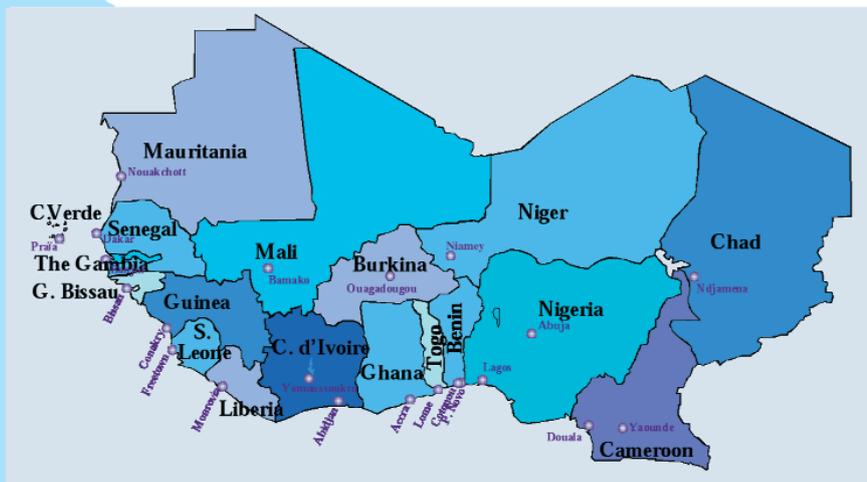


SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Strategy and Policy Group  
24 and 25 November 2005

OECD, Paris



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Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD  
Le Seine Saint-Germain, 4 Boulevard des Isles  
92130 ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX (France)  
Postal Address:  
2, rue André-Pascal  
75775 Paris Cedex 16  
Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 24 89 87  
Fax: +33 (0) 1 45 24 90 31  
[www.oecd.org/sah](http://www.oecd.org/sah)



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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ACP	African-Caribbean-Pacific
AEBR	Association of the European Borders Regions
APF	African Partnership Forum
AU	African Union
CCNM	Centre for Cooperation with Non-Members (OECD)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CILSS	Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel ( <i>Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel</i> )
CIP	Cross-border Initiatives Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DCD	Development Cooperation Directorate (OECD)
DNF	Direction nationale des frontières ( <i>National Borders Directorate, Mali</i> )
ECOMOG	Economic Community for West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Agricultural Policy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENDA-Diapol	Enda, Prospective et dialogue politique
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreements
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
IEPS	Institut d'études politiques et stratégiques de l'université des Mutants de Gorée (Senegal)
INERA	Institut de l'environnement et de recherche agricole (Burkina Faso)
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ROPPA	Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest ( <i>West African Network of Farmers' organisations and agricultural producers</i> )

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SPG	Strategy and Policy Group
SWAC	Sahel and West Africa Club
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNOWA	United Nations Office for West Africa
WABI	West African Borders and Integration
WAEMU	West African Economic Monetary Union
WALTPS	West Africa Long Term Perspective Study
WEU	Inter-parliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly
WTO	World Trade Organization

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## SUMMARY

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The Sahel and West Africa Club's Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) met on 24 and 25 November 2005 in Paris at OECD Headquarters, under the Chairmanship of its President, Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle, with the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General to the OECD, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, and the Director of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary's Private Office, Mr. William Awinador Kanyirige.

Representatives from Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States were present as were several West African Ambassadors posted to Paris or their representatives. Other partners of the Secretariat were also invited to participate including ECOWAS, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the National Borders Directorate of Mali (DNF), the CILSS, Few-Net and ROPPA.

This SPG meeting took place over one and a half days. The first day, 24 November, was devoted to presenting the 2005 Progress Report. Following the presentations, there was an open and frank discussion between SPG members and partners of the Secretariat on issues of common interest, notably regional integration, food security, medium- and long-term development perspectives, the role of emerging countries, youth migration, etc. All of these topics of discussion are covered in this Summary Record.

Furthermore, SPG members designated Mr. Charles Goerens as new President of the Club. Mr. Goerens is currently a Member of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Council of the Western European Union (Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly). The new President will officially take up his duties for one year as from 1 January 2006.

SPG members congratulated the Secretariat team for the Club's remarkable evolution over the last two years, the complementarity of the work between the different areas of concentration and the quality of its documents.

The morning of 25 November was devoted to financial and administrative issues at which the contributing countries participated. The Deputy Head from the Financial Service reported on the 2005 accounts. Representatives from the OECD's Budget and Finance Directorate as well as from the Legal Affairs Directorate were present. Before opening up the debate they provided clarification on legal and budgetary issues. SPG members positively accepted the financial report which indicates that the Secretariat's expenditure and revenue for 2005 were aligned. They took note of the proposed 2006 budget which will be finalised over the course of 2006 taking into account the totality of contributions.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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The Sahel and West Africa Club's Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) met on 24 and 25 November at OECD Headquarters in Paris under the Chairmanship of its President, Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle. The Deputy Secretary-General to the OECD, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, and the Director of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary's Private Office, Mr. William Awinador Kanyirige also participated.

This SPG meeting was again an opportunity to pay tribute to General Cheick Oumar Diarra who perished in an airplane crash on 22 October 2005. As was underscored in the words of welcome of the Club's President as well as those of the Sahel and West Africa Club's Director, Mr. Normand Lauzon, General Diarra was a friend of the Club.

Despite a full agenda, General Diarra had indeed accepted several weeks before to represent ECOWAS at this SPG meeting to provide an update on the partnership between ECOWAS and the Club during 2005. This colourful personality had spent his life on the front lines working to maintain peace on the entire continent as well as within his responsibilities as ECOWAS' Deputy Executive Secretary. The President recalled that together the Club and General Diarra had experienced intense moments, notably at the Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society, organised by the SWAC. He reassuringly promoted the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, sincerely and thoughtfully answered questions raised by Forum participants. The Acts of the Forum, which have just been published, have been dedicated to him.

### **Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle, the President finishes her mandate at the Sahel and West Africa Club**

At the end of her three year Presidency of the Club, Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle reported on her perception of the Club and her vision of its future. She stated that the Club had remained true to its mission in its regional approach, strategic thinking on medium- and long-term development perspectives of the region as well as the development and strengthening of partnerships with Africans. Moreover, she remarked that the Club had been reinvigorated and was more in line with the recommendations of its northern and southern partners. She particularly emphasised the role of the Club's Director, who, according to her, has strengthened and enriched the "Club's evolutions", for example: resuming dialogue with some regional institutions in such a way that the Club's analyses respond to the needs on the ground; working more closely with the OECD - the administrative body of the Club, which she deems positive; developing and maintaining close relationships with southern partners.

Concerning the evaluation of the Club's work requested by some SPG members, the President urged SPG members to ask their administrations to work together so that the Club would not be subjected every month to auditors.

In conclusion, Mrs. Pujolle reiterated the Club's fragile financial position which "only exists in as much as the confidence that the donors have in it". She urged the northern development partners to continue to support the Club. This structure contributes notably to feeding strategic thinking on the medium- and long-term perspectives, so often neglected by northern agencies. She also encouraged them to maintain and intensify confidence in the Club. The text of Mrs. Pujolle's intervention is attached hereto.

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**Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, Deputy Secretary-General to the OECD**

The Deputy Secretary-General to the OECD, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, began his intervention by paying tribute to General Cheick Oumar Diarra whom he had the opportunity to meet with when on mission in Abuja in 2005. Mr. Akasaka said that he was struck by General Diarra's commitment and energy for the West African cause.

In his intervention, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka addressed the following themes:

- The importance of Africa to the OECD ;
- The significant initiatives underway in the Sahel and West Africa Club.

He stated that the OECD had paid particular attention to Africa during the past year. He mentioned several key events which took place in 2005 such as the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; the initiative of G8 Finance Ministers to cancel the debt; the G8 Summit and the Commission for Africa; the 2005 UN World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals; and the African Partnership Forum (APF) meeting. He announced that the an APF Support Unit will be created and housed within the OECD which would benefit from exchanges and synergies with Units of the Development Cluster including that of the SWAC.

Concerning the SWAC's initiatives, Mr. Akasaka reaffirmed that the Secretariat contributed to feeding strategic thinking on the main trends in West Africa and OECD priorities as regards the continent. He mentioned several strategic thinking themes and initiatives to which the SWAC has paid particular attention over the course of the year, notably food security, the economic and social importance of cotton in West Africa, the Cross-border Initiatives Programme; the Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society; the strategic thinking panel on the medium- and long-term development perspectives. Mr. Akasaka put forward the idea of examining new areas of strategic thinking that are of interest to a great number of OECD Member countries such as migration and its relationship to the development process. He encouraged the SWAC to work with other OECD Directorates on these issues.

Before concluding, he congratulated the Secretariat team for their work over the course of 2005, its partnership with other Directorates as well as its contribution to the evolution of the OECD's Development Cluster.

In his conclusion, Mr. Akasaka emphasised to SPG members the importance of their intellectual and financial support to the Club for Africa's development. He suggested that the issue of the financial continuity for the Club be raised when examining the budget in order to enable the Club to carry out its mission. He suggested that the following two essential points be addressed:

- a) the overall amount of contributions to its general resources;
- b) a forecasted systematic schedule of payments for these contributions to be made available.

These are two conditions which Mr. Akasaka deems essential in order for the Club to continue to carry out its mission under positive conditions. Finally, he thanked Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle for her leadership and investment in favour of West Africa, and reaffirmed the desire to continue to benefit from her support and assistance in the OECD's work on Africa.

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**Mr. William Awinador Kanyirige, Director of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary's Private Office, representing the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas**

ECOWAS, a strategic partner of the SWAC, was represented by the Director of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary's Private Office, Mr. William Awinador Kanyirige, who read the speech of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas. This was the second year that ECOWAS had been invited to open the SPG meeting.

Before beginning the speech, the ECOWAS representative thanked all of the participants for their tributes to General Diarra and agreed to convey all of the condolence messages to the General's family as well as the governing authorities of ECOWAS.

In his introductory speech, the Executive Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the partnership undertaken in 2004 with the SWAC. This partnership has indeed materialised in the co-organisation of events and important joint initiatives for the region such as the Symposium on the Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives in West Africa; the launching of the Cross-border Initiatives Programme; the organisation of the Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society and the promotion of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance; and the Forum on the challenges of food security.

