

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT-NIGER

MCA-NIGER



MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NIAMEY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Account-Niger (“MCA-Niger”) held an ordinary meeting on September 26th, 2020 from 10:10’ AM to 2: 10’ PM at Hotel Bravia , in accordance with: (i) the Bylaws of MCA-Niger, dated July 4, 2017; (ii) Decree N°2016-706/PRN, dated December 23, 2016, on the creation, attributes, composition and functions of MCA-Niger; (iii) the Millennium Challenge Compact between the United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (“MCC”) and the Government of Niger (the “Government ”), dated on July 29, 2016 (the “Compact”); and (iv) the Program Implementation Agreement between the United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (“MCC ”) and the Government of Niger (the “Government”), dated on July 29, 2016 ("Program Implementation Agreement").

Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given such terms in the Bylaws, the Compact or the Program Implementation Agreement.

I. ATTENDEES :

1. Board Members in attendance and constituting a quorum were :

Names	Positions	Voting members Vs Non-Voting members	Board member / Alternate
1. Mr. OUHOUMODO U Mahamadou	Minister, Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic, Chairperson of the Board	Voting member	Board member
2. Mr. Gado Sabo Moctar	Minister of Hydraulics	Voting member	Board member
3. Mr. Ali Gonki	Delegate Minister to Livestock	Voting member	Alternate
4. Mr. Abdoulaye OUMA	Secretary General of the	Voting member	alternate

AHAMET	Ministry of Public Works		
5. Mr. Bakoye Saâdou	, Secretary General , Planning Ministry,	Voting member	Alternate
6. Mr DJARIRI Mahaman Salissou	Chief of Staff of the Minister of the Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development	Voting member	Board member
7. Mr. Hachimi ABDOULKARI M	Secretary General Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children	Voting member	Alternate
8. Mrs. Hadari Zeinabou,	Deputy Chief of Staff Prime Minister	Voting member	Alternate
9. Bety Ali	High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative	Voting member	Alternate
10. Mr. DJADAH Abdoulaye DJADAH Abdoulaye	Vice-President of the Niger Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts, Representative of the Private Sector	Voting member	Board member
11. Mrs. Fodi Halima	Representative of Women's Civil Society Organizations	Voting member	Alternate member
12. Mr. Bagna Djibo	President of the Peasant Platform, Representative of Civil Society	Voting member	Board member
13. Mrs PENN Kristin,	Resident Director of the MCC in Niger	non-voting	Board member
14. Mr. ANNOU Mamane	Director General of MCA- Niger	non-voting	Board member

Board members present by teleconference: None

2. Board Members absent:

Names	Positions	Voting members Vs No Voting members	Board member / Alternate

1. Mr DIOP Mamoudou	Minister of Finance	Voting member	Board member
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Guests:

Names	Positions
1. Mr. Souleymane KOUOTOU N'GAPOUT	Director of Legal Affairs, MCA-Niger
2. Mr. Idrissa Moussa Bacchir	Legal Specialist, MCA-Niger
3. Mrs. Helene Osse Fakorede	Administrative and Finance Manager MCA-Niger
4. Mr. Abdoukader Salissou Idi	Security Manager MCA-Niger
5. Mr. Daouda Diakite	Road Manager, MCA-Niger
6. Mr. Hassoumiou Mounkeila	Environment and Social Protection Manager , MCA-Niger
7. Mr. Saliou MAMADOU DIALLO	Manager Resettlement, MCA-Niger
8. Mr. Jonathan ABDOU,	Manager PRAPS, MCA-Niger
9. Mrs. GAMBO ILLO DAOURA Halima	Manager Private Sector Mobilization and Engagement, MCA-Niger
10. Mr. Abdoul Nasser HADI GOURGOUDOU	Audit and Compliance Manager, MCA-Niger
11. Mr. Diarafou MOUMOUNI	Irrigation Infrastructure Manager , MCA-Niger
12. Mr. IDE SIDDO Naji	Computer Graphics Specialist and Webmaster, MCA-Niger
13. Mr. Garba Illo Mota	Field Communication Manager, MCA-Niger
14. Mr. Kamil AGALI	Senior Executive Assistant, MCA-Niger
15. Mr. Souley Boube	Procurement Manger , MCA-Niger
16. Mr. Moussa AMADOU,	Coordinator of the Support Unit in charge of Monitoring Eligibility Indicators

