



**Statement at the first Ministerial meeting of the  
Coalition for the Sahel held by videoconference,  
12 June 2020**

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Vice President of African Development Bank**

AfDB appreciates the opportunity to join this high-level exchange on the Coalition for the Sahel. We share the sense of urgency required for the Sahel Region and the need for closer coordination.

It is important to scale up and speed up inclusive and sustainable development results and hope for the youth in the Sahel. This needs to build on efficient and effective implementation of the peace-development-humanitarian nexus on the ground, as per each of our institutions' respective mandate, but hand in hand in a coordinated and coherent manner.

We strongly support the ongoing collaboration and see the need to better bundle our efforts in this regard, which includes streamlining nimbler, more agile and flexible responses, but also better coordinated for more effective, lasting results.

Hence, to operationalize the "Coalition for the Sahel", the proposed policy direction must support existing initiatives, national priorities and regional agenda.

It should be Africa-owned (the presence of the 5 Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G5 Sahel attests to this). The proposed structure caters for this to some extent, but we would want this to come out more clearly, including, in addition to G5 Sahel, further involvement of AU and RECs for a holistic, African-led response with excellent support by partners (such as EU, France, UN, etc.).

The AfDB recognizes the many challenges facing the Sahel countries and has been playing an ever-increasing role in supporting RMCs' response and mitigation strategies through robust fragility assessments, enhanced policy dialogue, and operations geared towards building communities and regional resilience (including climate resilience); and reaching the poorest and most vulnerable, including women, youth, forcibly displaced and hosting communities, and in these times of COVID-19, expediting containment and recovery efforts in the region.

Enhanced Partnerships with the UN, such as UNDP, development partners such as AFD as well as civil society organizations, such as the ICRC, is producing collective development outcomes that address the underlying drivers of fragility and conflict in the Sahel region.

Under the Coalition for the Sahel coordination framework, the Bank will continue to deliver and scale up jointly with the leadership of the G5 Sahel governments, the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 and all partners, including the private sector.