He recalled that ECOWAS was created in order to promote economic growth and regional cooperation. But over time, it became clear that without good governance or democracy, economic development would not be possible. The joint strategic thinking launched with the SWAC within the framework of the Symposium on Medium- and Long-Term Regional Development Perspectives in West Africa, Regional Integration and the Evolution of ECOWAS' role at its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is an ongoing process. ECOWAS has thus decided to re-evaluate its missions and strategies and give higher priority to promoting democracy and good governance.

Concerning the issues of peace and security with which ECOWAS is very involved, the Executive Secretary recalled that if conflict management and resolution were essential for stability in the region, addressing the causes of these conflicts was certainly crucial. Hence the promotion of good governance and democracy, notably through the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, represents an important challenge for ECOWAS.

In order to face these new challenges, ECOWAS seeks to strengthen its capacities. Therefore, the Executive Secretary explained that there is a restructuring underway within ECOWAS with the creation of two new divisions within the Political Affairs Department. Moreover, he emphasised the need to strengthen support to civil society organisations and involve them more in ECOWAS' activities. He explained that this restructuring also responded to the role assigned to ECOWAS as NEPAD's focal point for West Africa.

Dr. Chambas also stated that ECOWAS' Parliament should see its mandate and functions expanded, notably legislative, so as to be able thus to provide legislation on behalf of the region, which is not currently the case.

In conclusion, he recognised that there was still much to be accomplished as regards promoting democracy and good governance in West Africa as much as its progress remains limited.

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**Mr. Charles Goerens<sup>1</sup>, new President of the Sahel and West Africa Club**

This meeting provided the opportunity to welcome Mr. Charles Goerens, who will take up his duties as President as from 1 January 2006. After paying tribute to the President for her

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<sup>1</sup> **Mr. Charles Goerens' biography:** Mr. Charles Goerens' political career began in 1979 when he was elected Deputy of a Democratic Party district (continually re-elected until 1999). After a stint in the European Parliament from 1982 to 1984, he took up responsibilities as coordinator of a group in the area of public freedoms and human rights. From 1987 to 1990, he held the post of President of the Assembly of the WEU (Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly). In 1995, upon leaving his post as President of the Democratic Party of Luxembourg, the Prime Minister requested that he draft a report on the role of national Parliaments within the European Union. In 1999, Mr. Goerens was elected to the European Parliament before being named Minister of Cooperation, Humanitarian Action and Defence, Minister of the Environment. Since 2004, he has been a member of the Chamber of Deputies, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the WEU.

“contagious passion” as well as to the Director of the Secretariat, Mr. Goerens stated that he was most pleased to participate at his first SPG meeting when participants are so open and direct.

He was impressed with the initiatives implemented by the SWAC. For him, the Club is a modern forum because its approach is in line with the international agendas and ahead of development actors. Mr. Goerens shares the Club’s approach which consists of refusing fatality; the importance given to civil society as development actors without neglecting other actors; the regional approach; bringing actors into dialogue on conflict. He praised the quality of the documents, the team’s dynamism and the Club’s strategy.

However, Mr. Goerens raised some points that should be improved as regards communication. The Club must not only continue to develop its know-how but also raise the visibility of its work.

In conclusion, despite his heavy schedule and physical distance, Mr. Goerens is committed to be a “worthy collaborator”, who will be available as needed.

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Following his introductory remarks, participants were invited to comment. The Ambassador of Guinea, Mr. Salifou Sylla and Mr. Moussa Sékou Keita, Malian Embassy’s First Counsellor took the floor.

The Ambassador of Guinea paid tribute to the memory of General Diarra and presented his country’s condolences to General Diarra’s family and country. He acknowledged the depth of his convictions. The Guinean Ambassador reaffirmed his support for the Club’s regional approach specifying that it was essential for West Africa to tackle its problems from this angle, because, as he emphasised, no country can succeed on its own. He thanked the Secretariat for the support that they had provided to his country in the OECD’s approaches and strategic thinking on Aid Effectiveness. The SWAC Director would be going to Guinea at the beginning of December to continue and further this dialogue.

The Malian Embassy’s First Counsellor thanked all of the participants for their tributes to General Diarra which he would convey to the people of Mali. He was moved by the Deputy Secretary-General’s kind words. He recalled that General Diarra had devoted his life to fighting for peace and development. He, moreover, underscored the interest his country has in the Club’s work.

## I. PRESENTATION OF THE 2005 PROGRESS REPORT

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Before presenting the 2005 Progress Report, the Director of the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat again paid tribute to General Diarra stressing that his departure had left a large void not only in ECOWAS but also for the SWAC, where he had been very present this year.

Returning to the review of the 2005 Progress Report, Mr. Normand Lauzon indicated that it was aligned with the Orientations of the 2005-2007 Work Plan, approved by SPG members in November 2004 and that the initiatives undertaken in 2005 were in accordance with what had been foreseen.

The drafting of this Progress Report which covers all of 2005, follows a new methodology implemented in 2004 and which highlights the impacts of its work and results rather than listing its products and activities. All of the Units share the same approach which has inspired a coherent assessment of their 2005 activities:

- a) Expected results
- b) Methodological approach
- c) Contribution to the understanding of the dynamics of change in the region
- d) Expected results within the framework of West African networks and partnerships
- e) Expected results within the framework of northern networks and partnerships
- f) Contribution to debates on strategic issues within each area of concentration
- g) Impact on the enabling policy environment and action on the ground.

Furthermore, as explained by the Director in his presentation, the Secretariat has identified four types of direct or indirect impact of its work relating to the following four decision-making levels:

- Policy enabling environment,
- Concrete actions on the ground,
- Mobilisation and allocation of resources,
- Implementation of new partnerships.

In his presentation, the Director emphasised the following points:

- The SPG's recommendations of November 2004 have been taken into account, notably concerning communications;
- The foothold of the Secretariat's work on the ground helps ensure that the work is responding to the demands and needs expressed by those in the region;
- The anticipation of broader themes for strategic thinking which can feed into international debates over the next five years;
- The intensification of strategic thinking and actions as regards women and youth;
- The commitment of the Secretariat's work over the long term;
- The strengthening of the Club's partnerships with ECOWAS, without neglecting others such as ROPPA, the CILSS or the WAEMU.

## 1.1 *The Secretariat*

The Director recalled that the Secretariat was always concerned with providing a useful contribution to the countries and organisations with which it works. He reaffirmed the need for the Club to take into account the regional level in its work without neglecting the local and national levels which are complementary; to have a medium- and long-term approach, while taking into account the current situations (for example, the food crisis). He reaffirmed the need for the Club to remain an informal forum, while in order to amplify the voice of organisations with which it works, it must have access to authorities and decision-makers at State-level. One of the Club's objectives is to raise strategic questions which can be put forward for debate; raise difficult questions and support strategic thinking and dialogue with Africans.

He recalled that the Club favoured a more balanced perception of West Africa highlighting the dynamics of change and presenting Africa as a continent representing strategic interest for the world which is not insignificant. It is a continent rich in natural and strategic resources, a potential ally for development partners throughout the world, even a potential consumer market. Certain countries, such as China, have understood Africa's enormous potential.

### **A Strategic Partnership between the Club and ECOWAS**

The strategic partnership between the Club and ECOWAS undertaken in 2004 has been strengthened and solidified in 2005. Together, they organised numerous meetings and have fed into each others' strategic thinking. Without going into detail, which will be provided in the presentations of each Unit, a brief overview follows:

- Organisation of a strategic thinking panel geared towards action on the **Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives in West Africa, Regional Integration and the Evolution of ECOWAS' role**, organised in Abuja on 25 and 26 May 2005 for ECOWAS 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The synthesis of these debates will be presented to ECOWAS Heads of State at their annual summit in Niamey in January 2006.
- Organisation of a **Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society in West Africa** from 28 June to 1 July 2005 in Cotonou.
- Promotion of the **Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance** as regards its ratification, its dissemination and implementation.
- Launching of **ECOWAS' Cross-border Initiatives Programme (CIP)** in Sikasso (Mali) from 27 to 29 September 2005.
- Drafting a **preliminary ECOWAS community legal framework** within the framework of the Cross-border Initiatives Programme (CIP).
- Establishment of a joint team in order to produce the first fascicule of the **Comprehensive Atlas on Regional Integration (CARI) in West Africa** which was devoted to transportation and telecommunications.
- Organisation of a **Forum on the Medium- and Long-Term Challenges of Food Security in the Sahel and West Africa**, 18 October in Paris.

All of the initiatives provide a concrete dimension of the strategic partnership between the two organisations which will continue in 2006.

Moreover, ECOWAS and the SWAC Secretariat intend to produce an Annual Report at the end of 2006 (or during the first trimester of 2007) on the state of affairs in West Africa and on the visions

expressed by Africans in the region and by their development partners. This report will group together results of analyses and debates undertaken in 2006 around three main topics: the medium- and long-term stakes of food security in the region; migratory movements, youth employment and the role of the private sector (formal and informal) in development; the evolution of the role of various development actors, women being a priority.

## Communications

- As regards communications, the Director is committed to raising the Club's visibility in countries in the north and south. He emphasised that in 2005 particular emphasis was placed on the quality of the documents disseminated, their diffusion, electronically and in paper version, as well as the updating and maintenance of the Internet site. Mr. Lauzon again asked SPG members to play a relaying role with their representatives on the ground.
- In 2005, the Club began holding regular meetings with West African diplomatic representatives based in Paris, in order for them to be aware of the Club's activities and the missions being carried out within their countries.
- The Director also visited several African countries in order to meet with government authorities and with representatives of the donor community as well as to remain familiar with local realities.
- The Club also gave increased priority to strengthening relations with development partner countries. It responded to several invitations and had the opportunity to present the Club's initiatives to teams in charge of West Africa within several European countries' cooperation agencies and USAID.
- The Club sought to develop partnership links with the United Nations. Within this framework, it will obtain support from UNDP for its missions on the ground and the distribution of its documentation in Africa.

In conclusion, the Director thanked the Ambassadors for their support to the Club. After paying tribute to the OECD's Deputy Secretary-General for his opening remarks and to the Director of the Centre for Co-operation with Non-Members (CCNM/OECD), Mr. Eric Burgeat, he insisted on the need for the Club to maintain its specificity while contributing to the Development Cluster's strategic thinking. He acknowledged the intellectual leadership of the President which had enabled the Club's strategic thinking to move forward.

### **1.2 The four areas of concentration**

This meeting enabled the Secretariat's Heads of Unit to present the state of play on their initiatives undertaken during 2005. In their presentations they highlighted the significant points and events in relation to the impacts sought.

