

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE NOTES HAVE NOT BEEN AND WILL NOT BE REGISTERED UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE “SECURITIES ACT”) AND, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, MAY NOT BE OFFERED OR SOLD WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. THE NOTES WILL BE OFFERED AND SOLD: (A) IN THE UNITED STATES TO PERSONS WHO ARE “QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYERS” (AS DEFINED IN RULE 144A (“RULE 144A”) UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT) (“QIBS”) AND (B) TO PERSONS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES IN OFFSHORE TRANSACTIONS (AS DEFINED IN REGULATIONS UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT (“REGULATION S”).

IMPORTANT: You must read the following disclaimer before continuing. The following disclaimer applies to the prospectus following this page (the “Prospectus”) and you are therefore advised to read this disclaimer carefully before reading, accessing or making any other use of the attached Prospectus. In accessing the attached Prospectus, you agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions, including any modifications to them from time to time, each time you receive any information as a result of such access. You acknowledge that this electronic transmission and the delivery of the attached Prospectus is intended for only you as the addressee of the email sent by BNP Paribas, J.P. Morgan Securities plc or Standard Chartered Bank, and you agree you will not forward this electronic transmission or the attached Prospectus to any other person.

NOTHING IN THIS ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION CONSTITUTES AN OFFER OF SECURITIES FOR SALE IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DO SO. THE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN, AND WILL NOT BE, REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR THE SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND, MAY NOT BE OFFERED, SOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 144A OR (2) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES IN RELIANCE ON REGULATIONS, IN EACH CASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN MEMBER STATES OF THE EEA, THE ATTACHED PROSPECTUS IS DIRECTED ONLY AT PERSONS WHO ARE “QUALIFIED INVESTORS” WITHIN THE MEANING OF REGULATION (EU) 2017/1129 (THE “EU PROSPECTUS REGULATION”) AND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ONLY AT PERSONS WHO ARE “QUALIFIED INVESTORS” WITHIN THE MEANING OF REGULATION (EU) 2017/1129 AS IT FORMS PART OF ENGLISH LAW BY VIRTUE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (WITHDRAWAL) ACT 2018 (THE “UK PROSPECTUS REGULATION”). THE COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED PROSPECTUS ARE ONLY MADE TO OR ARE DIRECTED AT (I) PERSONS WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM OR (II) PERSONS WHO HAVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN MATTERS RELATING TO INVESTMENTS FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 19(5) OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS ACT 2000 (FINANCIAL PROMOTION) ORDER 2005 OR (III) HIGH NET WORTH COMPANIES, AND OTHER PERSONS TO WHOM IT MAY LAWFULLY BE COMMUNICATED, FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 49(2)(A) TO (D) OF SUCH ORDER (ALL SUCH PERSONS TOGETHER BEING REFERRED TO AS “RELEVANT PERSONS”). THE ATTACHED PROSPECTUS MUST NOT BE ACTED ON OR RELIED ON BY PERSONS WHO ARE NOT RELEVANT PERSONS. ANY INVESTMENT OR INVESTMENT ACTIVITY TO WHICH THE ATTACHED PROSPECTUS RELATES IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO RELEVANT PERSONS AND WILL BE ENGAGED IN ONLY WITH RELEVANT PERSONS.

THE ATTACHED PROSPECTUS IS PERSONAL TO YOU AND MAY NOT BE FORWARDED OR DISTRIBUTED TO ANY OTHER PERSON AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER, AND IN PARTICULAR MAY NOT BE FORWARDED TO ANY U.S. ADDRESS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS DIRECTIVE MAY RESULT IN A VIOLATION OF THE SECURITIES ACT OR THE APPLICABLE LAWS OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

Confirmation of Your Representation: In order to be eligible to view the attached Prospectus or make an investment decision with respect to the Notes described in the attached Prospectus, you must be (i) outside the United States for the purposes of Regulation S or (ii) a QIB that is acquiring the Notes for its own account or for the account of another QIB.

The attached Prospectus is being sent at your request. By accepting the email and accessing, reading or making any other use of this Prospectus, you shall be deemed to have represented to BNP Paribas, J.P. Morgan Securities plc and Standard Chartered Bank, that (1) you understand and agree to the terms set out herein, (2) you and any customers you represent are “Authorized Persons” because either (a) in respect of Notes being offered pursuant to Rule 144A, you are (or the person you represent is) a QIB, and the electronic mail address to which, pursuant to your request, the Prospectus has been delivered by electronic transmission is utilized by someone who is a QIB, or (b) in respect of Notes being offered outside the United States in an offshore transaction pursuant to Regulation S, you and the electronic mail address that you gave to BNP Paribas, J.P. Morgan Securities plc or Standard Chartered Bank, and to which this email has been delivered is not located in the United States, its territories and possessions (including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Wake Island and the Northern Mariana Islands), any State of the United States or the District of Columbia, (3) you consent to delivery of the Prospectus by electronic transmission, (4) you will not transmit the Prospectus (or any copy of it or part thereof) or disclose, whether orally or in writing, any of its contents to any other person except with the consent of the Joint Lead Managers, described in the attached Prospectus and (5) you acknowledge that you will make your own assessment regarding any legal, taxation or other economic considerations with respect to your decision to subscribe for or purchase any of the Notes.

You are reminded that the attached Prospectus has been delivered to you on the basis that you are a person into whose possession such Prospectus may be lawfully delivered in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which you are located and you may not, nor are you authorized to, deliver the attached Prospectus to any other person and in particular to any United States address.

The materials relating to the offering do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation in any place where offers or solicitations are not permitted by law. If a jurisdiction requires that the offering be made by a licensed broker or dealer and the underwriters or any affiliate of the underwriters is a licensed broker or dealer in that jurisdiction, the offering shall be deemed to be made by the underwriters or such affiliate on behalf of the Issuer in such jurisdiction.

Restrictions: Nothing in this electronic transmission constitutes an offer of securities for sale to persons other than Authorized Persons to whom it is directed and access has been limited so that it shall not constitute a general solicitation. If you are not an Authorized Person and have gained access to this transmission, you will be unable to purchase any of the Notes described in the attached Prospectus.

Under no circumstances shall the Prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of Notes in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful.



THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**€600,000,000 4.875% Amortizing Notes due 2032
to be consolidated and form a single series with the €1,000,000,000 4.875% Amortizing Notes due 2032**

Issue Price: 104.538% plus an amount corresponding to accrued interest from and including 1 December 2020 to but excluding 15 February 2021

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (the “**Issuer**”, the “**Republic**” or “**Côte d'Ivoire**”) is offering the €600,000,000 4.875% Amortizing Notes due 2032 (the “**New Notes**”) to be consolidated and form a single series with the €1,000,000,000 4.875% Amortizing Notes due 2032 (the “**Original Notes**”) and together with the New Notes, the “**Notes**”). The Notes will, unless previously redeemed or cancelled, be redeemed in three instalments on 30 January 2030, 30 January 2031 and 30 January 2032. The Amortization Amounts (as defined herein) are set out in “*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—7. Redemption and Purchase*”.

The Original Notes bear and the New Notes will bear interest on their outstanding principal amount from and including 1 December 2020 at a rate of 4.875% per annum payable annually in arrear on 30 January in each year. The first payment of interest on the Notes will be made on 30 January 2022 for the period from and including 1 December 2020 to but excluding 30 January 2022 (and thus a long first interest period). Payments on the Notes will be made in Euros, without deduction for or on account of any Ivorian withholding taxes unless the withholding is required by law, in which case the Issuer will, subject to certain exceptions, pay additional amounts, if any, in respect of such taxes as described herein. See “*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—8. Taxation*”.

This prospectus (the “**Prospectus**”) constitutes a prospectus for the purposes of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (the “**EU Prospectus Regulation**”). This Prospectus has been approved by the Central Bank of Ireland (the “**CBI**”), as competent authority under the EU Prospectus Regulation. The CBI only approves this Prospectus as meeting the standards of completeness, comprehensibility and consistency imposed by the EU Prospectus Regulation. Such approval should not be considered as an endorsement of the issuer or the quality of the Notes that are the subject of this Prospectus and investors should make their own assessment as to the suitability of investing in the Notes. Any website referred to in this document does not form part of the Prospectus and has not been scrutinised or approved by the CBI. Application has been made to the Irish Stock Exchange plc trading as Euronext Dublin (“**Euronext Dublin**”) for the New Notes to be admitted to its official list (the “**Official List**”) and trading on the regulated market of Euronext Dublin (the “**Regulated Market**”). The Original Notes are already admitted to the Official List and to trading on the Regulated Market. References in this Prospectus to Notes being “**listed**” (and all related references) shall mean that the Notes have been admitted to the Official List and have been admitted to trading on the Regulated Market. The Regulated Market is a regulated market for the purposes of Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments, as amended (“**MiFID II**”).

The New Notes are expected to be rated on issuance B+ by Fitch Ratings Ltd. (“**Fitch**”) and Ba3 by Moody's Investors Services Inc. (“**Moody's**”). All references to Moody's and Fitch included in this document are to the entities as defined in this paragraph. A rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision, suspension or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. None of Fitch or Moody's is established in the European Union and has applied for registration under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on credit rating agencies (the “**CRA Regulation**”). The rating issued by Fitch has been endorsed by Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and the rating issued by Moody's has been endorsed by Moody's Deutschland GmbH in each case in accordance with the CRA Regulation. Each of Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and Moody's Deutschland GmbH is established in the European Union and registered under the CRA Regulation. As such each of Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and Moody's Deutschland GmbH is included in the list of credit rating agencies published by the European Securities and Markets Authority (“**ESMA**”) on its website (at <http://www.esma.europa.eu/page/List-registered-and-certified-CRAs>) in accordance with the CRA Regulation.

The Notes have not been, and will not be, registered under the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”) or with any securities regulatory authority of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States and may not be offered, sold or delivered within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, the Notes are being offered, sold or delivered: (a) in the United States only to qualified institutional buyers (“**qualified institutional buyers**”) (as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act (“**Rule 144A**”)) in reliance on, and in compliance with, Rule 144A; and (b) outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act (“**Regulation S**”). Each purchaser of the Notes will be deemed to have made the representations described in “*United States Transfer Restrictions*” and is hereby notified that the offer and sale of Notes to it is being made in reliance on the exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act provided by Rule 144A. In addition, until 40 days after the commencement of the offering, an offer or sale of any of the New Notes within the United States by any dealer (whether or not participating in the offering) may violate the registration requirements of the Securities Act if the offer or sale is made otherwise than in accordance with Rule 144A.

Neither this Prospectus nor the Notes are required to be registered or cleared under the regulations of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (*Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine* or “**WAEMU**”) or Côte d'Ivoire financial regulations. Unless they are registered and authorized by the financial regulators of WAEMU and Côte d'Ivoire, the Notes cannot be issued, offered or sold in these jurisdictions.

The New Notes sold in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S will be issued initially in the form of registered global note certificates (the “**Unrestricted Global Note Certificates**”) and the New Notes sold to qualified institutional buyers in reliance on Rule 144A will be issued initially in the form of registered global note certificates (the “**Restricted Global Note Certificates**”) and together with the Unrestricted Global Note Certificates, the “**Global Note Certificates**”). Each Global Note Certificate will be deposited with a common depository for Euroclear Bank SA/NV (“**Euroclear**”) and Clearstream Banking, S.A. (“**Clearstream**”), and registered in the name of a nominee for such common depository. See “*Form of Notes*”.

BNP Paribas, J.P. Morgan Securities plc and Standard Chartered Bank. (the “**Joint Lead Managers**”) expect to deliver the New Notes to purchasers in registered book entry form through the facilities of Euroclear and Clearstream on or about 15 February 2021. See “*Subscription and Sale*”.

An investment in the Notes involves certain risks. Prospective investors should consider the factors described in “Risk Factors” beginning on page 1.

Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners

BNP Paribas

J.P. Morgan

**Standard Chartered
Bank**

The date of this Prospectus is 11 February 2021.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in this Prospectus. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Issuer, the information contained in this Prospectus is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Issuer, the information contained in this Prospectus is true and accurate in every material respect and is not misleading in any material respect and this Prospectus, insofar as it concerns such matters, does not omit to state any material fact necessary to make such information not misleading. The opinions, assumptions, intentions, projections and forecasts expressed in this Prospectus with regard to the Issuer are honestly held by the Issuer, have been reached after considering all relevant circumstances and are based on reasonable assumptions.

Neither the Joint Lead Managers nor any of their respective affiliates have authorised the whole or any part of this Prospectus and none of them makes any representation or warranty or accepts (i) any responsibility or liability as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this Prospectus or any other information provided by the Issuer in connection with the Notes or their distribution or (ii) any responsibility for any act or omission of the Issuer or any other person (other than the relevant Joint Lead Manager) in connection with the issue and offering of the Notes.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

EU Prospectus Regulation

This Prospectus constitutes a prospectus for the purposes of Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (the “**EU Prospectus Regulation**”).

Validity of Prospectus

This Prospectus will be valid until the admission of the New Notes to trading on the Regulated Market of Euronext Dublin. The Issuer will, in the event of any significant new factor, material mistake or inaccuracy relating to information included in this Prospectus which is capable of affecting the assessment of the Notes, prepare a supplement to this Prospectus. The obligation to prepare a supplement to this Prospectus in the event of any significant new factor, material mistake or inaccuracy does not apply when the New Notes have been admitted to trading on the Regulated Market of Euronext Dublin.

Unauthorised Information

No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained in or consistent with this Prospectus in connection with the offering of the Notes (the “**Offering**”) and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Issuer or the Joint Lead Managers. Neither the delivery of this Prospectus nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, constitute a representation or create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Issuer since the date hereof. This document may not be used for the purpose of an offer to, or a solicitation by, anyone in any jurisdiction or in any circumstances in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or is unlawful, including to persons in Côte d’Ivoire. See “*Subscription and Sale*”.

Investing in Emerging Markets

Generally, investment in emerging markets such as Côte d’Ivoire is only suitable for sophisticated investors who fully appreciate the significance of the risks involved in, and are familiar with, investing in emerging markets. Investors are urged to consult their own legal and financial advisers before making an investment in the Notes.

Such risks include, but are not limited to, higher volatility and more limited liquidity in respect of the Notes, a narrow export base, budget deficits, lack of adequate infrastructure necessary to accelerate economic growth and changes in the political and economic environment. Emerging markets can also experience more instances of corruption by government officials and misuse of public funds than more mature markets, which could affect the ability of governments to meet their obligations under issued securities. See “*Risk Factors*”.

Investors should also note that emerging markets such as Côte d'Ivoire are subject to rapid change and that the information set out in this Prospectus may become outdated relatively quickly.

Suitability of Investment in the Notes

Investors are urged to consult their own legal, tax and financial advisers before making an investment in the Notes. Each potential investor in the Notes must determine the suitability of such an investment in light of its own circumstances. In particular, each potential investor should:

- have sufficient knowledge and experience to make a meaningful evaluation of the Notes, the merits and risks of investing in the Notes and the information contained in this Prospectus or any applicable supplement;
- have access to, and knowledge of, appropriate analytical tools to evaluate, in the context of its particular financial situation, an investment in the Notes and the resulting effect on its overall investment portfolio;
- have sufficient financial resources and liquidity to bear all of the risks of an investment in the Notes, including any risk resulting from the currency of the Notes being different from the purchaser's functional currency;
- understand thoroughly the terms of the Notes and be familiar with financial markets; and
- be able to evaluate (either alone or with the help of a financial adviser) changes in economic conditions, interest rates and other factors that may affect its investment and its ability to bear the associated risks.

Furthermore, the investment activities of certain investors are subject to legal investment laws and regulations, or review or regulation by certain authorities. Each potential investor should consult its legal advisers to determine whether and to what extent (i) the Notes are suitable legal investments for it, (ii) the Notes can be used as collateral for various types of borrowing and (iii) other restrictions apply to its purchase or pledge of the Notes. Financial institutions should consult their legal advisers or the appropriate regulators to determine the appropriate treatment of the Notes under any applicable risk based capital or similar rules.

No Recommendations or Advice

Neither the Issuer nor any of the Joint Lead Managers is making any representation to any investor in the Notes regarding the legality of an investment in the Notes by such investor under any investment or similar laws or regulations, including those of Côte d'Ivoire. The contents of this Prospectus are not to be construed as legal, business or tax advice. Each prospective investor should consult with its own legal, business or tax adviser regarding an investment in the Notes.

This Prospectus is not intended to provide the basis of any credit or other evaluation and should not be considered as a recommendation by the Issuer or the Joint Lead Managers that any recipient of this Prospectus should purchase any of the Notes. Each investor contemplating purchasing Notes should make its own independent investigation of the financial condition and affairs, and its own appraisal of the creditworthiness, of the Issuer. Neither this Prospectus nor any other information supplied in connection with the Offering constitutes an offer or invitation by or on behalf of the Issuer or any of the Joint Lead Managers to subscribe for or purchase any Notes.

Neither the delivery of this Prospectus nor the offering, sale or delivery of the Notes shall in any circumstances imply that the information contained herein concerning the Issuer is correct at any time subsequent to the date hereof or that any other information supplied in connection with the Offering is correct as of any time subsequent to the date indicated in the document containing the same. The Joint Lead Managers expressly do not undertake to review the financial condition or affairs of the Issuer during the life of the Notes or to advise any investor in the Notes of any information coming to their attention.

Stabilisation

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUE OF THE NOTES, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK AS STABILIZATION MANAGER (THE "STABILIZATION MANAGER") (OR PERSONS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE STABILIZING MANAGER) MAY OVERALLOT NOTES OR EFFECT TRANSACTIONS WITH A VIEW TO SUPPORTING THE MARKET PRICE OF THE NOTES AT A LEVEL HIGHER THAN THAT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE PREVAIL. HOWEVER, STABILIZATION MAY NOT NECESSARILY

OCCUR. ANY STABILIZATION ACTION MAY BEGIN ON OR AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH ADEQUATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE TERMS OF THE OFFER OF THE NOTES IS MADE AND, IF BEGUN, MAY CEASE AT ANY TIME, BUT IT MUST END NO LATER THAN THE EARLIER OF 30 DAYS AFTER THE ISSUE DATE OF THE NOTES AND 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE ALLOTMENT OF THE NOTES. ANY STABILIZATION ACTION OR OVER ALLOTMENT SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY THE STABILIZATION MANAGER (OR PERSONS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE STABILIZATION MANAGER) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND RULES.

The Stabilization Manager has acknowledged that the Issuer has not authorized the issuance of more than €600,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of the New Notes.

MIFID II product governance / Professional investors and ECPs only target market

For the purpose of 2014/65/EU (as amended, “**MiFID II**”), the target market for the Notes is eligible counterparties and professional clients only, each as defined in MiFID II. Any person subsequently offering, selling or recommending the Notes (a “**distributor**”) should take into consideration such target market assessment; however, a distributor subject to MiFID II is responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Notes (by either adopting or refining the target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.

UK MIFIR PRODUCT GOVERNANCE / PROFESSIONAL INVESTORS AND ECPS ONLY TARGET MARKET

Solely for the purposes of each manufacturer’s product approval process, the target market assessment in respect of the Notes has led to the conclusion that: (i) the target market for the Notes is only eligible counterparties, as defined in the FCA Handbook Conduct of Business Sourcebook (“**COBS**”), and professional clients, as defined in Regulation (EU) No. 600/2014 as it forms part of domestic law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (“**UK MiFIR**”); and (ii) all channels for distribution of the Notes to eligible counterparties and professional clients are appropriate. Any distributor should take into consideration the manufacturers’ target market assessment; however, a distributor subject to the FCA Handbook Product Intervention and Product Governance Sourcebook (the “**UK MiFIR Product Governance Rules**”) is responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Notes (by either adopting or refining the manufacturers’ target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

Singapore SFA Product Classification: In connection with Section 309B of the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289) of Singapore, as modified or amended from time to time (the “**SFA**”) and the Securities and Futures (Capital Markets Products) Regulations 2018 of Singapore (the “**CMP Regulations 2018**”), the Issuer has determined, and hereby notifies all relevant persons (as defined in Section 309A(1) of the SFA), that the Notes are “prescribed capital markets products” (as defined in the CMP Regulations 2018) and Excluded Investment Products (as defined in Monetary Authority of Singapore (the “**MAS**”) Notice SFA 04-N12: Notice on the Sale of Investment Products and MAS Notice FAA-N16: Notice on Recommendations on Investment Products).

The Issuer is relying on an exemption from registration under the Securities Act. By purchasing the Notes, each purchaser will be deemed to have made the acknowledgements, representations, warranties and agreements described in “*United States Transfer Restrictions*” in this Prospectus. Each prospective investor should understand that it will be required to bear the financial risks of its investment.

Restriction on Distributions

This Prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy the Notes in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The distribution of this Prospectus and the offer or sale of Notes may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions.

The Issuer and the Joint Lead Managers do not represent that this document may be lawfully distributed, or that any Notes may be lawfully offered, in any such jurisdiction or assume any responsibility for facilitating any such

distribution or offering. In particular, no action has been taken by the Issuer or the Joint Lead Managers (save for the approval of this document as a prospectus by the CBI) which is intended to permit a public offering of any Notes or distribution of this document in any jurisdiction (including Côte d'Ivoire) where action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, no Notes may be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, and neither this Prospectus nor any advertisement or other offering material may be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with any applicable securities laws and regulations. Persons into whose possession this Prospectus or any Notes come must inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions.

The Notes have not been registered with, recommended by or approved or disapproved by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or any other federal or state securities commission in the United States nor has the SEC or any other federal or state securities commission in the United States confirmed the accuracy or determined the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offence in the United States. The Notes are subject to restrictions on transferability and resale and may not be transferred or resold except as permitted under applicable US federal and state securities laws pursuant to an exemption from registration. See “*United States Transfer Restrictions*”.

The Notes have not been registered with, recommended by or approved or disapproved by WAEMU nor has WAEMU confirmed the accuracy or determined the adequacy of this Prospectus.

This Prospectus is not for public distribution in the United States and is only being provided to a limited number of qualified institutional buyers for informational use solely in connection with the consideration of the purchase of the Notes. It may not be copied or reproduced in whole or in part nor may it be distributed or any of its contents disclosed to anyone other than the prospective investors to whom it is originally submitted.

This communication is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the “**Order**”) or (iii) high net worth companies, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as “**relevant persons**”). The Notes are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such Notes will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

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RISK FACTORS

Prospective investors should read the entire Prospectus. Investing in the Notes involves certain risks. The Issuer believes that the following factors may affect the Issuer's economy and its ability to fulfill its obligations under the Notes. In addition, factors which are material for the purpose of assessing the market risks associated with the Notes are also described below.

The Issuer believes that the factors described below represent the principal risks inherent in investing in the Notes, but the inability of the Issuer to pay principal, interest or other amounts on or in connection with any Notes may occur for other reasons and the Issuer does not represent that the statements below regarding the risks of holding the Notes comprise an exhaustive list of the risks inherent in investing in the Notes, and the Issuer may be unable to pay amounts due on the Notes for reasons not described below.

In this Prospectus, the most material risk factors have been presented at the beginning in each category. The order of presentation of the remaining risk factors in each category in this Prospectus is not intended to be an indication of the probability of their occurrence or of their potential effect on the Issuer's ability to fulfil its obligations under the Notes.

Prospective investors should also read the detailed information set out elsewhere in this Prospectus prior to making any investment decision.

Risks Relating to the Republic

Côte d'Ivoire's NDP growth outlook for the medium-term is conditioned upon the successful implementation of an extensive reform agenda and the mobilization of sufficient fiscal resources, external funding and private sector investments.

In order to consolidate its achievements under the 2012-2015 NDP, the Government adopted the 2016-2020 NDP on 9 December 2015 with the overall objective of making Côte d'Ivoire an emerging economy by 2020. See "*The Economy–National Development Plans*". At the outset, the financial resources required for the implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP investment programme were estimated at CFAF 30,000 billion over the 2016-2020 period, with funding expected to come from both public and private sources, including a public investment budget of CFAF 11,284 billion and the mobilisation of CFAF 18,716 billion in external and private financing. To mobilise its share of this funding, the Government pursued a comprehensive set of structural reforms with technical assistance from international partners, notably the IMF and the World Bank, to improve economic governance and encourage a greater contribution from the private sector. These reforms, which are still being pursued, included fiscal measures to improve revenue collection and public spending and to better control external and domestic indebtedness, such as the overhaul of the budgetary process, reforms of the tax system and of public procurement law and the restructuring of the electricity and of the public banking sectors. Among the problems resulting from undisciplined budgetary processes and controls before the country began to recover from the political and military crisis in 2011 were expenditures incurred outside the budgetary process and late payments to private sector suppliers. In addition, the Government needs to complete its economic and financial system reforms in order to continue improving the business and regulatory environment, diversifying the economy, extending banking sector penetration and facilitating access to credit so as to further promote and encourage participation of the domestic and international private sector in the NDP investment programme.

The implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP began in an international context characterised by a global growth slowdown, a fall in the prices of major raw materials and, in Côte d'Ivoire, low rainfall. This unfavourable context, intensified this year by the current Covid-19 pandemic, has impeded achievement of the macroeconomic growth and balance objectives originally envisaged in the 2016-2020 NDP. However, after four years of implementation, the Government's annual reports on the implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP reflect overall satisfactory macroeconomic performance. See "*The Economy–National Development Plans – Implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP*". To maintain and consolidate the country's economic growth trend while mitigating the current and anticipated impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government is currently preparing a new National Development Plan for the 2021-2025 period (the "**2021-2025 NDP**"). See "*– The Economy – 2021-2025 NDP*". While instrumental in coordinating and enhancing the Government's social

and economic development efforts, the NDPs remain, nevertheless, subject to a number of challenges. The economic and other assumptions underlying the objectives set forth in all NDPs are affected by a number of factors, including: uncertainties as to the pace of the structural reforms affecting the public sector; possible delays in the effective mobilisation of private sector and external financing, which could in turn negatively affect the implementation of investment projects and cause an increase of and greater reliance on public debt; and the time needed to eliminate remaining bottlenecks and inefficiencies (in respect of public spending, public infrastructure, business climate and subsidies to the electricity sector) resulting from the political and military crisis. Issues that may have adversely affected, and may continue to adversely affect, the implementation of previous, current and future NDPs also include project execution risks, such as financing gaps, delays or suspensions in scheduled fund disbursements from external sources related to donor oversight programs, changes in financial commitments, shortages in resources for management and project maintenance, either during or after completion, including in labour/or materials, and political or social resistance to policies required for project completion, which, if (and, as in certain cases, have) materialised, could slow development progress and lead to lower-than-expected growth. Furthermore, estimates presented in this Prospectus concerning the Government's progress in meeting its objectives under the 2016-2020 NDP are likely to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and may prove to be inaccurate and final results may not be known for some time after 2020 due to the time required to collect data and finalise results. See “— *Official Statistics published by Côte d'Ivoire may be more limited and less accurate than those produced by developed countries and, to the extent currently presented as estimates and forecasts, may be materially adjusted in the future once finalized.*” below. If Côte d'Ivoire fails to implement its structural and fiscal reforms successfully or to secure appropriate external and private sector funding in a timely manner to meet the objectives of its NDPs, this could result in an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economic performance and ability to service its indebtedness, including the Notes.

Worldwide economic effects of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic could adversely affect Côte d'Ivoire's economy.