Chairperson: Mr. OUHOUMODOU Mahamadou, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Secretary: Mr. ANNOU Mamane, Director General, MCA-Niger

II. PROCEDURE

At the opening of the meeting at 10:12 a.m., the Chairman of the Board verified and confirmed:

- That the notices for the holding of the present meeting were delivered to the members of the Board within the time limits required by the provisions of Section 3.12 (b) (i) of the Internal Regulations of MCA-Niger, that is to say, no later than Friday September 18, 2020;
- That a quorum was reached due to the presence of a majority of the voting members of the Board, including at least one member who is not a representative of the Government according to the stipulations of Section 3.12 (b) (ii) of the MCA-Niger By-Laws.

He therefore declared the meeting open.

After praising the convening of a meeting of the Board since the suspension due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Chairperson proceeded to read and present the contents of the agenda

III. DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS ON THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

1.1- OPENING SESSION : For Approval

A – Review of the notice of meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The Chairperson opened the eleventh ordinary meeting by reviewing the agenda noted in the notice of meeting sent to members. Noting that no Board Member made any amendment to this agenda, the Board adopted the following agenda:

1- Opening Session

1.1- Opening Session: for approval

A- Review of the Notice of Meeting and adoption of the Agenda.

B- Adoption of the Minutes of the Tenth Regular Session of the Board held on January 22, 2020

C- Adoption of the Eleventh Procurement Plan (PP11) for the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

1.2- Opening Session: for discussion

D- Previous Road Conditions

E- Pivoting in the framework of the development of the Sia-Kouanza hydro-agricultural perimeter

1.3- Opening session: for information

F- Update on resolutions adopted by home written consent since the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors

G- MCA-Niger work organization plan during the COVID19 pandemic

H- Report of the Internal Audit and Compliance Manager

I- Progress of the Irrigation project

I-1. Information on the progress of the rehabilitation of the Konni hydro-agricultural perimeter

J- Progress of Roads activities

K- Progress of the CRC project

K-1. CRA

K-2. PRAPS

L- Status of the Sector Reforms Project

L-1. Fertilizer Sector Reforms

2- Miscellaneous

3- Closure

B – Adoption of the Minutes of the tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors held on January 22, 2020.

Summary of discussions:

Discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson put to the vote the adoption of the board resolution N°01.

BOARD RESOLUTION N°01: The Board of Directors approves and adopts the minutes of its Tenth Regular Session held on January 22, 2020.

C -Approval of the Eleventh Procurement Plan (PP11) for the Period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021

Summary of Discussion: The Acting Director of Procurement made a presentation of the contents of the new Procurement Plan submitted for the approval of the Board members which is based on the following main points: twenty-three (23) procurement projects from PP10 not launched and transferred to PP11 for a total amount of 30,303,175 USD; three (03) procurement projects from PP10 not launched and transferred to PP11 with modification of the amount of the provisional budget for an amount of 4,020,000 USD; eleven (11) new procurement projects entered in PP11 for a total amount of 168,450 USD, the whole for a total amount of 34,491,625 USD In response to this concern, the Acting Director of Procurement

The Chairman of the Board, after having noted that 23 procurement projects recorded in PP10 were transferred to PP11, wondered whether such a delay in concluding contracts might not lead to an underspending at the end of the compact.

In response to this concern, **the acting Director of Procurement** said that the launch of a contract is generally conditional on the finalization of certain preliminary technical studies, which are sometimes slow to be finalized. He added that, in this case, the deferred procurement projects are, for the most part, of very small amounts

The High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative recalled that, as regards contracts relating to the PRAPS project, it is not necessary to carry out studies since the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock already has standard projects validated by the Government.

The Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, in turn, requested that the studies be accelerated where necessary.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Women's Promotion and Child Protection questioned the reasons for developing a PP11 while PP10 remains in force.

The Acting Director of Procurement of MCA-Niger replied that this is a specificity of MCC procedures which require that a Procurement Plan be developed over a period of one year with a quarterly update, contrary to national and World Bank procedures according to which a procurement plan developed and validated, is first executed to completion, then evaluated, before it is decided to develop a new plan.

Discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson put to the vote the adoption of the board resolution N°02.

RESOLUTION N°02: The Board of Directors approves and adopts, by a majority of the voting members present, the eleventh MCA-Niger Procurement Plan (PP11).

1.2- OPENING SESSION: For discussion

D- Previous Conditions Routes

Summary of discussions: The Roads Manager explained that certain conditions must be met before contracts can be signed and road work can begin. These conditions are related to the reform of road maintenance in its following aspects: **(i)** the payment of the RUR arrears for the months of February and March 2020 into the RMF account and the feeding of the GENiS account, **(ii)** the finalization of the 2019 road maintenance audit report and its approval by the PTFs, **(iii)** the mobilization of 200 million Cfa francs for activities related to the programming and monitoring of networks by the DGER for the 2020 routine maintenance works, for a proper functioning of the Road Data Bank. He added that great strides are being made to meet all these conditions.

The Director General of MCA-Niger complemented the words of the Roads Manager, informing the Board that as of the date of this session, only the conditions relating to the validation of the audit report of the 2019 road maintenance and the mobilization of 200 million CFA francs for the programming of road maintenance remain to be met.

The Roads Manager requested the Board's support for the satisfaction of these 2 remaining conditions.

The Chairperson of the Board asked whether the condition relating to the mobilization of 200 million CFA francs would be met as soon as a line of credit was entered in the budget pending the actual release of funds.

The Roads Manager answered this question in the affirmative.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Equipment informed the Council that the said Ministry had already carried out an internal budget reorganization by reallocating funds and that the Ministry of Finance had been informed of this for consideration.

The Chairperson of the Board concluded by reassuring MCA-Niger that the State will ensure that the above conditions are met quickly.

Discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson moved on to the next item.

E- Pivoting in the framework of the development of the hydro-agricultural perimeter of Sia-Kouanza

Summary of discussions: The Irrigation Manager reminded the Council that the large-scale irrigation project planned to be carried out in Sia-Kouanza was left in favor of a small-scale irrigation project of 640 ha, with a first pilot phase of 300 ha. The decision to switch from large-scale to small-scale irrigation is justified by constraints related to the very high investment and operating costs, the complex and costly relocation in the area, the risk of not completing the Compact on time, and the low economic profitability of the project.

The High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative suggested that, given the time remaining in the Compact, the first phase of the new orientation of the Sia Kouanza project should cover 640 Ha and not 300 Ha.

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister stated that she shared this opinion

The Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation urged MCA-Niger to take all measures to ensure that as much land as possible is developed before the end of the Compact. To do this, he asked that a schedule for the execution of the different phases of the project be drawn up and followed rigorously.

The Director General of MCA-Niger informed the Council that the main difficulty of this project is that it requires voluntary land registrations, the time required for which cannot be known in advance.

The CONGAFEN Training Officer, representing women's civil society organizations, suggested identifying and collaborating with the various existing structures in order to better manage the problems to be encountered.

The Chairperson of the Board noted another problem related to this small-scale irrigation project, namely the possibility of one person benefiting from several hectares.

The Irrigation Manager reassured the Council that this aspect has been taken into account in the project through the voluntary arrangement proposals made to landowners. These land arrangements consist of those who own large areas of land agreeing to give up the use of certain portions of their land to other inhabitants (either from their family or outside).

The MCC Resident Director concluded by saying that the new orientation towards small-scale irrigation will allow, with 640 hectares developed, to impact more people than the initial large-scale irrigation project.

1.3 Opening Session: for information

F- Update on Resolutions Adopted by written consent since the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors

Summary of discussions: The Director of Legal Affairs presented a summary of the resolutions adopted by the Board by written consent between the preceding meeting and the current meeting, which are summarized in the table below:

