

ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTIONS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY
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ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2030 AGENDA IN COTE D'IVOIRE

1. Recent development Context

Since 2012 Côte d'Ivoire has returned to strong and steady growth, with an annual average rate of about 9 percent in a stable macroeconomic environment. The execution of the National Development Plan (2012–15 PND), combined with the implementation of large-scale structural reforms under the 2011–15 economic and financial program, have helped drive and maintain this pace of growth in economic activity. This growth has come with moderate inflation, a fiscal balance that is under control and a favorable trend in the balance of current transactions.

On the political and social level, Côte d'Ivoire is strengthening its position on the international scene by reinforcing democracy and preserving social cohesion. Thus, on December 18, 2016 it adopted a new constitution by referendum. This new constitution aims: (i) to strengthen the institutions by establishing a vice presidency and a senate; and (ii) to ensure lasting social peace. Moreover, Côte d'Ivoire has confirmed its democratic maturity by peacefully organizing the first free, open and transparent legislative elections in the Third Republic.

Plus, the Withdrawal of the United Nations peace keeping troops from Côte d'Ivoire in June 2017 is a clear illustration of the normalized socio-political environment in Cote d'Ivoire. Finally, Senatorial elections were held in march 2018 and the Senate was able to hold its first ever opening session the 12th April 2018.

For the first year in which the National Development Plan was implemented (2016–20 PND), Côte d'Ivoire maintained in 2016 a steady 8.8 percent pace of growth despite low rainfall. This situation confirms the resilience of the Ivoirian economy. Activity is carried mainly by the manufacturing and services sectors. This performance has been supported by growth-generating public investments and a dynamic private sector that has benefitted from a clear improvement in medium and long-term loans and the business environment. The inflation rate was 0.7 percent below the community standard of 3 percent. Moreover, the outlook for growth remains positive despite the internal and external shocks. For 2017, a 7.8 percent growth rate is expected, driven by private investments and domestic consumption. Growth should average about 8% between 2018 and 2020.

On the path to growth and development, the main challenges to deal with are **(i) Maintaining social peaceful and stable environment; (ii) Addressing new security threats like terrorism; (iii) Addressing youth employment; (iv) Managing the demographic dividend; (v) Structural transformation to be less dependent on raw materials.**

2. Cote d'Ivoire development agenda: national development plan 16-20

The prospective study "Cote d'Ivoire 2040" has helped to define the long-term vision of the country, the **Côte d'Ivoire's Vision for 2040** is as follows: "**Côte d'Ivoire, an industrial power, united in its cultural diversity, democratic and open to the world.**" It focuses on four major pillars: (i) Côte d'Ivoire, an industrial power; (ii) Côte d'Ivoire, a nation united in its cultural diversity; (iii) Côte d'Ivoire, a democratic nation; and (iv) Côte d'Ivoire, open to the world.

The strategic analysis conducted during the preparation of NDP 2016-2020 reinforces the idea that Côte d'Ivoire should establish its emergence on structural transformation based on accelerated industrialization. NDP 2012-2015 was intended, first, to lay the foundation for emergence. And, secondly, it was intended to accelerate progress so as to **transform Côte d'Ivoire into an emerging country**. The 2016-2020 National Development Plan mainly seeks to lead Côte d'Ivoire to emergence through a proactive strategy. Emergence primarily consists in improved well-being for the population throughout Côte d'Ivoire, which will result in significant poverty reduction and the rise of the middle class to support and sustain the growth process. It also comprises a vibrant economy supported by rapid industrialization coupled with structural transformation and greater opportunities for decent jobs. It also concerns a Côte d'Ivoire that wins in terms of its integration into the world economy and that cooperates with its neighbor's countries to strengthen regional integration.

Côte d'Ivoire intends, through its emergence, to pursue its goal of rapid and sustained growth over time to generate high middle-income and improved quality of life for all its people. It also intends to implement large scale structural transformations and ensure proper integration of its economy into the regional and global value chains.