The new strain of the covid-19 coronavirus (“**Covid-19**”) reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 has spread throughout the world, including in Côte d'Ivoire. On 10 March 2020, Côte d'Ivoire recorded the first case of Covid-19 on its territory. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic. As of the date of this Prospectus, Côte d'Ivoire reported 29,967 confirmed cases of Covid-19, including 28,186 patients who successfully recovered and 165 deaths. The Covid-19 pandemic is currently having an adverse impact on the global economy and in Côte d'Ivoire, the extent of the severity and duration of which is difficult to predict. See “— *The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*”.

To fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has implemented various social distancing and containment measures to prevent and combat the spread of Covid-19 and mitigate its economic and social impact. Those measures included declaring a state of emergency and establishing a curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., banning all international travel (with an exception for humanitarian aid purposes), prohibiting public gatherings of more than 50 people, closing schools, restaurants and recreational facilities, launching a vast disinfection operation in Abidjan, and imposing restrictions on public transportation and travel between regions in the country. Whilst the Government has gradually lifted those measures, it stands ready to reactivate them, including establishing gradual or selective lockdowns in any regions where a particular risk of a spread of Covid-19 would be identified. To prevent a second wave of contaminations and control the resurgence in the number of new confirmed Covid-19 cases, the Government has declared a new state of emergency throughout the national territory from 21 January to 28 February 2021 (unless extended). Moreover, the Government is participating in the COVAX initiative, which is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the WHO. The COVAX initiative aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of Covid-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access to such Covid-19 vaccines for every country in the world. As part of this initiative, the Government is expecting to receive 100,000 doses of the various approved Covid-19 vaccines by the end of February 2021 for the first phase of its vaccination campaign. The COVAX initiative will enable Côte d'Ivoire to ultimately acquire up to 10 million doses for the vaccination of five million people, representing 20% of the Ivoirian population. The Government will also benefit from the “Revolving Fund” (*Fonds Renouvelable*) launched by the Conference of the ECOWAS Heads of States and Governments on 23 January 2021, whose main purpose is to secure the availability of up to 240 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines for its member countries. See “*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Health*”. The direct and indirect impact of the Covid-19 pandemic remains highly uncertain. However, the health crisis is expected to adversely impact all sectors of Côte d'Ivoire's economy, and there can be no assurance as to when the

various sectors of the economy will return to pre-Covid-19 levels of activity. In addition, no prediction can be made as to the scope or the scale of the systemic changes to Côte d'Ivoire's economy that will result from the Covid-19 pandemic. More specifically, the Government cannot determine with certainty what impact the Covid-19 pandemic will have on key macro-economic indicators, including inflation, budget deficit, private consumption, private investment and FDIs, or on the Government's existing and future economic targets.

The Government announced various financial stimulus packages in anticipation of a significant negative impact on GDP during 2020. See "*The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*". Uncertainties remain as to whether these policy tools will be sufficient to counter the anticipated macro-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. A prolongation of the pandemic and/or delayed return to normality could adversely affect economic growth, and impact business operations in Côte d'Ivoire and/or its trading partners.

The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic poses a new risk to the fiscal position of Côte d'Ivoire and has already led to significant volatility in international financial markets, lower oil prices, reduced global liquidity and trade, lower activity in tourism, hospitality and export-related industries. For 2020, in order to meet major challenges and fund additional expenditures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government and the IMF agreed on a budget deficit of 5.9% of GDP. The budget deficit is expected at 4.6% of GDP for 2021; and is expected to converge towards the WAEMU community convergence criteria of 3% of GDP in 2023. The pandemic and its consequences have had, and could have further, material adverse impacts on the global economy and in particular the economic performance of the Euro area and ultimately adversely affect economic growth of Côte d'Ivoire. These developments could, in turn, adversely affect Côte d'Ivoire's ability to meet its obligations under any outstanding indebtedness, including the Notes.

Côte d'Ivoire's economy is dependent on its agriculture sector and in particular the cocoa sector which is highly vulnerable to global price volatility and to weather-related shocks.

Since the 1960s, Côte d'Ivoire's economic performance has been dominated by agriculture, in particular the cocoa sector. According to Government estimates, the weight of the primary sector in the country's nominal GDP, while decreasing in proportion, still represented an estimated 20.7% of the country's nominal GDP in 2019 (compared to 20.5% of nominal GDP in 2018), with coffee and cocoa, together, representing 41.3% of the value of exports (excluding exceptional goods, according to provisional data) and 9.9% of its tax revenue, and is projected at 20.8% of the country's nominal GDP in 2020 and 20.1% in 2021. As of the date of this Prospectus, Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer of cocoa and accounts for more than one third of global cocoa production, according to the World Cocoa Foundation. As such, the Government considers cocoa production as a key element of the country's economic strategy. The primary sector is also the principal employer of a large part of the population. Côte d'Ivoire's economy is thus vulnerable to challenges affecting the performance of its agriculture, and the cocoa sector in particular including global demand, pricing levels and competition.

Côte d'Ivoire's agriculture suffered severely from the 2002-2011 political and military crisis. This crisis resulted in the disruption of production cycles, the interruption of a number of development programs and projects, notably in the northern, central and western regions, the destruction of plantations and production facilities and the cancellation of agricultural research programs. A further result of the crisis was the significant displacement of people, which led to increased land ownership disputes, particularly in the coffee and cocoa producing areas, an issue that is being addressed by the Government through the adoption and implementation of various land reform initiatives commenced in 1998 to formalize customary land rights. In addition, for several years, the country's agriculture has suffered from inadequate management structures and inadequate funding and maintenance. These factors, individually or in aggregate, may continue to have a negative impact on Côte d'Ivoire's agricultural production and its economic performance. The Government, with the notable help of the World Bank, has engaged in a number of reforms designed to support the cocoa sector, by encouraging the domestic processing of cocoa, with approximately 30% of cocoa production being processed in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019 (aimed also at developing more value-added services and industry within the country), by enhancing transparency and efficiency through a more adequate taxation system and the creation of a single regulatory and stabilization structure in charge of all operations in the cocoa sector, and, as further discussed below, by ensuring higher remuneration levels for cocoa farmers through the application since 2 November 2011 of a farm-gate price equivalent to 60% of the CIF price (up from the previous level of 30%). In addition, the Government is implementing measures designed to support diversification of the agriculture sector through the development of other agricultural

products, such as rice, cotton, cashew nuts, bananas and palm oil. See “*The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy – Agriculture*”. If Côte d’Ivoire fails to successfully continue implementing its agenda on agricultural reforms outlined above, the Government may not be able to meet its economic growth objectives, which could result in a loss of competitiveness and lower economic growth.

In addition, agricultural production is dependent on weather conditions. In particular, cocoa trees and coffee plants are sensitive to changing weather conditions, which might be exacerbated by climate change, as well as also being exposed to the spread of disease, which necessitates their regular replacement with more resistant crop varieties. For example, parts of Côte d’Ivoire have seen an increase in swollen shoot disease which affects cocoa trees and has resulted in lost crops. The Coffee Cocoa Council (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) has indicated that up to 100,000 hectares of infected cocoa trees will need to be destroyed by 2022 to stem the spread of the disease. A period of low agricultural production, whether due to poor weather conditions such as drought or flood, or disease or other causes, may result in lower economic growth for the country than anticipated.

The economic performance of the agricultural sector is also dependent on international demand and commodity prices. For instance, cocoa and coffee prices have fluctuated significantly in the past and may fluctuate in the future. According to the International Cocoa Organization (“**ICCO**”), the ICCO daily price peaked in 2018 at US\$ 2,799 per ton on 1 May 2018 (compared to a peak of US\$ 2,262 per ton for 2017), and increased by 25% between 29 December 2017 and 31 December 2018 (after a decrease by 24% between 29 December 2016 and 29 December 2017). As of 25 January 2021, the ICCO daily price was US\$ 2,389.59 per ton. This volatility affects both the overall performance of the cocoa sector, with a 13.8% reduction in the country’s export earnings for 2018 (processed cocoa), and the earnings of the farmers. Volatility in the commodity prices for cocoa also impact cocoa production by affecting the purchase price paid to producers and there is no assurance that the fluctuations in commodity prices will continue to allow the high remuneration levels required to incentivize cocoa producers. As a result, the Coffee Cocoa Council (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) has taken several measures to support sector participants, including pre-financing arrangements for certain exporters and tax reductions designed to safeguard the price paid to producers. The Government has also set up a stabilization fund and a technical reserve fund to cover the risks arising from the price guarantee system for the producers in order to manage the volatility of cocoa prices, which in turn may put a strain on Côte d’Ivoire’s public finances if cocoa prices were to drop sharply and for a prolonged period. In July 2019, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana announced and subsequently implemented a mechanism providing that any buyer under an export contract shall have to pay, in addition to the market price, US\$ 400 per ton of cocoa, for the 2020-2021 campaign which opened in October 2020. This aims at achieving a sales price at no less than US\$ 2,600 per ton of cocoa, in order to ensure a minimal guaranteed farm gate price for domestic producers. Despite these measures, there can be no assurance that cocoa prices will return to their February 2014 highs (when prices first closed above US\$ 3,000 per metric ton) or will not further decrease from their current levels or that such efforts to protect the Ivorian economy and domestic producers against cocoa price volatility will be successful. Any decrease in the production, demand for or price in cocoa could have a material adverse effect on Côte d’Ivoire’s level of export earnings and, therefore, its ability to service the Notes.

Failure to continue growing the non-agricultural sectors of its economy may constrain Côte d’Ivoire’s economic growth.

Over the last few years, in order to reduce its dependence on the agricultural sector, Côte d’Ivoire has continued to develop the non-agricultural sectors of its economy by encouraging trade, construction, telecommunications, financial services, mining, oil and gas and manufacturing activities. Together, the secondary and tertiary sectors are estimated to have grown in real terms by an estimated 16.4% in 2019, 11.1% in 2018, 20.0% in 2017, and 18.2% in 2016, and are projected to grow by an estimated 3.4% in 2020 (as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic) and then 16.2% in 2021. The secondary and tertiary sectors represented 65.9% of nominal GDP in 2016, 66.7% of nominal GDP in 2017, 64.3% of nominal GDP in 2018 and 64.3% of nominal GDP in 2019 and are projected to represent 63.5% of nominal GDP in 2020 and 64.3% of nominal GDP in 2021. However, a slowdown in the efforts to address the remaining bottlenecks regarding infrastructure (including inadequate power and water supplies, transportation systems and transformation capabilities), reduced credit availability and consumer demand, local shortages of skilled managers and workers or inconsistent government policies may constrain development in these sectors and the current rate of growth may not be sustained in future periods.

If Côte d'Ivoire fails to continue to implement its reforms successfully and to grow the non-agricultural sectors of its economy, it may constrain Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth and thereby affect Côte d'Ivoire's ability to service the Notes.

Côte d'Ivoire's emerging economy status objective is contingent on continued improvement of the country's social cohesion and political stability.

While Côte d'Ivoire has emerged from its 2002-2011 political and military crisis, if it is to achieve the status of an emerging economy then continued improvements of the country's social cohesion and stability are required (see "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Political History*"). The implementation of the 2012-2015 NDP saw the restoration of peace, strengthening of social cohesion and strong economic growth, with an average real GDP growth rate of 9.2% from 2012 to 2015 according to the Government. The significant progress towards stabilizing the security and socio-political situation in the country led the United Nations Security Council in April 2014 to partially lift the arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire and to finally terminate sanctions imposed in 2005 on diamond imports from Côte d'Ivoire. The United Nations Security Council fully lifted the arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire in April 2016. On 30 June 2017, the ONUCI definitively completed its mandate and withdrew from Côte d'Ivoire. See "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Political History – Recent Political Developments*".

However, there remains an ongoing need for Côte d'Ivoire to pursue its efforts to strengthen political stability in order to fully eradicate the roots and the effects of the decade-long crisis that led to the partition of the country for close to five years, disrupted the strategic sectors of the economy and culminated in the post-election crisis of early 2011. Despite the progress made since 2012, the quality and effectiveness of the institutions of Côte d'Ivoire still need strengthening. For example, the political opposition exercises insufficient oversight over government activity and various political parties have unequal access to public funding and State media. Although the new Constitution was adopted with 93.42% of the vote on 30 October 2016, voter turnout was only 42.42% and several opposition parties demonstrated against the new Constitution. In the view of the Government, the new Constitution was designed to strengthen the Ivorian political framework notably through the creation of the office of Vice President, a second chamber of the Parliament (the "**Senate**"), which has been fully operational since 5 April 2018, and the Court of Auditors. However, despite improving national reconciliation, these important reforms did not appear to benefit from a wide support outside the coalition supporting the Government of President Ouattara. On 5 March 2020, President Ouattara announced various additional amendments to the 2016 Constitution. The draft reform was adopted by the two chambers of Parliament in a joint session held on 17 March 2020, and the law amending the Constitution was enacted on 19 March 2020. The reform is designed to reinforce the rule of law and bring the institutions closer to citizens through changes to the status of the Vice President, the legislative system and the organization of the judiciary. See "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Political History – Recent Political Developments*".

Tensions between the Government of President Alassane Ouattara and the main political opposition further intensified around the preparation and the organization of the presidential election which was held on 31 October 2020. The first cause of such tensions was the composition of, and recent reforms to, the Independent Electoral Commission ("**IEC**"), responsible for supervising elections in Côte d'Ivoire. The *Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire* ("**PDCI**") refused to sit on this commission which the PDCI did not view as being independent from the Government. The PDCI and other political formations brought a case before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, which requested the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to reform the IEC to address the political opposition's requests. These tensions were further heightened by the decision of President Ouattara to run as the presidential candidate for the *Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix* ("**RHDP**"). This decision was made following the death, on 8 July 2020, of Mr. Amadou Gon Coulibaly, then Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, who had been initially nominated as the presidential candidate for the RHDP following President Ouattara's declaration in March 2020 that he would no longer run for president. The main political opposition, led by Pascal Affi N'Guessan (FPI) and Henri Konan Bédié (PDCI), declared President Ouattara's candidacy for a third term as illegal and a violation of the Ivorian Constitution and called for civil disobedience and a boycott of the presidential elections. The electoral campaign and post-election period were marked by numerous protests and instances of violence that have resulted in a number of casualties, including, according to Government estimates, 87 deaths and nearly 500 people injured and 225 arrested, as well as significant property damage in several locations in the country. According to Government and other reports, 4,780 polling stations in opposition strongholds were ransacked on election day and election materials were burned by supporters of the opposition to prevent

the opening of polling stations. This resulted in only 17,601 polling stations being open out of 22,381. According to the results announced by the IEC on 3 November 2020 and confirmed by the Constitutional Council on 9 November 2020, President Alassane Ouattara won the election in the first round with 94.27% of the votes. The only other candidate who participated in the election, Mr Kouadio Kona Bertin, received 1.99% of the votes. While Pascal Affi N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bédié refused to participate in the election, they did not withdraw their candidacies and received 0.99% and 1.66% of the votes, respectively. The voter turnout rate was 53.90% compared to 52.86% in 2015. Pascal Affi N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bédié have refused to recognize the election. On 2 November, they both announced the creation of a so-called national transition council (*Conseil national de transition*) chaired by Henri Konan Bédié with the objective of organising a new presidential election. On 6 November 2020, the public prosecutor of Abidjan referred the matter to a senior investigating judge (*jugé d'instruction*) who opened a criminal investigation against various leaders of the opposition, including Pascal Affi N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bédié, for alleged acts of terrorism, attacks and conspiracies against the authority of the State, murder, organizing and participating in an insurrectional movement and other crimes. Henri Konan Bédié was put under house arrest on 6 November 2020 due to his age and physical condition. He was released on 11 November 2020. On 7 November 2020, Pascal Affi N'Guessan was arrested near the border between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. On 9 November 2020, following confirmation of the results of the election by the Constitutional Court, President Ouattara called for a political dialogue with the leaders of the opposition in the hope of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. On 11 November 2020, President Ouattara and Henri Konan Bédié met in Abidjan for the first time since the presidential election. During the brief joint press briefing after the meeting, President Ouattara and Mr. Bédié promised to hold more meetings and reaffirmed their commitment to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. On 16 November 2020, Mr Bédié, speaking on behalf of the opposition, demanded, as condition to a continued dialogue with the Government, the presence of a facilitator in any future meetings between the opposition and President Ouattara, the lifting of blockades around the residences of opposition leaders, and the unconditional release and cessation of all legal proceedings against all opposition leaders, including Pascal Affi N'Guessan. The various initiatives taken by the Government and the release of several opposition leaders who had been imprisoned, including Pascal Affi N'Guessan on 30 December 2020, and Maurice Kakou Guikahue on 19 January 2021, have helped ease political tensions and improve dialogue with the opposition. The opposition in response decided to participate in the legislative elections scheduled for 6 March 2021. The preparation of these elections is underway and the Government expects them to take place peacefully.

If Côte d'Ivoire fails to continue to promote sustainable cohesion and reconciliation through more inclusive growth, poverty reduction and stronger institutions or fails to maintain political stability, this may undermine the country's ability to fully realize its economic potential, which may have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's ability to perform its obligations under the Notes, attract foreign and private sector investments and may in turn result in lower economic growth than expected under the 2016-2020 NDP or any future programmes, including the 2021-2025 NDP which is being prepared by the Government.

Côte d'Ivoire continues to face internal security challenges, including in relation to the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

While the Government considers the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants that took part in the military conflict to be substantially complete, continued security concerns were illustrated by violent incidents sparked by the protests of 8,400 mutinous soldiers over a wage dispute, between 12 and 16 May 2017. See "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire –Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*". These 8,400 soldiers are the former members of the anti-Gbagbo *Forces Nouvelles* combatants who were integrated into the army pursuant to the Ouagadougou Political Agreements of 2007 in an effort to unify the army of Côte d'Ivoire and reconcile the Ivorian society. These mutineers had organized a first series of protests in January 2017 to demand a CFAF 12 million bonus payment per reintegrated soldier, which they claimed had been promised to them during the civil war against former President Laurent Gbagbo's supporters. The Government agreed to pay the bonus requested following the January protests and scheduled the payment for May 2017. The 12-16 May 2017 protests were organized by mutinous soldiers fearing that the bonus payment would not be made as scheduled following the statements of certain members of the mutinous soldiers although the final payments were made at the end of June 2017. According to the Government, the 12-16 May 2017 protests resulted in four known deaths and nine other casualties. Furthermore, on 23 May 2017, other former *Forces Nouvelles* combatants who were demobilized following the 2011 post-election crisis organized protests reportedly to demand the payment of a CFAF 18 million per demobilized ex-combatant. According to the Interior Ministry, five demobilized ex-combatants were killed and 14 were injured as a result of a confrontation with the police

in Bouaké. Demobilized ex-combatants are estimated at about 6,000 according to media reports, although the Government does not recognize this group or their claims and believes that the situation of demobilized combatants was adequately addressed through the DDR programme. See “*The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire –Defence and Security*”. These events suggest that, despite the efforts of the Government, the situation of the ex-combatants, whether reintegrated into the army or demobilized, remains sensitive and a potential source of insecurity and additional strains on the budget. Despite the end of the DDR, there is therefore a continued need for the Government to further consolidate the unity of the army.

The Government believes that the agreement found with the representatives of the 8,400 mutinous soldiers and the final bonus payment made in June 2017 for a total of CFAF 100.8 billion was an important step contributing to the resolution of the claims of the mutinous *Forces Nouvelles* combatants. In addition, the Government has made the improvement of living standards, the professionalization of the armed forces and the enhanced training of the military a priority and is committed to devoting appropriate budgetary resources to the modernization of its security and military forces. See “*The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire - Defence and Security*”.

Defence and security have been a priority for President Ouattara’s Government since he came to power in 2011. The initial 2021 budget has allocated CFAF 591.8 billion for defence, security and justice, including CFAF 351.4 billion for defence services, including the *gendarmerie*, and CFAF 171.0 billion for the police, in connection with the implementation of the Military Planning Act and the Domestic Security Planning Act enacted on 13 January 2016.

However, if the Government’s reintegration efforts are not successful or do not result in the level of social cohesion and security required for the successful implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP or any future programmes, this will have a negative effect on the Government’s ability to retain or attract sufficient FDI flows and private sector contribution to the growth of the economy, which may in turn affect the Government’s ability to honour its financial commitments to its creditors, including its obligations under the Notes.

These internal security issues are compounded by other threats, including the crises in some neighbouring countries like Mali, recurrent domestic or regional terrorist attacks (including in Burkina Faso in March 2018 and September 2019), the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the country, repatriating and reintegrating pro-Gbagbo refugees and preserving stability along the border with Liberia. According to the UNHCR, an estimated 250,000 Ivoirians fled to Liberia during the post-election crisis in 2011, where they took refuge in one of six refugee camps. By March 2014, all but approximately 46,000 had returned home and three of the camps had been closed down. In July 2014, nearly 38,000 Ivorian refugees living in Liberia were unable to return home after Côte d’Ivoire temporarily closed its borders with Liberia due to the Ebola outbreak. See “*–Côte d’Ivoire suffers from high levels of poverty and health risks.*” Repatriation from Liberia resumed December 2015. In January 2018, the repatriation programme was improved with an increase in the allowances granted to Ivorian refugees returning to Côte d’Ivoire (from CFAF 75,000 to CFAF 150,000 per adult, and from CFAF 50,000 to CFAF 75,000 per child). According to the UNHCR, a total of approximately 75,358 Ivoirian refugees returned home from 2011 to 31 May 2020. As of 31 May 2020, 7,999 Ivoirians were still refugees in Liberia according to UNHCR’s estimates. On 9 November 2020, the UNHCR reported that more than 8,000 Ivorian refugees (up from 3,200 on 3 November 2020) fleeing from the violence that erupted after the presidential election of 31 October 2020 had arrived in neighbouring countries, including Liberia, Ghana and Togo. Most of them are women and children from Côte d’Ivoire’s west and southwest regions fearing post-electoral violence. According to the UNHCR, as of 2 November 2020, 289 Ivorians returned to Côte d’Ivoire after calm had returned in their respective villages.

If security issues (both internal and external) are not adequately addressed or if the perception of security deteriorates, then this could affect social harmony and investor confidence in Côte d’Ivoire and have a material adverse effect on economic performance and the Government’s ability to service the Notes.

Côte d’Ivoire’s economy and security may be negatively affected by regional considerations

Côte d’Ivoire has a number of regional trading partners upon which its economy relies heavily. Côte d’Ivoire is an active member of the West African regional organizations, such as WAEMU and ECOWAS, which foster more economic integration among their member countries. For example, an important part of the activity of the ports of Côte d’Ivoire in Abidjan and San Pedro relates to goods traded by Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and Côte d’Ivoire exports electricity to a number of its neighbouring countries. In 2019, ECOWAS countries represented an estimated 17.5% of Côte d’Ivoire’s exports and an estimated 17.0% of its imports, with an estimated 13.3% of such imports coming from Nigeria. Political

instability, social unrest, epidemics and/or increased economic and financial fragility are common in the West African region and, among other factors, could result in a reduction in Côte d'Ivoire's exports to, and imports from, those countries or in regional contagion.

The West African region has also been subject to on-going political and security concerns. In particular, the ongoing conflict and political instability in Mali, a neighbour of Côte d'Ivoire and a significant trading partner, has been the subject of significant ECOWAS and international attention and intervention, and its impact and resolution are difficult to predict. Any further escalation of this conflict or a more aggressive stance by parties to the conflict could be a further destabilizing factor for the region. The perception of regional instability and insecurity caused by the ongoing Mali political instability has been exacerbated by the presence of Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria and the terrorist attacks by Daesh and Boko Haram and groups claiming affiliation with them in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger since 2015. In Côte d'Ivoire, on 13 March 2016, heavily armed assailants attacked three hotels at a beach resort in Grand-Bassam, located approximately 40 km east of Abidjan resulting in 19 deaths. On 11 June 2020, the Kafolo armed forces and gendarmerie joint outpost located in the Sikolo Sub-Prefecture at the border with Burkina Faso (north-east of Côte d'Ivoire) was attacked by a group of suspected terrorists, resulting in the death of 14 military personnel, with another 5 wounded. See "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire –Fight against Terrorism and Piracy*". These regional threats and fragility among Côte d'Ivoire's neighbours and partner countries could have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's growth prospects, which could affect its ability to meet its financial obligations generally and the Government's ability to service the Notes.

In particular, the outbreak of new terrorist attacks or activities in the country and/or in the region could further strain both Government finances and political stability in the country and in the region. These events could have a material adverse impact on the Ivorian economy, including declines in FDI and tourism flows or disruptions on Côte d'Ivoire's exports and imports to and from the partner countries involved. Any of the foregoing could also lead to the diversion of Government resources towards increased military and security spending, which may reduce overall economic growth and increase Côte d'Ivoire's budget deficit.

Failure to adequately address actual and perceived risks of corruption may adversely affect Côte d'Ivoire's economy and ability to attract foreign direct investment.

Although Côte d'Ivoire has implemented, and continues to pursue, initiatives to prevent and fight corruption and unlawful enrichment, there have been allegations and incidents of corruption and misuse of public funds in Côte d'Ivoire as is the case in other emerging markets. Côte d'Ivoire is ranked 104 out of 180 in Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index report published on 28 January 2021 (compared to 106 out of 180 in the 2019 edition), 110 out of 190 in the World Bank's "Doing Business 2020" report published on 24 October 2019 (compared to 122 out of 190 the previous year), 101 out of 186 in the 2020 Economic Freedom Index (compared to 78 out of 186 in 2019) and 18 out of 54 on the 2020 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (compared to 46 in 2010).

Since 2012, the Government has implemented various measures to fight corruption. In April 2012, Côte d'Ivoire adhered to the EITI to foster good governance and environmental sustainability in the extractive industry. In October 2012, it ratified the UNCAC and the UNTOC and, in November 2012, the African Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, which it had signed in 2004. Furthermore, the Government adopted two ordinances regarding the issue of corruption in September 2013. The first ordinance aims at improving the legal framework to prevent and fight corruption and the second ordinance established an independent High Authority for Good Governance, which is in charge of developing and implementing a national strategy to fight corruption. Also, on 5 June 2014, a new law on transparency in the management of public finances was passed in accordance with WAEMU rules and regulations. As of the date of this Prospectus, the new public procurement system is operational and the Government is committed to continuing to improve it by, in particular, implementing the CPMP throughout different ministries and putting the Integrated System for Public Procurement Management (*Système Intégré de Gestion des Marchés Publics*) online, to make transactions more accessible and accelerate their processing. See "*Public Finance - Transparency, Fight against Corruption and Public Procurement Framework*". The IMF Report 19/197 dated July 2019 further notes that the authorities are determined to improve governance and fight corruption, although efforts are required to align the framework with best practices, including by publishing the asset declarations that elected and government officials are required to file. The absence of an independent prosecutor under the authority of the President of the Republic can, however, limit the efficiency of this fight against corruption. While the Government has taken a number of measures aimed at mitigating the risks of

corruption, such as the launch of a National Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Plan (*Plan National de Bonne Gouvernance et de Lutte contre la Corruption*) which resulted in the creation of the High Authority for Good Governance (*Haute Autorité pour la Bonne Gouvernance*) and a Special Court in charge of preventing and fighting against corruption (*Cour spéciale de prévention et de lutte contre la corruption*), failure to continue to step up efforts to prevent or fight corruption in the public sector, or perceived risks of corruption in Côte d'Ivoire, could have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy and may have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's ability to attract and/or maintain foreign investment.