Resolution Number	Object of the approval	Approval Date
01	Extension Addendum to Contract with Agechrau Research Firm/PRAPS March 2, 2020	March 2, 2020
02	Extension Addendum to Contract with BERIA Consultant/PRAPS	March 2, 2020
03	Extension addendum to the contract with the SONED-MSA consultant	March 2, 2020
04	First Amendment to the 8th Procurement Plan (PP08) for the period January 1 to December 31, 2020	March 2, 2020
05	Modification of the salary grid for Band D managers (Increase of 15.7)	March 29, 2020
06	Creation of 13 new positions to be filled	March 29, 2020
07	9th PP09 Procurement Plan for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021	March 29, 2020
08	Addendum N°1 to the contract between MCA-Niger and the Ministry of Equipment	April 20, 2020
09	Entity Agreement between MCA-Niger and the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF)	April 20, 2020
010	Entity Agreement between MCA-Niger and the Delegated Road Maintenance Contracting Agency (AMODER)	April 20, 2020
011	Addendum N°5 to the contract between MCA-Niger and UNOPS	April 30, 2020
012	Addendum N°4 to the contract between MCA-Niger and a hydraulic expert	April 30, 2020
013	Organization and operation regulations of the Stakeholders' Committee	April 30, 2020
014	Addendum N°3 to the contract between MCA-Niger and the consultant BERIA /PRAPS	May 8, 2020
015	Modification of the organization chart of MCA-Niger by breaking up the program direction into two	June 19, 2020
016	Amendment N°1 to the contract between MCA-Niger and the consultant CARDNO EMERG	June 19, 2020
017	1st amendment to the PP09 procurement plan for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021	June 19, 2020
018	Addendum N°4 to the contract between MCA-Niger and the consultant BERIA/PRAP	July 6, 2020
019	Addendum N°3 to the contract between MCA-Niger and the consultant RTI	July 15, 2020
020	10th Procurement Plan PP10 for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.	August 3, 2020

The Board has duly taken note of this without any comments

G- MCA-Niger's work organization plan during the COVID-19 period

Summary discussions: The ESP Manager presented to the Board the work plan of MCA-Niger and its partners with the health situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that several actions had been carried out by MCA-Niger, including: the development and validation of the scenarios contained in the COVID-19 contingency plan; staff sensitization on the risks of COVID-19; disinfection sessions in the premises; the implementation of teleworking; an inspection of the offices by the technical services of the Ministry of Health, etc.

The Chairperson of the Board stated that the Board has taken note of the information put forward.

The discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairman moved on to the next item.

H- Report of the Internal Audit and Compliance Manager

The Internal Audit and Compliance Manager presented to the Board the results of the various audit assignments carried out in 2019, the mid-term review of the year 2020 and the projections for the rest of 2020. He indicated that all the activities planned for the period from January to December 2019 are set out in a document called the Annual Audit Plan, which has been validated by General Management. These planned activities cover all the departments and services of MCA-Niger. Out of twenty (20) missions planned for the year 2019, seventeen (17) have been completed, i.e. 85%. All the audit reports are transmitted to the General Management and to the audit clients for actions to be undertaken in the framework of the implementation of the recommendations resulting from these audit missions. For the year 2020, an annual audit plan covering all MCA-Niger's Departments and Services has been validated by the General Management and nine (09) missions have been carried out of the seventeen (17) planned.

The Chairperson of the Board, after noting that the year 2020 is coming to an end, asked to accelerate the implementation of the Annual Audit Plan in order to complete all the scheduled missions.

The discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson moved on to the next item.

I-Information on the progress of the rehabilitation of the Konni hydro-agricultural perimeter

The Irrigation Manager indicated that to date, the mobilization and installation works of the Contractor (construction of the life base, the Engineer's offices and the Owner's villa), of rehabilitation on the perimeter (lining of the main canal B (PB) in zone 3.1 of the perimeter, excavation in the collators A and L, beginning of the backfilling of the tertiary canals and the straddle platforms, ...) have effectively started and are going on normally Overall, the physical progress of the work is about 10% with a time consumption of 46.30%.

The Director General of MCA-Niger said that the delay is justified by, among other things, the COVID-19 pandemic which delayed the mobilization of teams and equipment, heavy rainfall, etc. In view of this delay, an evaluation mission led by the Director General stayed in Konni from September 17 to 19. It emerged from the various meetings with the Engineer and the Contractor that the mobilization of key personnel has been completed, the work equipment is available and the rainy season is over. All these conditions will allow an acceleration of the works in order to make up for the delay.

The Chairperson of the Board noted that the delay in the work risks of additional production losses that will have to be compensated.

The Irrigation Manager confirmed that there is a risk of this, specifying that arrangements are being made to compensate between zones and thus avoid the payment of additional compensation.

The Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation wanted to know if the additional personnel made available to the Contractor on the site came from national or international companies. The Irrigation Manager replied that most of the staff was from local companies.

The discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson moved on to the next item.

J- Progress report on road activities

The Roads Manager informed the Board of the progress made in the process of carrying out the road works planned in the Compact. Regarding the GENiS rehabilitation and maintenance work on the RN7, negotiations for the signing of the execution contract should be completed between the end of September and the beginning of October 2020. The work is expected to begin in early October 2020 for a duration of twenty (20) months.

For the RN35/RRS GENiS rehabilitation and maintenance works, the procurement process is underway; negotiations and signing of the works contract are scheduled for late October 2020. Work is scheduled to begin in November 2020, for a duration of 24 months.

The Chairperson of the Board asked for the expected date for the signing of the contract for RN7. The Roads Manager provided the date of October 7, 2020.

The High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative asked if this projected date takes into account the delay in obtaining MCC's no-objection notice. The Roads Manager reassured the Board that the deadline for the technical review and the MCC's no-objection notice is taken into account.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Equipment raised the issue of asphaltting the RN35. Indeed, the Compact provides that once the laterite laying work is completed with the funds allocated, the State will take charge of the asphaltting of the road. To do this, the Secretary General indicated that there are two options: to asphalt the road at the same time as the laterite laying work, or to wait until the work is completed and then asphalt the road. The first option would be co-financed by the Ministry and MCA-Niger. After discussions, this option was discarded as it was not included in the bidding documents already issued.

The MCC Resident Director added that MCC procedures do not allow for this type of co-financing and that the paving of the RN35 cannot be done during the Compact period.

The Director General of MCA-Niger indicated that the issue of asphaltting the RN35 is not new, and that a consultation between MCA-Niger and the Ministry of Equipment would have made it possible to take charge of it.

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister asked if the road could be used as soon as the planned rehabilitation was completed, before it was paved. The Roads Manager replied that there was no risk of the road being used between the end of the laterite work and asphaltting, as had already been done on the Keita road, for example.

As a conclusion, the Chairperson of the Board asked MCA-Niger, on behalf of the Government, to do everything possible to ensure that the official launch of the RN7 works takes place between October 15 and 25, 2020.

K-1- Progress of the CRC project: CRA

The Acting Climate Resilient Agriculture Manager presented to the Board the different achievements as well as the perspectives in the two main components of the project.

Thus, on the component Climate Resilient Investment Plans (ICRIPs), twelve Plans have been developed with the support of four (4) individual consultants. For the implementation of the ICRIPs, two main themes have been prioritized: sustainable management of natural resources and development of small-scale irrigation.

With regard to the Grant Facility component, a distinction must be made between the Facility managed by USADF. At the end of the selection process for the first call for proposals, 52 projects were selected for a total budget of US\$5,294,480. The second call for proposals was launched on July 6, 2020 and closed on August 23, 2020.

As for the Private Sector Partnership Fund (PSPF), with a budget of 3.5 million USD, 9 promoters were shortlisted after the concept note submission phase, including 4 from the agro-food processing sector and 5 from the fertilizer sector. All were invited to submit full proposals. After evaluation of these proposals, a due diligence mission was conducted with the various promoters to assess the reality of their projects. The process is currently being finalized with a view to awarding grants.

The Chairman of the Board took cognizance of the information thereby put forward.

The discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson of the Board moved on to the next item

K-2- Status of CRC Project: PRAPS

The PRAPS Manager presented to the Board a status report on the implementation of the PRAPS project as of the date of this meeting.

In the animal health component, for the 2019-2020 campaign, MCA-Niger has made available to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock 31,000,000 million doses of vaccine against small ruminants pest (PPR) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), worth CFAF 1,148,550,000. Vaccination coverage rates reached are 59% and 62% for PPR and CBPP respectively. The 80% target was not reached because of the abrupt halt of the vaccination campaign due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. It should also be noted that the Central Livestock Laboratory in Niamey and the one in Zinder received equipment worth 489,152,918 FCFA. For the year 2021, the MCA-Niger plans to make available to the Ministry 20,500,000 doses of Rinderpest vaccine and 7,500,000 doses of CBPP vaccine, as well as vaccination and laboratory equipment.