As a reminder, the Club's activities are organised in the following four areas of concentration:

- ✓ Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives
- ✓ Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development
- ✓ Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration
- ✓ Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security

- ✓ **Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives**

In the absence of a Head of Unit, the Director and Deputy Director have been responsible for this Unit's management.

- The Director recalled that because of the demands expressed by northern and southern partners, the Secretariat had chosen to maintain medium- and long-term perspectives in its work programme. This approach, although slightly different, is in line with the continuation of the WALTPS<sup>2</sup>. All of the work and events on this theme in 2005 were jointly carried out with ECOWAS.
- The Director presented the Synthesis of the *Symposium on Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives in West Africa, Regional Integration and the Evolution of ECOWAS' role* organised in May 2005 in Abuja which brought together a panel representative of West African men and women. A number of issues expressed by West African representatives are grouped into a fifty-page document. These issues reflect their concerns which are not always the same as those of the northern development partners. The Director stressed that what was interesting about this panel was the tone of freedom and choice of subjects addressed: northern models applied to countries of the south; political parties; the role of the private sector; the creation of civil society organisations; the progress of regional integration, etc. All of these issues were reassembled in a synthesis paper which will be presented to ECOWAS Heads of State at their summit in January 2006.
- Furthermore, within the framework of South-South cooperation, the Unit continued its work started in 2003 on economic competitiveness, notably a study on the economic opportunities for shrimp farming in West Africa carried out jointly with the World Bank.
- In 2006, the partnership with ECOWAS will continue around three broad themes of strategic thinking:
  - The medium- and long-term stakes of food security in the region;
  - Migration and youth employment;
  - The role of various development actors, notably women and youth.
- Concerning migration, the Club will follow its methodological approach consisting of taking into account analyses that have been carried out within this sector and identify perspectives which emerge so as to enable informed debate.
- Furthermore, the Club will be involved with other partners and will work with research centres that indicate interest in these different issues.

#### ✓ **Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development**

In the absence of a Head of Unit, who will take up his duties at the beginning of 2006, the Director presented the main initiatives underway.

- In the area of food security, the Club co-organised, with the CILSS and ECOWAS, a Forum on the medium- and long-term challenges of food security, following the recent crises in several West African countries. As the Director indicated, the same type of strategic thinking was undertaken as that for the desert locusts in 2004. All of the Club's initiatives in this area aim to encourage strategic thinking on the stakes of food security over the medium- and long-term in order to avoid new crises.
- Following the recommendation by the SPG on the importance of analysing links between **land and conflict dynamics**, a first phase of the initiative on "Land, Agricultural Change and Conflict in West Africa: Regional Issues from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire<sup>3</sup>" was launched in March 2005.

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<sup>2</sup> West African Long-Term Perspective Study

<sup>3</sup> *Land, agricultural change and conflict in West Africa: Historical review to contribute to future debate and action*, Information Note No. 6, Paris. SWAC Secretariat (2005)

- The Unit intends to increasingly integrate the economic, spatial, social and political dimensions into the agricultural transformation process. It has continued its work on cotton by examining cotton's impact in the fight against poverty.
  - Furthermore, the Club seeks to anticipate what the agricultural changes might be from now until 2020 which will help feed the additional 100 million West Africans. **An overview of the work on access to agricultural innovation<sup>4</sup>** based on the results of the initiative on access to agricultural innovation in West Africa as well as work on the **constraints and potentials of agricultural biotechnology** in West Africa<sup>5</sup> have helped define the choices and prerequisites for their adoption in West Africa.
  - The SWAC intends to continue its cooperation with ECOWAS in particular in the areas of the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) adopted by Heads of State in January 2005, the negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) between the European Union and the ACP countries as well as the medium- and long-term challenges of agricultural transformation notably the prevention and management of food crises and other natural disasters in West Africa in order to ensure food security for all.
- ✓ **Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration**
- The Head of the Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration Unit, Mr. Laurent Bossard, presented the initiatives launched in 2005 notably the Cross-border Initiatives Programme (CIP) with ECOWAS and the Comprehensive Atlas on Regional Integration. To illustrate these objectives, he presented SPG members with a poster of West Africa produced by his team as well as maps justifying the need to support the regional integration process.
  - In 2005, for ECOWAS' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Club launched a first Atlas on Transportation and Telecommunications. Mr. Bossard raised some significant points which are evident in this Atlas: the considerable evolution of the road networks since 1960; the unbelievable absence of Nigeria in the West African air network as well as the disconnection of large towns in Nigeria as regards the rest of the region, except for Lagos.
  - The production of this Atlas has generated much interest in the region. More than 3500 copies have been disseminated. Due to this enthusiasm, it was decided to produce a series of fascicules at regular intervals rather than wait, as had been suggested when launching this initiative, for its complete production within the next 18 months. These various instalments will constitute the chapters of the Comprehensive Atlas on Regional Integration.
  - Fragile Sahelian zones and languages are the next topics to be examined. New discussions with the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat are foreseen in order to define a list of subjects to address in 2006. In total, approximately fifteen topics should be addressed. Mr. Bossard encouraged development partners to financially support this project through voluntary contributions.

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<sup>4</sup> *The Family Economy and Agricultural Innovation in West Africa : Towards New Partnerships*, Paris. SWAC Secretariat (2005).

<sup>5</sup> *Agricultural Biotechnology in West Africa: various lessons learned*, Paris. SWAC Secretariat (2005). *Agricultural Biotechnology in West Africa: synthesis of a regional consultation*, Paris. SWAC Secretariat (2005).

- 2005 was also a year that the partnership with ECOWAS was strengthened with regard to the cross-border cooperation issue through the Cross-border Initiatives Programme. A veritable dialogue between local cross-border actors and institutional leaders was launched during two workshops co-organised by the SWAC Secretariat and ECOWAS. One was held in Sikasso in September and the other in Ziguinchor in October 2005. At these workshops cross-border pilot projects and extremely concrete actions were defined in the areas of health, education, transportation, agriculture, and communications. Two pilot operations were launched: one between Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, and the other between The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Other operations are foreseen in the near future notably between Niger and Nigeria and between Senegal and Mali. The Director of the National Borders Directorate of Mali, Mr. Aguibou Diarrah, who is participating in this programme, was invited to present to SPG members the draft Cross-border Convention supported by the Council of Europe and which will be submitted to Heads of State of the region in 2006.

### **Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security**

- The Head of the Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit, Mr. Massaër Diallo presented the broad lines of his Unit's work which are governance and democracy and the dynamics of exit from crisis.
- This Unit aims to identify key elements on which to base the process of building peace and democracy in West Africa. It also seeks to decompartmentalise various involved actors and encourage them to launch a dialogue on security.
- As regards governance and democracy, the Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society, co-organised by the Strategic Watch Club for Peace in West Africa and with ECOWAS' assistance, was an event that marked the year 2005. It was held in Cotonou from 28 June to 1 July and brought together approximately 300 participants from 18 West African countries. Besides bringing participants into dialogue, this was an unexpected opportunity to promote the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance as regards its ratification and appropriation.
- Throughout the year, Mr. Diallo led a series of workshops on the dynamics of exit from crisis and the reform of the security sector bringing together those in the military, politics, and representatives of civil society. He particularly insisted on the Demilitarisation, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programmes, set up by international donors and encouraged them to continue to provide aid for these programmes. He clarified that in order to better understand the stakes of these issues, development partners were invited to take part in these workshops.
- These different initiatives are strongly relying on the support of women's groups who have seen their role broaden in the areas of peace and security as has been the same for the youth.
- ECOWAS is also very involved in the Unit's various initiatives which enable it to better understand the founding texts, to disseminate democratic practices and involve field-level actors, notably through the appropriation of these texts.

## **1.3 SPG Remarks**

### **1.3.1 General Remarks**

SPG members underscored the evolutions which have taken place within the Club over the last two years:

- They highlighted the quality of the 2005 Progress Report as well as other documents which had been presented to them. Through the reactions to the Club's work by southern partners present at the meeting, it was obvious that the Club was responding to the demands expressed on the ground.
- Furthermore, some participants suggested that in the next Progress Report, the Club Secretariat should highlight the difficulties encountered in the implementation of these various initiatives.
- They were satisfied to see that the recommendations made by the SPG in November 2004 had been taken into account within all of the Club's activities in 2005.
- Some members suggested taking more account of the economic stakes. Due to its informal structure and its work on the ground, they suggested that the Club work more with economists in order to share its approach with them, and not leave it only to economists to carry out analyses on the economic stakes for the region.

### 1.3.2 *Specific remarks on each of the areas of concentration*

SPG members made more specific remarks as regards each of the areas of concentration.

#### ✓ **Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives**

- SPG members stated that they were pleased that the Club continued its strategic thinking on the medium- and long-term perspectives of West Africa and that it was in line with the continuation of the WALTPS study.
- They regretted that issues linked to the environment within the Symposium's work had not been taken into account, as well as the lack of reference to the Millennium Development Goals, issues linked to the economy and creativity and/or tourism.
  - The Club justified the absence of some issues recalling that the Symposium gave the voice to Africans and had thus shed light on a gap which existed between subjects of concern for participants and those of development partners.
- SPG members suggested:
  - That the Club pay particular attention within its medium- and long-term strategic thinking on the impact of China on West Africa.
  - That it compare the conclusions of the Review of Retrospective Studies undertaken in preparation of the Symposium with the UNDP Document *Africa 2025*.
  - That the Annual Report on the assessment of West Africa which should be published at the end of 2006 in collaboration with ECOWAS, enables the bringing together of political experts, economists, geographers and sociologists.

#### ✓ **Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development**

- As regards the food crisis, southern partners asked that the Club play its advocacy role to donors who often take a long time to react.
- The issue of water was raised as a horizontal theme for agriculture. The Club was asked to have a follow-up of the meeting which took place in Paris in 2004 on the management of the Niger River.

#### ✓ **Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration**

- SPG members stressed that the Club had succeeded in bringing forward the regional integration concept through the cross-border initiatives launched jointly with ECOWAS.

