

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

Praia (Cape Verde), 7-8 December 2011

Summary record

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Introduction

The SWAC Strategy and Policy Group met in Praia on 7 and 8 December 2011, at the Cape Verde Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The list of participants is appended. The following points were addressed:

1. Examination of the 2011 activities and budget implementation report 2011.
2. Examination of a proposal to create a new post of roving ambassador for SWAC.
3. Discussion of the formulation of the next Mandate.
4. Prospects for the European Union joining SWAC.
5. Presentation and discussion of work programme themes.
6. Presentation of the OECD Strategy on Development.
7. Other business.

This report only covers SPG observations and decisions, and the Secretariat responses. The Secretariat presentations are included in working document SWAC/GOP(2011)4.

I. Examination of the 2011 activities and budget implementation report 2011

The Secretariat presented its 2011 activities and budget implementation report to the Members, who approved it (SWAC/GOP(2011)4).

The Secretariat informed the Members that on the basis of payments received in 2011, resources for 2011-2012 are now estimated at €4,208,000 rather than €4,186,000 of the budget approved by the SPG in December 2010.

The Members approved the budget adjustments for the second year of the two-year period, pointing out that the €85,000 sum allocated to the post of special representative of the SWAC President (see Point 2 below) should be regarded as the upper limit.

The Secretariat informed Members that the increase in the FCPN allocation is intended to cover additional requirements needed to help the regional organisations bring the Food Crisis Prevention and Management charter into operation, and to support the technical studies required to set up the regional food stock.

These adjustments increase the 2011-2012 budget total from €4,252,100 to €4,340,250. The Members approved the transfer of €150,000 from the reserve to the Secretariat's 2012 budget.

The revised 2011-2012 budget approved by the SPG is set out in the table below.

| | | | | External Services | Staff | Rent and Charges | OECD Overheads and IT Equipment | Telecommunication and Others | TOTAL | % |
|---|----------|---------|-----|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| I. Food Security Perspectives 2030 | | | | 671,000 | 854,269 | 108,271 | 150,400 | 29,490 | 1,783,940 | 41.1% |
| 1.1 Coordination and Management | | | | | 38600 | | | | | |
| 1.2 Dialogue | | | | 325,000 | 364,113 | | | | | |
| Working Groups | Meeting | 35,000 | 3 | 105,000 | 88,500 | | | | | |
| Technical Workshops | Meeting | 15,000 | 3 | 45,000 | 88,500 | | | | | |
| Forum | Meeting | 100,000 | 1 | 100,000 | 132,800 | | | | | |
| Communication | Lump sum | 40,000 | 1 | 40,000 | 54,313 | | | | | |
| Missions (staff) | Mission | 3,500 | 10 | 35,000 | 0 | | | | | |
| 1.3 Intellectual Services | | | | 226,000 | 451,556 | | | | | |
| Database (spatial and temporal) | Exp/day | 350 | 70 | 24,500 | 35,094 | | | | | |
| Field Studies Regional Market | Lump sum | 40,000 | 1 | 40,000 | 41,988 | | | | | |
| Analysis Population Settlement | Exp/day | 350 | 40 | 14,000 | 29,025 | | | | | |
| Analysis Regional Market | Exp/day | 350 | 40 | 14,000 | 39,888 | | | | | |
| Analysis other determinants | Exp/day | 350 | 40 | 14,000 | 60,725 | | | | | |
| Cross Analysis | Exp/day | 450 | 60 | 27,000 | 55,738 | | | | | |
| Policy Analysis | Exp/day | 350 | 50 | 17,500 | 76,575 | | | | | |
| Scenario Modelling 2030 | Exp/day | 450 | 50 | 22,500 | 34,456 | | | | | |
| Final Report | Exp/day | 350 | 50 | 17,500 | 78,069 | | | | | |
| Missions (staff) | Mission | 3,500 | 10 | 35,000 | 0 | | | | | |
| 1.4 Publications (incl. translation, printing, distribution) Forfait | | | | 80,000 | 1 | 80,000 | | | | |
| 1.5 Other and unforeseen | | | | 40,000 | 1 | 40,000 | | | | |
| II. Energy | | | | 77,500 | 96,591 | 12,242 | 17,005 | 3,334 | 203,338 | 4.7% |
| Coordination and Management | | | | | 47,825 | | | | | |
| Analysis (data statistics, mapping) | Exp/day | 450 | 60 | 27,000 | 32,588 | | | | | |
| Missions (staff) | Mission | 3,500 | 3 | 10,500 | 2,600 | | | | | |
| Networking | Lump sum | 10,000 | 1 | 10,000 | 0 | | | | | |
| Publications (incl. translation, printing, distribution) | Lump sum | 30,000 | 1 | 30,000 | 13,578 | | | | | |
| III. Security and Development | | | | 135,000 | 111,553 | 14,138 | 19,640 | 3,851 | 280,331 | 6.5% |
| Analysis | Exp/day | 350 | 100 | 35,000 | 61,150 | | | | | |
| Workshop, networking, mission | Lump sum | 50,000 | 1 | 50,000 | 15,563 | | | | | |
| Publications (incl. translation, printing, distribution) | Lump sum | 50,000 | 1 | 50,000 | 34,841 | | | | | |
| IV. RPCA | | | | 160,000 | 216,238 | 27,406 | 38,070 | 7,465 | 441,714 | 10.2% |
| Analysis/Expertise | Lump sum | 80000 | 1 | 90000 | 31,200 | | | | | |
| Meeting RPCA | Meeting | 10,000 | 2 | 20,000 | 101,913 | | | | | |
| Mission, facilitation RPCA and Charter | Lump sum | 60,000 | 1 | 60,000 | 83,125 | | | | | |
| V. Communication | | | | 160,000 | 263,594 | 33,408 | 46,408 | 9,100 | 503,410 | 11.6% |
| West Africa Gateway | Year | 25,000 | 2 | 50,000 | 116,600 | | | | | |
| Newsletter, Web | | | | 50,000 | 100,538 | | | | | |
| Other tools and Media | Year | 30,000 | 2 | 60,000 | 46,456 | | | | | |
| VI. Central Functions | | | | 240,000 | 485,506 | 61,534 | 85,477 | 16,760 | 872,517 | 20.1% |
| Strategy, relations with members and other stakeholders | | | | | 40,000 | | | | | |
| Secretariat Management | | | | | | | | | 261,444 | |
| SPG meeting | | | | | | | | | 177,300 | |
| SPG meeting | | 15,000 | | 40,000 | 46,763 | | | | | |
| Missions (staff) | Mission | 5,000 | 15 | 75,000 | 0 | | | | | |
| Roving Ambassador | Lump sum | 85,000 | 1 | 85,000 | | | | | | |
| VII. Forums 2011 | | | | 185,000 | 327,950 | 41,565 | 57,738 | 11,321 | 612,253 | 14.1% |
| TOTAL PWB 2011-2012 | | | | 1,628,500 | 2,027,750 | 257,000 | 357,000 | 70,000 | 4,340,250 | 100.0% |
| <i>Initial Budget</i> | | | | <i>1,277,500</i> | <i>2,360,600</i> | <i>257,000</i> | <i>357,000</i> | | <i>4,252,100</i> | |
| <i>Difference</i> | | | | <i>351,000</i> | <i>-332,850</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> | | <i>88,150</i> | |

