

General Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial)

Republique de Côte d'Ivoire

The issues before the Second Committee are:

1. Economic and Financial Crisis: Impact on achieving the Millennium Development Goals
2. Climate Change and Post-Kyoto Arrangements: A Big Challenge to the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

1. Economic and Financial Crisis

In the midst of this economic crisis, Côte d'Ivoire has been a good steward of donor dollars, proving the willingness of developing countries to promote medium- and long-term growth. This and debt sustainability rates that contextualise recipient countries' situations are key factors that must be addressed if the Millennium Development Goals are to remain achievable.

Côte d'Ivoire's stewardship of assistance funds and commitment to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals is helping it to progress towards the MDGs in this financial crisis. The fulfilment of two International Monetary Fund (IMF) Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance programmes since 2007 has allowed our nation to demonstrate our worthiness for development funds even in a climate of restricted giving.¹ Côte d'Ivoire received a \$565.7m IMF loan to help with its poverty reduction programme, which aims to reduce the budget deficit to 2 percent of GDP, strengthen tax administration efforts and other public finance weaknesses, and restructure public financial institutions and tax structures.² Through the 2005 Tiasslé pilot, Côte d'Ivoire is also ensuring that the contextualisation of MDGs at the local level provides another guarantor of success even in difficult economic times.³

As a member of the Economic Group of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), Côte d'Ivoire has supported numerous agreements that provide for the needs of developing countries in this economic climate. Our government voted in favour of Resolution 63/224 in December 2008, which called for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.⁴ Côte d'Ivoire endorses the joint ECOWAS/UEOMA regional action plan to insulate West Africa from the impact of the economic crisis.⁵ Our government also expects the finalisation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between ECOWAS and the European Union to provide the basis for inter-regional cooperation and development during the financial crisis.⁶

Reform of the international economic system must move towards trade agreements that sustainably combine long-term trade infrastructure development with medium-term development assistance. Côte d'Ivoire believes that concluding the Doha Round of trade negotiations with a focus on development should be an overarching goal.⁷ Yet its success will rest on developing nations receiving more assurances from developed nations that liberalising tariffs on imports will be reciprocated with lowered barriers to exports. With a firm commitment to business development but a recent decline in export earnings that has contributed to unemployment,⁸ Côte d'Ivoire encourages aid programmes to be designed with longer-term infrastructure development goals in mind. Large short-term influxes of foreign direct investment may help surmount immediate challenges but result in both debt and new challenges for long-term development plans.^{9,10} Achieving the MDGs in the wake of recently promised economic assistance packages will depend on them being designed with long-term infrastructural and financial investments and being co-ordinated with other aid programmes addressing broader social issues like poverty reduction.

Finally, to allow developing countries to emerge from this crisis with the ability to focus on their achievement of the MDGs, Côte d'Ivoire urges that the contexts of individual countries be considered in setting debt sustainability rates. Debt can easily impede social and economic

development in the countries that aid packages are targeted towards, leading to further difficulties in accessing food and healthcare as sought for in the MDGs. As Côte d'Ivoire experienced after its own five-year period of political unrest, development efforts can be hampered when countries with limited resources are forced to pay back debt-service payments that amount to exceedingly high portions of a nation's GDP.¹¹ Côte d'Ivoire understands the need to secure an effective financial standing with institutions like the IMF and World Bank, and with donors in the international community. To promote sustainable rather than episodic responses to this crisis, we ask that international financial institutions and donors be prepared to extend similar or larger lines of credit to developing nations in order to promote progress on the MDGs within such countries.

2. Climate Change and Post-Kyoto Arrangements

As a signatory of the Convention on Climate Change and its Additional Protocol, Côte d'Ivoire believes that climate change mitigation is a key precursor to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable development and waste management are issues that must be addressed if developing countries are to be able to fulfil their commitments to the MDGs.

As a country whose economy depends on agriculture – and is therefore subject to climatic influences – Côte d'Ivoire believes that mitigating the causes of climate change is a critical step that must be taken for social and economic development to flourish. Because greater access to energy is key to accomplishment of many of the MDGs, and less than 66% of Côte d'Ivoire's population has access to electricity¹², developing sustainable infrastructure is a key goal for our country. As a Non-Annex I country to the Convention on Climate Change and its Additional Protocol, Côte d'Ivoire has committed towards building capacity for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) through such actions as its participation in the UNEP Risø Centre project.¹³ We created National Awareness Workshops of CDM, allowing local communities to take charge of projects and promoting sustainable development within our population, and as of 6 December 2006 had eight projects at the note project identification stage within our national CDM portfolio.¹⁴ As Côte d'Ivoire's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in 2007, we have even encouraged citizens to plant trees to offset carbon emissions.¹⁵

Along with having signed the Convention on Climate Change and its Additional Protocol, Côte d'Ivoire stands in regional solidarity with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) on international conventions that have addressed climate change's impacts on development.¹⁶ Côte d'Ivoire voted in favour of Resolution 62/86, mindful of its focus on integrating economic development, social development and environmental protection.¹⁷ Our government also supported Resolution 63/222 because of its integration of sustainable production and consumption concerns into addressing development in the context of globalisation.¹⁸ Côte d'Ivoire agrees with the outcomes of the ECOWAS Banjul workshop (4 March 2009), which called for 'synergy of the three Rio declarations on desertification, climate change and biodiversity'.¹⁹ We affirm the statements made at the 12th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, as endorsed at the African Union Summit in January 2009, which have called for a common and comprehensive African framework to fight climate change.