- The question of monitoring pilot operations as regards cross-border cooperation was raised. It was underlined that follow-up was strategically important in order to evaluate whether or not the hypotheses on regional integration are correct.
    - Concerning follow-up, the Club indicated that UNDP-financed facilitators should monitor the projects' progress on the ground. Furthermore, in six months a stage point meeting is foreseen which would enable lessons to be drawn from these experiences and working methods to be set up.
  - Some SPG members were concerned with the importance given to the local and regional levels as compared to that of the national level. It was recalled that this level was important and should be given particular attention in order to develop policies.
    - The Club has insisted on the idea that regional integration can only take place through the rehabilitation of the States and actors on the ground. The workshops are preferred meeting places for local, national and regional actors thus enabling strengthening this essential complementarity between the three levels. Furthermore, it has been underscored that cross-border cooperation can only be brought about if the States' borders are well-defined; thus being handled at the national level.
    - The cartography work carried out on the Atlas was acknowledged and encouraged. The Atlas is a good opportunity to build a vision while associating a large number of actors and defining a common vision.
  - The Club was encouraged to call on technical partners notably within the framework of the production of the regional Atlas.
    - The Club recalled that one of the objectives was to capitalise on the knowledge of other partners. It will thus call regularly on external expertise on all of the subjects addressed in the Atlas' various fascicules.
- ✓ **Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security**
- SPG members acknowledged the organisation of the **Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society**, which brought together all of these diverse actors.
  - They asked in what way could ECOWAS resume and follow-up this initiative.
    - ECOWAS was implicated financially and in the substance of this Forum, notably with the active participation of General Diarra and Dr. Adrienne Diop.
    - ECOWAS is committed to resuming this initiative and organising the next episode of this Forum.
  - SPG members encouraged the Club to continue to stir up debates.
  - It was emphasised that it was difficult to evaluate the impact of such an initiative immediately. On the other hand, it would be interesting to have feedback on this initiative in a few years.
  - They reaffirmed the need to provide the Club with a certain amount of freedom in this area in order to carry out innovative initiatives.
  - They have insisted on the importance to debate and communicate externally on governance workshops.
    - The Club depends in part on the partnership with UNOWA in order to have these initiatives better known in the security sector and share the benefits.

## II. DISCUSSIONS

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The SPG meeting was an opportunity to bring together a large number of the Sahel and West Africa Club's northern and southern partners. Frank and open discussions were held. These mainly focused on medium- and long-term perspectives for Africa and new issues within the region. Particular emphasis was placed on the role that China and emerging countries play in the region, food security, youth migration, development policies and, finally, work and administrative matters concerning the Club.

### **2.1 *The role of emerging countries in West Africa***

- SPG members highlighted the difference in approach adopted by emerging countries like China towards Africa compared with traditional development partners. Indeed, they made the point that some emerging countries' trade and diplomatic interests ignored governance and environmental issues.
- African representatives pointed out that West African countries' relations with China (which is playing a greater role in the region) were based on trade and business rather than aid. Several made the point that this was part of a lack of confidence of African countries in promises made by development partners with regard to aid - promises that had not been kept.
- The Club was asked to work with the DAC, which has started discussions with China on this issue, and which should be examined more widely within the framework of medium- and long-term perspectives.
- The Development Centre indicated that it would shortly be bringing out a study on this subject, which would look at the issue from a continent-wide perspective.

### **2.2 *Food security***

- Food security was at the heart of the SPG's discussions. This is still very much a topical issue following the recent food crisis which affected several countries in the region.
- One of the main challenges facing the region is managing to feed a rapidly-growing population. It was recalled that in Africa the amount produced by a family of 12 was equivalent to or even less than, the amount needed for 12 people. In Europe, the ratio is 3 to 100. Furthermore, between now and 2020, more than 50% of the population will be urbanised, leading to a proportionate reduction in agricultural labour.
- The issue of increasing agricultural production was raised. Some members considered that Africa would have to produce more in order to feed its population. For this to be a success, it would have to invest further in agricultural transformation without however abandoning family farms.
- Development partners were asked to take this situation into account in their development aid policies and future investment.

### **2.3 Youth migration**

- Development partners raised the issue of the migration of young Africans, which is at the heart of northern countries' concerns. They encouraged the Club to undertake strategic thinking and launch debates on this issue.
- It was recalled that in 1982 the CILSS had carried out a very detailed study on migration and that it may be interested in reviving it.
- The Club will address this issue by adopting its own methodological approach, namely by compiling what has already been written on this subject and reframing the debate within a medium- and long-term perspective as a way of supporting informed discussions based on existing analyses.

### **2.4 Development policies**

- The issue of development partners' interests was raised with a call for frank discussions with developed countries.
- It was suggested that the Club should carry out an assessment on the situation since independence, emphasising in particular gaps and inequalities, and to envisage perspectives up to 2020.
- SPG members noted that with the concern for harmonisation and consistency of policies, donors were increasingly removed from the ground and that aid had become "disembodied". Several years ago the Club had carried out a highly instructive study of the system of aid for the Sahel. Would it be possible to re-examine this subject?
- Some members suggested that the Club carry out an historical study assessing the social and political activities of donors and to organise an event which would deal with the issue of the role and responsibilities of donors in conflict.

### **2.5 Administrative, budgetary and other issues concerning the Club**

- SPG members again raised the issue of evaluating the Club. Several proposals were put forward. Several suggested an analytical review and field-level consultations with the Club's partners rather than an actual evaluation. Others suggested waiting until the end of the 2005-2007 Work Plan before carrying out an assessment.
  - The Club stressed the need for greater consistency among donors concerning evaluations. Given its limited human resources, the Club would find it hard to respond to all requests. It would therefore be preferable if donors carried out a common evaluation.
- Communication: SPG members stressed the need for the work of the Club and its initiatives to be more widely known.
- Financing the Club: The Club could consider widening its circle of donors by, for example, opening up to the private sector.
- Given the vast number of issues of interest to the Club, the point was made again that the Club should not allow itself to be overwhelmed with new themes. It should focus on its Work Plan's four main areas of concentration and leave other issues to those institutions which are better placed to deal with them.

- Equally, the Club must be flexible in taking SPG members' recommendations into account. In the next few weeks it will review all recommendations but will only take on board those which are consistent with its Work Plan.
- The Club will remain in touch with concerns on the ground and will continue to be involved with discussions on emergency situations such as the renewed outbreak of the desert locusts or the food crisis.

### III. SYNTHESIS OF SPG REACTIONS

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The SWAC Secretariat noted the remarks, suggestions and recommendations made by the participants which are synthesised below. Mr. Lauzon indicated that during the first trimester of 2006, he intended to follow up the remarks, suggestions and questions point by point via a special communication regarding this.

#### 3.1 Remarks on the Secretariat's activities in 2005

##### a) General remarks:

- SPG members asked what the Club's contribution was to the questions that it raised.
- They were pleased to see that the Club was returning to the food security issue.
- What are the conclusions on the Review of the Retrospective Studies? It would be interesting for this review to be compared to the UNDP document entitled *Africa 2025*.
- **Evaluation:**
  - Rather than an evaluation, some members suggested that an analytic review be carried out and consultations with field-level actors and Club partners. Has the Club envisaged something at this level?
  - Instead of carrying out an annual evaluation, would it not be feasible to carry out an assessment on the Orientations 2005-2007 at the end of 2007?

##### b) Recommendations:

- It is important for the Club not to be overwhelmed with new themes. It should focus on its four main areas of concentration.
- In the next Progress Report, the Club should highlight the difficulties it has encountered when implementing its various initiatives.
- The basic problems, as those of producers' rights and status, cannot be resolved exclusively by economists. Exchanges with economists and those closer to the ground are essential. The Club could be one of the structures which could be at the foundation of strategic thinking on economic issues.
- **The work of the Club :**
  - The Club must pay particular attention to the follow-up of the implementation of initiatives in the areas of regional integration and cross-border pilot operations.
  - Technical Partnership: The Club must not neglect the technical partnership notably within the production of the regional Atlas.
  - Capacity to mobilise field-level actors: How can the Club assist ECOWAS in building capacities in this area?

➤ **Communications:**

- The Club's initiatives must be better known externally to prompt debates at the international level.
- It is thus desirable for the Club in 2006 to emphasise its communications strategy and better disseminate information to its multilateral donors.

➤ **Mobilisation of resources:**

- The Club could envisage widening its circle of donors, for example by opening up to the private sector.

### 3.2 Proposal of themes to address

- **Population growth:** How to feed these 100 million more people that will exist in 2020? SPG members highlight this issue through development aid and future investment in agriculture.
- **Food security:** It was asked that the Club play an advocacy role as regards food security. How can the Club trigger the aid process vis-à-vis donors?
- **Strategic interest for the region:** Where and what are the strategic interests of developed countries in West Africa?
- The importance of **education** as an essential basis for democracy.
- **Environment:** The Club could put more emphasis on environmental issues.
- **Water issues:** Could the Club have a follow-up to the meeting which took place in Paris in 2004 on managing the Niger River?
- **Migration:** How can young Africans be deterred from leaving their country? Can the Club provide answers to these questions?
  - Could the Club revive all of the retrospective documented studies on migration before launching a prospective study on this issue?
- **Assessment:** It was proposed that an assessment be carried out on the dynamics of change and constraints in West Africa post-independence and development perspectives up to 2010.
- There are very few analyses on **economic opportunities** existing in West Africa. The Club could examine the tourist economy, that of the environment, etc.
- **Development partners:**
  - The Club could carry out an historical analysis and evaluate donors' social and political activities.
  - The Club could organise an event where the role and responsibilities of donors in causes of conflict could be discussed.
  - **The issue of emerging countries potentially becoming donors**, notably China: the Club should examine China's growing influence in West Africa.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

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- SPG members paid tribute to the various contributors to the meeting. They thanked the President, Mrs. Thérèse Pujolle, and the OECD's Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, for their presentations. They gave a warm welcome to Mr. William Kanyirige, Director of the Office of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, and Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, paying equal tribute to their presentation.
- Participants recognised the important role General Cheick Oumar Diarra played in the region and in ECOWAS and reiterated their condolences to members of his family, his country as well as ECOWAS.
- They congratulated the Director and the Deputy Director along with other Unit Heads for their presentations and the entire team for the quality of the work contained in the documents.
- They offered their best wishes to Mr. Goerens, the Club's new President, who takes up his duties on 1 January 2006.
- They expressed satisfaction at the open spirit of the exchanges and dialogues and the way the meetings progressed.
- They took note of the 2005 Progress Report while making several comments.
- The Secretariat is committed to making a follow-up by mail during the first trimester of 2006 to the remarks, suggestions and questions put forward by the participants.
- SPG members responded positively to the financial report which showed a balance between the Secretariat's income and expenditure in 2005.
- For 2006, they took note of the proposed budget, the final version of which will take account of all contributions.
- The President hopes that Mr. Goerens will be able to use all his influence to persuade the Club's donors to reach a compromise for the sustainable financing of the Club.
- The forthcoming spring SPG meeting is due to be held in a West African country. This meeting would be organised around the celebration of the Club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## ANNEX 1: INTERVENTION BY MRS. THÉRÈSE PUJOLLE, PRESIDENT OF THE SWAC<sup>6</sup>

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*Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Representatives of OECD Member countries and the Club,  
Representatives of international and regional organisations,  
Dear invitees,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Before handing over the Presidency to Mr. Charles Goerens, I would like to recount the Club's evolution such as I have experienced it. The Club will soon be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary; my Presidency will have lasted three years.

