

SAHEL AND  
WEST AFRICAOECD  
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

9 APRIL 2021



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Steering Committee Summary of main conclusions and decisions

On 9 April 2021, from 13:45 – 15:45 (Paris CET), the ordinary session of COR-RPCA was held by videoconference with the following agenda:

- ▶ Preparing the response for the food and nutrition crisis in 2021;
- ▶ Strengthening the gender dimension in the Network's events and activities;
- ▶ Other business.

The participants are listed in the Annex.

In the absence of ECOWAS Commissioner Sékou SANGARE and UEMOA Commissioner Jonas GBIAN, the session was co-chaired by Messrs Sy Alain TRAORE and Seyni HAMADOU, the respective Directors of Agriculture of the two organisations.

## Preparing the response for the food and nutrition crisis in 2021

Recalling the conclusions of the RPCA restricted meeting of the Network on 8-9 April 2021, the participants insisted on the need to act quickly by reactivating the mechanisms that proved successful during the 2020 food crisis.

### >>>Decisions

1. CILSS and the SWAC/OECD Secretariat, co-facilitators of the RPCA, shall reactivate the Network's Technical unit, which was set up in April 2020; this shall include the *Cadre harmonisé* technical committee's mechanism for monitoring the food situation in countries, and the information hub on the Network's website;
2. Statutory meetings of the ECOWAS Ministerial Technical Committee) and the UEMOA High-level Committee for food and nutrition security shall be organised during which the warning about the 2021 food crisis shall be reiterated and amplified; these meetings will be informed by the RPCA Policy Brief 2021;
3. The co-leaders (ECOWAS and UEMOA) shall convene extraordinary sessions of COR-RPCA in order to regularly review the situation; an initial meeting could be held at the end of May to review the actual measures and responses implemented by countries and their partners, identify gaps and where support is needed, and review the deployment of regional solidarity measures (Regional Food Security Reserve and other mechanisms including technical support as recommended in the Summary of Conclusions of the RPCA meeting in April 2021).



## ABOUT

Created in 1984 and under the political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, the RPCA's objective is to build a consensual view of the food and nutrition situation and promote dialogue and co-ordination to facilitate decision-making and the effectiveness of interventions. It is co-facilitated by CILSS and the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD).

## Strengthening the gender dimension in the Network's events and activities

The participants, while welcoming the initiatives already underway, unanimously restated the urgent need to provide a collective response to ensure significant progress on the issue.

### >>>Decisions

1. Strengthening gender mainstreaming in PREGEC tools, including disaggregation of information by gender, age, etc.:  
  
CILSS shall carry out an analysis on the constraints and challenges to producing gender-disaggregated data; this work should provide an in-depth understanding of the factors impeding this work and help in the search for remedial measures

The Network shall conduct a study on good practices in gender mainstreaming in FNS activities; this study should identify best practices and help with agreeing on how to scale them up within the Network;

The Network shall initiate an internal discussion on the appointment of a “Gender Champion” with a mandate to foster and step up the pace of work and reflections with a view to driving significant progress;

2. Improving gender representation at Network events:

The diversification of invitations to gender-representative categories of stakeholders (youth associations, women's associations, etc.) to attend the annual and restricted meetings of the Network shall be systematised; this measure shall apply as of the 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

## Other business

▶ UN Food Systems Summit

The participants reaffirmed that this event is an opportunity for the region to assert its understanding and expectations on this issue at the heart of its regional development agenda. The analyses and discussion initiated in the framework of SWAC should inform the reflections of the Working Group set up by the regional organisations.

### >>>Decision

1. ECOWAS shall respond to the communication from the SWAC Secretariat (dated 3 February 2021) in order to clearly indicate the expectations of the regional organisations in terms of assistance in preparing a common position.

▶ Appointment of COR-RPCA members and Network Governance

Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, the participants insisted on the need to limit to a maximum of two the number of representatives per institution or stakeholder group; this allows for productive discussions and deliberations by the COR-RPCA.

The Steering Committee hoped that the numerous studies and reflections (nutrition, social protection, agri-food transformation, etc.) undertaken within the framework of the Network would henceforth be followed up. They agreed to initiate a discussion within the Network on how to proceed so that the Network's theme-based reflections and analyses lead to visible changes and transformations, and have a visible impact.

ECOWAS and UEMOA, the COR-RPCA co-chairs, confirmed their willingness to be more actively involved in the governance of the RPCA, including assistance in the preparation of meetings.

## Annex. Participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ordinary session of COR-RPCA

<b>ECOWAS</b>	<b>CILSS</b>	<b>USAID</b>	<b>Civil society</b>
Mr Sy Alain TRAORÉ	Mr Abdoulaye MOHAMADOU Mr Mahalmoudou HAMADOUN	Ms. Halima OUATTARA-AYANOU Mr William AKIWUMI	Mr Ousseini OUEDRAOGO, ROPPA
<b>UEMOA</b>	<b>SWAC Secretariat</b>	<b>European Union</b>	
Mr Seyni HAMADOU	Mr Laurent BOSSARD Mr Sibiri Jean ZOUNDI	Mr Philippe THOMAS Ms. Nicoletta AVELLA	