II. Examination of proposal to create a new post of roving ambassador for SWAC

In June 2011, the Members had asked the Secretariat and the President to produce a proposal for the creation of a post of SWAC Ambassador. After examining that proposal, the Members agreed that it would be useful to allocate additional funds for policy dialogue purposes. They took the following decisions:

- The principle was approved for 2012.
- The job title will be “Special Representative of the SWAC President”.
- The person selected will be directly responsible to the Club President, who will approve their missions and define the messages to be conveyed.
- The Secretariat will send Members a precise profile of the person sought, for amendment.
- Members can put forward candidates. The President will submit applications to the Members for approval, indicating his preference.
- If no candidate fulfils the desired profile, none will be recruited.

- Recruitment will be based on a contract for intellectual services, in accordance with OECD rules. The contract will provide for a trial period of six months.
- The budgeted amount of €85,000 must be regarded as the upper limit.

III. Discussion of the formulation of the next Mandate

The Members considered the question of how to plan budget resources with certainty while addressing the concerns of Members who cannot make financial commitments for more than one year at a time.

As it is difficult for some SWAC Members to make financial commitments for more than one year, while the OECD needs longer-term budget visibility, the OECD Legal Directorate suggests a solution modelled on the OECD Part I budget, i.e. a two-year budget comprising a definitive budget for the first year and a provisional one for the second. More precisely:

- The budget covers a period of two years.
- Before 1 January of the first year, the budget for Year 1 and the **provisional** budget for Year 2 are adopted.
- The provisional budget for Year 2 is adopted as the definitive budget **with effect from 1 January of that year**, unless the SPG decides otherwise before that date.

Members welcomed this proposal, though some must submit it to their legal departments for confirmation.

The Members asked the Secretariat to send them a draft reformulated Mandate as soon as possible.