Today the Club seems true to the reasons for which it was created and has undergone fruitful evolutions guided by Normand Lauzon and his team.

### **A Club faithful to its initial mandate:**

- To create a space, a common zone for OECD Member countries determined to address together the main issues for West Africa's future;
- To listen to the SPG and organise the Secretariat's work plan in function of its expectations;
- To address any issue while taking into account its regional dimension, to address any issue placing it in the medium- and long-term, going beyond the utmost urgency;
- To work with African partners.

This was how the Club was created, in dialogue with the CILSS, its original partner, in order to face together the food security issues in the Sahel. An issue which still exists today!

### **A revived Club:**

Thanks to Mr. Normand Lauzon, in two years the Club has taken on a new dynamism as much as by the intellectual solidity of its programme of activities as by the richness of its partnerships.

He has been able to:

- Draw on all of the consequences of extending the Club's area of activity to all of West Africa. The fate of Sahelian countries and coastal countries is inseparable;
- Open up "development" and bring together all of the dimensions of West Africa's future: the regional integration process, security, peace and democratic governance;
- Re-orient the activity programme on defined major themes, including a vision and perspective of West Africa's future.
- Reinvent an amicable and fruitful dialogue with West African regional institutions such as civil society organisations. This is the basis of its partnership with ECOWAS, it heeds ROPPA's queries, the cotton producers; it has revitalised its relationship with the CILSS. To understand the role of political parties or African peace movements, to promote cross-border initiatives, these are innovations to share! The Club has re-established its exploratory capacities. The confidence that it provides its African partners confirms this notion.

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<sup>6</sup> Original text French.

- To place the Club Secretariat within the OECD; the Memorandum of Understanding signed in January 2003 defined the relationship between the Secretariat and the CCN as regards control and assure administrative (personnel) and financial management. This agreement also ensures the autonomy of the work programme validated by the SPG and the way in which the Director of the Club Secretariat is chosen. Mr. Normand Lauzon has shared with other OECD Directorates and Divisions this concrete approach to development, bringing Africans into the debate on the stakes for a common future, such as cotton, population growth or regional integration. The Club is thus a laboratory for ideas and approaches, innovative and appreciated by the Organisation, and I know that Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, Head of the Development Cluster can attest to that.

### **What is the Club's future?**

- The Club's future rests on the confidence from which it benefits and that it deserves: the confidence that provides the SPG donors and its African partners.

The proof of partners' engagement in joint initiatives is certainly reassuring.

Donors' confidence, OECD Members, is expressed by the active attentiveness you bring to our SPG meetings and by the amount of your financial contributions.

Each year, the Secretariat knows that it can count on your participation to the budget but unfortunately not on a fixed payment contribution schedule!

It is as much a concern for me as for Mr. Normand Lauzon and which we have already shared with Mr. Charles Goerens.

- As regards the wishes of your administrations to evaluate the Club's activities, above all when it comes to the founding donors! Work together! Carry out a group exercise which has always been done. It is in the spirit of the Club, to act together, to think together!
- There are two other concerns that you have expressed on other occasions:
  - Insufficient dissemination of the Secretariat's work and initiatives nor is it geared towards public opinion, or interested decision-makers despite the efforts of the Club's Communications team. Your help in relaying this information is needed, in particular to your diplomatic posts in Africa; do they receive the Club's documents and information that you receive? This is a very pragmatic task that each one of you can carry out!
  - Does the Secretariat have the sufficient capacity to implement all of the initiatives that you expect of it? Although increasing the team requires increasing the contributions mobilising new donors!

In conclusion, closely examine how much the SPG must be attentive to the orientations and the means that it provides the Secretariat.

Opening up the SPG sessions to the main West African partners obviously enriches its work.

The Club is original and atypical existing only by virtue of the confidence that one grants it but it is precarious if the resources are not regularly received.

It provides evidence that it is possible to think together of the future of the richest societies and societies where poverty compromises development and civil peace.

By its high moral stature, by its institutional bodies, by its conviction for Africa, by himself, Mr. Charles GOERENS will be able with Mr. Normand Lauzon all of the team, to continue and renew the Club's missions.

## ANNEX 2: INTERVENTION BY MR. KIYO AKASAKA, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE OECD<sup>7</sup>

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*Madam President of the Sahel and West Africa Club,  
Honorable Representatives, Dear Colleagues,*

First, I would like to pay tribute to General Cheick Oumar Diarra, Deputy Executive Secretary to ECOWAS, who tragically perished in an airplane crash one month ago. I had the opportunity to meet him once briefly during a mission in Abuja (Nigeria) and I was struck by his energy and commitment to serving West Africa. I had always received very positive reports about General Diarra, notably as regards his commitment to moving strategic cooperation forward between the ECOWAS Secretariat and that of the Sahel and West Africa Club. I know that the leaders of ECOWAS and those of the SWAC share this conviction and will continue to work together to this end. Furthermore, I am honoured to welcome Mr. William Awinador Kanyirige, Director of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary's Private Office, who will address you after my intervention.

It is with great pleasure that I participate at this important meeting. The strong presence of representatives from OECD Member countries, from regional organisations as well as representatives from civil society demonstrate the importance that you attach to West Africa, as well as the role of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC). I would like to recall the appreciable contribution the SWAC has made to the OECD's Development Cluster, notably in the recent process of the development of four key themes which guide the Organisation's development work for the upcoming period (2007-2008).

During my intervention, I would like to briefly address the two following points:

- (1) Africa's importance to the OECD;
- (2) The significant initiatives underway in the Sahel and West Africa Club.

### 1. AFRICA'S IMPORTANCE TO THE OECD

During 2005, Africa received particular attention from the international community, notably with regard to the need to reduce the gap between developing countries and their development partners. Several international strategic initiatives have begun this year and have put Africa on their agenda.

Allow me to mention just a few:

- **The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in March** where the OECD's Development Assistance Committee played a key role. The results of this meeting will be determinants for the implementation and follow-up of the declarations made by development partners within the framework of the G8 to increase aid to up to 50 billion dollars annually (in real terms) by 2010. Around 25 billion dollars annually of this increase will go to Africa by 2010.
- **The initiative of G8 Finance Ministers to cancel 100% of the multilateral debt** (IMF, World Bank, BDA) of 18 of the poorest and most indebted African countries.

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<sup>7</sup> Original text French.

- At the **G8 Summit**, two priorities were highlighted: Africa and the issue of climate change. The OECD will play a role in the follow-up of commitments made at the Gleneagles Summit. It will be able, for example, to contribute its experience and renowned expertise in numerous vital sectors for Africa's development: the fight against corruption, commercial trade, health and education, the investment climate, policy coherence for development or indeed policy analysis in the area of agricultural development.
- The **2005 U.N. World Summit** which took place in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005 under the auspices of the UN, has recognised the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a way to reduce poverty in the world. The OECD's main contribution to this Summit was a report entitled, "Making Poverty Reduction Work: OECD's Role in Development Partnership<sup>8</sup>" in which the SWAC's important role along with that of other Directorates of the Development Cluster were presented.
- The **5th meeting of the African Partnership Forum (APF)** which was held in London from 4 to 5 October 2005. The APF represents a key discussion and monitoring forum geared towards addressing, at a high political level, strategy and policy priorities for providing support to African development. These members, Africa, G8 countries, other OECD Member countries, and other development partners, work together as equals within this forum and facilitate synergies with other international forums. The APF plays a particularly important role in monitoring the progress which has been achieved as regards priorities and cross-border, regional and continental mechanisms. The APF will benefit from a **Support Unit** which the Secretary-General has proposed to be housed at the OECD. This Unit will work closely with the AU/NEPAD Secretariat and will be able to benefit from exchanges and synergies with the other Units of the OECD's Development Cluster, including that of the SWAC.

As you see, these different meetings and initiatives reflect the international attention paid to Africa up to now. Long-term commitments have been made by Africa and by development partners. The emphasis now must be on their implementation and the commitments should be judged on the results.

## 2. THE SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVES UNDERWAY WITHIN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB SECRETARIAT

The SWAC Secretariat deploys considerable effort, in collaboration with its partners, in order to understand in a balanced manner a West Africa which has experienced profound dynamics of change. Through these different initiatives which have been implemented, the SWAC Secretariat contributes to feeding strategic thinking on the major trends for West Africa and contributes to the OECD's strategic thinking on its priorities in its work on Africa. Its work programme is organised around strategic themes on which my colleagues in the Secretariat will elaborate during your meeting. I will highlight only a few examples here:

- (i) The **Food Security** issue remains a major challenge for the region. On 18 October, the SWAC Secretariat co-organised at OECD Headquarters with the CILSS and ECOWAS, a **Forum on the medium- and long-term challenges of Food Security in the Sahel and West Africa**.
- (ii) The SWAC has also contributed to agricultural development policies. For example, the SWAC jointly organized with the DCD/DAC an information meeting at the OECD on the development dimensions of African cotton in January 2005 and the Secretariat has issued useful publications on the economic and social importance of cotton for the region. This work will be useful for West African actors, our Member countries and the international community in their preparation for the forthcoming WTO Summit in Hong Kong.

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<sup>8</sup> "Conditions to successfully reduce poverty".

