



WEST AFRICA BRIEF

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IBRAHIM MAYAKI BECOMES **NEW SWAC PRESIDENT**



The Sahel and West Africa Club's governing board, also called the Strategy and Policy Group (SPG), convened on 18-19 June 2018 for an important discussion of SWAC's future work priorities. SWAC Members appointed Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, current Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD, as SWAC President. He will assume this function as of 1 January 2019. The SPG was an opportunity for Members and partners to honour current President, François-Xavier de Donnea for his outstanding commitment to the Club for nearly a decade. Members and partners also discussed work priorities for 2019-20. They discussed a draft work programme, which was elaborated based on an inclusive consultation process, reflecting Members' key priorities and building on current activities and achievements. Drawing on

these discussions, the SWAC Secretariat will now finalise its programme of work. The SPG meeting kicked off on 18 June with a seminar on cities and urbanisation, the food economy, employment and women. The thematic day was an opportunity for the SWAC Secretariat to share the results of its ongoing work on these issues. The presentations included local actors' points of view and demonstrations of how up-to-date data and analytical methods are contributing to our knowledge of the region's transformations. An informal roundtable debate offered an opportunity to discuss the Sahel's security challenges. The two-day event was capped off with a photo exhibit by Dakar-based photographer Ricci Shryock.

The West Africa Brief is published by the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD). It presents political, economic and social developments in the region. Special focus is given to news regarding regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS) as well other SWAC Members' activities. The articles should not be reported as representing the official views of the OECD or of its member countries. Contact: julia.wanjiru@oecd.org

17TH ECOWAS-UEMOA MEETING

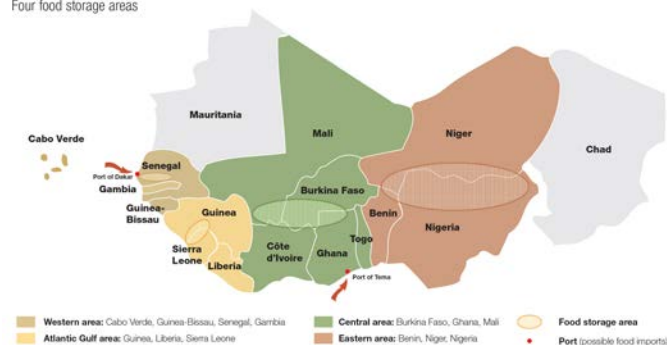


Since 2004, it has become routine for ECOWAS and UEMOA leaders to meet twice a year to discuss synergies and co-operation priorities. However, the 17th meeting, held on 4 June 2018 in Abuja, was the first one with the new ECOWAS Commission President Jean-Marcel Brou and UEMOA Commission President Abdallah Boureima. They discussed progress that has been made in various areas of co-operation, notably in the fields of agriculture, education, infrastructure and fiscal policies and in the harmonisation of the institutions' legal frameworks. The two presidents signed a memorandum of understanding to advance co-operation in the field of crisis and conflict prevention, which will support UEMOA's Early Warning and Surveillance Mechanism

and the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Mechanism (ECOWARN). Moreover, the two organisations are currently finalising a unique legal framework for small- and medium-sized enterprises in West Africa. A region-wide charter for SMEs should be approved by September 2018. CILSS has been mandated to facilitate the harmonisation of their legal frameworks and a community-wide input supply agreement by November 2018. Similarly, the two organisations have decided to work on harmonising the legal frameworks on competition within the next three months. Trade liberalisation issues under the economic partnership agreement (EPA) between West Africa and the European Union will be addressed during the next ECOWAS Heads of State and Government summit to outline their strategic orientations before the two intermediary agreements are supposed to enter into force on 1 January 2019. Ibrahima Dieme, UEMOA commissioner of the regional markets and co-operation department, urged participants to sustain the momentum by ensuring that they have regular consultations on joint projects and can further deepen West African regional integration. The next ECOWAS-UEMOA meeting is scheduled to take place in November 2018.