IV. Prospects for the European Union joining SWAC

The EU delegate to the SPG informed members that:

1. The EU has clearly stated its willingness to become a member of SWAC. Discussions are under way to identify the competent body to which the membership project should be submitted. At the present time it is not possible to give a precise timetable; that will depend on the level at which the official decision has to be taken.
2. The EU is particularly interested and involved in the following core strands of SWAC work:
 - a. *Security and development*. The EU has a strategy for security and development in the Sahel, under the leadership of the Sahel countries.
 - b. *Convergence between UEMOA, ECOWAS and CILSS*. The EU considers that this convergence, to which the SWAC is contributing, is an essential factor for maximising the impact of West African regional cooperation.
 - c. *Food security*. The EU considers that this is a crucial issue for the short, medium and long terms. In this connection the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management is an important tool.

France asked to be kept informed of progress on the membership issue, so that it can issue instructions to support the initiative within European institutions.

V. Presentation and discussion of work programme themes

West African Futures

The Members asked the Secretariat to specify what implications and impacts the SWAC examination of issues has for regional policies and strategies on agriculture and food security. They also asked the Secretariat to involve the regional organisations even more closely in this work. It was pointed out that CILSS is the technical arm of UEMOA and ECOWAS for agriculture and food security.

The Secretariat took note and reminded Members that a workshop with the three regional organisations is to be held in Ouagadougou during the first quarter of 2012, at the invitation of the UEMOA Commission. The aim is to work with regional experts and decision makers to examine how the lessons learnt from the programme can be taken into account in the regional organisations' policies and strategies.

Food crisis prevention and management

The Members took a very favourable view of all these activities (joint facilitation of the FCPN with CILSS, Forum on agriculture and food price volatility, Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, regional food stock, support for ROPPA). They especially stressed that the G20 outreach session gave delegations to the G20 an insight into African initiatives to address the problem of agriculture and food price volatility. The session had been useful in promoting the West African project to establish a regional food stock, which received G20 endorsement.

Security and development

The Members considered the reformulation of the work programme (following the SPG request of June 2011) to be very satisfactory. The date chosen for the Security and Development symposium is 12 June 2012. The Secretariat stated that special attention would be paid to analysing the causes of instability and to the regional organisations' tools and mechanisms for combating insecurity.

Energy issues

The Members expressed their satisfaction at the Brazil-West Africa Forum on renewable energy, but pointed out that the agenda was too dense. It was also stressed that most of the discussions focused on biofuels, to the detriment of other types of renewable energy. It was felt that the debates would have been enriched by input from independent Northern experts.

The Secretariat confirmed that following the Forum:

- It will provide support for a mission by West African smallholders to their counterparts in Brazil. This initiative will be organised in close collaboration with ROPPA, the Brazilian authorities (who have given their agreement in principle) and the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).
- Jointly with ECREEE, the Secretariat will produce a regional atlas of renewable energy. This is part of a broader approach by the monitoring unit on renewable energy in West Africa run by ECREEE for ECOWAS.

West Africa Gateway

Members took a very positive view of the West Africa Gateway (<http://www.westafricagateway.org/>). They stressed the need to make sure it is regularly updated.

VI. Presentation of the OECD Strategy on Development

The OECD strategy formulation process was described to Members. It includes:

- a. Taking the development dimension into account in all OECD analyses, in order to keep pace with the new global economic geography;
- b. Adopting an integrated, comprehensive approach to address the multi-dimensional issues connected with poverty and development;
- c. Fostering policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and shared learning; strengthening partnerships with developing countries, a wider range of international organisations and the main stakeholders;
- d. Ensuring that development policy is more consistent between the three complementary levels of OECD, members and partner countries.

Members noted that the OECD approach, focusing on knowledge sharing and dialogue with developing countries and regions, is fully in line with SWAC approach.

VII. Other business

Optimisation of the annual schedule of SWAC, CILSS and FCPN meetings

The Members asked the Club Secretariat and regional organisations to make sure the annual schedule of meetings (SPG, CILSS Partners' Committee, SWAC Forum and FCPN) is henceforth drawn up to avoid conflict in meeting dates. They proposed that:

- The SPG meeting be limited to one day and its agenda focused on strategic issues and policy options deriving from implementation of the work programme;
- The FCPN meeting also be shortened;
- The Forum be tightened up around a smaller number of issues.

The Secretariat took note and, in consultation with the three regional organisations, will ensure the four meetings are timed harmoniously.

Date and location of the next SPG meetings and next Forum

At the SWAC President's suggestion, the Members decided that:

- The next SPG meeting will be held in Paris on 11 June 2012. It will be followed on 12 June by the symposium on security and development.
- The SPG meeting in December 2012 (week of 3 to 7 December) will be held in Ouagadougou, subject to acceptance by the Burkina Faso authorities.