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Ministerial Lobby Group

4TH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL LOBBY GROUP (GMAP)

Dakar (Senegal), 24-25 May 2000

Summary Record

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Hassan Sallah, Co-ordinating Minister of CILSS, the 4th GMAP meeting was held in Dakar on 24-25 May 2000. Its main purpose was to prepare for the Group's participation in the Club du Sahel Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) meeting to be held in Washington on 15-16 June 2000.

2. Taking part in the discussions were:

Mr. Hassan SALLAH, Minister for Agriculture, Gambia, and CILSS Co-ordinating Minister

Mr. John IGUE, Minister for Industry and SMEs, Benin

Mr. Ousmane BATOKO, Minister for the Civil Service, Labour and Administrative Reform, Benin

Mr. José Antonio Pinto MONTEIRO, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Cape Verde

Mr. Amadou SAR, Minister for African Integration, Senegal

Ms. Anne KONATE, Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Burkina Faso

3. The following also attended the meeting:

Mr. Jos van AGGELEN, Netherlands Ambassador to Senegal, accompanied by Ms. Gerda Dommerholt of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. G. J. Tempelman, First Secretary at the Netherlands Embassy in Senegal

Ms. Jacqueline DAMON, Director of the Club du Sahel Secretariat

Mr. Aziz DIEDHIOU, SP/CONACILSS of Senegal

Experts from Burkina Faso, the UNDP, CILSS and the Club du Sahel

4. The meeting was chaired by Hassan Sallah, Minister for Agriculture and CILSS Co-ordinating Minister. The list of participants is appended.

5. Six (6) points were on the agenda:

- Examination and adoption of the GMAP presentation brochure
- Discussion of the Bamako 2000 events
- Sahel 21: what is expected of GMAP
- Regional Integration: towards a GMAP action programme
- Aid reform: examination of the draft code of good practices
- Preparation for the SPG meeting in Washington

II. MAIN CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DISCUSSIONS

2.1. GMAP presentation

6. The draft brochure drawn up by the CILSS and Club du Sahel Secretariats was presented and discussed. This gave old and new GMAP members alike the opportunity to express their views on the brochure's main messages, which concern the GMAP's role and its activities and working methods. The meeting entrusted the following tasks to the two Secretariats:

- Incorporate the amendments suggested by the Ministers present;
- Take the necessary steps to obtain the views of the Ghanaian and Nigerian ministers; Minister Amadou Sar of Senegal was asked to inform them and alert them to the need for a quick reaction;
- Finalise the brochure (in French and English); it will be used to present the GMAP at its meeting with the partners on 16 June 2000 in Washington.

2.2. Bamako 2000

7. The schedule drawn up by CILSS for activities for the period through to the Heads of State Summit, and the organisation plan for Bamako 2000, were presented and discussed. Bamako 2000 will be organised around three major events: (1) the Forum of Sahelian societies, (2) the special meeting between GMAP and the development partners; and (3) the CILSS statutory meeting. The conclusions of the discussions were as follows:

The schedule decided was:

- Forum of Sahelian societies: 2-3 November.
 - Regional Programming and Monitoring Committee (RPMC): 6-8 November.
 - Council of Ministers: 10-11 November.
 - Special meeting between GMAP and development partners: 13-14 November.
 - Heads of State Conference: 14-15 November.
- As regards the special meeting, the Group decided on the following measures to stimulate high-quality debate:
- Have the Gambian and Malian Heads of State open the meeting.
 - Form three theme-based committees to discuss in depth the three topics selected.
 - Hold a plenary session when the committees have completed their work, so that they can report back to all participants.

8. With a view to the Washington meeting, the Group asked the CILSS and Club Secretariats to prepare a brief note presenting Bamako 2000.

2.3. Sahel 21

9. The discussions on the CILSS note on Sahel 21, the products expected and what is expected of GMAP, helped the Group to better define its role and contribution to this work. The main messages and points for discussion with the aid agencies were also identified, with a view to the SPG meeting and the Bamako Summit. The main conclusions of the debate can be summarised as follows:

- The GMAP approved the CILSS recommendations regarding the Group's role in, and contribution to, the Sahel 21 exercise up until Bamako 2000 (see page 5 of the CILSS document).
- The process will be presented to the Washington meeting: at that meeting partners will be strongly encouraged to participate in Bamako 2000 and, if possible, in intermediate regional debates, as was the case during Phase 1.

- CILSS was asked to write a note to the development partners to alert them to this issue, emphasising the participative nature of the Sahel 21 exercise. The note must also clearly indicate that the Sahelian governments' and societies' intention is to move towards proposing Priority Investment Programmes (PIPs) that need support from external partners. For Bamako 2000 however, GMAP's interest is focused on proposals for building sustainable, collective food security for the Sahel, with emphasis on three essential aspects: (1) poverty reduction, with a special focus on women; (2) promoting diversified, intensive farming that will ensure the renewal of natural resources (water control, restoring soil fertility, etc.), and (3) developing fluid, dynamic markets.
- Ministers Hassan Sallah, José A. P. Monteiro and El Madani Diallo were chosen as GMAP issue leaders for this work. They will inform other members of the results of each stage of the process.

2.4. Regional integration

10. Discussion of the note drawn up by the Club du Sahel Secretariat enabled GMAP members to identify and select actions to undertake. They concerned two key issues:

a. *Towards a programme of action for the GMAP.* The Ministers wished to continue the discussions about a possible GMAP programme or plan of action with their Ghanaian and Nigerian colleagues. They also drew up a list of questions and issues for debate. This multi-dimensional process is regarded as inescapable, and must lead to concrete political commitments.

b. *Preparing for the Washington meeting.* The Ministers asked the two Secretariats to draw up a three- to four-page note setting out the background to the GMAP, its aims and what it expects of the SPG.

11. The GMAP noted that it is the only forum discussing regional integration issues in West Africa with the aid agencies. The Ministers therefore intend to seek confirmation from the donors of their interest in this question at the Washington meeting. They also asked the CILSS and Club du Sahel Secretariats to draw up a list of the issues already identified and discussed.

12. Ministers John Igué, Amadou Sar, Olawale Edun and Anne Konaté were appointed issue leaders for this strand of work; they will receive assistance from the two Secretariats.

2.5. Aid reform

13. On this question the aim was both to discuss the content of the draft code of good practices presented by the Club Secretariat and consider what negotiation strategy would lead to consensus between the aid agencies and GMAP.

14. The main conclusions from this discussion were:

The Ministers wished the document to be revised, taking account of the following comments:

- *Sketch out the context of the debate that needs to take place between the GMAP and the donors on this issue.* The document must emphasise the fact that aid reform must be addressed on the basis of the principles and interests of the parties concerned. It will stress the need for the parties to negotiate until they can produce a joint document aimed at improving aid practices and co-operation between West African governments and the International Community.
- *Review the literature.* A review of the literature will complement the list of the main facts and obstacles identified when the document was presented visually, and enable GMAP to make proposals for improving current aid management practices.

- *Temporarily postpone drawing up a code of good practices.* It is too soon at this stage to present a draft code of good practices to the development partners. A necessary prior stage must be to draw up an analytical report of the current situation and have it discussed in the countries concerned and the aid agencies; this way an effective negotiation process between the GMAP and the agencies can be established, making it easier to draw up a code of good practices or development aid charter.

The GMAP was informed that the DAC is willing to involve the GMAP in its current initiatives for improving aid practice. At Washington the task will be to confirm whether the development partners are interested in bringing the Group into these discussions.

Ministers El Madani Diallo, Ousmane Batoko and Kwamena Ahmoi were selected as issue leaders for this question. They will be assisted by El Hadj Ibrahim Sall.