

# RESULTS OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE ON POPULATION POLICIES IN THE SAHEL

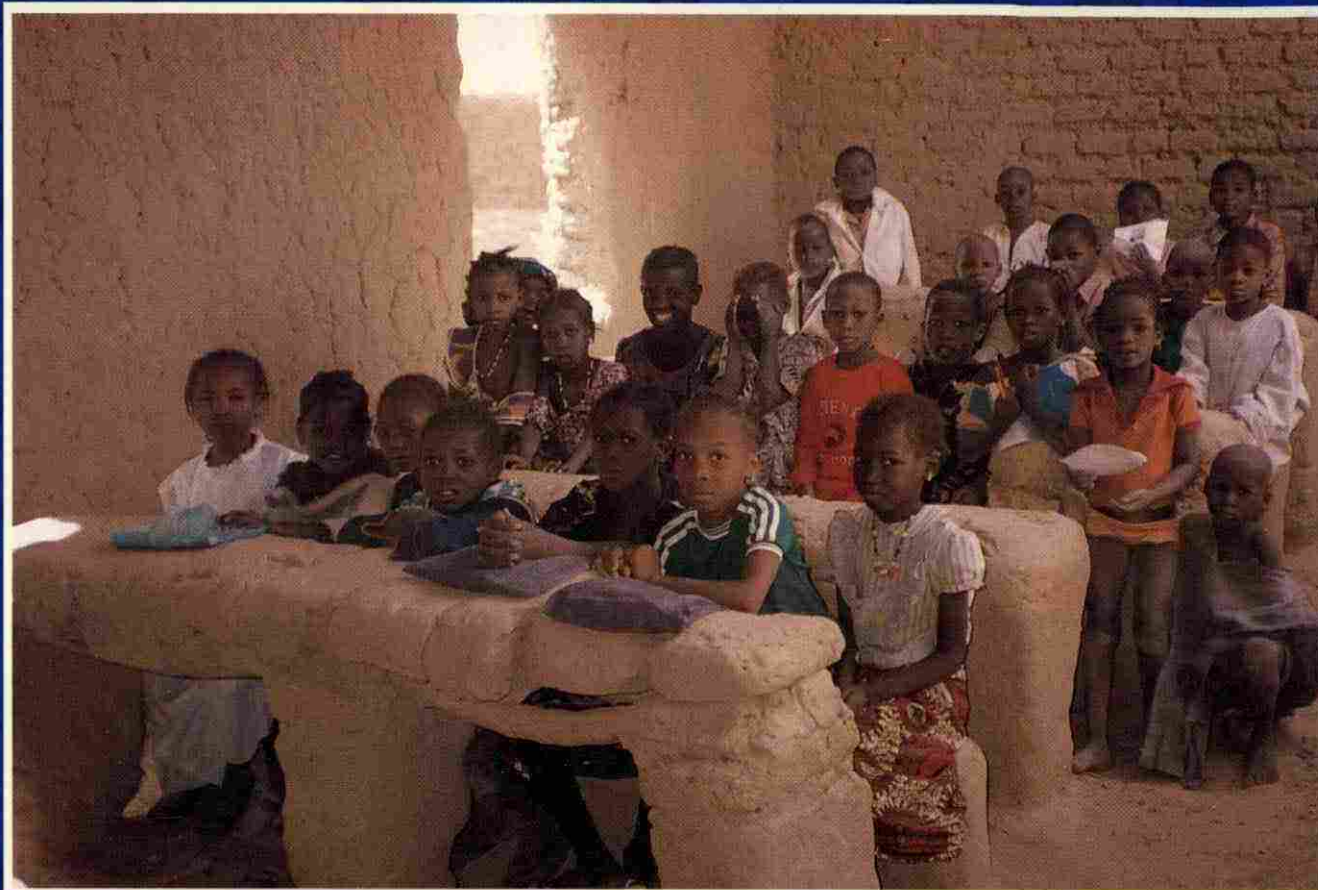


PHOTO: RACINE KEITA

*Toward a better quality of life*

## ACT NOW

CILSS ■ INSAH ■ CERPOD

## PROLOGUE

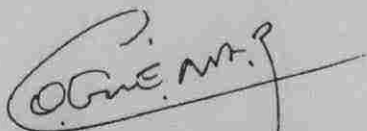
CERPOD is pleased to present the results and recommendations of the Second Conference on Population Policies in the Sahel.

