

Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

CEN-SAD Secretariat

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President: Idriss Déby Itno, Chad (appointed by the 12th Conference of Heads of State and

Government in July 2010)

Secretary-General: Ibrahim Sani Abani, Niger (appointed by the Conference of Heads of State and Government during an extraordinary session in February 2013)

Purpose

The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) was formed in 1998 with the primary objective of promoting the economic, cultural, political and social integration of its Member States. Article 1 of the Treaty establishing the Community provides that the aims and objectives of CEN-SAD are to:

- Establish a comprehensive economic union with a particular focus in the agricultural, industrial, social, cultural and energy fields
- Adopt measures to promote free movement of individuals and capital
- Promote measures to encourage foreign trade, transportation and telecommunications among Member States
- Promote measures to coordinate educational systems
- Promote cooperation in cultural, scientific and technical fields.

Structure

CEN-SAD is governed by its Conference of Heads of State and Government. The organization's structure includes the:

- Executive Council, which meets at ministerial level to implement Conference decisions
- Special Ministerial Councils, which deal with thematic issues
- General Secretariat, which is the Community's executive body

- Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ESCC), which follows Executive Council directives
- Sahel-Saharan Investment and Trade Bank.

Meetings

The Conference of Heads of State and Government meet once a year in ordinary session, rotating among Member State capitals. It can meet in extraordinary session at the request of one Member State.

The organization's most recent Conference of Heads of State and Government was held in February 2013 in Ndjamena, Chad. The CEN-SAD Executive Council met in March 2014 in Khartoum, Sudan. The same meeting decided that Morocco would host the next CEN-SAD Conference of Heads of State and Government. The date was to be set separately.

Members (29)

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya,, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia