



# **ECOWAS 2050 VISION**

**“ECOWAS of the Peoples: Peace and Prosperity for all”**

19 October 2021 Version

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## List of abbreviations and acronyms

ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ACP	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific
AfDB	Africa Development bank
AFRIPANET	Africa Investment Promotion Agency Network
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ARREC	Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	Africa Union
CAPEC	CIRES Economic Policy Analysis Unit
CEA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CEREEC	Centre for Renewable Energy and Economic Efficiency
CET	Common Exterior Tariff
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CO2	Carbon dioxide
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CSF	Community Strategic Framework
CSO	Civil society organization
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOMOF	ECOWAS Mining and Petroleum Forum
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWIC	ECOWAS Common Investment Code
ECOWIP	ECOWAS Investment Policy
EDF	Energy Development Fund
EIDB	ECOWAS Investment and Development Bank
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign directs Investments
FERDI	Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international
GDP	Gross domestic production
GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
GFPIWA	Guarantee Fund for Private Investments in West Africa
GIABA	Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HDI	Human development index
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IMF	International monetary Funds
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	Information, technologies and communication

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICEMA	ECOWAS Mission in Mali
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NDP	National de Development Plan
NLTPS	National long-Term Prospective study
NSA	Non state actors
OACPC	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHADA	Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law
PPP	Public-Private partnership
RECs	Regional Economic Community
RSP	Regional Strategic Plan
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SO	Strategic orientation
SO	Strategic objective
SPPBE	Support programme for the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems
SPPFEWA	Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematic
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WABICC	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme
WAEE	West African Electricity Exchange
WAGP	West African Gas Pipeline Authority
WAHO	West African Health Organization
WAMA	West African Monetary Agency
WAMI	West African Monetary Institute
ZLECAF	African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

## Glossary of the Vision's key Terms

**Vision :** A community of peoples fully integrated in a peaceful region, prosperous with strong institutions and respectful of fundamental freedoms and working for inclusive and sustainable development.

Terms	Definitions
Community	A social group whose members live together, or share common ressources, common interests
Fully integrated community	A community that has managed to overcome, by mutual agreement, the political, physical, economic and social obstacles that separate the countries that make it up,

	and to collaborate in the management of shared resources and regional commons.
Sustainable development	Sustainable development is "development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs", quotes from Ms Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norwegian Prime Minister, 1987
Inclusive development	According to the UNDP, development is inclusive if all categories of the population, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, age or social status, contribute to creating opportunities, share in the benefits of development and contribute to decision making.
Institution	According to North (1991), institutions are the human-designed constraints that structure political, economic and social interactions. They consist of both informal (sanctions, taboos, customs, traditions and codes of conduct) and formal constraints (constitution, laws, property rights). An institution is strong when it is reliable, accountable and free from corruption.
Freedom and fundamental rights	These include the set of overarching subjective rights of the individual, guaranteed in a state governed by rule of law and a democracy. They derive mainly from the principles of equality (equality of the sexes, equality before the law, equality before the tax system, equality before justice), and freedom (freedom of opinion, expression, assembly, worship, freedom of association, the right to strike, etc.)
Peaceful region	A region that does not seek for wars, conflict; which aspires to peace and which has effective institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in order to guarantee a lasting environment of peace to all its citizens.

**Foreword by the current Chairman of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government**

## **Message from the President of the ECOWAS Commission**

## Executive Summary

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established on May 28, 1975, by the Treaty of Lagos, with a mandate to promote cooperation and integration among Member States, economic and political stability, and to increase economic opportunities for its peoples and their level of well-being.
2. Within the framework of this mandate and in accordance with the revised ECOWAS Treaty, the Conference of Heads of State adopted in June 2007, the ECOWAS 2020 Vision with the ambition of moving ECOWAS "from an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of peoples".
3. The 2020 Vision was the first real exercise in regional forecasting and planning. It thus provided a framework for the regional integration process and the establishment of programmatic tools. The 2020 Vision took into account the popular dimension (civil society, private sector), and used an inclusive approach in its implementation. It has encouraged a strengthening of the integration process on sectorial issues. Whilst notable achievements have been observed during its implementation period, but persistent challenges remain.
4. It is in this context that the ECOWAS Commission decided to produce the 2050 Vision document, based on an in-depth review of the results of the 2020 Vision assessment, the diagnostic study of the region and the aspirations of the populations and key stakeholders in the region.
5. The retrospective and diagnostic analyses made it possible to examine current and past public policies conducted in the ECOWAS region. Above all, by outlining the progress made, it made it possible to highlight the seriousness of the challenges related to the following themes: i) Demography, human capital, social development and migration; ii) Geopolitics, governance, peace and security; iii) Environment and natural resources; iv) Growth, structural transformation; and iv) Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure and partnerships.
6. Moreover, further analysis of the alignment of the themes of the retrospective study with the aspirations of the communities and international documents revealed a strong convergence between these themes and the strategic axes of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's 2063 Agenda. These themes are also in line with the aspirations of ECOWAS populations and are taken into account in the prospective and/or planning documents of Member States.
7. In addition, based on the reflection on the variables that condition the life of the ECOWAS system, the structural analysis made it possible to identify messages likely to highlight future issues and challenges and to take them into account in the formulation of prospective themes with a view to building scenarios for a better future in West Africa.
8. The current dynamics of ECOWAS are underpinned to a large extent by endogenous variables related to human capital and social welfare, governance and strong institutions, peace and security which interact in an environment strongly conditioned by international geopolitics.

9. Thus, the four major sets of variables that were extensively used in the identification of scenarios and the formulation of the 2050 Vision document concern (i) ***Human capital and social welfare***, (ii) ***Strong institutions, rule of law and fundamental freedoms***, (iii) ***Security, stability and peace***, (iv) ***Economic integration and globalization***.
10. Four global scenarios were constructed from the combination of the thematic scenarios. The desired scenario is entitled: ***Torch of Africa (scenario 4)***- it is based on an ECOWAS with quality human capital with a flourishing population; good governance with strong and credible institutions that respect the Rule of Law and fundamental freedoms; an environment of strengthened security and consolidated peace; and a region that is fully integrated and globally competitive for sustainable development. The ease up of these assumptions will lead to less well-off scenarios of ***A community with timid pace (scenario 3)*** or ***walking backwards (scenario 2)*** or the dramatic scenario entitled ***the community suicide of a giant (scenario 1)***.
11. The process of constructing the new Vision was based on the baseline scenario called the "Torch of Africa", the aspirations of the ECOWAS people, the results of the retrospective study and the residual and hopeful objectives of the ECOWAS 2020 Vision. Thus, the ECOWAS 2050 Vision reads as follows: "**A fully integrated community of peoples in a peaceful, prosperous region with strong institutions that respect fundamental freedoms and work towards inclusive and sustainable development**".
12. The Vision is based on five pillars around which the strategic objectives are built and which are broken down into Strategic Orientations followed by potential areas of intervention. The pillars are:

**PILLAR 1: Peace, Security and Stability.**

**PILLAR 2: Governance and Rule of Law.**

**PILLAR 3: Economic integration and Interconnectivity.**

**PILLAR 4: Transformation, Inclusive and sustainable development.**

**PILLAR 5: Social inclusion.**

13. Each pillar is reformulated into a long-term strategic objective, to which strategic orientations are associated. The definition of the strategic orientations used the relevance tree method, which aims to help in the selection of elementary actions in order to meet the strategic objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1: **Making ECOWAS a secure, stable and peaceful region**

<b>Strategic Orientation 1:</b>	Strengthening regional peace and security
<b>Strategic Orientation 2:</b>	Strengthening human security in the region
<b>Strategic Orientation 3:</b>	Prevent, manage and resolve conflicts

- Strategic objective 2: Anchoring a democratic culture, good governance and respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms

<b>Strategic Orientation 1:</b>	Strengthening democratic governance
<b>Strategic Orientation 2:</b>	Consolidate the rule of law and justice
<b>Strategic Orientation 3:</b>	Promoting respect for fundamental rights

- Strategic Objective 3: Making ECOWAS a fully integrated and interconnected economic zone

<b>Strategic Orientation 1:</b>	Consolidate the Free Movement of People and Goods (FMGP) and accelerate market integration
<b>Strategic Orientation 2:</b>	Accelerating monetary union and economic and financial integration
<b>Strategic Orientation 3:</b>	Intensify infrastructure development and inter-connectivity

- Strategic Objective 4: Creating the conditions for the transformation of economies and sustainable development for the peoples

<b>Strategic Orientation 1:</b>	Ensure human and social development
<b>Strategic Orientation 2:</b>	Valuing human capital and knowledge development
<b>Strategic Orientation 3:</b>	Strengthen environmental sustainability and the fight against climate change
<b>Strategic Orientation 4:</b>	Fostering sustainable economic growth and development

- Strategic Objective 5: Making ECOWAS a People's Community that is fully inclusive of women, youth and children

<b>Strategic Orientation 1:</b>	Strengthening cultural diversity for development and social progress
<b>Strategic Orientation 2:</b>	Strengthening community citizenship and solidarity
<b>Strategic Orientation 3:</b>	Promoting inclusion and strengthening social cohesion

14. Given their importance, their cross-cutting nature and the challenges associated with them, the issues of gender, youth, capacity building and

resilience to vulnerabilities must be considered at all programmatic and implementation levels of the 2050 Vision.

15. The successful implementation of the ECOWAS 2050 Vision requires the following guiding principles: (i) assertion of leadership and political will; (ii) ownership and accountability; (iii) complementarity and subsidiarity; (iv) transparency and accountability, and (vi) sustainability.
16. This successful implementation will also depend on an efficient institutional architecture, adequate, sufficient and complementary resources with the implementation of innovative financing strategies. Thus, development cooperation and the establishment of strategic partnerships will be, among other things, key success factors for the realization of the 2050 Vision. Additionally, the establishment of coordination mechanisms and effective planning and monitoring and evaluation tools would also be key to its successful implementation. Finally, the development of a communication, advocacy and awareness-raising strategy will be essential to promote the ownership, adherence and commitment of all stakeholders.

## PART I: Introduction

### 1.1. Background, objectives and steps in the 2050 Vision process

#### Context

17. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established on May 28, 1975, by the Treaty of Lagos, with the objective of promoting cooperation and integration among Member States, economic and political stability, and increasing economic opportunities for its peoples as well as their level of well-being<sup>1</sup>. In pursuit of this mandate, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted in June 2007, the ECOWAS 2020 Vision with the ambition of transforming ECOWAS "from an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of peoples".
18. To achieve this Vision, ECOWAS has adopted two main strategic plans: The Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2011-2015 and the Community Strategic Framework (CSF) 2016-2020. The year in which the 2020 Vision expires has established the need to provide the region, for the coming years, with a new vision and a medium-term strategic plan that take into account the new development dynamics of the moment.
19. Indeed, the period of implementation of the 2020 Vision (2011-2020) has been marked by major changes at the global level that are not without effect on the dynamics of ECOWAS. For example, in 2013, the African Union adopted its Agenda for the next fifty (50) years which outlines the thirteen (13) aspirations of the people for the Africa we want. In 2015, the United Nations adopted seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the previously adopted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In December 2015, ECOWAS, along with the other parties of the world, participated in the signing of the Paris Agreements which aim, through ambitious reforms, to protect the planet against the adverse effects of climate change by 2050.
20. With a view to strengthening relations after 2020 between the ACP countries and the European Union, the main multilateral partner of ECOWAS, the new Post-Cotonou agreement envisaged is characterized by a strong trend towards the regionalisation of partnerships. In addition, the adoption in 2020 of the global pact for safe, orderly and regular migration corroborates the strengthening of international cooperation on this issue of challenges for West Africa.
21. These different international frameworks in which ECOWAS Member States are stakeholders, underpin the relevance of multilateralism as a response to development challenges. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through the integration processes they are driving, are becoming increasingly important players in these dynamics. Therefore, the deepening of continental integration materialized by the adoption of the AfCFTA, is indeed a significant factor in the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uneca.org/fr/oria/pages/cedeo-communaut%C3%A9conomique-des-etats-de-l%E2%80%99afrique-de-l%E2%80%99ouest>

current context in which the region is evolving. As result, it requires some adaptation of ECOWAS' strategic orientation.

22. Notwithstanding these positive initiatives in which ECOWAS is strongly committed, the regional context is still marked by security issues linked to the persistence not only of the phenomenon of terrorism in the Sahel but also to maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. In addition, the crisis linked to the COVID-19 pandemic has once again revealed the weakness of health systems but also the vulnerability of economies. Despite the encouraging trend in growth rates in recent years, this vulnerability of the region's economies to external shocks is also characterized by undiversified production structures dominated by low value-added sectors of activity. Despite the efforts, the social situation still remains precarious in a region particularly faced with the challenges of access to basic services and decent employment, especially for young people and women.

23. Those various security, economic, socio-political, demographic, migratory and environmental challenges impact the future of the region and therefore need to be taken into account through the new outlook of the ECOWAS 2050 Vision.

## **Objectives**

24. The development of the new ECOWAS 2050 Vision is based on an analytical approach that draws on an in-depth review of the results of the 2020 Vision assessment, a diagnostic study of the region, as well as the aspirations of West African populations. It is based on a structural analysis of the ECOWAS system and the identification of possible and desirable futures for the region's prosperity. Through this approach, notably a question of:

- (i) Providing a long-term and in-depth perspective on the current opportunities and challenges facing the region;
- (ii) Exploring the major regional trends that could have a significant impact on the region over the next generation;
- (iii) Identifying the aspirations of the populations and key actors of ECOWAS as well as the links between these aspirations and the national development plans of the Member States, the AU 2063 Agenda, the United Nations Agenda 2030 and other frameworks relevant international, continental and regional development in the medium and long term; and
- (iv) Defining the scenarios, the Vision and the strategic orientations for the achievement of the new Vision in an appropriate horizon.

## **Steps in the ECOWAS 2050 Vision process**

25. The development of the new ECOWAS 2050 Vision followed a long-term regional prospective approach. The development of the Vision document, ensured by the Cires Economic Policy Analysis Unit (CAPEC), followed an inclusive and participatory process with the technical supervision of a Committee of Directors,

set up for this purpose as well as the technical and financial assistance provided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

## **1.2. ECOWAS in Brief**

### **1.2.1. The General Framework**

26. Covering fifteen (15) countries, ECOWAS has a total area of 5,112,903 km<sup>2</sup> and has considerable ecological and agronomic potential with complementary natural ecological areas.
27. The region is endowed with vast arable land available for cultivation and several million hectares of pastoral land. It also has various river basins offering enormous potential in terms of irrigation. Economically, its production consists mainly of basic products, in particular extractive resources such as petroleum, gold, diamonds, as well as agricultural raw materials (basic food products: cereals including fruits and vegetables) as well as cash crops such as cocoa, peanuts, cashews, coffee, cotton, rubber, timber.
28. The West African sub-region is made up of a cosmopolitan population with diverse cultural values. The population is estimated at 401.9 million in 2020. It is one of the youngest populations of any region in the world, with an estimated median age of 18.
29. ECOWAS remains a poor region with inequalities of all kinds, including gender inequalities and food insecurity, which continue to threaten the achievement of sustainable development goals and fuel social instability and insecurity. It is also part of the regions of the world with the lowest levels of human capital.
30. In accordance with its revised Treaty of 1993, ECOWAS has set itself the goal of achieving as a priority economic integration between member countries, but also in all areas of social life, in order to achieve integral development, for the well-being of populations. Article 3 of the Revised Treaty, provides in paragraph1 that "The Community aims to promote cooperation and integration with a view to an economic union of West Africa with a view to raising the level of life of peoples, maintain and increase economic stability, strengthen relations between Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent".
31. The review of the ECOWAS Treaty in July 1993 was underpinned by the need to deepen the integration process, particularly through (i) the development of closer cooperation in regional peace and security, and (ii) the strengthening of political stability. This review was also based on the need to accelerate the region's economic development, particularly through the establishment of an economic and monetary union. Since then, actions have been taken to boost the economic integration process in West Africa. In addition to the various regional policies and strategies adopted with corridor development projects (Lagos-Abidjan-Dakar road, Dakar-Bamako railroad), the finalization of the customs union with the entry into force of the Common External Tariff (CET) on January1, 2015 marks a significant development in the process. This development is also characterized by the acceleration of the ECOWAS monetary cooperation programme with a view to creating a single currency.

These efforts make the region one of the most dynamic and successful Regional Economic Communities in Africa.

32. The various trade liberalization and facilitation measures have encouraged an increase in intra-community trade. However, they have not yet enabled trade to reach levels comparable to those of other regional trade agreements such as ASEAN, NAFTA and the EU. Indeed, intra-regional trade accounted for only 12% in 2019.

### 1.2.2. The ECOWAS Institutional Mechanism

33. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is composed of a set of decision making bodies and Institutions, namely (i) the Conference of Heads of State and Government; (ii) the Council of Ministers; (iii) the Commission, (iv) the ECOWAS Parliament; (v) the Court of Justice; (vi) the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), (vii) the West African Health Organization (WAHO), (viii) the Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA), (viii) specialized technical institutions and committees. In addition, there are specialized sectoral institutions such as: the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ARREC), the West African Power Pool (WAPP), the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA), the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) and the specialised Technical Committees.

- i. **The Conference of Heads of State and Government** is the supreme organ of the Community. It is responsible for the overall direction and control of the Community and for taking all necessary measures to ensure the progressive development and achievement of the objectives.
- ii. **The Council of Ministers** is the second governing body of ECOWAS. It plays a supporting role with the Conference. It is a functional body that examines all matters brought to the attention of the Conference. It is responsible for ensuring the proper functioning and development of the Community. The Council of Ministers is supported by the sectoral Ministerial Committees and the Technical Committees.
- iii. **The ECOWAS Commission** constitutes the executive body and is responsible for the coordination of the activities of all the Institutions as well as the execution of the decisions of the Conference and of the directives of the Council. Thus, the Commission makes to the decision-making bodies all the recommendations it deems useful for the development of the Community and for strengthening the integration process.
- iv. **The ECOWAS Parliament** is the legislative organ of the Community. Composed of 115 members, referred to as "Members of Parliament", the Parliament contributes, among other things, to the strengthening of representative democracy, the promotion of peace, the defense of the principles of human rights and democracy, and the implementation of the objectives and policies of the Community. The prerogatives of the ECOWAS Parliament have been strengthened to ensure the full participation of the West African people in the development and economic integration of the region.

- v. **The Community Court of Justice** is the main judicial body of the Community, it ensures respect for the law and the principles of equity in the interpretation and application of the Treaty. To this end, it hears disputes which may involve the Member States, the institutions of the Community, and the natural and legal persons residing within the Community. Nationals of member states can now apply directly to the Court, whose judgments are binding.
  - vi. **The Community's Specialized Institutions and Agencies.** For an effective implementation of the objectives of community development, certain specialized institutions enjoying relative autonomy have been created. They are responsible for the specific missions assigned to them by the Treaty as part of the integration process; they are instituted by the texts of primary law: they are in particular (i) the Bank of Investment and Development of ECOWAS and (ii) the West African Health Organization (WAHO), (iii) of the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA).
  - vii. **Sectorial Ministerial Committees and Specialized Technical Commissions.** Supported by experts, they ensure governance and provide guidance in specialized areas of community development. In particular, they are responsible, in their respective fields of competence and on specific issues relating thereto, for preparing Community projects and programs and submitting them for the approval of Community decision-making bodies. Article 22 of the Revised Treaty provides for eight Technical Committees and gives the Conference the possibility, if it deems it necessary, to restructure existing Committees or to create new ones. The eight (8) Commissions are: Food and Agriculture; industry, science and technology and energy; environment and natural resources; transport, communications and tourism; trade, customs, charges, statistics, currency and payments; political, legal and legal affairs, regional security and immigration; human resources, information, social and cultural affairs; and administration and finance. New Technical Commissions have been created such as the Technical Commission on Health, and that of GIABA. Thus, depending on the matter concerned, the ad hoc Commissions / Committees are set up to deal extemporaneously with questions of common interest.
  - viii. **Office of the General Auditor:** in its efforts to improve its performance, ECOWAS has established an Office of the General Auditor which is in charge of monitoring the impact, the quality and the effectiveness of programs. The Office ensures compliance with operational standards and the preservation of the integrity of good governance practices.
34. ECOWAS therefore has the institutional framework that will enable it to achieve the objectives set by the Lagos Treaty as revised in Abuja. This Treaty strengthens the institutions' means of action through institutional governance based on the executive, legislative and judicial arms. The functioning of those

different organs, in the promotion of the integration process, is driven by the guiding principles enshrined in Article 4 of the Revised Treaty.

### **1.2.3. Ongoing Reforms**

35. The reform process began in 2006 with the transformation of the Executive Secretariat into a Commission with a number of Commissioners responsible, each in his area, for a specific sector of the regional agenda. Since then, these reforms have been reinforced and then extended with the reorganization and restructuring of the operational framework of the ECOWAS institutions. In particular, in order to further reduce the operating costs of ECOWAS, the 59th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on June 19, 2021, decided to reduce the size of the Commission by reducing from fifteen (15) to seven (7) the number of its members. Overall, these reforms aim to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in the functioning of the institutions of the Community, in particular through the improvement of operational systems, procedures, and the strengthening of internal control systems in the areas of Finance, Audit, Human Resources management and Procurement. The various restructuring initiatives have therefore been carried out in order not only to reduce operational costs but also to ensure, among other things (i) the establishment of appropriate and viable organizational structures; (ii) improvement of administrative processes; (iii) the establishment of systems for facilitation, design and evaluation of programs; (iv) the establishment of an electronic document management system etc.

## PART II: Evaluation of the 2020 Vision: Lessons Learned

### 2.1. Lessons learned

36. The 2020 Vision, adopted in June 2007, was the first real foresight and planning exercise at the regional level. It has allowed for progress in the regional integration process, particularly through the following:
- better strategic planning and process guidance around structuring community programmes;
  - better prioritisation of regional policy formulation;
  - better involvement of the populations in monitoring the implementation of programs, in particular through the establishment of appropriate consultation platforms (CSOs, NSAs, private sector, etc.);
  - better structuring and coordination of partnerships in the implementation of community programmes; and
  - implementation of programming and monitoring tools with the creation of appropriate departments.
37. In particular, in the area of peace, security and stability, the programmes developed within the framework of the 2020 Vision have enabled ECOWAS, largely due to the various instruments and mechanisms developed in this area, to overcome political crises, resolve conflicts and work for the consolidation of peace and democracy. The management of crises particularly in Côte d'Ivoire (2010), the Gambia (2017) and Mali (2012, 2020-2021) are a perfect illustration of those achievements with a commitment to the stabilization process of those Member States.
38. In addition, the common market has been an area in which significant progress has been made, notably with the free movement of persons, the trade liberalization scheme and above all, the establishment of the Customs Union, which was materialized by the entry into force of the CET in 2015.
39. In the area of infrastructure development, significant efforts have been made in the implementation of the regional transport facilitation programme with special emphasis on the juxtaposed border posts programme and the corridor development programme, in order to strengthen inter-connection among Member States, progress has been made in the establishment of power exchange systems, the power supply programme, the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Those various efforts contribute to the improvement of regional competitiveness, which is also supported by the development of private sector development strategies and common industrial policies.
40. In terms of development of sectoral programs, significant achievements have focused in particular on the establishment of appropriate policies with the aim of strengthening the region's resilience. This is particularly the case with regard to the adoption of harmonization frameworks, in particular macroeconomic policies and the strengthening of sectoral strategies in the areas of agriculture and food

security, the environment and sustainable management of resources, and social development with policies relevant to youth and women.

## 2.2. Operationalization Difficulties and Challenges

41. Despite those notable advances, the evaluation of 2020 Vision has shown that efforts remain to be made, in particular to:
  - strengthening the ownership of regional programs and policies by Member States,
  - consolidating the preeminent role of Member States in the implementation of the regional agenda;
  - ensuring the effective implementation of Community policies and programs,
  - increasing the visibility of interventions and programs,
  - ensuring the availability of sufficient resources;
  - improving the steering, coordination and monitoring-evaluation system; and
  - encouraging greater involvement and participation of non-state actors in the process of integration and development of the region .
42. The implementation difficulties are reflected in the low average of annual physical implementation rates estimated at 36.8% and 55.32% respectively for the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) (2011-2015) and the Community Strategic Framework (CSF) (2016-2020).
43. Despite the progress achieved, the ECOWAS 2020 Vision Evaluation Report (ECA-ECOWAS, 2020), highlights major challenges related to the following: (i) poverty and poor access of the population to basic social services; (ii) low quality of social services; (iii) demographic pressure on scarce resources; (iv) the slow pace of the economic integration process; and (v) insufficiency of infrastructure.
44. In addition to those challenges, there are other issues relating to the following: (i) climate change, which is becoming increasingly pronounced; (ii) terrorism, which is seriously undermining the economy and regional stability; (iii) pandemics; and (iv) weak human development and social progress that have also hampered progress in the region.

## PART III: Pathway to the New 2050 Vision

### 3.1. Retrospective Analysis

45. The retrospective analysis made it possible to examine current and past public policies conducted in the ECOWAS region and to highlight the relevance of the following themes: *i) Demography, human capital, social development and migration; ii) Geopolitics, governance, peace and security; iii) Environment and natural resources; iv) Growth, structural transformation, economic infrastructure and partnerships; and iv) Economic*

*and monetary integration, infrastructure and partnerships.* The choice of those themes was based on the prospective and planning documents of the Member States as well as those of the region and the Continent.

### **3.1.1. Demography, Human Capital, Social Development and Migration**

46. Demographic and social dynamics are crucial to the future development of the region. This section discusses, among other things: ECOWAS' demographic dynamics; human capital; and social development and migration.

#### **3.1.1.1. Demographic Dynamics**

47. ***A region still characterized by high fertility rates:*** West Africa has an estimated population of 401.9 million in 2020, more than half of which (206.1 million) will be in Nigeria alone, the largest West African economy (See Appendix1). It therefore appears to be considered as the most populated region of the African continent due in particular to the synthetic fertility rates which are still high in most of the States. Those indices show an average of more than five (5) children per woman in six (6) countries over the period 2015-2020 and an average of more than four (4) children per woman in 13 ECOWAS States (See Appendix2). The high fertility in the region is partly related to the low access of the population to reproductive health care, particularly to contraceptives, and to the high prevalence of early marriage in some countries (See Appendix3)<sup>2</sup>.

48. ***A young population, an asset for development but also a risk factor for stability and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals:*** The West African population is extremely young, with a median age of about 18 years. Nearly 44% of the population is under 15 years old, and 65% under 25 years old (ECOWAS, 2010; ECA, 2019c). This high proportion of young people is an asset for the region's development. However, it poses risks of instability and insecurity, particularly with the major challenges to be met at the three levels namely economic, social and environmental development. These challenges mainly concern the ability of countries to inter alia: (i) meet the growing needs of these young populations for quality basic social services, particularly education, health, drinking water, energy, administrative services and security; (ii) provide them with decent jobs; and (iii) mitigate the control and management they could exert on natural and environmental resources, as well as the achievement, within the planned time-frame, of the objectives of national, regional and international development programmes.

49. The current demographic trends in the region are such that people's income from work is not sufficient to meet their consumption needs (See Appendix5). As a result, ECOWAS Member States are unable to generate domestic savings that exceed their investment needs (See Appendix38). The gap between domestic savings and investment has even widened in recent years. The investment and domestic savings rates have fallen from 17.3% and 12.7% respectively in 2003 to 22.0%, and to 5.3% in 2018 (See Appendix38). In this respect, the Community remains highly dependent on the outside world to finance its essential investments. This situation constitutes a major constraint to the operationalization of its development plans and the effectiveness of its actions.

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<sup>2</sup> The rate of population access to contraception is less than 20% in 11 ECOWAS countries (ECA, 2019b).

### **3.1.1.2. Human Capital**

50. ***Improvements recorded in the area of health, but efforts are still needed:*** The overall health situation in the region has improved largely due to the efforts made in the health sector by the member States, sub-regional organisations and development partners. Life expectancy at birth has increased and mortality rates have fallen over the past 4 decades in all ECOWAS countries (See Appendices 6 and 8). However, people in the Community still spend a significant proportion of their lives in poor health, with negative consequences for labour productivity (See Appendix7). Poor performance continues to be recorded in the area of maternal and child health (See Appendices 9 and 10). Nine (9) of the fifteen (15) Member States have mortality rates for children under five (5) years of age that are higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa (74.7 deaths per 1,000 live births)<sup>3</sup>. Eight (8) countries have maternal mortality rates higher than the average recorded in sub-Saharan Africa (533 cases of death per 100,000 live births) in 2017, according to the latest UNICEF estimates<sup>4</sup>.
51. West Africa also remains exposed to health shocks which often turn into disastrous human, economic and social consequences. This was the case with the Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone which led to a major health crisis in the Mano River Union sub-region and is the case with the Covid-19 pandemic which is currently affecting all countries and generating enormous economic and social costs for Member States, particularly because of the restrictive measures it has triggered. The experience of the Ebola outbreak and the more recent Covid-19 pandemic have shown, in addition to the inadequacy and inefficiency of health systems, the weaknesses of prevention, control, research, and comprehensive management capacities in the treatment of pandemics. The health challenges in the region relate to the unavailability of infrastructure, the limitation in quantity and quality of medical personnel, and poor governance issues.
52. West Africa also remains the site of endemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, which are major causes of mortality and morbidity (See Appendix12). It is estimated, for example, that malaria causes Nigeria to lose between 1.0 and 5.0 percent of its gross domestic product<sup>5</sup>.
53. ***Notable achievements in access to education, but education systems struggling to adapt to new social demands and current labour market challenges:*** Significant progress has been made in the sub-region in terms of access to education, thanks to government efforts. Gross enrolment rates have risen for all education cycles, especially at the primary level, where some countries such as Benin (122.0%), Cabo Verde (104.0%), Ghana (103.6%), Sierra Leone (112.8%) and Togo (123.8%) exceeded 100% of thresholds in 2018 (See Appendix15). However, there are still other challenges in the education sector. Dropout rates are still high in almost all Member States, thereby contributing to the slowdown in human capital development (See Appendix16). Moreover, the average length of schooling remains low and less than four years in nine (9) Member States of the Community (See Appendix17). In addition, the training provided in schools is often of

<sup>3</sup> Bénin, Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria et Sierra Leone (voir annexe 9)

<sup>4</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Gambie, Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Libéria, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone (voir annexe 10)

<sup>5</sup> [whr99ch4fr.pdf \(who.int\)](http://whr99ch4fr.pdf)

insufficient quality and unsuited to the economic context of the States (ECOWAS, 2020)<sup>6</sup>.

54. General education is still predominant in the education system. The enrolment rates of young people in technical and vocational training remain marginal. Less than 4% of young people aged 15-24 are enrolled in technical and vocational courses in each of the countries of the region (UNESCO, 2020). In addition, learners remain at all levels of education with very little exposure to advances in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (UNESCO, 2020).
55. Higher education continues to face enormous challenges. The capacity of universities and other higher education institutions to accommodate Baccalauréat holders (holders of the final secondary school diploma) is weak. By way of illustration, it should be noted that only around 20% of eligible age cohorts are able to access higher education<sup>7</sup>. In addition, enrolments in the humanities and humanities streams are higher than those recorded in particular in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), which are of strategic importance for the region. Also, more than 80% of higher education institutions are characterized by a lack of infrastructure, inadequate use of modern technologies such as ICT and the internet as well as poorly equipped libraries negatively affecting the quality of teaching. 'teaching and the relevance of the research undertaken.
56. **Countries performing relatively poor in terms of the level of human capital:** As a result of the shortcomings noted at the educational and health levels, almost all West African countries perform poorly on the World Bank's Human Capital Index. With the exception of Ghana, which is in the second quartile of performance on this index, the other countries in the region are in the lowest quartile for the World Bank's Human Capital Index in 2020 (See Appendix 18)<sup>8</sup>. To overcome those difficulties, ECOWAS has adopted an Integrated Human Capital Development Strategy based on three foundations related to Education, Skills Development and Labour which the effective implementation should improve the stock of human capital available in the region in the 2030 horizon.

### **3.1.1.3. Social Development**

57. **A low unemployment rate at the regional level contrasting with a high job insecurity:** Unemployment rates are low in most countries in the region, with a regional rate estimated at 6.6% in 2020 (See appendix19). However, many of the jobs created are not decent<sup>9</sup>. Most individuals in employment are engaged in precarious jobs<sup>10</sup> (*more than 70% of available jobs in 12 ECOWAS countries in 2018 (See Appendix 20)* and are unable to adequately support themselves and their families. Nearly 38.4% of working-age individuals in employment are considered poor in 2018, living on less than US\$1.90 per

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<sup>6</sup> Stratégie de développement du capital humain de la CEDEAO

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ecowas.int/wp-content/uploads/2015/04>Note-Conceptuelle.doc>

<sup>8</sup> Les données sur le Cap Vert et la Guinée Bissau ne sont pas disponibles en 2020

<sup>9</sup> D'après la définition de l'OIT, le travail décent est un travail productif que femmes et homme peuvent exercer dans des conditions de liberté, d'équité, de sécurité et de dignité. Ce concept implique donc l'accès à un travail productif et convenablement rémunéré, la sécurité sur le lieu de travail et la protection sociale pour les familles, de meilleures perspectives de développement personnel et d'insertion sociale, la liberté pour les individus d'exprimer leurs revendications, de s'organiser et de participer aux décisions qui affectent leur vie, et l'égalité des chances et de traitement pour tous.

<sup>10</sup> Emploi précaire renvoi le plus souvent aux expériences de travail associées avec le faible revenu, l'instabilité, l'absence de protection et la vulnérabilité socio-économique

day. The proportions of vulnerable employment in the region's economies are positively correlated with the low skill level of the labour force (See Appendix21). Many people enter the labour market without the minimum qualifications required.

58. Youth employment is also a major development issue in the region. The official unemployment rate for youth (aged 15-24) in West Africa is estimated at 11.9% in 2020 (See Appendix19). These official rates do not take into account the large proportion of underemployed youth working mainly in the informal sector. Uncertain employment opportunities for young people contribute to migratory movements out of the sub-region and insecurity in the Community.

59. ***A decline in the proportion of poor people in the region, combined with an increase in income inequality and food insecurity:*** Poverty has declined significantly in West Africa since 2010. In 2019, 36.0% of ECOWAS citizens were living below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day compared to 49.0% in 2010 (See Appendix22)<sup>11</sup>. However, poverty continues to be a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It remains much more pronounced in rural areas in all countries of the region (ECA, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020a). In contrast to poverty, income inequality has increased in all countries since the early 2000s (See Appendix24). The region is also prone to food insecurity, which has been trending upward since 2014. The prevalence of severe food insecurity among the population has increased from 20.7% in 2014 to 29.5% in 2017<sup>12</sup>. This sometimes chronic, sometimes cyclical food insecurity is linked to the effects of climate change, and natural catastrophes. It could worsen with the Covid-19 pandemic causing a slowdown in global supply for agricultural and non-agricultural commodities.

60. In addition, the transformation of food systems remains a major concern for the coming decades. To take better advantage of the opportunities offered by the size of the internal market, those systems will have to adapt to changes in demand, in particular taking into account rapid urbanization. At least two-thirds (2/3) of food needs are met by the regional market. The food economy is the region's largest economic sector - with a share of regional GDP estimated at 36% in 2011. Almost 40% of the added value of the food economy is now believed to come from non-agricultural activities. Thus, the development of other segments of the food value chains is a major issue for food and nutritional security in West Africa which is also based on maintaining efficient agriculture.

61. ***A region still characterized by marked gender inequalities:*** Despite the progress made by most countries in terms of women's participation in the economic and social sectors, gender inequalities continue to characterize West African society. The McKinsey Gender Parity Index shows high levels of inequality among ECOWAS Member States, with parity scores ranged from 0.45 in Niger to 0.59 in Ghana in 2019<sup>13</sup>. Moreover, according to the UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII), nine (9) of the fifteen (15) member states are in the bottom 20 of the global ranking in 2019. (See Appendix25). Those inequalities are related to access to education, health, the labour market, land resources and national decision-making bodies . With regard to access to land, large disparities to the disadvantage of women are noted in Côte d'Ivoire and Niger, with scores of 1,

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<sup>11</sup> <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/povOnDemand.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ca2710en.pdf>

13 The power of parity: Advancing women's equality in Africa (mckinsey.com)

corresponding to high levels of inequality. Lower levels of inequality are noted in Burkina Faso, with a score of 6, and near parity between men and women in access to land is observed in Sierra Leone, which records a gender inequality score of 9 in access to land (ECA, 2016; 2017; 2018)<sup>14</sup>. In terms of employment as well, the situation is generally unfavourable to women in all countries (See Appendix27). In the specific area of education, gender gaps in enrolment rates have narrowed, with some exceptions for Cabo Verde, Ghana, Senegal, the Gambia and Sierra Leone. Those countries have gender parity indices in favour of girls for some levels of education (See Appendix 26).

**62. A region characterized by a low level of human development:** The 2019 Human Development Index shows that the performance of 13 out of the 15 ECOWAS Member States is lower than the HDI averages for developing countries, and Sub-Saharan Africa (See Appendix28). In addition, the HDI average of the ECOWAS (0.51) is lower than that of member states of ECCAS (0.53), EAC (0.53) and SADC (0.60) in 2019<sup>15</sup>. Only Cabo Verde (126th) and Ghana (138th) are among the countries with average human development level. This poor performance highlights the need to step up efforts to promote inclusive growth and improve people's access to quality health and education services.

**63. A desire to make culture a driving force for integration, cooperation, social progress and the economic dynamism of the region:** Without cultural reference, no group can stand out. Languages, traditional knowledge, customs and know-how are the mean through which each human group expresses its culture and enhances it. Cultural identity is essential for shaping personality and integration within ECOWAS. The region was the cradle of famous African kingdoms and empires such as the Oyo Empire, the Ashanti and the Benin Empire. It is currently home to over 600 languages<sup>16</sup>. The ECOWAS space still retains strong traditional values and cultural assets, capable of generating positive intra-regional dynamics. For example, certain assets of the ECOWAS cultural heritage such as pacts, patronymic cousinship, palaver trees, castes of griots or blacksmiths with social functions recognized and accepted by all, are resources which can help prevent, manage and extinguish conflicts. This cultural system of conflict prevention in the sub-region could be enhanced and redeployed at all levels within the Community

64. Moreover, the socio-cultural heritage of ECOWAS is a source of creativity. It has an increasingly important positive economic impact on the region through cultural industries that contribute to the creation of jobs and income for the population. For example, a survey conducted by the United Nations indicates that the Nigerian film industry, known as Nollywood, generates between 500 and 800 million US dollars, and approximately one million new jobs each year. This industry accounted for 2.3% of Nigerian GDP in 2016<sup>17</sup>. It produces around 50 films per week, placing it second only to Bollywood in India and ahead of Hollywood in the United States<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> La parité entre homme et femmes pour l'accès à la terre est obtenue pour un score de 10. En dessous de ce score les femmes sont défavorisées par rapport aux hommes dans l'accès à cet actif et au-dessus de ce score, les femmes sont avantageées par rapport aux hommes.

<sup>15</sup> Calculated from data extracted from the 2020 sustainable development report of UNDP ([undp.org](http://undp.org))

<sup>16</sup> [Cultural and Creative Industries Supporting Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa \(ssoar.info\)](http://Cultural and Creative Industries Supporting Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa (ssoar.info))

<sup>17</sup> [Spotlight - The Nigerian film industry \(pwc.com\)](http://Spotlight - The Nigerian film industry (pwc.com))

<sup>18</sup> [Le cinéma nigérian : une mine d'or potentielle ? | AfriqueRenouveau](http://Le cinéma nigérian : une mine d'or potentielle ? | AfriqueRenouveau)  
[The Nollywood Industry and the challenge it faces | bonggis](http://The Nollywood Industry and the challenge it faces | bonggis)

65. At a time of the globalization of cultures and the clash of civilizations, the cultural actors of ECOWAS have an important role to play in the preservation of West African identities and social values. In addition, it will be necessary to work to establish strong cultural links between peoples and to strengthen the dialogue which must unite them in the quest for a space regulated by the valuation of differences and reciprocal respect for the cultural values of the different social groups that make up the community. To promote the cultural development of the community space, ECOWAS has adopted a regional action plan covering, among other things, the areas of *(i) promotion of human resources development and capacity building of professionals in the field of culture and stakeholders; (ii) the protection of copyright and the promotion of the works of creators; (iii) the promotion of cultural industries and enterprises and the functioning of a common cultural market to facilitate the efficient movement of cultural goods and services; (iv) Facilitation of continental and international cultural exchanges, sharing of experiences, ideas, education and expertise etc.*

### **3.1.1.4. Migration and Urban Development**

66. ***A preponderance of intra-regional migration facilitated at the institutional level by the total abolition of visas between States:*** The 1979 Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment, and the common approach to migration adopted by the Heads of State in 2008 paved the way for the gradual legal establishment of free movement of citizens in the West African space. The most visible action taken to enshrine the free movement of people in the ECOWAS space remains the abolition of visas between the 15 Member States.

67. West Africa's migration pattern has historically been characterised by intense internal mobility, which accounts for 84% of all West African migration (ECOWAS et al, 2016)<sup>19</sup>. However, illegal migration patterns, particularly outside the sub-region, are increasingly recurrent, generally giving rise to trafficking of all kinds (*children, women for sexual exploitation and slavery*) and exposing migrants to high risks of death (*nearly 5,143 cases of migrant deaths in 2016, and about 18,960 since 2014 according to the latest IOM figures*) particularly in the Sahara Desert and during the Mediterranean Sea crossing<sup>20</sup>. The causes of migration in West Africa are varied and include economic, environmental, social reasons and armed conflicts .

68. ***Expanding urbanization, with large proportions of city dwellers living in slums:*** The proportion of the population living in urban centres in West Africa has increased rapidly and this dynamic is expected to continue. This proportion has risen from 14.7% in 1960 to 47.6% in 2020 and is projected to rise to 53.5% in 2030 and 63.7% in 2050 (See Appendix30). However, many people living in urban areas in the Community reside in slums. Indeed, more than 50% of the urban populations in 10 countries in the West African sub-region live in slums (See Appendix31), where sanitary and social conditions are sometimes more precarious than in rural areas (ECA, 2020a).

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<sup>19</sup> <https://fmmwestafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/fr-A-SurveyonMigrationPoliciesinWestAfricaFRSOFT2nd.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-reach-72263-2019-deaths-reach-1041>

69. The growing urbanisation of the region is a key factor in changing population behaviour. It can be an opportunity to improve the people's access to basic social services, reduce fertility, accelerate the demographic transition, and promote economic growth. However, the inter-sectorial mobility of labour that is generally inherent in it can also cause an overall decline in agricultural production in the sub-region, which remains highly dependent on the stock of labour available in rural areas. From this perspective, it could aggravate food insecurity<sup>21</sup>.

### **3.1.2. Environment and natural resources**

70. The environment and natural resources sector is one of the key areas of governance in ECOWAS because of the structure of its economy, which is strongly based on the exploitation of those resources and is subject to the strong uncertainties of climate change. This retrospective analysis will identify past and current dynamics in this sector and draw lessons for the future of the region. It will be structured around two points: *(i) the environment and (ii) natural resources*.

#### ***3.1.2.1. ECOWAS, an Area Marked by Strong Environmental Uncertainties***

71. ***A region that still emits little environmental pollution:*** ECOWAS is still positioned at almost negligible emission levels compared to other regions of the world. According to the Global Carbon Project, the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions assessed in 2018 is 192.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>, or 0.52% of the emissions of all countries on the planet. To promote better management of environmental pollution, ECOWAS has deployed an environmental policy with an action plan focusing on the development of renewable energy. Through this policy, Member States aim to increase the share of renewable energy in the region's overall electricity mix to 10% by 2020, and to 19% by the year 2030. About 25% of the rural population of ECOWAS should also be served by mini-grids and stand-alone systems by the year 2030.

72. ***A region highly exposed to climate change:*** Although the region has low pollution levels, it remains vulnerable to the effects of climate change. A review of the last 70 years shows that the temperature of West Africa is increasing and is almost everywhere above the global average of 28°C. In addition, the region has, in recent decades, experienced significant variations in rainfall (ACMAD, 2020). The climatic zones are influenced by annual rainfall, which varies from 200 mm in the north to over 2,000 mm in the south. Rainfall levels and patterns could undergo unpredictable changes. In coastal areas, rising sea levels accompanied by rising temperatures will threaten coastal regions and ecosystems. These climate changes will have serious impacts on key sectors such as health, infrastructure, food security, migration and particularly agriculture *via* natural resources. The sub-region will have to increase labour productivity to be able to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, ECOWAS has implemented several projects, including the on-going development of an ecological, economic and social adaptation programme in response to climate change and the implementation of the WABICC project in West Africa.

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<sup>21</sup> La raison principale est la faible mécanisation de l'agriculture dans la plupart des pays

### **3.1.2.2. Important Natural Resources under Pressure**

73. **Land and forest resources in high demand:** West Africa is still home to only 11% of the world's 1.2 million m<sup>2</sup> dense tropical forests. The region has lost, over the past 25 years, nearly a third (1/3) of mangrove forests, which provide vital economic and environmental benefits. The environmental, social and economic benefits of mangrove forests are generally underestimated. Weak conservation strategies, law enforcement and governance coupled with lack of incentives for behaviour change are among the factors driving deforestation, degradation and loss of biodiversity in the region. The protection of these forests, often cross-border, requires concerted action at all levels (local, national, bilateral and regional).
74. Furthermore, West African forest formations are often confronted with pressures linked to their conversion, on a large scale, to food or cash crops. Unsustainable harvesting of forest products leads to destruction of ecosystem functions, decline in biodiversity, and climate change and variability.
75. Sustainable management and governance of forest and tree resources is of great interest to the region, which has about 22% of Africa's forest and tree formations (CIFOR, 2018). In view of the contribution of this very diverse forest assets to food security, household energy supply and biodiversity protection, ECOWAS, in addressing the challenges in this sector, has defined regional response strategies through, among others, the Common Agricultural Policy (2008), the Common Environmental Policy (2008), the Energy Efficiency Policy (2012), the Renewable Energy Policy (2012) and the Convergence Plan (2013) for forest management (N'Gom, 2015). These policies globally aim to satisfy the needs of the populations with sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection.
76. In order to ensure better management of biodiversity, ECOWAS and Mauritania proceeded on July 25, 2019 to the official launch of the Support Programme for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems, Environmental Governance and Climate Change in West Africa (PAPBIO) and the Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFOR) with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the European Union. The protection of these areas is essential in the environmental and climate policy of ECOWAS because the protected areas are valuable assets in the fight against climate change and its effects. It should be noted that the region has a very rich biodiversity with natural properties listed on UNESCO's World Heritage sites.
77. **A significant water potential under pressure:** West Africa has significant water resources. The region has 28 trans-boundary river basins that cover 71% of the total area of the region (Tabarly, 2008). This area is among the most fish-rich coasts with a fisheries production estimated at more than 2 million tons, or nearly 3.5% of world production (Ndiaye, 2013). However, this production is insufficient to meet the needs of the regional market. Regional imports of fishery products come from Africa (51%), Europe (24%), Asia (16%) and America (9%) (N'Diaye, 2018). The West African market therefore presents enormous opportunities for gross exporting countries such as Senegal, The Gambia, or Mauritania.
78. Access to drinking water and sanitation, however, remain a concern for 40% and 60% of

the population respectively (IUCN, 2016). Irrigated agriculture is still marginal; only 10% of potentially irrigable land is irrigated. The hydro-power potential is huge and is only 16% exploited (IUCN, 2016). Indeed, about 150 large dams have been built to date in West Africa, with an additional 40 planned or under construction, mainly in the Niger, Senegal, Volta, and The Gambia River basins (IUCN, 2017). Climate change and variability, with adverse consequences, are increasingly a threat to water resources, requiring a strong diversification of energy production and supply.

79. The impact of population growth on water availability has resulted in a significant decline in the stock of water resources over the past five decades. Most countries in the region face a chronic water insecurity problem, which is set to worsen due to ever-increasing demand from accelerating human and livestock growth and climate change (IUCN, 2016).

80. **Huge deposits of extractive resources still largely untapped :** Majority of ECOWAS countries are rich in natural resources, mainly gas, oil and minerals: Burkina Faso (copper, uranium, bauxite, manganese, limestone, gold), Niger (uranium, oil), Mali (gold), Guinea (bauxite, gold), Nigeria (oil)<sup>22</sup> Ghana (gold), Sierra Leone (diamonds), Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal (oil, gas, manganese, phosphate and gold). The availability of those huge and largely untapped mineral resources gives ECOWAS the status of a region rich in natural potential with a contribution of natural resources to GDP that varies from one country to another. In 2020, Mines and quarries represented for example 7,5% of Ghana's GDP; 10,2% of Burkina Faso's GDP; and 4% of Côte d'Ivoire's GDP. In Nigeria, the extractives sector represented 9% of GDP in 2020.

81. In view of the importance of the sector in the development of countries in the region, ECOWAS has adopted several regional policies and instruments, namely: (i) the ECOWAS Mineral Resources Development Policy; (ii) the Directive on the Harmonization of Guiding Principles and Policies in the Mining Sector; (iii) the institutionalization of the ECOWAS Mining and Petroleum Forum (ECOMOF); (iv) the ECOWAS Mining Code; (v) the creation of an Observatory and cadastral system for the ECOWAS geo-extractives sector, currently under review; and (vii) the creation of the Federation of ECOWAS Chambers of Mines.

### **3.1.3. Governance, Peace and Security**

82. Good governance and the establishment of inclusive and credible institutions are important factors in the quest for economic development and increased living standards for the population. This development is also inherent in an environment of peace and security. This section proposes to (a) analyse governance in each of the Member Countries and (b) address the challenges related to peace and security in the region.

#### **3.1.3.1. Governance in ECOWAS Member Countries**

83. **Signals of weakening democratic governance in the countries of the region:** The adoption of the ECOWAS Protocol on Good Governance and Democracy (2000) has enabled the region to gradually consolidate democratic gains around the principles of constitutional convergence based, in particular, on the separation of powers, popular

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<sup>22</sup> 2 millions de barils par jour (estimation de 2019)

participation, democratic control, zero tolerance for the takeover of power through unconstitutional means, freedom of the press and freedom of expression . While the result has been a gradual entrenchment of the democratic culture in the region, there is a trend of crises caused by non-consensual constitutional changes. Democratic processes are still fragile, Frequent challenges to electoral processes (perceived as less consensual), have led to serious political and institutional crises creating instability, sometimes with negative regional implications. An endogenous and successful democracy in sub-Saharan Africa requires strong and credible institutions capable of driving radical change and promoting respect for fundamental rights.

84. ***ECOWAS countries still face challenges of socio-political instability and corruption:*** In West Africa, there is significant concern about the rise of terrorism. This is manifested by the number of terrorist attacks in some West African States that have caused many human casualties and destruction of property. Between January and May 2021, 671 armed incidents perpetrated by terrorist groups were recorded in the region, resulting in over 2,800 deaths. Other armed groups were responsible for 289 attacks over the same period, resulting in over 430 casualties. Overall the number of victims of terrorist attacks has increased five-fold in three years in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In these three countries, more than 4,000 deaths due to terrorism were reported in 2019, compared to 770 deaths in 2016 (UN, 2020). World Political Stability and Freedom from Violence indicates a low level of stability within countries in the sub-region, characterized by people's perception or likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means. On a scale ranging from -2.5 (Poor governance) to +2.5 (Good governance), the socio-political instability indicator has an average value of -0.62 in 2019 (See Appendix32).
85. When it comes to corruption, Cabo Verde is the only ECOWAS country classified outside the "red zone" of Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perception Index (CPI). In addition to holding the top spot in West Africa, the country also has an honourable ranking at the continental level. It ranks 3rd after Botswana and the Seychelles. Cabo Verde's results are the result of "a political will to fight corruption ".
86. However, we note that the economic drivers of ECOWAS, notably Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, show much lower performance in the fight against corruption. Nigeria, the continent's leading economic and demographic power, has a score of 26/100 in 2019. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal score 35, 41, and 45 points respectively. Senegal has had the same score since 2016, which would be the result of a "real weakening" of the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies. Similarly, a decline was noted in four countries, namely Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Togo which have a score of 40, 32, 29, and 29 (in 2019), respectively. Those countries are indeed experiencing a drop of 1 to 3 points between 2018 and 2019. Liberia records the biggest under-performance within ECOWAS with a loss of 4 points. Sierra Leone with 33/100, although in the red zone, improved by three points compared to 2018. Guinea Bissau with the lowest score of 19/100 will need to invest more in improving overall governance and fighting poverty. However, this Member State recorded a small gain of 2 points in 2019. Guinea makes a gain of one point compared to 2018 and posts a score of 19/100 in 2019.
87. Those various counter-performances make corruption a major challenge to good governance, sustainable economic growth, peace, stability and development in the

region. However, it should be noted that ECOWAS is making efforts to contain and eradicate this scourge. An instrument for fighting against corruption has thus been put in place, it is the 2001 protocol A / P3 / 12/01 on the fighting against corruption, where the aim of which is: (i) to promote and strengthen, in each member states, the development of effective mechanisms to prevent, suppress and eradicate corruption; (ii) to intensify and make more dynamic cooperation between Member States in order to make anti-corruption measures more effective; (iii) promote the harmonization and coordination of national anti-corruption laws and policies. This Protocol provides for preventive measures in the public and private sectors and requires that independent anti-corruption institutions (national authorities) be established, maintained and strengthened. It also demands the criminalization of various forms of offenses against public officials or employees of private sector companies and obliges member states to prohibit and punish any act of bribery of public and private officials, both domestic and foreign. The Protocol also provides a framework for international cooperation that could improve law enforcement cooperation within West Africa as well as with other parts of Africa. It provides a framework for confiscation and seizure of assets and extradition.

### **3.1.3.2. Peace and Security**

88. ***Complexity of the security situation :*** Since the 2000s, there has been a marked decrease in large-scale civil wars. On the other hand, we are witnessing a complexification of the security situation characterized by the entanglement of multifaceted and complex threats, including in particular arms trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and its financing, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, etc. trafficking and counterfeiting of all types of products, particularly pharmaceuticals. Those various security threats are currently hampering the progress made by the sub-region. In addition to those threats, there are difficulties related to the integration of young people into society, migratory movements and sub-regional imbalances. The rapid development of the extractive industries, the weakness of political institutions, the slow pace of reform of the security sector and land management problems are also sources of fragility<sup>23</sup>. Thus, we are witnessing a trend towards greater complexity in security situations within ECOWAS.

89. ***A region affected by the circulation of small arms, terrorism, transnational crime and piracy:*** In addition to recurrent electoral crises, the Community also faces various equally important security problems, such as terrorism, transnational crime, in particular trafficking in human beings, small arms and drugs, and piracy. Although efforts are being made in the fight against terrorism, particularly against Boko Haram in the north-eastern part of Nigeria, the region is frequently subject to terrorist attacks, mainly in the Lake Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger regions. This phenomenon, beyond the loss of human life and the number of internally displaced persons that it causes, has recently affected the coastal countries. Transnational human trafficking and trafficking in drugs, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and other illicit goods are also important elements of regional insecurity. The same goes for piracy, which is most acute in the Gulf of Guinea. The growing cross-border insecurity is due to the lack of control over the maritime areas and the expansion of piracy and illicit activities at sea, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which has direct repercussions on the resilience of the region.

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23 « Relever les défis de la stabilité et de la sécurité en Afrique de l'Ouest» Banque mondiale et AFD, Marc, Alexandre, Neelam Verjee, et Stephen Mogaka. 2015.

This reveals the various vulnerabilities of the region, which are exploited by criminals, including insufficient and inadequate response capacities of Member States to deal with threats at sea.

90. ***Progress made on the prevention front since the establishment of conflict management and prevention mechanisms:*** ECOWAS has adopted a set of instruments for conflict prevention and peace-keeping. In 1999, it adopted the Protocol on the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping and Security, and in 2001, the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. It also developed the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention and Resolution Framework in 2008. Since then, it has made great strides in conflict prevention. One element of success in this area is undoubtedly the ECOWARN, an early warning system. The Community has made progress on the democracy front, particularly in the area of election observation, although political issues and electoral problems in particular continue to be a major source of instability and a threat to peace in the sub-region.

91. ***A worsening humanitarian situation:*** The security situation combined with other factors related to food insecurity, climate change, community clashes (pastoralists / farmers) and the impact of COVID 19, have exacerbated the humanitarian situation in the region. The general trend of insecurity is leading to large flows of internally displaced people and an increase in the required level of humanitarian assistance. The region currently has 451,417 refugees and more than 3.7 million internally displaced persons (UNHCR 2021), of which 57% and 32% respectively in Nigeria and Burkina. Insecurity in the area is also behind the increase in rights violations and hinders humanitarian access, depriving communities of assistance. In 2021, 29 million Sahelian peoples will need humanitarian assistance and protection; or 5 million more than in 2020.

92. ***Efforts still to be made in the operationalization of the ECOWAS Stand-by Force:*** Although ECOWAS has experience in conflict prevention and management as well as in peace building, the weak operational, logistical and financial capacities of the States hamper efforts to combat security threats. It also undermines the expected effectiveness of the ECOWAS Stand-by Force (ESF) and therefore the operationalization of the regional peace architecture. Efforts are needed at this level to enable ECOWAS to be more effective in its mission for peace promotion and peace-keeping.

### **3.1.4. Economic Growth, Structural Transformation and Private Sector Development**

93. Over the past two decades, Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly ECOWAS, has recorded remarkable economic growth performance. This section analyses the characteristics of economic growth in the ECOWAS space. It then discusses the evolution of the structural transformation process in the region and the development of the private sector.

#### ***3.1.4.1. Strong Economic Growth, but which tends to run out of steam and to generate a decline in the standard of living of the populations***

94. Since the early 2000s, most of the ECOWAS countries have recorded high economic growth rates (Annex 33). The five-year average growth rate went from 6.8% between 2001 and 2005, to 6.3% between 2006 and 2010, then to 5.0% between 2011 and 2015. It stands at 2.2% between 2016 and 2018 (WDI, 2020). The COVID-19 situation led to a 1.7% decline in real GDP in 2020 after real growth of 3.9% in 2019. This slow-down

in regional growth is causing a decline in the rate of increase in the standard of living, insofar as population growth remains relatively strong, resulting in a sharp decline in per capita income.

**95. *Growth mainly driven by final consumption expenditure*** GDP growth in ECOWAS is strongly influenced by final consumption expenditure (See Appendix34) and private consumption plays a large role. Household consumption was extremely high in the smaller economies between 2015 and 2019. In Guinea-Bissau, household consumption contributed over 6 percentage growth in the region in 2019. The Gambia, Mali, and Burkina Faso follow with over 5 percentage points. Private consumption in Nigeria, the region's largest economy, remains subdued since the 2016 recession. In contrast, the re-emergence of the middle class in Côte d'Ivoire since the end of the crisis underpins the increase in consumer spending, and estimates show that between 2019 and 2030, the purchasing power of the country's middle class will increase by about 154 percent (West African Economic Outlook, 2020). This private consumption is essentially driven by strong demographics combined with a decline in poverty, albeit small, which could eventually lead to a large emerging middle class that could drive self-sustained growth in the coming years in all countries.

**96. *A low share of private investment in GDP and a current account deficit in several ECOWAS Member States:*** The share of private investment in the region's GDP has been low, averaging 11.1% of GDP between 2000 and 2017 (see Appendix35). However, private investment has been on an upward trend in recent years. Their share in regional GDP increased by 1.3 percentage points between 2010 and 2017 and averaged 12.4% of GDP within ECOWAS. Over the 2011-2019 period, gross exports have been negative for most countries in the region with the exception of Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria (See Appendix36). Between 2019 and 2020, the current account deficit in Côte d'Ivoire almost doubles from 1.9 percent of GDP in 2019 to 3.5 percent in 2020, due to rising imports and falling exports with the decline in international demand related to Covid-19. In Togo, the current account deficit increased slightly from 2.2 percent of GDP in 2019 to 3.2 percent in 2020. The slow-down in imports has kept the increase in the current account deficit under control. In Ghana current account deficit narrowed to about 2.5 percent of GDP in 2020 from 2.8 percent in 2019, due to reduced import demand. It is expected to widen to 2.8 percent of GDP in 2021 and 3.2 percent in 2022, (AfDB, 2020).

**97. *A significant contribution of exports to the region' GDP growth :***The dynamics of the main drivers of growth augur well for an increase in the wealth created within the ECOWAS region. In this regard, exports have experienced acceptable growth in recent years. They are estimated at 19.2% of the region's GDP in 2017, and have increased to a real growth rate of 2.3% in 2020, according to African Development Bank (AfDB, 2020) estimates. Exports are one of the relevant drivers of economic growth. However, they remain concentrated in a few products. The FERDI Export Concentration Index<sup>24</sup> gives a

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<sup>24</sup> This indicator measures the sectoral concentration of a country's exports. High export concentration is a source of vulnerability. The measure of export concentration is derived from a Herfindahl-Hirschmann index applied to merchandise exports (excluding services) following the SITC "three-digit" classification. Performance scores are distributed from 0 to 100. The lowest score reflects the best situation

(<https://competitivite.ferdi.fr/indicateurs/concentration-des-exportations>)

value of 79/100 for Nigeria in 2018. This score reflects a high concentration of exports and thus the vulnerability of the locomotive of the West African economy. The Index is 14/100 in Senegal, 33/100 in Côte d'Ivoire and 42/100 in Ghana. The downward trend of this index in the region since 2006 suggests good prospects for diversification of the regional economy. Indeed, from 0.63 over the period 2006-2010, the export concentration index fell to 0.56 between 2011 and 2015 and would be at a relatively low score of 0.44 between 2016 and 2018.

### ***3.1.4.2. Financing Economic Growth: an increasingly unassisted economy***

98. The share of bilateral development aid in the ECOWAS region fell from 2.2% of GDP in 2000 to 1.3% in 2018 after peaking at 4.6% in 2006 (See Appendix37). The West African economies, in their sustained growth process, are less and less dependent on bilateral aid. This would reflect the beginning of a growth process that is increasingly endogenous.
99. ***Domestic resource mobilization still insufficient to support growth:*** The financing of economic growth in the ECOWAS region is confronted with the low mobilization of domestic resources. Indeed, most ECOWAS countries mobilize barely more than 20% of the wealth created. This trend is likely to jeopardise the sustainability of the economic growth that has been underway in the region since the early 2000s. Public investment could fall sharply, thus compromising its beneficial effects on economic growth. Faced with insufficient mobilisation of tax revenues, half of the ECOWAS countries have limited room for manoeuvre in the conduct of a fiscal policy conducive to reducing poverty and increasing the well-being of the populations.
100. ***Savings increasingly insufficient to meet investments:*** Investments in the ECOWAS region are increasingly dependent on external savings. Indeed, the ratio of savings to Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) has fallen from 73.8% in 2003 to 24.0% in 2018 (See Appendix38). The widening gap between those two variables could eventually compromise the sustainability of regional growth. Innovative financing could thus be an interesting alternative to explore to help meet the region's financing needs.
101. ***A small stock of external debt, but its weight is increasing over time:*** The share of the external debt stock in GDP has fallen sharply since the early 2000s. It fell from 66.9% in 2000 to 10.1% in 2014, thanks in particular to the HIPC initiative from which many countries in the region have benefited. However, this trend is expected to increase again, with the share of external debt in GDP estimated at 15.1% in 2019 and 18.1% in 2020 in connection with the widening of budget deficits in the context of Covid-19 pandemic (IMF, 2021)<sup>25</sup>. The latest debt sustainability analyses conducted by the IMF in ECOWAS Member States indicate that four (4) countries (Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone) are at risk of high external debt distress<sup>26</sup>. This may have adverse consequences on the future debt capacity of those countries and consequently on the implementation of economic development programmes and growth.
102. ***An economy less and less based on the agricultural sector:*** At the beginning of the 2000s, a major share of GDP was generated by the agricultural sector in the ECOWAS

<sup>25</sup> [Perspectives économiques régionales : Afrique \(imf.org\)](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Présentation détaillée des pays participants à l'Initiative de suspension du service de la dette. \(banquemonde.org\)](#)

region. From nearly 25% in 2000, this share of agriculture rose to nearly 35% in 2002 and stood at around 20% of regional GDP in 2018 (See Appendix39). Moreover, employment in the agricultural sector is declining while employment in services and industry is increasing. In the early 2000s, the contribution of the agricultural sector to total employment in ECOWAS was more than 54% compared to 34% and 11% respectively for services and industry. In 2017, those proportions stood at 42.7% for agriculture, 44.4% for services and 12.7% for industry (See Appendix40).

103. ***A steadily increasing, but still low, share of the industrial and manufacturing sector:*** In recent years, there has been an increase in the share of the manufacturing and industrial sectors in the GDP in the ECOWAS space, which remains low, and above all a sharp increase in the share of the services sector, which has become the leading contributor to GDP. This growth in the services sector can be explained by the new information and communication technologies (ICTs), which are of vital importance to the other sectors of the economy.

#### ***3.1.4.3. The Beginning of Structural Transformation in Several ECOWAS Countries***

104. The four major ECOWAS economies, namely Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, recorded a relatively high share of the industrial and manufacturing sector in GDP in 2018 (See Appendix41). This performance reflects the dynamics of structural transformation observed in those countries, which should drive that of the entire region. Ghana leads the way with a share of the industrial and manufacturing sector of 42% of GDP. It is followed by Côte d'Ivoire (38%), Nigeria (35%) and Senegal (34%).

#### ***3.1.4.4. Technological Innovation Too Slow to effectively Support Structural Transformation***

105. The region capacity for innovation remains weak, mainly because of deficiencies in the education systems (See previous section on human capital). In addition, those difficulties in innovating are maintained by the low level of resources devoted to research and development in most Member States. This sector remains the poor relation of national budgets. The share of GDP devoted to research and development is 0.3% (ACBF, 2017)<sup>27</sup>. This share varies from 0.07% in Cabo Verde (2011) to 0.66% in Mali (2010)<sup>28</sup>. Moreover, due to the insufficiency and lack of advanced research infrastructure, there is a strong brain drain from African countries to OECD countries in particular<sup>29</sup>.

#### ***3.1.4.5. Investment and Private Sector Promotion***

106. Investment in the ECOWAS region is highly dependent on inward FDI, which shows the low impact of the Investment Policy Framework and the Supplementary Act on the Community Investment Rules adopted in 2008. The FDI inflows are mainly directed

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<sup>27</sup><https://elibrary.acbfact.org/acbf/collect/acbf/index/assoc/HASH01d8/996a18ae/218252a6/d57c.dir/ACR2017%20French.pdf>

<sup>28</sup>[usr15\\_west\\_africa\\_fr.pdf \(unesco.org\)](http://usr15_west_africa_fr.pdf (unesco.org))

<sup>29</sup>[Brain drain: a bane to Africa's potential | Mo Ibrahim Foundation](http://brain-drain-a-bane-to-africas-potential-mo-ibrahim-foundation)

towards Nigeria, which alone influences their evolution in the ECOWAS region despite the negative effects of the 2008-2009 crisis on flows. This influence of Nigeria in the attractiveness of foreign direct investments (FDI) in the ECOWAS region could decrease in the coming years. Indeed, the share of FDI entering Nigeria in the total for the ECOWAS region has fallen from over 89.2% in 1993 to 21.0% in 2018 (Appendices 43-44). This suggests the increasingly important role that other countries in the region could play in mobilizing FDI. In sum, there are fewer and fewer constraints on foreign and domestic investment in the ECOWAS region. Despite this, it is becoming increasingly difficult to mobilize more investment, especially with the advent of Covid-19.

107. The ECOWAS Commission has taken several initiatives: *(i) the development of the ECOWAS Investment Policy (ECOWIP) and the ECOWAS Investment Code (ECOWIC), (ii) the establishment of an ECOBIZWORLD market information system (ECOINVEST Project), a CASUA (E-Commerce) Platform in support of ECOBIZ, a Youth Entrepreneurship Programme, an ECOWAS Diaspora Programme and a Regional Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy*. Furthermore, ECOWAS intends to implement *(i) an investment monitoring platform in collaboration with UNIDO and the African Union within the framework of the AFRIPANET programme (Africa Investment Promotion Agency Network), (ii) the harmonisation of business law in ECOWAS States that are not members of OHADA; and (iii) ECOWAS also wants to put in place an investment guarantee mechanism in the region*.
108. **Private sector credit on the rise since 2001:** Since 2001, there has been an increase in the share of credit to the private sector, which reached 18.5% of GDP in 2015 and 17.6% of GDP in 2018 (See Appendix45). The reasons for this increase go beyond the structural adjustment measures implemented in various countries of the Community. They include the development of the West African Private Investment Guarantee Fund (GARI), which has contributed to the promotion of the private sector by granting credit.
109. **A business environment that remains unsatisfactory:** Improving the business climate is a real challenge for ECOWAS Countries, which have low scores for business development in the ECOWAS region (See Appendix47). Most countries have an average score (3 on a scale of 0 to 6). In addition, weakly secured property rights, governance problems, and the inability of legal systems to enforce contracts negatively affect private economic activity in ECOWAS countries. Thus, property rights scores are relatively low in the majority of ECOWAS countries, with Nigeria in the lead with a score of around 2.5 on a scale of 0 to 6 since 2005.
110. **An economy with a predominance of the informal sector:** The weak development of formal private enterprises in the ECOWAS region has contributed to encouraging individuals to take refuge and confine themselves to the informal sector, whose share in the economy varies between 20% and 65% (Leandro et al, 2017)<sup>30</sup>. Indeed, in the absence of sufficient opportunities in the formal sector, the informal sector constitutes a refuge for a large number of people who derive work and livelihoods from it (Leandro et al, 2017).

### 3.1.5. Economic and Monetary Integration, Economic Infrastructure and Partnership

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.imf.org/~/media/Files/Publications/WP/2017/wp17156.ashx>.

111. The purpose of this section is to provide a retrospective analysis on the theme of economic and monetary integration, infrastructure and partnerships as they relate to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is structured in four (4) parts: (i) the evolution of economic, monetary and commercial integration in West Africa, (ii) the situation of economic infrastructure including sanitation and new telecommunications technologies, (iii) the issue of energy and (iv) international financial cooperation.

### ***3.1.5.1. Advanced Economic, Monetary and Commercial Integration, which is being accelerated***

112. Since the 1970s, West Africa gradually experienced a certain dynamism in the regional integration process. One of the important aspects of this dynamism has been the consolidation of the regional market, particularly through the free movement of people and goods. In addition to corridor development projects (Abidjan-Lagos road, Dakar-Bamako railroad), the finalization of the customs union with the entry into force of the Common External Tariff (CET) and the deepening of macro-economic convergence have greatly contributed to this consolidation of economic integration. Those efforts make the region the second largest REC on the continent after the EAC, with 15 countries, and also the most accomplished of all RECs (See Appendix49).

113. Despite those developments, monetary integration in West Africa is stalled. The advent of the ECO, the single currency for ECOWAS, is slow to materialize. This delay is due in particular to the difficulties encountered by Member States in meeting the convergence criteria. In particular, to take into account the negative effects of COVID 19, Member States have been exempted from meeting those criteria during 2021. A new roadmap is being prepared for the single currency programme and a new convergence and macro-economic stability pact, with *January 1, 2022* as the starting date for the convergence phase.

114. The various liberalisation and facilitation measures have encouraged an increase in trade between Member States. Despite the effectiveness of the trade liberalization scheme, intra-community trade remains low and below the levels recorded by other trade agreements. In fact, intra-community exports and imports represented respectively only 15% and 9% in 2019. Over the same period, intra-EU exports and imports represented respectively 59% and 61% of merchandise trade (European Commission, 2020). As for the shares of intra-ASEAN merchandise exports and imports, they were respectively 24.2% and 21.7% in 2018 (ASEAN integration report, 2019).

115. In 2002, African leaders expressed their desire to open a new era in their cooperation with the proclamation of the African Union (AU). This materialized some fifteen years later with the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement in March 2018 with the aim of uniting all countries in a common market. This project is expected to be a powerful instrument to accelerate economic cooperation and increase intra-African trade by 52.3% according to ECA estimates.

### ***3.1.5.2. A major Challenge of Infrastructure Development***

116. Infrastructure development remains a crucial challenge in West Africa, as it is an important vector for deepening regional integration. Despite the progress made in recent years in West Africa, infrastructure is still insufficient to fill the significant qualitative and

quantitative gaps. A diagnostic study of the road network, conducted within the framework of the 2020 ECOWAS Infrastructure Development Master Plan, shows that the region has an overall road network of about 605,691km, of which 84,991km are paved (i.e. 14%). As regards the condition of the Community road network, only 45% of the road network is of good quality, 28% of acceptable quality while almost 23% of the network is in poor condition. The road network accounts for more than 80% of passenger and freight transport in the region. The density of asphalted roads in ECOWAS is about 38km per 100km<sup>2</sup> or 38%. with other regions of Africa, this ratio was in 2015, 29% for the Community of East African States (EAC), 92% for the African Development Community. Austral (SADC) and 4% for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Like the road sub-sector, the density of the rail network, estimated at 1.9 km / 1000 km<sup>2</sup>, is low and lower than the continental average density of 2.5 km / 1000 km<sup>2</sup>.

117. Air links within the Community and between ECOWAS and the rest of the continent remain insufficient, with ticket costs among the highest in the continent. In addition, despite the opportunities offered by the maritime transport sub-sector, which handles (through seaports) nearly 95% of freight between the region and international markets, the evaluation of this sub-sector indicates that there are still challenges to be addressed, particularly in terms of port infrastructure capacity and operational efficiency.

118. The information technology and telecommunications (ICT) sector has been expanding rapidly since the early 2000s. The liberalisation of telecommunications and the subsequent expansion of the mobile network have contributed to a sharp increase in the mobile penetration rate, which has almost doubled in a decade, rising from 28% to 47% of the population in 2018, the highest rate of any regional economic community in sub-Saharan Africa. It is expected to increase to 50% by the end of 2020. But internet access is still limited, with an estimated 26% penetration rate in 2018.

119. Access to electricity saw a notable increase of 20 percentage points between 2000 and 2017. However, those who benefit from it represent only about half of the total population (overall access rate of 45% in 2017) of which only 23% in rural areas; there are also strong disparities between countries with coverage ranging from less than 20% to more than 70% of the population in some countries in 2017 (see annex 50).

120. To address those challenges, the Community has undertaken a series of initiatives to strengthen its energy capacities in order to ensure sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supply to the various countries. To this end, ECOWAS has established technical agencies for the development and implementation of projects such as the West African Power Pool (WAPP), the West African Gas Pipeline Authority (WAGPA), the Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ARREC) and the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Efficiency Centre (EREC). Examples of projects and programmes implemented with the support of those agencies include (i) the West Africa Gas Pipeline in service since 2011(ii) various projects of lines and sub-stations of the interconnected electricity network of West Africa (in 2022 all 14 countries of ECOWAS will be electrically inter-connected) and (iii) various projects of access to electricity. It is also worth mentioning the establishment of an enabling environment for investments (to increase power generation, transmission and distribution) with the launch of the Regional Electricity Market as well as the adoption of several policy and strategic planning documents such as the ECOWAS Regional Energy Policy, the ECOWAS Energy Protocol, the ECOWAS

Power Generation and Transmission Master Plan developed since 2012 (and updated twice).

### ***3.1.5.3. Global Shocks require a more Effective Approach to Cooperation with Partners***

121. The various fully integrated community projects require significant financial and technical resources and skills that the region does not have. This situation requires partnerships in the implementation of the regional programmes. Thus, cooperation and assistance agreements have been signed with countries and international institutions in the various fields of the different projects to make up for the lack of resources and benefit from their proven expertise. Recent economic developments in developed countries, particularly the financial and debt crises, require the definition and implementation of effective and viable strategies for financial empowerment and internal capacity development to meet the challenges of economic and social development in West Africa. This is all the truer given that official development assistance, which is the main instrument of international financial cooperation for financing development, has been stagnating worldwide since 2014, after a strong increase in volume over the period 2000-2017.

## **3.2.The Peoples' Aspirations**

122. The analysis of the aspirations of the populations made it possible (i) to appreciate the level of satisfaction of the populations in the implementation of the 2020 Vision and their expectations for the elaboration of the 2050 Vision; and (ii) to show the links between the themes of the retrospective of the 2050 Vision and those of the national prospective documents and the international Objectives in particular the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union.

123. Based on the analysis of the information collected, three (3) tables (See appendices 51-53) were constructed. Firstly, the analysis highlighted the satisfactions and dissatisfactions of the populations with ECOWAS 2020 Vision as well as their expectations for 2050 Vision and, in the end, its links their aspirations with the themes identified within the framework of 2050 Vision. Secondly, the analysis focused on the links between the themes of the retrospective analysis of 2050 Vision and the strategic axes of the various national prospective studies or, failing that, the National Development Plans of ECOWAS States. The objective of this approach is to ensure that the strategic axes of the countries' long or medium-term planning documents are taken into account in the formulation of the themes of the retrospective analysis of 2050 Vision in a bottom-up planning approach. Thirdly, the analysis assessed the level of convergence between the 2050 Vision retrospective analysis themes and the 2030 Agenda SDGs and the aspirations of the African Union's 2063 Agenda. ECOWAS, as an important Regional Economic Community in Africa, must indeed ensure the integration of African and global priorities reflected in those international agendas.

### **3.2.1. Synthesis of Aspirations and Links to the Retrospective Themes**

124. The retrospective analysis revealed the relevance of the following five (5) themes: (i) *Demography, human capital, social development and migration;* (ii) *Environment and*

*natural resources; (iii) Governance, security and peace; (iv) Economic growth, employment, structural transformation and private sector development; and (v) Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure, energy and partnerships.*

125. As part of the formulation of the ECOWAS 2050 Vision, a series of national consultations were conducted in ECOWAS Member States. The aim was to garner the aspirations of key stakeholders in the ECOWAS system. The stakeholders comprised representatives of the administration, private sector, civil society actors; women's and youth organisations; representatives of persons living with disabilities, defence and security forces, opinion leaders and the media, academics, traditional and religious leaders, businessmen and traders. This section examines the convergence between those aspirations and the themes selected to conduct the retrospective analysis.
126. An examination of the aspirations identified in 14 ECOWAS countries for which data are available reveals a **very strong convergence** between those aspirations and the themes selected for the retrospective analysis (Appendix54). In particular, the theme "**Demography, human capital, social development, migration**" was prioritized in all 14 countries. All the countries consulted also expressed aspirations related to the third theme of the retrospective analysis, relating to "**Governance, security and peace**" issues. The same is true for the aspirations formulated by the 14 countries in relation to both the fourth and fifth themes of the retrospective analysis, namely "**Economic growth, employment, structural transformation and private sector development**" and "**Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure and partnership**". We also note that 12 out of 14 countries have formulated aspirations in relation to the theme "**Environment and natural resources**". While this convergence is very noticeable, there are sometimes significant variations in the content of the aspirations from one country to another for each theme of the retrospective analysis.
127. The convergence between the aspirations and the themes of the retrospective analysis suggests that it is possible to synthesize the aspirations of the different stakeholders', and thus identify common determinants that may influence the dynamics of the region. The differences in aspirations between countries confirm the idea that ECOWAS is a community of countries with diverse economic, social, political and environmental needs and interests. The disparities also highlight a multiplicity of levers for change that decision-makers can exploit to bring about the qualitative transformation of the West African sub-region.

### **3.2.2. Links between the Strategic Axes of the Foresight and NDP documents and the Themes of the Retrospective Analysis**

128. This section highlights the points of convergence between the National Prospective Studies (NPS) of ECOWAS countries or failing that, their National Development Plans (NDP) with the themes of the retrospective analysis of the 2050 Vision. The objective of this analysis can be understood at two levels. First, it is about determining the relevance of the strategic axes derived from the ECOWAS retrospective analysis with respect to the strategic axes of the NDPs/NPSs in order to ensure their consistency with the desired future of each ECOWAS Member States. Secondly, this analysis makes it possible to assess the integration of the 2050 Vision retrospective analysis axes in the NPS/NDP of Member Countries.

129. Fourteen ECOWAS countries were included in this analysis. NPS documents are available for two countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire (Etude Nationale Prospective 2040) and Guinea (Etude Nationale Prospective 2040). National Development Plan documents are available for 14 ECOWAS countries. Only Sierra Leone could not be included in this analysis due to lack of documents.
130. With regard to Theme 1: **Demographics, Human Capital, Social Development and Migration**. Most countries highlighted issues related to human capital development as a strategic objective of their NPS/NDP. Particular emphasis was placed on social inclusion and the reduction of inequalities (Cabo Verde, Ghana, Guinea and Togo), the construction of an inclusive society (Gambia, Burkina Faso), human development (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia), social development (Niger, Togo), the demographic transition (Niger) and social protection (Ghana, Senegal, Togo).
131. With regard to the **Environment and Natural Resources theme**, there is consensus on the sustainable management and preservation of the environment in all Member States.
132. With regard to the theme **Governance, Peace and Security**, all 14 countries consulted emphasised the promotion of good governance and institution building. The issue of peace-keeping came up explicitly (Liberia, Niger and Senegal) as well as that of security (Niger and Senegal).
133. In addition, with regard to **economic growth, employment, structural transformation and private sector development**, all the countries have made this a major thrust of their ENP/PND, including industrialization as a structural transformation modality, with some priorities given to employment (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Togo), economic growth (Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo), the private sector (Niger, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Bissau and Togo) and the environment (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Togo), Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Togo), economic growth (Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo), the private sector (Niger, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Togo and Guinea) and the development of infrastructure for industrial transformation (Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Togo).
134. The theme of **economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure, energy and partnership** emerged in terms of regional integration in Côte d'Ivoire and secondarily in Cabo Verde. The sub-theme of infrastructure development emerged in several countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Togo and Guinea). This corroborates the priority and importance of the role of infrastructure in deepening regional integration and the development of Member States.
135. All in all, it appears that the themes of the retrospective analysis constitute strategic axes in the NPSs/NDPs of ECOWAS countries with priority sub-themes.

### **3.2.3. Convergence between the Peoples' Aspirations (Retrospective Analysis Themes) and the Priorities of the International Agendas**

136. This section focuses on the convergence between the themes of the 2050 Vision that integrate the aspirations of the populations of the ECOWAS region and the priorities of the international agendas that are the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union 2063 Agenda. The United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development aims at achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which include economic,

social, environmental and governance issues. As for the Vision of African States by 2063, it is translated into 7 aspirations.

137. With regard to the coherence analysis, it is determinant that ECOWAS 2050 Vision integrates the SDGs and the aspirations of the AU agenda to contribute effectively to the achievement of those major regional and international challenges. In this way, ECOWAS presents itself as an actor that takes its full place in building the Africa we want by the year 2063 and in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals commonly set for 2030. The analysis showed that the themes of the 2050 Vision retrospective analysis are fully aligned with the SDGs and the aspirations of African peoples.
138. The theme "**Demography, Human Capital, Social Development and Migration**" integrates various SDGs that address poverty and hunger eradication, access to quality education, employment and health, gender equality, helping people to migrate safely, and supporting urbanization policies. This important concern of ECOWAS is driven by 3 aspirations of Agenda 2063, namely *a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development (Aspiration 1), a continent with a strong cultural identity, a common heritage, and shared values and ethics (Aspiration 5) and an Africa whose development is people-centred, which builds on the potential of its people, especially women and youth, and which cares about the welfare of children (Aspiration 6)*.
139. The theme "**Environment and Natural Resources**" is consistent with the MDGs, which call for access to safe drinking water and sanitation, integrated water resource management, women's access to land resources, clean energy, improved air quality and waste management, the fight against climate change, and the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. It also takes into account Aspiration 1 of the 2063 Agenda (See above), thus showing the priority of the issue for Africa.
140. **Governance, peace and security** are supported by MDG 16 *Peace, justice and effective institutions*. This theme also aligns with Aspirations 3 (*an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law*), Aspiration 4(*a continent living in peace and security*) and Aspiration 7(*an Africa that acts as a strong, united and influential actor and partner on the global stage*) of the 2063 Agenda.
141. In addition, the relevance of the theme "**Economic Growth, Employment, Structural Transformation and Private Sector Development**" is reflected in the economic-related SDGs that focus on innovative industry, increased productivity and decent job creation, development financing and financial market regulation. This theme is also in line with aspirations Aspiration 1 (*A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development*) and Aspiration 7 (*An Africa that acts as a strong, united and influential player and partner on the global stage*) of the AU Agenda.
142. **Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure, energy and partnership** is the main raison d'être of ECOWAS. This profound aspiration of the region and its peoples takes into account the SDGs which call for access to quality education, clean and affordable energy, investment in infrastructure and partnership. The African Union's 2063 Agenda addresses this theme through the aspiration number 1 and 2: *a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development and an integrated and united continent*.
143. In fact, there is a strong convergence between the themes of the 2050 Vision reflection and the strategic axes of the international documents that are the United Nations'

sustainable development programme for the 2030 Horizon and the Pan-African Union's programme for the 2063 deadline. The themes of the retrospective analysis of 2050 Vision, which are aligned with the aspirations of ECOWAS populations, are thus in line with the international commitments of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union 2063 Agenda.

144. The results of the consultations held in the Union du Fleuve-Mano and Sene-Gambia are presented in the appendix (See Appendix 51); the aspirations of the population in those two groups of countries are in line with the summary of aspirations noted at the ECOWAS level.
145. The analyses conducted show, first, that the aspirations identified in the 14 ECOWAS countries for which data are available are in *perfect convergence* with the themes selected for the retrospective analysis. Second, the analysis of the prospective and NDP documents of 14 out of 15 ECOWAS countries shows the relevance of the strategic axes identified in the retrospective analysis of ECOWAS. The themes selected are *closely consistent* with the desired future of each ECOWAS Member States. The axes or themes of the 2050 Vision retrospective analysis are in fact taken into account in the NDPs of Member Countries. Thirdly, the analysis of the coherence between the themes of the 2050 Vision retrospective analysis (the Peoples' Aspirations) and the international programmes, showed that these themes are in perfect harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the aspirations of the African peoples (the 2063 Agenda).
146. By focusing on the themes selected in the retrospective analysis, ECOWAS in its 2050 Vision will therefore present itself as an actor which takes its full place in the construction of Africa by 2063 and in the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commonly set for 2030.

### 3.3. Structural Analysis

147. A final list of 65 variables was selected from the results of the retrospective analysis and the experts' contributions, to define the "ECOWAS" system. The filling of the direct influence matrix and the classification undertaken by using the MICMAC software, made it possible to establish the direct and indirect influences and to inform the formulation of the key messages which will condition the evolution of the ECOWAS system during the upcoming thirty years. These messages are mainly deciphered by the interpretation made from the positioning of the variables in the influences/dependencies planes. The interaction or inter-relationships between the different variables highlighted their levels of influence and dependence in the ECOWAS system and provided key messages for the future of the region.
- A typology of variables marked by a concentration of autonomous variables and a relatively large proportion of output variables.

148. Out of the sixty-five (65) variables validated by the experts to conduct the structural analysis, six (6) occupy the north-west quadrant, which is that of *the input or driving variables*, eleven (11) variables are concentrated in the south-east quadrant of the *dependent or outcome variables*, six (6) in the north-east quadrant of the *relay variables*, and finally forty-two (42) variables are considered *autonomous or excluded variables*,

positioned in the south-western quadrant (See Appendix58).