The overall outcome of NDP 2016-2020 is: "**Côte d'Ivoire is an emerging country by 2020 with a strong industrial base.**" Côte d'Ivoire intends to draw on pillars derived from the strategic analysis, namely:

- the quality of institutions and governance in all its forms;
- availability of quality human capital to build a prosperous and emerging Côte d'Ivoire;
- changes in production and consumption patterns so as to build emergence;
- development of strategic infrastructure to serve as lever for emergence in line with environmental sustainability principles; and
- beneficial integration into the regional and global trade networks.

Key Sources of Growth includes Agriculture & Agri-business; Mining, oil, gas and electricity; transportation and trade and Telecommunications.

The country is world first producer and exporter of cocoa beans and cashew nuts with increased exposure to broader agricultural markets and commodity price risk also. At the end of 2016, only 32.6% of cocoa and 6.2% of cashew nut production were currently processed at first stages in country.

The Government seeks to increase resilience via development of agro-processing with an aim to process 50% of agricultural output by 2020 focusing on local processing, an integrated way of addressing production issues with full water control, agricultural mechanization, professional training and marketing.

Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana announced in April 2017 a deepening in their coordination of cocoa production via their respective regulators, the Conseil du Café-Cacao and Cocobod. The decision has been highlighted as credit positive for both sovereigns by Moody's and is expected to decrease cocoa price volatility in the future.

3. Government commitment and leadership for SDGs achievement

Côte d'Ivoire has, since the adoption of the SDGs, assumed ownership of SDG achievement by 2030, and is firmly committed to their implementation and achievement. This commitment is demonstrated by: (i) the establishment of a national multi-party consultation framework; (ii) strong and high-level participation in the adoption summit; (iii) mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the National Development Plan (NDP 2016-2020).

As regards the national consultation framework, it comprises actors from the Government, Institutions of the Republic, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and the UN System. It was established to optimize Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the September 2015 Summit on the SDGs in New York.

Strong involvement for shared stakeholder empowerment for the SDGs

During the Summit devoted to the adoption of the post-2015 Development Program held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York, Côte d'Ivoire was represented by an official delegation of the Government, the Economic and Social Council, Local Authorities, and the civil society. Its commitment to the SDGs was reaffirmed in the message of the President of the Republic represented by the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Furthermore, as part of preparatory activities for the summit, national actors met in an awareness workshop and assumed ownership of the goals and their targets. Stakeholder commitments to promote SDG mainstreaming in development planning and implementation of sector and local policies, programs and projects can be summarized as follows:

- **The Government** will make public sector and local policies consistent with the NDP by mainstreaming the SDGs. It will ensure domestic and external resources mobilization with specific considerations for SDG financing, and boost the national statistical data collection and dissemination system.

- **Parliament** will vote the State budget, paying special attention to amounts allocated to SDG financing. It will also identify existing laws, and mainstream SDG targets into them.
- **The Economic and Social Council** will organize thematic commission meetings for opinions to the Executive on the SDG monitoring process.
- **Local Authorities** will revisit regional and municipal development plans in light of the NDP and mainstream the SDGs into them. They will improve the local governance framework and targeting of projects for the most disadvantaged population.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSO)** will exercise citizen control of public action to ensure effective implementation of NDP 2016-2020, and specifically SDG monitoring. They will contribute to the establishment of a framework for consultation, discussion and inclusive State-Civil Society-Private Sector-Local Authorities-National Assembly-Economic and Social Council debates.
- **The Private Sector** will ensure implementation of a pro-SDG "Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR) approach, as well as private sector leadership in innovations and feedback on the SDGs.

The Government has prepared a new National Development Plan (NDP 2016-2020). The plan is the reference framework for public and private sector projects. It is also the SDGs implementation framework and political dialogue framework for creating conditions for Cote d'Ivoire's emergence in 2020. The objectives of this new framework reflect the efforts made by Côte d'Ivoire to ensure achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Furthermore, alignment of the five (5) strategic pillars of NDP 2016-2020 with the SDGs shows the Government's commitment to work towards achieving the SDGs in all sectors.

