

## ***Newsletter - January 2025***

### ***Greetings for 2025***

*Dear friends of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,*

*The year 2024, which has just come to a close, has been marked by the remarkable resilience of the Ivorian economy. Despite a challenging global economic environment and complex international dynamics, Côte d'Ivoire continues to demonstrate robust growth prospects. Under the leadership of H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic, our nation has remained steadfast in executing the 2021–2025 National Development Plan, a roadmap designed to drive the structural transformation of our economy while ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth.*

*In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire reaffirmed its leadership on the African continent. In January, we reopened international bond markets for Sub-Saharan Africa after a two-year absence of Eurobond issuances in the region. This milestone reflected the trust international investors have in the resilience of our economy and the soundness of our financial management.*

*Additionally, 2024 was a proud moment for our nation as we hosted—and won—the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN). This event showcased the warmth and hospitality of the Ivorian people, our expertise, and the quality of infrastructure developed through years of dedication and vision.*

*From an economic standpoint, our nation achieved strong GDP growth of 6.1% in 2024, a testament to the resilience of our economy and the benefits of its diversification. Recent discoveries, including the Calao offshore oil field and the Tanda gold deposit, herald exciting opportunities for Côte d'Ivoire's future development. Meanwhile, our unwavering commitment to fiscal discipline resulted in a significant reduction in the budget deficit, which fell to 4.0% in 2024 from 4.4% the previous year. These accomplishments underscore the credibility of our reform agenda and further strengthen our economy's capacity to weather external shocks.*

*As we look ahead, 2025 will usher in a new phase of our journey, with the launch of work on the 2026–2030 National Development Plan. This strategic blueprint will build upon the achievements of the current plan while incorporating bold, innovative reforms to pave the way for a sustainable and inclusive future.*

*To meet these challenges, achieve our shared ambitions, and sustain our leadership in the sub-region and across the continent, we will continue to rely on the unwavering support and collaboration of our partners, investors and international institutions.*

*Each of you plays a pivotal role in fostering Côte d'Ivoire's development and scaling the Ivorian economy to new heights. With renewed determination and a clear vision, we are prepared to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead.*

*On behalf of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and wish you a year filled with opportunities, achievements, and fruitful partnerships.*



***Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance and Budget of Côte d'Ivoire***

## Review of the year 2024

### 1. Côte d'Ivoire has reinforced its credit fundamentals, marked by increased economic diversification and robust fiscal consolidation trajectory

Côte d'Ivoire's economy is expected to grow by 6.1% in 2024, confirming the robustness of its macroeconomic fundamentals. This performance should be confirmed over the coming years, with average annual growth of 6.8% over 2025-2028.

These growth forecasts are fueled by the country's increasing economic diversification, marked by the discovery of the Calao offshore oil field (which will reinforce national production capacity, following the recent discovery of the Baleine oil field) and of a world class gold deposit in Tanda in 2024.

The budget deficit, estimated at 4.0% of GDP in 2024, is expected to converge toward the WAEMU threshold of 3% by the end of 2025. Public debt, projected at 59.3% of GDP by the end of 2024 by the IMF, remains sustainable and below the average for Sub-Saharan African countries and the community standard of 70%.

In this context, the IMF confirmed during its latest review in December that the country's debt distress risk remains "moderate," affirming the reliability of the commitments made by the authorities.

### 2. Côte d'Ivoire upgraded its credit rating to BB/Ba2/BB-

In 2024, rating agencies S&P and Moody's upgraded Côte d'Ivoire's credit ratings, from BB- to BB with a stable outlook and from Ba3 to Ba2 with a stable outlook, respectively.

These upgrades position Côte d'Ivoire as the third-best credit in Sub-Saharan Africa, after Botswana and Mauritius, and on par with emerging markets such as Brazil. The upgrades reflect the continued implementation of economic and institutional reforms that contribute to the country's resilience and stability. They are also underpinned by strong support from international donors.

### 3. The country has strengthened its leadership in Sub-Saharan African capital markets

In January 2024, Côte d'Ivoire reopened international bond markets for African issuers, following a two-year absence of Eurobond issuances in Sub-Saharan Africa. Côte d'Ivoire achieved a record issuance of \$2.6 billion through two bonds with maturities of 9 and 13 years. The order book reached an unprecedented size of over \$8 billion, the largest ever recorded by a West African sovereign.

The two new bonds were issued with interest rates of 6.30% and 6.85%, respectively, alongside a simultaneous Dollar-to-Euro hedging operation covering the entire issuance amount. This simultaneous execution, a first for a Sub-Saharan African country, capitalizes on Côte d'Ivoire's track record of proactive exchange rate and interest rate risk management with its banking partners.

