

October 2007 – No. 10

**The Sahel and West Africa Club's monthly newsletter aims to provide regular information on ongoing SWAC activities, publications, upcoming events and other SWAC news.**

- PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN UEMOA AND THE SWAC
- SWAC MISSION TO BENIN, BURKINA FASO AND GHANA
- WORKSHOP ON GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION INSTRUMENTS
- 7<sup>th</sup> AFRICA GOVERNANCE FORUM
- PREPARATION OF THE JOINT SWAC/ECOWAS "WEST AFRICA 2007" REPORT
- FOLLOW-UP OF THE K2M INITIATIVE
- PARTICIPATION IN THE RFI BROADCAST « DÉBAT AFRICAIN »
- WANSED MEETING ON SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA
- PUBLICATIONS
- UPCOMING EVENTS

## PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN UEMOA AND THE SWAC

Within the framework of the partnership agreement, signed in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) on Tuesday 9 October 2007 by the President of the UEMOA Commission, Mr. Soumaïla Cissé, and the SWAC Director, Mr. Normand Lauzon, the two institutions shall co-operate and consult each other on joint work areas in the field of (i) food security; (ii) water and land management as well as combating desertification; (iii) rural transformation; (iv) agricultural and trade policies; (v) cross-border co-operation; and (vi) prospective strategic thinking. The UEMOA and the SWAC agreed to hold an annual meeting to take stock of achieved results and identify priority actions, modalities for their implementation and the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

> [read the Memorandum of Understanding \(French\)](#)



Normand Lauzon, SWAC & Soumaïla Cissé, UEMOA

## SWAC MISSION TO BENIN, BURKINA FASO AND GHANA

Mr. Lauzon carried out a mission to Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana from 2 to 13 October 2007 aiming to strengthen the relationship between the SWAC and West African government representatives as well as its West African and international development partners. In particular, he was received by H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Boni Yayi, President of Benin, and Ms. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Advisor of President John Kufuor and Acting Prime Minister of Ghana. Ms. Olubanke King-Alerere, Liberian Minister of Foreign Affairs suggested setting up a meeting with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in December. Discussions with the high-level government representatives underscored the complementarities between the local, national and regional levels, the importance of taking into account national analyses, to integrate these analyses more in regional approaches, and the need to develop synergies between various organisations dealing with regional integration.

To facilitate this process, the President of Burkina Faso proposed organising a meeting in Ouagadougou during the first term of 2008, with SWAC support, which will bring together the leaders of the CILSS, ECOWAS and UEMOA to review the specificities of each organisation and improve synergies among the various upcoming actions within the framework of joint work. The meetings with representatives of partner organisations focused on reviewing ongoing programmes and identifying priorities of future joint work. Some partners such as UNDP and USAID confirmed their commitment and support for the SWAC.

[> read the mission report \(French\)](#)

## **WORKSHOP ON GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION INSTRUMENTS**

Dakar and Saly (Senegal), 16-19 October 2007



Organised by the SWAC and ECOWAS, with the participation of the Women's Group and the Youth Coordination Group of West Africa, the workshop aimed to promote and facilitate the implementation of regional governance and conflict prevention instruments. Due to lack of political will, some of these instruments have not yet been ratified and remain relatively obscure to the general public. For these instruments to be ratified and effectively implemented, West African women and youth must have a better understanding of them. The workshop brought together approximately 50 participants from 15 West African countries. The opening ceremony in Dakar, dedicated to Saliou Kandji, a famous African historian and humanist, was chaired by the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio. Several working groups were formed in which participants focused on the application, results and challenges of implementing ECOWAS and AU instruments as well as endogenous initiatives. Drawing on outcomes of group discussions, participants drafted an Action Plan aiming to support the dissemination of these regional instruments. The draft Action Plan is placed in the context of the ECOWAS Strategic Plan 2007-2010 that highlights the role of civil society in fostering democratic governance and conflict prevention. The draft version will be finalised by a working group composed of representatives from ECOWAS, the SWAC, the Women's Group and the Youth Coordination Group. The workshop was covered by 26 journalists representing about 20 press agencies (Pan-African press agencies, local press, Senegalese radio, etc.).