As a CDM benefactor, Côte d'Ivoire believes that its challenges should be addressed to provide the funding needed for greater sustainable development efforts. Its basic premise of funding sustainable development projects in exchange for Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits has led to green energy platforms that would be difficult to achieve without foreign private investment. The financial challenges that CDM can present, such as the length of time required for validating projects submitted to the CDM, the uncertainty surrounding the demand and supply of carbon units and the purchase price of a carbon unit, and the unclear costs of these projects for developing countries,²⁰ need to be addressed in any international convention on climate change. Africa needs more CDM projects, and the private sector should also become more involved in carbon trading.²¹

Waste management is another contributing factor to climate change that must be dealt with. The dumping of toxic substances from the vessel Probo Koala off of the coast of Abidijan on 19 August 2006 affected nearly 30,000 Ivoirians.²² It points to a broader concern, as highlighted by previous UN reports and by working groups of the Basel Convention,²³ about the harms that waste will continue to lead to if not disposed of properly. Annex I and Non-Annex I countries alike need to use the mechanisms provided by the Kyoto Protocol to reduce toxic waste, CO2 emissions and energy-intensive refining processes. Having learned from Abidijan, Côte d'Ivoire urges that the synergies among waste management, climate and energy activities be regarded²⁴; that Annex I countries provide financial and technical assistance required to improve Non-Annex I countries' management of hazardous waste; and that Annex I and Non-Annex I countries increase efforts to reduce, recycle or reuse waste in order to lower carbon emissions.

- ¹ International Monetary Fund (27 March 2009), 'IMF Executive Board Approves US\$565.7 Million PRGF Arrangement for Côte d'Ivoire', <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2009/pr0996.htm>.
- ² Alexei Kireyev and Jean-Baptiste Le Hen (6 May 2009), 'Cote d'Ivoire Takes Big Step Toward Economic Recovery', *IMF Survey Magazine: Countries & Regions*, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2009/car050609b.htm>.
- ³ United Nations Development Programme (2009), 'Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD) en Côte d'Ivoire', http://www.ci.undp.org/ci_omd.php.
- ⁴ A/63/PV.72
- ⁵ Economic Group of West African States (ECOWAS) (19 December 2008), 'ECOWAS Leaders Agree Strategy to Insulate Region from Global Financial Crisis', <http://news.ecowas.int/presseshow.php?nb=126&lang=en&annee=2008>.
- ⁶ Council of the European Union (2009), '15th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting - Luxembourg, June 16, 2009 - Final Communiqué', <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/09/183&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- ⁷ A/CONF.214/4
- ⁸ Heather Stewart and Mohammad Nazeer (22 July 2009), 'International: £3bn aid gap for UN as countries cut donations: Global recession leaving needs of poor unmet: 'Triple whammy' for some African states, says charity', *The Guardian*, p. 16.
- ⁹ Côte d'Ivoire Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, 'Politique Sociale et Développement: Action Humanitaire et Assistance', http://www.diplomatie.gouv.ci/pol_soc_dev.php.
- ¹⁰ Phoenix X.F. Cai, 'Aid for Trade: A Roadmap for Success', *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy* 36 (Summer/Fall 2008), p. 283-324.
- ¹¹ A/C.2/62/SR.8
- ¹² UN-Energy (2005), The Energy Challenge for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, <http://esa.un.org/un-energy/pdf/UN-ENRG%20paper.pdf>, p. 4, 7-8.
- ¹³ Autorité Nationale de Mécanisme pour un Développement Propre (2007), 'Projet MDP/MDP CI-PNUE/UCCEE-Présentation', <http://www.mdp-cotedivoire.org/projet/presentation.htm>.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 'Le Portfeuille de Projets MDP', <http://www.mdp-cotedivoire.org/investir/portfeuille.htm>.
- ¹⁵ A/C.2/62/SR.17
- ¹⁶ Gambia News (3 Mar 2009), 'ECOWAS officials discuss climate change in Gambian capital', <http://www.gambianow.com/news/News/ECOWAS-officials-discuss-climate-change-in-Gambian-capital-.html>.
- ¹⁷ A/RES/62/86. See also A/62/PV.65.
- ¹⁸ A/RES/63/222, clause 16.
- ¹⁹ ECOWAS (6 March 2009) 'Experts Agree on Measures to Reduce the Impact of Global Warming on West Africa' (press release), <http://news.ecowas.int/presseshow.php?nb=023&lang=en&annee=2009>.
- ²⁰ UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment and Autorite Nationale pour le Mécanisme pour un Développement Propre (January 2005), *Guide Operationnel des Fonds Carbone et du Cadre Juridique et Institutionnel des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire* http://www.mdp-cotedivoire.org/documents_MDP/guide_fonds_carbone_version_finale_09_03_05.pdf
- ²¹ UNEP/AMCEN/12/9 (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, 'Report of the ministerial segment held from 10 to 12 June 2008').
- ²² UNEP (8 September 2006), 'Côte d'Ivoire Seeks Assistance to Mitigate Toxic Waste Crisis', <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=487&ArticleID=5346&l=en>; David Leigh and Afua Hirsch (14 May 2009), 'Papers prove Trafigura ship dumped toxic waste in Ivory Coast', <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/13/trafigura-ivory-coast-documents-toxic-waste>.
- ²³ Cf. Oeko-Institute, Environmental Study: Waste Sector's Contribution to Climate Protection, Research Report 205 33 314, Commissioned by German Federal Environmental Agency (August 2005) available at: www.bmu.de/english/waste_management/downloads/doc/37847.php; UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/20 (Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Climate change and the Basel Convention linkages to the clean development mechanism and carbon trading: alternative funding mechanisms for consideration).
- ²⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/20, clause 17.