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“Home to nearly 400 million people, West Africa faces many development challenges: rapid population growth and urbanisation, food insecurity, terrorism, trafficking and migration. Yet its potential for development is just as real as these challenges. For the past four decades, the Sahel and West Africa Club has demonstrated that regional solidarity is a powerful tool for development and crisis management. It has generated data and knowledge to support policy making in this region.”

Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat

The **Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC)** advocates innovative, forward-looking approaches to policies and international co-operation. Members and partners include West African regional organisations, OECD countries and the European Union.

SWAC supports the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), an international platform for dialogue and co-ordination that brings together the region's food and nutrition stakeholders. Its consensual analysis and data visualisation tools inform response plans, encourage mutual learning and make collective action more effective. SWAC also facilitates dialogue and advocacy for the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR).

Urban planning and management are essential development challenges. Africa is projected to have the fastest urban growth rate in the world. In 2018, SWAC launched the Africapolis online platform, the only comprehensive and standardised geospatial database on cities and urbanisation dynamics in Africa. It covers 7 500 agglomerations in 50 countries and enables comparative and long-term analyses.

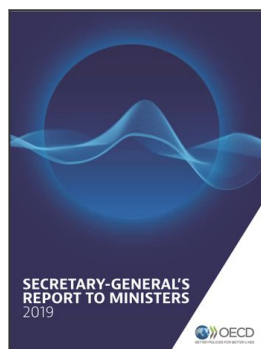
SWAC conducts work on cross-border co-operation with a series of publications and policy recommendations for decision makers. It produced two flagship reports: *Cities and Borders in West Africa*, a multi-dimensional analysis of border cities, and *Women and Trade Networks in West Africa*, a mapping of women's trade networks in border markets. It is also preparing a practical guide on resilience to climate change in border cities.

The *West African Studies*, *West African Papers* and *Maps & Facts* series cover a wide range of topics.

The Sahel and West Africa Week 2018, held in Gambia, brought together 300 food security stakeholders.

■ KEY CONTENT

- Africapolis (geospatial database)
- Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)
- Cities and borders in West Africa
- Women and Trade Networks in West Africa ■



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