Unsustainable levels of indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy, its sovereign credit ratings and its ability to service its debt, including the Notes.

At the end of December 2019, Côte d'Ivoire's total outstanding external debt was estimated at approximately CFAF 8,867.5 billion (compared to CFAF 7,613.4 billion in 2018), representing 25.7% of estimated nominal GDP (compared to 23.7% in 2018). At the end of June 2020, outstanding external debt amounted to CFAF 10,065.6 billion. On 1 December 2020, Côte d'Ivoire concluded a liability management transaction financed in part by proceeds from the issuance of a €1,000,000,000 4.875 per cent. amortizing Eurobond due 2032. The transaction also allowed the Government to raise €460 million in new money to ensure the completion of resource mobilization for the year 2020. See “ – *Public Debt – Active – Debt Management*”. As a result of reaching the completion point under the IMF and World Bank enhanced initiative for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (“**HIPC**”) in June 2012, Côte d'Ivoire's external indebtedness was reduced to what the IMF and the World Bank viewed at the time as a sustainable level (45.1% of forecast nominal GDP) and the Government resumed regular debt service payments to all of its external creditors which had been suspended partially since 2009. See “*Public Debt – Multilateral Debt – Relationship with Creditors – Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative*”. Côte d'Ivoire is current and has met in a timely manner all payment obligations to all external creditors, including all holders of outstanding bonds.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the various containment and mitigation measures deployed by the Government have adversely impacted the economy and put significant pressure on Côte d'Ivoire's balance of payments and budget needs. See “*The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*”. To help Côte d'Ivoire meet urgent balance of payments needs and support its Covid-19 emergency measures, the IMF approved a disbursement of US\$886.2 million and the World Bank provided a financing of US\$75 million to Côte d'Ivoire. The AfDB also approved a financing of €75.0 million, and France and the AFD provided a €30.0 million financing to support Côte d'Ivoire's Covid-19 related measures and programmes. Moreover, to support the poorest countries in their Covid-19 containment measures and support their respective economies, the G20 member states and Paris Club creditors have offered to temporarily suspend debt service payments for all eligible countries that make such a request through a programme called the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (“**DSSI**”). On 10 June 2020, Côte d'Ivoire officially announced its participation in the DSSI and addressed official requests to its Paris Club and other important bilateral creditors. Côte d'Ivoire's request was approved by the representatives of the Paris Club creditor countries on 11 June 2020 and the appropriate documentation was negotiated with the relevant creditors. The amount of bilateral external debt service eligible for suspension under this initiative amounts to CFAF 38 billion, representing approximately 4.4% of external public debt service in 2020. On 14 October 2020, Paris Club members and the G20 agreed to extend the DSSI for a further six months, until 30 June 2021, for eligible countries that request such an extension. In January 2021, the Government requested and benefited from an extension of the DSSI for a further six months, until 30 June 2021. The amount of bilateral external debt service eligible for suspension under the extension of this initiative amounts to CFAF 121.8 billion, representing approximately 11.5% of external public debt service as of January 2021. See “*Public Debt – Multilateral Debt – Relationship with Creditors – G20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative*”. The Covid-19 pandemic will likely result in a significant increase in Côte d'Ivoire's level of indebtedness, which could in turn adversely impact its ability to service its debt, including the Notes. On 12 June 2020, following the official announcement of Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the G20 and Paris Club DSSI on 10 June 2020, Moody's placed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating under review for downgrade, noting that this decision reflects its assessment that the country's participation in the DSSI raises the risk that private sector creditors will incur losses, notwithstanding the Government's express confirmation, in a public communiqué dated 10 June 2020, of its commitment to continue to comply with all of its contractual obligations vis-a-vis private sector creditors and its current intention not to request DSSI-equivalent relief for such private sector creditors. On 7 August 2020, Moody's concluded its review and confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating, with a stable outlook. See “*Public Debt - Reducing the Country's Credit Risk*”.

The level of domestic indebtedness of Côte d'Ivoire represents a constraint for the management of public finances. At the end of December 2019, total outstanding domestic debt amounted to around CFAF 4,432.7 billion (12.9% of nominal GDP), as compared to CFAF 3,994.4 billion (12.4% of nominal GDP) at the end of December 2018. At the end of June 2020, outstanding domestic debt amounted to CFAF 5,099.8 billion. In parallel with the implementation of the HIPC initiative for its external debt, the Government undertook to negotiate arrears settlement plans with various holders of domestic debt and has now substantially completed this process. Côte d'Ivoire is up-to-date with its payment obligations to its domestic creditors. See "*Public Debt – Public Debt – Domestic Public Debt*".

Each year, the Government updates its SDMT covering the next five years based on an updated debt sustainability analysis in order to better control its indebtedness risk in light of the gradual increase of public debt related to the significant financing mobilized for the implementation of the NDP. See "*Public Debt– The SDMT and the DSA*".

However, the IMF considers that Côte d'Ivoire remains vulnerable to economic shocks and stresses the need for continued control of the level of indebtedness, strong fiscal management and structural reforms. The IMF's DSA qualifies the Côte d'Ivoire debt distress risk as moderate. While the IMF's end of mission press release no. 19/361 published on 1 October 2019 concluded that all performance criteria and all but one indicative targets for the end of June 2019 were met by Côte d'Ivoire, failure to continue to meet the conditions of the economic and sectorial programs agreed with the IMF and the World Bank may adversely affect Côte d'Ivoire's ability to make further drawings under the various facilities offered by these institutions and ultimately affect the Government's ability to service the Notes. Furthermore, the SDMT 2017-2021 helps to contain the average cost of the debt portfolio, reduce the risk of refinancing, limit exchange rate risks and improve the indebtedness rate over the long-term. The weighted average maturity of the total debt portfolio at the end of 2019 was eight years and eight months; that of external debt was ten years and nine months and that of the domestic debt four years and three months. The Government has identified recourse to Eurobond instruments with longer-term maturities as an efficient way to improve the weighted average maturity of the debt portfolio, but borrowings on the international financial markets may increase the exchange risk exposure. If the Government fails to successfully implement its debt strategy, debt levels could once again rise to an unsustainable level, which may negatively impact Côte d'Ivoire's sovereign credit ratings and its ability to service the Notes.

Failure to continue to adequately address Côte d'Ivoire's infrastructure deficiencies could adversely affect Côte d'Ivoire's economy and growth prospects.

A long period of underinvestment (largely caused by the political and military crisis between 2002 and 2011) resulted in significant deterioration of Côte d'Ivoire's public infrastructure, and the absence of basic infrastructure to support and sustain growth and economic development. Problems with power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, drinking and irrigation water infrastructure, health and educational systems, deteriorated tourist infrastructure, lack of roads and bridges, especially in rural areas, and a deteriorating road network, congested ports and airports and obsolete rail infrastructure have severely constrained socio-economic development in Côte d'Ivoire. Although significant progress has been made in many of these sectors and the telecommunications and internet facilities in recent years, the state of development in those sectors cannot be considered on a par with that in more developed economies. The Government has identified Côte d'Ivoire's infrastructure weaknesses as an impediment to economic growth and the 2016-2020 NDP includes ambitious targets for infrastructure improvements which would require significant investments, including through FDI inflows and local private sector investments. For instance, the Government increased the production capacity of the Azito thermal power plant in April 2015 (+140 MW) and commissioned the Soubré dam in May 2017. See "*The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy – Energy and Mining – Electricity*". On 28 February 2018, the Government adopted four decrees on projects declared as being in the public interest, three of which are related to highway modifications and the other is related to the construction of the fourth bridge in Abidjan between the municipality of Yopougon and Plateau. See "*The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy – Building and Public Works Sector*". In 2019, the Government also launched reforms in order to enhance maritime transportation and trade, with the construction of a multipurpose industrial terminal in the Autonomous Port of San Pedro. See "*The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy – Economic Infrastructure – River, lagoon and Maritime Transport*". Failure to continue to significantly improve Côte d'Ivoire's infrastructure or to attract investment and funds required for such improvements could adversely impact Côte d'Ivoire's economy, competitive ranking and growth prospects, including its ability to meet GDP growth targets and, accordingly, its ability to service the Notes.

Côte d'Ivoire's growth prospects are vulnerable to the performance of the power sector.

Despite important energy resources and being an exporter of energy to neighbouring countries, the lack of sufficient, affordable and reliable energy supply remains a serious impediment to Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth and development. Insufficient power generation, aging or insufficient infrastructure, inadequate funding, weak distribution networks and overloaded transformers result in high cost of electricity, frequent power outages, high transmission and distribution losses and poor voltage output. In addition, the power sector has experienced in the past, especially during the 2011 post-election crisis, a high level of illicit connections and other fraud which has resulted in losses for the sector. While the Government has adopted several measures to deal with these fraud issues, such as the development of electronic electricity meters or toughening of legal penalties, there is no assurance that the sector will not continue to experience fraud issues.

In the 2016-2020 NDP, the Government identified the improvement of electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure as a critical element in meeting economic growth and development objectives, and launched in 2013 a wide-ranging investment program of CFAF 5,300 billion to build new hydraulic and thermal power plants, and to improve the transmission network to reduce wastage. See "*The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy – Energy and Mining – Electricity*". The Government adopted a new electricity code in February 2014 allowing various segments of the electricity sector to open up to the private sector. The Government expects transmission and distribution lines to be operated by different private companies after calls for tender and the new code establishes a framework for the development of new and renewable energies, and includes provisions to combat electric power thefts and fraudulent connections to the grid. In 2012, actions related to the identification, securing and surveillance of customer counting and a better monitoring of streetlight meters were taken by the concessionaire, the CIE, to combat fraud in the country. These actions resulted in surplus earnings that reduced financial losses in the electricity sub-sector. However, despite the implementation of a number of measures since 2012, including the decision to invoice electricity exports to a number of neighbouring countries at a price close to marginal costs, the financial position of the energy sector is still under strain. Peaceful protests in April 2016 over increased electricity bills were followed by further demonstrations in July that turned violent, necessitating the intervention of security forces. A January 2019 Decree reduced the low voltage domestic social rate by 20%. Further protests related to cost-recovery efforts in the energy sector or concessions in response thereto could put additional pressure on the budget. The difficulties have been compounded by the fluctuations in international refining margins for petrol powered plants as well as changes in rainfall which negatively affect low cost hydropower generation. The Government intends to continue improving electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure through the 2021-2025 NDP.

Failure to adequately address the deficiencies in Côte d'Ivoire's power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure and adopt and apply a sustainable pricing policy could lead to lower GDP growth and affect Côte d'Ivoire's ability to obtain funding and to attract and maintain FDI, thereby hampering the development of its economy and its ability to service the Notes.

A significant portion of Côte d'Ivoire's economy is not recorded and the Government may not be able to realize the full extent of its potential tax revenues.

A significant portion of Côte d'Ivoire's economy, estimated at more than one third of total nominal GDP, is comprised of the informal, or shadow, economy. Although following the rebasing of the country's GDP in 2020 (see "*The Economy – Gross Domestic Product – GDP Rebasement Project*") the number of economic activities surveyed and computed as part of GDP figures increased, the presence of the informal sector in the economy remains substantial. In particular, informal economic activity is significant in agriculture, a key sector of Côte d'Ivoire's economy, as well as in the crafts industries. The informal economy is by definition not recorded and is not or is only partially taxed, resulting in a loss of potential revenue for the Government, ineffective regulation, unreliability of statistical information (including the understatement of GDP and the contribution to GDP of various sectors) and inability to monitor or otherwise regulate a large portion of the economy. Lack of effective regulation and enforcement in this respect also gives rise to other issues, including health and safety and employment issues. The Government is attempting to address the challenges posed by the informal economy by streamlining certain laws and regulations, particularly in the area of taxation where it is working to facilitate compliance with tax payment obligations through the implementation of online reporting and payment means, and by improving its statistical apparatus with technical assistance from the IMF. However, there can be no assurance that such

reforms will adequately address the issues and bring the informal economy into the formal sector in the short term. The Government has also initiated important structural reforms to strengthen revenue administration and public financial management, and to contain the public wage bill, which is currently above the WAEMU convergence criterion. The wage bill/tax revenue ratio, is thus expected to drop from 42.2% in 2020 to 38.2% in 2021. See “ – *Public Finance – Fiscal Policy and Administrative Reforms*” and “ – *The Medium-Term Payroll Control Strategy*”. While the Government is committed to further improve public financial management and domestic revenue mobilization, there can be no assurance that such reforms will successfully address the issues and help free up the fiscal space needed to achieve its development priorities.

Côte d’Ivoire may face a lack of continued access to foreign direct investment.

Achieving the NDP’s growth objective is conditional upon the levels and pace of foreign direct investment. Côte d’Ivoire’s total FDI, which comprises equity capital and other capital inflows, increased from CFAF 283.8 billion in 2015 to CFAF 325.5 billion in 2016, and, after decreasing to CFAF 173.6 billion in 2017, started increasing again, to CFAF 264.2 billion in 2018, and to an estimated amount of CFAF 360.0 billion in 2019 due to sustained investments from European countries, including France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. According to the UNCTAD World Investment Report 2020 (the “**2020 Report**”), after decreasing between 2015 and 2017, from US\$ 57.6 billion in 2015 to US\$ 41.5 billion in 2017, FDI inflows to Africa increased between 2017 and 2018, reaching US\$ 50.6 billion in 2018. In 2019, however, FDI inflows to Africa decreased by 10.3% compared to 2018, reaching US\$ 45.4 billion. According to the 2020 Report, FDI inflows to Côte d’Ivoire were US\$ 975 million in 2017 and US\$ 620 million in 2018 (although Government data shows an increase in FDI inflows between 2017 and 2018), followed by an increase to US\$ 1 billion in 2019. For comparison purposes, in 2018 and 2019, respectively, FDI inflows amounted to almost US\$ 3 billion and US\$ 2.3 billion in Ghana, US\$ 6.4 billion and US\$ 3.3 billion in Nigeria, US\$ 3.3 billion and US\$ 2.5 billion in Ethiopia, and US\$ 2.7 billion and US\$ 2.2 billion in Mozambique. Following the decrease in 2019, the 2020 Report shows that inflows to Africa are expected to fall by 25% to 40% on average, such negative trend being exacerbated by low commodity prices. In the absence of a decrease in the perceived risks associated with investing in Côte d’Ivoire, including those described in this Prospectus, FDI may continue to remain weak, which could adversely affect Côte d’Ivoire’s economy and limit sources of funding for infrastructure and other projects which are dependent on significant investment from the private sector. This could, in particular, have an adverse effect on the implementation of the NDP objectives. If existing levels of FDI continue to decrease, this would significantly impede the progress of sectors important to Côte d’Ivoire’s economic growth such as the infrastructure, natural resources, financial and energy sectors.

Côte d’Ivoire suffers from high levels of poverty and health risks.

The combined effect of low economic growth during the past decade and the political and military crisis between 2002 and 2011 resulted in a long period of economic stagnation which had a severe social impact. Real income per capita in 2011 was only about 57% of its peak 1978 level. Côte d’Ivoire’s ranking in the 2019 UNDP HDI, a composite measure of life expectancy, education, and income, was 165 out of 189. In the view of the IMF, while the socio-political situation has improved substantially since the end of the post-electoral crisis, serious challenges remain, including in the education and health sectors and in meeting expectations of improved living standards. For instance, the Ivorian educational system faces social problems that hinder the schooling of vulnerable students, particularly the incidence of early pregnancy among young women, child labour and inequalities in access to educational facilities.

According to the IMF Report 18/182, overall unemployment in Côte d’Ivoire was approximately 5.6% in 2017, with underemployment impacting 27% of the population. However, the quality of information with respect to unemployment rates is limited by the lack of tools for the collection of statistical data in Côte d’Ivoire. In addition, the public sector, in particular the health and education sector, having suffered from wage restraints and payment arrears for several years, already experienced work stoppages. While the Government has increased salaries in the civil service in 2014, which resulted in a decrease in work stoppages, the country may experience further significant work stoppages in the future, as in 2018 in the education sector, which may have adverse effects on the Ivorian economy

Côte d’Ivoire faces health risks that are compounded by the high level of poverty among the more vulnerable groups. For instance, according to the WHO’s World Malaria Report 2018, Côte d’Ivoire is still very exposed to malaria, with 3,133 reported deaths in 2018 caused by malaria (compared to 1,023 in 2010). The Ivorian public health situation is also

characterized by a high HIV/AIDS related mortality rate. AIDS is the leading cause of mortality among adult men (16,000 AIDS-related death in 2018 according to UNAIDS' estimates, representing a 34% decrease as compared to 2010) and the second among women (5,300 AIDS-related death in 2018 according to UNAIDS' estimates), after pregnancy-related problems and child birth. No assurance can be given that the high incidence rate of malaria, HIV/AIDS or other diseases in Côte d'Ivoire, will not affect Côte d'Ivoire's economic performance. In particular, the current Covid-19 pandemic (which has resulted in, as of the date of this Prospectus, 29,967 confirmed cases of coronavirus, including 28,186 patients who successfully recovered and 165 deaths as reported by the Government) is expected to increase the level of unemployment in Côte d'Ivoire. According to preliminary assessments, the Government estimates that more than 20,000 employees in the formal sector and more than 1.3 million employees in the informal sector have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In March 2014, an Ebola virus epidemic was confirmed close to the border between Guinea and Liberia. After an alert launched by the WHO asking to reinforce the monitoring of illnesses akin to a viral haemorrhagic fever, the neighbouring countries of Guinea and Liberia, including Côte d'Ivoire, implemented safety measures along their land borders and inside their territories in order to protect people at risk and to prevent virus propagation. The end of the epidemic outbreak was declared on 29 March 2016 by the WHO and Côte d'Ivoire reopened its borders with Guinea and Liberia in September 2016. While there has been no reported case of Ebola infection in Côte d'Ivoire to date, the country remains at risk given its borders with countries with potentially lower public health standards and may have to dedicate significant resources to protect itself from epidemics. For example, according to a WHO report, one case of dengue fever was identified in Abidjan in April 2017 and the Government has been taking strong measures to prevent the spread of the virus. In February 2018, the Government adopted preventive measures against an outbreak of Lassa fever, a haemorrhagic fever like Ebola, that killed more than 30 people in northern Nigeria in the first quarter of 2018. On 10 March 2020, Côte d'Ivoire recorded the first case of Covid-19 on its territory. See *"The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Health"*.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has implemented a number of measures attempting to reduce poverty and unemployment which it expects to pursue. Consistent with the objective of the NDP to reduce the level of poverty in Côte d'Ivoire, the Government decided to increase "pro-poor" spending from approximately 9.0% of nominal GDP in 2015, to approximately 9.3% in 2016 (including multilateral financing in particular by the World Bank and the BOAD). Such spending reached CFAF 2,361.4 billion in 2018 compared to CFAF 1,080.3 billion in 2012, and covers various areas of social life. The level of pro-poor spending reached CFAF 2,550.58 billion in 2019, an increase of 6.1% compared to 2018. For 2020, the Government allocated CFAF 2,754.9 billion to pro-poor expenditure in its initial 2020 budget. For 2021, the Government has allocated CFAF 2,863.8 billion to pro-poor expenditure in its initial 2021 budget, an increase of 4.0% compared to 2020. However, if the Government fails to successfully implement its reforms and to significantly reduce poverty and unemployment in the short- to medium-term, this may create a risk of political and social instability and have adverse effects on the Ivorian economy and on Côte d'Ivoire's ability to service the Notes.

Côte d'Ivoire's membership in the BCEAO may affect its ability to react to stresses on its economy and may subject it to economic policies that are not in its best interests.

As a member of a monetary union, Côte d'Ivoire has no independent monetary and exchange rate policies. The country must rely on its own budgetary policy (including wage policy) and structural policies to make its economy more competitive and more resilient to external shocks. The BCEAO sets interest rates and monetary and banking policies for all of the member states of the WAEMU to protect the union from fluctuations in the global market and pegs the CFAF to the Euro. As a result, the BCEAO makes interest rate policy decisions on the basis of union-wide considerations and the best interests of the WAEMU as a whole, and is unable to make jurisdiction-specific decisions other than the amendment to national reserve requirements, although domestic economic situations might differ. While the weight of the Ivorian economy, estimated to account for nearly 40% of the GDP of the WAEMU, remains a fact relevant to the BCEAO's decision-making, BCEAO membership nevertheless means that Côte d'Ivoire is unable to unilaterally carry out monetary policy initiatives such as amending its exchange rate, interest rate or the reserve requirement rate, currently set at 50%, and requires the BCEAO to do so across the union. See *"Monetary System – The Franc Zone and the BCEAO"*. In the event that it is in the interests of Côte d'Ivoire to amend the interest rates upwards or downwards in order to stabilize its economy, for example to combat inflation, then it may be unable to do so in a timely manner, or at all. This situation may have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy and on its ability to service the Notes. Côte d'Ivoire's

membership of the BCEAO also means that it may be adversely affected by events in other member states, more severely than would otherwise be the case. This exposure to circumstances in other member states that are out of its control may adversely affect the position of Côte d'Ivoire's economy and Côte d'Ivoire's ability to service the Notes.

Any adjustment to, or ending of, the CFAF's currency peg could negatively affect Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire shares a common currency with the other WAEMU member States, the CFAF (or XOF), within the scope of a longstanding monetary cooperation between France and the WAEMU member States. This cooperation provides, among other things, for a guarantee by the French Treasury of unlimited convertibility of the CFAF and a fixed peg. In exchange for this convertibility guarantee, the BCEAO has the obligation to deposit at least 50% of its currency reserves on an operational account with the French Treasury and to have a representative of the *Banque de France* sitting on the governing body of the BCEAO. The peg of the XOF to the French franc was replaced by a peg to the Euro as from 1 January 1999 at a fixed exchange rate of: 1 Euro = XOF 655.957.

In response to a longstanding demand by anti-CFAF opponents and activists across the region accusing the CFAF of being a symbol of the colonial past, French President Emmanuel Macron and President Alassane Ouattara (on behalf of the WAEMU member States) announced on 21 December 2019 a reform of the monetary cooperation system between France and the WAEMU, including changing the name of the CFAF to the "ECO" in 2020, the end of the requirement that the BCEAO keep 50% of its foreign currency reserves in the French Treasury, and the withdrawal of French representatives from the WAEMU's governing bodies. Nevertheless, under the proposed reform, the guarantee of the ECO's convertibility and the fixed exchange rate against the Euro by France will be maintained in order to consolidate macroeconomic stability and economic growth. The implementation of the CFAF reform has been delayed to a later unspecified date after being initially scheduled for 2020. In order to fully implement the CFAF Reform, the current monetary agreements will need to be abrogated and replaced. Moreover, the withdrawal of France from monetary bodies implies changing the rules governing these monetary bodies. While the French Government adopted a draft law approving the CFAF reform on 20 May 2020, a clear timeline for the passing of the law and the implementation of the changes has not yet been made public. See "*Monetary System – The ECOWAS Single Currency Project and the CFAF Reform*".

Although there are no current difficulties affecting the monetary cooperation between France and the WAEMU member States, there is no assurance that the French Treasury and the WAEMU member States will be able or willing to continue to maintain the peg or France's unlimited guarantee of convertibility under the CFAF reform, especially in the broader context of the parallel development of the ECOWAS single currency. For example, the French Treasury's support of the CFAF peg arrangement could be altered or abandoned due to changing political, economic, financial and/or other developments in France or in the Euro area or as part of the implementation of the ECOWAS common currency (also to be called "ECO"). A change or abandonment of France's commitment to the convertibility of the CFAF or an abandonment of the Euro by France or possibly a very significant appreciation of the Euro would create uncertainty for the future of the exchange rate arrangement, its ability to support macroeconomic stability, and its status as a credit support. If a stable exchange rate or the peg to the Euro cannot be maintained, this could reduce confidence in Côte d'Ivoire's economy, reduce foreign direct investment and adversely affect Côte d'Ivoire's finances and economy.

In addition, because of the peg to the Euro, Côte d'Ivoire does not have any flexibility to devalue the CFAF to stimulate Côte d'Ivoire's exports, and the BCEAO's ability to independently manage interest rates is constrained. Furthermore, Côte d'Ivoire does not control the BCEAO, which is a common institution that has regard to the interests of the WAEMU as a whole and not those of any particular member state. See "*- Côte d'Ivoire's membership in the BCEAO may affect its ability to react to stresses on its economy and may subject it to economic policies that are not in its best interests*". This lack of flexibility could have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's foreign trade and, in turn, on its economy.

Furthermore, the CFAF peg to the Euro could be subject to devaluation risk under certain macroeconomic conditions. A structural propensity towards a positive inflation differential between the CFAF zone and the euro area could lead to real exchange rate appreciation for the CFAF. If WAEMU member countries collectively agree that devaluation would be an appropriate measure to address real effective exchange appreciation in order to enhance competitiveness, boost exports, and support growth for the region (similar to the 50% devaluation in 1994), then the potential effect could put pressure on Côte d'Ivoire's ability to make repayments on foreign-currency denominated debt. Côte d'Ivoire has a significant amount of debt denominated in foreign currencies, including the US Dollar and the Euro. Any negative variation of the

peg would increase the burden of servicing and repaying this debt, which could also increase Côte d'Ivoire's risk of debt distress. See “—*Unsustainable levels of indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy, its sovereign credit ratings and its ability to service its debt, including the Notes*” above.

Changes to the fixed exchange rate could affect the Notes.

Côte d'Ivoire, along with other countries that currently participate in the BCEAO, maintains a fixed exchange rate of CFAF 655.957/€1. If domestic or international circumstances were to force Côte d'Ivoire to abandon its fixed exchange rate policy in the future, the cost of servicing Côte d'Ivoire's external debt (including the Notes) could escalate sharply, which could have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy and its ability to service the Notes. In addition, while it may increase the competitiveness of Côte d'Ivoire's exports, a depreciation of the Euro relative to the US dollar may increase the cost of Côte d'Ivoire's imports, which may have an adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy.

Failure to continue to restructure and enhance the banking and financial sector may constrain Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth.

As of 31 December 2019, five credit institutions are under close supervision by the WAEMU Banking Commission, due to failure to comply with banking and/or prudential regulations. Of these five banks, three are State-controlled, one was majority-owned by the State and has now been privatized and one is a private bank. In October 2018, the BCEAO withdrew the license of one bank that had previously been under close supervision for noncompliance with prudential norms. A restructuring process is underway for the three State-controlled banks under close supervision, the CNCE, known as *Banque Populaire de Côte d'Ivoire* (the “**BPCI**”) since November 2019, the BNI and the Versus Bank. The privatization process of *Banque de l'Habitat de Côte d'Ivoire* (the “**BHCI**”), previously completed in 2018 was retroactively terminated on 13 November 2019 due to the buyer's failure to fulfil its commitments. As part of the implementation of the PDESFI, the Government has defined a strategy to build an attractive and reliable financial sector capable of responding to the growing financing needs of the economy. See “*Monetary System — Banking System — Compliance with Prudential Regulations*”. If the Government of Côte d'Ivoire fails to effectively carry out this action plan in a timely manner, it may have a material adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy and its ability to service the Notes.