This conference demonstrated the striking advances in population issues that have occurred in the Sahel; most notably, four countries (Senegal - 1988, Burkina Faso - 1991, Mali - 1991, and Niger - 1992) have already adopted population policies.

Nevertheless, these important advances should not allow us to lose sight of the fact that with an average annual growth rate of 3.1 percent, by the year 2000 the Sahelian population will have increased by another 14 million people. Given the current difficulties in coping with overburdened social services (health and education), and the limited means available for solving problems in these and other areas such as employment, one can imagine that the Sahel region will continue to experience difficulties in satisfying the growing demands of the population.

The struggle to assure the well-being of the Sahelian people, led with great determination by the states, is mortgaged by a rapid demographic growth. But most importantly, there are reasons to hope, and thus reasons to keep on moving ahead, as evidenced by the level and quality of the Dakar conference participants, and by the relevance of the recommendations and the Declaration which came out of the conference.

Therefore, let us remain hopeful, but above all **let us act now!!**



NASSOUR G. OUAIDOU  
*Director*  
CERPOD





▲ Opening ceremony of the Conference: from left to right, Mr. Ali Djalbord Diard, Executive Secretary of CILSS, Mr. Djibril Ngom, delegate from the Senegalese Ministry of Economy, Finance and Plan, and Mr. Nassour G. Ouaidou, Director of CERPOD.

## INTRODUCTION

The Second Conference on Population Policies in the Sahel, organized jointly by the Government of Senegal and the Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development (CERPOD) of the Sahel Institute, was held July 27-31, 1992, in Dakar, Senegal. The objective of this conference was to assess the progress made to date in carrying out the N'Djamena Plan of Action for Population and Development in the Sahel and to make recommendations for improving its implementation. This conference also provided an opportunity for Sahelians to reach a consensus about the current status of and resources needed for population

policies in preparation for the Third African Conference on Population (Senegal, 1992) and the International Conference on Population and Development (Egypt, 1994).

The conference brought together approximately 100 participants, 65 of whom were delegates from the nine member states of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). The members of the state delegations represented a great diversity of sectors including planning, health, law, social affairs, agriculture, and the promotion of women. A member of the Sahelian journalist network, created by CERPOD, was included in each of the delegations. The Executive Secretary of the CILSS, the General Director of the Sahel Institute, and representatives of a number of donor organizations (development partners) also participated.

## BACKGROUND

The first conference on population policies in the Sahel took place in December 1988, in N'Djamena, Chad. One of the results of that conference was the N'Djamena Plan of Action for Population and Development (PAN)\*. The Action Plan was adopted by the 24th regular session of the Council of Ministers of CILSS, which met in Praia, Cape Verde, in January 1989. Since that date, the PAN has become a frame of reference for drafting and implementing population policies throughout the region.

One of the key recommendations in the Plan of Action is the adoption of a national population policy in each CILSS country. The other recommendations encourage the implementation of strategies in the following

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\* Programme d'Action de N'Djaména Concernant la Population et le Développement au Sahel – (PAN)

### The Second Conference on Population Policies in the Sahel

#### *General Objective:*

To assess the progress to date in carrying out the N'Djamena Plan of Action (PAN) and to make recommendations for improving its implementation.

#### *Specific Objectives:*

- to assist Sahelian countries in developing a consensus concerning the status of and needs for population policies in reference to the PAN, and in preparation for the Third African Conference on Population;
- to give development partners an opportunity to discuss their population programs and their capacity to assist with the implementation of the PAN;
- to increase awareness and to improve decision-making and planning in population issues, as well as the implementation of population policies;
- to assist in the preparation of CERPOD's next Five Year Plan; and
- to increase the role of Sahelian journalists in the dissemination of population-relevant information.

areas: morbidity and mortality; fertility and family planning; migration and urbanization; status of women; children and youth; research and training in

population; dissemination of information about population issues; and development of institutional frameworks.

