

1. ORGANIZATION HISTORY

The Community of Sahel-Saharan States is one of the eight Regional Economic Communities recognized by the African Union as pillars of integration in the Continent and of the economic, social, and sustainable development of Africa.

The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) comprises **25 African States bordering the Sahara and the Sahel**. It was established on 4 February 1998 in Tripoli (Libya).

CEN-SAD goals include the:

- Establishment of a global economic union based on a strategy through a development plan that complements the national development plans of the concerned countries, encompassing investment in the agricultural, industrial, energy, social and cultural fields;

- Removal of all restrictions which impede the coming together of these countries by taking the necessary measures to ensure:
- Free movement of persons, capital, and the interests of member States nationals;
- Freedom of residence, ownership, and exercise of economic activity;
- Free exchange and movement of goods, products, and services from the signatory countries;
- Promotion of foreign trade through an investment policy in the member States;
- Increase of land, air and sea transport and communication means between member States;
- Recognition to nationals of member countries of the same rights, benefits and duties accorded to their own citizens in accordance

with the provisions of their respective constitutions;

- Harmonization of educational, pedagogical, scientific, and cultural systems in the different training courses.

CEN-SAD revised Treaty that was adopted on 13 February 2013 and came into force in 2019 sets as **main priorities the promotion of regional security and sustainable development**.

The Executive Secretariat's current management team is made up of **Ambassador Ado ELHADJI ABOU (Niger), who assumed his duties as Executive Secretary in July 2023, and Ambassador Abderrahim KADMIRI (Morocco), as Deputy Executive Secretary**.

The reform maintained the specialized bodies and agencies. In 2019, The Community plans to establish a Counter-Terrorism Centre in Egypt

and consultative bodies such as the CEN-SAD Youth Network.

2. THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMUNITY OF SAHEL-SAHARAN STATES (CEN-SAD)

The functioning of the organization relies on five key organs, including the Conference of Heads of State and Government, which meets once a year in rotating chairmanship and alternately in the different capitals of the States, the Executive Council, made up of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and/or Integration. The Executive Secretariat oversees the daily management and monitors the functioning of the various institutions of the Community. **The Sahel-Saharan Bank for Investment and Trade (BSIC)** is in charge of financing economic development projects and finally the Economic Social and Cultural Council is

dedicated to the development of economic, social, and Cultural policies, plans, and programmes for member countries.

Given the low degree of economic integration and motivated by a desire to remedy such a situation, the founders of this regional grouping aimed at establishing an economic union, promoting foreign trade, facilitating transport and communication between member countries, harmonizing education systems, and promoting peace and security, in accordance with the Abuja Treaty of 3 June 1991.

Since the Ouagadougou Summit in 2005, CEN-SAD has multiplied initiatives to promote several strategic sectors such as agriculture, water, ecosystem preservation, desertification control and transport.

The issue of peace and security is high on CEN-

SADs' agenda. To this end, three instruments have been put in place: the first relates to security cooperation, the second to the mechanism for conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and the third to the Permanent Council for Peace and Security.

CEN-SAD has observer status in the United Nations System by virtue of Resolution No. A/RES/56/92 of the United Nations General Assembly.

In addition, CEN-SAD concluded partnership agreements with many regional and international organizations with a view to carrying out joint projects in many fields (political, cultural, economic, and social).

3. COMMUNITY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

a) Security and development strategy

In accordance with the instructions of the Heads of State and Government of the Community to take appropriate measures to curb insecurity and terrorism in the Sahel-Saharan region, a framework document on strategy and development has been developed. The CEN-SAD/SDS, which is in line with the **African Union's Agenda 2063**, constitutes a set of exceptional measures whose implementation, in the short and medium term, should make it possible to significantly resolve the targeted problems. This document aims at translating the new vision of CEN-SAD revised Treaty in its security and development component into concrete actions.

These actions will be translated into projects and programmes that can be

carried out throughout the CEN-SAD area. And the effective implementation of these projects and programmes will be able to curb insecurity, terrorism, and drug trafficking assuming that there is no security without development and no development without security.

This implementation will be carried out through a five-year plan (2021–2025) whose strategic objectives are to:

- Putting an end to current conflicts;
- Ending Terrorism;
- Stopping transnational organized crime;
- Bridging the gap in education by using new technologies;
- Addressing the issue of energy and electricity;

- Providing economic opportunities for women and youth;
- Promoting free movement of persons and goods.

b) The Rural Development Strategy :

- Addressing the issue of access to water;
- Solving food security problems by promoting family farming and sustainable agribusiness.

4. PROSPECTS

Committed to the implementation of the revised Treaty, the immediate prospect is the adoption of a Five-Year Programme and its implementation through sectoral projects and programmes.

This Action Plan and its components will make it possible to improve **the Human Development Index (HDI)** with a view to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.**

Specifically, this will involve supporting **education and schooling in rural areas, promoting new and renewable energies, carrying out reforestation campaigns, supporting the achievement of the Great Green Wall, supporting the LCBC in the Lake Chad replenishment project** and supporting the major programmes of the

African Union supported by the African Union Development Agency (NEPAD), such as

- The African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA);
- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
- The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
- The 'Silencing Guns by 2020' programme.

CEN-SAD will also strive to harmonize its actions with those of other multilateral actors and to strengthen its partnership with them.

It is within this framework that the CEN-SAD is party to the Coordination Platform of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), signed on 15 July 2023, at Nairobi (Kenya), to create synergies between the RECs and promote

integration at continental level.