The review of the performance of the Ivorian banking sector has revealed a number of violations of prudential regulations in recent years. In 2018, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans issued by the banking sector decreased to 9.2%, following the rise recorded between 2016 (9.0%) and 2017 (9.8%), which was the first significant increase in several years. According to provisional data, this rate was 8.4% in 2019. See “*Monetary System – Banking System – Compliance with Prudential Regulations*”. Although the risk of noncompliance with prudential regulations may be enhanced by the implementation of the Basel II and Basel III standards in the WAEMU region, which has been effective since 1 January 2018, the amount of violations of the prudential regulations continued to decrease (31 as of 31 December 2019, compared to 36 and 38 at the same date in 2018 and 2017, respectively). However, these revised standards provide for increased ratio requirements, which may have a negative effect on the banking sector's lending capacity and result in a reduction of the supply credit available to the private sector businesses, thus undermining the Government's objective to strengthen the private sector's contribution to the financing of the 2016-2020 NDP.

In addition, according to the IMF, Côte d'Ivoire's banking sector is shallow, dominated by foreign banks and requires substantial reforms to provide the level of credit and access to financial services needed for achieving the country's growth and poverty reduction objectives. While the ratio of loans to private sector/GDP increased from 19.74% in December 2014 to 29.4% in December 2018, this ratio decreased to 28.7% at the end of 2019. Besides, according to BCEAO estimates, an analysis of the structure of loans reported to the BCEAO's risk department revealed that the tertiary sector remains the principal beneficiary of bank financing and the primary sector remains the least financed, benefitting from only 6.2% of bank loans. See “*Monetary System – Banking System – Financing of the Economy*”. Access to long-term credit is also very limited. The economic and financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are also expected to have an adverse impact on the WAEMU's banking system, including an increase in non-performing loans, and further limiting access to long-term credit. The BCEAO has noted a deterioration in the quality of banks' loan portfolios due to non-performing loans as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the BCEAO, as of 30 June 2020, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans issued by the banking sector represented 9.1% of the banks' loan portfolio in Côte

d'Ivoire, compared to 8.4% as of 31 December 2019. The average ratio of non-performing loans in the WAEMU area was 11.1% as of 30 June 2020. However, the BCEAO expects this situation to gradually improve as a result of the various measures implemented to support the WAEMU banking system and the member States. See "*Monetary System – Monetary Policy*". If the Government of Côte d'Ivoire fails to implement its strategy vis-à-vis the financial sector, this may have a material adverse effect on the contribution of the local private sector to Côte d'Ivoire's economy and Côte d'Ivoire's ability to service the Notes.

Côte d'Ivoire's natural resources are increasingly under pressure and Côte d'Ivoire faces challenges to sustainable environmental policy.

Côte d'Ivoire has a significant agriculture sector and its large rural population depends on natural resources as a basis for farming, energy production and housing. These natural resources are being put under increasing pressure due to deforestation and soil exhaustion resulting from intensive farming and non-sustainable farming practices, as well as erosion and natural hazards. The effects of climate change on the cocoa and coffee plants could impact the quality and volume of the production as well as its seasonality. The forest area of the country has decreased by around 70% over the past 50 years. Environmental degradation in Côte d'Ivoire has been exacerbated by the long military conflict and population displacement. According to the World Bank, Côte d'Ivoire's population is expected to grow at an annual rate of around 2.4% from 2014 onwards (the rate was 2.54% in 2019 according to the latest available data), putting further pressure on its available natural resources. The expected growth of the mining sector in the coming years may also increase pressure on acquiring and/or developing agricultural land as well as the risk of environmental hazards as a result of processes and chemicals used in the extraction and production methods. This risk can also emanate from mining operations in neighbouring countries, as illustrated by the chemical pollution affecting the Bia river as a result of clandestine gold washing activities, which is the subject of talks between the Ivorian and the Ghanaian authorities aimed at finding a solution to this issue. In addition, the environment in Ivorian cities, including the Abidjan lagoons, has deteriorated as a result of industrial and domestic effluent wastes without prior treatment. It is further affected by the lack of an adequate wastewater system, with the poor areas in the cities hardly benefitting from any wastewater equipment. These issues are compounded by the rapid growth of the urban population, which now represents more than half of the total population of Côte d'Ivoire, which is expected to continue as the country transforms its economy. See "*The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy – Environment*".

The Government has made a strong commitment towards "greening the economy" by creating legal frameworks, bolstering institutional support for the conservation of the environment and participating in international initiatives, but there can be no guarantee that these policies will be effective and severe environmental pressure will not continue. In addition, addressing the effects of environmental degradation may entail significant costs for Côte d'Ivoire's public finances. If natural resources deteriorate, or if any of the environmental policies are not properly implemented or fail to meet the population growth rate, this could have an adverse effect on the agricultural sector (including rice production as a staple diet), food security, public health and the general performance of the economy.

Official statistics published by Côte d'Ivoire may be more limited and less accurate than those produced by developed countries and, to the extent currently presented as estimates and forecasts, may be materially adjusted in the future once finalized.

Statistical data appearing in this Prospectus has, unless otherwise stated, been obtained from Government sources and documents. Different departments of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire prepare statistics relating to various aspects of the Ivorian economy. Côte d'Ivoire adheres to the IMF's General Data Dissemination Standards and publishes key official data and statistics and ultimately intends to adopt the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards. However, Côte d'Ivoire has not yet completed the infrastructure for generating all the relevant data and the recent civil conflict has meant that such data are not available for certain parts of the economy. Accordingly, Côte d'Ivoire's official data and statistics are not as accurate and are more limited in scope and published less frequently than is the case for more advanced countries such that adequate monitoring of key fiscal and economic indicators may be difficult. As it is the case for many emerging economies, the relative size of the informal sector combined with the rapid growth of the economy and the continuous improvement of the statistical tools of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire may result in figures cited in this Prospectus becoming outdated relatively quickly. In addition, the statistics prepared by some governmental departments may not be fully consistent with similar statistics prepared by other departments and the presentation of statistical data

may vary from period to period due to the application of different methodologies and processes for validating and finalizing such data. See “– *Presentation of Economic and Other Information*”. Since some of the figures included in this Prospectus for the years 2019, 2020 and beyond remain in provisional, estimated or forecast form, no assurance can be given that, upon being validated and finalized in accordance with the relevant methodologies, such figures will not be subjected to material adjustments. See also “– *Worldwide economic effects of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic could adversely affect Côte d’Ivoire’s economy*” above.

Investing in Notes of emerging market issuers such as Côte d’Ivoire involves a higher degree of risk than more developed markets.

Investing in securities of emerging market issuers, such as Côte d’Ivoire, generally involves a higher degree of risk than investments in securities of corporate or sovereign issuers from more developed countries. These risks include the possibility of economic, political or social instability that may be caused by many different factors, including, in the case of Côte d’Ivoire, declines in the price of primary commodity exports such as cocoa, coffee and gold, failure of the Government to implement or maintain the pace of political, fiscal, economic and social reforms, changes in governmental economic, tax or other policies, inflation and financial crises in other emerging market countries that could have an adverse effect on investor appetite for emerging market debt securities generally. In addition, political, civil or financial instability in Côte d’Ivoire, its neighbours or elsewhere in West Africa may have an adverse impact on Côte d’Ivoire’s economy.

Emerging markets may also experience a greater degree of corruption of government officials, misuse of public funds and administrative errors or delays (in payment or otherwise) than more mature markets. This could affect the ability of the Government to meet its obligations under the Notes. Any of the factors above, as well as the volatility in the markets for debt securities similar to the Notes, may adversely affect the liquidity of, and the trading market for, the Notes.

Risk Factors Relating to the Notes and the Trading Market for the Notes

Economic distress in any emerging market country may adversely affect prices of securities and the level of investment in other emerging market issuers as investors move their money to more stable, developed markets. Financial problems or an increase in the perceived risks associated with investing in emerging market economies could dampen foreign investment in Côte d’Ivoire, adversely affect Côte d’Ivoire’s economy or adversely affect the trading price of the Notes. Even if Côte d’Ivoire’s economy remains relatively stable, economic distress in other emerging market countries could adversely affect the trading price of the Notes and the availability of foreign funding sources for the Government. Adverse developments in other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, may have a negative impact on Côte d’Ivoire if investors perceive risk that such developments will adversely affect Côte d’Ivoire or that similar adverse developments may occur in Côte d’Ivoire. Risks associated with sub-Saharan Africa include political uncertainty, civil unrest and conflict, corruption, the outbreak of diseases and poor infrastructure. Investors’ perceptions of certain risks may be compounded by incomplete, unreliable or unavailable economic and statistical data on Côte d’Ivoire, including elements of the information provided in this Prospectus. See “– *Official statistics published by Côte d’Ivoire may be more limited and less accurate than those produced by developed countries and, to the extent currently presented as estimates and forecasts, may be materially adjusted in the future once finalized.*”

An active trading market for the Notes may not develop and any trading market that does develop may be volatile.

Although an application has been made to list the Notes on Euronext Dublin and to admit the Notes to trading on the regulated market of Euronext Dublin, there is no assurance that such application will be accepted or that, an active trading market for the Notes will develop or, if one does develop, that events in Côte d’Ivoire, in Africa or elsewhere will not cause market volatility or that such volatility will not adversely affect the liquidity or the price of the Notes or that economic and market conditions will not have any other adverse effect. If an active trading market for the Notes does not develop or is not maintained, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected.

The market for the Notes issued is influenced by economic, political and market conditions in Côte d’Ivoire and, to varying degrees, interest rates, currency exchange rates and inflation rates in other countries, such as the United States, European Union (“EU”) member states and elsewhere. If the Notes are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount to their offering price, depending upon prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, general

economic and political conditions and the financial condition of Côte d'Ivoire. As a result of the above factors, investors may not be able to sell their Notes easily or at prices that will provide them with a yield comparable to similar investments that have a developed secondary market.

Change in market value of the Notes which are fixed rate securities.

The Notes pay a fixed rate of interest to Noteholders (see Condition 5 (Interest)). Investors in the Notes are therefore exposed to the risk that changes in interest rates in the capital markets may adversely affect the market value of the Notes. Generally, prices of fixed interest rate securities tend to fall when market interest rates rise and accordingly are subject to volatility. Therefore, the price of the Notes at any particular time may be lower than the purchase price for the Notes paid by the Noteholder. As a consequence, part of the capital invested by the Noteholder may be lost upon any transfer of the Notes, so that the Noteholder in such case would not receive the total amount of the capital invested.

The terms and conditions of the Notes contain provisions which may permit their modification without the consent of all investors.

The terms and conditions of the Notes contain provisions for calling meetings of Noteholders to consider matters affecting their interests generally. Such provisions are commonly referred to as "collective action clauses". These provisions permit defined majorities to bind all Noteholders including Noteholders who did not attend and vote at the relevant meeting and Noteholders who voted in a manner contrary to the majority.

In addition, the terms and conditions of the Notes permit "cross-series modifications" to be made to more than one series of debt securities, provided that each affected series of debt securities also contains a cross-series modification provision. Under certain circumstances, including the satisfaction of the Uniformly Applicable condition (as more particularly described in the terms and conditions of the Notes), such cross-series modification may be made to more than one series of debt securities with the approval of the applicable percentage of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series and without requiring the approval of a particular percentage of the holders of any individual affected series of debt securities.

There is therefore a risk that the terms and conditions of the Notes may be modified in circumstances where the holders of debt securities approving the modification may be holders of different series of debt securities and the majority of Noteholders would not necessarily have approved such modification. In addition, there is a risk that the provisions allowing for aggregation across multiple series of debt securities may make the Notes less attractive to purchasers in the secondary market and adversely affect the market value of the Notes in circumstances where such modification or a proposal for such modification is expected to be made by the Issuer.

The Notes have amortizing redemption features.

The Notes are amortizing obligations and principal on the Notes is scheduled to be repaid in three instalments on 30 January 2030, 30 January 2031 and 30 January 2032. The Amortization Amounts (as defined in the terms and conditions of the Notes) are set out in Condition 7 (*Redemption and Purchase*) of the terms and conditions of the Notes. Holders of Notes may only be able to reinvest monies they receive upon such amortization in lower-yielding securities than the Notes.

Fluctuations in exchange rates and interest rates may adversely affect the value of the Notes.

The Issuer will pay principal and interest on the Notes in Euro. This presents certain risks relating to currency conversions if an investor's financial activities are denominated principally in a currency or currency unit (the "**Investor's Currency**") other than Euro. These include the risk that exchange rates may significantly change (including changes due to devaluation of the Euro or a revaluation of the Investor's Currency) and the risk that authorities with jurisdiction over the Investor's Currency may impose or modify exchange controls. An appreciation in the value of the Investor's Currency relative to Euro would decrease the Investor's Currency-equivalent yield on the Notes, the Investor's Currency equivalent value of the principal payable on the Notes and the Investor's Currency equivalent market value of the Notes.

Government and monetary authorities (including where the investor is domiciled) may impose (as some have done in the past) exchange controls that could adversely affect an applicable exchange rate. As a result, investors may receive less interest or principal than expected, or no interest or principal. In addition, investment in the Notes involves the risk that subsequent changes in market interest rates may adversely affect the value of the Notes.

The Issuer's credit ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal, either of which could adversely affect the trading price of the Notes.

The Notes are expected to be rated on issuance B+ by Fitch and Ba3 by Moody's. None of Fitch or Moody's is established in the European Union and has applied for registration under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on credit rating agencies (the "**CRA Regulation**"). The rating issued by Fitch has been endorsed by Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and the rating issued by Moody's has been endorsed by Moody's Deutschland GmbH in each case in accordance with the CRA Regulation. Each of Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and Moody's Deutschland GmbH is established in the European Union and registered under the CRA Regulation. As such, each of Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and Moody's Deutschland GmbH is included in the list of credit rating agencies published by the European Securities and Markets Authority ("**ESMA**"). The ratings may not reflect the potential impact of all risks related to structure, market, additional factors discussed herein, and other factors that may affect the value of the Notes. A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision, suspension or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. On 12 June 2020, following official announcement of Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the G20 and Paris Club DSSI on 10 June 2020, Moody's placed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating under review for downgrade, noting that this decision reflects its assessment that the country's participation in the DSSI raises the risk that private sector creditors will incur losses. However, the Government expressly confirmed its commitment to continue to comply with all of its contractual obligations vis-a-vis private sector creditors and its intention not to extend the DSSI to such private sector creditors. On 7 August 2020, Moody's concluded its review and confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating, with a stable outlook. See "*—Unsustainable levels of indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy, its sovereign credit ratings and its ability to service its debt, including the Notes*" and "*Public Debt - Reducing the Country's Credit Risk*".

In general, European regulated investors are restricted under the CRA Regulation from using credit ratings for regulatory purposes, unless these ratings are issued by a credit rating agency established in the EU and registered under the CRA Regulation (and such registration has not been withdrawn or suspended). This general restriction will also apply in the case of credit ratings issued by non-EU credit rating agencies, unless the relevant credit ratings are endorsed by an EU-registered credit rating agency or the relevant non-EU rating agency is certified in accordance with the CRA Regulation (and such endorsement or certification, as the case may be, has not been withdrawn or suspended). Other than pursuant to Article 23 of the EU Prospectus Regulation, the Issuer has no obligation to inform Noteholders of any revision, downgrade or withdrawal of its current or future sovereign credit ratings. A suspension, downgrade or withdrawal at any time of a credit rating assigned to the Issuer may adversely affect the market price of the Notes.

An investment in the Notes may not be a suitable investment for all investors.

Generally, investment in emerging markets such as Côte d'Ivoire is only suitable for sophisticated investors who fully appreciate the significance of the risks involved in, and are familiar with, investing in emerging markets. Investors are urged to consult their own legal, tax and financial advisers before making an investment. Each potential investor in the Notes must determine the suitability of that investment in own circumstances. In particular, each potential investor should:

- have sufficient knowledge and experience to make a meaningful evaluation of the Notes, the merits and risks of investing in the Notes and the information contained in this Prospectus or, any applicable supplement;
- have access to, and knowledge of, appropriate analytical tools to evaluate, in the context of its particular financial situation, an investment in the Notes and the impact which the Notes will have on its overall investment portfolio;
- have sufficient financial resources and liquidity to bear all of the risks of an investment in the Notes, including where the currency for principal or interest payments is different from the potential investor's currency;

- understand thoroughly the terms of the Notes and be familiar with the behaviour of any relevant financial markets; and
- be able to evaluate (either alone or with the help of a financial adviser) possible scenarios for economic, interest rate and other factors that may affect its investment and its ability to bear the applicable risks.

Furthermore, the investment activities of certain investors are subject to legal investment laws and regulations, or review or regulation by certain authorities. Each potential investor should consult its legal advisers to determine whether and to what extent (i) the Notes are suitable legal investments for it, (ii) the Notes can be used as collateral for various types of borrowing and (iii) other restrictions apply to its purchase or pledge of the Notes. Financial institutions should consult their legal advisers or the appropriate regulators to determine the appropriate treatment of the Notes under any applicable risk based capital or similar rules.

Côte d’Ivoire is a sovereign State. Consequently, it may be difficult for investors to obtain or realize upon judgments against Côte d’Ivoire.

Côte d’Ivoire is a sovereign State. In the absence of a treaty between Côte d’Ivoire and a specific country relating to the enforcement of foreign court judgments and reciprocity arrangements, the courts of Côte d’Ivoire are unlikely to enforce a judgment of a court established in such specific country. This is the case with the United Kingdom which does not have any execution of judgment reciprocity arrangements with Côte d’Ivoire. As a result, it may be difficult for investors to enforce foreign judgments, including judgments predicated upon civil liabilities under the securities laws of the United States or any state or territory within the United States against Côte d’Ivoire. Although Côte d’Ivoire will consent in the terms and conditions of the Notes to the giving of any relief or the issue of any process in connection with proceedings in England arising out of any dispute arising from or connected with the Notes and will agree to waive any immunity it may have in a suit, execution, attachment or other legal process in respect of any such proceedings, that waiver of immunity does not extend to any other proceedings and excludes from its scope certain diplomatic, military and other government properties. The waiver of immunity also does not extend to any actions brought against Côte d’Ivoire in the United States under any US securities law. Moreover, the enforcement of foreign judgments is subject to the conditions and limitations described under “*Enforcement of Civil Liabilities*” and such limitations and conditions may make it difficult for investors to obtain or realize upon judgments of courts outside Côte d’Ivoire. Furthermore, arbitration is recognized in Côte d’Ivoire as a method of dispute resolution and is governed by statute under Côte d’Ivoire Law No. 93-671 of August 9, 1993 on Arbitration and Ordonnance No. 2012-158 determining the intervention of national jurisdictions in the arbitration procedure of 9 February 2012, together with the Treaty on the Harmonization in Africa of Business Law, signed on 17 October 1993, as revised on 17 October 2008, the *Acte Uniforme d’OHADA sur l’Arbitrage* of 11 March 1999 and the rules of arbitration of the *Cour Commune de Justice et d’Arbitrage* (CCJA) (together, “**Arbitration Law**”). Among other things, the Arbitration Law allows for the recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award upon application in writing to the competent court in the jurisdiction of Côte d’Ivoire, irrespective of the country in which the award was made. Foreign arbitral awards are therefore recognized and can be enforced upon being registered following a procedure known as *exequatur* in Côte d’Ivoire.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Prospectus contains forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology, including the terms “believes”, “estimates”, “projects”, “expects”, “intends”, “may”, “will”, “seeks” or “should” or, in each case, their negative or other variations or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy, plans, objectives, goals, future events or intentions. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and include statements about the Issuer’s beliefs and expectations. These statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections and, therefore, undue reliance should not be placed on them. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. Although the Issuer believes that the beliefs and expectations reflected in such forward- looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such beliefs and expectations will be realized.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statement. The information contained in this Prospectus identifies important factors that could cause such differences, including, but not limited to, the following adverse external factors, such as:

- adverse external factors, such as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on national, regional and global economies, changes in international commodity prices, particularly cocoa, foreign exchange rates or prevailing interest rates, which could adversely affect Côte d’Ivoire’s balance of payments and external reserves;
- changes in the monetary policy applicable in WAEMU countries which could affect inflation and/or growth rates;
- recession, political unrest, pandemics or low economic growth in Côte d’Ivoire’s trading partners or, in the event that Côte d’Ivoire increases its reliance on external borrowings, changes in the terms on which international financial institutions provide financial assistance to Côte d’Ivoire or fund new or existing projects, which could decrease exports, adversely affect Côte d’Ivoire’s economy and, indirectly, reduce tax and other public sector revenues, thereby adversely affecting Côte d’Ivoire’s budget; or
- adverse events in other emerging market countries, which could dampen foreign investment or adversely affect the trading price of the Notes;

and the following adverse domestic factors, such as:

- political factors in Côte d’Ivoire and trade and political disputes between Côte d’Ivoire and its trading partners and other political factors in Côte d’Ivoire, which could affect the timing, structure and continued pace of economic reforms, the climate for foreign direct investment and the pace, scale and timing of privatizations; or
- adverse domestic factors, such as: the Government’s response to, and the impact on public finances from, the Covid-19 pandemic, a decline in, or slowdown in the pace of, foreign direct investment, high domestic interest rates, exchange rate volatility or an increase in the level of domestic and external debt, which could lead to lower economic growth or a decrease in Côte d’Ivoire’s international reserves.

The sections of this Prospectus entitled “*Risk Factors*”, “*The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire*” and “*The Economy*” contain a more complete discussion of the factors that could adversely affect the Issuer. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events described in this Prospectus may not occur.

The Issuer does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law or applicable regulations. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to the Issuer or to persons acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements referred to above and contained elsewhere in this Prospectus.

PRESENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER INFORMATION

Annual information presented in this Prospectus is based upon 1 January to 31 December periods (which is the fiscal year for the Issuer), unless otherwise indicated. Certain figures included in this Prospectus have been subject to rounding adjustments; accordingly, figures shown for the same category presented in different tables may vary slightly and figures shown as totals in certain tables may not be the sum of the figures which precede them.

Statistical Information

Statistical information reported herein has been derived from official publications of, and information supplied by, a number of agencies and ministries of the Issuer and by the Central Bank of West African States (*Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*, "BCEAO"). Some statistical information has also been derived from information publicly made available by the IMF, the World Bank, the WAEMU, and other third parties. Where information has been so sourced, the source is stated where it appears in this Prospectus. The Issuer confirms that such information has been accurately reproduced and that, so far as it is aware, and is able to ascertain from information published by such third parties, no facts have been omitted which would render the reproduced information inaccurate or misleading. Similar statistics may be obtainable from other sources, but the date of publication, underlying assumptions, methodology and, consequently, the resulting data may vary from source to source. In addition, statistics and data published by one ministry or agency of the Issuer may differ from similar statistics and data produced by other agencies or ministries due to differing underlying assumptions or methodology. Certain historical statistical information contained herein is provisional or otherwise based on estimates that the Issuer and/or its agencies believe to be based on reasonable assumptions. As described in respect of certain data below, the Issuer's official financial and economic statistics are subject to internal review as part of a regular validation process. Accordingly, financial and economic information may be subsequently adjusted or revised. While the Issuer does not expect revisions to be material, no assurance can be given that material changes will not be made.

The paragraphs below outline the methodologies and processes for preparing, validating and finalizing data with respect to macroeconomic, balance of payments, public debt and public finance figures.

Macroeconomic Data

For 2020 and beyond, all GDP and GDP related data disclosed in this Prospectus are based on the most recently available macroeconomic data, which take into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, unless otherwise specified. Governmental responses to address or mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic or its aftermath may require implementation of new economic or other measures, which may involve additional fiscal incentives and require revisions to GDP and GDP related data estimates for 2020 and beyond. Similarly, all initial targets set in the 2016-2020 National Development Plan for the end of 2020 will be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic although the extent of such impact on the various sectors of the economy is still being assessed by the Government. Prospective investors should be aware that all estimated figures for 2020 and beyond disclosed in this Prospectus (including the initial budget for 2021) are subject to some degree of uncertainty and may be further adjusted, amended or revised, whether as part of a regular review or otherwise, based on a number of evolving factors, which are uncertain and rapidly changing and cannot be predicted. The Government has made an initial assessment of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on revenues and expenditures as initially set forth in the Finance Law for 2020 establishing its initial 2020 budget, and this has been accounted for in the amended Finance Law No. 2020-970 (*Loi de Finances Rectificative*) for 2020 dated as of 23 December 2020 establishing its adjusted 2020 budget. The Covid-19 impact has also been taken into account in the initial 2021 budget. See "– Public Finance". No assurance can be given that such adjustments, amendments or revisions will not be material.

Preparation of Estimates

Estimates of macroeconomic data for year N are prepared by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, acting through the General Directorate of the Economy, based on reference indicators (including the Harmonized Index of Industrial Production, the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices and the Revenue Index of Retail Trade) and agricultural and mining production data (including coffee, cocoa, gold, crude oil) made available by the relevant sectors during January and February of year N+1. Estimates for year N normally become available in March of year N+1 on the basis of data at

the end of year N. These estimates are provided to the IMF and to the National Institute of Statistics (*Institut National de la Statistique* (“INS”)) of Côte d’Ivoire. Until March of year N+1, all figures for year N represent forecasts made by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Preparation of Final National Accounts

The final national accounts are prepared by the INS based on the estimates prepared by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (as described above) and corporate financial data filed with the tax authorities. The INS data review process may take place in two stages, with an intermediary provisional accounts stage preceding the final accounts determination. The final accounts for year N are normally completed by the end of year N+2.

The process for preparing the final national accounts is as follows:

- the estimates for year N completed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in March of year N+1 are provided to the INS;
- following the filing with the tax authorities of corporate financial data for year N, the tax authorities provide a copy of this information to the INS (from June to December of year N+1 for data concerning year N);
- the corporate financial data allows the INS to start the process of preparing the final national accounts, which will result in the determination of the final figures normally by the end of year N+2 for data concerning year N; and
- the final macroeconomic data is communicated by the INS to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the IMF and supersedes and replaces previous estimates or provisional data.

Balance of Payments

With respect to balance of payments figures, initial forecasts for year N are normally made by the BCEAO in October and November of year N-1 and then revised in May and June of year N and again in October and November of year N. Estimates are prepared in May and June of year N+1 and then revised in October and November of year N+1. The Balance of Payments Committee (*Comité Balance des Paiements*) of Côte d’Ivoire then normally reviews and validates the final balance of payments data for year N in December of year N+1 at the latest.

Public Debt

With respect to public debt figures, estimates for year N are normally published by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, acting through the Treasury and Public Accounting Department (*Direction Générale du Trésor et de la Comptabilité Publique*), during the first 45 days of year N. These estimates are normally finalized in June of year N+1 at the latest. Estimated figures for the year 2020 are expected to be finalized at the end of June 2021.

Public Finance

With respect to public finance figures, estimates for year N are normally published by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Budget during the first quarter of N+1. These estimates are normally finalized by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in June of year N+1 at the latest. Data for year N+1 corresponds to budgetary allocations. Estimated figures for the year 2020 are expected to be finalized at the end of June 2021.

IMF’s General Data Dissemination Standards

The Issuer adheres to the IMF’s General Data Dissemination Standards which guide members in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public. Côte d’Ivoire participates in the IMF’s General Data Dissemination System (“GDDS”), which is designed to guide all member countries in the provision of their economic and financial data to the public. Data covered includes the fiscal, financial and the external sectors as well as socio-demographic data.

