it will remain a Member.
- CILSS recalled its continuous commitment to the Club since its creation and re-affirmed its confidence.
- ECOWAS: the representative of the ECOWAS Commission was unable to be present due to a flight cancellation. However, ECOWAS had already confirmed its intention to remain a member of the Club.
- France also appreciated the Club’s work and underlined the excellent co-operation that had developed with the Secretariat during the French Presidency of the G20. France wished to remain a Member; this provisional agreement still needs to be confirmed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after budgetary decisions are made. France also raised the issue of the amount of the minimum contribution, which could, in their opinion, be reduced if new Members join the Club.

³ Ibrahima Diémé, UEMOA Commissioner of the Department for rural development, natural resources and environment.

⁴ Marc Atouga, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of agriculture, environment and water resources.

- Luxembourg was satisfied with the Club and committed to remaining a Member.
- The Netherlands was satisfied with the work accomplished by the Club, which represents an opportunity to work at the regional level and as a complement to bilateral actions undertaken in three countries in the region: Benin, Ghana and Mali. The Netherlands will remain a Member of the Club.
- Switzerland recalled that it has been involved in the Club since its creation. It particularly appreciates: the effective involvement of regional organisations; the Secretariat's close interactions with the OECD and policy dialogue; the strong focus on food security issues; the progress made in terms of communication, and the monitoring of ongoing trends and development prospects. Switzerland intends to remain a Member of the Club.
- UEMOA: The UEMOA Commission appreciated the Club's work, which has a practical impact on ongoing work within the Union. It also appreciated the Club as a space for policy dialogue that facilitates the co-ordination of regional policies and provides an additional audience for regional organisations at the international level. UEMOA welcomed the countries and international organisations that intend to join the Club and would like to see the Club expand further.
- The European Union confirmed its membership starting from 2013 and states that the legal framework for joining the Club has now been clarified.

V. REVIEW OF THE SWAC MANDATE AND OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CLUB AND THE OECD BEYOND 2012

Members were asked to send their written agreement on both documents to the Secretariat by 15 July 2012.

VI. ORIENTATIONS OF THE 2013-2014 PROGRAMME OF WORK

Members had previously requested that the Secretariat meet with the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, as well as the CILSS Executive Secretary, to reflect on key orientations of the 2013-2014 Programme of Work. A brainstorming meeting was subsequently held on 9 May in Ouagadougou at the UEMOA Commission headquarters. The three regional organisations formulated their concerns and had proposed two strategic axes that were submitted to the SPG. First, food crisis prevention and management and second, analysis of potential sources of conflict and crisis. The detailed proposals are included in Annex 3 (see also document SWAC/GOP(2012)1 shared with SPG Members).

Comments of the SPG:

There was a consensus on the main orientations. The Secretariat was requested to take into account the following points when drafting the outline of the 2013-2014 Programme of Work:

1. It will be difficult to deal with all the subjects proposed, particularly those regarding the analyses of potential sources of conflict and crisis;
2. It is therefore necessary to propose activities based on the Secretariat's added value, in particular:
 - a. to draw upon the accomplishments of the 2011-2012 Programme of Work; notably to capitalize on the achievements of the WAF programme as well as the work on renewable energy issues (note from the Secretariat: work on renewable energies 2011/2012 is not yet finalised and will be pursued beyond 2012);
 - b. to avoid topics on which it has never worked before (mining and water are mentioned) and to choose topics of which it has a good knowledge (for example pastoralism, land tenure, urban areas);
 - c. to take into account current and future initiatives;
 - d. to maintain a "security and development" dimension.
3. As regards the issue of food crisis prevention and management, it is necessary to put a stronger focus on the structural dimensions of food challenges.

VII. PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN OUAGADOUGOU IN DECEMBER 2012

Members validated the proposal to group all events into one week, the first week of December, to be named "West Africa Week", consisting of the annual meeting of the RPCA (2 days); meeting of CILSS Partners (half day); Club Forum (1½ days); SPG meeting (1 day).

It was agreed to hold the next SPG meeting in Ouagadougou and the SPG approved the following agenda:

- Tuesday 4 December and Wednesday 5 December: RPCA Annual Meeting
- Thursday 6 December, morning: Committee of CILSS Partners (CCP)
- Thursday 6 December, afternoon and Friday 7 December: SWAC Forum
- Saturday 8 December: SPG Meeting

ANNEX 2: OPENING STATEMENT BY FRANÇOIS-XAVIER DE DONNEA, SWAC PRESIDENT

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The end of the Libyan Jamahiriya has undoubtedly unleashed forces that will continue to weigh heavily on the southern Sahara for many years to come. While the massive return of Tuareg fighters to Mali is one example, many other dangers are rife. For instance, the Toubou, a nomadic people living in the borderlands between Chad, Libya and Niger, have for months been in a state of latent civil conflict with Arab tribes from southern Libya, which has driven their leader – inspired by South Sudan and Azawad – into threatening to claim independence.