*“Coordinating efforts permits a synchronized approach to policy implementation...and encourages Sahelian countries to adopt a regional approach to development problems.”*

MR. DJIBRIL NGOM,  
ministry delegate  
representing the  
Senegalese Ministry of  
Economy, Finance  
and Plan.

## **POPULATION POLICIES: Four Years After the Plan of Action**

The Dakar conference highlighted the significant progress that has been made in the area of population and development in the Sahel. In fact, at the time of the N'Djamena conference in April 1988, only Senegal had an official population policy. Today, three other Sahelian countries - Mali (April 1991); Burkina Faso (June 1991); and Niger (June 1992) - have such policies. In the remaining CILSS member countries, policies are in the process of being developed.

In several Sahelian countries (Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde), efforts have been made to incorporate population programs and projects into development plans. In addition, methodologies are being developed to facilitate the integration of population planning into development strategies. CERPOD's support of national institutions has made this work possible.

Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Cape Verde and the Gambia have completed research on administrative, legislative and regulatory documents relating to population policies. This type of research should help identify obstacles to the development of population policies.

In 1988, CERPOD created a network of approximately 50 Sahelian journalists who regularly address population problems. Because they are well versed in issues of

population and development, these journalists have become highly regarded spokesmen working in liaison with national institutions which are responsible for population issues.

Owing in large part to the implementation of the PAN, the views of the Sahelian states regarding population and development have significantly evolved over the last four years. In the new CILSS mandate, which was adopted by the 10th Conference of Heads of State and Government of CILSS (April 1992), demographic problems were explicitly identified as major constraints to sustainable development of the region.

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Conference presentations and discussions centered around the following major themes:

### ■ Current status and prospects of population policies in the region compared to the recommendations in the PAN.

The conference participants expressed their satisfaction with the efforts made by the member states in adopting official declarations on population policies. Delegates greatly appreciated the technical assistance provided by CERPOD for the development of these declarations. The conference also emphasized the need to take population policies into account during the implementation of structural adjustment programs.



▲ Conference organizers and presiding officials

◀ The Mali and Burkina Faso delegations.

### ■ Regional research on administrative, legislative and regulatory documents relating to population policies.

The conference participants stated that it is critical to establish in each CILSS country an adequate legal framework for the promotion

of population policies. The conference requested that member states align their legislation with international conventions; regularly

### Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators for CILSS Countries

Total Population (in millions)	44
Population less than 15 years of age (%)	47
Urban Population (%)	24
Density (person/Km <sup>2</sup> )	8
Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	48
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	18
Natural Increase	3.1
Doubling time of the population (years)	23
Total Fertility Rate	6.5
Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	49
Modern Contraception Prevalence (%)	1
Per Capita GNP (\$ US in 1988)	345
Education Enrollment Rate (%) 1988	Total 40
	Male 50
	Female 30
Literacy Rate (15 years and up - %)	Total 23
	Male 33
	Female 13

Source : CERPOD, 1991 Data Sheet

conduct census and demographic surveys; and develop appropriate strategies for enforcing legislation.

#### ■ Regional research on the integration of demographic variables into the planning process.

After discussing the difficulty of reconciling short- and medium-term structural adjustment programs with long-term population policies, the conference participants asked CERPOD to refine the models' assumptions and to undertake the research that is necessary to provide the member states with more useful tools.

#### ■ Demography and sustainable development.

During this portion of the conference agenda, participants examined the effects of population growth on the environment. Delegates noted that the environment in the Sahel is badly deteriorated, urban areas are overpopulated, and migratory pasture lands are threatened. Discussions focused on the effects of uneven population distribution, the advent of the demographic transition, and the dangers of the spread of AIDS owing to the increased mobility of Sahelian populations.

#### ■ Socio-cultural constraints on population policies.

The discussions revealed that the success or failure of population policies depends on the support of political officials, civil servants, business leaders, religious leaders, and the population as

a whole. The conference emphasized that family planning is a fundamental human right. More efforts must be made to encourage the advancement of women and to intensify information, education and communication campaigns.

■ **Software and models developed by CERPOD.**

The conference participants were given a presentation of software for managing health information systems, and were shown the following models: Maternal and Child Health and Survival; Integration of Demographic Variables into the Planning Process (INTEGRA); and Population-Agriculture-Environment (PAGE).