By participating in the GDDS, Côte d’Ivoire has undertaken to:

- use the GDDS as a framework for statistical development;

- designate a country coordinator; and
- provide metadata to the IMF describing the current practices and plans for short- and long-term improvements in these practices.

A summary of the methodology under which Côte d'Ivoire prepares its metadata is found on the internet under the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board. Côte d'Ivoire's metadata may be found on the IMF's website at <http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/GDDS/CtyCtgList.aspx?ctycode=CIV>.

The BCEAO Website (www.bceao.int) contains information, relevant legislation, press releases, publications, including statistics, research papers, guidelines and regulations and speeches. Information contained in the above-mentioned websites is not incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and, therefore, does not form part of this Prospectus.

On 11 March 2020, Côte d'Ivoire officially announced its decision to update the base year for its national accounts from 1996 to 2015. The purpose of the rebasing of the GDP is to migrate the methodology for the compilation of national accounts to the most recent System of National Accounts adopted by the United Nations (the "**2008 SNA**", which replaced the 1993 SNA, the primary reference for the compilation of national accounts) and provide a better idea of the economic activity of Côte d'Ivoire, taking into account the structural evolution of economic activity resulting from the development of new kinds of businesses and products and various source of data covering all sectors of the economy. The new 2015 base year adopts weights that are more consistent with current conditions of the economy and better reflect the performance of the most important parts of the economy. The GDP under the 2015 national accounts prepared under the 2008 SNA was CFAF 27,086 billion, compared to CFAF 19,595 billion under the 1993 SNA, representing an increase of 38.2%. The Government is currently in the process of preparing a restatement of the national accounts using the 2015 base year. The Government has completed the national accounts for the 2015-2019 period using the 2015 base year and plans to finalise the preparation of the retropolation of the national accounts prior to 2015 using the 2015 base year by the end of the first semester of 2021. Unless otherwise indicated, all GDP figures used in this Prospectus are based on constant 2015 prices and all GDP and GDP-related data are presented on a 2015 reference year basis. See "*The Economy — Gross Domestic Product — GDP Rebasing Project*".

All references in this Prospectus to "**CFAF**" are to the currency of the member states of WAEMU (of which Côte d'Ivoire is one), all references in this Prospectus to "**US\$**", "**U.S. dollars**" and "**USD**" are to the currency of the United States of America and all references in this Prospectus to "**EUR**", "**euro**", "**Euro**" and "**€**" are to the currency introduced at the start of the third stage of European economic and monetary union pursuant to the Treaty establishing the European Community, as amended.

The language of this Prospectus is English. Certain legislative references and technical terms have been cited in their original language in order that the correct technical meaning may be ascribed to them under applicable law.

CERTAIN DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

“**2012-2015 NDP**” means the 2012-2015 National Development Plan;

“**2024 Eurobonds**” means the US\$750,000,000 5.375% bonds due 2024 issued by the Issuer on 23 July 2014;

“**2025 Eurobonds**” means the EUR 625,000,000 5.125% bonds due 2025 issued by the Issuer on 13 June 2017;

“**2028 Eurobonds**” means the US\$1,000,000,000 6.375% amortizing bonds due 2028 issued by the Issuer on 2 March 2015;

“**2032 Eurobonds**” means the US Dollar denominated step-up bonds due 2032 issued by the Issuer (i) in the amount of US\$2,332,149,000 on 16 April 2010 as part of the restructuring of the London Club-held Brady securities and (ii) in the amount of US\$186,755,000 on 12 November 2012 as part of the restructuring of claims held by the Sphynx creditors and Standard Bank London;

“**2033 Eurobonds**” means the US\$1,250,000,000 6.125% amortizing bonds due 2033 issued by the Issuer on 13 June 2017;

“**ACP**” means the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States;

“**ADDR**” means the *Autorité Nationale pour le Désarmement, la Démobilisation et la Réintégration*;

“**ADF**” means the African Development Fund;

“**AFD**” means the *Agence Française de Développement*;

“**AfDB**” means the African Development Bank;

“**AGOA**” means the African Growth and Opportunity Act;

“**APR**” means the Annual Performance Report;

“**APUs**” means public administrations;

“**AU**” means the African Union;

“**Arbitration Law**” means the Côte d’Ivoire Law No. 93-671 of 9 August 1993 on Arbitration, the *Acte Uniforme d’OHADA sur l’Arbitrage* of 11 March 1999 and the Ordonnance No. 2012-158 determining the intervention of national jurisdictions in the arbitration procedure of 9 February 2012;

“**ASA-CI**” means the *Association des Sociétés d’Assurances de Côte d’Ivoire*;

“**BCEAO**” means the *Banque Centrale des Etats de l’Afrique de l’Ouest*;

“**BEAC**” means the *Banque des Etats d’Afrique Centrale*;

“**BFA**” means the *Banque pour le Financement Agricole*;

“**BNI**” means the *Banque Nationale d’Investissement*;

“**BOAD**” means the *Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement*;

“BPW” means building and public works;

“BRVM” means the *Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières*;

“C2D” means the *Contrats de Désendettement et de Développement*;

“CCSR” means the *Cellule de Coordination, de Suivi et de Réinsertion*;

“CDMT” means the *Cadres de Dépenses à Moyen Terme*;

“CDVR” means the Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission;

“CED” means the *Comité des Experts de la Dette*;

“CEMAC” means the *Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale*;

“CEI” means the *Commission Electorale Indépendante*;

“CET” means the common external tariff scheme agreed on by the member nations of ECOWAS;

“CGECI” means the *Conférence des Grandes Entreprises de Côte d’Ivoire*;

“CGRAE” means the *Caisse Générale de Retraite des Agents de l’Etat*;

“CHU” means the *Centres Hospitaliers Universitaires*;

“CIE” means the *Compagnie Ivoirienne d’Electricité*;

“CIF” means Cost, Insurance and Freight;

“CIMA” means the Inter-African Conference on Insurance Markets;

“CMU” means the *Couverture Maladie Universelle*;

“CNDP” means the *Comité National de la Dette Publique*;

“CNP-PPP” means the National Steering Committee responsible for the promotion and development of PPPs;

“CNPS” means the *Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale*;

“CNW” means the Center-North-West zones of Côte d’Ivoire;

“CPIA” means the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment;

“CPMPs” means *Cellules de Passation des Marchés Publics*;

“CPP” means *Contrats de Partage de Production*;

“CRDP” means the *Cellule de Revue des Dépenses Publiques*;

“CUT” means the *Compte Unique du Trésor*;

“DDPD” means the *Direction de la Dette Publique et des Dons*;

“**DDR**” means the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-combatants;

“**DGBF**” means the *Direction Générale du Budget et des Finances*;

“**DGI**” means the *Direction Générale des Impôts*;

“**DGPE**” means the *Direction Générale de la Prévision Économique*;

“**DGSE**” means the *Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure*;

“**DGTCP**” means the *Direction Générale du Trésor et de la Comptabilité Publique*;

“**DSA**” means the Debt Sustainability Analysis;

“**DSF**” means the IMF’s Debt Sustainability Framework;

“**DSSI**” means the Debt Service Suspension Initiative;

“**DST**” means the *Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire*;

“**ECF**” means the three-year extended credit facility agreed between Côte d’Ivoire and the IMF;

“**ECOWAS**” means the Economic Community of West African States;

“**EITI**” means the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;

“**EMIs**” means the Electronic Money Institutions;

“**ENSESI**” means the *Enquête Nationale sur la Situation de l’Emploi et le Secteur Informel*;

“**FDI**” means Foreign Direct Investment;

“**FIPME**” means the *Fédération ivoirienne des PME*;

“**FPI**” means the *Front Populaire Ivoirien*;

“**FSF**” means the *Fonds de Stabilité Financière*;

“**FTP**” means *Formation Technique et Professionnelle*;

“**GPHC**” means the General Population and Housing Census;

“**HDI**” means the Human Development Index;

“**HIPC**” means the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries;

“**IBRD**” means the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

“**ICC**” means the International Criminal Court;

“**IDA**” means the International Development Association;

“**IDB**” means the Islamic Development Bank;

“IFC” means the International Finance Corporation;

“IIAG” means the Ibrahim Index of African Governance;

“ILO” means the International Labor Office;

“IMF” means the International Monetary Fund;

“INS” means the *Institut National de la Statistique*;

“IPUs” means Informal Production Units;

“LEP” means the *Liste Electorale Provisoire*;

“MCC” means the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

“MDGs” means the Millennium Development Goals;

“MDRI” means the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative;

“MEF” means the *Ministre en charge de l’Economie et des Finances*;

“MFIs” means the microfinance institutions;

“MIGA” means the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency;

“NAIP” means the National Agricultural Investment Program;

“NDP” means the National Development Plan;

“NEPAD” means the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;

“NPIs” means the Non-Profit Institutions (*institutions à but non lucratif*);

“NSC” means the National Security Council;

“ODA” means the Official Development Assistance;

“OHADA” means the *Organisation pour l’Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires*;

“PAM” means Pan African Minerals;

“PARE-PME” means the *Projet d’Appui à la Revitalisation et à la gouvernance des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises*;

“PDCI” means the *Parti Démocratique de Côte d’Ivoire*;

“PDESFI” means the *Programme de Développement du Secteur Financier*;

“PETROCI” means the *Société Nationale d’Opérations Pétrolières de Côte d’Ivoire*;

“PIP” means the *Programme d’Investissements Publics*;

“PNDEF” means the *Plan National de Développement du Secteur Éducation/Formation*;

“PNDS” means the *Plan National de Développement Sanitaire*;

“PNE” means the *Politique Nationale de l’Emploi*;

“PNRMN” means the *Programme National de Restructuration et de Mise à Niveau des Industries*;

“PPPs” means the Public-Private Partnerships;

“PROGEP-CI” means the *Projet de gestion des pesticides obsolètes en Côte d’Ivoire*;

“PRSC-3” means the World Bank’s Third Poverty Reduction Support Credit;

“PSAC” means the *Projet d’appui au secteur agricole*;

“RDR” means the *Rassemblement des Républicains*;

“RHDP” means the *Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix*;

“SDGs” means the *Sustainable Development Goals*;

“SDMT” means the *Stratégie de Gestion de la Dette Moyen Terme*;

“SDR” means the Special Drawing Rights;

“SIGFiP” means the *Système Intégré de Gestion des Finances Publiques*;

“SIGMAP” means the *Système Intégré de Gestion des Marchés Publics*;

“SIR” means the *Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage*;

“SITARAIL” means the *Société Internationale de Transport Africain par Rail*;

“SIVAC” means the *Société Ivoirienne d’Abattage et de Charcuterie*;

“SIVOMAR” means the *Société Ivoirienne de Navigation Maritime*;

“SMEs” means the Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises;

“SMIG” means the *Salaires Minimum Interprofessionnel Garanti*;

“SNB” means the State Budget Nomenclature;

“SNM” means the *Stratégie Nationale de la Microfinance*;

“SODECI” means the *Société de Distribution d’Eau de la Côte d’Ivoire*;

“SODEMI” means the *Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d’Ivoire*;

“SOLIBRA” means the *Société de limonaderies et brasseries d’Afrique*;

“SOTRA” means the *Société des Transports Abidjanais*;

“SRE” means the *Stratégie de Relance de l’Emploi*;

“**STAR**” means the *Société de Transports Abidjanais sur Rails*;

“**STL**” means the *Société de Transport Lagunaire*;

“**SVT**” means *Spécialistes en Valeurs du Trésor*;

“**TBS**” means *Taux Brut de Scolarisation*;

“**TNS**” means *Taux Net de Scolarisation*;

“**TSA**” means the Treasury Single Account (*Compte Unique du Trésor*);

“**UA**” means Unit of Account;

“**UN**” means the United Nations;

“**UNAIDS**” means the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS;

“**UNCAC**” means the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

“**UNDAF**” means the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

“**UNDP**” means the United Nations Development Program;

“**UNESCO**” means the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

“**UNHCR**” means the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

“**UNOCI**” means the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire;

“**UNTOC**” means the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

“**VAT**” means the Value Added Tax;

“**WAMU**” means the West African Monetary Union (*Union monétaire ouest-africaine*);

“**WAEMU**” means the West African Economic and Monetary Union (*Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine*);

“**WB**” means the World Bank; and

“**WHO**” means the World Health Organization.

EXCHANGE RATE

Côte d’Ivoire’s currency is the CFAF franc. The CFAF franc zone operates under a number of key operating principles:

- a fixed parity against the Euro, adjustable if required for economic reasons after consultation with the French government and unanimous decision of all member countries within each monetary area, namely the CEMAC zone (XAF), of which the member countries are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, and the WAEMU zone (XOF), which consists of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The CFAF of the CEMAC zone (XAF) benefits from the same conversion rate in euros but is governed by separate agreements;
- convertibility of the CFAF franc to Euros without any fluctuation margins, at a rate of CFAF 655.957 = €1.00 as of 1 January 1999, which is equivalent to the rate of CFAF 100 = 1 French franc prevailing before that;
- guarantee of convertibility by France through the establishment by each regional central bank of an operations account with the French treasury with market-related yields or charges (these accounts can have a positive or negative balance thus providing an, in principle, unlimited overdraft facility to each central bank);
- free movements of capital between the WAEMU and France and the CEMAC and France; and
- the pooling of the foreign exchange reserves of each regional monetary area.

On 21 December 2019, the eight member States of the WAEMU agreed with France to a number of changes to the CFA franc currency cooperation, including the adoption of a new common currency name, the “ECO”, to replace the WAEMU’s CFAF (XOF). It is anticipated that, while the new currency would still remain pegged to the euro, there would no longer be any obligation for the BCEAO to deposit its foreign exchange reserves with the French Treasury. On 20 May 2020, the French Council of Ministers adopted a draft law approving the CFAF reform. See “*Monetary System – The ECOWAS Single Currency Project and the CFAF Reform*”.

Solely for convenience, this Prospectus contains historical conversions of certain Euro amounts into U.S. dollars at specified rates. These conversions are solely illustrative, and should not be taken as a representation that a Euro amount actually represents a stated U.S. dollar amount or that it could be converted into U.S. dollars at the rate suggested, or any other rate. The following table shows the historical period-end, average, high and low noon buying rates in New York City for cable transfers in foreign currencies as certified by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the Euro, expressed in U.S. dollars per one Euro, for the periods and dates indicated.

Year	U.S. dollar/Euro			
	Period end	Average rate ⁽¹⁾	High	Low
2015	1.0859	1.1096	1.2015	1.0524
2016	1.0552	1.1072	1.1516	1.0375
2017	1.2022	1.1301	1.2041	1.0416
2018	1.1456	1.1817	1.2488	1.1281
2019	1.1227	1.1194	1.1524	1.0905
2020	1.2230	1.1811	1.2280	1.1237
2021 (through 31 January 2021)	1.2135	1.2178	1.2295	1.2099

Month	U.S. dollar/Euro			
	Period end	Average rate ⁽¹⁾	High	Low
September 2020	1.1717	1.1788	1.1949	1.1618
October 2020	1.1658	1.1774	1.1844	1.1658
November 2020	1.1948	1.1826	1.1948	1.1634

December 2020.....	1.2230	1.2168	1.2280	1.2080
January 2021.....	1.2135	1.2178	1.2295	1.2099

(1) The average of the Noon Buying Rates on the last business day of each month (or portion thereof) during the relevant period for annual averages; on each business day of the month (or portion thereof) for monthly averages.

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

OVERVIEW

The following is an overview of certain information contained elsewhere in this Prospectus. It does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this Prospectus. Prospective investors should also carefully consider the information set forth in “Risk Factors” below prior to making an investment decision. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this overview have the same meaning as elsewhere in this Prospectus. See “The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire”, “The Economy”, “Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments”, “Public Finance”, “Public Debt” and “Monetary System”, amongst others, for a more detailed description of the Issuer.

Overview of the Republic

General

Côte d’Ivoire is located in the western part of Africa, in the intertropical zone between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator. It spans 322,462 km² and has over 500 km of coastline. It borders the Atlantic Ocean in the south, Burkina Faso and Mali in the north, Ghana in the east, and Guinea in the west. While Yamoussoukro was officially designated as the political and administrative capital of the country in 1983, Abidjan has effectively remained the economic, political and administrative centre.

Côte d’Ivoire achieved independence from France on 7 August 1960. Pursuant to the Constitution in force, which was adopted on 30 October 2016, Côte d’Ivoire is a democratic republic based on the separation and balance of the three powers: executive, legislative and judicial.

Côte d’Ivoire has emerged from the political and military crisis that began in 2002 and culminated in the serious post-election crisis that followed the announcement of the results of the second round of the presidential election on 28 November 2010. Following this post-election crisis which significantly affected the economy and social cohesion, Alassane Ouattara was sworn in as President of the Republic in May 2011 and the normal course of the electoral cycle allowed for legislative elections in December 2011 and regional and municipal elections in April 2013. On 25 October 2015, Alassane Ouattara was re-elected President of the Republic with 83.66% of the vote in the first round for another five-year term. Following his election, Alassane Ouattara submitted a new draft constitution to a referendum, which was adopted with 93.42% of the vote on 30 October 2016, marking the start of the Third Republic. Legislative elections were then organized on 18 December 2016 with the aim of consolidating the country’s democratic institutions. A new constitutional reform submitted by President Alassane Ouattara was adopted by the two chambers of the Parliament in a joint session held on 17 March 2020, and the law amending the Constitution was enacted on 19 March 2020. On 31 October 2020, outgoing President Alassane Ouattara was re-elected President of the Republic with 94.27% of the votes in the first round for another five-year term amid a disputed election process. Part of the political opposition, led by Pascal Affi N’Guessan (FPI) and Henri Konan Bédié (PDCI), considered President Ouattara’s candidacy for a third term as illegal and a violation of the Ivoirian Constitution and called for civil disobedience and boycott of the presidential election of 31 October 2020. The electoral campaign and post-election period were marked by numerous protests and instances of violence that have resulted in casualties, including 87 deaths and nearly 500 people injured and 225 arrested, as well as significant property damage in several locations in the country. According to Government and other reports, 4,780 polling stations in opposition strongholds were ransacked on election day and election materials were burned by supporters of the opposition to prevent the opening of polling stations. This resulted in only 17,601 polling stations being open out of 22,381.

President Alassane Ouattara has put national reconciliation, security and pro-growth reform at the top of his agenda. Political stability and the security situation have markedly improved, since May 2011. This is evidenced by the UNESCO returning to Abidjan in September 2013, the AfDB completing the relocation of its headquarters to Abidjan in late 2014 from Tunis, Tunisia, after a 10-year absence, the International Cocoa Organization moving its headquarters to Abidjan in April 2017 after 44 years in London, and the end of the ONUCI peacekeeping mission in June 2017. National reconciliation and political dialogue, particularly through the CDVR and the Permanent Framework for Dialogue, have made significant progress with the continued return of refugees and political exiles to the country. In March 2015, the CDVR was replaced by the CONARIV. In April 2016, the CONARIV submitted its final report and the consolidated single list of victims to President Ouattara. The end of the Commission’s work paved the way for financial compensation

of victims. The implementation of the Commission’s final report has been delegated to the Minister in charge of solidarity and social cohesion. In August 2013 and November 2018, Côte d’Ivoire adopted laws on civil status, nationality and rural property to clarify the conditions and procedures for the declaration of births and establishment of birth certificates, the granting of Ivorian nationality and property rights with the aim of reducing sources of tension among population groups.

Economy

Côte d’Ivoire is the leading economy in the WAEMU in terms of GDP, according to the BCEAO, and according to the WAEMU demographic statistics, the country with the largest population of the WAEMU, with an estimated population of 25.8 million inhabitants in 2019 according to INS. Real GDP estimates published by the IMF (*Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, October 2020*, (the “**2020 IMF Outlook**”)) positioned Côte d’Ivoire as the sixth most dynamic economy of the Sub-Saharan Africa countries (after Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Benin and Uganda) in 2019.

According to the IMF and the Government, Côte d’Ivoire was on a strong growth trend prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Real GDP growth averaged 7.1% over the 2016 –2018 period and high-frequency indicators have pointed to continued robust growth of an estimated 6.2% in 2019, supported by dynamic manufacturing and services, and abundant harvests while showcasing the resilience the country built in recent years (*see IMF Country Report No. 20/132 of April 2020*). Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Côte d’Ivoire’s real GDP growth for 2020 was projected at 6.7% by the IMF (*Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, October 2019*, (the “**2019 IMF Outlook**”)) and at 7.2% by the Government. However, the Covid-19 pandemic and related containment measures implemented to fight the spread of the coronavirus have adversely impacted the global economic outlook and growth momentum in Côte d’Ivoire. According to the 2020 IMF Outlook, real GDP growth in Côte d’Ivoire is, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, projected at only 1.8% for 2020. The IMF currently expects that the previous growth momentum will resume in Côte d’Ivoire in 2021, with real GDP growth projected at 6.2% by the IMF (2020 IMF Outlook) and 6.5% by the Government. The 2020 IMF Outlook also projects an annual real GDP growth of 6.5% for Côte d’Ivoire between 2022 and 2025. The results in recent years have been promising, with an increase in public and private investment leading to an average annual rate of real GDP growth of nearly 6.9% over the 2015-2019 period, renewed access to international financial markets, some improvements in health and education indicators, and gains in terms of state legitimacy and governance. In 2017, Côte d’Ivoire was the world’s leading producer and exporter of cocoa, accounting for more than one-third of the world’s cocoa production, and the fourth cashew nut exporter in the world, according to the statistics of Côte d’Ivoire’s Ministry of Agriculture and the FAO. In 2019, Côte d’Ivoire consolidated its position as leading producer and exporter of cocoa, and first cashew nut producer in the world according to the statistics of Côte d’Ivoire’s Ministry of Agriculture.

In March 2012, the Government adopted the NDP for the 2012-2015 period. The implementation of this plan was a success in many respects, as demonstrated by Côte d’Ivoire’s entry and stable position within the group of countries with the highest growth rates in the world, with an average annual real GDP growth rate of 9.2% over the 2012-2015 period.

Following a thorough assessment of the 2012-2015 NDP’s implementation and results, a new NDP for the 2016-2020 period was adopted in December 2015, maintaining the objective of turning Côte d’Ivoire into an emerging economy by the end of 2020 and reducing poverty by half. This plan aimed to establish industry as one of the major pillars of the economy’s structural transformation and has been focused on the following strategies:

- strengthening the quality of the country’s institutions and proper governance;
- accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being;
- accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization;
- developing infrastructure that is equitably spread throughout the country while at the same time protecting the environment; and
- strengthening both regional integration and international cooperation.

The implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP was designed to achieve the following results:

- an average real GDP growth rate of 8.7% between 2016 and 2020. This performance was expected to be driven by the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, which were expected to record respective average annual growth rates of approximately 5.8%, 11.5% and 9.2% during this period;
- a rise of the investment rate from 19.5% of GDP in 2015 to 24.5% in 2020. The private investment rate was expected to progress from 12.8% in 2015 to 15.2% by the end of 2020. This significant contribution expected from private investments reflects the Government's reliance on the private sector as an important pillar of emerging economies;
- an inflation rate maintained under the convergence threshold of +3.0% for WAEMU countries;
- an increase of total revenues and donations from CFAF 3,916.8 billion in 2015 to CFAF 6,492.3 billion in 2020, representing an average growth rate of 10.6%. These resources will remain dominated by fiscal revenues, which are projected to rise from CFAF 2,954.9 billion in 2015 to CFAF 5,317.4 billion in 2020. Fiscal pressure should grow from 15.1% in 2015 to 16.9% in 2020; and
- an improvement of the budget deficit, as a percentage of GDP, from 2.8% of GDP in 2015 to 1.9% of GDP in 2020.

By the end of the fourth year of implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP, Côte d'Ivoire had recorded overall satisfactory macroeconomic performance, despite less favourable international conditions, low rainfall and a fall in international cocoa prices, which mitigated initial forecasts to a certain extent. Economic growth remained strong and sustained at 7.2% in 2016, 7.4% in 2017, 6.9% in 2018 and an estimated 6.2% in 2019. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth was projected at 7.2% in 2020 by the Government. However, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, global economic growth is expected to contract. The 2020 IMF Outlook projects Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth at only 1.8% for 2020. In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth is projected at 6.2% by the IMF and at 6.5% by the Government. In 2019, the growth rate is estimated to be driven mainly by the secondary sector (+11.5%) and the primary sector (+5.3%). Côte d'Ivoire's public finance management efforts have continued since 2017, despite domestic (social movements) and external disruptions (drop in cocoa prices and rise in oil prices) that adversely affected the mobilization of income and placed significant pressure on expenses. Despite these challenges, measures taken by the Government limited the deficit in 2017 to 3.6% of GDP (compared to an initial forecast of 3.5%). In 2018 the deficit was 2.9% of GDP, an improvement compared to 2017. In 2019, the deficit amounted to 2.3% of GDP, in line with the objectives of the Government's economic and financial programme established with the IMF. For 2020, in order to meet major challenges and fund additional expenditures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the funding of the National Health Response Plan (*Plan National de Riposte Sanitaire*) and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*), the Government and the IMF have agreed on a budget deficit of 5.9% of GDP. The budget deficit is expected at 4.6% of GDP for 2021; and is expected to converge towards the WAEMU community convergence criteria of 3% of GDP in 2023. On 27 April 2020, the WAEMU Conference of Heads of States and Governments declared a temporary suspension of the WAEMU growth and stability Pact, which sets six convergence criteria, including the 3% of GDP fiscal deficit rule, to help member countries cope with the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government continues to monitor and assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy. Inflation remained stable at 0.7% in 2016, 0.4% in 2017, 0.6% in 2018, 0.8% in 2019 and 1.0% in 2020, well under the WAEMU community threshold of 3.0%.

The 2021-2025 NDP currently under preparation will focus on supporting the Government's medium-term development strategy between 2021 and 2025. The implementation of the 2021-2025 NDP is expected to further consolidate the Government's achievements under the 2012-2015 NDP and the 2016-2020 NDP and foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth with the overall objective of making Côte d'Ivoire an upper middle-income economy by the end of 2025. Like the prior NDPs, the 2021-2025 NDP will be structured around several major pillars, including (i) the strengthening of productive transformation, development of industrial clusters and digitalization of the economy; (ii) the development of human capital and improvement of productivity; (iii) the strengthening of financial inclusion, national solidarity and social action; (iv) regional development through the creation of competitive economic zones and continued development of infrastructure to support growth in compliance with social and environmental requirements and the SDGs; and (v) the improvement of governance and further modernization of State institutions.

This steady creation of wealth has enabled the Government to increase spending in favour of the most disadvantaged sections of the population, leading these pro-poor expenditures to more than double between 2012 and 2019, rising from CFAF 1,080.3 billion to CFAF 2,550.58 billion. They were budgeted at CFAF 2,754.9 billion in 2020 in the initial Finance Law for 2020. For 2021, the Government allocated CFAF 2,863.8 billion to pro-poor expenditure in its initial 2021 budget. Moreover, GDP per capita has been steadily increasing since 2012 to reach CFAF 1.261 million in 2018, and is estimated at CFAF 1.309 million in 2019.

This performance has been largely supported by significant investments, both private and public, which have continuously increased since 2011. Investments increased from CFAF 6,408 billion in 2015 to CFAF 7,157 billion in 2018. The investment rate increased from 23.7% of nominal GDP in 2015 (based upon the old GDP reference year 1996) to 22.3% in 2018, is estimated at 22.9% in 2019 and projected at 23.4% in 2020.

