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Ministerial Lobby Group

KEYSHEET -- GMAP

4th Meeting of the Ministerial Lobby Group (GMAP)
Dakar, 24-25 May 2000

Declassified

Contact: Michel Leblanc, Tel 01 45 24 17 98; michel.leblanc@oecd.org

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MINISTERIAL LOBBY GROUP

1. Background

On the initiative of the CILSS and Club du Sahel Secretariats, a group of Ministers in charge of various sectors, met in Dakar in August 1999 to form a Ministerial Lobby Group, *Groupe Ministériel d'Animation et de Proposition* (GMAP). The GMAP's aim is to strengthen Sahelian leadership in initiating action to reform development co-operation within the informal forum that is the Club du Sahel.

The Group seeks basically to enable Sahelian officials to remedy the inadequacy of their dialogue with international partners and define those issues for which they are prepared to mobilise themselves and their partners.

The GMAP has primarily set itself the tasks of:

- Acting as a focus and mouthpiece with the region's Ministers and Heads of State, so that Sahelians can take on a leadership role in the Club du Sahel forum and in initiating action to reform development co-operation.
- Defining strategic priorities for regional co-operation with the development partners.
- Persuading the development co-operation agencies to take more into account the concerns of Sahelians in the reform of the structures and procedures of development partnership.

At the Yverdon Conference held by the Club du Sahel in September 1999, the GMAP accepted further Ministers as members. In order to make its action sustainable, it proposed a new partnership with the development co-operation agencies in order to give the countries of the Sahel emerging-country status by 2025, promote African leadership and transfer the management of development and responsibility for its implementation to the South. The GMAP also expressed its desire to move towards regional integration in West Africa for the benefit of the region's population. The Ministers declared that dialogue with development partners can only take off if those partners involve themselves at a sufficiently senior level, capable of representing a strategic and political vision.

2. GMAP Structure and Financing

The Group is composed of Ministers who are committed to promoting African leadership in general, and specifically Sahelian leadership on selected topics. As an informal group, the GMAP can if necessary be a relay between policy-makers in the North and the South, between the CILSS governing bodies, the development co-operation Ministers of Northern countries and aid agency officials. To better enhance its role, the Group seeks to extend its influence by inviting Ministers, personalities and experts from various sectors and States, including coastal States outside the Sahel, to take part in the Group.

The GMAP is co-ordinated by the CILSS Co-ordinating Minister. It operates on the networking principle, using the CILSS and Club du Sahel secretariats. Virtual working groups are planned on selected topics to support GMAP members.

GMAP activities are at present financed by the Club du Sahel. The Netherlands Government has agreed to make a special contribution to the Club du Sahel Secretariat to cover GMAP expenses in 2000.

Secretariat functions are provided by the CILSS and Club du Sahel Secretariats.

3. Issues

After examining a range of proposals for a new vision of development in the region and of development co-operation, the GMAP has selected for Bamako 2000 three major issues to be discussed with the aid agencies:

3.1. Aid effectiveness. Seen from the Sahelian side, there is a range of problems with aid effectiveness which justify changing the present system. The agencies' "go it alone" attitude and conflicting conditionalities, their fads and "stop-go" approach, their inadequate sensitivity to people's expressed aspirations, their tendency to turn to actors other than governments, their use of NGOs as aid intermediaries—this all makes development co-operation hard to manage. The GMAP has decided, therefore, to propose to the aid agencies and States of the region a Code of Good Practice in development co-operation. This will take the form of a detailed GMAP proposal to be presented at a Special Meeting to be held on the occasion of the CILSS Heads of State Summit in Bamako in November 2000.

3.2. Development co-operation and regional integration. In line with the opinion expressed by the Heads of State, the GMAP Ministers consider that the regional integration process in the ECOWAS area is inevitable and also concerns neighbouring non-ECOWAS countries such as Chad and Mauritania. They consider, however, that it is important to address the specific features of cross-border organisations and regional co-operation in target sectors essential to economic integration, and the issue of sharing financial risk, to develop solidarity based on peace and security for optimal regional planning, and to take into account population realities such as migration. The GMAP wishes to get involved in the reform of Intergovernmental Organisations, so as to simplify their missions and make them more effective for achieving the integration objective. The GMAP believes it is important to know whether the donors are prepared to share the States' vision of regional integration as expressed by the Heads of State.

3.3. Sahel 21. CILSS runs the Sahel 21 process, promoting discussion in its member-countries of the Sahel's challenges and prospects for the 21st century, involving all sectors of society (policy-makers, farmers' organisations, women, young people, economic operators, parliamentarians, NGOs, journalists, etc.). This innovative exercise attracted enthusiastic co-operation and produced the declaration of the forum of Sahelian societies and the Banjul Memorandum (a generation contract between Sahelians and their development partners in the Club du Sahel/OECD). CILSS is now seeking to translate these statements into concrete action in co-operation with all the national and regional stakeholders concerned. A mid-term regional workshop to verify the proposals is planned for August in Banjul and a validation forum to precede the Summit. The GMAP will work at national and regional level to provide political support, inform Sahelian policy-makers and their partners, and argue for these proposals in the Club du Sahel forum.

4. GMAP Members

The current membership of the Group is as follows.

4.1. Ministers

Hassan G. SALLAH, Secretary of State for Agriculture, CILSS Co-ordinating Minister, The Gambia
José Antonio PINTO MONTEIRO, Minister of Agriculture, Cape Verde

Ahmed El Madani DIALLO, Minister of Rural Development, Mali
Olawale EDUN, Finance Commissioner, Lagos, Nigeria
John IGUÉ, Minister of Industry & Small to Medium-Sized Businesses, Benin
Ousmane BATOKO, Minister of Civil Service, Labour, & Administrative Reform
Amadou SAR, Minister of African Integration, Senegal
Boukary WASSALKE, Minister of Agriculture, Niger
Anne KONATÉ, Delegate Minister for Economic Development, Burkina Faso

4.2. Non-Minister Members

Mariam K. Sidibé CISSÉ, CILSS Executive Secretary
Arjan HAMBURGER, Co-president of the Club du Sahel, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Soumana SAKO, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation
Jacqueline DAMON, Director of the Club du Sahel Secretariat
Gerda DOMMERHOLT, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4.3. Resource Person

El Hadj Ibrahima SALL

4.4. GMAP Secretariat

Michel LEBLANC, Club du Sahel Secretariat — OECD
Yamar M'BODJ, CILSS Executive Secretariat;