[> images](#) | [> learn more](#)

## **7<sup>th</sup> AFRICA GOVERNANCE FORUM**

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 24-26 October 2007

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum based on the theme "Building the Capable State in Africa" brought together some 300 participants: representatives from African governments; Ministries and institutions; civil society organisations; the private sector; the media and Africa's development partners. Among the 32 African countries, 13 West African countries were represented as participants or observers.

In their “Commitment of Ouagadougou”, participants affirm that capacity is one of the key missing links to development and democratization in Africa. Participants set out 11 recommendations with a view to building African capacities in particular via increased government endeavours with regard to judiciary effectiveness, integrity and independence, by investing in education and increasing women’s participation. However, to improve the people’s daily lives and rebuild trust in government authorities, these recommendations must be transformed into concrete actions. With this in mind, Mr. Lauzon, representing the SWAC at the Forum, highlighted the need to directly involve civil society representatives in the Forum’s discussions to ensure that decisions are made which will have a greater impact on people’s lives.

[> read the Ouagadougou Commitment](#)

## PREPARATION OF THE JOINT SWAC/ECOWAS “WEST AFRICA 2007” REPORT

ECOWAS and the SWAC are drafting a joint West Africa report to be published during the first quarter of 2008. The first issue of this annual report will focus on “Resources for Development in West Africa”. The report presents a different perspective of West Africa based on a shared SWAC-ECOWAS vision of the region’s development resources, The report will provide a “2007 Review” and the progress made towards regional integration. At the SWAC’s Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) meeting in September 2007, SPG members highlighted the need to capitalize more on Southern expertise and integrate African visions into the analyses of this report. Following these recommendations, the drafting and editing team was enhanced on ECOWAS’ side, in particular by Professor Lambert N’Galajo Bamba, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of macro-economic policy, as well as other regional experts selected by ECOWAS. Within the joint working sessions at the SWAC headquarters on 15 and 16 October 2007, Mr. Raymond Weber, Head of the SWAC’s Medium- and Long-term Development Perspectives Unit, along with his team and Mr. Antoine Kouassi, Strategic Planning Advisor and focal point for the report within the ECOWAS Commission, completed the working document and started reviewing some chapters of the report. A restitution workshop will be held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in December 2007 to carry out an indepth review of the preliminary version of the report with the support of approximately 10 West African experts.

**Contact:** [raymond.weber@oecd.org](mailto:raymond.weber@oecd.org)

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE K2M INITIATIVE

Drawing on conclusions of the Katsina Workshop on Food Security and Cross-border Trade (18-20 September 2007), a concept paper was produced with proposals for the initiative’s implementation. This document presents the technical and organisational structure of the initiative’s initial phase. It sets out details for a technical, organisational and financial feasibility study of the K<sup>2</sup>M Initiative building on three information platforms identified by participants: (i) Information on Food Crop Markets; (ii) Cross-border Movement of Goods; and (iii) Cross-border Movement of Capital. The initiative’s first phase will be launched in the course of 2008 for a two-year period under the auspices of the Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for Co-operation.

[> read the concept paper](#)

## PARTICIPATION IN THE RFI BROADCAST “DÉBAT AFRICAIN”

The SWAC participated in two of the Radio France Internationale (RFI) broadcast “Débat africain” (African Debate) programmes, hosted by Madeleine Mukamabono. The programme broadcast on 21 October 2007 was dedicated to the presentation of the Dakar workshop (see presentation). Participants: Mr. Massaër Diallo, Head of the SWAC’s Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit, Colonel Yoro Koné, Director of the ECOWAS Early Warning/Observation Monitoring Centre and Ms. Agnès Diaroumèye Bembello, Nigerian sociologist and member of the West African Women Group. [> listen to the broadcast programme](#)

