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## Draft Introductory Note and Program

### International Conference on the West African Food Security Storage System

In collaboration with its partners, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), together with UEMOA and CILSS and their technical and financial partners, particularly the European Union, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and International Development (AECID), is set to organize a high-level international online conference from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The conference includes a technical component and a high-level political one and is meant to be a platform for sharing and reflection on food security storage experiences in West Africa and other regions of Africa and the world. It will also be a moment of political dialogue between the West African Region and its partners in order to create a consensus on the need to strengthen the capacities of West Africa to appropriately face the upcoming food, nutrition, and pastoral crises.

It follows five years of implementation of the Regional Storage Strategy adopted in 2012, with the support of the European Union. This strategy deploys a regional storage system based on four lines of defense for a coordinated response to face cyclical crises: decentralized local stocks, national stocks, the Regional Food Security Reserve created in 2013, which is made up of a physical stock (1/3) and a financial reserve (2/3) and the resort to international aid, when no solution can be found at the first three lines of defense.

The achievements, challenges and important lessons learned in the first three lines of defense led ECOWAS authorities, in consultation with their national, regional, and international partners, to organize this conference.

The overall objective of the conference is to lay the foundations for a renewed multilateral partnership to strengthen, in a sustainable manner, the resilience of the regional storage system and its capacity to respond efficiently to the amplification and complexity of food, nutrition, and pastoral crises.

Specifically, it aims to:

- Conduct a retrospective analysis and make a projection by 2030 of the region's vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity and its implications for storage systems in a context of increasing and multiplying risks,



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- Share the West African experience of food reserves at the three levels (achievements, lessons, and challenges) and those of other regions of Africa and the world and discuss the place of food storage systems in responding to cyclical crises, strengthening the resilience of the region and the social protection of households by 2030,
- Lay the foundations for a multilateral partnership around the regional reserve system, making it possible to take up the technical, organizational, and financial challenges to increase the region's response capacity in the face of cyclical crises, and to identify the areas of a strengthened coordination of food and nutritional assistance with the international humanitarian community.

Attendance is open to all food storage stakeholders, including national (Member States), regional (CILSS, UEMOA, Networks of Producers' and Women's Organizations - ROPPA, ROAC, RBM, APSS, Gender Network, Women's Network for Conflict Prevention and Management, the private sector, etc.), international (technical and financial partners, UN System Organizations, NGOs, research centers and universities), banks and insurance companies.

**The conference will discontinuously take place over a period of 7 days. The sessions will start at 12:00 pm (GMT) and end at 4:30 pm (GMT).**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

**Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)**

**12:00 - 12:45:** Official opening ceremony chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana and current Chairperson of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

- Welcome address by the Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of ECOWAS (CAEWR),
- Speech by the representative of AFD, leader of the group of technical and financial partners of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy,
- Opening speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, current Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of ECOWAS.

**12:45 - 1:00 pm:** Presentation of objectives, expected results and session thematic by the CAEWR of the ECOWAS Commission.



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1:00 - 1:10 pm: Break

## Introductory Session: Food Reserves in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

### Facilitation: European Union

#### Scoping of the session by the facilitator

#### 13 h 10 – 13 h 45 - Presentations:

- **Mr Franck Galtier**, *Economist-Researcher at CIRAD: From the regulation of world markets by major exporters to the management of crises and domestic markets in Asia*
- **Mr Alain Sy Traoré**, *ECOWAS Director for Agriculture and Rural Development: Introductory remarks to the operationalization of the regional food security storage system in West Africa and way forward.*

#### 13 h 45 – 14 h 45: Questions, discussions, and write-up

2:45 - 3:00 pm: Break

**Thematic session 1: West Africa's vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity:** towards a prospective analysis of food insecurity risks by 2030, the achievement of SDG 2 and the implications on the management strategies of the regional food security reserve system (the first three lines of defense).

facilitator: **Mr Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS**, former Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa

**3:00 - 3:05 pm:** Introductory remarks by the facilitator and introduction to the session



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### 3:05 - 3:35 pm: Presentations

- **Doctor Mahalmoudou Hamadoun**, Coordinator of the Regional Food Security and Nutritional Program at CILSS: *Retrospective of the evolution of food and nutritional crises in West Africa over the past 15 years.*
- **Mr Laurent Bossard**, Director of **SWAC/OECD**: *What are the possible developments of food, nutrition and pastoral crises in West Africa and the Sahel by 2030 (nature, magnitude, mapping) and what are the implications for storage systems and the management strategy of the regional food security reserve?*

#### Policy message from the President of IFAD

3:35 - 4:30 pm: Country presentations, discussions and summary

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)

**Thematic Session 2: Food reserves and management of recurrent and expanding food, nutrition and pastoral crises in West Africa: achievements, lessons learned and current challenges and prospects of the regional storage strategy**

**Moderator: Mister Laurent BOSSARD**, Director of the SWAC/OECD Secretariat

12:00 - 12:05 pm: facilitator's introductory remarks and introduction to the session

### 12:05 - 1:15 pm: Presentations

- **Doctor Emmanuel Glé**, Head of the Technical Management Unit of the RFSR: *Main achievements, lessons learned and challenges of the regional storage strategy in the response to food and nutrition crises.*
- **Mister Youssouf Maiga**, President of RESOGEST: *Evolution of national storage policies and their place in strategies and mechanisms for responding to food crises and impacts on the security of food supplies for markets.*



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- *Crossed views on the challenges of national storage policies in different contexts (Sahelian countries and coastal countries).*
  - **Niger**
  - **Belem Amade** DG of SONAGESS (Burkina Faso),
  - **Ing Sule Haruna** DG of FSRD (Nigeria) and
  - **Mr Koffi Amankwah**, Deputy Director General of NAFCO (Ghana).
  