In an effort to strengthen its economy's resilience, Côte d'Ivoire has engaged in a series of further reforms to transform agricultural products, improve the business climate, boost its competitiveness and strengthen governance. These far-reaching structural measures have been designed with the help of its international partners, in particular the IMF and the World Bank. Côte d'Ivoire has thus been ranked one of the best performing countries in Africa in the World Bank's "Doing Business" reports for the past few years. From 139th in 2018, the country's ranking improved by 29 places and reached the 110th place out of 190 in the "Doing Business 2020" report. Côte d'Ivoire is thus among the top reforming countries in the world, including in the categories of collecting taxes and enforcing contracts. It intends to continue to build on this progress with the aim of being ranked among the top 50 in the world. In the "Africa CEOs Survey: Scale up the Momentum" report published by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited in 2019, Côte d'Ivoire was named by business leaders in Africa as one of the most attractive investment destinations on the continent.

The country's competitiveness has been strengthened by improved governance standards. The 2020 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance Report, which is based on data collected in the decade through to the end of 2019, showed that Côte d'Ivoire's ranking improved from 46th in 2010 to 18th in 2019, being one of only eight countries to progress in each of the four categories of the Index over the decade. Furthermore, Côte d'Ivoire was granted in February 2019 the African Union Award for Fighting against Corruption.

In the last quarter of 2015, Moody's and Fitch rating agencies raised Côte d'Ivoire's rating from B1 to Ba3 (Moody's) with a stable outlook and from B to B+ (Fitch) with a stable outlook, due to the country's enhanced stability after the smooth presidential elections, sound management of public finances and improvements in institutional governance and stability. Côte d'Ivoire's rating were confirmed in 2016, 2017 and 2018 by Moody's. Following Fitch's ninth review in November 2019, Côte d'Ivoire's sovereign rating outlook improved from B+ with a stable outlook to B+ with a positive outlook. On 3 June 2020 and 17 December 2020, despite the current Covid-19 pandemic, Fitch confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's B+ rating with a positive outlook. On 12 June 2020, following official announcement of Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the G20 and Paris Club DSSI on 10 June 2020, Moody's placed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating under review for downgrade, noting that this decision reflects its assessment that the country's participation in the DSSI raises the risk that private sector creditors will incur losses. However, the Government expressly confirmed its commitment to comply with all of its contractual obligations vis-a-vis private sector creditors and its intention not to extend the DSSI to such private sector creditors. On 7 August 2020, Moody's concluded its review and confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating, with a stable outlook. See "*Unsustainable levels of indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on Côte d'Ivoire's economy, its sovereign credit ratings and its ability to service its debt, including the Notes*" and "*Public Debt - Reducing the Country's Credit Risk*".

As part of the 2016-2019 EFF-ECF Programme entered into with the IMF on 12 December 2016, Côte d'Ivoire committed to implement additional reforms in all of the sectors of its economy, in order to promote productivity and competitiveness. Following its sixth review of the EFF-ECF Programme from 17 September to 1 October 2019, the IMF confirmed that Côte d'Ivoire's performance was satisfactory in the first half of 2019. All performance criteria and all indicative targets for end-June 2019 were met. All but one of the structural benchmarks on public finance management, public enterprise monitoring, and tax policy and administration were also met. The seventh and eighth programme reviews were combined and held remotely between 15 September and 4 October 2020. The seventh review of the programme initially scheduled for March 2020 was delayed because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and was

overtaken by discussions that led to emergency assistance being provided under the Fund's Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) in April 2020.

Statistical Data

The following selected economic and financial information is qualified in its entirety by, and should be read in conjunction with, the detailed information appearing elsewhere in this Prospectus.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)
Domestic Economy						
Nominal GDP (CFAF billion).....	27,086.2	28,423.9	29,955.0	32,222.3 ⁽¹⁾	34,298.9	35,124.6
Real GDP (growth rate) (%).....	-	7.2	7.4	6.9 ⁽¹⁾	6.2	1.8
Balance of Payments (CFAF billion)						
Exports of Goods (FOB)	6,938.0	6,449.3	6,899.7	6,619.6	7,399.2	7,871.9
Imports of Goods (FOB)	(5,064.0)	(4,631.5)	(4,940.3)	(5,255.9)	(5,552.8)	(5,621.5)
Overall Balance	248.5	(53.1)	(3.6)	284.6	477.7	95.4
Public Finance (CFAF billion)						
Total Revenues and Grants.....	3,916.8	4,176.6	4,523.4	4,764.1	5,158.4 ⁽²⁾	5,089.6
Total Expenditure	4,469.8	5,014.6	5,521.7	5,708.3	5,943.9 ⁽²⁾	7,174.1
Global Balance	(551.4)	(759.1)	(1,074.2)	(997.3)	(679.3) ⁽²⁾	(2,109.5)
Public Debt						
Domestic Public Debt (CFAF billion)	3,425.7	4,049.1	4,275.1	3,994.4	4,432.7	5,099.8 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾
External Public Debt (CFAF billion)	4,489.1	4,974.2	5,770.0	7,613.4	8,867.5	10,065.6 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾
Gross Public Debt (% of GDP)	29.2	31.7	33.5	36.0	38.8	43.2 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Source: MEF

⁽¹⁾ data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.

⁽²⁾ real.

⁽³⁾ as of 30 June 2020.

Overview of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes

The following is an overview of certain information contained elsewhere in this Prospectus. It does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this Prospectus. Prospective investors should also carefully consider the information set forth in “Risk Factors” below prior to making an investment decision. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this overview have the same meaning as in the terms and conditions (for the purposes of this section, the “**Conditions**”) of the Notes. See “Terms and Conditions of the Notes” for a more detailed description of the Notes.

Issuer	The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire.
Notes Offered	€600,000,000 4.875% Amortizing Notes due 2032 (the “ New Notes ”). From the Issue Date (as set out below), the New Notes will be consolidated and form a single series with the Issuer’s €1,000,000,000 4.875% Amortizing Notes due 2032 (the “ Original Notes ” and together with the New Notes, the “ Notes ”).
Currency	Euro.
Issue Date	15 February 2021.
Maturity Date	30 January 2032.
Interest	4.875% per annum. See “ <i>Terms and Conditions of the Notes—5. Interest</i> ”
Interest Payment Dates	The Issuer will pay interest annually in arrear on 30 January of each year. The first payment of interest will be made on 30 January 2022 for the period from and including 1 December 2020 to but excluding such first interest payment date (and thus a long first interest period). See “ <i>Terms and Conditions of the Notes—5. Interest</i> ”
Issue Price	104.538% of the principal amount of the New Notes plus an amount corresponding to accrued interest from and including 1 December 2020 to but excluding 15 February 2021.
Yield to Maturity	Based on their issue price, the yield to maturity of the Notes is 4.300%.
Redemption	The Issuer will redeem the Notes in three instalments on 30 January 2030, 30 January 2031 and 30 January 2032. The Amortization Amounts (as defined therein) are set out in “ <i>Terms and Conditions of the Notes—7. Redemption and Purchase</i> ”.
Denominations	The New Notes will be offered and sold, and may only be transferred, in minimum principal amounts of €100,000 and integral multiples of €1,000 in excess thereof. See “ <i>Terms and Conditions of the Notes—1.1 Form and Denomination</i> ”.
Status	The Notes constitute direct, unconditional and (subject to the provisions of the negative pledge covenant described below) unsecured obligations of the Issuer and (subject as provided above)

rank and will rank *pari passu*, without any preference among themselves, and with all other unsecured and unsubordinated External Indebtedness of the Issuer outstanding from time to time, save only for such obligations as may be preferred by mandatory provisions of applicable law, *provided, however, that* the Issuer shall have no obligation to effect equal or rateable payment(s) at any time with respect to any other External Indebtedness and, in particular, shall have no obligation to pay other External Indebtedness at the same time or as a condition of paying sums due on the Notes and *vice versa*. The full faith and credit of the Issuer is pledged to the due and punctual payment of the Notes.

See “*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—3. Status*”.

Negative Pledge

So long as any Note remains outstanding the Issuer will not, save for the exceptions set forth herein, create, incur, assume or permit to subsist any Security upon the whole or any part of its present or future assets, undertakings or revenues to secure (i) any of its Public External Indebtedness; (ii) any Guarantees in respect of Public External Indebtedness; or (iii) the Public External Indebtedness of any other person; without at the same time or prior thereto securing the Notes equally and rateably therewith or providing such other arrangement (whether or not comprising Security) as shall be approved by an Extraordinary Resolution of Noteholders or by a Written Resolution (each as defined in the Conditions). For the avoidance of doubt, any such approval shall not constitute a Reserved Matter (for the purposes of and as defined in the Conditions).

See “*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—4. Negative Pledge*”.

Events of Default

The terms and conditions of the Notes will permit the Noteholders to declare the Notes immediately due and payable following the occurrence of certain events of default, as further described in “*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—10. Events of Default*”.

Form of Notes

The Original Notes are issued and the New Notes will be issued in registered form only, without coupons.

The New Notes sold in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S will be represented on issue by the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate and the New Notes sold to qualified institutional buyers in reliance on Rule 144A will be represented on issue by the Restricted Global Note Certificate. Each Global Note Certificate will be deposited with a common depositary for Euroclear and Clearstream and registered in the name of a nominee for such common depositary.

Taxation and Additional Amounts

All payments in respect of the Notes by or on behalf of the Issuer shall be made without withholding or deduction for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of the Relevant Jurisdiction (as defined in the Conditions), unless the withholding or deduction is required by law. In that event, the Issuer will pay such additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the net amounts received by the Noteholders after the withholding or deduction shall

equal the respective amounts which would have been receivable in respect of the Notes in the absence of the withholding or deduction, subject to certain exceptions set forth under “*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—8. Taxation*”, and “*Taxation*”.

Meetings of Noteholders and Amendments

The terms and conditions of the Notes contain a “collective action” clause, which permits defined majorities to bind all Noteholders of the Notes. The Notes would be capable of aggregation for voting purposes with any other debt securities issued by the Issuer that contain collective action clauses in substantially the same form as the collective action clause in the terms and conditions of the Notes, thereby allowing “cross-series” modifications to the terms and conditions of the Notes (even, in some circumstances, where majorities in respect of the Notes did not vote in favour of the modifications being voted on). A summary of the provisions for convening meetings of Noteholders and making amendments to the Notes is set forth under

“*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—13. Meetings of Noteholders, Modifications and Waivers*”.

Concurrent new issue of securities

Concurrently with the offering of the New Notes, the Issuer is offering €250,000,000 6.625 per cent. Amortizing Notes due 2048 (the “**New 2048 Notes**”) to be consolidated and form a single series with the €850,000,000 6.625 per cent. Amortizing Notes due 2048 issued on 22 March 2018 (the “**Original 2048 Notes**”) (the “**Concurrent Offer**”). The Concurrent Offer is not being made pursuant to this Prospectus and is the subject of a separate prospectus which has been approved by the CBI as competent authority under the EU Prospectus Regulation as of the date of this Prospectus and the Issuer requested its passporting into Luxembourg. The New 2048 Notes are expected to be issued on the Issue Date and will be admitted to trading on the official lists of Euronext Dublin and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and to listing on the regulated markets of Euronext Dublin and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The Concurrent Offer of the Issuer involves the same Joint Lead Managers.

Use of Proceeds

The net proceeds of the issue of the New Notes are expected to amount to approximately €632,860,000 after deduction of certain fees and expenses payable by the Issuer in connection with the offer and sale of the New Notes.

The net proceeds of the issue of the New Notes will be used to finance investments under the State’s budget, including the NDP’s priority structural projects with respect to an increase in agricultural output, promotion of the manufacturing sector, and improvement in the standard of living, particularly through investments in the sectors of education, health, infrastructures, trade and culture.

Ratings

The New Notes are expected to be rated B+ by Fitch and Ba3 by Moody’s. Credit ratings assigned to the Notes do not necessarily mean that they are a suitable investment. A rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision,

suspension or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization.

None of Fitch or Moody's is established in the European Union and has applied for registration under the CRA Regulation. The rating issued by Fitch has been endorsed by Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and the rating issued by Moody's has been endorsed by Moody's Deutschland GmbH in each case in accordance with the CRA Regulation. Each of Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and Moody's Deutschland GmbH is established in the European Union and registered under the CRA Regulation. As such each of Fitch Ratings Ireland Limited and Moody's Deutschland GmbH is included in the list of credit rating agencies published by the ESMA.

Listing and Admission to Trading

Application has been made to Euronext Dublin for the New Notes to be admitted to its Official List and to trading on its Regulated Market. The Original Notes are already admitted to Euronext Dublin's Official List and to trading on its Regulated Market.

Further Issues

The Issuer may from time to time without the consent of the Noteholders issue additional Notes that will form a single series with the Notes subject to certain conditions set out under "*Terms and Conditions of the Notes—15. Further Issues*".

Governing Law

English law.

Transfer Restrictions

The Notes will not be registered under the Securities Act or any US state securities law. Consequently, the Notes may not be offered or sold in the United States except pursuant to an exemption from or in a transaction not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws.

See "*United States Transfer Restrictions*".

Neither this Prospectus nor the Notes will be registered or cleared under the regulations of the WAEMU. Consequently, the Notes may not be offered or sold in the WAEMU, including in Côte d'Ivoire.

Fiscal Agent, Paying Agent and Transfer Agent

Citibank, N.A., London Branch

Registrar

Citigroup Global Markets Europe AG

Notes sold pursuant to Regulation S

ISIN: XS2264871828

Common Code: 226487182

The New Notes have the same Common Code and ISIN as the Original Notes.

Notes sold pursuant to Rule 144A

ISIN: XS2264968665

Common Code: 226496866

The New Notes have the same Common Code and ISIN as the Original Notes.

ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES

The Issuer is a sovereign state. Consequently, it may be difficult for investors to obtain or realize upon judgments of courts in jurisdictions outside Côte d'Ivoire (including judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of the securities laws of the United States or any state or territory within the United States) against the Issuer without compliance with the enforcement procedure for foreign judgments in Côte d'Ivoire. The Issuer has agreed that unless a Noteholder elects by notice in writing to resolve a dispute in the courts of England any claims or disputes arising in respect of the Notes shall be referred to and finally settled by arbitration in accordance with the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce. Côte d'Ivoire is a party to the United Nations (New York) Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the "**New York Convention**").

To the extent that the Issuer may in any jurisdiction, claim or acquire for itself or its assets immunity from suit, execution, attachment (whether in aid of execution, before judgment or otherwise) or other legal process and to the extent that such immunity (whether or not claimed) may be attributed in any such jurisdiction to the Issuer or its assets or revenues, the Issuer irrevocably agrees for the benefit of the holders of Notes not to claim, and irrevocably waives, such immunity, to the fullest extent permitted by the laws of such jurisdiction. The waiver of immunity will have the fullest scope permitted under the State Immunity Act 1978 of the United Kingdom and is intended to be irrevocable for purposes of such acts, but shall otherwise constitute a limited and specific waiver for the purpose of the Agency Agreement (as defined herein) and the Notes. The Issuer does not hereby waive such immunity from execution or attachment in respect of (a) property, including any bank account, used by a diplomatic or consular mission of the Issuer or its special missions or delegations to international organizations, (b) property of a military character and under the control of a military authority or defence agency of the Issuer, (c) property located in Côte d'Ivoire and dedicated to a public or governmental use by the Issuer (as distinct from property which is for the time being in use or intended for use for commercial purposes within the meaning of the State Immunity Act 1978). The Issuer reserves the right to plead sovereign immunity under the US Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 with respect to any actions brought against it in any court or in the United States of America under any United States federal or state securities law.

Subject to international conventions, enforcement of foreign court judgments in Côte d'Ivoire is subject to the following conditions:

- the foreign courts rendering the relevant judgment must offer reciprocal treatment to judgments obtained in the courts of Côte d'Ivoire; if such reciprocal treatment is not offered by the foreign court where the judgment is obtained, Côte d'Ivoire's courts will re-examine the merits of the case;
- Côte d'Ivoire's courts are not exclusively competent to hear the dispute, and the foreign courts are shown to have been competent to hear the dispute in accordance with their own respective laws;
- the foreign procedures were fully respected and the parties to the dispute were duly notified and properly represented in the proceedings;
- the dispute was properly resolved according to proper facts which were raised in the dispute;
- the foreign judgment is final, non-appealable and conclusive in accordance with relevant law; and
- the foreign judgment does not conflict with a prior Côte d'Ivoire judgment on the same subject matter and is not contrary to public order in and public law principles in Côte d'Ivoire.

There is no treaty between Côte d'Ivoire and the United Kingdom relating to the enforcement of foreign court judgments that would satisfy the first criterion above. However, Côte d'Ivoire is a contracting State (since February 1991) to the New York Convention, under which the Republic is bound to recognize arbitral awards as binding and enforce them in accordance with the rules and procedures of the territory in which the award is relied upon, under the conditions set out in the New York Convention.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds of the issue of the New Notes are expected to amount to approximately €632,860,000, after deduction of certain fees and expenses payable by the Issuer in connection with the offer and sale of the New Notes.

The net proceeds of the issue will be used to finance investments under the State's budget, including the NDP's priority structural projects with respect to an increase in agricultural output, promotion of the manufacturing sector, and improvement in the standard of living, particularly through investments in the sectors of education, health, infrastructures, trade and culture.

THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Geography

Ivory Coast, or the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is located in the western part of Africa, in the intertropical zone between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator. It spans 322,462 km² and has over 500 km of coastline. It borders the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean) in the south, Ghana in the east, Burkina Faso and Mali in the north, Guinea and Liberia in the west. While Yamoussoukro was officially designated as the political and administrative capital of the country in 1983, Abidjan has effectively remained the economic, political and administrative centre.

The country's climate is generally warm and humid and the territory has three main climatic zones characterized by rainfall volumes: the south (2 meters of rain per year), the west (1.5 meters of rain per year), and the north (1.2 meters of rain per year). The country is irrigated in the north and south by four rivers, namely the Bandama, the Comoé, the Sassandra and the Cavally.

The vegetation of the country is varied. The original landscape, consisting of dense forest, once occupied a third of the territory to the south and west. Open forests and wooded savannah also covered the rest of the country's territory from the centre to the north, with the exception of several dense and dry forest zones. However, since the colonial period, the areas of dense forest have been significantly diminished. According to the Government, the forest cover has decreased from 12 million ha in 1960 to 3.4 million ha in 2016 (representing 10.6% of the national area in 2019), representing a 71.4% loss over the past 50 years. This plant cover shelters several animal species, including mammals, such as the elephant, the most well-known animal, given that their tusks are at the origin of the country's name. Once abundant in the forest and savannah, elephants have been extensively hunted and poached and remain only in reserves and parks, as well as certain forest areas.

The country's topography consists mainly of coastal plains, bordered by lagoons which transition into plateaux and mountain ranges in the north west of the country. The country's highest summit, Mount Nimba, reaches 1,752 meters and is located in the western part of the country close to the Guinea and Liberia borders.



Source: <http://geography.about.com/>

Political History

Portuguese explorers were the first Europeans to reach the coast of the country in the 15th century. At the end of the 16th century, the Portuguese were joined by the Dutch, followed by the French and the English in the 17th century. These Europeans maintained commercial relations with the populations on the coast. The abundance of ivory gave this part of the African territory its name, Côte d'Ivoire. Trade involved various tropical products, but was dominated by the slave trade.

The abolition of slavery in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna, reaffirmed in 1885 at the Congress of Berlin, opened the door to new commercial relations between the populations of Côte d'Ivoire and new European actors. Despite fierce competition from the English and hostility from the local population, the French established several trading posts in the country and founded the colony of Côte d'Ivoire in 1893. From 1904 to 1958, the colony was part of French West Africa (*Afrique Occidentale Française*).

Independence and the “Economic Miracle”

In 1945, the population began to fight for political emancipation from French colonization, as was the case in many other countries in Africa at the time. In December 1958, Côte d'Ivoire became an autonomous republic within the French Community (*Communauté française*) instituted between France and its former colonies. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who was appointed Prime Minister in 1959, led Côte d'Ivoire to international sovereignty on 7 August 1960 and became the first President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire has, nevertheless, since remained closely tied to the French currency due to its integration into the Franc Zone monetary system and the numerous French investments in the country.

Upon independence, the State's institutions were defined by a Constitution, which organized the country as a republic and stipulated the separation of executive, legislative and judicial powers. President Félix Houphouët-Boigny ruled the country, backed by the *Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire* (“**PDCI**”) through a single-party system.

Between 1960 and 1980, the political stability of the country, built in large part upon the single-party regime, led to strong economic growth. The country's economic transformation was spectacular in all areas: agriculture, industry, commerce and finance, to such a point that it became known as the “Ivorian economic miracle”. This was the result of policies which favoured a strong role for the State, private investment and foreign capital. Côte d'Ivoire experienced profound social changes during the first 20 years of its independence, which resulted in an increased standard of living and improved sanitary, educational and social facilities. The population increased from 3.7 million in 1960 to 12.2 million in 1988, representing an average annual growth rate of 3.8%, drawing both from the natural birth rate and immigration from other francophone West African countries. The population now numbers approximately 25.8 million as of 2019 according to INS estimates. See “– *Population, Education and Health – Population*”. According to the *2018 World Population Data Sheet* published by the Population Reference Bureau, the population of Côte d'Ivoire is projected to grow to around 33.3 million by the mid-2030s and 51.4 million by the mid-2050s.

However, from the mid-1980s, the economy began to stagnate as a result of a sharp deterioration in the terms of trade, high levels of sovereign debt and governance problems, including exorbitant expenses in relation to a series of large-scale projects. This led to discontent among the population which contributed to the establishment of a multiparty system. The first multiparty elections took place in 1990, with the main opposition party being Laurent Gbagbo's *Front Populaire Ivoirien* (“**FPI**”). In that year, President Houphouët-Boigny appointed Alassane Ouattara as Prime Minister with the mission of coordinating the stabilization and economic recovery program of Côte d'Ivoire under the Structural Adjustment Program implemented with the IMF.

When President Félix Houphouët-Boigny died on 7 December 1993, Henri Konan Bédié, then President of the National Assembly, became President of the Republic. In October 1995, he won the presidential elections but these elections were marked by a boycott on the part of most of the opposition (including the FPI). The new administration in power rapidly obtained an improvement of economic perspectives, a decrease of inflation and undertook actions in order to obtain external debt relief, in the context of the CFAF devaluation of 1994. See “*Public Debt–Relationship with Creditors–Multilateral Debt*”.

Military and Political Crisis

The intensification of political and social tensions and the imprisonment of several opposition leaders led to a *coup d'Etat* in December 1999 and President Henri Konan Bédié was overthrown by the armed forces. The army placed General Robert Guéï at the head of the State in December 1999.

The military power invited political parties and civil society to draft a new constitution, which was adopted on 1 August 2000. Presidential elections took place in October 2000. General Robert Guéï claimed to be the winner of this election but was met with street protests. The Supreme Court announced the results and declared Laurent Gbagbo the winner. Laurent Gbagbo initiated a national reconciliation forum, and then appointed a government of national unity.

However, the debate on the question of nationality and citizenship, known as the crisis of *ivoirité*, and the crises it caused, including a crisis over land ownership, led to an attempted coup on 19 September 2002. The attempted coup failed but rebel forces called *Forces Nouvelles* emerged in the north of the country and occupied 60% of the territory.

The ECOWAS intervened to secure a cease-fire between the Government and the rebels in 2003, as did later, France, through a military operation called “*Opération Licorne*,” to help stabilize the situation and allow a peace process. Several peace agreements were signed to end the conflict between the *Forces Nouvelles* and the Government of President Laurent Gbagbo, and resolutions were adopted by the United Nations Security Council, authorizing the deployment between the belligerents of 10,000 peacekeepers of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (“UNOCI”), including 4,600 French soldiers of the *Force Licorne*. However, these agreements and resolutions did not end the crisis and the presidential elections were postponed several times.

Slow Exit from Crisis

The peace talks between the Government of President Laurent Gbagbo and the *Forces Nouvelles* led to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement signed on 4 March 2007 and to a further postponement of the presidential elections to February 2008. This agreement was subsequently ratified by all of the political forces of Côte d'Ivoire, which represented a decisive turn to the exit of the crisis. A government of national reconciliation was put in place in March 2007, with Guillaume Soro, leader of the *Forces Nouvelles*, as Prime Minister. This Government began the reunification of the country and the redeployment of the administration over the whole territory. With the support of UNOCI forces, the Government also launched a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program to unify the army, ensure security and enable the political process to resume with a view to organizing free, democratic and transparent presidential and legislative elections as soon as possible.

With the gradual return of confidence, Côte d'Ivoire's relations with the development partners were restored, with the signing of a Post-Conflict Assistance Project with the World Bank in July 2007 and an Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance Program with the IMF in August 2007. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire signed with the AfDB a Post-Crisis Multisector Institutional Support Project in February 2008 in addition to a Development Assistance Framework with the United Nations in July 2008.

In parallel, the structural reforms undertaken by the authorities made Côte d'Ivoire eligible for the reinforced initiative of the IMF and of the World Bank in favour of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (“**HIPC**”). Côte d'Ivoire reached the “decision point” of the HIPC program in March 2009 and obtained interim debt relief on the part of certain creditors such as the Paris Club. The country entered into an additional reform program to reach the “completion point”, intended to secure final debt relief and debt sustainability. This required the Government to establish a credible track record in the implementation of key structural and social reforms, notably in the management of public funds, debt and governance.

2010 Presidential Election and the Post-Election Crisis

In the first round of the presidential election on 31 October 2010, President Laurent Gbagbo, the FPI candidate, obtained 38% of the votes, former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara, the *Rassemblement des Républicains* (“**RDR**”) candidate, obtained 31% of the votes and former President Henri Konan Bédié, the PDCI candidate, obtained 25% of the votes. In the second round on 28 November 2010, Alassane Ouattara won the presidential election with 54% of the votes according to the Independent Electoral Commission (“**IEC**”) and the United Nations observers. However, following accusations of

electoral fraud in the pro-Ouattara northern regions, and notwithstanding that international observers had indicated no serious problem in the electoral process in this area, the Constitutional Court invalidated the results of the election in the northern regions and awarded victory to President Laurent Gbagbo, leading to an open conflict between supporters of the two sides. President Laurent Gbagbo clung to power until the pro-Ouattara military forces took control of the country and defeated the pro-Gbagbo forces in Abidjan in early April 2011, with the support of United Nations forces and French forces acting under resolution 1975 of the United Nations Security Council. Alassane Ouattara was then officially accorded the presidency of Côte d'Ivoire in April 2011. He appointed a cabinet composed of 12 members with Guillaume Soro, the former leader of the *Forces Nouvelles*, as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

Following his capture by the pro-Ouattara military forces in April 2011, the ICC formally issued an arrest warrant for former President Laurent Gbagbo. Former President Laurent Gbagbo was charged with crimes against humanity and incarcerated in The Hague in November 2011. On 12 June 2014, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I confirmed the charges against him of crimes against humanity committed between December 2010 and April 2011.