**149. Internal driving variables influenced by geopolitics:** The variables: "cultural identity", "or strong institutions around an ECOWAS visionary leadership", "technical and vocational training", "gender inequality", "income inequality", "international geopolitics" are those that combine the highest level of drive and the lowest level of dependence. These are the drivers of the region's development. Those variables suggest that the current dynamics of ECOWAS are governed to a large extent by endogenous variables related to human capital and social welfare ("technical and vocational training", "income inequality", "gender inequality", "cultural identity"), as well as governance or strong institutions that operate, on the ECOWAS system, in an environment strongly conditioned by external influences, notably by "international geopolitics". On this basis, the Member States of the region, the ECOWAS Institution and third countries are the key actors in the development of the region. Therefore, the driving force of the "cultural identity" variable in explaining the dynamics of the ECOWAS system shows the importance of culture and mentalities in the community to which the West African peoples aspire.

- **Poverty, population dynamics, Official development assistance (ODA), education, security and health: major development challenges for ECOWAS**

**150.** Major issues are at the heart of the region's current and future development. They relate to "poverty," "population dynamics," "official development assistance," "education," "security and safety," and "health. Those variables are essentially internal environment variables and are mostly related to the socio-demographic domain. They are by nature the sources of instability in the system. Any action taken on them is likely to have repercussions on the other variables of the system, with the possibility of a boomerang effect that amplifies or prevents the initial impulse.

**151.** In particular, by virtue of their position above the main diagonal of the influences/dependency's planes, the development financing variables ("official development assistance") and the socio-demographic variables "population dynamics," "poverty," and "education" are the main development issues but also the greatest sources of instability for the region (see Appendix 58). In other words, the region's ability to find appropriate responses to such crucial issues as development financing, the exploitation of its demographic potential, education, and the well-being of its population (poverty reduction) will lead to the emergence of virtuous or vicious circles (such as terrorism and violence, sub-regional instability and widespread corruption.) that will either promote or completely block its development.

**152.** Finally, the "safety and security" and "health" variables, located below the main diagonal of the influence plane in the northeast quadrant, are more dependent than influential (see Appendix 58). They are to some extent the result of the evolution of the system, but voluntary actions can be taken on them to make them evolve in the desired direction. They represent possible targets for the region rather than consequences.

- **Dependent variables in need of evolution**

**153.** However, many so-called dependent variables condition the evolution of the ECOWAS system. Those variables are partly environmental and are in fact affected by all development actions. However, despite their renewable nature, the unbridled

exploitation of those resources may jeopardize the future development of ECOWAS States and expose them even more strongly to climate change. As for the "Economic infrastructure" variable, ECOWAS governance would benefit from moving it to the status of an issue or driver. The "Democratic system" and "Respect for fundamental rights" variables, which come under the heading of governance (in connection with visionary leadership as a guarantee of strong institutions), are regulatory variables of the system. In this role, they frame the evolutionary trajectories of the region. Their positioning as outcome variables or group variables<sup>31</sup> shows that they have little influence in the game despite the numerous ECOWAS initiatives or policies in these areas of democracy and human rights raise questions about the proper functioning of the ECOWAS system and the effectiveness of policies implemented.

- **Development levers to keep in mind**

154. The "economic infrastructures" (dependent variable) are an instrument to be favoured for territorial development and also for economic and financial development with the financing of the private sector, financial integration and international financial cooperation.

155. Security and safety" depend on the means given to the "Defence and Security Forces", which can also be used in the "management of humanitarian emergencies" and "management of communicable diseases", which are also means for social development.

156. The "development of renewable energies" as a major issue of sustainable development is a key axis for the future by contributing to the reduction of pollution and resilience to climate change. Moreover, the quality of urban development and economic development will depend on those future energies.

157. Alongside those instruments, "social protection", the fight against "corruption", the improvement of the "quality of employment", "African cooperation", the fight against "terrorism and violence", "urbanisation", "citizen control movements", the "development steering capacity of ECOWAS institutions", located above the main diagonal and relatively close to the centre of gravity of the indirect influence/dependence plane, although in the quadrant of autonomous variables, are also more influential than dependent. They currently tend to have a medium influence on ECOWAS system (see Appendix 58). Even worse, for many of them ("corruption", "development steering capacity of ECOWAS institutions", "citizen control movements", "technological innovation"), this influence increases over time (See Appendix 59: plane of potential indirect influences/dependencies). They can be used as secondary levers or as a basis for possible accompanying measures.

- **Major variables to monitor for 2050**

158. Finally, some variables could see their influence on the system increase by the year 2050. These are the quality of institutions or strong institutions represented by the "visionary leadership" of ECOWAS, but also the "democratic system" and "respect for

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<sup>31</sup> These are variables that are located on either side of the mean of the influences that separate the input variables and the autonomous variables and the mean of the dependencies between the autonomous variables and the dependent variables. They can sometimes play the role of auxiliary action or communication variables, or that of regulating variables intervening sometimes as secondary levers, sometimes as weak objectives, or even as ancillary issues.

fundamental rights", "technological innovation" and "citizen control movements" which will be the drivers of economic, social and political development in ECOWAS by 2050.

159. Those variables will have to deal with the key issues of the future: the rise of "terrorism and violence", the fight against "poverty" and "income inequality", "African cooperation", "climate change resilience" and "education". The vast majority of those variables question governance or the quality of institutions within ECOWAS.
160. The reflection carried out allowed for the identification of 4 major sets of variables that can be grouped together under the prospective themes (i) *human capital and social well-being*, (ii) *strong institutions, rule of law and fundamental freedoms*, (iii) *security, stability and peace*, and (iv), *economic integration and globalization* which will be used for the formulation of scenarios.

### **3.4.The Scenarios**

161. The scenarios, which are possible futures for ECOWAS, were built using the morphological analysis approach. The four (4) major sets of variables derived from the structural analysis (*human capital and social welfare, strong institutions, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, security, stability and peace, economic integration and globalization*) constituted the prospective themes or subsystems of the ECOWAS system. For each of those themes, key future questions were defined and hypotheses that are the different possible answers to those questions were formulated. The combination of hypotheses made it possible to define the scenarios which were constructed at two levels. First, the combination of hypotheses within each prospective theme by coherent, relevant, plausible and plausible paths, gave the thematic scenario profiles. In a second step, the combination of the thematic scenarios allowed us to define the global scenarios. Those different global scenarios have been given evocative names and are the subject of a narrative that explains the possible futures.
162. Thus, four global scenarios were constructed: the pessimistic scenario called "**the community suicide of a giant**," the trend scenario called "**a community with timid steps**," the alternative scenario called "**the backward march**," and the desired or optimistic scenario called "**the Torch of Africa**. The morphological profiles of those global scenarios are apprehended (See Appendix60) and are declined in the main working hypotheses below.

#### **Scenario 1 : the community suicide of a giant**

##### **Underlying assumptions**

- An ECOWAS with declining productive capacities and unsatisfactory social conditions
- A collapse of institutions; non-respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, absence of rule of law;
- Decaying security and total instability; and
- A highly disintegrated region in the process of dislocation.

#### **Scenario 2 : Walking backwards**

##### **Underlying assumptions:**

- An ECOWAS with declining productive capacities and unsatisfactory social conditions;
- A collapse of institutions;
- An environment of terrorism, insecurity and instability not well controlled; and
- A region still in search of integration and competitiveness on the world stage.

### ***Scenario 3 : A community with timid steps***

#### **Underlying assumptions**

- An ECOWAS of wavering welfare and skills;
- Shaky institutions;
- An environment of terrorism, insecurity and instability not well controlled; and
- An ECOWAS is still in search of integration and competitiveness on the world stage.

### ***Scenario 4 : The Torch of Africa***

This particular scenario is the foundation of Vision 2050 and is based on the following underlying assumptions:

- An ECOWAS with quality human capital and human development;
- Good governance, strong and credible institutions that respect the rule of law and fundamental freedoms;
- An environment of enhanced security and consolidated peace; and
- A fully integrated, globally competitive region for sustainable development.

#### **Reference scenario narrative**

163. The will and commitment of the Leaders of the Member States to overcome all the obstacles to development (lack of policy coordination, poor governance, social and security instability) in the region are affirmed. The search for the common and community interest is a golden rule of governance. This vision, which has the full support of the population, is becoming a value shared by all Member States. There is a collective awareness of the fact that the region's development will only come from endogenous solutions to the community's development problems and challenges. The ECOWAS region is benefiting from the dynamism of a new class of leaders who are firmly committed to democratic values and have a clear vision of the future of their peoples, which they translate into positive results through the implementation of public policies included in their economic and social development plans built on an inclusive basis. Those national development plans are linked to the ECOWAS 2050 Vision and are based, for their harmonious implementation, on a participatory and multi-actor approach (Institutions, States, SOC, NSAs, Private sector and the Diaspora ).

164. ECOWAS has strong, credible institutions that respect fundamental rights and freedoms. The community space is a true model of democracy, governance and promotion of the rule of law. Emphasis is placed on accountability, good incentives, checks and balances, and the promotion of citizen dialogue. Public resources are managed in a transparent manner according to the principles of efficiency, thus guaranteeing good financial governance and the consolidation of the rule of law.

165. The population policies implemented in the region make it possible to achieve a rapid demographic transition and for the States to release a considerable amount of resources. The sub-regional financial system has been developed and States are better able to

mobilize domestic savings, which are made available to agents with financing needs (Private sector and States). Innovative financing mechanisms have also been put in place. Coupled with efficient international support and borrowing, these resources enable governments to undertake genuine structural reforms in their countries.

166. The education system is being transformed in depth. Curricula are adapted to the development needs of the region and the labour market. Education gives pride of place to technical and vocational training and entrepreneurship. Schools are adequately equipped. Teachers' capacities are strengthened, and they are given financial and social incentives to work harder; this attracts the most qualified individuals to the sector. Schools and universities become highly efficient. Learners are more exposed to advances in science, math and technology. Research is vibrant. Its products are of interest to the private sector, which is increasingly contributing to its funding. Schools and universities are working closely with business to reflect their demand in the field. Partnerships between schools, universities and companies in the region are increasing, as are those between schools and universities in the community and schools and universities in other African countries and advanced countries. The skills of the workforce are rising substantially and the problems of matching skills to labour market needs are now a thing of the past.
167. The overall health situation is also improving in the region. The health budget is rising in the majority of the Member States in line with health needs. Doctors are better trained, and significant progress has been made in the area of medical research. Sub-regional institutions in charge of human and animal health are better equipped. Epidemic and pandemic surveillance mechanisms are strengthened. National health systems are better prepared to respond effectively to health crises and are more resilient. Access to health care for the population is almost universal, particularly with the increase in the supply of health services and the strengthening of social protection. ECOWAS is becoming a continental hospital hub with an influx of patients from foreign regions. ECOWAS is showing the face of a socially and intellectually enriched sub-region. Negative gender discrimination based on religion or customs that confined women to a minimalist social position and prevented them from exploiting their potential to the fullest are being reversed with the rise in the level of education of the population and the effective implementation of gender policies. Efforts to empower women are producing tangible results, especially at the economic and social levels. With the quality of its education and health systems, the sub-region is also able to turn its advantage of having a relatively young and creative population into a benefit.
168. Controlled urbanisation is also reflected in the harmonious development of cities as part of the implementation of the regional land use and development plan, developed as a result of the 2050 Vision. The populations live in healthy environments, protecting them from the many diseases to which they were previously exposed.
169. The business environment has been greatly improved with the raising of the skills of the workforce, the significant investments made in the development of economic and social infrastructures, the strengthening of democratic and social institutions, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the appropriate management of conflicts and the improvement of the functioning of markets . Labour productivity is rising in all sectors of activity, particularly in agriculture, which is being modernised and in services.
170. The region's economies are diversifying and becoming more and more competitive. The

industrial sector is developing considerably, and the region is becoming a real industrial power in the world. Production methods are improving and becoming more environmentally friendly. A green economy is in place, attracting many innovative investors and funds. Natural resources are now used rationally. The region is much more resilient to the effects of climate change.

171. The availability and quality of national and sub-regional infrastructure is facilitating a substantial increase in intra-ECOWAS trade and the emergence of integrated production chains across the region. Structural transformation is accelerated, and the region becomes active in global trade through improved competitiveness. ECOWAS, as an institution, has strengthened its capacity to design and operationalize community development policies. It plays a central role in the dynamics of structural transformation. The community is becoming very attractive to foreign direct investment. It creates the conditions for technology transfer, strengthening research and development and accelerating innovation.
172. The convergence of economies on the basis of effective and well-coordinated common economic policies leads to the achievement of the ultimate stage of economic and monetary integration, such as a monetary union where people feel they belong to a prosperous, harmonious, peaceful and stable community with a cultural identity.
173. The rise in agricultural, industrial and service productivity has significantly reduced poverty and income inequality. The poverty rate has fallen to less than 10%. Many ECOWAS countries are moving from low-income to middle-income status. A process of self-sustained growth has begun with an increase in purchasing power and the community is becoming financially independent.
174. ECOWAS is reinforcing its role as the torch of regional integration in Africa and is establishing itself as one of the most powerful Economic and Regional Communities in the world. This last possible and desired future, considered as the reference scenario, served as the basis for the formulation of the ECOWAS development vision to 2050.

## PART IV : The 2050 Vision and Pillars

### 4.1. The ECOWAS 2050 Vision

175. The ECOWAS 2050 Vision describes the desired future, the *raison d'être*, and the values of the region as well as the ambition it nurtures for its peoples. This vision, which is political in nature, constitutes a societal project, a collective design forged on a system of shared values and a collective will to build a common future. Thus, the Vision that has been retained for ECOWAS by the year 2050 is informed by the findings and recommendations of the final and independent evaluation of the 2020 Vision which highlighted the achievements and unmet long-term objectives. The process of constructing the new Vision was therefore based on the baseline scenario called "Torch of Africa", the aspirations of ECOWAS populations collected during national and regional consultations, the results of the retrospective study and the residual and hopeful objectives of the ECOWAS 2020 Vision.

176. This Vision is therefore based on the transition from an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of Peoples, and projects its full realisation by 2050. Thus, the ECOWAS Vision for 2050 reads as follows: "**A fully integrated community of peoples in a peaceful, prosperous region with strong institutions and respect for fundamental freedoms and working towards inclusive and sustainable development**". By 2050, the impact of the realisation of this Vision will be to have fully integrated peoples within ECOWAS, a fully peaceful and prosperous region, with strong institutions that promote the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms; all of which will foster inclusive and sustainable development.

177. Through this new Vision, the region aims to reposition itself in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals while taking into account persistent and emerging challenges. The aim is to contribute to the deepening of the integration process in West Africa, to poverty reduction while ensuring better complementarity of approaches and responses between the various local, national, regional and continental levels.

### 4.2. Vision Pillars and Strategic Orientations

178. The ECOWAS 2050 Vision is based on five pillars that will determine the broad lines of action for its realisation. The Strategic Orientations that emerge from this Vision are the strategic options that are compatible with both the ECOWAS identity and the reference scenario. They will then be broken down into basic actions and translated into the next ECOWAS Regional Strategic Development Plan.

#### 4.2.1. The Pillars

179. The Vision is based on five pillars.

##### **PILLAR 1 : Peace, Security and Stability**

180. Making ECOWAS a secure, stable and peaceful region appears to be a development

imperative for an area particularly exposed to security threats and socio-political and institutional crises. It will thus be necessary to strengthen regional and human security through appropriate initiatives, the establishment of appropriate instruments and policies, particularly in the area of cross-border cooperation, preventive diplomacy and the consolidation of the peace architecture. Specifically, it will be necessary, among other things, to step up the fight against terrorism and its financing as well as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and all forms of crime (cross-border crimes, maritime crimes and money laundering ).

### **PILLAR 2: Governance and Rule of Law**

181. Building a region where democracy and the rule of law prevail by 2050 requires the establishment of strong and credible institutions that guarantee respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. Good governance must be the golden rule that governs social relations. In particular, democratic culture and pluralism must be strengthened through strong institutions and mechanisms that guarantee citizen participation, fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights. Through strong and credible national and regional institutions, gender inequalities in the public and private spheres and in decision-making must be eliminated. Similarly, individuals must be free from discrimination based on race, religion, ethnic and social origin, gender or any other attribute. The institutional governance of ECOWAS bodies must be strengthened through capacity building for the implementation of defined strategies and development management.

### **PILLAR 3: Economic Integration and Interconnectivity**

182. Regional integration remains the main reason for the existence of ECOWAS. Although considerable efforts have been made in this area, making ECOWAS one of the most comprehensive frameworks of all the regional economic communities (RECs), major challenges remain. To achieve a fully integrated and interconnected area, it is necessary to step up efforts in the areas of free movement of people and goods, trade and monetary integration, unification of financial markets, development of human capital, coordination of sectoral policies and cooperation in the political and security fields. This community integration process should be gradual and consistent with all regional and continental initiatives, particularly within the framework of the AfCFTA, and should promote shared prosperity within the community. ECOWAS should position itself as a major player in the globalisation process and in the resolution of multi-lateral issues.

### **PILLAR 4: Transformation, Inclusive and Sustainable Development**

183. The ECOWAS' long-term vision is to be a regional economic power in Africa and the world that makes optimal use of its human and natural resources potential for better well-being of its citizens as stipulated in the ECOWAS human capital development strategy<sup>32</sup>. This economic outcome must translate into substantial improvement in the living conditions of the region's inhabitants, significant volumes of decent jobs created, especially for youth and women, significantly reduced gender inequality, and control of demographics and migration flows. To achieve this, it will be necessary to increase efforts to empower women and youth, improve social protection, invest more in reproductive health, in science and technology and in research and development and

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<sup>32</sup> See ECOWAS human capital development strategy, ECOWAS 2020

capacity building, and foster digital transformation and industrialisation. It will also be necessary to optimise natural resource management, strengthen the fight against climate change and resilience to exogenous shocks. Ultimately, the aim is to achieve a structural transformation of economies that is environmentally friendly and guarantees the well-being of future generations.

#### **PILLAR 5: Social Inclusion**

184. The aspiration to make ECOWAS a community of peoples is rooted in the objectives that presided over the creation of the institution in 1975. This pillar is an extension of the ECOWAS 2020 Vision whose ambition was to move from "an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of Peoples", thus placing the populations and particularly women, children and youth, and all vulnerable people (including people with disabilities and the elderly) at the centre of the integration process, by making citizens the primary actors of initiatives and beneficiaries of sub-regional integration. By 2050, ECOWAS will have to take up the challenges of social cohesion among the peoples, create the conditions for a sense of pride in belonging to the zone, which is characteristic of community citizenship, and foster the emergence of a cultural identity based on shared values, by relying on both State and non-State actors.

#### **4.2.2. Objectives and Strategic Orientations**

185. The pillars of the Vision have been reformulated into strategic objectives. Those long-term objectives are then broken down into Strategic Orientations. The relevance trees method was used to define the Strategic Orientations. The aim of this method is to help in the selection of elementary actions in order to meet the strategic objectives. It is about relating different hierarchical levels of a problem, from the general (Pillar and Strategic Objective) to the specific (Strategic Orientations). In concrete terms, this method consists of breaking down the strategic objectives (Pillars) into Strategic Orientations. This method makes it possible to avoid redundancy, to discover new ideas, to justify the choices made, to improve coherence and finally to structure the objectives and the means. Each Strategic Orientation is broken down into potential action areas to guide planning and the development of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework as well as various action plans.

#### **4.2.2.1. Strategic Objective 1: Making ECOWAS a secure, stable and peaceful region**

186. This objective appears to be imperative for the success of integration. Security, stability and peace are indeed prerequisites for the free movement of people and goods and for the proper conduct of economic activities within the community. It is therefore necessary over the next thirty years, to strengthen security in the region, which is plagued by terrorism and extreme violence, various cross-border crimes, money laundering and maritime piracy and to strengthen human and internal security in the countries, as well as the region's conflict resolution capacities. ECOWAS will achieve this objective through the following strategic orientations with potential areas of intervention:

**Table 1.** Break-down of strategic objective 1 into potential areas of intervention

PILARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION/PRIORITIES
Pillar 1: Peace, Security and Stability	Making ECOWAS a secure, stable and peaceful region	ORS1: Strengthening regional peace and security	(1) Enhance regional peacebuilding mechanisms; (2) Develop regional legal frameworks, strategies and policies; (3) Counter terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism; (4) Strengthen national legal and institutional arrangements for the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism and laundering of the proceeds of organized crime (5) Strengthen APSA and FAC; (6) Maritime Security; (7) Strengthen Cyber Security and fight against cybercrime; (8) Strengthen Law Enforcement Cooperation; and (9) Fight against organized crime and all types of trafficking .
		ORS2: Strengthening human security	(1) Refugees, (2) Humanitarian Assistance, (3) IDPs, (4) Migration/Displacement; (5) Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; and (6) Protection of Victims .
		ORS3: Preventing, Managing and Resolving Conflict	(1) Strengthening Early Warning Systems; (2) Strengthening mediation processes and multi-stakeholder dialogue framework; (3) Strengthening post-conflict stabilization processes; (4) Defence and security sector reform; and (5) Transitional justice and reconciliation processes .

**4.2.2.2. Strategic Objective 2: Anchor the culture of democracy and good governance and respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms**

187. An examination of the experience of countries that have made significant economic and social progress shows that these advances are rooted in quality institutions that respect human rights and individual freedoms. Inspired by these successful models, we must work over the next 30 years to permanently anchor in the region a culture of democracy and good governance, both at the regional level and in each Member States, consolidate the rule of law and justice, and promote respect for fundamental rights. To do this, the region will have to address this strategic objective through the following guidelines with potential areas of intervention:

**Table 2.** Break-down of strategic objective 2 into potential areas of intervention

PILARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION/PRIORITIES
Pillar 2: Governance and Rule of Law	<b>Anchoring the democratic culture, good governance and respect for the state of rights and fundamental freedoms</b>	<b>SRO1: Strengthening Democratic Governance</b>	(1) Consolidate democratic principles and universal values of democracy; (2) Promote democratic processes and the integrity of electoral processes; (3) Strengthen electoral management and conflict resolution mechanisms; (4) Encourage citizen participation and representation; and (5) Strengthen institutional governance .
		<b>SRO2: Strengthening the rule of law and justice</b>	(1) Development and implementation of regional laws and policies; (2) Strengthening judicial systems; (3) Strengthening the role and powers of parliament; (4) Ensuring respect for the rule of law; (5) Preventing and fighting corruption; (6) Accountability; and (7) Strengthening institutional governance, integrity and oversight mechanisms .
		<b>ORS3: Promoting respect for fundamental rights</b>	(1) Promote respect for and protection of human rights; (2) strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights; (3) promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and (4) combat all forms of discrimination .

#### ***4.2.2.3. Strategic Objective 3: Making ECOWAS a fully integrated and interconnected economic area***

188. Regional integration remains the main reason for the existence of ECOWAS. Although ECOWAS is one of the most integrated community spaces in Africa, however, major challenges still remain. There is need to make ECOWAS a viable economic, monetary and free trade area, intensify African and international cooperation, develop physical and virtual connectivity infrastructure, strengthen human capital and deepen financial integration as necessary conditions for shared prosperity across the region. ECOWAS intends to achieve this strategic objective through aspects related to the consolidation of the regional market and its competitiveness, the development of infrastructure and interconnectivity in the region and the deepening of economic and monetary integration. Thus, the above-mentioned objective is broken down into the following strategic orientations with potential areas of intervention:

**Table 3.** Break-down of strategic objective 3 into potential areas of intervention

PILARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION/PRIORITIES
Pillar 3: Economic Integration and Interconnectivity	<b>Making ECOWAS a fully integrated and interconnected economic zone</b>	<b>SO1:</b> Consolidating the LCPB and accelerating market integration	(1) Consolidation of the regional market; (2) Regional trade and implementation of the AfCFTA; (3) LCPB; (4) Development and implementation of regional policies; (5) Strengthening regional competitiveness; and (6) Development of integrated value chains .
		<b>OS2:</b> Accelerating monetary union and economic and financial integration	(1) Strengthening multilateral surveillance; (2) Improving the macroeconomic framework; (3) Economic reforms and public financial management; (4) Capital market and payment system integration; (5) Strengthening statistical systems; (6) Business climate and investment; and (7) Fighting financial crime.
		<b>OS3:</b> Intensifying infrastructure development and inter-connectivity	(1) Road and rail infrastructure; (2) Air and maritime transport; (3) Energy; (4) Interconnection network and energy efficiency; (5) ICT; and (6) Sector policy and governance .

#### ***4.2.2.4. Strategic Objective 4: Create the Conditions for Economic Transformation and Sustainable well-being of the People***

189. ECOWAS' long-term vision is to be a regional economic power in Africa and the world that makes optimal use of its human and natural potential. This aspiration must translate into a substantial improvement in the living conditions of the West African

people through, inter alia, the creation of large numbers of decent jobs (especially for youth and women), the elimination of gender inequalities, and the control of demographics and migration flows. This will require increased efforts to empower women and youth; improve social protection; and increase investment in reproductive health, science and technology, and research and development. It will also require fostering digital transformation and industrialization; optimising natural resource management; strengthening the fight against climate change; and promoting environmentally friendly structural transformation of economies. The strategic orientations and potential areas of intervention listed in the table below would contribute to the achievement of this strategic objective for the sub-region over the next 30 years.

**Table 4.** Break-down of strategic objective 4 into potential areas of intervention

PILARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION/PRIORITIES
Pillar 4: Transformation and Inclusive and Sustainable Development	Creating the conditions for the transformation of economies and the sustainable development of peoples	ORS1: Ensuring human and social development	(1) Improving access to basic services (water, health, education, housing); (2) Promoting health and strengthening systems and mechanisms for responding to health crises; (3) Optimizing the benefits of the demographic dividend and promoting young people; (4) Strengthening the empowerment of young people and women; (5) Developing sectorial policies; (6) Social protection; (7) Reducing social inequality; (8) Urbanization and balanced development of the territories; and (9) Inclusive growth and employment .
		ORS2: Leverage human capital and skills development	(1) Promoting Education, (2) Knowledge Development; (2) Promoting Science Technology and Innovation; (3) Promoting Entrepreneurship; (4) Promoting Research and Development; (5) ICT and Digital Economy; (6) Skills Transfer, and (7) Technology Transfer and Artificial Intelligence .
		ORS3: Strengthening environmental sustainability and climate change	(1) Improving natural resource management; (2) Combating climate change; (3) Improving risk and disaster management; (4) Renewable energy; (5) Food and nutrition security, (6) Sustainable agriculture; and (7) Improving ocean governance and the blue economy .

PILARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION/PRIORITIES
		<b>ORS4: Promoting sustainable economic growth and development</b>	(1) Investment Mobilization; (2) Economic Transformation and Industrialization; (3) Community Enterprise Development; (4) Modernization and Innovation; (5) ICT and Digital Economy; (6) Standards and Quality; (7) Value Chain Development; (8) Private Sector Development; (9) Public-Private Partnership; and (10) Business Climate .

#### ***4.2.2.5. Strategic Objective 5: Making ECOWAS a People's Community fully inclusive of women, children and youth***

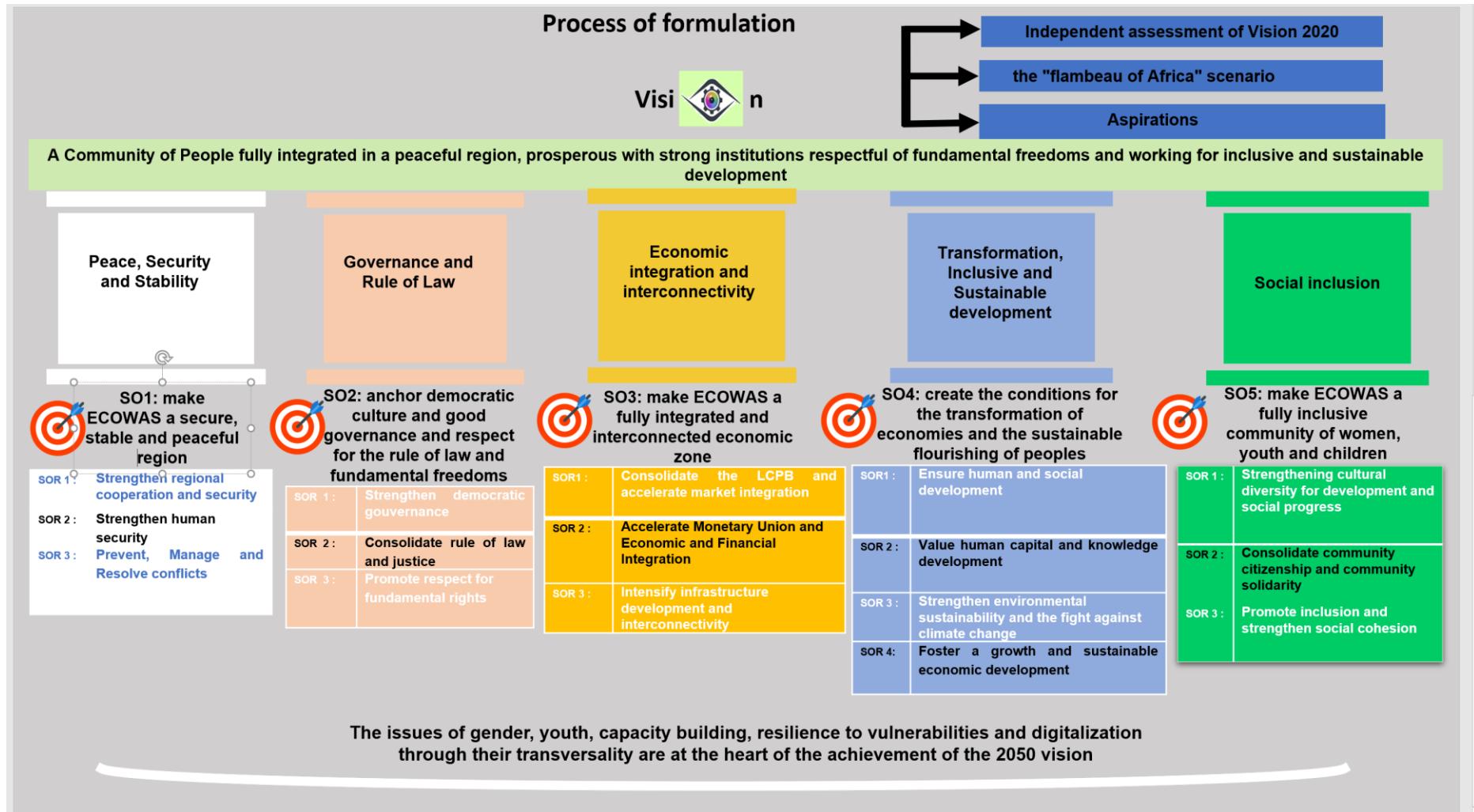
190. The sub-regional Institution wants to strengthen its ambition to move from "an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of Peoples. It therefore places the people at the centre of the integration process and makes resident citizens and the Diaspora, State and non-State actors, the primary actors of initiatives and beneficiaries of sub-regional integration. This integration must be enriched by cultural diversity and the emergence of a West African cultural identity, an instrument of social progress and be strengthened by the consolidation of community citizenship and solidarity, inclusion and social cohesion. Thus, this strategic objective is broken down into the following strategic orientations with potential areas of intervention.

**Table 5.** Break-down of strategic objective 5 into potential areas of intervention

PILARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION/PRIORITIES
<b>Pillar 5: Social Inclusion</b>	<b>Making ECOWAS a Community of peoples, fully inclusive of women, children and youth</b>	<b>ORS1: Strengthen cultural diversity to promote development and social progress</b>	(1) Cultural heritage and protection of cultural rights; (2) Creative arts development and cultural enterprise; (3) Promotion of cultural diversity; (4) Promotion of cultural exchange frameworks; (5) Shared values, (6) Sport and intercultural cooperation .
		<b>ORS2:</b> Strengthening community citizenship and solidarity	(1) community development and cross-border cooperation; (2) freedom of movement and right of establishment; (3) strengthening of community identity, (4) development of cross-border cooperation frameworks; and (5) intercultural dialogue .
		<b>ORS3:</b> Promoting inclusion and strengthening social cohesion	(1) Citizen participation; (2) Dialogue framework and role of NSAs and the Diaspora; (3) Fight against discrimination; (4) Gender equality; (5) Equal opportunities for all; (6) Social protection; (7) Decent work

			and social policy on employment; (8) Protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups and the needy; and (9) Tolerance .
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**Figure 1 : Diagram of the Vision Formulation Process**



Author: ECOWAS

#### **4.2.3. Cross-cutting Themes**

191. The ECOWAS 2050 Vision is based on cross-cutting issues that are necessary for the definition, elaboration and implementation of development strategies. Those cross-cutting issues are therefore essential for the realisation of the 2050 Vision. Not only can they constitute a specific pillar in themselves, but they also cover all areas and, because of their multi-dimensional nature, allow the overall objectives of all pillars to be achieved. Thus, the cross-cutting themes selected below have a multi-dimensional impact that will be exploited in the realisation of the 2050 Vision.

- Women and Gender
- Youth – Employment
- Digitalization
- Climate Change – Resilience
- Capacity Building

##### *i. Women and Gender*

The region needs to recognise the special role of women as actors, agents, and beneficiaries of development. This will require concerted political commitment and tangible actions to ensure the integration of the gender dimension in all planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. This mainstreaming will ensure that women's as well as men's concerns and experiences are taking into account in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally. The empowerment of women and the fight against gender-based discrimination must be at the heart of actions to address inequalities between men and women and to promote gender equality.

##### *ii. Youth - Employment*

Youth are increasingly recognized at the national and regional levels and in international forums as essential partners in development. In this sense, they play an important and positive role in achieving sustainable development, deepening the democratic process, preventing crises and promoting peace. The ECOWAS Vision 2050 should enable the adoption of appropriate policies and the implementation of structural reforms in the economic and social landscapes of the region to create decent employment opportunities for young people, strengthen human capital and unleash their ingenuity and potential in building a prosperous and peaceful Community.. Through appropriate policies and programmes, it will be a matter of among others: contributing to the integral and civic education of youth; creating the conditions and opportunities for their employability and professional integration; developing an entrepreneurial culture in them; and continuously strengthening human capital in order to enable youth to play their part in the challenges and issues of the community development process.

##### *iii. Digitalisation*

Digitalization is becoming increasingly important in the region, in view of the gradual development of internet networks and the explosion of mobile phones. Digital transformation is a trend which will therefore strengthen over the years given the large young population of the sub-region. ECOWAS should find a way of taking advantage

of the digitization which today underpins all socio-economic activity with its many uses such as e-commerce, e-administration, e-health, e-agriculture, e- education etc. Guaranteeing access to digital technology will inevitably increase the region's economic performance and improve the living conditions of the populations. This requires the establishment of quality connectivity, electricity distribution and telecommunications infrastructures in accordance with international standards. At the same time, the region will have to ensure that it mitigates the perverse effects of the use of digital technology by populations, especially young people.

#### ***iv. Climate Change – Resilience***

The region is regularly confronted with climatic shocks (natural disasters and floods, drought ); economic shocks (drop in commodity price); socio-political or security shocks (coups d'état, terrorism, insurrections and post-election crises, etc.); and health shocks (Ebola epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic), all of which have a negative impact on development prospects. This situation of vulnerability corroborates the need to put in place capacities for anticipation and resilience policies/mechanisms to meet environmental and climatic challenges. In this perspective, it is therefore important to develop capacities to anticipate, manage and react to recurrent shocks and put in place appropriate early warning tools and response mechanisms in all areas, including climate, agriculture and health.

#### ***v. Capacity Building***

The issue of the quality of human, institutional and political capacities is a determining factor in any process of sustainable change and development. It is a matter of ensuring the development of a critical and self-sustaining mass of capacity in order to overcome the real constraints facing the Region. This will include developing and sustainably raising the technological frontier through the continuous acquisition of knowledge and skills and through research and development. Providing the region and the Member States with tools, skills and knowledge will be key to achieving qualitative and impactful development.

## PART V: Guiding Principles and Success Factors

192. ECOWAS Vision 2050 is the reflection of ECOWAS' long-term development ambitions in its 2050 vision. To achieve this, ECOWAS has set itself ambitious, coherent and realistic strategic objectives. However, the achievement of these strategic goals over the next 30 years could be subject to potential risks related to political instability, insecurity and unstable macroeconomic environments. In addition, the progress towards the desired future of the region by 2050 could be hampered by various shocks including climatic, health, financial, as well as other risk factors, related among others to a limited commitment of members States, weak ownership, overlapping responsibilities, insufficient alignment of national strategic development frameworks, insufficiently coordinated initiatives, aversion to change and innovation, institutional weakness and limited capacity of community institutions to monitor the implementation . The Mitigating of these various risks will require readjustments and / or adaptation of strategies. In particular, measures of potential risks mitigation must, both strategic and operational level, be based on the internalization of some key guiding principles and the consideration of some factors of success toward the realization of the ECOWAS Vision 2050.

### ❖ Guiding Principles

193. The successful implementation of the ECOWAS 2050 Vision will be guided by the following guiding principles:

- i. ***Leadership and Political Will:*** ECOWAS, in the realization of this Vision, must give coherent impetus to the actions and reforms needed to achieve the set objectives while guaranteeing social equity and balanced development of Member States. Sustained leadership and strong political will make it possible to instil the necessary dynamism to bring about economic, social, cultural and territorial changes at the national, regional and international levels. This also requires compliance with regional commitments by Member States, notably through the application of community texts and the alignment of national development plans to the Vision 2050
- ii. ***Ownership and Shared Responsibility:*** These principles imply the involvement of stakeholders and their ownership, as beneficiaries, implementation actors and decision-makers in the successful implementation of the Vision. It will be necessary to ensure the buy-in by Member States, institutions, Non-State Actors, civil society, the private sector, the Diaspora as well as by the various constituents of the ECOWAS population. It is therefore necessary that each stakeholder plays its role at all stages of the implementation of the Vision.
- iii. ***Complementarity and Subsidiarity:*** The achievement of Vision 2050 requires the complementarity of interventions at local, national and regional levels in order to ensure the overall coherence of actions to achieve the set objectives. While these responses may, in some cases, fall within national competence, in other cases they will call for collective actions on which the contribution of ECOWAS will be required. This underpins the relevance of principle of subsidiarity, the comparative advantages of stakeholders and the synergies of actions to be created at all levels to facilitate the harmonious realization of the Vision.

- iv. ***Transparency and Accountability:*** Mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability and control of the various decision-making, monitoring and control structures implementation will be essential to support the overall governance around the 2050 Vision and the participatory processes needed to make it happen. To this end, Member States will volunteer to champion the different pillars of the Vision thereby creating additional conditions for a sustained and shared commitment that ensure the fully realisation of the overall objectives of the Vision.
- v. ***Sustainability:*** Sustainability of the outcomes is a key factor in the continuous improvement of community well-being. Therefore, the sustainability of policies, programmes or projects within the framework of the 2050 Vision will be necessary in order to optimise their impact on people and on the development process of the region.

❖ **Success Factors**

194. The determining factors listed below constitute guarantees for the realization of Vision 2050

- i. **An Effective, Operational and Appropriated Institutional:** The institutional architecture for implementing the Vision must be effective and appropriate, with the required means and mechanisms at all intervention levels (local, national and regional). Specifically, this framework must operate through mechanisms that ensure visibility, flexibility, control, monitoring, and truly efficient inter-institutional coordination based on a balance between responsibility and continuous managerial innovation. The mechanism should be supported by relevant mechanisms at Member State level and by regional consultation platforms at various levels of intervention and actors, including civil society and non-state actors. Moreover, to strengthen Member State' commitment to the realization of Vision 2050, a regional peer review mechanism will be a relevant instrument to be put in place in order to improve policies, performance and promote best practices as well as compliance with guiding principles.
- ii. **Resource Mobilisation, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships:** Achieving Vision 2050 requires adequate, sufficient and complementary resources. It calls for resolute efforts by Member States in the implementation of the Protocol on Community Levy. Achieving Vision 2050 also requires efforts in the rationalisation and efficient use of resources. In addition to the mobilisation of domestic and external resources, the implementation of innovative financing strategies involving the private sector will be desirable. Thus, development cooperation and the establishment of strategic partnerships will be among the success factors for the realisation of Vision 2050.
- iii. **Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation:** Good planning coupled with effective monitoring and evaluation can play a fundamental role in improving the effectiveness of programmes and projects in the implementation of the ECOWAS Strategic 2050 Vision. The establishment of coordination mechanisms

and effective tools for planning, monitoring and evaluation will be crucial. In this regard, it will be necessary to strengthen the strategic prospective, planning and monitoring structures within all institutions in order to introduce a priority-based programmatic approach and full adoption of the results-based management as part of programme design and implementation. Furthermore, the development of key performance indicators (KPIs) will be required for monitoring of programmes and projects implementation and to provide recommendations to improve effectiveness and efficiency in intervention delivery.

- iv. **Strategic Surveillance:** Achieving the development ambition displayed by ECOWAS will largely depend on monitoring of the member states' and the community institution' progress trajectory. This permanent surveillance of the internal and international environments requires the establishment of a strategic surveillance mechanism. This regular monitoring for strategic decision-making should be anchored in member states and within the ECOWAS through the establishment of dedicated structures for the prospective and Strategic surveillance. This strategy will make it possible to mitigate the risks of disrupting the region' ability, to take advantage of the opportunities and thereby increase the Member State' capacity for anticipation and proactivity.
- v. **Advocacy, Communication and Awareness:** The success of Vision 2050 depends on its ownership by all stakeholders. Therefore, it will be necessary to ensure its dissemination using all available tools of communication. In this respect, a communication, advocacy and awareness-raising strategy must be developed as an integral part of the Vision implementation process. This will help to raise awareness, mobilise support and commitment from all stakeholders, including the region's bilateral and multilateral partners.
- vi. **Availability of the Vision Operationlisation Documents :** The timely availability of operational documents will be essential to support the effective achievement of Vision 2050, which is a long-term orientation document. This involves in particular ensuring the development of (i) the first medium-term strategic framework with a breakdown of the various five-year plans including the development of monitoring-evaluation indicators, (ii) the resource mobilization strategy and (iii) the communication strategy to support the ownership of the Vision 2050.



## PART VI : Conclusion

195. In their resolute desire to build a long-term development project that will generate prosperity for the region, the ECOWAS Heads of State endowed the institution, in 2007, with a vision for the year 2020 that aimed to move from an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of Peoples. At the end of this Vision 2020, ECOWAS renewed its ambitions for sustainable development through a new Vision for the next thirty (30) years which takes into account the new regional and continental dynamics as well as the current development challenges.
196. The process of renewing the ECOWAS Vision was a participatory exercise in a regional perspective. Its development mobilized all the energies of the region. Thus, the process of building the Vision 2050 started with the various national consultations on (i) the evaluation of the Vision 2020, and (ii) the consideration of major expectations in the formulation of the Vision 2050. This strategic reflection followed an interactive and iterative approach that involved several stakeholders: from the management of the ECOWAS Commission and its various technical departments to the institutional stakeholders of the region, through the support of technical and financial partners (notably the ECA, GIZ) and CAPEC, the firm in charge of conducting the study.
197. In keeping with the spirit of 2020 Vision, the new ECOWAS 2050 Vision envisages "**A fully integrated community of peoples in a peaceful and prosperous region with strong institutions and respect for fundamental freedoms, working towards inclusive and sustainable development**".
198. Over the next three (3) decades, ECOWAS aspires to be a community of peoples with greater emphasis on youth and women who are the lifeblood of the region. It also has the ambition to be one of the world's most successful and fully integrated economies by meeting the national and international objectives of the Member States in line with the continental and multilateral commitments, namely the African Union's 2063 Agenda, the Paris Agreements and the United Nations Development Programme etc.
199. The implementation of the new 2050 Vision will require tackling such challenges as the growing weight of West African youth and women, the persistent effects of climate change, the growing threat of terrorism and its financing, the health risks, political instability, growing poverty, high social inequalities and uncontrolled urbanisation. This implementation will also have to meet the challenges of deepening the integration process in West Africa, in particular the consolidation of the common market and the creation of the Economic and Monetary Union in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
200. The satisfaction of these multi-sectorial expectations will depend on the capacity of Member States and Community Institutions to innovate in order to, among other things, have efficient education and health systems, develop inclusive public policies and put in place appropriate frameworks and relevant strategies for the consolidation of peace and security as well as for the strengthening of democratic governance and the rule of law. This will also depend on efforts to build an economically integrated and resilient region that draws its development, among other things, from adequate infrastructure, innovation and technology, entrepreneurship and the private sector, the promotion of integrated value chains, and the strengthening of environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change.

201. The achievement of this ambition requires the ownership of this vision by all Community Institutions, the Member States and all other stakeholders such as the Diaspora, the civil society, the non-state actors and the private sector . It requires adequate, sufficient and complementary resources which underscore the need for Member States to comply with the Protocol on Community Levy and strategic partnerships to support the implementation of the regional agenda. It will require a high level of resilience and ingenuity in terms of governance on the part of the leaders.
202. Operationally and strategically, the perfect articulation between the 2050 Vision and the successive Medium-Term Strategic Frameworks that will be developed for its implementation will ensure the success of this common ambition to make ECOWAS **the Torch of Africa**.

## Appendices

### DEMOGRAPHY

Appendix 1. Population trends in West Africa from 1950 to 2050 in thousands

Country/Sub-region	1950	1980	2010	2020	2050	<i>Population of the country as a proportion of the West African population in 2020</i>
<b>Benin</b>	2255	3717	9199	12123	24280	3.0
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	4284	6823	15605	20903	43432	5.2
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	178	284	493	556	679	0.1
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	2630	8034	20533	26378	51264	6.6
<b>Guinea</b>	3013	4871	10192	13133	25972	3.3
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	535	782	1523	1968	3557	0.5
<b>Mali</b>	4708	7090	15049	20251	43586	5.0
<b>Niger</b>	2560	5989	16464	24207	65593	6.0
<b>Senegal</b>	2487	5583	12678	16744	33187	4.2
<b>Togo</b>	1395	2721	6422	8279	15416	2.1
<b>Gambia, The</b>	305	637	1793	2417	4882	0.6
<b>Ghana</b>	5036	11056	24780	31073	52016	7.7
<b>Liberia</b>	930	1853	3891	5058	9340	1.3
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	2041	3388	6416	7977	12945	2.0
<b>Nigeria</b>	37860	73424	158503	206140	401315	51.9
<b>Total West Africa</b>	70875	137799	307040	401861	796494	100.0

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

Appendix 2. Total fertility rates in West Africa (2015-2020)

	<b>Countries with an average fertility rate (A)</b>	<b>Countries with moderately high fertility rates (B)</b>	<b>Countries with high fertility rate (C)</b>	<b>high</b>	<b>Countries with very high fertility rates (D)</b>
<b>1</b>	Cabo Verde	2.29	Sierra Leone	4.32	Burkina Faso
<b>2</b>	Ghana	3.89	Liberia	4.35	Gambia, The
<b>3</b>			Togo	4.35	Nigeria
<b>4</b>			Guinea-Bissau	4.51	Benin
<b>5</b>			Senegal	4.65	Mali
<b>6</b>			Côte d'Ivoire	4.68	
<b>7</b>			Guinea	4.74	

Source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospect 2019

**Appendix 3. Prevalence of early marriage in ECOWAS countries (% women aged 20-24 married or first married before age 18)**

Country	2005-2019
<b>Benin</b>	31
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	52
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	18
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	27
<b>Gambia</b>	26
<b>Ghana</b>	21
<b>Guinea</b>	47
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	24
<b>Liberia</b>	36
<b>Mali</b>	54
<b>Niger</b>	76
<b>Nigeria</b>	43
<b>Senegal</b>	29
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	30
<b>Togo</b>	25
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	36
<b>World</b>	27

Source: UNDP

**Appendix 4. Demographic dependency ratio (ratio of population aged 0-14 and 65+ per 100 individuals aged 15-64)**

	1950	1980	2010	2015	2020	2030	2050
<b>West Africa</b>	80.6	90.8	88.5	87.7	85.0	77.0	64.3
<b>Benin</b>	75.5	96.2	88.9	86.1	82.6	75.2	63.9
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	74.6	95.2	94.9	92.2	87.9	77.9	63.9
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	67.3	109.5	60.4	52.6	49.0	45.2	49.3
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	83.1	91.8	86.8	83.0	79.8	74.3	62.2
<b>Gambia</b>	87.2	84.6	91.6	89.2	86.9	78.1	59.4
<b>Ghana</b>	92.1	98.3	72.8	70.1	67.4	62.4	56.0
<b>Guinea</b>	73.6	87.1	96.9	92.0	85.2	74.8	58.2
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	69.6	90.2	84.7	83.0	81.2	70.5	57.4
<b>Liberia</b>	80.1	92.6	86.5	82.7	77.6	69.4	59.5
<b>Mali</b>	71.6	89.8	100.9	101.9	98.0	85.3	66.8
<b>Niger</b>	101.6	100.2	110.7	111.6	109.5	100.4	78.0
<b>Nigeria</b>	80.9	88.1	87.9	88.2	86.0	78.0	64.8
<b>Senegal</b>	82.6	96.0	87.5	87.0	84.2	72.9	62.2
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	73.7	86.6	85.5	81.5	76.3	65.2	51.8
<b>Togo</b>	83.9	97.3	83.5	81.6	77.1	68.4	60.5

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

**Appendix 5. West Africa Life Cycle 2016: Deficit/Surplus (millions of US dollars)**

Country	Variables	0 - 30 years	31 - 63 years old	63 years and older	TOTAL
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Consumption	277477.39	133747.92	16888.67	428113.98
	Labour income	64447.88	196230.08	9333.77	270011.73
	Life cycle Deficit(+)/Surplus(-)	213029.51	-62482.16	7554.90	158102.25
<b>ECOWAS (excluding Nigeria)</b>	Consumption	84747.11	40308.62	5600.05	130655.78
	Labour income	20256.54	56071.22	2804.12	79131.87
	Life cycle Deficit(+)/Surplus(-)	64490.56	-15762.59	2795.93	51523.91

Source: ECA calculations (2019)/note: Deficit (+)/surplus=Consumption-Labour Income

## HUMAN CAPITAL

**Appendix 6. Life expectancy at birth in West African countries, 1980-2050**

Country	Life expectancy at birth		
	[1980-1985]	[2015-2020]	[2045-2050] (p)
<b>Benin</b>	48.30	61.30	67.94
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	48.39	60.92	69.79
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	62.11	72.70	77.56
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	52.06	57.25	63.68
<b>Gambia</b>	48.24	61.54	68.63
<b>Ghana</b>	53.06	63.65	69.72
<b>Guinea</b>	43.09	61.04	68.29
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	44.93	57.82	65.50
<b>Liberia</b>	46.97	63.60	69.87
<b>Mali</b>	41.55	58.71	66.32
<b>Niger</b>	40.26	61.80	69.83
<b>Nigeria</b>	46.02	54.18	62.51
<b>Senegal</b>	51.27	67.47	73.71
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	40.54	54.07	63.47
<b>Togo</b>	53.58	60.53	67.41
<b>ECOWAS</b>	46.73	57.32	65.26

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019)

**Appendix 7. Health-adjusted life expectancy at birth in West African countries, 2015-2019**

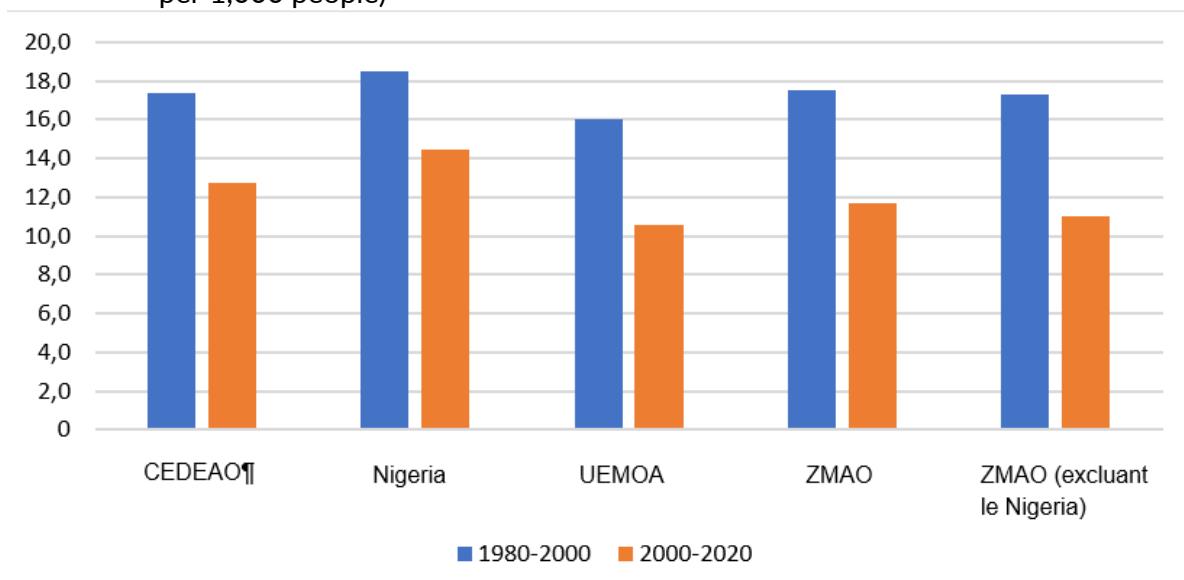
Country	[2015-2019]	Approximate number of years of life lost in each country due to the disease
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<b>Benin</b>	54.90	6.40
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	54.10	6.82
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	65.02	7.68
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	53.67	3.58
<b>Gambia</b>	56.43	5.11
<b>Ghana</b>	57.23	6.42
<b>Guinea</b>	52.41	8.63
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	51.77	6.05
<b>Liberia</b>	53.69	9.91
<b>Mali</b>	53.81	4.90
<b>Niger</b>	54.83	6.97
<b>Nigeria</b>	53.76	0.42
<b>Senegal</b>	58.77	8.70
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	51.31	2.76
<b>Togo</b>	55.20	5.33

Source: Author based on WHO data

[Healthy life expectancy \(HALE\) at birth \(years\) \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/teams/healthy-life-expectancy-and-disability-adjusted-life-years/healthy-life-expectancy-hale-at-birth-years)

**Appendix 8.** Mortality rates by economic zone in West Africa, 1980-2020 (number of deaths per 1,000 people)



Source: ECOWAS from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019)

**Appendix 9.** Under-5 mortality rate in ECOWAS countries, 1990-2018

Country	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2017
<b>Benin</b>	175.4	155.8	139.3	123.2	111.1	95.5
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	199.3	195.5	178.9	152.5	114.4	79.6
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	60.7	56.4	35.6	26.3	24.9	20.1
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	154.6	154.8	144.8	127.1	107.2	83.6

<b>Gambia</b>	167.4	139.8	114.8	93.8	77.1	60.4
<b>Ghana</b>	127.4	113.8	99.5	84.2	69.9	50
<b>Guinea</b>	235.6	202.5	166.2	134.3	117.2	103.2
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	222.6	200.2	174.8	145	113.8	84.5
<b>Liberia</b>	261.9	244.4	186.6	128	96.7	73.4
<b>Mali</b>	229.8	211.7	188.1	157.4	131.5	101.3
<b>Niger</b>	328.6	278.7	226.1	171.7	122.6	86.7
<b>Nigeria</b>	210.9	205.9	184.8	156.2	135.2	122.1
<b>Senegal</b>	139	139.9	131.5	93.7	66.4	45.6
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	262.6	255.4	234	203.6	162.8	109.9
<b>Togo</b>	145.4	134.8	120	103.9	89.6	72.1
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	178.6	171.5	154	126.1	100.1	74.7

Source: UNDP

[Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](http://www.hdr.undp.org)

#### Appendix 10. Trends in maternal mortality rates (number of deaths per 100,000 live births) in ECOWAS and Sub-Saharan Africa, 2000-2017

Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2017
<b>Benin</b>	520	500	464	421	397
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	516	437	385	343	320
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	118	86	70	61	58
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	704	704	701	658	617
<b>Gambia</b>	932	756	661	625	597
<b>Ghana</b>	484	371	339	320	308
<b>Guinea</b>	1020	920	747	699	576
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	1210	979	779	694	667
<b>Liberia</b>	894	816	708	691	661
<b>Mali</b>	836	691	660	620	562
<b>Niger</b>	813	755	663	555	509
<b>Nigeria</b>	1200	1080	978	931	917
<b>Senegal</b>	553	519	447	346	315
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	2480	1760	1360	1180	1120
<b>Togo</b>	489	492	440	398	396
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	870	746	626	557	533

Source: UNICEF

[Maternal mortality data - UNICEF DATA](http://www.unicef.org)

#### Appendix 11. Statistics on the COVID-19 pandemic in West Africa, number of cases, deaths and case-fatality rates

Country	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Case fatality rate (%)
<b>Benin</b>	7 995	101	1.3
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	13 387	164	1.2
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	27 029	238	0.9
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	46 516	292	0.6

<b>Gambia</b>	5 934	175	2.9
<b>Ghana</b>	93 125	783	0.8
<b>Guinea</b>	22 719	151	0.6
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	3 741	67	1.8
<b>Liberia</b>	2 114	85	4.0
<b>Mali</b>	14 149	507	3.5
<b>Niger</b>	5 325	192	3.6
<b>Nigeria</b>	165 559	2 066	1.2
<b>Senegal</b>	40 762	1 121	2.7
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	4 089	79	1.9
<b>Togo</b>	13 210	125	0.9
<b>ECOWAS</b>	465 654	6 146	1.3

Source: ECOWAS based on data from Johns Hopkins University (data as of May 13, 2021)

[See the latest data in your region - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Centre \(jhu.edu\)](#)

#### Appendix 12. Malaria incidence in West Africa (per 1,000 people at risk), 2017

Country	Incidence
Benin	367.9
Burkina Faso	412.0
Cabo Verde	ND
Côte d'Ivoire	138.9
Gambia	56.7
Ghana	270.7
Guinea	336.7
Guinea-Bissau	58.0
Liberia	192.6
Mali	386.2
Niger	358.6
Nigeria	281.1
Senegal	64.6
Sierra Leone	379.7
Togo	13 210