- **Ibrahim Coulibaly**, President of ROPPA: *What effects does the regional storage strategy have on the governance and management of proximity stocks?*

**Political message: El Hadj Mamadou Cissokho**, Honorary President of Roppa

**1:15 - 2:30 pm: discussions, participants' contributions, and summary**

**2:30 - 3:00 pm: Break**

**3:00 - 4:30 pm:** Panel discussion on the theme: *How can the international humanitarian community's support be better integrated into the regional response to food, nutrition and pastoral crises in order to strengthen its capacity to deal with risks?*

**Facilitator: Mr. Alain Sy Traoré**, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development of ECOWAS.

- **3:00 pm - 3:05 pm: Facilitator's introductory remarks and introduction of panel members**
  
- **Panel members: representatives from the Regional Offices of:** Robert Guei (FAO), Lazare Zoungrana, (Red Cross, Burkina Faso), Michael Zanardi (UNICEF, Dakar), WFP, ECHO, Azara Remalia Sanogo (OXFAM), ACF.
  
- **3:05 - 4:00 pm:** Interaction between facilitator, panelists and participants.



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- **4:00 - 4:15 pm: Comments:** Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources and Commissioner in charge of Social Affairs and Gender of the ECOWAS Commission.

**4:15 - 4:30 pm: Summary and end of the day**

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

**Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)**

**Thematic Session 3:** What roles for stocks in the promotion of sustainable agricultural and food systems, building the regional food market and securing the food supply of countries in the Region?

**Facilitator: Sean de Cleene**, Head of the Food System Initiative, Member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum

**12:00 - 12:10 pm: Facilitator's introductory remarks and introduction to the session**

**12 :10 - 1: 30 pm: Presentations and discussions**

- **Dotor Ismael Fofana**, Director, Capacity and Deployment of AKADEMIYA2063: *"Storage policy, fight against price volatility and securing food systems"*.
- **Mr. Soumabere Dioma**, USCCPA, Burkina Faso: *Grouped storage and marketing at the level of professional organizations and cooperatives: importance and challenges in the face of volatile food prices*

**1:30 - 3:00 pm: Panel** on the theme *"Crossed views on national experiences of intervention of public stocks on markets in West Africa"*.

**Private food security storage and securing food supply systems: experience of Cape Verde.**

Panel members:

- **Colonel Ousmane Dembélé**, CEO, Opam (Mali),
- **Colonel Ouro-Koura Agadazi**, DG of ANSAT (Togo),



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- **Ing Sule Haruna** DG of FSRD (Nigeria),
- **Mister Koffi Amankwah**, Deputy Director General of NAFCO (Ghana).
- **Cape Verde**

Discussions between the facilitator, panelists and participants.

Write-up

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)

**Thematic Session 4: What roles for stocks in building household resilience and social protection**

**Facilitator: Doctor Abdoulaye Mohamadou**, Executive Secretary of CILSS

**12:00 - 1:15 pm: Sequence 1: Introductory remarks, presentations, and discussions**

- **Facilitator's introductory remarks**
- **Expert from the FAO Dakar-based Subregional Office:** "*Food security storage, social protection and resilience: what strategic and functional linkages for reducing the region's vulnerability to shocks?*"

**1:15 - 2:30 pm: Sequence 2: Case study on, "Local storage and resilience."**

- **Idrissa Saïdou Djibo**, Mooriben, Niger: "*Importance of local stocks in strengthening the resilience of family farms: experiences of Mooriben;*"
- **Dodo Boureima**, Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM): "*Livestock feed stocks, a tool for securing pastoral mobility and the resilience of pastoral households: RBM experiences.*"

**2:30 - 3:00 pm: Break**

**Moderator: Mr. Ali BETTY**, High Commissioner of the 3N Initiative, Republic of Niger



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**3:00-3:40 pm - Panel on "How to strengthen the role of food reserves in social protection and resilience building strategies?"**

➤ **Scoping and introduction of panel members:**

- AECID
- UNICEF
- SDC
- FAO
- OXFAM,
- DNPSN (Senegal).