- (iii) The regional integration process, at the centre of the SWAC and ECOWAS' concerns, has renewed political interest with the recent launching of ECOWAS' *Cross-border Initiatives Programme (CIP)*. The workshops in Sikasso (Mali) and Ziguinchor (Senegal) recently co-organised by the SWAC under the auspices of ECOWAS underline the vital importance of regional integration to benefit local populations.
- (iv) In order to support democratic governance and policy dialogue in the promotion of peace in West Africa, the SWAC Secretariat organised an innovative initiative this year on the African continent: the *Forum on Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society in West Africa*.
- (v) For ECOWAS 30th anniversary, on 25 and 26 May 2005, ECOWAS and the SWAC Secretariat also organised in Abuja, a strategic thinking action-oriented Panel discussion on Regional Perspectives of a West African Development: Regional integration and the evolution of the role of ECOWAS.
- (vi) Finally, the images of sub-Saharan migration in North Africa remain striking, but there are also positive effects of migration. Thus migration and its relation with the development process in Africa deserve re-examination. Fruitful opportunities exist for the Club to work in partnership with other OECD Directorates on these issues using its regional approach.

Before finishing, I would like to express my satisfaction with the work of Normand Lauzon, SWAC Director, and to all of the Secretariat team during 2005. I also thank the Secretariat also for its work undertaken with other OECD Directorates and for its contribution to the evolution of the OECD Development Cluster's mission and work plan.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

Allow me to conclude by saying that the support the international community provides the Club is crucial in order to allow it to support the development efforts in West Africa. You will have the opportunity tomorrow to go over the Club's administrative and financial situation. I am happy to see that the SWAC Secretariat continues to assure the financial integrity of the Club. Furthermore, allow me to suggest that in your discussions tomorrow, you consider concrete proposals to address the issue of the Club's financial continuity so that it can accomplish its mission, which depends on two factors: i) the overall amount of contributions to its general resources; ii) a forecasted systematic schedule of payments for these contributions to be made available.

I hope that this Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) meeting provides the Club Secretariat with the necessary advice and support for it to carry out its mandate.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the outgoing SWAC President, Mme Thérèse Pujolle, for her leadership and inspiration of the SWAC over the last three years.

I thank you.

## ANNEX 3: INTERVENTION BY DR. MOHAMED IBN CHAMBAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECOWAS<sup>9</sup>

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ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF  
WEST AFRICAN STATE



COMMUNAUTÉ ECONOMIQUE  
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Policy Group Meeting of the Sahel and West Africa  
24-25 November 2005, Paris

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### The ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and the process of Democratization in West Africa

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Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas  
Executive Secretary

Statement read by the Director of the Executive Secretary's Private Office, Mr. William A. Kanyirige

*Madam President of the Sahel and West Africa Club  
Distinguished Participants*

#### Introduction:

ECOWAS has just completed its Annual Review and Coordination Meeting with development partners in Abuja, Nigeria. The focus of the partnership is support to ECOWAS Capacity-building Action Plan.

Since the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) Secretariat has comparative advantage in research and policy analysis, it has been assisting ECOWAS address these two key areas in which ECOWAS is yet to build adequate capacity.

I am happy to report that this year, the SWAC Secretariat partnered with ECOWAS to organize a symposium on the Perspectives of Short and Long-term Development in West Africa, held in Abuja 25-26 May to commemorate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Club has also been assisting ECOWAS to address another key challenge of developing the cross border concept. At this year's annual meeting, the Swedish delegation assured me of Sweden's support in this area which we hope to concretize next month and I do hope that other partners will follow suit.

If ECOWAS has recently adopted a Regional Agricultural Policy to promote and ensure regional food security it was not without the active support of the Sahel Club and the complementary collaboration between ECOWAS/UEMOA and CILSS.

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<sup>9</sup> Original text English.

The Club has also shown keen interest in support of our peace and democracy programmes. For instance, this year on 28 June to 1 July, 2005 in Cotonou the Club and ECOWAS jointly organized a seminar on the Forum for Political Parties, Civil Society and the Media.

It is against this back-drop that I consider a pleasure to have been invited to this august gathering to share our experience with you on a regional attempt at promoting the norms and standards of democracy, and good governance in West Africa through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Many are likely to wonder, why is a regional economic organization interested in the values of good governance? Why not restrict itself to the issue of economic growth and development? Is it institutionally equipped to cope with the challenges of promoting good governance? These are some of the raging issues that I seek to address in this presentation.

The Economic Community of West African states was born on May 28 1975. The challenge of overcoming economic underdevelopment through regional economic cooperation was the overarching goal of the organization. Thus its main objective was to “promote co-operation and integration leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations among member-states and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent”.

The need for economic cooperation and integration was quite compelling in the context of the international political economy in which ECOWAS came into being. For instance, apart from Nigeria which was witnessing a jump-start of its oil economy at that period, many of the countries in the sub-region were experiencing declining economic fortunes with the nascent economic crisis in those countries; living standards were also on the decline; there was over-dependence of the economies of those countries on the advanced economies especially their former colonial masters; while the Cold-war politics peculated into the way economic relations were organized. ECOWAS was therefore a welcome solution, seen as a catalyst to the process of economic integration and development of the sub-region. It was to facilitate horizontal economic integration, and promote healthy economic interactions through trade, and free movement of persons and goods in the West African sub-region.

However, unfolding events and challenges in the sub-region from the late 1980s imposed additional responsibilities on ECOWAS, which led to the broadening of its mandate and agenda. Here I am talking about the challenge of promoting peace, security, stability, and later democracy and good governance. The trajectory of this process is to what I turn next.

### **Learning from Experience: The Genealogy of the Peace, Security and Governance Agenda of ECOWAS**

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General while making a presentation to a UNDP programme in 1997 made this very interesting remark: “Good governance and sustainable development are indivisible. Without Good governance, the rule of law, predictable administration, legitimate power, no amount of funding, no amount of charity can set us on the path to development”. This comment aptly summarizes the linkage between good governance and economic development. Long before the UN Chief made this remark, ECOWAS had realized that there is a strong linkage between security, stability and development; and also between good governance, security, and development. The ECOWAS Revised Treaty of 1993 noted that “economic and social development and the security of peoples and states are inextricably linked”. In other words, there can be no development without peace and security; neither can there be sustainable economic progress without political stability and good governance.

ECOWAS early realization of the linkage between security, good governance and development was informed by its own history and experience. From 1989 when the war in Liberia broke out, there has been a cesspool of conflicts in the sub-region. Indeed, West Africa became the epic-centre of conflicts and wars on the continent. The war in Liberia had a roller-coaster effect in the Mano River Union countries of Sierra Leone and Guinea. The destabilizing impact in the sub-region was

enormous. For instance, West Africa became a ready market in the illicit trade and flow of small arms. Small arms moved easily from one conflict spot to the other. The humanitarian crisis that attended those conflicts was also frightening-refugee flows, hunger, starvation, and deepening poverty. The scale of human cruelty and bestiality that those conflicts unleashed were dehumanizing. Young boys and girls who should ordinarily be in school were drugged and given light weapons to fight. The phenomenon of child soldiers became a recurring concern in conflicts in West Africa. Young and daring, they maimed, killed and destroyed everything that came their way.

A major effect of those conflicts was to roll back the clock of economic development. ECOWAS realized it needed to act fast to contain the problem. Initially, the response was quite ad-hoc and uncoordinated. A military solution was the first response, in which the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) was deployed in Liberia under the leadership of Nigeria to maintain peace and security. As the crisis deepened and affected other countries, there was the need for a coherent regional security approach to address the problems of conflicts and civil wars in West Africa, and adopt mechanisms of preventive diplomacy to contain emerging conflicts.

Several protocols were adopted to promote regional peace and security. These include:

- The Protocol on Non-Aggression adopted in 1978
- The Protocol on Mutual Assistance in Defence Matters of 29 May 1981.
- The ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles of 6 July 1991
- The ECOWAS Declaration on a Moratorium on Import, Export and Manufacturing of Light Weapons of 31<sup>st</sup> October 1998;
- The Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security of 10 December 1999.

The latter Protocol the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention and Management is the most comprehensive, structured and systematic approach to addressing the problem of conflicts in West Africa. The Protocol created institutional mechanisms and processes for conflict resolution and management. These include, the Mediation and Security Council, the Defence and Security Commission, the Council of Elders, the Early Warning System, the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) charged with the task of peace enforcement, and preventive measures against the illicit circulation of small arms in the sub-region.

While the Protocol is in a continuous process of operationalization, it has been effectively utilized in addressing conflicts in some ECOWAS member-states like Sierra Leone, Liberia and currently Cote D'Ivoire. The raging conflict in Cote D'Ivoire is a sad reminder that West Africa is not yet out of the woods from conflicts.

Resolving and managing conflicts are desirable but addressing their root causes is perhaps the most important. Bad governance, economic mismanagement, corruption, gross violations of human rights, and deepening poverty are some of the factors that precipitate conflicts and civil wars. The cost of bad governance and wrong policy choices can be devastating to countries. It is what makes a difference between the less endowed yet prosperous countries of East Asia and the well endowed but badly managed governance systems as you find in many African countries. Governance therefore becomes a major challenge for ECOWAS, if it is to resolve the problems of conflicts and create sound institutional foundation for economic growth, development and regional integration to take place. As a result, the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance was adopted in December 2001.

Both the Protocol on the Mechanism on Conflict Management and the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance provide the supranational authority for ECOWAS intervention in Member States on issues relating to governance, democratic culture and human rights, respect for constitutionalism and the rule of law, probity and accountability, peace and security. (Art. 42 & 48 of the Mechanism)

The Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance emphasizes adherence to the doctrine of zero tolerance for unconstitutional accession to power or violent overthrow of legally constituted government; a strong determination to ensure credible, transparent, free and fair elections in Member States; civilian control of the armed and security forces; the independence of the judiciary; the strengthening and empowerment of the parliament; concerted efforts on anti-corruption and popular participation in governance and the mainstreaming of marginalised groups like women and youth in the economic and political processes of member-states.

### **Institutional Capacity Building for Governance Agenda**

The governance agenda of ECOWAS as enunciated by the two protocols-The Mechanism for Conflict Management, and the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance have imposed arduous challenges on ECOWAS in realising those objectives. Hence, ECOWAS has sought to reinforce its capacity to cope with those new tasks. To this end, the ECOWAS Secretariat is undergoing some restructuring to reposition it for the new era. This becomes compelling as ECOWAS is the designated focal point for the facilitation of NEPAD in West Africa. With specific regard to the governance agenda, ECOWAS is in the process of creating two specialised divisions in the Political Affairs department: These are: the Electoral Assistance Unit, and the Democratisation and Good Governance Unit. The former will be engaged in developing codes and standards on electoral process in West Africa; facilitating training on electoral issues; ensuring networking and collaboration among electoral management bodies and other stakeholders in the electoral process; and undertaking election monitoring in ECOWAS member-states. The essence is to institutionalise elections as a means of regime change and political succession, and ensure that elections become the 'game in town' in West Africa. West Africa desires to leave behind an unenviable past of political dictatorship and military rule.

