



ASSOCIATION DES BANQUES
DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (ABAO)
WEST AFRICAN BANKERS'
ASSOCIATION (WABA)

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Dakar, July 29, 2021

**CLOSING CEREMONY OF WABA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING - July 29, 2021**

SPEECH OF NEW WABA PRESIDENT, Mr. THIerno SEYDOU NOUROU SY

- o Excellency, Minister of Finance and Budget,
- o Excellency, Governor of the BCEAO,
- o Mr. National Director of the BCEAO for Senegal,
- o Mr. Director General of the West African Monetary Agency,
- o Mr. President of the Association of West African Banks,
- o Madam President of FAPBEF-UEMOA,
- o Mr. President of the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Senegal
- o Ladies and Gentlemen,
- o Ladies and Gentlemen, Directors General,
- o Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the General Assembly and the Executive Council of the ABAO,
- o Honorable Guests,

I will first begin by thanking from the bottom of my heart my sisters and brothers, members of WABA Executive Council and General Assembly, for the confidence they have put on me by bringing me to the head of our noble Association.

Through my modest person, it is the entire West African Economic and Monetary Union and its Banking System which are thus honored.

I fully appreciate the scope of the mission, challenges and tasks recorded in our 2020/2024 Strategic and Organizational Development Plan approved during our meeting on July 12, 2019 in Conakry.

This Plan is very ambitious. Its main strategic objectives are:

1. To enable WABA to fully play its role as a professional organization and its role as a member of the "ECOWAS Private Sector Group";
2. To revitalize it;
3. Ensure more regular funding for its operations;
4. Ensure the financing of its programs and projects;
5. To develop its regional and international visibility;
6. Make it a showcase for the Economy and the Banking and Financial Sector of ECOWAS;
7. Develop and implement a communication plan as well as marketing strategies aimed at raising awareness of WABA and its usefulness in and outside the Banking System;
8. To strengthen its Human Resources.

Its main strategic axes are:

1. The revitalization of WABA;
2. The widening and deepening of its international openness;
3. Improving its Institutional Framework and its human, logistical and financial resources.

This Strategic and Organizational Development Plan contains the Programs and Projects that WABA must carry out on its own and those that it must carry out in partnership with the ECOWAS Commission.

The implementation of these Objectives, Axes, Programs and Projects naturally requires significant human, financial and logistical resources.

This is why the return of all the Banks and Financial Institutions of WAEMU to WABA is one of the first and main challenges that we must meet together, I say together

because this common Association is at the service of all the ECOWAS Banking System.

The signing in March 2020 of a Cooperation Agreement between FAPBEF-UEMOA and WABA has already created an excellent framework allowing us to achieve this objective harmoniously and quickly.

We also need to involve ECOWAS Banking Groups, International Financial and Non-Financial Organizations more strongly in its operation.

This is why one of my first actions will be to meet the Highest Authorities of these Organizations to convince them of this.

I will also strengthen our links with the organs of ECOWAS and in particular with its Commission to move forward our common projects.

To this end, I warmly thank the Director General of the West African Monetary Agency, Mr. Mamadou Bamba SAHO, for his very good attitude towards WABA, the first result of which has been the organization on June 28 of a very successful and much appreciated Forum on the projects of "Single Currency" and "ECOWAS Payment and Settlement System".

Obviously, it is in the interest of all of us and in the interest of all ECOWAS organs that WABA quickly regain its former glory.

And for this I know that I can count on the permanent help of all the Presidents, Directors and Executive Secretaries of the National Professional Banking Associations of ECOWAS countries as well as on all the Directors General of their member-banks.

My very dear sisters, my very dear brothers, I am very grateful to you in advance.

Thank you for your kind attention.

The President of WABA

Mr. Thierno Seydou Nourou SY