Furthermore, the 9-year bond features an ESG label, reinforcing Côte d'Ivoire's positioning in the sustainable finance market. This inaugural ESG issuance is based on the ESG Framework published by the country in July 2021 and updated in September 2023, supported by technical assistance partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP) and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) to enhance project selection and ESG reporting mechanisms.

**Proceeds from the Eurobond operation were primarily allocated to refinancing existing Eurobonds and international commercial loans.**

**Investor confidence in Côte d'Ivoire, despite global volatility, highlights the country's strong macroeconomic outlook**, underpinned by robust, sustainable, and inclusive growth within a stable political environment.

#### **4. Côte d'Ivoire consolidates its relationship with the International Monetary Fund...**

In March 2024, the IMF and the Ivorian Government signed an agreement under the **Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)**, supporting a reform program aimed at combating climate change with a financial package of 975.6 million SDRs (approximately \$1.3 billion, or 150% of the quota).

**The RSF will finance government actions to promote climate adaptation and mitigation, such as reducing the agricultural sector's exposure to climate risks**, cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, and integrating climate considerations into public financial management.

Throughout the year, the IMF Executive Board successfully completed its reviews, approving **the disbursement of \$1.378 billion in total and reaffirming the credibility of the authorities' commitments**.

#### **5. ... and strengthens ties with the World Bank**

In April 2024, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a subsidiary of the World Bank, upgraded Côte d'Ivoire's internal credit rating from B+ to BB-. This upgrade now makes Côte d'Ivoire eligible for MIGA's flagship guarantee product, the "Non-Honouring of Financial Obligations" (NHFO), in addition to political risk insurance (PRI) and trade finance products. Leveraging this product will enable Côte d'Ivoire to take a further step in mobilizing "blended finance" instruments, a key component of its financing strategy.

In December, as part of its diversification strategy, Côte d'Ivoire structured its first "Debt-for-Development Swap" transaction with World Bank support, in the form of a €400m commercial loan benefitting from a partial policy-based guarantee by the World Bank. This transaction **improved the country's public debt profile by refinancing costly external commercial loans**; savings from this operation will finance investments in education, enabling the construction of over 30 schools and benefiting approximately 30,000 students.

#### **6. Côte d'Ivoire pursues a prudent financing strategy based on innovation and diversification**

In 2024, the Republic maintained its prudent debt management strategy through (i) liability management exercises and (ii) diversification of funding sources, prioritizing credit-enhanced instruments.

**This proactive strategy earned market recognition, with the Directorate General of Financing (DGF) of Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Finance being named "Sovereign Risk Manager of the Year" by the international financial magazine Risk.net.** This prestigious award, given annually, recognizes best practices in public debt management. Côte d'Ivoire

joins the ranks of previous winners such as Greece (2023), Ukraine (2022), Senegal (2019), and Saudi Arabia (2017), further enhancing its financial credibility on the global stage.

## Our vision for the future

**The 2025 State Budget, amounting to 15,339.2 billion CFA francs (approximately €23 billion), aligns with this vision,** featuring significant investments in infrastructure, productive sectors, and social services, alongside increased government revenues driven by policy efforts and favorable commodity prices.

**The budget deficit for 2025 is projected to reach the WAEMU target of 3.0% of GDP, improving from 4.0% in 2024, while the revenue-to-GDP ratio is expected to rise to 15.4%, moving closer to the 20% target.** This improvement is supported by substantial efforts to mobilize tax revenues, projected at approximately 7,387 billion CFA francs (€11.1 billion), representing 13.0% of GDP. Key measures include broadening the tax base and reforms in property and gold export taxes.

In terms of financing, the Republic will rely on a prudent strategy with three priorities:

- **Prioritize innovative and cost-efficient financing solutions, in particular through the deepening of the country's access to blended and ESG finance;**
- **Consider potential Eurobond issuance predicated upon favorable market conditions while continue to explore additional liability management opportunities;**
- **Pursue the development of the regional WAEMU market, in particular through unlocking international investors' participation**

This financing strategy remains rooted in the country's **prudent and proactive management of public debt to ensure its sustainability.**

**As many of you are aware, 2025 will mark a pivotal moment for Côte d'Ivoire** with the presidential elections in October. Drawing on the experiences of the 2020 presidential election and the 2021 and 2023 legislative and regional elections, we are confident in the smooth conduct of this electoral process. This event will further consolidate the country's institutional and governance improvements achieved in recent years, providing an opportunity to accelerate Côte d'Ivoire's development trajectory and launch the implementation of the new National Development Plan, which will guide the country's economic and social investment strategy for the next cycle.

## To continue the conversation...

Do not hesitate to visit the [website of the Treasury](#) to consult the quarterly Public Debt Statistical Bulletins.

If you have any questions or comments, please use the e-mail address [IR@tresor.gouv.ci](mailto:IR@tresor.gouv.ci)  
We will be happy to answer you.