ECOWAS DISCUSSES GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY RESERVE

Four food storage areas



ECOWAS ministers in charge of agriculture met on 6 June 2018 in Ouagadougou to adopt a series of recommendations to support vulnerable populations during the lean season. They took measures to operationalise the Regional Food Security Reserve and further develop its governance structure. Drawing on recommendations of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal are eligible to submit formal requests to ECOWAS in order to benefit from country support operations.

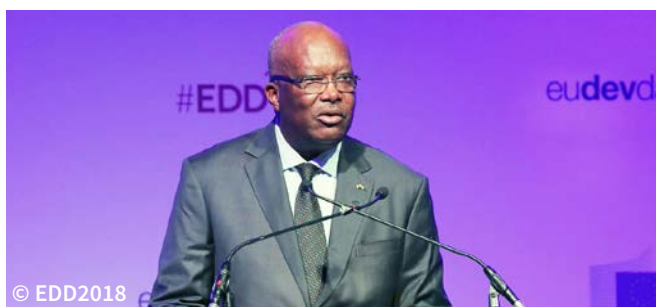
However, the physical storage capacity of the reserve remains low. Some 26 000 tonnes of cereals are currently stored via national storage systems in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Moreover, the precise modalities for the use of the regional stocks still need to be fine-tuned in order to ensure the sustainability of the reserve as a regional solidarity tool. Experts recommended that members set-up a grain-by-grain reimbursement system and are asking ECOWAS to use the community solidarity levy to replenish the regional reserve after country-support operations. A steering committee will be set-up to manage the reserve's resources. The region's agricultural ministers also discussed the formulation process of national agricultural investment plans (NAIP-FNS). While some countries have made good progress, others still have yet to create their own plans. The plans will include resource mobilisation programmes based on six components. The fifth component focuses on how to strengthen food and nutrition security, resilience and social protection. ECOWAS will hold a regional meeting in October 2018 to take stock of the overall process and prepare for a regional business meeting during the first quarter of 2019.

CILSS CONTRIBUTES TO USAID FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

The USAID West Africa team organised a workshop on 30 May-1 June in Accra, to brainstorm about future work priorities associated with their food security strategy. CILSS plays a key role in implementing US priorities in the food and nutrition security field in West Africa. The new strategy emphasizes the critical role of regional programmes in expanding trade, strengthening risk management tools and improving access to safe and nutritious food. Governments are largely

supported by regional institutions such as CILSS, which accompany national administrations and help them achieve their food security goals. The new USAID food security strategy is being developed within the framework of the Feed the Future programme of the US global food security strategy. Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal are among the target countries in West Africa. USAID also operates at the regional level via its Accra-based regional mission.

PRESIDENT KABORÉ ADVOCATES FOR **GIRLS' EDUCATION**



“Education is the only way to fight against early marriage,” declared President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré of Burkina Faso in his keynote address at the European Development Days (EDD2018), which were held on 5-6 June 2018 in Brussels. “Women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development: Protect, empower, invest” was the official topic of the 12th edition. “I reaffirm our commitment to build a society free from all forms of inequality through a proactive national gender policy,” President Kaboré wrote in a tweet. Burkina Faso has made good progress in achieving

equal access to primary education among boys and girls. To date, nearly the same number of girls and boys are enrolled in primary school (86% of all children). However, more efforts need to be made to keep girls in school. Girls are the first to drop out at secondary and university levels. “Education remains an essential vector for transforming the lives of young girls in all sectors of a nation’s life. Even more, it is an effective weapon against all practices that belong to another era,” said President Kaboré. The European Development Days provided an opportunity to recall many basic facts about gender equality, which is, by its nature, a precondition for meeting all of the other SDGs. “The struggle for gender equality requires new approaches; business as usual is no longer an option. The world cannot afford to leave half of its human potential unused as it seeks to meet the sustainable development goals (SDGs).” These key messages were debated by nearly 4 000 speakers from across the world. President George Weah of Liberia also participated in the event. West African artists - Angélique Kidjo and Youssou N’Dour - performed to mark the occasion.