The delegates to the conference encouraged CERPOD to further develop these tools. They also expressed interest in personnel training and in the dissemination of these tools to the member countries.

■ **Major elements of CERPOD's five-year program (1993-1997).**

This program has seven components: studies and research; support for family planning programs; training; scientific and technical information; computer science; technical assistance and cooperation; and institutional development. The draft that was presented at the conference took into account the observations of the CERPOD Scientific and Management Committee (CSG) and the conclusions of the multi-donor review of

April 1992; the final program will also incorporate the observations of the Dakar conference.

The delegates to the conference agreed that the program addressed the member states' concerns. They congratulated CERPOD for its efforts in executing the first five-year program, and recommended that the states both give their support to the second program and cooperate in seeking funding for its implementation.



*"Each time we plan our activities it is imperative that we honestly assess, without complacency, the impact of these activities on improving the quality of life of the Sahelian people."*

MR. ALI DJALBORD DIARD  
Executive Secretary of  
CILSS

#### ■ Statements by development partners concerning development assistance.

Following the presentations of various development partners, the discussion turned to the changes taking place in technical and financial assistance at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. The debate underscored the need for CERPOD to act definitively as the executing agency in implementing population programs and projects. The delegates from the member states declared their intention to help CERPOD in this role.

#### CONCLUSION

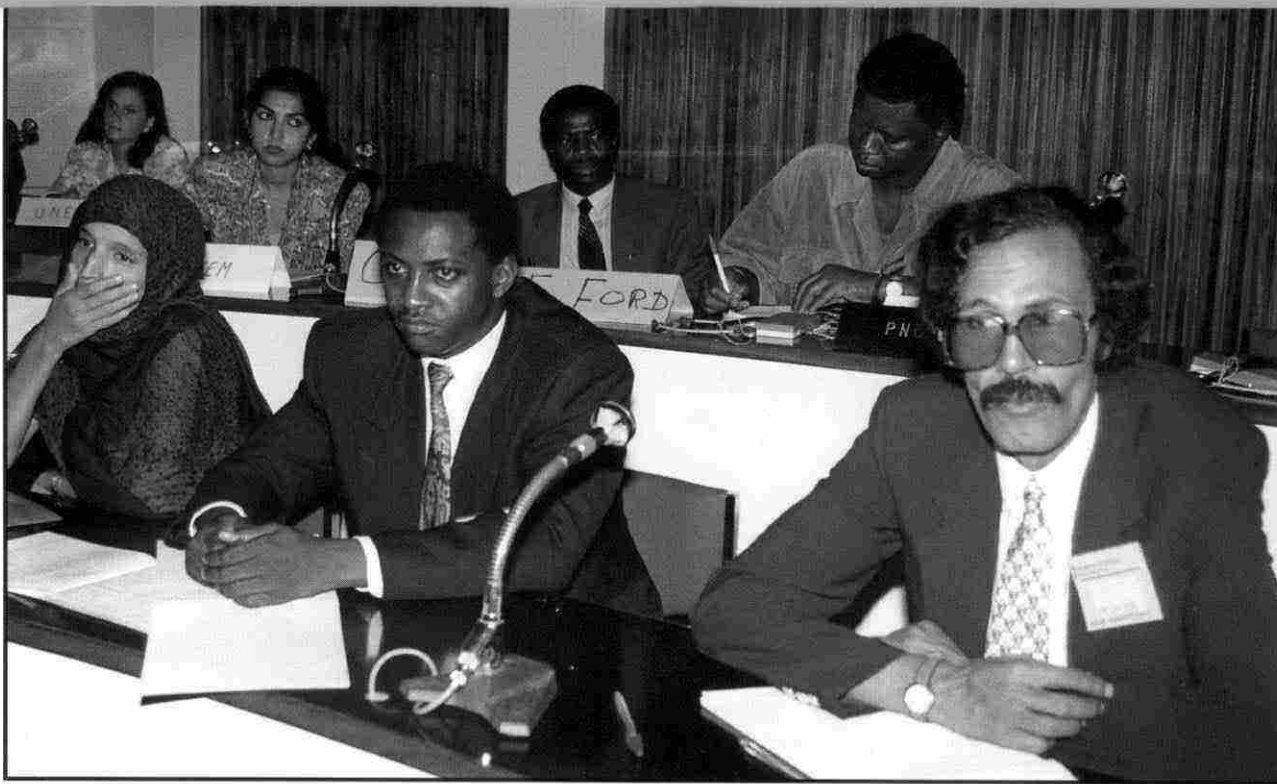
With the adoption and steady implementation of the N'Djamena Plan of Action, the Sahel has, in comparison to other African regions, moved ahead in the formulation of coherent population policies that are integrated into development strategies.