“Has Africa become a strategic issue?” was the programme topic on 14 October 2007. Participants: Mr. Diallo, Mr. Albert Bourgi, Professor for International Relations at the Reims University and Mr. Antoine Glaser, representing the *Lettre du continent*. [> listen to the broadcast programme](#)

## WANSED MEETING ON SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

Accra (Ghana), 1-3 October 2007

The seminar, organised by the West African Network on Security and Democratic Governance (WANSED), was held to train *Security Programmes* staff of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and regional representatives on the role of bi- and multilateral donors and the governance of the security sector. The SWAC, represented by Mr. Diallo, regularly supports WANSED network activities and co-ordinates the WANSED working group on “Policy Dialogue and Advocacy”.

**Contact:** [massaer.diallo@oecd.org](mailto:massaer.diallo@oecd.org)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Atlas of Regional Integration in West Africa: Cocoa



Since 1960, world cocoa production has increased threefold, from 1.2 to 3.6 million tonnes. This growth was punctuated by several jolts caused by structural adjustment policies, crop infestations, diseases and market speculation, all of which have affected production. Three countries in the inter-tropical zone growing cocoa beans, dominate world production: Côte d'Ivoire (39%), Ghana (21%) and Indonesia (13%). The important West African production basin extends from Guinea to Cameroon where, apart from Benin, all the countries grow cocoa trees. Two-thirds of world cocoa production originates from West Africa alone. The political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has not compromised this region's dominance at all. However in order to maintain its position the continent must strike a balance between increasing production and preserving quality.

[> download the chapter \(3 Mb\)](#)

### Summary Report of the DDR & Post-Conflict Workshop

The Praia workshop on "DDR, Post-conflict and Development in West Africa" took stock of the current situation of post-conflict countries in West Africa and identified the challenges related to the socio-cultural, political and economic reconstruction processes. The Summary Report highlights key outcomes of this meeting that represents the second step in the setting up of a Regional Working Group.

[> read the summary report](#) | [> learn more](#)

### Food Security Information Note No. 14

#### *"Cereal production slightly below 2006 production"*

A look at the agricultural and food situation in West African coastal countries reveals that provisional production is higher compared to 2006 in Guinea Conakry (1%), Togo (5%), Benin (10%) and 7.3% lower in Ghana. Production data for Nigeria and other coastal countries is currently being analysed but not yet available. A rather significant structural deficit has been recorded in Cape Verde, the Gambia Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal.

[> download the Information Note \(No. 14\)](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Food Crisis Prevention Network meeting (RPCA)

Brussels, 27-30 November 2007

The CILSS and the SWAC are co-organising a meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network in the Sahel and West Africa (RPCA) at the EU Commission Headquarters. There will be a review and an exchange of views on the food, nutritional and agricultural situation for the 2007/2008 campaign. In light of these analyses, adequate measures will be taken in particular for vulnerable populations in identified at-risk zones. The meeting will also be an opportunity to deepen debate on several specific topics linked to food security in the region.

**Contact:** [jeansibiri.zoundi@oecd.org](mailto:jeansibiri.zoundi@oecd.org)

**All publications can be downloaded from the SWAC website: [www.westafricaclub.org](http://www.westafricaclub.org)**

**If you wish to receive a paper copy or the electronic version of this newsletter, please contact [julia.wanjiru@oecd.org](mailto:julia.wanjiru@oecd.org)**

Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD  
Mailing Address: 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France Tel: +33 (0) 1 4524 8200  
Visiting Address: Le Seine Saint-Germain, 4 bd des Iles, 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux - France  
Phone: +33 (0)1 45 24 90 13 Fax: +33 (0)1 45 24 90 31  
Email: [normand.lauzon@oecd.org](mailto:normand.lauzon@oecd.org) / [www.westafricaclub.org](http://www.westafricaclub.org)

