

## The Executive Director in Côte d'Ivoire (February 4-8, 2024)

From February 4 to 8, 2024, the Executive Director undertook a working visit to Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) as part of his mandate.



Executive Director's audience with the Vice President, H.E. Mr. Tiémoko Meyliet Koné, accompanied by the Minister of Planning, Economy and Development and WBG Governor for Gabon, Ms. Nialé Kaba. © Photo Vice Presidency.

During his stay, Mr. Abdoul Salam Bello was received by the Vice-President, His Excellency Tiémoko Meyliet Koné; the Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Robert Mambe Beugré; the Minister of Economy, Planning and Development and WBG Governor, Ms. Nialé Kaba; the Minister of Finance and Budget and IMF Governor, Mr. Adama Coulibaly; and the Minister of Heritage, State Portfolio and Public Companies, WBG Alternate Governor, Mr. Moussa Sanogo.

His discussions with the national authorities focused on strengthening cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and the World Bank Group (WBG), the project portfolio, reforms within the institution, and the replenishment of the International Development Association's (IDA) resources.

In addition, these exchanges enabled them to stress the importance of strengthening WBG assistance in domestic resource mobilization, food security, climate change responses, energy transition, and improving Côte d'Ivoire's absorption capacity in view of USD5.6 billion financial commitments. They also discussed national priorities with regard to value chains; resource

mobilization; prevention; and the supervision of public enterprises, their financial viability and valuation, and the securing of property titles.



Visit to the area of the Urban Sanitation and Resilience Project (PARU) with the Minister of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Hygiene, Mr. Bouake Fofana (in the photo on the right), and the Mayor of Abobo and President of the Senate, Ms. Kandia Camara (in the photo on the left). © Photo WBG/Libreville.

On February 6, the Executive Director visited the Urban Sanitation and Resilience Project (PARU) area in Anonkoua Kouté, with the Minister of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Hygiene, Mr. Bouake Fofana, and the Mayor of Abobo and President of the Senate, Ms. Kandia Camara. As the representative of Côte d'Ivoire on the WBG Board of Directors, Mr. Bello was delighted to witness the materialization of this project aimed at cleaning up cities and reducing the risks of flooding and disease, which particularly affect poor families in urban areas.



Exchange of views over lunch between the Executive Director and women entrepreneurs in Abidjan.

The Executive Director was very pleased to take part in a luncheon discussion on February 5 with a group of women entrepreneurs in the agri-food and textile sectors. These dynamic women particularly impressed him with their expertise, positive influence and remarkable entrepreneurial achievements. During their frank discussions, the women entrepreneurs shared their ideas and experiences, and special emphasis was placed on their main challenges and opportunities. These discussions are to be pursued to contribute to the development of local female entrepreneurship in Côte d'Ivoire.



Exchange with the WBG staff living in Abidjan.

On February 6, the Executive Director and resident staff of the World Bank (WB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Abidjan discussed a range of topics, including the functioning of WB, operations in general, ongoing reforms within the institution, the role of the Board of Directors and staff-related issues.



Following an invitation from the Confederation of African Football and the Rebranding Africa Forum, the Executive Director also took part in a round table discussion held in Abidjan on February 6 on the theme, "Positioning African soccer as a lever for growth, promoting women's soccer", on the sidelines of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) organized by Côte d'Ivoire. Other participants in the round table included the Presidents of Afreximbank (African Export-Import Bank), ITFC (International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation) and Vista Group Holding; the Vice-President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID); and representatives of BADEA (Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa), BOAD Titrisation (West African Development Bank), and FAGACE (African Fund for Guarantee and Economic Cooperation).

Before leaving Abidjan, the Executive Director thanked the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire for their warm welcome and availability during this very busy period.

Hats off and renewed congratulations to Côte d'Ivoire for the excellent AFCON organization and a well-deserved victory!