Source: UNDP

#### Appendix 13. Ratio of nurses and midwives (per 1,000 people), 2010-2016

Country/Region	Indicator
Nigeria	1.6
UEMOA	0.5
ZMAO	0.9
ECOWAS	0.6

Source: ECA based on World Bank data (World Development Indicators)

**Appendix 14.** Trends in DPT vaccination coverage among children aged 12 to 23 months in West Africa (%)

Country	1990	2000	2010	2018	2019
Benin	74	78	76	76	76
Burkina Faso	66	45	91	91	91
Cabo Verde	88	90	99	98	96
Côte d'Ivoire	54	65	78	86	84
Gambia	92	80	97	93	88
Ghana	58	88	94	97	97
Guinea	17	46	64	47	47
Guinea-Bissau	61	49	83	88	84
Liberia	ND	46	70	84	74
Mali	42	43	73	77	77
Niger	22	34	70	79	81
Nigeria	56	29	54	56	57
Senegal	51	52	89	82	93
Sierra Leone	ND	44	86	93	95
Togo	77	64	83	81	84

Source: ECOWAS based on World Bank data (World Development Indicators)

**Appendix 15.** Trends in Gross Enrolment Rates in ECOWAS Member States

Country	1971	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018
Benin	34.8	58.3	51.3	82.5	120.2	122.0
Burkina Faso	12.2	17.3	32.5	45.0	78.0	96.1
Cabo Verde	57.3	114.3	126.2	120.1	111.1	104.0
Côte d'Ivoire	61.6	77.3	71.7	73.9		99.8
Gambia	24.7	42.2	58.6	80.2	79.8	98.0
Ghana	64.1	70.8	71.4	82.9	ND	103.6
Guinea	31.0	36.2	31.8	58.2	84.2	ND
Guinea-Bissau	27.7	67.5	ND	75.6	118.7	ND
Liberia	38.3	50.1	ND	116.3	ND	ND
Mali	23.4	27.9	27.3	57.9	83.4	75.6
Niger	11.7	21.5	26.2	32.4	62.7	
Nigeria	44.4	94.8	86.5	98.7	85.1	
Senegal	38.8	43.2	54.7	69.3	84.0	
Sierra Leone	35.0	49.6	47.6	59.6		112.8
Togo	66.6	107.8	92.7	116.0	127.3	123.8

Source: World Bank (World Development Indicators)

**Appendix 16.** Primary school dropout rates in ECOWAS countries

Country	As a % of the number of students in the cohort (2007-2017)
Benin	52.5
Burkina Faso	34.4
Cabo Verde	9.9
Côte d'Ivoire	26.7
Gambia	24.9

Ghana	18.4
Guinea	34.1
Guinea Bissau	ND
Liberia	32.2
Mali	38.4
Niger	35.6
Nigeria	35.6
Senegal	37.9
Sierra Leone	53.0
Togo	45.9

Source: UNESCO (2020)

Note: NA = not available

#### Appendix 17. Average years of schooling in ECOWAS and comparator countries in 2017

ECOWAS countries	Average number of years of schooling		Comparator countries	Average number of years of schooling
	2000	2017		
Benin	2.6	3.6	Germany	14.1
Burkina Faso	1.2	1.5	France	11.5
Cabo Verde	3.5	6.1	Japan	12.8
Côte d'Ivoire	3.3	5.2	Malaysia	10.2
Gambia	2.0	3.5	Maurice	9.3
Ghana	6.1	7.1		
Guinea	1.5	2.6		
Guinea Bissau	ND	3.0		
Liberia	3.5	4.7		
Mali	1.2	2.3		
Niger	1.1	2.0		
Nigeria	ND	6.2		
Senegal	1.9	3.0		
Sierra Leone	2.3	3.5		
Togo	4.0	4.8		

Source: UNDP. [Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](http://Human Development Reports (undp.org))

#### Appendix 18. Human Capital Indices in ECOWAS and Comparator Countries

Country	Human Capital Index 2020	Quartile	Comparator countries	Human Capital Index 2020	Quartile
Benin	0.40	1st	Germany	0.75	4th
Burkina Faso	0.38	1st	Finland	0.80	4th
Côte d'Ivoire	0.38	1st	France	0.76	4th
Gambia, The	0.42	1st	Japan	0.80	4th
Ghana	0.45	2nd	Malaysia	0.61	3rd
Guinea	0.37	1st	Maurice	0.62	3rd
Liberia	0.32	1st			
Mali	0.32	1st			
Niger	0.32	1st			

<b>Nigeria</b>	0.36	1st			
<b>Senegal</b>	0.42	1st			
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	0.36	1st			
<b>Togo</b>	0.43	1st			

Source: Author based on World Bank data

[Data Catalog \(worldbank.org\)](https://datacatalog.worldbank.org)

Note: Data not available for Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Appendix 19. Unemployment rate in ECOWAS countries in 2020

Region/Country	15-64 years old	15-24 years old
<b>Benin</b>	2.5	4.9
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	5.0	7.6
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	13.4	27.8
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	3.5	5.2
<b>Gambia</b>	9.6	12.4
<b>Ghana</b>	4.5	8.7
<b>Guinea</b>	4.3	5.0
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	3.2	4.6
<b>Liberia</b>	3.3	2.1
<b>Mali</b>	7.5	16.7
<b>Niger</b>	0.7	0.6
<b>Nigeria</b>	9.0	17.7
<b>Senegal</b>	7.1	7.7
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	4.6	8.9
<b>Togo</b>	4.1	8.9
<b>ECOWAS</b>	6,6	11,9

Source: CAPEC estimates World Bank and World Population Prospects 2019 data

### Appendix 20. Proportion of vulnerable jobs in total employment in ECOWAS countries, 1991-2018

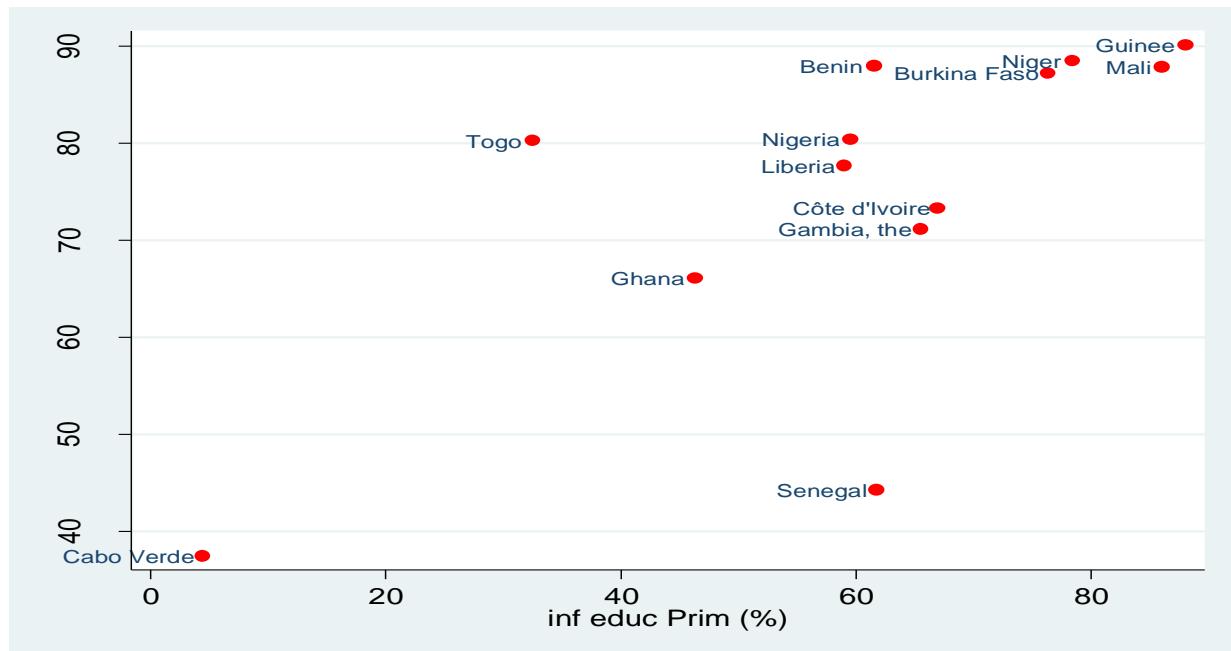
Country	1991	2000	2010	2018
<b>Benin</b>	90.4	89.6	88.8	87.9
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	93.9	93.3	90.3	86.6
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	50.8	44	37.9	35.5
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	77.8	77.7	77.2	71.5
<b>Gambia</b>	75.7	74.5	73.2	72.3
<b>Ghana</b>	79.0	77.4	75.0	69.0
<b>Guinea</b>	91.7	91.1	90.5	89.5
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	78.0	78.0	77.2	75.9
<b>Liberia</b>	80.1	79.7	78.8	77.2
<b>Mali</b>	84.5	83.2	81.2	81.2
<b>Niger</b>	90.6	90.3	89.5	93.7
<b>Nigeria</b>	81	80.1	77.6	77.7
<b>Senegal</b>	87	78.7	70.4	64.9

<b>Sierra Leone</b>	88.1	88.1	87.1	86.2
<b>Togo</b>	88.2	87.9	85.1	81.1

Source: UNDP

[Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](http://Human Development Reports (undp.org))

#### Appendix 21. Correlation between the rate of vulnerable employment in ECOWAS countries and the proportion of workers with less than primary education in 2017



Source: ECOWAS based on UNDP (2017) and ILO (2018) data

Note: Data on education level of the workforce not available for Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone

#### Appendix 22. Percentage of individuals living below the poverty line at \$1.90 per day

Country	1981	1990	2000	2010	2019
Benin	22.1	62.2	54.2	52.6	43.4
Burkina Faso	52.2	84.2	75.8	52.6	32.8
Cabo Verde	32.8	54.5	17.5	5.81	2.11
Côte d'Ivoire	1.44	15.2	25.7	33.0	22.1
Gambia	32.8	68.7	48.4	25.3	7.98
Ghana	12.0	44.1	32.3	17.6	10.7
Guinea	63.7	91.8	59.9	53.5	21.3
Guinea-Bissau	26.5	45.3	53.7	68.4	62.6
Liberia	1.3	22.0	56.1	62.4	48.2
Mali	87.9	86.3	72.9	50.2	42.3
Niger	58.0	74.7	80.2	55.3	39.3
Nigeria	42.3	55.9	66.6	54.5	39.2
Senegal	65.5	68.0	51.0	37.7	27.5
Sierra Leone	68.5	72.6	43.2	58.2	40.1
Togo	39.8	49.0	19.0	55.9	45.3

<b>ECOWAS</b>	48.3	57.7	60.6	49.0	36.0
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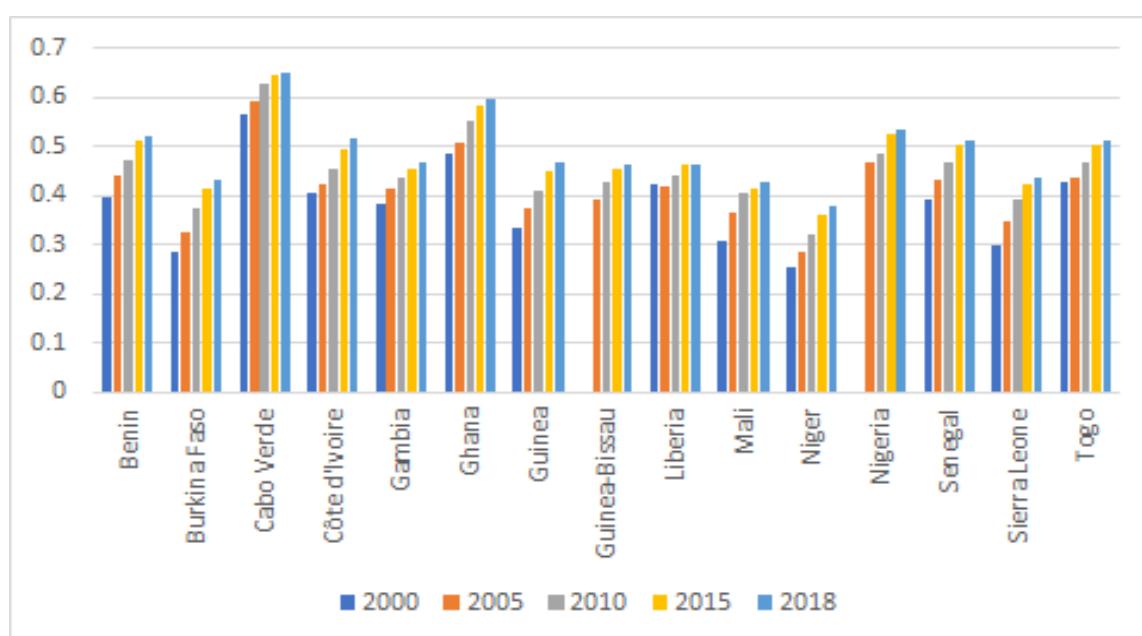
Source: [PovcalNet \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org) (data as of May 15, 2021)

**Appendix 23.** Estimated poverty in ECOWAS countries (% of individuals living on less than \$1.90 per day)

Country	2008-2018
Benin	49.5
Burkina Faso	43.7
Cabo Verde	3.2
Côte d'Ivoire	28.2
Gambia	10.1
Ghana	13.3
Guinea	35.3
Guinea-Bissau	67.1
Liberia	40.9
Mali	49.7
Niger	44.5
Nigeria	53.5
Senegal	38
Sierra Leone	40.1
Togo	49.8

Source: UNDP

**Appendix 24.** Trends in income inequality in ECOWAS countries (GINI coefficient)



Source: ECOWAS based on UNDP data

#### **Appendix 25. Gender Inequality Index (GII) in ECOWAS Countries in 2019**

Country	GII	Rank/162
Cabo Verde	0.397	89
Senegal	0.533	130
Ghana	0.538	135
Togo	0.573	145
Burkina Faso	0.594	147
Benin	0.612	148
Gambia	0.612	149
Côte d'Ivoire	0.638	153
Niger	0.642	154
Sierra Leone	0.644	155
Liberia	0.650	156
Mali	0.671	158

Source: ECOWAS based on UNDP data, [Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](http://undp.org)

#### **Appendix 26. Gender parity indices of gross enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education in ECOWAS countries**

Country	Primary	Secondary	Superior
Benin	0.93	0.71	0.43
Burkina Faso	0.98	0.96	0.51
Cabo Verde	0.93	1.09	1.45
Côte d'Ivoire	0.89	0.73	0.66
Gambia	1.08	0.95	0.68
Ghana	1.00	0.97	0.72
Guinea	0.85	0.66	0.45
Guinea-Bissau	0.93	0.54	0.06
Liberia	0.90	0.78	0.63
Mali	0.88	0.74	0.42
Niger	0.86	0.72	0.34
Nigeria	0.97	0.91	0.69
Senegal	1.12	1.01	0.60
Sierra Leone	1.00	0.91	0.40
Togo	0.95	0.53	0.43

Source: ECA using data from the World Bank (World Development Indicators, 2018). Note: the most recent data is used for each country)

#### **Appendix 27. Women's labour force participation score in ECOWAS countries, 2018**

Country	Score
Benin	9.39
Burkina Faso	7.74
Cabo Verde	6.93
Côte d'Ivoire	7.27
Gambia	7.43
Ghana	9.44
Guinea	9.81
Guinea-Bissau	8.40
Liberia	9.40
Mali	7.36
Niger	7.44
Nigeria	8.43
Senegal	6.52
Sierra Leone	9.73
Togo	9.55

Source: ECOWAS from ILO (2018)

#### **Appendix 28. HDI Performance of ECOWAS Countries, 1990-2019**

HDI Rank in 2019	Country	1990	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019
158	Benin	0.364	0.416	0.494	0.536	0.541	0.545
182	Burkina Faso		0.293	0.384	0.439	0.443	0.452
126	Cabo Verde		0.569	0.632	0.660	0.663	0.665
162	Côte d'Ivoire	0.404	0.421	0.468	0.525	0.534	0.538
172	Gambia	0.349	0.403	0.459	0.480	0.487	0.496
138	Ghana	0.465	0.494	0.565	0.602	0.606	0.611
178	Guinea	0.282	0.340	0.416	0.471	0.473	0.477
175	Guinea-Bissau			0.436	0.470	0.472	0.480
175	Liberia		0.435	0.455	0.481	0.480	0.480
184	Mali	0.234	0.312	0.408	0.427	0.431	0.434
189	Niger	0.220	0.262	0.331	0.386	0.391	0.394
161	Nigeria			0.482	0.531	0.534	0.539
168	Senegal	0.376	0.39	0.468	0.512	0.516	0.512
182	Sierra Leone	0.287	0.295	0.399	0.443	0.447	0.452
167	Togo	0.406	0.427	0.466	0.506	0.51	0.515

	Developing countries	0.516	0.571	0.642	0.683	0.686	0.689
	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.402	0.423	0.498	0.539	0.541	0.547

Source: UNDP, [Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](http://Human Development Reports (undp.org))

#### Appendix 29. Evolution of the proportion of the stock of intra-ECOWAS migrants in the total stock of migrants of the country concerned

Country	1990	2000	2010	2019
Benin	84.7	84.1	86.0	84.1
Burkina	99.1	98.6	97.9	97.5
Cabo Verde	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6
Côte d'Ivoire	85.5	85.3	82.6	80.0
Gambia	64.6	42.6	24.1	17.3
Ghana	62.8	52.5	50.9	47.3
Guinea	94.9	91.9	79.9	72.2
Guinea-Bissau	69.4	56.1	56.6	55.3
Liberia	96.4	79.0	56.1	45.4
Mali	88.2	86.4	82.6	82.1
Niger	95.7	96.0	93.7	90.8
Nigeria	26.9	21.0	23.4	27.2
Senegal	59.3	53.1	39.3	35.6
Sierra Leone	66.9	89.9	40.3	29.7
Togo	85.9	82.7	83.8	81.6
ECOWAS	79.7	75.6	68.9	65.6

Source: ECOWAS from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

[United Nations Population Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](http://United Nations Population Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

Note: These statistics refer to the international migrant population, that is, all residents of a country who were born abroad, regardless of when they arrived in the country. For countries without foreign-born data, DESA relies on data on foreign nationals. Thus, the number of international migrants does not necessarily include second-generation immigrants, who were born in the country but whose parents immigrated.

#### Appendix 30. Urbanization dynamics in West Africa, 1960-2050

Country/Region	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Benin	9.3	16.7	27.3	34.5	38.3	43.1	48.4	54.1	59.9	65.4
Burkina Faso	4.7	5.7	8.8	13.8	17.8	24.6	30.6	37.1	43.7	50.2
Cabo Verde	16.7	19.6	23.5	44.1	53.4	61.8	66.7	70.9	74.4	77.5
Côte d'Ivoire	17.7	28.2	36.8	39.3	43.2	47.3	51.7	56.7	62.2	67.4
Gambia	12.1	19.5	28.4	38.3	47.9	55.7	62.6	68.5	73.2	77.2
Ghana	23.3	29.0	31.2	36.4	43.9	50.7	57.3	63.4	68.6	73.2
Guinea	10.5	16.0	23.6	28.0	30.9	33.7	36.9	41.4	47.3	53.6
Guinea-Bissau	13.6	15.1	17.8	30.8	36.2	40.1	44.2	48.5	52.9	57.2
Liberia	18.6	26.0	35.2	55.4	44.3	47.8	52.1	57.3	62.9	68.2
Mali	11.1	14.3	18.5	23.3	28.4	36.0	43.9	51.2	57.4	63.2
Niger	5.8	8.8	13.4	15.4	16.2	16.2	16.6	18.7	22.9	28.4
Nigeria	15.4	17.8	22.0	29.7	34.8	43.5	52.0	59.2	64.9	69.9
Senegal	23.0	30.0	35.8	38.9	40.3	43.8	48.1	53.2	58.9	64.5
Sierra Leone	17.4	24.0	29.8	33.3	35.6	38.9	42.9	47.8	53.6	59.6
Togo	10.1	21.3	24.7	28.6	32.9	37.5	42.8	48.6	54.7	60.6
West Africa	14.7	18.7	23.6	30.1	34.5	41.1	47.6	53.5	58.7	63.7

Source: ECOWAS from World Urbanization Prospects (2018)

[World Urbanization Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](http://World Urbanization Prospects - Population Division - United Nations)

#### Appendix 31. Proportion of population living in slums in West Africa, 2010-2018

Country	of individuals in the urban population		
	2010	2014	2018
Benin	69.8	61.5	58.8
Burkina	ND	65.8	57.1
Cabo Verde	ND	ND	ND
Côte d'Ivoire	57.0	56.0	60.1
Gambia	ND	34.8	27.1
Ghana	40.1	37.9	30.4
Guinea	ND	43.3	50.1
Guinea Bissau	ND	82.3	74.4
Liberia	68.3	65.7	70.3
Mali	65.9	56.3	47.2
Niger	81.7	70.1	58.8
Nigeria	62.7	50.2	53.9
Senegal	38.8	38.8	29.5
Sierra Leone	ND	75.6	59.1
Togo	ND	51.2	54.3

Source: ECOWAS based on World Bank data (World Development Indicators)

## GOVERNANCE

**Appendix 32.** Indicators of Political Stability and Freedom from Violence in West Africa, 2000-2019

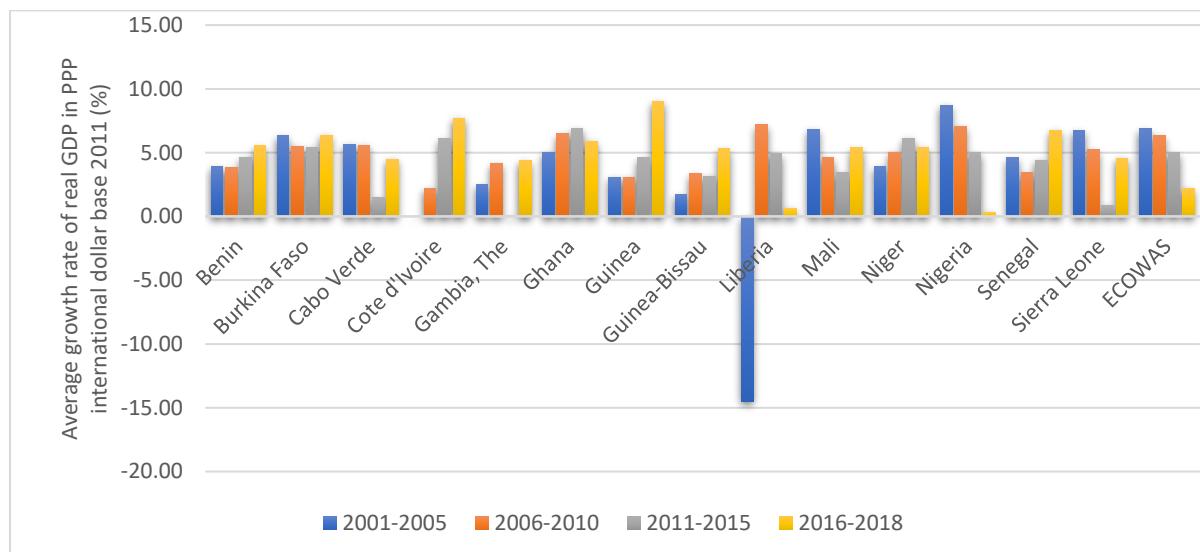
Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Benin	0.80	0.45	0.26	-0.01	0.00	0.03	-0.13	-0.35
Burkina Faso	0.06	-0.06	-0.12	-0.61	-0.87	-0.93	-1.05	-1.19
Côte d'Ivoire	-1.24	-2.26	-1.58	-0.83	-0.91	-1.09	-0.89	-0.96
Cabo Verde	1.22	0.75	0.84	0.87	0.89	0.77	0.85	0.88
Ghana	-0.36	0.17	0.03	-0.03	-0.13	0.09	-0.02	0.10
Guinea	-1.91	-1.16	-1.69	-0.39	-0.39	-0.70	-0.87	-0.83
Gambia, The	0.53	0.20	0.07	0.02	-0.43	-0.08	-0.07	0.11
Guinea-Bissau	-0.35	-0.56	-0.69	-0.52	-0.44	-0.50	-0.68	-0.56
Liberia	-1.95	-1.36	-0.47	-0.82	-0.44	-0.36	-0.25	-0.23
Mali	0.24	0.18	-0.18	-1.69	-1.62	-1.91	-2.08	-2.15
Niger	0.12	-0.49	-1.16	-1.07	-1.10	-1.27	-1.35	-1.40
Nigeria	-1.46	-1.67	-2.21	-1.93	-1.88	-2.00	-2.09	-1.93
Senegal	-0.59	-0.20	-0.42	-0.12	-0.22	-0.05	-0.09	0.06
Sierra Leone	-1.87	-0.48	-0.24	-0.10	-0.16	-0.04	-0.08	-0.10
Togo	-0.29	-1.45	-0.18	-0.23	-0.17	-0.88	-0.88	-0.81
Average	-0.47	-0.53	-0.52	-0.50	-0.52	-0.60	-0.64	-0.62

Source: World governance indicators, 2021

Note: Indicator estimate ranging from approximately -2.5 (low) to 2.5 (high) governance performance.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH, STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

**Appendix 33.** Evolution of the average growth rate by country and in ECOWAS



Source: CAPEC, based on WDI.

**Appendix 34.** Average contributions of demand aggregates to real GDP growth ECOWAS from 2000 to 2017

GDP employment at constant market prices	Average contributions
<b>FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE</b>	2.1
Household final consumption expenditure	1.3
Public final consumption expenditure	0.7
<b>GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION/INVESTMENT</b>	1.2
Gross Capital Formation Fixed Private	0.8
Gross Capital Formation Public Fixation	0.4
<b>INVENTORY CHANGE</b>	0.0
<b>EXPORTS OF NON-FACTOR GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	3.1
<b>IMPORTS OF NON-FACTOR GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	1.3

Source: ECOWAS, ECOWAS Economic Accounts, 2018

**Appendix 35.** Structure of ECOWAS current GDP (in %)

Employment of ECOWAS GDP at current market prices	2000-2017
<b>1. FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE</b>	79.5
<b>1.1. Household final consumption expenditure</b>	70.7
<b>1.2 Public final consumption expenditure</b>	8.8

<b>2. GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION/INVESTMENT</b>	15.4
<b>2.1. GROSS FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION</b>	15.0
<b>2.1.1. Gross Fixed Capital FormationPrivate</b>	11.1
<b>2.1.2. Gross Fixed Capital FormationPublic</b>	3.8
<b>2.2.CHANGE IN INVENTORIES</b>	0.4
<b>3. EXPORTS OF NON-FACTOR GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	25.9
<b>4. IMPORTS OF NON-FACTOR GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	20.8
<b>Employment of ECOWAS GDP at current market prices</b>	100.0

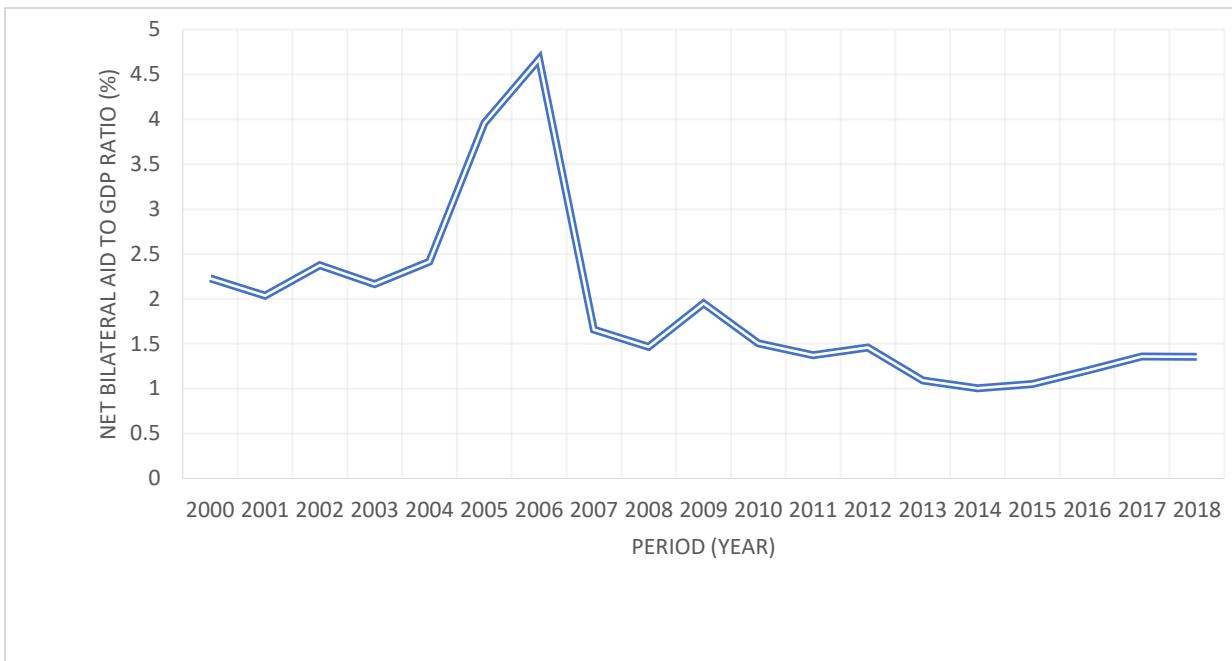
Source: ECOWAS, Economic Accounts, 2018

#### Appendix 36. Gross Exports (constant 2010 US\$ millions)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average
<b>Benin</b>	-594.26	-408.85	-732.81	-530.35	-1248.25	-982.07	-1373.74	-1434.30	-1281.94	-954.06
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	-908.88	-1546.34	-1535.38	-924.43	-1342.04	-1596.40	-1810.92	-2247.12	-3123.22	-1670.53
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	-473.08	-307.55	-240.44	-351.50	-270.22	-312.86	-436.20	-404.16	-332.37	-347.60
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	4526.04	1362.30	1531.95	2041.73	1227.49	245.21	150.55	-1706.84	576.98	1106.16
<b>Ghana</b>	-6101.54	-6531.28	-7668.30	-5163.15	-6826.90	-4321.91	-3161.98	-2146.68	-1055.64	-4775.27
<b>Gambia</b>	-140.37	-131.41	-130.45	-202.77	-252.58	-306.99	-394.66	-374.82	-406.89	-260.10
<b>Guinea</b>	-1470.65	-1794.39	-2345.47	-2000.78	-2428.32	-4907.54	-1916.00	-649.76	-179.22	-1965.79
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	-112.53	-89.05	-63.03	-126.60	-144.13	-172.76	-281.72	-251.51	-306.31	-171.96
<b>Liberia</b>	-1579.68	-1652.85	-1625.02	-1794.00	-1840.84	-1790.19	-1759.15	-1593.87	-1596.87	-1692.50
<b>Mali</b>	-1372.51	-936.07	-1835.22	-2084.58	-2396.16	-3068.68	-1828.84	-1187.67	-1383.58	-1788.15
<b>Niger</b>	-1636.42	-1273.14	-1297.07	-1451.39	-1823.95	-1450.67	-1625.23	-1933.53	-2165.10	-1628.50
<b>Nigeria</b>	57841.8 0	73005.6 5	43731.6 6	62290.6 8	74443.4 0	90667.1 3	99838.5 7	81860.4 0	88117.1 6	74644.05
<b>Senegal</b>	-2178.67	-2235.86	-2712.47	-3219.03	-3410.62	-3741.37	-4710.37	-4879.62	-4684.86	-3530.32
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	-1312.26	-812.61	-782.21	159.02	-761.50	-967.73	-803.74	-1069.46	-246.55	-733.00
<b>Togo</b>	-741.57	-506.18	-779.61	-786.77	-1123.34	-1039.17	-778.23	-986.43	-1060.74	-866.89

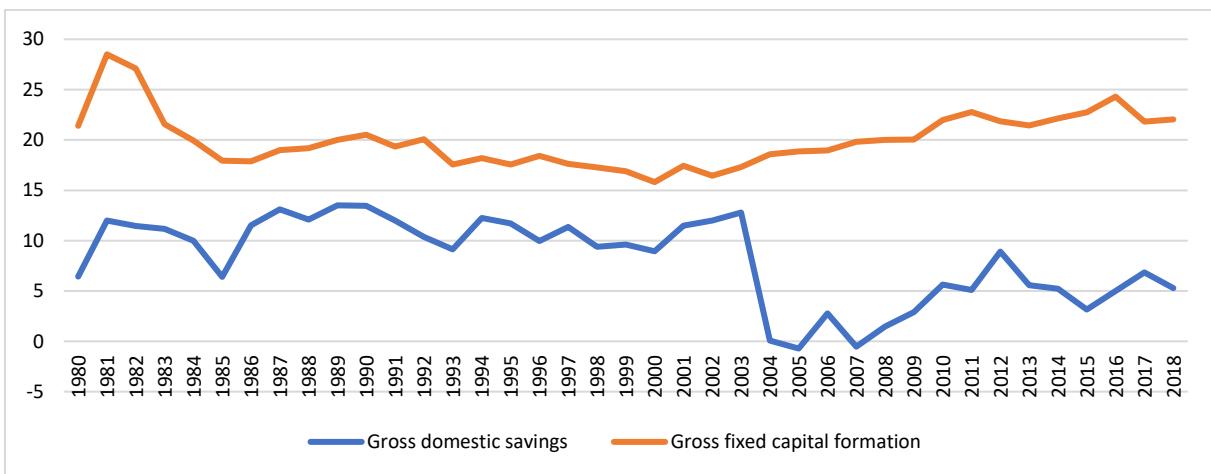
Source: ECOWAS based on World Bank data (World Development Indicators, 2020)

#### Appendix 37. Evolution of the share of bilateral aid in the ECOWAS region



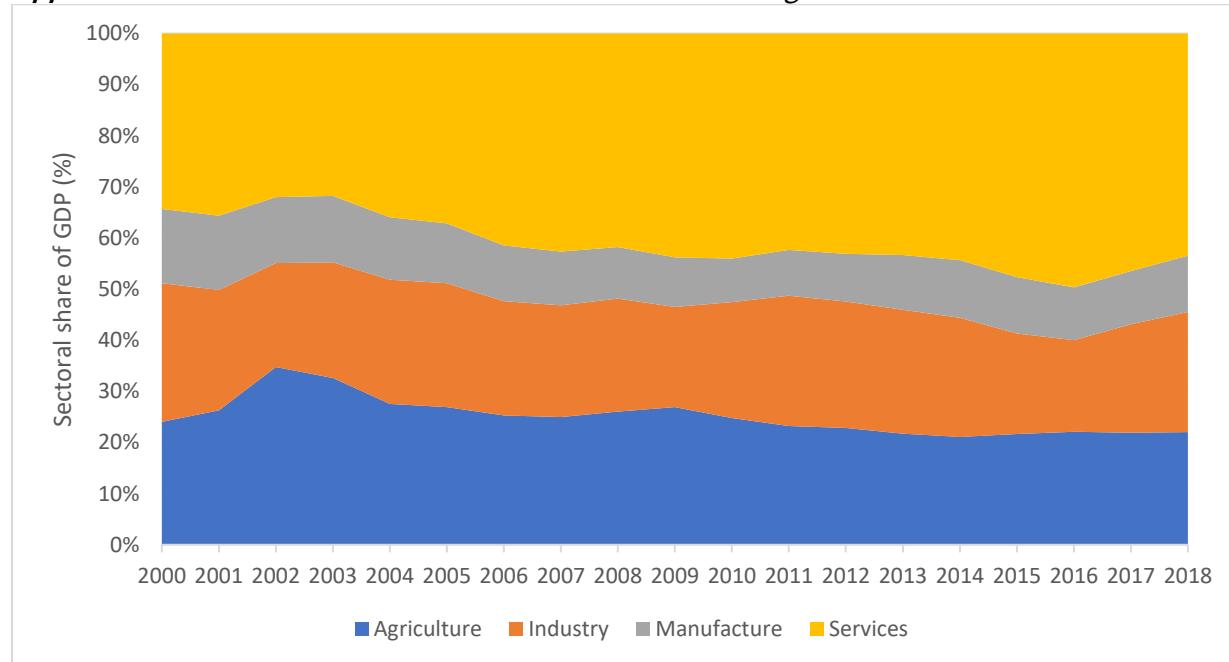
Source: CAPEC based on WDI data

#### Appendix 38. Trends in Gross Domestic Savings and Gross Fixed Capital Formation in ECOWAS from 1980 to 2018 (% of GDP)



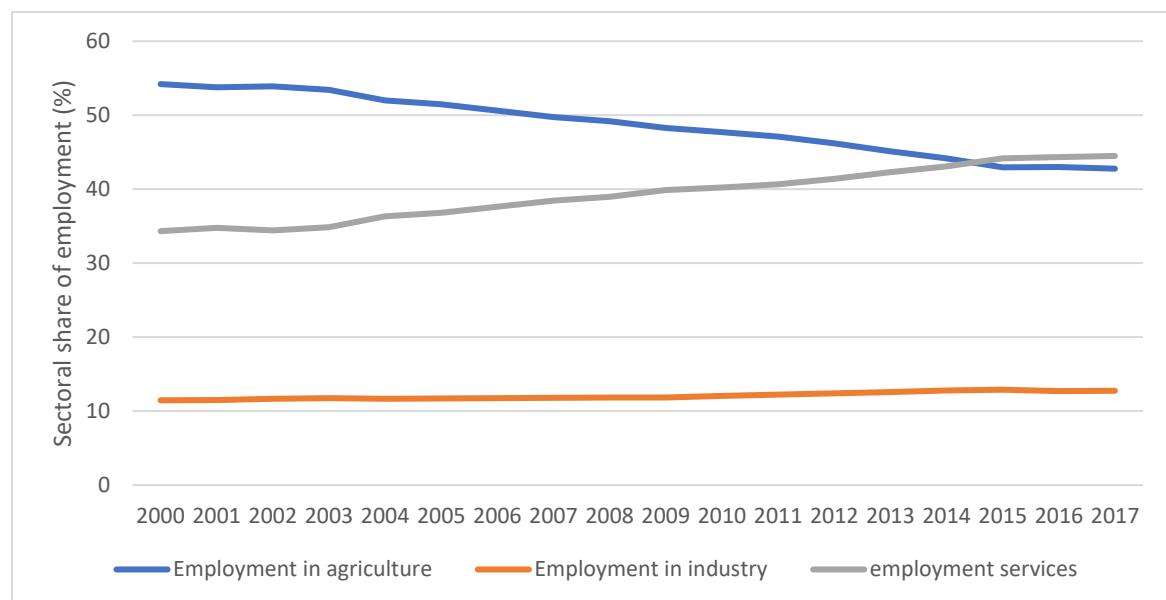
Source: ECA (2019) based on World Bank data (World Development Indicator)

**Appendix 39. Sectorial evolution of GDP in the ECOWAS region**



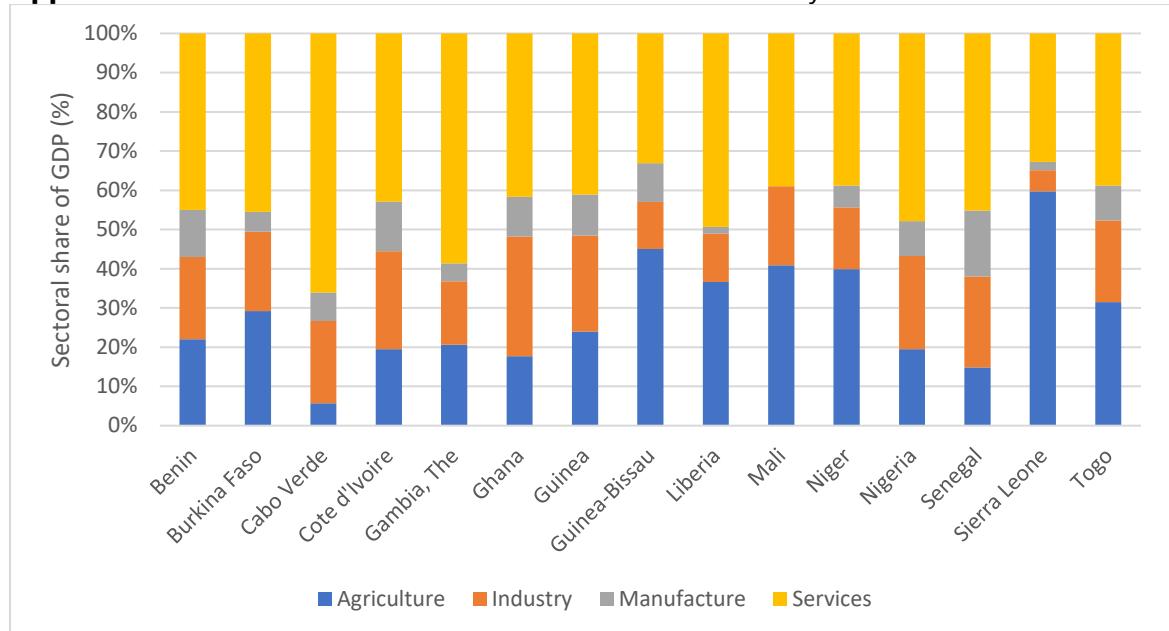
Source: CAPEC from WDI

**Appendix 40. Evolution of the sectorial share of employment in the ECOWAS region**



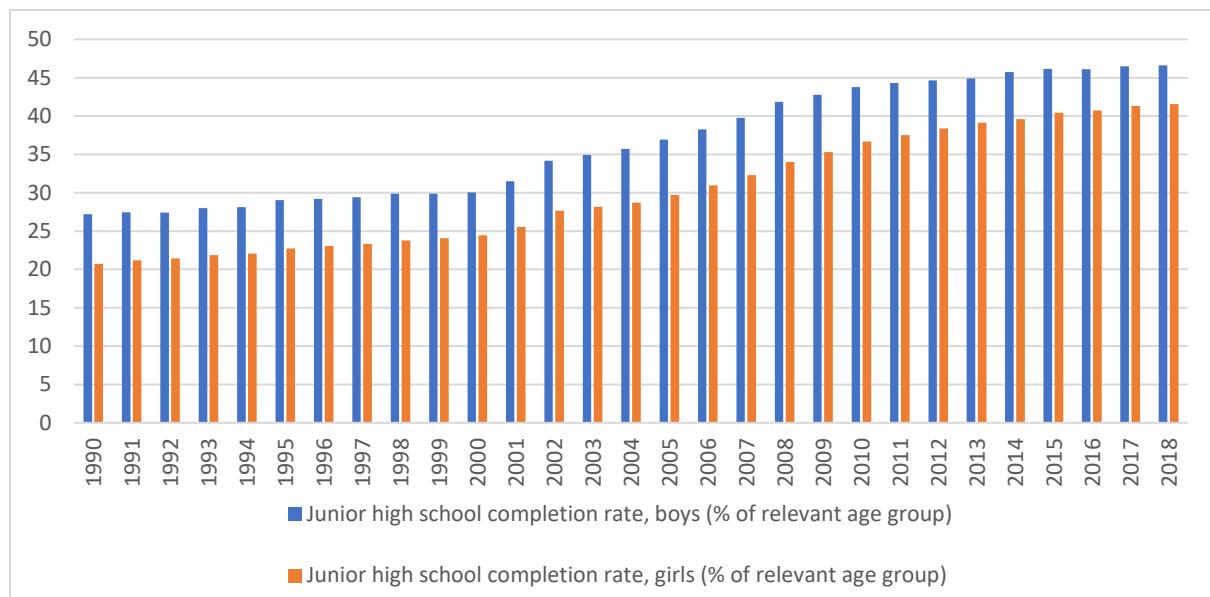
Source: CAPEC from WDI

**Appendix 41:** Sectorial share of GDP in each ECOWAS country



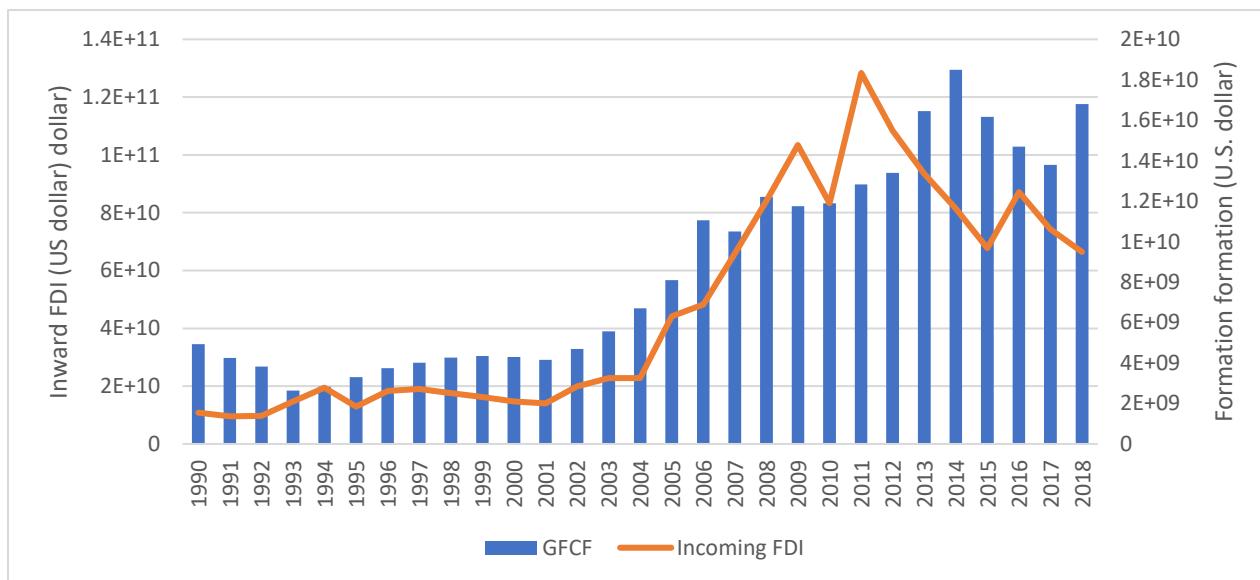
Source: CAPEC from WDI

**Appendix 42.** Level of schooling



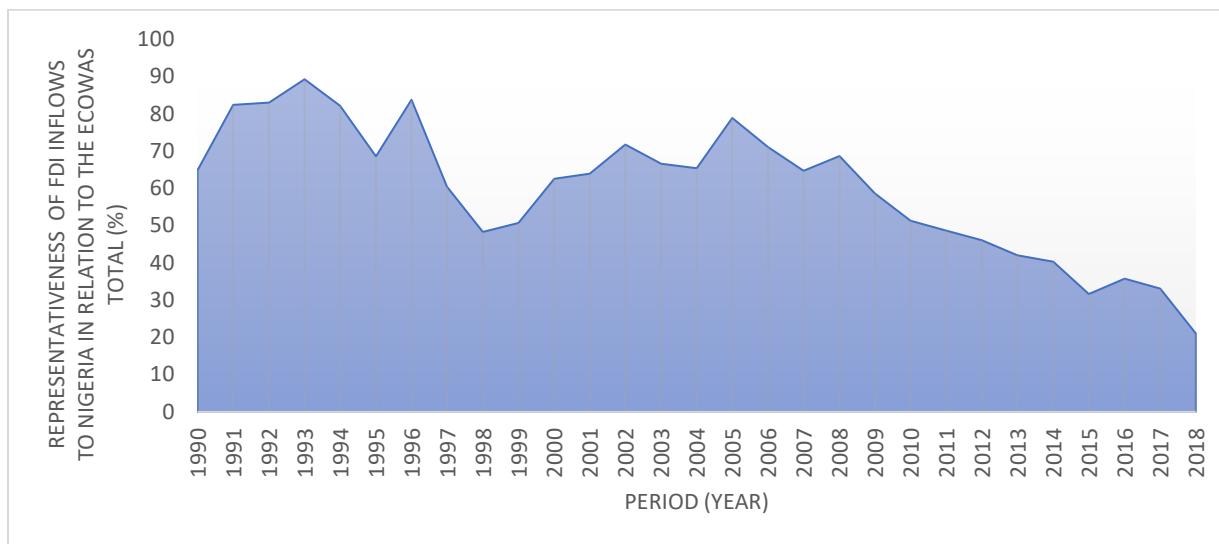
Source: From the author, based on World Bank data.

**Appendix 43.** Joint evolution of FDI and GFCF in the ECOWAS region



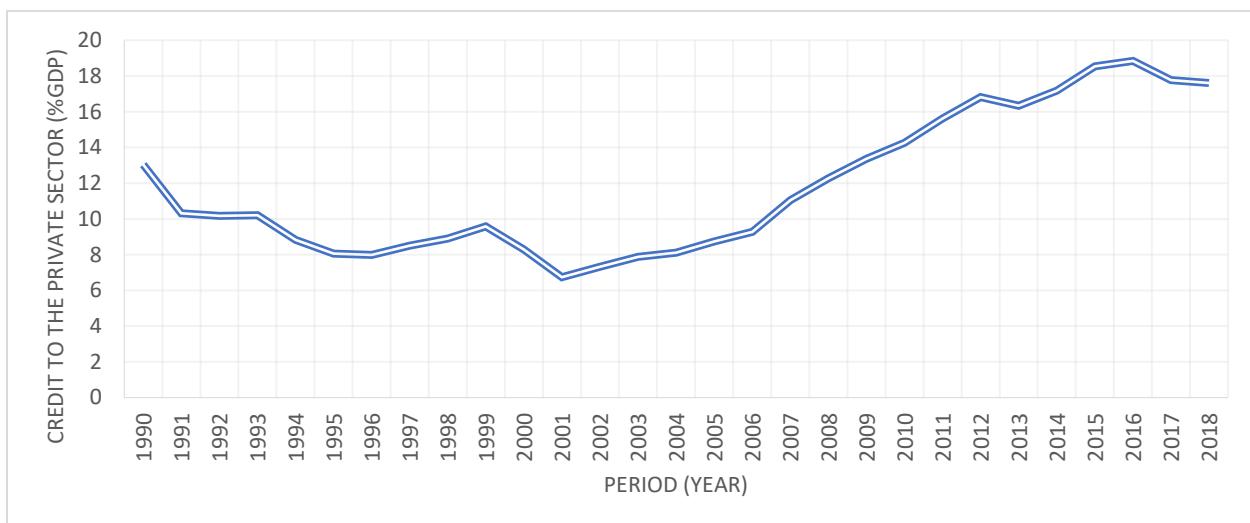
Source: CAPEC based on WDI and UNCTAD data.

**Appendix 44.** Evolution of the representation of inward FDI in Nigeria in relation to the total for the ECOWAS region



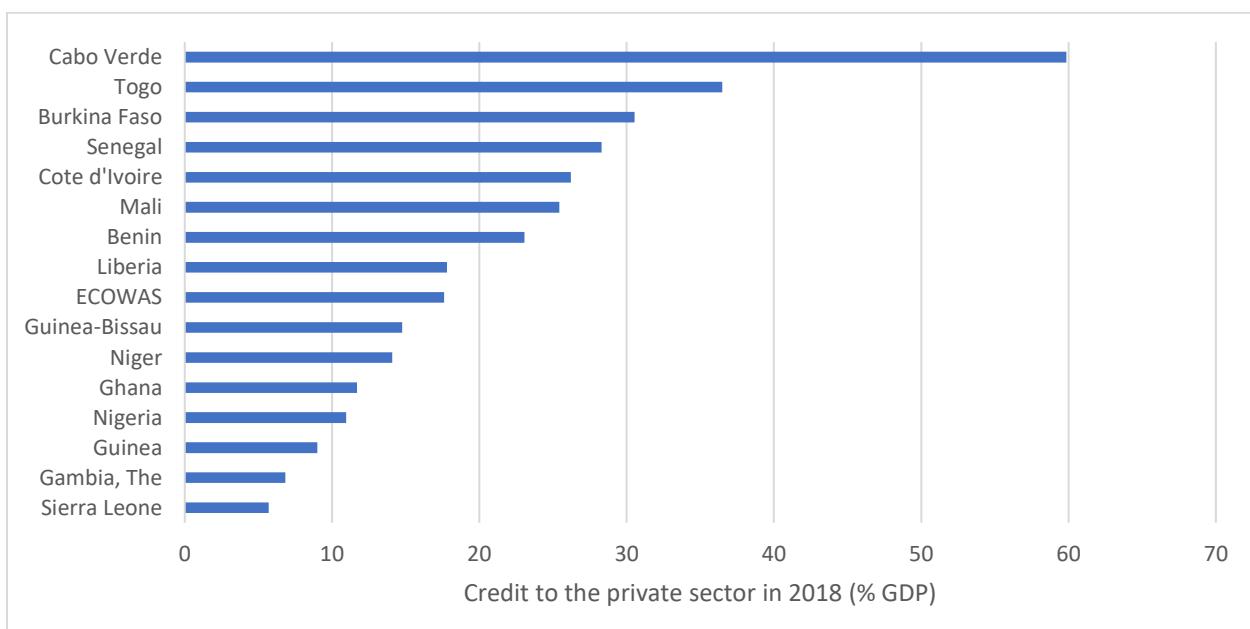
Source: CAPEC based on UNCTAD data

**Appendix 45. Evolution of the share of credit to the private sector in ECOWAS (% GDP)**



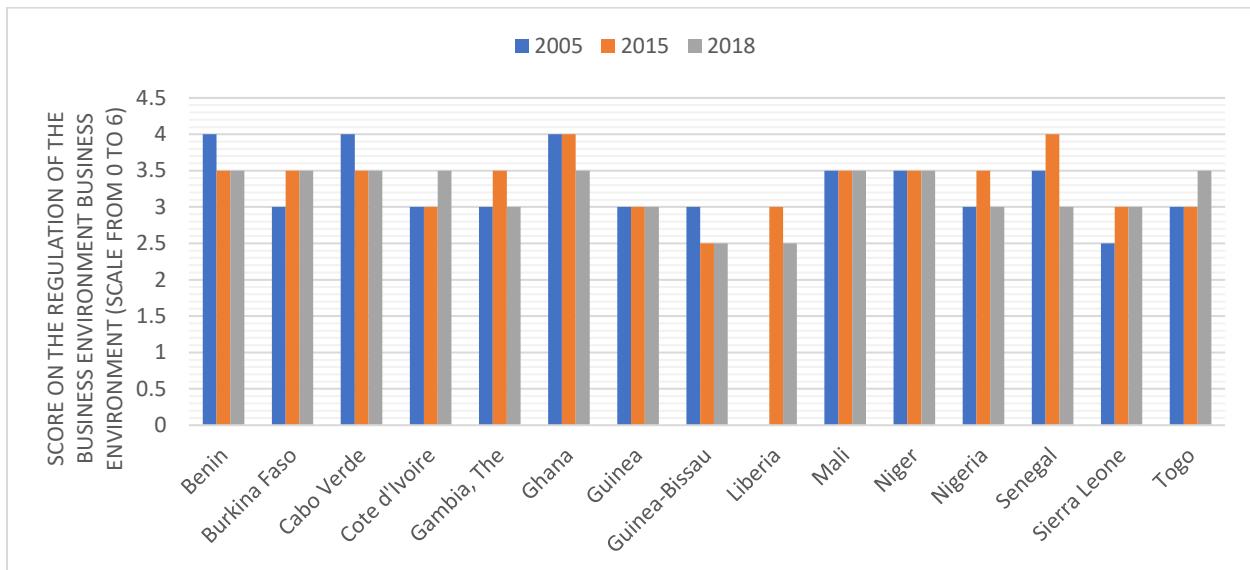
Source: CAPEC based on World Bank data (WDI, 2020)

**Appendix 46. Level of credit to the private sector in the ECOWAS region (% GDP)**



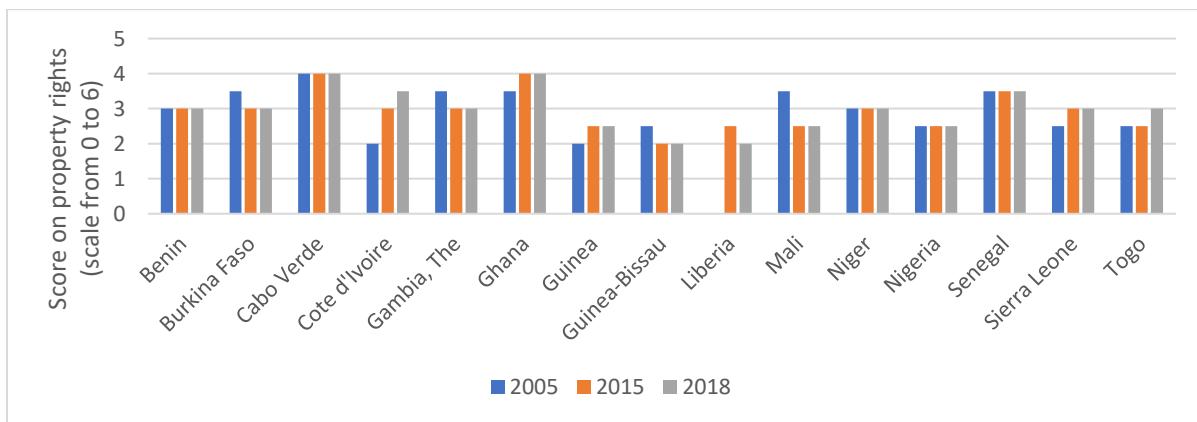
Source: CAPEC based on World Bank (WDI) data

*Appendix 47. Evolution of business regulations in the ECOWAS region*



Source: CAPEC from WDI, 2020

**Appendix 48. Evolution of the application of property rights and contracts in the ECOWAS region**



Source: CAPEC from WDI, 2020

## INTEGRATION

**Appendix 49. Status of regional economic integration by regional economic community**

Regional Economic Community	Customs Union	Free trade zone	Single market	Number of countries applying the free movement protocol	Economic and monetary union
CAE	Yes	Yes	Yes	3/5	No
COMESA	No	Yes	No	Burundi and Rwanda commit to the protocol	No
ECOWAS	Yes	Yes	X	15/15	UEMOA
CFDC	No	Yes	No	7/15	No
ECCAS	No	Yes	No	4/11	CEMAC
SEN-SAD	No	No	No	Undetermined	No
IGAD	No	No	No	No protocol	No
UMA	No	No	No	3/5	No

Source: Africa Regional Integration Assessment VIII, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2017)

#### Appendix 50. Evolution of access to electricity in ECOWAS Member States, 1995-2018

Country	Access to electricity (% total population)					
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018
Benin	ND	21.4	26.7	34.2	37.7	41.5
Burkina Faso	6.7	9.1	11.4	13.1	16.3	14.4
Cabo Verde	ND	ND	67.0	81.1	87.1	93.6
Côte d'Ivoire	42.3	47.6	58.9	58.0	62.6	67.0
Gambia	20.0	34.3	30.5	47.3	54.4	60.3
Ghana	34.2	43.7	54.7	64.2	75.7	82.4
Guinea	ND	15.5	20.2	27.3	33.9	44.0
Guinea-Bissau	ND	ND	ND	6.0	20.3	28.7
Liberia	ND	ND	ND	5.2	16.1	25.9
Mali	ND	9.4	18.7	27.8	37.6	50.9
Niger	6.2	6.5	7.1	12.9	16.6	17.6
Nigeria	38.4	42.9	47.1	48.0	52.5	56.5
Senegal	29.0	37.7	47.1	56.5	60.5	67.0
Sierra Leone	ND	ND	11.3	11.5	19.7	26.1
Togo	ND	17.0	26.7	30.8	45.1	51.3

Source: ECOWAS based on World Bank data (World Development Indicators)

## ASPIRATIONS

**Appendix 51.** Results of consultations held in the Mano River Union and Sene-Gambia

Zone	Aspirations for the 2050 Vision	Summary of the Aspirations of the 13 countries	Link between Aspirations and 2050 Vision themes
<b>Union du Fleuve-Mano</b>	An ECOWAS where citizens feel at home in each of the 15 countries, an ECOWAS where natural resources are managed transparently and efficiently, an ECOWAS where decentralization and deconcentration are entrenched, an ECOWAS led by the private sector by 2035, an ECOWAS full of diversified competencies, an ECOWAS interconnected	S1. An ECOWAS full of diversified skills  (Theme prioritized in 2 zones /2)  S2. An ECOWAS where natural resources are managed in a transparent and efficient manner;  (Theme prioritized in 2 zones /2)	<b>Demography, human capital, social development, migration, in relation to S1</b>  <b>Environment and natural resources</b> , in connection with S2  <b>Geopolitics, governance, security and peace</b> , in connection with S3

Sene-Gambia	<p>Develop a human capital development policy, Promote economic zoning of products based on the competitiveness of the region, Exploit natural resources and promote a climate friendly region, Monetary union - Adoption of single/common currency, Participatory democracy and good governance, Technological and social innovations</p>	<p>3. participatory democracy and good governance (Theme prioritized in 2 zones /2)</p> <p>4. An ECOWAS led by the private sector by 2035; (Theme prioritized in 2 zones /2)</p> <p>5. Technological and social innovations. (Theme prioritized in 2 zones /2)</p>	<p><b>Economic growth, structural transformation and private sector development</b>, in connection with S4</p> <p><b>Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure and partnership</b>, in connection with S5</p>
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As with the analysis in section 3 of the report, the theme of "**demographics, human capital, social development, and migration**" was prioritized in both the Mano River Union and Sene-Gambia consultations.