➤ **Interactions between the facilitator and the panelists**

- **3:40 - 4:20 pm - OCHA Regional Representative:** *"How can the international humanitarian community channel funding and strengthen the reserve systems in the region and their use in case of crisis, within the framework of national and regional response plans?"*

**4:20 - 4:30: Wrap-up and end of day**

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

**Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)**

**Thematic Session 5: What partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of the regional storage system and its capacity to respond effectively to the amplification and complexity of food, nutrition and pastoral crises? »**

**Moderation: AFD Regional Representative, ECOWAP Donors Group Lead**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.: Introductory remarks by the facilitator, presentation, and discussions**

- **Dr Mabouba Diagne**, Vice President of EBID: *"What operational financing mechanisms can EBID implement to make the RFSR Financial Reserve a reality?"*,



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- **Asa Giertz**, Senior Economist at the World Bank: *"What risk financing mechanisms to strengthen the financial resilience of the regional storage system (the three levels of storage) to crises?"*

**1:00 - 2:00 pm: Panel 1:** To what extent and at what level can insurance systems and banks contribute to the coverage and financing of food storage system risks at the national and regional levels?

**Remarks from the Director General of ARC**

- **Introductory remarks, and introduction of panelists:**
  - **Chakibe Jenane**, Practice Manager Agriculture and Food, West and central Africa, Banque Mondiale,
  - **Ronke-Amoni Ogunsulire** (IFC Country Manager for Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana, Niger, Benin),
  - **Nicolas Jambou** (Director ASCOMA Ghana),
  - **Benjamin Dzoboku** (General Manager of Finance and Strategy of Republic Bank, Ghana),
  - **General Director of the West African Development Bank (WADB)**
  - **Director of Agriculture at the AFDB.**
- **Interactions between facilitators, panelists and participants.**
- **Questions, discussions, exchanges, write-up and proposals.**

**1:45 - 2:30: Panel 2:** *"What are the possible instruments and modalities for the contribution of the private sector and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) to the financing of multipurpose storage infrastructures and stocks?"*

**Moderator: Dr Mabouba Diagne**, Vice President of EBID



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Keynote: Ms. Atsuko Toda, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank.

### **Framing and introduction of panelists:**

- **Soumaila Sanou**, (President of ROAC),
- **Vanessa Adams**, Vice President of AGRA,
- **Abdoulaye Kone**, Afrexim Bank,
- **Regional Director** of ACE,
- **Regional Director** of INTERTEK.

### **Interactions between facilitators, panelists and participants.**

### **Questions, discussions, exchanges and summary and proposals**

**2:30 - 3:00 pm: Break**

**3:00 - 4:30:** *What are the possible instruments and modalities of contribution of the private sector and Public Private Partnership (PPP) to the financing of multipurpose storage infrastructures and stocks (continued).*

**Facilitator: Doctor Asante Krobea, Senior Advisor to MOFA, Ghana**

**key notes: Sidi Ould Tah**, Chairman and Managing Director of BADEA

#### ➤ **Introductory remarks and introduction of panelists:**

##### **Panel 3:**

- Nashiru Issifu Kadiri, (Chairman, Ghana Grain Council),
- Foster Mawuli Benson (CEO, GLOFERT, Ghana)
- Managing Director of GLOBAL HAULAGE GHANA,
- Hugues GOA, EBID,
- BOAD,
- Mr Nana Dwemoh Benneh, CEO of UMB.



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➤ **Introductory remarks and introduction of panelists:**

**Panel 4: Crossed experiences of private food storage implementation:**

- Ghana
- Cape Verde
- Senegal
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Nigeria.

➤ **Interactions between facilitators, panelists and participants**

**Discussions, proposals, and summary:** *"Which partnership and financing mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of the regional storage system and its capacity to respond effectively to the increasing complexity of food, nutrition and pastoral crises?"*

**Thursday, May 6: preparation of the summary of the experts' work by the Conference Secretariat**

**Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)**

**Friday, May 7: Presentation of the draft expert report and the roadmap to country experts**

**Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)**

**Monday, May 10: Political conference and closing ceremony**

**Hours are in universal time (UT/GMT)**

**10:00 am - 1:00 pm: Sequence 1: Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security**

**Chair: The Minister of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana**

- ✓ **Opening of the Ministerial Session** by the Minister of Agriculture and Food of Ghana,
- ✓ Presentation by Mr Sékou **Sangaré**, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, of the **draft declaration and roadmap for the follow-up of the recommendations and commitments of the stakeholders** of the international conference on the West African storage system and the building of a multilateral partnership,



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- ✓ **Inter-ministerial debates and adoption of the declaration and the roadmap** (each Minister will have 5 min).

**1:00 - 2:00 pm: Break**

**2:00 - 4:00 pm - Session 2: Meeting between ECOWAS, ECOWAP Donor Group and other partners**

**Chair: The Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Ghana**

- Presentation from the Lead Partner of the ECOWAP Donors Group,
- Presentation of the Declaration adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security and the roadmap for the follow-up of the recommendations and commitments of the stakeholders of the international conference on storage,
- Exchanges between Ministers and Development Partners.

**4:00 - 4:30 pm: Official closing ceremony**

**Chair:** The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, current Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

- Speech by the President of the ECOWAS Commission,
- Speech by the Head of ECOWAP Donors Group,
- Closing speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, current Chairman of the Council of Ministers of ECOWAS.

**4:30 pm: Media briefing**