The theatre of instability is widening. The now lawless north of Mali maintains links with Libya, another grey area made up of a highly unstable patchwork of tribes and a huge open-air arms market. And it now seems almost certain that Boko Haram in Nigeria has sealed its ideological and logistic pact with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

On top of this comes an umpteenth political and military crisis in Guinea-Bissau. This tiny country (2% of the population of West Africa and 0.2% of regional GDP) is confronting forces beyond its control. Just think, for instance, that the country's 2012 budget of USD 250 million is equivalent to the street price of 4 to 6 tons of cocaine in Europe. It is clear why the South American drug cartels have found it so easy to use this country as their conduit for Europe's drugs. Guinea-Bissau seems to me to be a typical example of what the Club had predicted in its West Africa Long-Term Perspective Study (WALTPS) in the mid-1990s. This study stated that in the absence of endogenous growth, which can only be founded on regional co-operation, small countries with few export resources would "naturally" tend to become nerve centres and transit bases for the most profitable forms of illegal and criminal trade including drugs, counterfeit goods and arms.

The most serious global threats we face today have become firmly entrenched in West Africa over the past ten years. Here they have found fertile soil that has been enriched by the co-existence of destitute countries, a mostly young population, widespread poverty, unmanageable megacities and vast areas where the rule of law is absent.

I believe we have reached a major turning point in the history of West Africa, where a huge growth potential exists alongside the worst imaginable threats. The natural expansion of these threats is unquestionably into the wider regional area. These problems can therefore only be tackled at the regional level.

No country, no matter how big or powerful, can act alone. Imagine, for example, that Mali manages to rid itself of all the armed groups with which it is currently plagued. These groups would then simply find refuge in neighbouring countries; the problem would not have been solved, it would have been exported. The only possible option is concerted action at the regional level. Even if this may be hard to achieve, there is no alternative.

In this respect, West Africa has a major advantage. ECOWAS, backed by UEMOA, is playing an increasingly influential political role in the region. Their interventions in Mali and Guinea-Bissau are exemplary and have been applauded by the international community. **It is for this reason that I call upon the international community to lend even greater support to these organisations in whose hands lies the future of West Africa.**

Dear Friends,

The Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network last December in Praia warned of the risk of a food crisis in the Sahel in 2012. This crisis has duly arrived and the regional and international communities are working to help the most vulnerable people.

Nevertheless, we have all seen that conflicting messages have been issued and continue to circulate as to the scale of this crisis. This year, stakeholders have been unable to find a consensus which would have allowed them to channel their actions within a single, more efficient framework. The principles of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management – approved by all member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS in Conakry last November – have not been respected.

However, I am delighted to note that ECOWAS and UEMOA have undertaken to resolve this issue with the backing of their technical branch, CILSS. They have decided to resolutely assume political leadership for food crisis management in the region, in particular by taking leadership of the Food Crises Prevention Network.

Further evidence of this political will, if any were needed, can be seen in the newly launched UEMOA High-level Committee for Food Security, the RESOGEST Co-operation Framework between member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS and most recently the West African Ministerial meeting in Lomé.

We can take pride in this regional leadership as it is the only way to get back to the path of consensus. There is no lasting alternative other than to scrupulously respect the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management.

Dear Colleagues,

Although we must continue to focus on the global threats that are crystallising in West Africa, and keep food crises prevention as our ongoing priority, it is also our duty to focus on the region's positive developments and outlook.

Indeed, from a strictly macroeconomic viewpoint, we should consider development to be within our reach. At its present rate of economic growth, the region may triple its GDP over the next 20 years and double its average per capita income. This is a historic first for the region.

And it could be even more likely if resources generated by exports of oil, gas and industrial minerals are soundly and equitably managed on the one hand, and the integration of the regional market sustained on the other. I remind you that this is a market of 300 million consumers today and is likely to reach 400 million by 2020.

Once again, we must place our trust in the region.

In this context where serious threats loom over the region, which has nevertheless a tremendous potential for development, we must start to take stock of the work of the new Club formed in January 2011 in order to gain a clearer idea of future perspectives.

This should be the guiding light of our common reflection during this meeting.

ANNEX 3: THE TWO FOCUS AREAS PROPOSED BY REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOR 2013-2014

I. Food crisis prevention and management

West Africa is probably the best-equipped region to prevent and manage food crises. The food crisis in 2012 highlights, however, a number of difficulties: primarily, in reaching a consensus on the nature and scope of the crisis and co-ordinating actions to manage it. This contradicts the principles of the Charter for the Food Crisis Prevention and Management, adopted in November 2011. The ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions have decided to address these issues within the framework of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA).