Table 2: Alignment of national priorities with the SDGs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) 2016-2030	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) 2016-2020
SDG 11 : Sustainable cities and communities SDG 16 : Peace, justice and efficient institutions SDG 17 : Partnerships for the goals	Strategic Pillar 1 : Enhancement of the quality of institutions and governance
SDG 1 : No poverty SDG 2 : No hunger SDG 3 : Good health and well-being SDG 4 : Quality education SDG 5 : Gender equality	Strategic Pillar 2 : Acceleration of human capital development and promotion of social well-being

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) 2016-2030	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) 2016-2020
SDG 14 : Life below water	
SDG 8 : Good jobs and economic growth ODD 12 : Responsible consumption and production	Strategic Pillar 3 : Acceleration of structural transformation of the economy through industrialization
ODD 6 : Clean water and sanitation ODD 7 : Clean energy at affordable cost ODD 9 : Industry, innovation and infrastructure ODD 13 : Climate action ODD15 : Life on land	Strategic Pillar 4 : Development of infrastructure harmoniously distributed throughout the country and environmental preservation
ODD 10 : Reduced inequalities ODD 17 : Partnerships for the goals	Strategic Pillar 5 : Enhancement of regional integration and international cooperation

4. Key reforms and results so far

The government has worked to improve the business environment in an effort to enhance the attractiveness of Côte d’Ivoire. According to the Doing Business 2016 ranking, Côte d’Ivoire moved up five (5) notches and is now one of the most competitive economies in Africa, and it rose 25 notches in the 2016 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index. There have been major reforms to convert administrative documents and services to electronic formats, including: (i) opening the one-stop shop for construction permits; (ii) placing information for construction permits online; (iii) opening the Credit Information Bureau; (iv) strengthening the legal framework for conducting insolvency proceedings; (v) establishing the activities module for the commercial court management system, the commercial register and real estate credit; and (vi) implementing electronic tax returns. Action already taken as well as planned action should in the medium term thrust Côte d’Ivoire into the Top 50 countries in the world that have carried out the most reforms.

The reforms that were implemented and the government’s political commitment boosted Côte d’Ivoire’s economic attractiveness. The increase in business creation and private investment intentions continued in the Centre for the Promotion of Investments in Côte d’Ivoire (CEPICI). Thus, as of end-December 2016, the CEPICI recorded 12,166 new business creation versus 9,534 in 2015, for a 28 percent increase. Also, investment agreements stand at 672 billion and 73% of them are Foreign Direct Investments (FDI).

Government intent to promote sustainable jobs specially for youth. In this perspective, youth employment agency has been established in 2015 to coordinate all actions targeting jobs creation. Youth employment agency created is provided with 90 million USD fund to create job opportunities

Technical education and professional training have been reviewed to fit with the needs of economy, education system and private sector partnership has been reinforced with this respect. In addition, Government have been promoting entrepreneurship at school in order to provide future graduates with the necessary skills set to start a business and boost own employment.

Others key social reforms include (i) Universal health care insurance launched with progressive registration; (ii) Social safety nets program is on the way targeting most vulnerable households in rural areas of the country and (iii) Unique Identification Number Project under the World Bank Identification for Development program (ID4D).

Ppopulation related issues especially Demographic Dividend is fully integrated in the National Development Plan. The National Population Policy has been approved by the Government in September 2015 with key goals: (i) Fasten the demographic transition pace and bring fertility rate from 5 to 4 by 2025; (ii) Increase the contraceptive use rate from 14% in 2012 to 45% in 2025; and (iii) Fasten maternal death reduction.

To promote Education for all, Government Established since 2015 of free and compulsory school for every child till 16. The net education rate went from 68% in 2012 up to 87% in 2016. Grant of special scholarships to girls in secondary school

Special actions have been taken to empower women:

- 8 million USD Fund to help women undertake Income Generating Activities: 40 000 women have benefited so far.
- The Repertory of female competences:
 - ✓ Give better exposure to skilled women; promote their involvement and leadership in public or private management
 - ✓ Give useful information to government regarding women recruitment or appointment in top management positions
 - ✓ Plan for pregnancy at school reduction with a campaign called « zero pregnancy at school »: Drop in reported pregnancies at school by 25% generally and by 87% specially in primary school
- Implementation of a special training plan for girls out of normal schooling consistent with the needs of the economy and focusing on entrepreneurship
- Government encourages women to serve as teacher specially in secondary school by imposing quotas in recruiting process.