OPINIONS

SAHELIAN WOMEN, BOTH CENTRAL AND MARGINAL



In his most recent article published on the Ideas4Development blog, Laurent Bossard, director of the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat, takes a look at the paradox of Sahelian women. Despite the key

socio-economic role they play in Sahelian communities, they remain marginalised and are sometimes deprived of their fundamental rights. He asks, “What can be done to address this situation?” The answers are complex, he notes. “We certainly cannot give lessons. It is up to Sahelian and West African women to fight this battle -- to free themselves from the social marginalisation in which they are caught with their children, to obtain recognition for the key role they have been playing in their societies for decades and to have more influence on public and private decision-making.” However, the liberation of women will only come about if Sahelian countries put in place more policies to allow them to improve their situation.

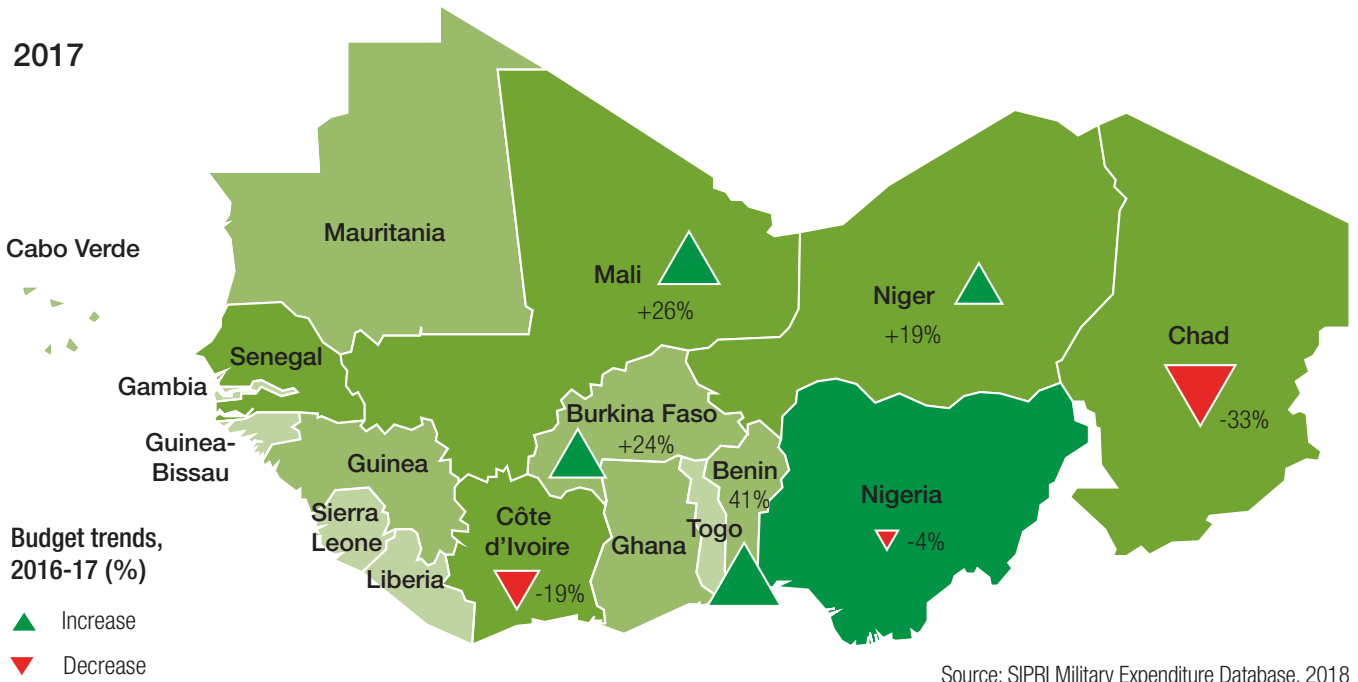
WEST AFRICAN CROSS-BORDER TRADE - TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Bio Soulé, a Rural Hub programme officer, explores the obstacles that prevent the promise of cross-border trade from fully catalysing the region’s growth and development in this article for the Bridges Africa series. Intra-community trade is still struggling to take off and much of it is not recorded in official statistics. Between 60-80% of the petrol sold in Benin, for example, has been smuggled in from Nigeria. More than 10% of Côte d’Ivoire’s cocoa beans are sold in Ghana, where prices are more attractive. Many barriers hinder the development of legal intra-community trade within the ECOWAS zone. One explanation put forward by Soulé is that the region is too open to the international market. Despite the creation of a fifth tariff band, which