The three organisations are convinced that a strong West African leadership is needed to facilitate consensus building with all involved stakeholders. Complementary and converging actions of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS will make this leadership even stronger. This process must be supported with an additional capacity to promote the voice of West Africa in global forums.

On a more technical level, the regional organisations would like to accelerate the elaboration of more comprehensive food balance sheets which would, in addition to cereals, also include information on tubers, roots and animal products, applying the harmonised, regional framework. These food balance sheets also need to integrate population data and settlement patterns better in order to become more accurate and reliable.

Beyond emergency management, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS are planning to accelerate the implementation of their regional food reserve strategy. This strategy is part of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programmes (PRIA) adopted in 2010 within the framework of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP/NEPAD). PRIA and the National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Programmes (NAIP) provide the overall conceptual framework within which the region can develop additional instruments for prevention and crisis management (such as the regional food reserve, and the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management). This framework also helps implement a sustainable investment strategy for agriculture targeting specific products which are particularly important for food security and food sovereignty, as well as the strengthening of the market (infrastructure, trade measures, etc.).

One key objective which could be set for the Club is to help strengthen West African leadership in the governance of regional food security by:

- Supporting a renewed and more ambitious RPCA, under the leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA and with the technical support of CILSS, through major lobbying and advocacy efforts at the regional and international levels. Within the 2011-2012 Programme of Work, the SWAC Secretariat has strongly supported the West African leadership by promoting the voice of West Africa in global debates. The establishment of the new ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions provided new political impetus which greatly facilitated this process.
- Supporting the implementation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, the establishment of an integrated schedule for monitoring the food and nutrition situation within the framework of the RPCA, and an analysis of all consultation mechanisms aimed at improving their functioning.

- Supporting the creation of expanded food balance sheets to also include information on non-cereal food products and take into account population data and settlement patterns. A Working Group, led by CILSS, has already been established to address this issue. The findings and tools proposed by the Club's West African Futures programme can also contribute to this process.
- Supporting the implementation of the regional food reserve. A *task force* including ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, the Club Secretariat and other stakeholders was created to drive the process.

II. Analysis of possible sources of crisis and conflict in the region

Within the Club, the West African regional organisations would like to improve their analytical capacity to anticipate potential sources of crisis and conflict as well as to promote policy dialogue on these issues. Reflection also needs to address crisis prevention tools and policies.

The choice of themes and geographic focus should be discussed within the SPG and take into account the added value of the Club and the expertise of its Members. The following themes – though not exhaustive - are proposed:

- Pastoralism/nomadism: this development challenge typically combines development and security issues. Environmental uncertainty and high instability are threatening pastoral livelihoods, mainly present in the Sahara-Sahel region; this is a profoundly regional issue. Pastoral and agro-pastoral populations are among the most vulnerable populations in terms of food and nutrition insecurity. Pastoralism is not only a lifestyle adapted to unstable and fragile natural environments (there is no alternative to mobility in the Sahara-Sahel zone), an economic activity (livestock is the main means of existence to ensure communities' food security), and way of securing/controlling space, but also a potential source of conflicts over the use of natural resources (water, pastures and salt licks, etc.).
- Agricultural land: The WAF programme confirms that land resources in West Africa are less abundant as often indicated. In 2010, the ratio of cultivated farmland was around 40%. The outlook for 2050 indicates that all available land - including fallow land – will be cultivated. Many national and cross-border conflicts have its roots in land issues/disputes which continue to be a very sensitive issue. Land issues also pose challenges to pastoral production systems (see above), mining and energy production (biofuels).
- Cross-border water resources: While the withdrawal level of renewable water resources is still low (around 1%), it is likely that in the coming decades, water consumption will increase three times faster than population growth. Eight countries in the region have a high regional dependency rate⁵ which is equal to or greater than 40% (greater than 80% in Chad and Niger). In addition, consumption patterns in the region will profoundly change due to urbanisation and densification of some rural areas.

⁵ This rate measures the proportion of renewable water produced outside national borders.

- Subsoil resources: As a general trend, mining, oil and gas should in the coming years become the main source of income of all West African countries. For gas and oil, two areas for exploration and exploitation are particularly sensitive: the coastal/offshore areas on the one hand, the Sahara-Sahel region on the other. Many deposits are located in cross-border areas.
- Cities: Although the urban population is probably smaller than suggested by official statistics (as highlighted by the WAF programme), it will continue to grow and is expected to exceed the rural population in 2020 (170 million urban dwellers against 120 million in 2012). Over the past two decades, the population of all major cities in West Africa has doubled. The number of people living in a city of over 1 million inhabitants will increase by 10 million by 2020 (from 45 to 55 million). Poor urban management capacities and lack of preparedness are a source of social tensions, insecurity and instability in urban settings (triggered by the employment crisis, food and nutrition insecurity, etc.). The region needs to be prepared in order to guard itself against these potential sources of conflicts and crises.