The Democratization and Governance Unit will have the challenge of promoting the norms of human rights, and strengthening governance institutions like the parliament, and political parties and civil society. The governance structures in many West African countries are still fragile, which makes the democratization process precarious. ECOWAS must design a clear intervention strategy through a regional approach and cooperation in strengthening those institutions.

Apart from the Secretariat, there are other ECOWAS institutions that have a direct linkage to the democracy and governance agenda. The ECOWAS Parliament and Community Court are two emerging institutions which are likely to play key roles in improving governance culture in the sub-region. Although, the ECOWAS Parliament currently plays an advisory role in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms, it is envisaged that the Parliament with time will be conferred with actual legislative powers. However, even within its current limited scope, the Parliament can facilitate the promotion of human rights, which is a key issue in the democratic project.

### **Strides in Promoting Democracy and Good Governance**

ECOWAS has recorded some modest achievements in promoting democracy and good governance in West Africa in recent times. The restoration of peace, order and democracy in Sierra-Leone, the proactive steps taken by ECOWAS in Guinea-Bissau in 2003 to oppose the military coup d'état, the efforts to ensure legitimate succession in conformity with the constitution of Togo following the death of the late President Eyadema who had ruled for 38 years, the recently concluded but highly successful elections in Liberia in October and November 2005, and also the elections in Burkina Faso in November 2005 are clear testimonies to the giant strides that ECOWAS has been making in the democracy and governance arena.

ECOWAS is in the process of institutionalising the culture of election monitoring, which does not start and end with observing election on the voting day, but covers the entire electoral process. In member-states preparing for elections, ECOWAS sends a Fact Finding and Exploratory Missions in order to have first hand information on the preparations towards the elections and the context in which the elections will take place. ECOWAS deployed election observation missions to Member States like Sierra-Leone in 2002, Mali in 2002, Benin in 2003, Niger and Ghana in 2004, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Burkina Faso in 2005.

In order to provide civil society organisations (CSOs) a voice, and ensure their active intervention in sub-regional activities, ECOWAS assisted in the creation of a network for civil society groups in the sub-region - The West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOF). However, the challenge of institutionalising and gaining credibility for the network created lies primarily with CSOs themselves.

### **Conclusion: Back to the Past**

I have deliberately chosen the theme “Back to the Past” to end this presentation. This is because at the inception of ECOWAS our goal was to promote regional economic cooperation, growth and development. We never anticipated that much energy and resources will be invested in political issues of peace, security, democracy and good governance. Of course, today we now know better. As we improve upon and consolidate our governance systems, there is need for us to also watch very closely the economic imperatives. Economic growth has been at best sluggish in the West African sub-region. Some of the worst performing nations are located in West Africa. Our efforts at promoting regional trade, monetary harmonisation policy, and regional infrastructure of roads, telecommunications, energy, and information technology should be consolidated.

As ECOWAS makes new strides in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I hope you will all support us to move West Africa to greater heights.

I cannot close this presentation without commending ‘Club du Sahel’ for its commitment in supporting ECOWAS in its democracy and governance project. We cherish your partnership and hope it would continue.

I thank you all.

## ANNEX 4: FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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### THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB'S STRATEGY AND POLICY GROUP

Paris, 18 - 19 November 2005

<b>SWAC President<sup>10</sup></b>	Mme Thérèse PUJOLLE Ministère des Affaires étrangères 20 rue Monsieur 75007 Paris, France	Tel: +33 1 53 69 33 92 Email: <a href="mailto:therese.pujolle@diplomatie.gouv.fr">therese.pujolle@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
<b>SWAC President<sup>11</sup></b>	M. Charles GOERENS Député Mathgeshof, Schieren L-9184 Luxembourg	Tel: +352 81 21 28 or +352 021 295 611 Fax : +352 81 64 18 Email : <a href="mailto:cgoerens@chd.lu">cgoerens@chd.lu</a>
<b>Austria</b>	Mr. Hermann SPIRIK Head of Planning Division Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs Department of Development Cooperation Minoritenplatz 9 Vienna A-1014	Tel: +43 1 50 11 50 44 82 Fax : +43 1 50 11 59 44 82 Email : <a href="mailto:hermann.spirik@bmaa.gv.at">hermann.spirik@bmaa.gv.at</a>
<b>Belgium</b>	M. Guy BERINGHS Conseiller de la Coopération Internationale, Délégué au CAD Délégation Permanente de la Belgique auprès de l'OCDE 14, rue Octave Feuillet 75116 Paris, France	Tel: +33 1 56 75 34 53/54/63 Fax : +33 1 56 75 34 70 Email: <a href="mailto:guy.beringhs@diplobel.be">guy.beringhs@diplobel.be</a>
<b>Belgium</b>	Mme Micheline DOFFAGNE Attaché de la Coopération internationale Chef du service Afrique de l'Ouest Direction générale de la Coopération au Développement Cellule Afrique de l'Ouest Rue Brederode 6 1000 Bruxelles	Tel: +32 2 519 08 88 Fax : +32 2 519 05 52 Email : <a href="mailto:micheline.doffagne@diplobel.fed.be">micheline.doffagne@diplobel.fed.be</a>
<b>Canada</b>	M. Carol VOYER Directeur de la planification stratégique et de la gestion des organisations en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre ACDI/CIDA 200, Promenade du Portage Gatineau, Que. K1A 0G4	Tel: +1 819 997 0477 Fax : +1 819 953 5834 Email: <a href="mailto:carol_voyer@acdi-cida.gc.ca">carol_voyer@acdi-cida.gc.ca</a>

---

<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Pujolle's mandate terminated on 31 December 2005.

<sup>11</sup> As from 1 January 2006.

<b>France</b>	M. Jean-Luc FRANCOIS Sous-Direction des politiques sectorielles et OMD Ministère des Affaires Etrangères 20 rue Monsieur 75007 Paris	Tel: +33 1 53 69 30 58 Email : jean-luc.francois@diplomatie.fr
<b>France</b>	M. Jean-Christophe DEBERRE Directeur des politiques de développement Ministère des Affaires Etrangères 20 rue Monsieur 75007 Paris	Tel: +33 1 53 69 30 58 Email : isabelle.gunard@diplomatie.gouv.fr (assistante)
<b>France</b>	M. Jean-Marc CHATAIGNER Directeur Agence française de Développement (AFD) 5, rue Roland Barthes 75598 Paris Cedex 12	Tel: +33 1 53 44 36 59 Fax : +33 1 53 44 38 69 Email : chataignerjm@afd.fr
<b>France</b>	Mlle Vanessa SELK Chargée de mission auprès du directeur du département du Pilotage des relations stratégiques et responsable de la coordination des travaux POVNET Agence Française de Développement 5 rue Roland Barthes 75012 Paris	Tel: +33 1 53 44 36 97 Email : selkv@afd.fr
<b>Germany</b>	M. Peter KRAHL BMZ Ministère Fédéral de la Coopération BP 120322 53113 Bonn	Tel: +49 228 535 35 58 Email: peter.krahl@bmz.bund.de
<b>Germany</b>	Mr. Jochen SALOW GTZ Regionalgruppe Sahel/ Westafrika OE 1010 Postfach 5180 65726 Eschborn	Tel: +49 06196 791504 Email: jochen.salow@gtz.de
<b>Italy</b>	M. Fabio CASSESE Ministre Conseiller Délégation Permanente d'Italie auprès de l'OCDE 50, rue de Varenne 75007 Paris France	Tel: +33 1 44 39 21 62 Fax : +33 1 42 22 09 90
<b>Japan</b>	Ms. Reiko KAWAMURA Advisor for Development Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD 11, avenue Hoche 75008 Paris, France	Tel: +33 1 53 76 61 59 Fax: +33 1 45 63 05 44 Email: kawamura@deljpo-ocde.fr

<b>Japan</b>	Mr. Aiichiro YAMAMOTO Senior Assistant to the Director General Japan International Cooperation Agency Regional Department IV (Africa) 8 rue Sainte-Anne 75001 Paris	Tel: +33 1 40 20 04 21 Fax: +33 1 40 20 97 68 Email: Yamamoto. Aiichiro@jica.go.jp
<b>Japan</b>	Mrs. Rie HIGUCHI-COUDIN Attachée au Directeur exécutif resident pour l'Afrique - Bureau de Paris Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) 21 bd de la Madeleine 75001 Paris, France	Tel: +33 1 47 03 61 90 Fax: +33 1 47 03 32 36 Email : <a href="mailto:prs-rh@jbic.go.jp">prs-rh@jbic.go.jp</a>
<b>Japan</b>	Mr. Hironori SHIBATA Counsellor DAC Delegation for Japan Delegation of Japan to OECD 11 Ave Hoche 75008 Paris France	Tel: +33 1 53 76 61 00 Fax: +33 1 53 76 61 21
<b>Luxembourg</b>	M. Jacques FLIES Secrétaire de Légation Ministère des Affaires Étrangères Direction de la Coopération au Développement 6, rue de la Congrégation L-1352 Luxembourg	Tel: +352 478 2354 Fax : +352 46 38 42 Email : jacques.flies@mae.etat.lu
<b>Luxembourg</b>	M. Hubert WURTH Ambassadeur Représentant Permanent auprès de l'OCDE 33, avenue Rapp 75007 Paris France	Tel: +33 1 45 55 13 37 Fax : +33 1 45 55 01 95 Email: hubert.wurth@mae.etat.lu
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Mr. Alexander KOFMAN Western Africa Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bezuiden Houtseweg 67 Postbus 20061 2500 EB The Hague	Tel:+31 0 70 348 42 53 Fax: +31 0 70 348 6607 Email: Alexander.kofman@minbuza.nl
<b>Switzerland</b>	Mme Anne ZWAHLEN Direction du Développement et de la Coopération suisse Division Afrique occidentale Freiburgerstrasse 130 3003 Berne	Tel: +41 31 322 33 31 Email : Anne.Zwahlen@deza.admin.ch
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Mr. Andrew JORDAN DFID West & North Africa Department 1 Palace Street London SW1E 5HE	Tel: +44-207-023 0471 Fax: +44-207-023 0491 Email: a-jordan@dfid.gov.uk