On 22 March 2014, the Government transferred Charles Blé Goudé, former leader of the Young Patriots (*Jeunes Patriotes*) and supporter of former President Laurent Gbagbo, to the ICC. Hearings for the confirmation of charges against him were held between 29 September and 2 October 2014. Mr. Blé Goudé faced four counts of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the 2011 post-elections crisis. On November 2014, the ICC rejected a request from his defence that victim testimonies be excluded from the case record, as well as a challenge to the admissibility of the case.

The cases against Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé were joined on 11 March 2015. Their trial opened in January 2016. They both pleaded not guilty. The first stage of this proceeding was completed on 19 January 2018 with the last witness for the prosecution. In January 2018, following a trial *in absentia*, Laurent Gbagbo was sentenced to a 20-year sentence by the criminal court of Abidjan for embezzlement. On 15 January 2019, the ICC pronounced the acquittal of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé. However, they remain on parole under the supervision of the ICC and are not allowed to enter Côte d'Ivoire. On 16 September 2019, the prosecutor of the ICC filed an appeal against the acquittal of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé. On 6 February 2020, the appellate proceedings commenced in The Hague and have been ongoing.

With respect to the former first lady, former President Laurent Gbagbo's wife, Mrs. Simone Gbagbo, in 2012 the ICC requested that she be transferred to The Hague to stand trial. On 11 December 2014, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the Government's challenge to the admissibility of the case and requested her immediate extradition to The Hague. On 17 December 2014, the Government submitted an appeal against the ICC decision and requested that its appeal have suspensive effect. On 20 January 2015, the ICC rejected the Government's request for suspensive effect. ICC proceedings concerning the government's appeal and the ICC's extradition request are pending. Mrs. Simone Gbagbo's trial in Côte d'Ivoire was held before the criminal court in Abidjan on 26 December 2014, resulting in her sentencing in 2015 to 20 years imprisonment for undermining the State's security. Following another trial before the criminal court of Abidjan which started on May 2016, Simone Gbagbo was acquitted of the other charges of crime against humanity and war crimes against her on 28 March 2017. Mrs. Simone Gbagbo was later pardoned by President Alassane Ouattara by Presidential Order No. 2018-669 of 6 August 2018, which granted amnesty to 800 prisoners of the post-election crisis. The release of Mrs. Simone Gbagbo has been effective since 8 August 2018 and was welcomed by all political stakeholders.

The economy of the country suffered severely from the post-election political and military conflict in the first half of 2011. The effects of the conflict were notably aggravated by the impact of the sanctions imposed by the European Union against former President Laurent Gbagbo's disputed post-election Government, the suspension of all activities in the ports of the country starting in January 2011, the closing of the agencies of the BCEAO and the closing of the private banking system in February 2011. Since April 2011, the Government formed by President Alassane Ouattara has achieved significant and internationally recognized progress in reconstructing the country and in reviving economic activity.

The UNOCI's mandate was formally completed on 30 June 2017 after 13 years, illustrating the progress made by Côte d'Ivoire on the path of long-term peace, stability and economic prosperity. On 26 June 2017, the Special Representative of the UN's Secretary-General to Côte d'Ivoire, the Head of the UNOCI, Ms. Aïchatou Mindaoudou, congratulated the

Ivorian authorities and people on their unwavering commitment and determination, which helped to commence the process of national reconciliation and social cohesion.

From the end of the post-electoral crisis to the 2015 elections

Since coming to power, President Alassane Ouattara and his Government have continued to take measures to defuse political tensions, combat insecurity and accelerate economic recovery.

The year 2013 was marked by a constructive impetus in political dialogue, particularly in the context of the permanent framework for dialogue. The political dialogue took place between the Government and the FPI and between the opposition political parties. These efforts have focused on the implementation of new mechanisms to promote dialogue and negotiations with the Government.

Following direct talks with the Government on 15 January 2014, the FPI was asked to encourage its partisans living in exile to return to the country and to submit a list of its members still in prison or whose assets were frozen during the post-electoral crisis. The Government had previously announced its intention to proceed with unfreezing bank accounts of persons associated with the former regime who had been provisionally released and re-integrating them, where relevant, into public service. Between 27 January and 7 February 2014, 124 partisans of former President Laurent Gbagbo, who had been charged with undermining the State's security, were released on bail. Between 22 May and 21 July 2014, 275 other individuals, who had been arrested in the context of the post-electoral crisis, were released on bail. According to the 35th report on the UNOCI, at least 191 bank accounts belonging to such individuals have been unfrozen since July 2014.

President Alassane Ouattara continues to invite Ivoirians living in exile to return to Côte d'Ivoire. In January 2014, the former Managing Director of the Abidjan Port Authority returned to the country, as well as the former Minister of Defence and the former Minister of Mining and Energy of the former Government under Laurent Gbagbo. In the same month, the then Minister of Defence reintegrated 1,443 members of the former Ivorian defence and security forces, who had fled the country during the post-election crisis.

In February 2014, President Alassane Ouattara renewed the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (*Commission Dialogue Vérité et Réconciliation* ("CDVR")), whose initial two-year term had expired in September 2013, until September 2014. The CDVR's mission was: (i) uncover the truth, (ii) hold public hearings for victims, perpetrators and witnesses, and (iii) make recommendations to the Government concerning reparations and other means of reconciliation. Between 27 February and 12 March 2014, the CDVR led a truth-seeking process in eight cities, recording the testimony of 2,106 victims concerning massacres, kidnappings, disappearances, severe injuries, acts of torture, rape, as well as looting and destruction of property. The CDVR then decided to extend this process to the entire country. Between April and August 2014, more than 64,000 victims of the Ivorian crisis testified during victims' hearings before local commissions. In September 2014, 80 cases emblematic of the Ivorian crisis that occurred between 1990 and 2011 were heard during public hearings before the CDVR. The CDVR's final report, including its recommendations for reparations and other political, judicial and non-judicial measures, was submitted to the Government in December 2014. In February 2015, approximately 3,000 individuals were granted a presidential pardon as a statement of the reconciliation process. In March 2015, the CDVR was replaced by the National Commission for the Reconciliation and Indemnification of Victims (*Commission Nationale de Réconciliation et d'Indemnisation des Victimes* - CONARIV). CONARIV was responsible for preparing a consolidated single file of victims and proposing financial compensation for victims. In April 2016, the CONARIV submitted its final report and the consolidated single list of victims to President Ouattara. The end of the Commission's work paved the way for financial compensation of victims. The implementation of the Commission's final report was delegated to the Minister in charge of solidarity and social cohesion and is still being implemented.

On 26 March 2014, 12 opposition parties including the FPI announced the creation of a new coalition, the *Alliance des Forces Démocratiques de Côte d'Ivoire*. On 3 April 2014, the *Alliance des Forces Démocratiques de Côte d'Ivoire* recommended establishing a new discussion framework with the Government, by proposing the nomination of a neutral mediator, the establishment of a detailed timetable and the implementation of a monitoring mechanism. The FPI also

announced that talks would not resume until a mediator was named to ensure the monitoring of agreements concluded by the two parties.

Nevertheless, progress was made with respect to reforms in view of the 2015 presidential elections. On 8 January 2014, the President of the IEC announced that all political parties and other willing parties would be consulted on reforming the IEC and revising the electoral list. On 18 June 2014, President Alassane Ouattara signed into law a bill on the composition, organization and powers of the IEC. The governing body of the IEC is composed of 17 commissioners, including one representing the President of the Republic, and four for each of the ruling party, the opposition, civil society and the administration. The President of the IEC is elected from among the commissioners.

Political actors continued to prepare for the October 2015 presidential elections and several opposition leaders announced their candidacy. On 17 September 2014, Henri Konan Bédié, the President of the PDCI, announced he would support President Alassane Ouattara's presidential candidacy under the *Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix* ("RHDP"), a coalition of five Ivorian political parties (RDR, PDCI, MFA, UPDCI and UPCI), primarily representing right-wing Ivorian Houphouëtists, founded on 18 May 2005, which allowed Alassane Ouattara to win the 2010 presidential elections. The update of the electoral list, which was expected to take place over one month, began on 1 June 2015. The IEC extended the deadline to 15 July 2015 due to low levels of participation and to allow latecomers to register. On 28 July 2015, the IEC delivered the Provisional Electoral List (*Liste Electorale Provisoire* ("LEP")) to political parties and groups. Each among them received a memory card from the President of the IEC that contained the 6,300,504 voters registered on the LEP. Out of 33 individuals who filed with the IEC for the presidential elections to be held on 25 October 2015, 23 candidates were rejected on 9 September 2015 by the Constitutional Council for not satisfying applicable requirements (e.g., the delivery of evidence of being up-to-date on their income tax payments).

Candidates whose applications were accepted included the outgoing President, Alassane Ouattara, leading the RHDP, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, President and candidate of the FPI, and certain dissidents of the PDCI, namely Charles Konan Banny and Amara Essy, which applied as independent candidates.

The Government granted CFAF 100 million to each candidate to cover electoral expenses. However, three candidates (Amara Essy, Mamadou Koulibaly and Charles Konan Banny) withdrew their application due to an alleged lack of transparency in the electoral process.

Recent Political Developments

The most recent presidential election took place on 31 October 2020. Part of the political opposition, led by Pascal Affi N'Guessan (FPI) and Henri Konan Bédié (PDCI), considered President Ouattara's candidacy for a third term as illegal and a violation of the Ivorian Constitution and called for civil disobedience and boycott of the presidential election. The electoral campaign and post-election period were marked by several protests and instances of violence that have resulted in casualties, including 87 deaths, nearly 500 people injured and 225 arrested, as well as significant property damage in several localities of the country. According to Government and other reports, 4,780 polling stations in opposition strongholds were ransacked on election day and election materials were burned by supporters of the opposition to prevent the opening of polling stations. This resulted in only 17,601 polling stations being open out of 22,381. The results announced by the IEC on 3 November 2020 and confirmed by the Constitutional Council on 9 November 2020 were that outgoing President Alassane Ouattara won the first round with 94.27% of the votes, followed by the independent candidate Mr. Konan Bertin Kouadio with 1.99%. While Pascal Affi N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bédié refused to participate in the election, they did not withdraw their candidacies and received 0.99% and 1.66% of the votes respectively. The participation rate stood at 53.90%, as compared to 55.86% for the 2015 presidential elections. President Alassane Ouattara was thus re-elected for a third five-year term ending in 2025.

In order to strengthen the nation-building process and reinforce the social contract, President Ouattara had, prior to the recent presidential elections, submitted a new draft constitution to a vote by referendum, which was adopted by a 93.42% majority vote. The law instituting the constitution was promulgated on 8 November 2016, marking the Third Republic's entry into force. This new constitution included the creation of the office of Vice-President of the Republic, a second chamber of the Parliament (the Senate) and the Court of Auditors. More recently, on 5 March 2020, President Ouattara announced various additional amendments to the 2016 Constitution in order to reinforce the rule of law and bring the

institutions closer to the citizens. The reform is built around three main focuses in respect of the executive, the legislative and the judiciary as follows:

- The executive branch and the status of the Vice-President of the Republic: in lieu of a presidential ticket, the reform allows for the Vice-President of the Republic to be appointed by the President of the Republic with the consent of the Parliament. As a result, the Vice-President of the Republic is no longer elected at the same time as the President. This aims at perpetuating the current successful experience of harmonious collaboration within the executive branch.
- The legislative branch and parliamentary continuity: in the event of impossibility of organising parliamentary elections within the timeframe provided for in the Constitution, the reform allows for the Parliament to remain in office until the next elections are held. The reform provides for the continuity of Parliament that transcends the end of the term of office of members of Parliament and the organization of elections concerning them. It amends article the 2016 Constitution on the expiry of the powers of the two chambers of Parliament and the election of the members of Parliament.
- The organization of the judiciary: the reform established the Court of Cassation (*Cour de Cassation*) and the Council of State (*Conseil d'Etat*) as the highest jurisdictional institutions alongside the Court of Auditors (*Cour des Comptes*). The effective implementation of this reform, which resulted in the disappearance of the Supreme Court, intends to respond to the need for institutional rationalization with a view to improving the operation of judicial institutions.

In addition to these major institutional reforms, other amendments relate to the adjustment, rectification of omissions and clarification or redrafting of certain provisions.

The draft constitutional reform was adopted by the two chambers of Parliament meeting in joint session on 17 March 2020. On 19 March 2020, President Alassane Ouattara promulgated the law amending the Constitution and the amendments became effective on the same day. On 24 June 2020, the Council of Ministers adopted a draft law on the powers, composition, organisation and functioning of the Court of Cassation and a draft law on the powers, composition, organisation and functioning of the Council of State. As of the date of this Prospectus, both the Court of Cassation and the Council of State are fully operational.

From 10 January 2017 to 13 July 2020, the Vice-President was Daniel Kablan Duncan, a member of the PDCI which forms a coalition with the RDR, the party of President Ouattara. A new Vice-President is still to be appointed by President Ouattara.

The Senate has been fully operational since 5 April 2018 with 99 members. Two-thirds of senators (66 senators) were elected by indirect universal suffrage during senatorial elections held on 24 March 2018 and one-third (33 senators) were appointed by the President of the Republic on 3 April 2019. The Senate sits in Yamoussoukro, the country's political and administrative capital. The president of the Senate is Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio, a member of the RHDP.

The last legislative elections took place in December 2016. They saw the victory of the alliance between the RDR and the PDCI. On the opposition side, the FPI, led by Pascal Affi N'Guessan, won three seats in the National Assembly. Mr. Amadou Soumahoro was elected as the new president of the National Assembly on 7 March 2019, following the resignation of Mr. Guillaume Soro. In addition, the National Assembly has seen the birth of two new parliamentary groups: the RHDP and Rassemblement. The RHDP parliamentary group is the result of the merger between various political groups, namely RDR, part of the PDCI-RDA and of the UDPCI, and other independent members of parliament. The Rassemblement parliamentary group is formed by officials close to the former president of the National Assembly, Mr. Guillaume Soro.

The next legislative elections are scheduled for 6 March 2021.

The Ivoirian political landscape is going through a reorganisation phase which has been induced by the presidential elections of 31 October 2020. However, the RHDP, in coalition with the PDCI, the FPI and (until 3 July 2020) the UDCPI, ultimately remain the dominant players of the political arena and are still structured around their historical

leaders. The RHDP coalition whose hegemonic position allowed the re-election of President Alassane Ouattara in 2015 has faced internal challenges in 2018 due to disagreements upon the interpretation of the mode of alternation between the PDCI and the RDR on the one hand, and upon the creation of a unified RHDP party on the other hand. Thus, after notifying its withdrawal from the unified party, the PDCI officially announced its withdrawal from the RHDP coalition. This situation has created a split within the PDCI between proponents of a break from the RHDP and other members who support the alliance. The RHDP coalition was further affected by the withdrawal of the UDCPI on 3 July 2020.

On 30 July 2019, the National Assembly adopted a reform of the IEC, reducing the number of commissioners to 15 (instead of 17), and changing the composition, including three representatives for each of the Presidential party and of the opposition, six for the civil society, and one for each of the Superior Council of Magistracy, the President of the Republic and the Ministry of Interior. The list of new members of the IEC was announced on 25 September 2019, and the new members were sworn in before the President of the Supreme Court on 27 September 2019.

The acquittal of former President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Charles Blé Goudé by the ICC on 15 January 2019, less than two years before the presidential elections which were held on 31 October 2020, has accelerated the reorganisation of the Ivoirian political landscape. Former President Bédié called for the establishment of a new political coalition with former President Laurent Gbagbo and their parties were reported to be working towards this objective. On 28 November 2019, at the headquarters of the PDCI in Abidjan, a manifesto of the Ivoirian political opposition, entitled *Dix-sept partis politiques membres de la Coalition pour la démocratie, la réconciliation et la paix (CDRP)*, was signed by seventeen parties, among which the PDCI and the Young Patriots (*Jeunes Patriotes*). The GPS and the FPI have not signed the CDRP.

In October 2019, Guillaume Soro, former prime minister and former president of the National Assembly, officially parted with the RHDP and announced his candidacy for the October 2020 presidential election with the support of his new political movement, *Génération et Peuples solidaires* (“GPS”). In December 2019, Guillaume Soro was accused of, amongst others, attempting to undermine the authority of the State, embezzlement of public funds and money laundering and an international arrest warrant was issued against him by the Ivoirian authorities. While Mr. Soro was (and still is) residing in France and having cancelled a previously planned return to Côte d'Ivoire in December 2019, several members of the GPS movement were arrested in Côte d'Ivoire, including five MPs and close allies. These people were charged with undermining the authority of the State, disturbing public order and spreading false rumours to discredit the proper functioning of the public institutions. The office of the National Assembly, the only body with the authority to waive the immunity of MPs, was notified of the case. On 23 September 2020, after spending several months in prison, 15 members of the GPS movement (including three of the five MPs) were released on parole. On 28 April 2020, Guillaume Soro was found guilty of embezzlement of public funds and money laundering, following a trial *in absentia*. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, ordered to pay a CFAF 4.5 billion fine and disqualified from standing for election or holding public office for five years. On 7 May 2020, in a complaint filed with the French courts in Paris by a group of unidentified plaintiffs, Guillaume Soro was accused of torture, murder and war crimes dating back to the years 2004 and 2011. Judicial proceedings are currently underway. On 18 November 2020, the Ivoirian Government issued, and transmitted to the French authorities, international arrest warrants for Mr Soro and three of his close aides, who are believed to be residing in France, including his director of communication and his aide-de-camp.

On 5 March 2020, President Alassane Ouattara officially announced that he would not run for the October 2020 presidential election. On 12 March 2020, Mr. Amadou Gon Coulibaly, then Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, was nominated as the RHDP candidate for the October 2020 presidential election. Following the death, on 8 July 2020, of Mr. Amadou Gon Coulibaly, President Alassane Ouattara decided to enter the presidential race as the RHDP candidate for a third term. This decision attracted strong protests from the political opposition, which considered that President Ouattara's candidacy for a third term violated the two-term limit set out in the Constitution. In addition to President Alassane Ouattara, 43 leaders of various political parties and affiliations announced their decision to run for the October 2020 presidential election, including Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, Mr. Pascal Affi N'guessan, Mr. Konan Bertin Kouadio, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Soro.

On 14 September 2020, the Constitutional Council confirmed four candidates out of the 44 registered: President Alassane Ouattara, Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, Mr. Pascal Affi N'guessan and Mr. Konan Bertin Kouadio. Among the 40 candidacies

rejected were those of Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, Mr. Mamadou Koulibaly and Mr. Guillaume Soro. Following the publication of the list of officially confirmed candidates, the political opposition, while contesting and denouncing the candidacy of President Alassane Ouattara as illegal and in violation of the Ivorian Constitution, withdrew from the electoral process and called for a boycott of the presidential election and civil disobedience. The political opposition also suspended its participation in the proceedings of the IEC, which had been reformed following the recommendations of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as in the local electoral commissions. The electoral campaign for the October presidential election opened on 15 October 2020 for a period of 15 days. During the campaign, and on and after election day, a number of instances of violence were reported in certain localities, including Bonoua, Elibou, Bongouanou, Daoukro, Sikensi and Dabou, resulting in, according to Government estimates, 87 deaths and nearly 500 injured and 225 arrested as of the date of this Prospectus according to the Government, and significant property damage (including destruction of public transportation vehicles and other public property) estimated by the Ministry of Transport at more than CFAF 2 billion.

The presidential election took place on 31 October 2020. The Government deployed 35,000 security forces throughout the country to ensure peaceful voting. Several incidents and difficulties were reported in several regions as a result of the opposition's boycott and civil disobedience calls. Some of the independent observer missions expressed reservations in their assessment of the election. The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and the Carter Foundation noted that “the political and security context did not allow for a competitive and credible election” and considered that the election left “a fractured country”. An Ivorian non-governmental organisation, Indigo, which had deployed nearly 1,000 observers in 750 polling stations throughout the country, added that “the election was marred by violence and did not favor the massive and serene expression of the population”. However, the IEC concluded that the vote was conducted in a generally satisfactory manner. In regions other than those strongly affected by the boycott (mainly in the opposition’s strongholds), the vote was held in relatively peaceful and satisfactory conditions. The National Council for Human Rights (*Conseil national des droits de l’homme – CNDH*) of Côte d’Ivoire noted that, “except for a few incidents reported in certain localities, the voting took place in an honest manner under acceptable conditions and in serenity thanks to the involvement of the security forces deployed for the security of the elections”.

On 2 November 2020, before the announcement of the results of the election by the IEC, the political opposition led by Mr. Henri Konan Bédié and Mr. Pascal Affi N'guessan announced that they did not recognize the election and would not recognize the results. They also claimed that there is an executive power vacuum as the second term of President Ouattara officially ended on 31 October 2020 and announced the creation of a so-called national transition council (*Conseil national de transition*), chaired by Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, responsible for forming a transitional government. As a result, on 3 November 2020, the Minister of Justice announced that the opposition's statement might constitute an act of sedition and referred the matter to the public prosecutor for the Abidjan tribunal of first instance (*tribunal de première instance d'Abidjan*) and that the perpetrators of the acts of violence committed during the presidential election and their accomplices were liable to be brought to justice. Also on 3 November, 2020, in a joint statement, ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations called upon the Ivorian opposition and all political stakeholders to respect the constitutional order of the country and to favour dialogue for a peaceful resolution of their disputes, and urged all parties to refrain from actions and declarations that could cause violence and unrest, while reaffirming their readiness to support Côte d'Ivoire in the peaceful resolution of the current post-election crisis.

On 6 November 2020, the public prosecutor of Abidjan referred the matter to the senior investigating judge (*juge d’instruction*) who opened a criminal investigation against the leaders of the opposition, including Pascal Affi N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bédié, for alleged acts of terrorism, attacks and conspiracies against the authority of the State, murder, wilful destruction of property, organization and participation in an insurrectional movement and other similar allegations. Henri Konan Bédié was put in house arrest on 6 November 2020 due to his age and physical condition. He was released on 11 November 2020. On 7 November 2020, Pascal Affi N'Guessan was arrested near the border between Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. However, on 9 November 2020, following confirmation of the results of the elections by the Constitutional Court, President Ouattara called for a political dialogue with the leaders of the opposition.

On 11 November 2020, President Alassane Ouattara and Mr. Henri Konan Bédié met in Abidjan for the first time since the presidential election. The purpose of the meeting was to calm post-election tensions, put an end to the violence in the country and find a peaceful solution to the crisis. At the end of the meeting President Ouattara declared that the meeting

was a first step in order “to restore confidence” between the parties. Mr. Bédié added that the meeting with President Ouattara helped “break the wall of silence” between the Government and the political opposition. During the brief joint press briefing after the meeting, President Ouattara and Mr. Bédié promised to hold more meetings and reaffirmed their commitment to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. On 16 November 2020, Mr Bédié, speaking on behalf of the opposition, demanded, as condition to a continued dialogue with the Government, the presence of a facilitator in any future meetings between the opposition and President Ouattara, the lifting of blockades around the residences of opposition leaders, and the unconditional release and cessation of all legal proceedings against all opposition leaders, including Mr Pascal Affi N’Guessan. Several opposition leaders who had been arrested and detained were released, including Pascal Affi N’Guessan on 30 December 2020, and Maurice Kakou Guikahue on 19 January 2021.

The various initiatives taken by the Government have helped ease political tensions and improve dialogue with the leaders of the opposition. The opposition has thus decided to participate in the legislative elections scheduled for 6 March 2021. The preparation of these elections is underway and the Government expects the vote to take place peacefully. Out of a total of 255 MP seats to be filled, the IEC has certified the lists of candidates submitted by the main political parties, including the RHDP (255 candidates), the PDCI (136 candidates), the EDS (*Ensemble pour la souveraineté et la démocratie*) (103 candidates), the FPI (66 candidates), and the Lider (8 candidates). The candidates and political parties represented suggest active participation of all major stakeholders of the Ivorian political landscape in the legislative elections. Moreover, representatives of the opposition have decided to participate in the proceedings of the IEC, which had been reformed following the recommendations of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as in the local electoral commissions. This will further ensure pluralism and allow for more inclusive legislative elections.

Governance

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (“**IIAG**”) examines the governance status in each of the 54 African countries. According to the 2020 IIAG published on 16 November 2020, which is based on data collected during the decade through to the end of 2019, Côte d’Ivoire is among the five most improved countries between 2010 and 2019 in terms of *Overall Governance*, climbing from the 46th (2011 IIAG) to 18th spot, an overall improvement of +9.0 points. The 2020 IIAG report ranks Côte d’Ivoire 18th out of 54 with a score of 53.9 out of 100. The African average is 48.8. Côte d’Ivoire is one of only eight countries to have increased their score in all four categories of the IIAG over the decade. It also features among the five most improved countries over the 2010-2019 period.

Côte d’Ivoire registered notable progress between 2010 and 2019 in category *Security & Rule of Law* (+8.8) (its highest score at 58.2 out of 100) and in sub-category *Transparency & Accountability* (+14.2), *Anti-corruption* (+9.2) and *Rule of Law & Justice* (+7.0) to become the one of the most improved countries on the continent in these measures over the last decade. In this same period, it has improved across various categories, registering gains in category *Participation & Human Rights* (+3.6) (its second highest score at 54.2 out of 100) with positive progress in sub-categories *Participation* (+8.5) and *Rights* (+6.1), and in category *Human Development* (+12.1) (with a score of 52.4 out of 100) with significant progress in sub-categories *Health* (+13.4), *Education* (+9.6), *Social Protection* (+13.2) and *Sustainable Environment* (+12.3), and in category *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* (+11.6), Côte d’Ivoire shows positive trends registering strong progress in sub-categories *Public Administration* (+16.1), *Infrastructure* (+18.2), and in *Business Environment* (+11.7).

In February 2019, in recognition of the Government’s fight against corruption, Côte d’Ivoire was the recipient of the African Union Anti-Corruption Award at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

In addition, in 2019 the Government initiated the development of a National Governance Plan (NGP) through a participatory process involving civil society and coordinated by the main structures in charge of promoting governance (HABG (*Haute Autorité pour la Bonne Gouvernance*), IGE (*Inspection Générale d’Etat*), National Commission of the African Peer Review Mechanism). The NGP, which is expected to be adopted in 2021, will constitute the single reference framework for the improvement of governance. The NGP is intended to ensure synergy between the actions of the various stakeholders and will enable the production of an annual global report on the improvement of governance in accordance with international standards.

National and International Justice

The efforts to bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of the crimes committed during the post-election crisis are ongoing. The mandate of the special investigative unit created in 2011 to investigate crimes perpetrated during that period was extended by Presidential decree on 30 December 2013, and this unit has been restructured to become a permanent Special Investigative and Analytical Unit (*Cellule Spéciale d'Enquête et d'Investigation*) with enhanced resources and means.

The proceedings against former President Laurent Gbagbo, Mr. Charles Blé Goudé and former president Laurent Gbagbo's wife, Simone Gbagbo, are described above in "*2010 Presidential Election and the Post-Election Crisis*".

On 3 February 2014, the military prosecutor exonerated 10 high-ranking police officers who had been accused of insubordination during the post-election crisis. On 12 February 2014, the military tribunal declared that the former head of the National Police School (*Ecole Nationale de Police*) was guilty of misappropriating funds and sentenced her, as well as four of the six other police officers charged with the same offence, to two years' imprisonment.