Nevertheless, the need to pursue and intensify efforts to implement the PAN in general, and specifically, to execute population policies, was vigorously emphasized by the conference participants. The "Dakar Declaration", an additional document produced at the conference, is an important complement to the N'Djamena Plan of Action. The Declaration highlights the need to increase efforts in the areas of

maternal and child health, family planning, status of women, the interrelationships between population and the environment, and the prevention of AIDS. It also emphasizes the need to give greater consideration to population policies in the development of structural adjustment plans — particularly in the allocation of resources.

The willingness to reinforce CERPOD and to permit it to generate sufficient resources of its own can be seen in the recommendations developed for the states by the delegates. The recommendations declare that states should turn first to CERPOD (in lieu of organizations external to Africa) for the implementation of population projects and programs.

The reinforcement of CERPOD's role was recommended by all the delegates. Such reinforcement should enable the Centre to



9

◀ The Mauritania delegation.

better assist with the coordination of population policies, to provide appropriate technical assistance to the states that desire it, and to mobilize resources for population policies in the Sahel.

The time has come for the Sahel to move on to a higher level of mobilization regarding population issues. The Dakar conference recommended holding a Ministers' Conference to improve the coordination of population policies and programs and to better promote their integration into Sahelian development agendas. This conference,

scheduled for 1996 — and the first of its kind to be held in Africa — will, without a doubt, provide an important opportunity for the Sahel countries to reaffirm their determination to resolve population problems within a global and unified context.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Second Conference on Population Policies in the Sahel, assembled in Dakar, Senegal, July 27-31, 1992,

- Considering the adoption of the N'Djamena Plan of Action (PAN) by the CILSS member states and the commitments made based on this adoption;
- Having assessed the progress made in implementing the PAN in the CILSS member states;
- Noting with satisfaction the efforts made to carry out the PAN's recommendations;
- Convinced that the PAN gives the Sahelian region an appropriate framework for solving its population problems;
- Considering the satisfactory implementation of CERPOD's 1988-1992 five-year program;
- Aware of the need for constant consultation to ensure that population and development activities are consistent and complementary;

- Aware of the efforts needed to develop and implement population policies and programs in the Sahel;

- Aware of the results of the World Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, and especially agenda 21;

- Considering the new mandate for CILSS and the objectives adopted in April 1992;

- Considering the major themes of the next CERPOD five-year program (1993-1997), which must take into account the concerns of the member states,

## **RECOMMENDS**

### **To the CILSS Member States:**

1. to pursue the current efforts toward full and complete implementation of the PAN recommendations;

### **Population Policies**

2. to find and mobilize the necessary resources required by population programs, both internally and among their development partners;

3. that the member states who do not yet have population policies increase their efforts to develop and implement such policies;

### **Structural Adjustment**

4. to study the ways and means to achieve consistency among the planning tools that incorporate demographic variables within the context of structural adjustment;

### **Environment**

5. to take into account the "population and environment" issue by:

- adopting an environmental charter tailored to the Sahelian situation;

- drawing up and/or implementing guidelines for land use planning;

- drawing up and/or implementing a regional policy for protection of flora and fauna;

### **Morbidity and Mortality**

6. to reiterate their commitment to the promotion of maternal and child health, and to translate their desire to reduce the high rates of maternal and child mortality in the Sahel into concrete actions;

### **Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning**

7. to strengthen integrated maternal and child health and family planning programs, in order to achieve increasingly broad coverage among the population;

8. to promote family planning by non-government entities in accordance with the states' national priorities;

9. to sensitize the general population and especially the leaders about population issues and, particularly, about family planning;