These two regions also expressed aspirations in relation to the theme "**Environment and Natural Resources**" as well as the third theme of the retrospective analysis, relating to "**Geopolitics, Governance, Security and Peace**".

Finally, both regions felt that key issues such as integration and the economy should be prioritized in the future ECOWAS vision, in line with the fourth and fifth themes of the retrospective analysis, namely "**Economic growth, structural transformation and private sector development**" and "**Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure and partnership**"

**Appendix 52. Summary of Aspirations and Convergence with Hindsight Themes**

Country	Aspirations for the 2050 Vision	Summary of the Aspirations of the 13 countries	Link between Aspirations and 2050 Vision themes
<b>Benin</b>	Democracy and good governance; Environment, sustainable management of natural resources; Trade; Gender and youth empowerment; Road, rail, air and sea transport; Agriculture and food security (increasing food production); Social domain	S1. Social domain, gender and youth empowerment; population and human capital; social structures and identities  (Priority theme in 14 countries /14)	<b>Demography, human capital, social development, migration, in relation to S1</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Ensuring that 100% of the population has access to education, health, clean water, sanitation, birth control by the people; an internationally competitive economy, a prosperous and emerging ECOWAS; zero statelessness, culture as a planning sector, zero corruption, accessible, fair, transparent and credible justice for all; eradication of terrorism/bullying; renewable energy in full swing; space satellites for ECOWAS; people moving and doing business freely throughout the region; zero genital mutilation and child marriage.	S2. Environment, sustainable management of natural resources; protection of flora and fauna; climate change.  (Priority theme in 12 countries /14)	<b>Environment and natural resources</b> , in connection with S2
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	-		
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Controlling demographics in the sub-region; developing agriculture and other sectors of the economy; ensuring the implementation of the rules of democracy; eradicating terrorism; achieving joint management of water resources; dematerializing all activities in ECOWAS countries; considering the creation of a federal state in West Africa	3. Democracy and good governance; Maintenance of peace and regional security; Harmonization of common policies for the management of public	<b>Geopolitics, governance, security and peace</b> , in connection with S3

<b>Gambia</b>	Investing in agriculture; ensuring sustainable and beneficial exploitation of natural resources; investing in smart infrastructure and energy; promoting good governance and access to finance; investing in people, peace and security; investing in research, science and innovation to boost industrialization; using the single currency	goods and the fight against corruption in public administration.  (Priority theme in 13/14 countries)	<b>Economic growth, structural transformation and private sector development</b> , in connection with S4
<b>Ghana</b>	Pursuing regional integration policies; create a vibrant regional economy with a regionally oriented business/operator community; generate a highly skilled and mobile workforce; create a well-resourced financial market; foster political and economic governance mechanisms	4. Economy; access to finance; creating a dynamic regional economy with a regionally oriented business/operator community; achieving a strong and stable economy  (Priority theme in 14 countries /14)	
<b>Guinea</b>	free movement of people and goods; job creation; digital economy; private sector development; human capital development; migration and public infrastructure		
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	Eradicating illiteracy and improve the quality of education; Diversification of the economy and promotion of private investment; Introduction of new food production technologies; Harmonization of common policies for the management of public goods and the fight against corruption in public administration; Sustainable management of the environment; Strengthened regional integration	5. Road, rail, air and maritime transport; Technological innovations; Free movement of people and goods; Public infrastructure; Single sub-regional currency.	<b>Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure and partnership</b> , in connection with S5
<b>Liberia</b>	Human capital, migration, gender, youth employment; sustainable development; good governance; fostering regional economic and monetary integration; improving inter-state road		

	connectivity among Member States; increasing the supply of cost-effective and stable energy for ECOWAS citizens	(Priority theme in 14 countries /14)	
<b>Mali</b>	Ensuring the adequacy of training and employment; ensure the financing of SMEs/SMIs; fight against the marginalization of people living with disabilities; respect democratic rules; climate change; popularize the use of renewable energy; promote intra-community trade.		
<b>Niger</b>	Peace and security; investment in human capital; economy; governance (decentralization, independence of the judiciary and organization of free and transparent elections); technological innovation; environment; cross-border challenges; regional integration (removal of barriers); development of renewable energy		
<b>Nigeria</b>	Promoting increased access to affordable and quality education at all levels; increase productive integration at the level that would foster the development of a common physical and institutional infrastructure; intensify financial integration efforts; promote entrepreneurial culture; expand the space for people's participation in ECOWAS decision-making and governance processes; Promote governance that decentralizes political and economic power from the Centre to local authorities; envisage an overhaul of the security architecture to ensure synergy between security agents and transparency; encourage sustainable management of natural resources; create innovation poles for youth training.		

<b>Senegal</b>	Achieving a community where human capital is valued; facing the current challenges and anticipate the future in order to make our Community a healthy and pleasant place to live; achieving good governance in the Member States; achieving peace, stability and security; achieving a strong and stable economy; Regional, social and cultural integration, technological and social innovations		
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Empowered youth population and gender parity; Single sub-regional currency; Peaceful, cohesive and just society; Fostering a diversified, private sector-driven economy; Sustainable use of natural resources		
<b>Togo</b>	Strengthening the fight against terrorism and violent extremism; Strengthening environmental policy; Creating job opportunities for young people; Strengthening infrastructure; Valorising local technologies;		

**Appendix 53.** Summary of OEs/NDPs related to the retrospective themes

<b>Themes of the ECOWAS 2050 Vision retrospective analysis</b>	<b>OE/NDP Strategic Axes</b>
Demography, human capital, social development and migration	Human capital development (10/14)
Environment and natural resources	Sustainable management and preservation of the environment (8/14)
Geopolitics, governance, peace and security	Improved governance and quality of institutions (14/14)
Economic growth, structural transformation and private sector development	Structural transformation of the economy and restoration of growth (10/14)
Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure, energy and partnerships	Infrastructure construction and industry transformation (9/14)

**Appendix 54.** Convergence between people's aspirations (retrospective themes) and the priorities of international agendas

Themes related to people's aspirations (retrospective analysis)	Link to the 2030 Agenda SDGs	Link to the Aspirations of Agenda 2063
<b>Demography, human capital, social development and migration</b>	No poverty, zero hunger, access to quality education, access to employment, access to health, gender equality, helping people migrate safely, urbanization policies	An Africa whose development is people-Centred, that builds on the potential of its people, especially women and youth, that cares about the well-being of children; A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development A continent with a strong cultural identity, a common heritage, and shared values and ethics.
<b>Environment and natural resources</b>	Zero hunger, access to safe water and sanitation, integrated water resources management, women's access to land resources, clean energy, air quality and waste management, climate change, preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity	A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
<b>Geopolitics, governance, security and peace</b>	Peace, justice and effective institutions	An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law A continent living in peace and security An Africa that acts as a strong, united and influential actor and partner on the world stage

<b>Economic growth, structural transformation and private sector development</b>	Innovative industry, increase in productivity and creation of decent jobs, development financing, regulation of financial markets	A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development  An Africa that acts as a strong, united and influential actor and partner on the world stage
<b>Economic and monetary integration, economic infrastructure, energy and technological innovation</b>	Access to quality education, access to clean and affordable energy, investment in infrastructure, Partnership	A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development  An integrated and united continent

## STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

### Appendix 55. List of variables selected for structural analysis

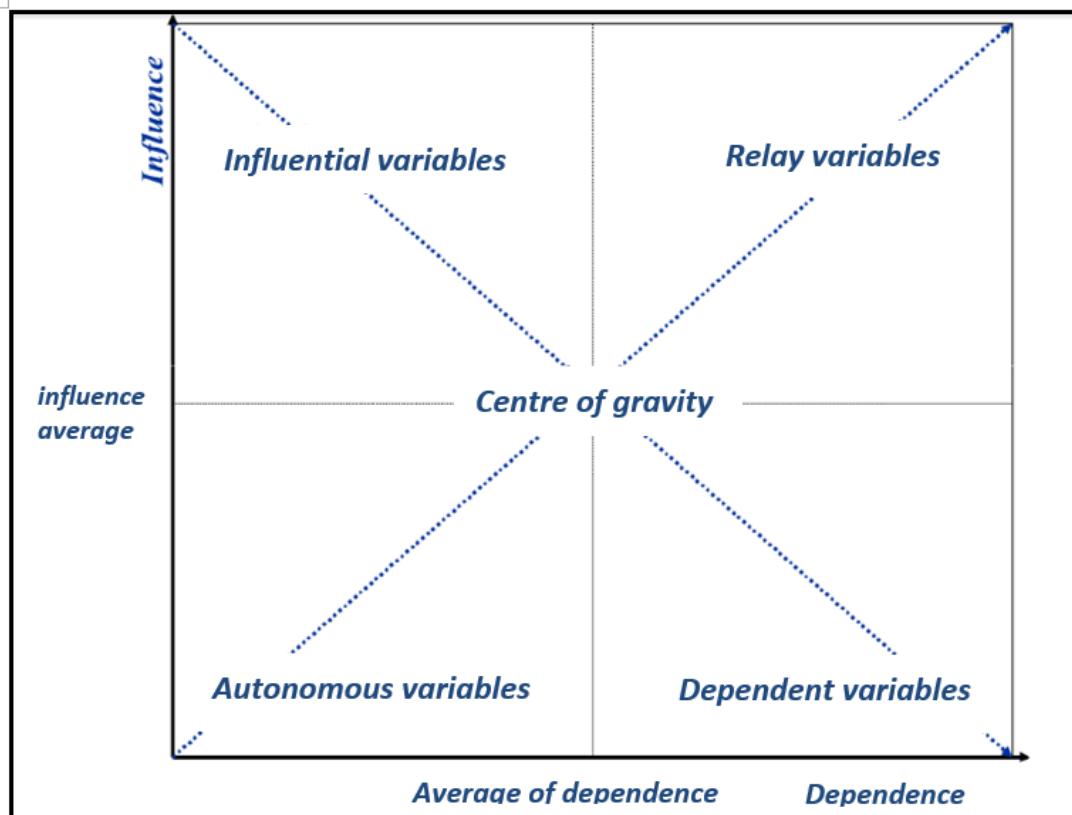
N°	Long title	Short title
1	Demographic dynamics	dyndem
2	Migration dynamics	migr
3	Urbanization	urb
4	Education	educ
5	Health	health
6	Cultural identity	idcult
7	Technical and professional training	FormTp
8	Gender inequality	genre
9	Poverty	poor
10	Income inequality	ineg
11	Employment	emp
12	Communicable Disease Management	gestMT
13	Social protection	Protso
14	Humanitarian emergency management	gestUrHu
15	Environmental pollution	Polenv
16	Resilience to climate change	ResCC
17	Land resources	Resfond
18	Hydrological resources	Reshydro
19	Access to drinking water	Acpot
20	Forest Resources	Resforest
21	Protected areas	AiresP
22	Extractive resources	Resextr
23	Development of renewable energies	DevEN
24	Safety and security	SecurSur
25	Public assistance	APD
26	Democratic system	Sysdem
27	Corruption	Corrup
28	Citizen control movements	MouvCC
29	Defense and security forces	MSDS
30	Social cohesion	Cohesoc
31	Conflict resolution mechanisms	Mecconf
32	International Geopolitics	geopinter
33	Terrorism and violence	TerrViol
34	Trafficking in small arms and light weapons	TrafArm
35	Decentralization	Decentr
36	Respect for fundamental rights	RespDfond
37	Visionary leadership	Leadvis
38	Community citizenship	Citoycom
39	Regional instability	Instreg
40	Capacity to steer the development of ECOWAS institutions	Cappilot
41	Freedom of the media	Libmedia

N°	Long title	Short title
42	Rule of law	Andadroit
43	Economic growth	Croiseco
44	Mobilization of public financial resources	MobfinP
45	Public debt management	GesdetPub
46	Productivity of factors of production	ProdFP
47	Technological innovation	Invtech
48	Private sector financing	FinsectPr
49	Promotion of the private sector	PromsectP
50	Business environment	Envaff
51	Informal sector	Sectinf
52	Integration of financial markets	IntgMfin
53	Agricultural development	Devagri
54	Food and nutritional sovereignty	Suvalim
55	Agri-business	AgrBus
56	Industrial development	Devindus
57	International trade	Cominter
58	International financial cooperation	CopfinInt
59	Monetary integration	Intgmon
60	Macroeconomic convergence	Convmacr
61	Business integration	Integcom
62	Economic infrastructure and sanitation	Infreco
63	Prices and exchange rates	PriceTC
64	African cooperation	Coopafri
65	Accession or withdrawal of countries from ECOWAS	AdhRetr

#### Appendix 56. Characteristics of the Direct Influence Matrix

Indicator	Value
Matrix size	4225
Number of iterations	8
Number of 0	3116
Number of 1	395
Number of 2	324
Number of 3	45
Number of p	345
Total filling	1109
Filling rate	26.25%

## Appendix 57. Types of Variables in the Influence-Dependence Design of Structural Analysis

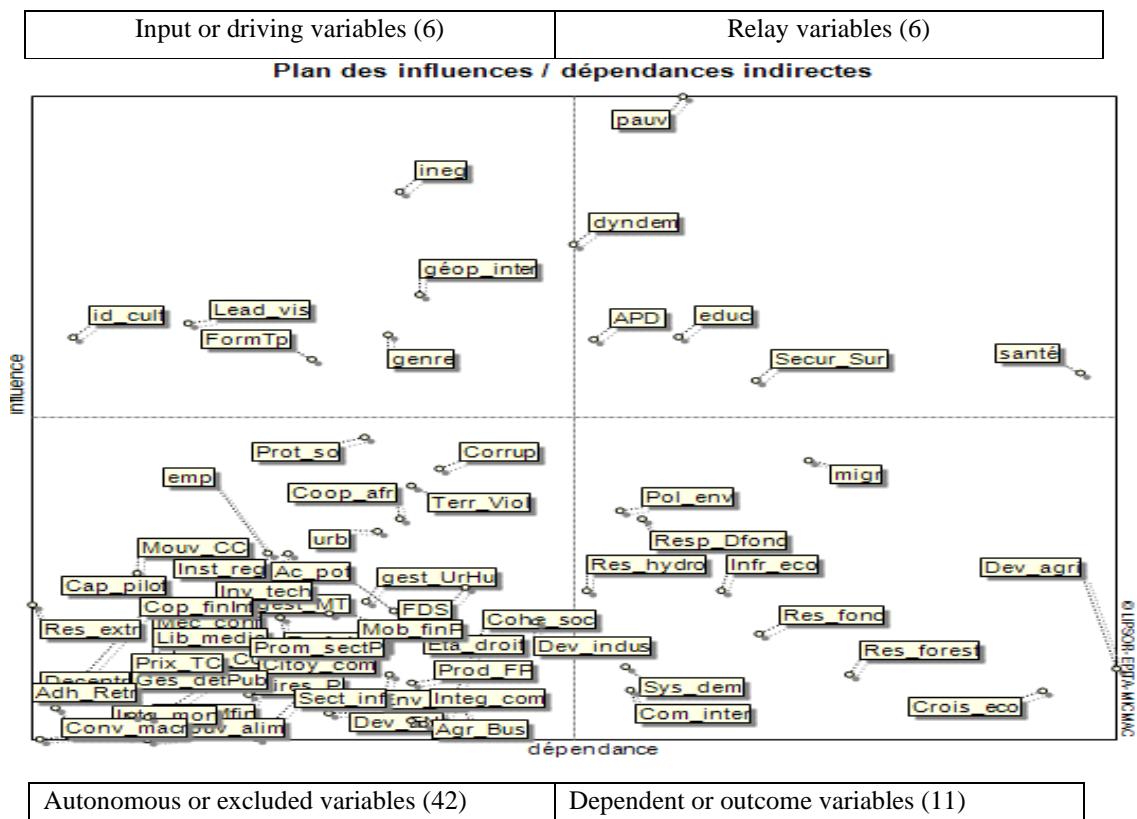


- The input or driving variables are strongly influential and weakly dependent: they have a high level of influence on the evolution of the ECOWAS system. The current dynamics of the region are linked to the preponderance of these variables over the rest of the game. If the trend is not reversed, they will be the ones to drive the system. Special attention should therefore be paid to these variables in the construction of scenarios and strategic thinking. These are: Income inequality - International geopolitics - Cultural identity - Visionary leadership or strong institutions within ECOWAS - Technical and professional training - Gender.
- The variables at stake or relays are as much influential as dependent: They are relays on which any action can have repercussions on the other variables and whose consequences can amplify or slow down the evolution of the system. These are: Demographic dynamics - Poverty - Official development assistance - Education - Security and safety - Health;
- The output or result variables are more dependent than influential: they are result variables whose evolution depends on the action of the preceding variables. The positioning of variables that are essential to the proper functioning of the system in this quadrant deserves a strategic analysis in order to move them into quadrants appropriate to their function. These are: Migration dynamics - Environmental pollution - Respect for fundamental rights - Hydrological resources - Economic infrastructures - Agricultural development - Land resources - Forest resources - Democratic system - International trade - Economic growth.
- The autonomous variables are not very driving and not very dependent: they are considered as heavy trends or relatively disconnected factors. We could do without them in the first part of the analysis, but in the long run, some of these variables will need to change their position in order to give the system the desired dynamics. These are : Extractive resources - Quality of employment - Productivity of factors of production - Macroeconomic convergence - Food and nutritional sovereignty - Development of renewable energies - Integration of financial markets - Prices and exchange rates - Urbanization - Membership or withdrawal from ECOWAS -

Protected areas - Access to drinking water - Monetary integration - Social protection - Informal sector - International financial cooperation - African cooperation - Agribusiness - Trafficking in small arms and light weapons - Regional instability - Corruption - Citizen's control movements Humanitarian emergency management - Terrorism and violence - Private sector financing - Communicable disease management - Defence and security forces - Steering capacity of ECOWAS institutions - Technological innovations - Rule of law - Public debt management - Private sector promotion - Industrial development - Media freedom - Climate change resilience - Business environment - Conflict resolution mechanisms - Community citizenship - Social cohesion - Decentralization - Mobilization of public finances - Trade integration.

The main results or lessons to be learned from this stage of the prospective reflection are structured around six points.

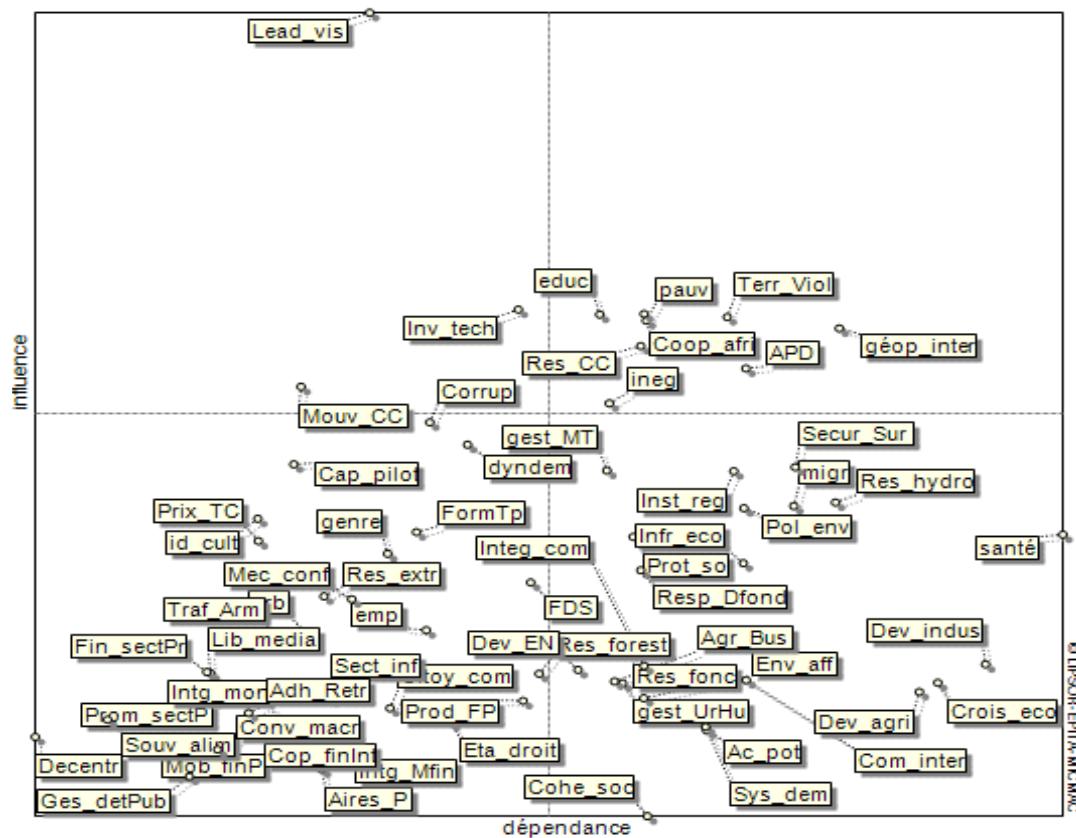
#### Appendix 58. Indirect Influences/Dependencies plane



Source: authors from MICMAC software

## Appendix 59. Potential Indirect Influences/Dependencies plan

**Plan des influences / dépendances indirectes potentielles**



Source: authors from MICMAC software

## SCENARIOS

### Appendix 60. Morphological space of the global scenarios

Key questions	Optimistic hypothesis	Less optimistic hypothesis	Pessimistic hypothesis
<b>What trajectories are possible for human capital development and social welfare in ECOWAS over the next thirty years?</b>	An ECOWAS with quality and human capital	An ECOWAS of wavering well-being and skills	An ECOWAS with declining productive capacities and unsatisfactory social conditions
<b>How will the quality of institutions, including governance, the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms evolve in this part of the African continent?</b>	An ECOWAS with strong and credible institutions that guarantee the respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights	An ECOWAS that is institutionally shaky and has little respect for fundamental rights and individual freedoms	Institutional collapse characterized by exacerbation of corruption, inattention to accountability, degradation of environmental resources
<b>What are the prospects for security, peace and stability in West Africa over the next thirty years?</b>	An ECOWAS operating in an environment of enhanced security and consolidated peace	<u>ECOWAS in an environment of terrorism, insecurity and instability</u>	An ECOWAS that has failed in security and is in total instability
<b>What are the dynamics of economic integration and globalization and what influences on the prosperity of the region?</b>	A fully integrated ECOWAS with sustainable and globally competitive growth	<u>ECOWAS is still seeking integration and competitiveness on the world stage</u>	An ECOWAS that is poorly integrated and highly dependent on public aid and relegated to the bottom of the ladder in globalization
<b>SCENARIOS</b>	<b>The torch of Africa</b>	<b>A community with timid steps</b>	<b>Community suicide</b>
			<b>Walking backwards</b>

Source: authors

Legend



## **Appendix 61.** Narratives of Alternative Scenarios

### **Global Scenario 1:** *Community suicide of a giant*

#### **Scenario Narrative:**

Within the framework of community policies, governments show no willingness to undertake the structural reforms necessary for the emergence of a dynamic and competitive regional economy. The principles of good governance are flouted in favour of nepotism and corruption. result is a lack of democratic culture and the collapse of institutions

Due to multifaceted difficulties, the sub-region is not succeeding in reinventing its education system and meeting the challenges it faces. The private sector does not have the quality of human resources required for its development. The resources of the Member States of the community space are reduced due to the lack of economic growth, high fertility rates and the reduction in labour productivity in this context, the health and education systems continue to deteriorate The region no longer attracts investors because of a poor and unattractive business climate. The region is further marginalized in international trade. The community is becoming almost exclusively dependent on official development assistance This situation contributes to making it more fragile and reducing its autonomous capacity to manage public affairs. The population is experiencing social unrest, which is not conducive to growth, and which is breeding ground for instability and social conflict, aggravating the insecurity of the community's property and people This decadence worsens the economic and social situation in the region. The ECOWAS of 2050, initially projected as a community giant in Africa and in the world, is self-destructing and committing suicide.

## **Global Scenario2: Walking Backwards**

### **Scenario narrative**

The desired changes for a more institutionally strong, democratic and financially self-sustaining ECOWAS are blocked by weak institutions. Corruption is rampant and becoming a cancer on the business environment. FDI to the community is falling, especially in the non-extractive sector. The structural transformation process is stalling. With the downward trend in commodity prices, governments have no choice but to cut back on resources to finance economic and social infrastructure is declining, limiting trade between countries and participation in international trade. Educational facilities in the community are not improving. The supervision of learners is approximate. As a result, labour productivity is falling in all sectors, especially in agriculture and services. Health systems are also in a state of continuous deterioration, and access to health care is difficult for a significant proportion of the population. Regional surveillance and epidemic prevention systems are not sufficiently prepared to contain epidemics and other emerging diseases. The population lives poorly, which fuels social instability. In the face of these injustices, strikes are becoming recurrent. The dynamics of structural and social transformation of ECOWAS is leading to its backward march, thus moving from ECOWAS of the peoples to ECOWAS of the Nations.

## **Scenario 3: A community with timid steps**

### **Scenario Narrative:**

The process of consolidating democracy is moving slowly because of the poor application of the principles of democratic governance, independence, and separation of powers. Financial governance has improved but needs to be strengthened to consolidate the rule of law. Despite the increase in the number of schools and universities and the concession to the private sector of entire sections of the public education service, the human capital of the countries in the region has not experienced a significant qualitative leap due to lack of in-depth reforms. Health systems are still plagued by numerous problems. The capacity of countries to deal with health crises and improve access to health care for their populations is deteriorating. Sub-regional infrastructure and efforts to harmonize economies are not yet sufficient to build a full-fledged community. Intraregional trade is stagnating and the region's productive systems remain poorly integrated. Labour productivity is stagnating, as is business competitiveness and poverty the contrary, income inequality is increasing because public policies are not very inclusive and are marked by corruption. People blame the imperialist powers for the difficulties they are experiencing, as they impose on them leaders that they can manipulate as they please. This idea, which is increasingly shared, leads to a withdrawal into one's identity and is a source of insecurity and social instability. The steps taken by ECOWAS States are not sufficient to bring about the changes desired by the people.

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