set customs duties at 35% for 130 agrifood products in the common external tariff (CET) area, West Africa has one of the lowest protection rates overall for domestic products. The low added value of these products, which circulate as raw materials or semi-processed products, is a second factor that impedes the development of intra-regional trade. There is a significant gap between the strong and growing regional demand and the supply. This has led to entire market segments being supplied by imports from the international market. “If radical reforms are not carried out in these countries, the African market could become easy prey for multinationals and counterfeit traders, who have the capacity to flood it with products of all kinds,” exhorts Soulé.

MAPS & FACTS: MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN WEST AFRICA

2017



Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, 2018

Expenditures in USD ■ > 500 million ■ 200 < 500 million ■ 100 < 200 million ■ < 100 million

Military spending by country, 2017

	in USD million	USD per capita
Nigeria	1 621	8.5
Côte d'Ivoire	496	20.4
Mali	461	24.9
Senegal	305	19.3
Chad	210	14.1
Niger	200	9.3
Burkina Faso	191	10.0
Ghana	189	6.6
Guinea	172	13.5
Mauritania*	136	31.6
Benin	116	10.4
Togo	88	11.3
Sierra Leone	29	3.8
Guinea-Bissau**	17	9.6
Gambia**	14	7.2
Liberia	14	2.9
Cabo Verde	9	17.1
West Africa	4 268	11.1

* 2016 data ** 2015 data

The level of military expenditure in West Africa varies widely between countries. Nigeria is the fourth largest military spender in Sub-Saharan Africa – after Sudan, South Africa and Angola – and is by far the biggest military power in West Africa. However, despite its continued military operations against Boko Haram, Nigeria's military expenditures fell in 2017 for the fourth consecutive year. Chad and Côte d'Ivoire also made substantial cuts to their military spending. While Chad's military spending has been shrinking over the years, this was the first annual decrease for Côte d'Ivoire. On the other hand, spending is up in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which have some of the largest increases. These countries are gearing

up their armed forces to respond to the Sahel's critical security situation and to make the G5 Sahel Joint Force operational. Mali has had the sharpest increase. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2012, Mali has tripled its military spending. All of the G5 Sahel countries together spent USD 1.2 billion on military expenditures. This is slightly more than the annual cost of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and only a quarter of Sudan's military spending in 2017. In 2017, military expenditures in sub-Saharan Africa (USD 21.6 billion), barely represented 1.3% of global military expenditures (USD 1 681 billion). West Africa accounts for nearly 20% of sub-Saharan African spending.

WHO'S WHO: IBRAHIM MAYAKI, CEO, NEPAD AGENCY



The Nigerian Ibrahim Assane Mayaki will become president of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) as of January 2019. Since 2009, Dr Mayaki has been the chief executive officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). From

2004-09, he served as executive director of Rural Hub, a Dakar-based platform supporting rural development in West and Central Africa. A former prime minister of Niger from 1997 to 2000, Mayaki is committed to promoting social dialogue. In 2000, he created the first National Social Dialogue Commission of Niger. He also started a think tank for public policy debate on health and education issues. From 1996-97, he was appointed minister in charge of African integration and co-operation and minister of foreign affairs. He previously worked in the mining sector for about 10 years. Mayaki also has experience teaching. In the 1980s, he worked as

a professor of public administration in Niger and Venezuela. From 2000 to 2004, Mayaki was a guest professor at the University of Paris XI, where he lectured on international relations. He holds a master's degree from the National School of Public Administration (Enap) in Quebec, Canada and a PhD in administrative science from the University of Paris I in France. Mayaki has become a voice for Africa's future. In his most recent book, "Africa's Critical Choice," he calls for a pan-African roadmap and offers a guide for future generations to address the crucial changes Africa is facing.