**United States**

Dr. Jatinder CHEEMA  
Regional Director  
USAID  
Bureau for Africa - Sustainable Development  
Office  
P.O. Box 1630  
Accra, Ghana

Tel: +233-21-23-19-38  
Email: [jcheema@usaid.gov](mailto:jcheema@usaid.gov)

**West African Embassies to France****Benin**

Mme Gisèle MÉDÉGAN  
Premier Conseiller  
Service des Affaires Economiques  
Ambassade du Bénin  
87, Ave Victor Hugo  
75116 Paris

Tel: +33 1 45 00 98 82  
Fax : +33 1 45 01 82 02

**Guinea**

M. Salifou SYLLA  
Ambassadeur  
Ambassade de la République de Guinée  
51, rue de la Faisanderie  
75016 Paris

Tel: +33 1 47 04 81 48  
Fax : +33 1 47 04 57 65  
Email: [ambagui.paris@laposte.net](mailto:ambagui.paris@laposte.net)

**Guinea**

M. François A. SOUMAH  
Conseiller économique  
Ambassade de la République de Guinée  
51, rue de la Faisanderie  
75016 Paris

Tel: +33 1 47 04 81 48  
Fax : +33 1 47 04 57 65

**Mali**

M. Moussa Sékou KEITA  
Premier conseiller  
Ambassade du Mali  
89, rue du Cherche Midi  
75006 Paris

Tel: +33 1 45 48 58 43  
Fax : +33 1 45 48 55 34  
Email : [ambassade@ambamali.fr](mailto:ambassade@ambamali.fr)

**Niger**

Mme Aminata GAOH  
Conseiller économique  
Ambassade du Niger  
154, rue de Longchamp  
75016 Paris

Tel: +33 1 45 04 80 60  
Fax : +33 1 45 04 79 73  
Email: [ambassadeniger@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ambassadeniger@wanadoo.fr)

**Nigeria**

Mr. A.U. Nwosa  
Minister (Economic)  
Embassy of Nigeria to France  
173 avenue Victor Hugo  
75016 Paris

Tel: +33 1 47 04 91 60  
Fax: +33 1 47 04 47 54

**Togo**

M. Lorempo LANDJERGUE  
Ministre Conseiller  
Ambassade de la République togolaise  
8 rue Alfred Roll  
75017 Paris

Tel: +33 1 43 80 12 13

**Togo**

M. Tchao SOTOU BERE  
Ambassadeur  
Ambassade de la République togolaise  
8 rue Alfred-Roll  
75017 Paris

Tel: +33 1 43 80 12 13  
Fax : +33 1 43 80 06 05

### West African Partners

**ECOWAS**  
Economic Community of West African States

Mr. William Awinador KANYIRIGE  
Director of the Executive Secretary's Private Office E  
60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent  
Asokoro District, PMB 401  
Abuja, Nigeria

Tel: +234 9 314 7641  
Fax: 234 9 314 3005  
Email: [awainador@ecowas.int](mailto:awainador@ecowas.int)

**ECOWAS**

Mr. Christian TAUPIAC  
Counsellor to ECOWAS  
60, Yakubu Gowon Crescent  
Asokoro District, PMB 401  
Abuja, Nigeria

Tel: +234 803 607 3421 (mobile)  
Email: [taupiac@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:taupiac@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**CILSS**  
Comité permanent Inter-États de la lutte contre la sécheresse (*Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel*)

M. Musa Saihou MBENGA  
Secrétaire exécutif  
03 BP 7049  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Tel: +226 50 37 41 33  
Fax: +226 50 30 67 57  
email: [musambenga@hotmail.com](mailto:musambenga@hotmail.com)  
[cilss.se@cilss.bf](mailto:cilss.se@cilss.bf)

**National Borders Directorate**

Mr. Aguibou DIARRAH  
Directeur national des Frontières  
Ministère de l'Administration territoriale  
BP 2432  
Bamako, Mali

Tel: +223 222 35 75  
Fax: +223 222 35 75  
Email: [asdiarah@cefib.com](mailto:asdiarah@cefib.com)

**ROPPA**  
Réseau des organisations paysannes et des producteurs agricoles d'Afrique de l'Ouest

M. Ndiougou FALL  
Président  
09 BP 884  
Ouagadougou 09, Burkina Faso

Tel: +221 951 12 37  
Fax : +221 951 20 59  
Ligne direct: 221 95 11 237  
Email: [fongs@sentoo.fr](mailto:fongs@sentoo.fr)/ [cet\\_roppa@yahoo.fr](mailto:cet_roppa@yahoo.fr)

### Special quests

**FEWS NET**

Mr. Salif SOW  
Regional Coordinator for Africa  
FEWS NET/USAID  
1133 20<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Tel: +1 202 955 33 00  
Fax: +1 202 955 81 00  
Email: [ssow@fewsn.net](mailto:ssow@fewsn.net)

**United Nations**

Mr. Ahmed RHAZAOUI  
Deputy Director to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations  
United Nations Office for West Africa  
5 Avenue Carde, BP 23851  
Dakar Ponty  
Senegal

Tel: +221 849 27 38  
Fax: +221 842 49 52  
Email: [rhazaoui@un.org](mailto:rhazaoui@un.org)

**OECD**  
2, rue André Pascal  
75016 Paris, France

OECD	Mr. Kiyotaka AKASAKA Deputy Secretary-General	Tel: +33 1 45 24 80 30 Fax: +33 1 44 30 62 70 Email: <a href="mailto:kiyo.akasaka@oecd.org">kiyo.akasaka@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Eric BURGEAT Director of the Centre for Co-operation with Non-Members (CCNM)	Tel: +33 1 45 24 80 27 Email: <a href="mailto:eric.burgeat@oecd.org">eric.burgeat@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Nicola BONUCCI Director of the Legal Affairs Directorate	Tel. + 33 1 45 24 80 77 Fax: +33 1 45 24 80 53 Email: <a href="mailto:nicola.bonucci@oecd.org">nicola.bonucci@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mrs. Carolyn DAWSON Head of Section, Accounting Division	Tel: +33 1 45 24 15 52 Email: <a href="mailto:carolyn.dawson@oecd.org">carolyn.dawson@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Ms. Alexandra EXCOFFIER Legal Advisor	Tel: +33 1 45 24 80 74 Fax: +33 1 45 24 80 53 Email: <a href="mailto:alexandra.excoffier@oecd.org">alexandra.excoffier@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Karim HUSSEIN Principal Administrator to the Deputy Secretary-General	Tel: +33 1 45 24 96 31 Fax: +33 1 45 24 90 31 Email : <a href="mailto:karim.hussein@oecd.org">karim.hussein@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Jonathan HIBBS Deputy Head of Financial Service	Tel: 33 1 +45 24 94 02 Fax: 33 1 +45 24 83 49 Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.hibbs@oecd.org">jonathan.hibbs@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Richard MANNING DAC President	Tel: +33 1 45 24 90 70 Fax: +33 1 44 30 61 41 Email: <a href="mailto:richard.manning@oecd.org">richard.manning@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Jean-Paul PRADERE Agriculture and Fisheries Directorate	Tel: +33 1 45 24 18 64 Email: <a href="mailto:jean-paul.pradere@oecd.org">jean-paul.pradere@oecd.org</a>
OECD	Mr. Kenneth RUFFING Development Centre	Tel: +33 1 45 24 95 84 Email : <a href="mailto:kenneth.ruffing@oecd.org">kenneth.ruffing@oecd.org</a>

**Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat**

Postal address: 2, rue André Pascal  
75016 Paris France

SWAC/OECD	Mr. Laurent BOSSARD Head of the Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 78 55 Email: <a href="mailto:laurent.bossard@oecd.org">laurent.bossard@oecd.org</a>
SWAC/OECD	Ms. Patricia CARLSON Assistant to the Director	Tel: +33 1 45 24 89 87 E-mail: <a href="mailto:patricia.carlson@oecd.org">patricia.carlson@oecd.org</a>

<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mr. Massaër DIALLO Head of the Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 96 28 Email: massaer.diallo@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Ms. Leslie DIAMOND Editor/Translator	Tel: +33 1 45 24 82 79 Email: leslie.diamond@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mr. Philipp HEINRIGS Economist Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 89 85 Email: philipp.heinrigs@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mr. Léonidas HITIMANA Agro-economist Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 17 98 Email: leonidas.hitimana@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mr. Franck IGUE Communications Officer	Tel: +33 1 45 24 84 85 Email: franck.igue@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mr. Normand LAUZON Director	Tel: +33 1 45 24 90 13 Email: normand.lauzon@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mrs. Sylvie LETASSEY Documentation Assistant	Tel: +33 1 45 24 82 81 e-mail: sylvie.letassey@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Ms. Sara C. MINARD Socio-Economist Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 84 83 Email: sara.minard@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mrs. Lindy MULLER Head of the Management Support Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 87 34 Email: lindy.muller@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mr. Christophe PERRET Macro-economist Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 82 83 Email: christophe.perret@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mrs. Gwénola POSSEME-RAGEAU Strategic Planning Advisor and External Relations	Tel: +33 1 45 24 95 80 Email: gwenola.posseme-rageau@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Mrs. Sunhilt SCHUMACHER Deputy Director	Tel: +33 1 45 24 96 19 Email: sunhilt.schumacher@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Ms. Marie TREMOLIERES Political Scientist Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration Unit	Tel: +33 1 45 24 89 68 Email: marie.tremolieres@oecd.org
<b>SWAC/OECD</b>	Ms. Jamila YAHI Financial Assistant	Tel: +33 1 45 24 98 25 Email: Jamila.yahi@oecd.org

**SWAC - Burkina Faso**

M. Benoît OUEDRAOGO  
Consultant indépendant  
Correspondant national du Club du Sahel et  
de l'Afrique de l'Ouest  
01 BP 865  
Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso

Tel: +226 70 25 07 61 (cell)  
Domicile: +226 50 36 10 13  
Email: [benoit\\_ouedraogo@hotmail.com](mailto:benoit_ouedraogo@hotmail.com)  
[benoit\\_ouedraogo@yahoo.fr](mailto:benoit_ouedraogo@yahoo.fr)

**SWAC - Ghana**

Mr. John ESHUN  
Independent Consultant  
SWAC National Correspondent  
PO Box CT 46 Cantonments  
Accra, Ghana

Tel: +233 21 77 50 52  
Email: [edeshun@yahoo.com](mailto:edeshun@yahoo.com)