#### **Status of Women**

10. to ensure the development, updating, and effective enactment of family codes for guaranteeing legal equality between men and women in accordance with constitutions and international conventions on human rights and, particularly, those agreements that deal with the elimination of any form of discrimination against women;

11. to support the integration of women into development programs;

12. to promote women's active participation in decision-making at all levels in order to facilitate their involvement in population issues, and to improve their socio-economic status;

#### **Children and Adolescents**

13. to design a framework for continuing education for youth about population problems, and especially about sexual behavior, in accordance with the socio-cultural values of the states;

#### **Research and Training**

14. to improve the collection, analysis, and dissemination of demographic data at regular intervals for planning purposes;

15. to help develop better planning systems by incorporating models created by CERPOD;

16. to train specialists in population to facilitate the collection, analysis, and interpretation of demographic data, and to integrate these data in development plans;

17. to seek and gain access to resources that are necessary to improve the vital statistics system, and to educate the people about the importance of registering vital events;

#### **Information About Population Issues**

18. to conduct sociological studies to find the most appropriate communication channels for raising awareness about population issues among the various social levels;

19. to make it easier for the national units of the CERPOD journalists' network to gain access to population information, and to involve them in the development and implementation of national population policies;

20. to provide material and technical support to the national units of the CERPOD journalists' network so they can more easily conduct their information and education activities in population and development;

#### **Institutional Framework**

21. to enforce the resolution adopted by the CILSS Council of Ministers in Bissau in 1991 which designates CERPOD as the favored executing agency in all country projects involving issues within its mandate;

22. to ensure the creation and strengthening of an adequate, working institutional framework for implementation and coordination of these policies;

23. to strengthen the institutional framework of the various efforts through coordination and consultation with the various national and international institutions involved in population policy.

#### **To CILSS**

To give CERPOD the mandate to:

#### **Population Policies**

1. develop a mechanism of interdisciplinary coordination for better integration of population policies in the Sahel;

2. pursue and intensify its technical support to the member states in all stages of the development and implementation of population policies;

#### **Structural Adjustment**

3. diversify its technical assistance and its research activities to cover new areas of population and development involving structural adjustment and development;

### **Maternal and Child Health/ Family Planning**

4. support the establishment of health information systems for the management of maternal and child health and family planning programs in the member states;

### **Children and Adolescents**

5. support the member states in creating "Islands for Youth" at the national level, with training programs to help reintegrate delinquent youth into society;

### **Research**

6. help the member states become better informed about demographics through research;

7. increase the assistance given to national institutions in the collection and analysis of socioeconomic and demographic data so that the member states can use these data more effectively in their development programs;

8. support the CILSS member states in strengthening vital statistics systems;

9. support general training and specialization programs for health and social services, especially for doctors, nurses, midwives, and social workers;

### **Information About Population Issues**

10. give its support to the development and implementation of national information, education and communication programs on population and development issues;

11. give material and financial support to the rejuvenation of the Sahel journalists network's national and regional activities in population and development;

### **Institutional Framework**

12. invite development partners and international organizations to join a partnership for greater cooperation and coordination in their activities in accordance with the objectives and strategies stated in the population policies of the CILSS member states;

13. find the ways and means to institutionalize the Conference on Population Policies in the Sahel;

14. organize a meeting every four years for the member state Ministers who are responsible for population activities to improve the integration and implementation of population policies and programs;

15. facilitate greater exchanges of information and experiences on population issues among national institutions.

**To the International Organizations  
and Development Partners:**

1. to pursue and intensify financial and technical support for CERPOD;

2. to pursue and reinforce financial and technical assistance for the member states in their population programs;

3. to increase communications with the member states to ensure that their policies and programs fully take into account the needs of the countries.

The Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development (CERPOD) was created in response to an increasing awareness of population problems in the Sahel and reflects the commitment of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to resolving these problems.

A semi-autonomous affiliate of the Sahel Institute, CERPOD works with the nine member countries of the CILSS: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

CERPOD is the former Socio-economic and Demographic Unit (USED) of the Sahel Institute. The Centre was created by Resolution No. 19 of the 23rd session of the Council of Ministers of the CILSS, January 24-25, 1988.

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