As for the Natural Resource Management component, the social agreements have been signed. The process is being extended to the remaining twelve (12) communes.

Due to insecurity, three livestock markets in the Tillabéry region and one in the Tahoua region have been withdrawn from the project.

The High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative has asked MCA-Niger to study the possibility of having the four markets withdrawn from the MCA-Niger PRAPS project taken over by the World Bank PRAPS or to have them referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

The Director General of MCA-Niger indicated that discussions are currently underway with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) so that the latter can take over the contracts in question, specifying that the Council will be kept informed.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning, for his part, referred to the situation of large-scale banditry in the Maradi region, with cases of cattle kidnapping, which risks of compromising the efforts of the State and its partners.

The discussions on this item being concluded, the Chairperson moved on to the next item

L- Fertilizer Sector Reform

Summary of discussions: The Coordinator of the MCA-Niger Support Unit gave an overview of the current status of the fertilizer sector reform. He recalled that the reform plan was adopted by Decree No. 2018-046 PRN/MAG/EL of January 12, 2018. Its objective is to ensure the availability, on time, of quality fertilizers, accessible to producers in all regions of Niger.

As of the current session, substantial progress has been made, including **(i)** the establishment and operation of the reform bodies (Fertilizer Market Observatory in Niger, Fertilizer Technical Committee in Niger, 8 Regional Fertilizer Committees), **(ii)** capacity building of the private fertilizer sector, **(iii)** implementation of a pilot phase of a renovated subsidy program for the 2019-2020 dry season that benefited 7,000 producers with the mobilization of the State's counterpart, **(iv)** organization of a forum of all reform stakeholders.

In the same vein, in June 2020, several high-level meetings were held to analyze the progress of the reform, give instructions to remove the constraints to its implementation, and ensure greater efficiency in achieving the objectives set. Subsequently, new advances were recorded, notably the signing of the joint order between MAG/EL and the Ministry of Finance for the creation of the Common Fertilizer Fund and the framing of CAIMA's role until December 31, 2020.

Also, a joint CAIMA, OMEN and COTEN mission toured the country from September 13 to 23, 2020 to take stock of fertilizer needs and availability. At the end of this mission, several recommendations were made to the State and its partners, including **(i)** the operationalization of the reform bodies (OMEN, COTEN and CTER) and the Common Fertilizer Fund (creation of a special FCE account at the level of the Public Treasury and an escrow account at the level of the BCEAO, and the development and approval of the FCE's administrative and financial procedures manual by the Government and the TFPs) **(ii)** the preparation of the next fertilizer subsidy campaign, which will take into account the vulnerable and the victims of the floods, **(iii)** the facilitation of agreements under the supervision of the Government, between the Producers' Organizations and the private fertilizer sector and the Financial Institutions for the setting up of campaign-fertilizer credit, as well as the facilitation of the establishment of special fertilizer credit lines backed by documentary credits, for the benefit of the actors of the private fertilizer sector

At the end of this presentation, **the Chairman of the Peasant Platform**, representing civil society, expressed his satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the reform. He then pointed out that the main difficulties hindering the conduct and effectiveness of the reform are, among others, the resistance of the CAIMA and the sabotage actions of the actors of the sector.

The Minister of Water and Sanitation asked for clarification on the increase in the price of a bag of fertilizer (from 13,500 CFA to 18,000 CFA, or even 20,000 CFA in some places), which, according to some media, is linked to the reform.

The Coordinator of the Support Unit replied that this situation is part of a campaign to sabotage the reform, specifying that the increase is due to speculation organized by CAIMA through certain economic operators.

The Chairman of the Peasant Platform, representing civil society, took the floor to confirm the remarks of the Coordinator of the Support Unit on the organized sabotage of the reform. He gave the example of the taxation of fertilizer in the 2020 finance law while the State was subsidizing this sector. All this is helping to hinder the effectiveness of the reform.

The High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative also confirmed what the Chairman of the Peasant Platform said about the organized sabotage of the reform.

The Chairperson of the Board, summarizing the different interventions, praised the efforts of the different stakeholders involved in the running of the reform.

The chairperson terminate the meeting at 2:10'

SIGNED :

M. Mamane M. ANNOU Secretary	M. Ouhoumoudou MAHAMADOU Chairperson