A trial, known as the "Novotel captives" was held before the Ivorian Courts between February 2017 and April 2017. The accused, including General Dogbo Blé, former commander of the Republican Guard, were under prosecution before the Criminal Court for allegations of kidnapping, confining, torturing and murdering four individuals, including one manager and three guests staying at the Novotel hotel on 4 April 2011. At the end of the proceedings, the jury sentenced General Dogbo Blé to a prison sentence of 18 years and the others accused to varying prison sentences ranging from 10 to 20 years.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants

The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-combatants ("DDR") was the process by which ex-combatants were required to lay down their arms and return to civilian life or rejoin the country's restructured armed forces.

With the UNOCI's support, the implementation of the DDR process in Côte d'Ivoire was the responsibility of the Government through the National Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (*Autorité Nationale pour le Désarmement, la Démobilisation et la Réintégration* ("ADDR")), an institution created by Decree No. 2012-787 of 8 August 2012 under the auspices of the National Security Council ("NSC"). The ADDR established a program framework which was presented to international partners in February 2014. It also established partnerships with national institutions within the fields of finance, training and employment as well as with international donors. The European Union and the AfDB provided €14 million and US\$30 million, respectively, to finance the ADDR's activities.

According to the UNOCI, the DDR process was divided into three phases: (i) disarmament, (ii) demobilization and (iii) reintegration. Disarmament consisted of the collection of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment in the possession of ex-combatants. During this operation, the ex-combatants handed in their weapons to the ADDR in presence of the UNOCI experts. These were then sorted, stored and secured with the help of the United Nations. Malfunctioning weapons were destroyed by the United Nations, the others marked using the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Small Caliber Ammunition, were aimed at ensuring proper registration and identification.

Demobilization represented the passage of the ex-combatant into civilian life. It consisted in profiling the ex-combatants, conducting a medical examination and providing a civilian package such as clothes and shoes. The ex-combatants then attended sessions on reintegration opportunities. At the end of the demobilization process, a demobilization card was given to the ex-combatant to allow him to start his rehabilitation. In Côte d'Ivoire, the ADDR introduced an innovative "resocialization" approach to facilitate the social reintegration of the ex-combatants, reconciliation and social cohesion.

"Reinsertion" was a transitional phase between the demobilization of ex-combatants and their final reintegration into social and economic life. The ex-combatant began his rehabilitation by receiving financial assistance upon presentation of his demobilization card. It also involved facilitating the reintegration of ex-combatants through economic opportunities offered as a social safety net. Reintegration opportunities for ex-combatants included income-generating activities, micro-projects, professional training and scholarships.

On 4-6 November 2014, the ADDR held an international knowledge-sharing workshop to discuss the achievements and challenges in the national program. Experts from several partner countries were impressed with achievements of the DDR process in Côte d'Ivoire, and commended Côte d'Ivoire's initiatives for the implementation of the re-socialization program, a unique tool to ensure adequate socio-economic reintegration of the ex-combatants.

On 31 December 2014, the ADDR announced that some 46,000 ex-combatants, including 3,538 women, had been disarmed and reintegrated representing 62% of the 74,000 ex-combatants registered in the database. Around 25,000 weapons were collected over the same period. The number of ex-combatants affiliated with the former regime and entering the DDR process increased over time to reach 25%, reflecting the improvement in the socio-political environment, social cohesion and reconciliation in the country. A thorough review of the database suggested that more than 10,000 ex-combatants were either dead, no longer interested in participating in the process or had permanently relocated abroad. The UNOCI assisted the Government with its reinsertion efforts through the implementation of 79 community-based, countrywide reinsertion projects aimed at the enhancement of community safety and social cohesion, the reinforcement of the weapons collection program and the payment of transitional safety allowances to approximately 24,000 former combatants.

With regard to civilian disarmament, the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (the "NCSALW"), with the support of the United Nations Mine Action Service (the "UNMAS"), conducted 27 weapons collection operations, collecting 376 weapons, 149 ammunition and 5,918 small arms ammunition. On 10 October 2014, the UNOCI, the ADDR and the NCSALW launched a tripartite community disarmament plan. The UNMAS supported nine operations in Bloléquin, Dieuzon, Duékoué, Guiglo, Toulepleu and Zagné. A total of 176 weapons, 851 small arms ammunition and 66 items of explosive devices were collected.

According to the UNOCI's final report of 30 January 2017, a total of 43,510 armaments, including 14,121 weapons, were collected throughout the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration period from 2012 to 2015. The low number of weapons and explosive ordnance that was collected was due to the significant number of weapons still hidden within local communities. The national commission for the fight against the proliferation and illegal distribution of light weapons and small arms continued community weapons collections, offering benefits to civilians in exchange for weapons and ammunition, and involving local and traditional authorities in raising the awareness of target groups.

On 24 June 2015, the Council of Ministers adopted two decrees: (i) a decree ending the activities of the ADDR and (ii) a decree creating the Coordination, Monitoring and Reintegration Cell (*Cellule de Coordination, de Suivi et de Réinsertion* ("CCSR")). These decrees aim to consolidate the ADDR's success and, as a transitional measure, transfer the activities of reinserting ex-combatants demobilized by the ADDR to the CCSR, created specifically for this purpose and placed under the authority of the NSC. The CCSR is responsible for organizing and coordinating the resocialization activities carried out by the Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children, the *Gendarmerie Nationale*, the National Institute of Public Health, the Blue Cross or any other national or international organization. It also manages the database and referencing of specialized structures for the implementation of activities to reinsert ex-combatants, as well as the implementation of agreements concluded by the ADDR.

The ADDR's reinsertion and reintegration records as of 1 September 2015 show that out of the 69,506 ex-combatants that were identified, 63,639 cases have been treated, a success rate of 92%. This high achievement rate enabled the Government to terminate the ADDR's operations without creating undue high security risk.

The table below shows the record of the ADDR's activities as of 1 September 2015:

Category	<u>Number</u>
Individuals being resocialized	1,974
Individuals undergoing professional training	2,723
Individuals in training	1,448
Individuals reintegrated	57,514
Total	63,639
Success rate, out of 69,506 ex-combatants	92%
Total weapons collected	39,279
<i>Source: CCSR</i>	

Defence and Security

Since the end of the 2011 post-election crisis, the Government has made peace and security key priorities and, to this effect, has endeavoured to eliminate the roots of violence in Ivorian society by promoting national reconciliation, combating poverty among the population and putting inclusive economic growth at the top of its agenda. Political stability and security have thus markedly improved. The safety index (a measure tracked by the Interior and Security Ministry) improved continuously, decreasing from 3.2 in 2011 to 1.1 in September 2017. The Government considers that the State's authority is effective throughout the national territory and the security forces carry out their task of protecting people, property and the territory effectively. The UNOCI mission ended on 30 June 2017. This mission had been authorized by the UN's Security Council in February 2004 and had succeeded the ECOWAS force.

This has led several international organizations to move their headquarters to Abidjan. For example, the UNESCO returned to Abidjan in September 2013, the AfDB completed the relocation of its headquarters to Abidjan in late 2014 after a 10-year absence and the International Cocoa Organization moved its headquarters to Abidjan in April 2017 after 44 years in London. In addition, several elections were organized in the country in 2015 and 2016 without giving rise to any major political incident.

Some occasional instances of violence in the country have recently highlighted the necessity for the Government to continue its efforts of consolidating a climate of peace and social cohesion. On 6 January 2017, armed soldiers started a protest in Bouaké, the second city in the country, which spread to several big cities in the country the next day. The soldiers involved in these armed protests were the so-called "8,400", former members of the *Forces Nouvelles*, who were integrated into the regular Ivorian army after the 2007 Ouagadougou agreements. According to the Government, the army mutineers were demanding the payment of a bonus, salary increases and faster promotion.

Following negotiations between the Government and the leaders of the mutinous soldiers, President Ouattara announced an agreement on the settlement of their demands. This agreement, which was signed in Bouaké on 13 January 2017, provided for the payment of CFAF 12 million to each of the mutinous soldiers, of which CFAF 5 million was paid in January 2017, with the balance to be paid through monthly payments of CFAF 1 million as from and including May 2017. Thus, the total amount of CFAF 100.8 billion agreed to be paid in connection with the settlement agreement was paid. The final payments were made at the end of June 2017.

On 11 May 2017, a representative of the mutinous soldiers announced in a public statement before President Ouattara and the military hierarchy that all mutinous soldiers had consented to renounce all remaining payments under the January 2017 settlement agreement. However, on the morning of 12 May 2017, armed protests broke out again among other mutinous soldiers in all military barracks in the country to denounce the statement purportedly made on their behalf the previous day before President Ouattara and to reaffirm their demand for full payment of the amounts agreed in the January 2017 settlement agreement. The protests continued until 15 May 2017 with soldiers blocking roads and sporadic gun fire being heard in Abidjan and Bouaké, sparking security concerns. The Government later reported four dead and nine injured as a result of the protests. In the evening of 15 May 2017, the Government reached an agreement with the mutinous soldiers as a result of which the armed protests ended and the Government paid CFAF 5 million to each mutinous soldier on 16 May 2017. The outstanding amount of CFAF 2 million per person was paid in June 2017. Some of the soldiers, who were entitled to promotion in view of their seniority and experience, and whose promotion had been unduly delayed, were promoted.

Furthermore, on 23 May 2017, former *Forces Nouvelles* combatants who were demobilized following the 2011 post-election crisis organized protests reportedly to demand the payment of a CFAF 18 million bonus per demobilized ex-combatant. According to the Interior Ministry, five demobilized ex-combatants were killed and 14 others were injured as a result of a confrontation with policemen in Bouaké. The spokesman for the protesters, who was arrested following the incidents, was released on 26 May 2017. Demobilized ex-combatants are estimated to number about 6,000, according to media reports. The Government does not recognize this group or their claims, and believes that the situation of demobilized combatants was adequately addressed through the DDR programme.

As part of the implementation of the army's voluntary retirement plan, and out of a total of 1,067 retirement requests, 991 requests were granted by the review commission as of 31 October 2017, the deadline for applications. These include

three officers, 634 non-commissioned officers and 354 of enlisted rank. The soldiers concerned were subject to an early retirement plan as of 31 December 2017. The Ivorian army comprises approximately 23,000 soldiers. The 2016 military plan law provides for the institution's modernization through an increased focus on professionalism and a reduction of staff. Investments are also regularly made in order to improve soldiers' quality of life (which includes housing and clothing).

Population, Education and Health

Population

Côte d'Ivoire's total population in 2014 stood at 22.7 million, according to the last GPHC (2014), and is estimated at 25.8 million in 2019 (INS). According to the 2014 GPHC, Côte d'Ivoire's population is composed of 11.7 million men (51.6%) and 10.9 million women (48.4%). Children (ages 0-14) represented 41.8% of the total population and young people (ages 15-34) represented 35.5% of the total population. As a result, Côte d'Ivoire's population is relatively young, with 77.3% of the population being under 35. Côte d'Ivoire is a country of immigration at the regional level for the surrounding countries of West Africa.

According to the INS, the average annual population growth rate was 2.6% between 1998 and 2017 and 3.3% between 1988 and 1998.

With 17.1 million of the country's inhabitants (75.5%) occupying 48% of the country's territory, population density stands at 70.3 inhabitants per km². The 2014 GPHC shows that half of the population (11,370,347 inhabitants, or 50.2%) is urban, primarily concentrated in Abidjan which, with a population of 4,395,243 inhabitants, accounts for nearly four out of ten urban residents (38.7%).

The population remains unevenly distributed across the country's territory. The district of Abidjan (Abidjan, Bingerville, Anyama and Songon), with a population of 4,707,404 inhabitants, accounts for one-fifth of the total population (20.8% according to available estimates). The least-populated regions are located in the district of Denguélé (Kabadougou and Folon), which has a population of 288,779 (0.4%), of which a population of 96,415 is in the Folon region.

Twelve cities have more than 100,000 residents. Following the 2014 GPHC, the cities of Divo, Soubré, Abengourou and Anyama reached this milestone. Each of these cities is a provincial capital, with the exception of Anyama.

Côte d'Ivoire's population consists predominantly of five main ethnic groups: the Mandé group (the Dan, the Yacouba, the Toura, the Gouro, the Malinké and the Dioula) in the north-west and the west, the Voltaic group (Sénoufo, Koulango and Lobi) in the north, the Krou group (Wê, Bété, Bakwé, Godié and Dida) in the south-west and mid-west, and the Akan group, which is divided into the "*Lagunaires*," in the south, and the Agni-Baoulé in the centre, the south-east and the east.

French is the official language of the country. About 60 vernacular languages are also spoken, *baoulé* and *dioula* being the most widely spoken.

Côte d'Ivoire is a secular country where a variety of religions are practiced, namely Islam (39% of the population), Christianity (about 30% of the population) and Animism (about 12% of the population).

Côte d'Ivoire's ranking in the 2019 United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP") Human Development Index ("HDI") was 165 out of 189 with an HDI of 0.516, compared to 169 in 2016 with an IDH of 0.508. Côte d'Ivoire's HDI in 2018, 0.516, is above the average of the group of countries with low human development (0.507), but below the average of the group of countries of sub-Saharan Africa (0.541). Between 2010 and 2018, Côte d'Ivoire's HDI value increased from 0.454 to 0.516, an increase of approximately 13.66%. The HDI is developed by the UNDP and provides a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to education and a decent standard of living.

The table below sets out selected comparative macroeconomic statistics regarding certain socio-economic indicators for 2018 (unless otherwise indicated) for Côte d'Ivoire and for certain other African countries:

	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Zambia	Nigeria	South Africa	Kenya
GDP Growth (annual %)	7.4	6.3	3.8	1.9	0.8	6.3
Population Growth (annual %)	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.6	1.4	2.3
Life Expectancy at Birth (years) (male/female)	56/59	63/65	61/66	53/55	60/67	64/69
Primary School Enrolment (% gross)	100	105 ⁽³⁾	99 ⁽²⁾	85 ⁽¹⁾	101 ⁽²⁾	103 ⁽¹⁾
Mortality Rate, under 5 (per 1,000)	81	48	58	120	34	41

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, 2018 unless noted otherwise

⁽¹⁾ Figures for 2016.

⁽²⁾ Figures for 2017.

⁽³⁾ Figures for 2019.

New Nationality Law

Nationality is one of the issues from which the military and political Ivorian crisis between 2002 and the Ouagadougou Political Agreement on 4 March 2007 originated. In this respect, and after a first nationality law in 2004 providing for a simplified process of acquisition of Ivorian nationality for long-standing immigrants and their descendents, a second nationality law, whose effects were limited to a two-year period, was adopted by the National Assembly in August 2013. This law instituted a special regime with regard to the acquisition of Ivorian nationality by a mere declaration for persons in the following categories:

- persons born in Côte d'Ivoire of foreign parents and under 21 as at 20 December 1961;
- persons whose usual and uninterrupted residence was in Côte d'Ivoire before 7 August 1960 and whose children were born in Côte d'Ivoire;
- persons of foreign parents born in Côte d'Ivoire between 20 December 1961 and 25 January 1973.

In addition, the implementing decree stipulated that the scope of this law extended to children born in Côte d'Ivoire of persons that fall within the three categories above.

These beneficiaries could claim Ivorian nationality by following a declaration procedure with one of the nine Public Prosecutors, or one of (i) the 27 resident substitute prosecutors, (ii) the 19 departmental *préfets* or (iii) the 436 sub-*préfets* located throughout the country. In the event a request was deemed acceptable, a certificate attesting to the acquisition of Ivorian nationality through the declaration procedure, signed by the Ministry of Justice, would be delivered to the applicant.

At the end of the application period on 24 January 2016, 123,810 requests had been submitted. The processing of such requests, which is still ongoing, led to the delivery of 16,180 certificates of nationality as of 31 October 2020. The difference between the number of requests filed and that of certificates of nationality delivered is mainly the result of the large number of applications rejected due to forged birth certificates. The Government found it necessary to implement a number of measures to regularise the situation of persons without civil status and who consequently use forged or stolen administrative documents to perform civil acts.

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, in coordination with other ministries, has made significant progress in the area of civil status reforms, including in particular:

- the implementation of a specific procedure of civil status declaration for primary school pupils without birth certificates who could eventually be declared stateless, which resulted in the delivery of 630,748 birth certificates as at the end of March 2019;
- the launch of an ambitious project of civil status modernization with, as first steps, the enactment of Law No. 2018-862 reforming and amending current regulations relating to civil status and the creation of the National Registry of Individuals (*Registre National des Personnes Physiques*) assigning a unique identifier to each person with a civil status;

- the enactment of Law No. 2018-863 establishing a simplified procedure for the declaration of birth, restoration of identity and transcription of birth certificates and of two related implementing decrees, Decree No. 2019-805 of 2 October 2019 and Decree No. 2019-976 of 27 November 2019. As at 31 October 2020, 170 requests of restoration of identity, 3,714 requests of transcription of birth certificates and 188,913 requests of declaration of birth have been granted. The operation has been completed but the processing of requests continues to progress in the various jurisdictions. These laws aim to increase the rate of civil status declarations, to make civil status records more secure and to produce more reliable statistics, in particular through the action of civil registrars in health centers and villages, the opening of civil registry offices in health centers and the computerization of the civil registry system. This law also provides for the granting of amnesty to persons born in Côte d'Ivoire who used either forged birth certificates or birth certificates belonging to others;
- the creation of a central office of naturalizations by Decree No. 2019-1099 which is intended to accelerate the handling of naturalisation requests in order to process them in a timely manner;
- the adoption by the Government Council held on 8 January 2020 of the Côte d'Ivoire Action Plan for the Eradication of statelessness on its sovereign territory;
- the adoption by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights of a ministerial circular which is intended to overcome a legal impediment relating to the attribution of the Ivorian nationality to children with unknown parents found in the national territory. This rule is based on the supra-legislative effect of international conventions ratified by Côte d'Ivoire, including the 1961 convention on the reduction of statelessness.

These laws contain various provisions aimed at raising the declaration rate for events relating to civil status, improving the reliability of civil status certificates and allowing for the production of reliable statistics.

Education

The educational system is made up of two types of education: general education and technical education and vocational training. General education comprises three levels: (i) pre-school and primary education, (ii) secondary general education, and (iii) higher education. Technical education and vocational training begin in secondary school.

In 1997, Côte d'Ivoire prepared a 1998-2010 National Plan for the Development of Education/Vocational Training (*Plan National de Développement du Secteur Éducation/Formation* (“**PNDEF**”)). However, the results obtained were insufficient and fell short of the objectives of the PNDEF according to the State Report on the National Educational System (*Rapport d'Etat sur le Système Éducatif National*) issued in 2007. This report revealed that the educational system continued to face difficulties of different magnitude, particularly related to (i) limited accessibility and supervision, (ii) mismanagement of resources, (iii) budgetary constraints, (iv) inadequacy of teaching materials and infrastructures, and (v) obsolescence of equipment. The Ivorian educational system is also faced with social problems that hinder the schooling of vulnerable students, particularly young women, early pregnancy, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, school violence, politicisation of schools and lack of birth certificates.

Subsequently, the institutional capacities of Ministries in charge of the education and vocational training sector were improved with support from the World Bank through the Education–Vocational Training Sector Assistance Program (*Programme d'Appui au Secteur Éducation–Formation* (“**PASEF**”)). This program has allowed the implementation of a series of measures, including starting the implementation of the Education-Vocational Training Information and Management System (*Système d'Informations et de Gestion de l'Éducation-Formation*), defining sectorial policy with the adoption of the Letter on Education Policy, drafting a medium-term action plan (*Plan d'Actions à Moyen Terme*) to make the Educational Policy operational, and drafting the Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (*Cadres de Dépenses à Moyen Terme* (“**CDMT**”)) for the sector and the equipment of the central and deconcentrated structures.

Outside of the traditional educational system, there is an alternative education system put in place by state institutions and civil society organizations. These alternative options include notably community educational centres and confessional denominational schools. Approximately 500,000 students attend these schools. In the interest of moving this alternative educational system closer to current norms, a framework for coordination and support was implemented

in order to offer alternative education options to children not attending school. Following an appraisal organized by the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training in 2019, 343 Koranic schools, which enrolled a total of 101,890 students, of which 46,600 are girls, were integrated into the official Ivorian educational system.

Between February and May 2019, a number of teachers in the primary and secondary education sectors supported by their unions went on strike demanding, among other things, a revaluation of their wages, an increase in their housing allowances, and that Wednesday be a day off in primary schools. None of these claims were accepted in the Government. However, the Government reassured the unions that their demands were duly taken into account and further discussions will be held with all stakeholders. No date has yet been confirmed for such discussions. The impact of the strikes was felt by a fall in the success rates of the end-of-year examinations in primary education (57.3% in 2019, compared to 60.1% in 2018) and secondary education (41.2% in 2019, compared to 46.1% in 2018).

The Government had recognized in the 2016-2020 NDP the urgent need to strengthen the quality of the education system to meet its economic growth targets, in particular in the area of vocational training, and has developed an ambitious agenda aimed at achieving better outcomes in the education sector by committing to an education program for all 6 to 16 year olds. The development targets in the primary and secondary education system seek to improve the gender parity index, enrolment rate, achievement rate, transition rate from primary to secondary, and literacy rate, in relation with the Government's Education for All agenda, including by providing free access to books for pupils.

The following table shows the Government's expenses in the education sector from 2015 to 2020:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020 (Est.)</u>
Education (CFAF billions)	926.8	1,179.3	1,085.5	1,246.7	1,262.8	1,437
Education (% of nominal GDP)	3.4	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.6	4.1

Source: MPMBPE/DGBF

Pre-school and Primary Education

Primary education is free and mandatory in Côte d'Ivoire. However, in pre-school (children between 3 and 5 years old) and primary school, participation and accessibility rates, although increasing, remain low. The Gross Education Rate (*Taux Brut de Scolarisation* ("TBS")) for pre-school, which corresponds to the number of students enrolled as compared to the school-age population, expressed as a percentage, went from 7.4% in 2014/2015 to 9.4% in 2018/2019. For pre-school, the low rate is primarily due to the ignorance of certain sections of the population regarding the importance of pre-school education and the weak pre-school infrastructure coverage across the national territory. In 2018/2019, pre-school education represented 3,151 schools, 7,042 classrooms, 9,533 teachers and 188,147 pupils.

In primary schools, this rate is 100.5% in 2018-2019, with a rate of 100.5% for boys and 100.4% for girls. Although this rate is high, it conceals certain regional disparities. Furthermore, it reflects the necessity of continued efforts to attain universal education. To reach this goal, the number of children enrolled in school before or after the normal schooling age must be reduced and the Net Education Rate (*Taux Net de Scolarisation* ("TNS")) (which corresponds to the quotient of the population enrolled at the official school-age as compared to the school-age population, expressed as a percentage) must reach 100%. The TNS, which currently stands at 91.3%, shows that 8.7% of children aged 6 to 11 are not enrolled in primary school. For girls, the TBS recorded a strong increase, from 77.5% in 2010-2011 to 100.4% in 2018-2019. The continuing increase in the education rate for girls is due to awareness campaigns promoting their schooling and efforts made in recent years to stimulate demand for education, in particular via the creation and expansion of school canteens, the construction of new classrooms and the distribution of free school kits.

In terms of capacity, the number of primary school classes increased from 64,315 in 2010-2011 for 2,730,305 students, to 95,866 in 2018-2019 (of which 16.66% were private) for 4,003,884 students. The number of students per class decreased from 43 to 42 on average for the same period, with unequal distribution across the country. The number of primary school teachers increased from 58,121 in 2010-2011, 32% of which were women, to 96,255 in 2018-2019, 32.10% of which are women.

Secondary Education

Secondary education capacity increased from 1,084 schools, of which 786 were private, in 2010-2011, to 2,019 of which 1,495 are private, in 2018-2019. The number of students in secondary schools increased from 999,707, of which 39% were girls, in 2010-2011, to 2,110,499, of which 43.99% are girls, in 2018-2019, or a total increase of 111.11%. Over the same period, infrastructure increased by an average of 11.81% per year. Furthermore, public infrastructure recorded an average growth of 9.4% per year. This is due to the construction of local middle schools carried out by the State with the support of various development partners, which also resulted in significant increases in the number of classrooms (an average of 23.8% per year). At the end of the secondary education, students can sit the *baccalauréat* examination.

The number of teachers in secondary schools has also increased, from 21,793 in 2010-2011, of which 16% were women, to 61,338 in 2018-2019, of which 14.0% are women. These numbers remain inadequate to face expansion needs, especially in the sciences and French. During the 2013-2014 school year, 1,783 teaching positions remained vacant. In addition, spatial distribution of teachers, especially in primary schools, shows much disparity, with a strong concentration in urban centres.

Higher Education

Higher education in Côte d'Ivoire comprises 176,504 students and is provided through 217 institutions, including 7 public universities (one of which is dedicated to computer and digital science), 27 private universities, 32 selective public institutes (*grandes écoles publiques*), and 153 selective private institutes (*grandes écoles privées*). With regard to the scientific research component, the statistical yearbook lists 73 institutions, 208 researchers and 3,482 faculty members.

Four-fifths of the higher education institutions are concentrated in the Abidjan district. In addition, three universities and schools (UFHB, INP-HB and ENSEA) were identified as part of a World Bank supported program to create regional centres of excellence in Africa and the INP-HB has been identified as the regional centre for the training of pilots for civil aviation.

In an effort to respond to the strong demand for access to higher education, the State pays for a number of students to enrol at private universities where tuition fees are based on students' financial capabilities.

Technical Education and Vocational Training

In 2018-2019, secondary technical education comprises 288 institutions, three of which are public, with 46,153 students for 6,475 teachers. The number of teachers grew annually at an average rate of 33% from 2011 to 2014. The rate of students repeating a year is 8.57% in 2018, of which 7.08% were girls and 9.97% were boys.

In 2018-2019, there were 60 vocational training institutions, ten mobile training units (*unités mobiles de formation – UMFs*), three Application and Production Workshops (*Ateliers d'Application et de Production – "AAP"*) and 245 private institutions and state-approved private training centres. For the 2018-2019 school year, there were 60,829 vocational trainees.

An inventory of the Technical Education and Vocational Training system, drawn up in 2016, led the Government to adopt, on 28 December 2016, the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan for the Reform of Technical Education and Vocational Training (*Enseignement Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle – "ETFP"*), the aim of which is to set up a fully-fledged system for the development of vocational skills, accessible to all and adapted to the development needs of the national economy. Through this reform, mechanisms have been implemented to better identify skills required by the production sector and thus enable the vocational and technical training system to offer training courses that address the needs expressed by the private sector and are adapted to all target populations, in particular: the unschooled, individuals no longer attending school, graduates and non-graduates of national education, higher education and the working population.

This reform is structured around seven areas of focus, including (i) strengthening partnerships between schools and companies, (ii) developing, and improving access to, ETFP structures, (iii) diversifying and targeting training offerings,

(iv) establishing a national certification framework, (v) implementing a new legal framework of system governance adapted to the training context, (vi) improving management of private institutions and (vii) optimising and diversifying the ETFP financing system.

To implement the reform, two major projects have been launched for the 2016 – 2020 period:

- the implementation of eleven major structural reforms covering the above seven areas of focus of the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan for the Reform of ETFP. Such implementation yielded significant results including (i) the adoption of decrees establishing new governance bodies (such as the Joint Steering Committee of the Vocational Training Partnership (*Comité Paritaire de Pilotage – CPP*) and the establishment of a Joint Management Committee in each ETPF institution), (ii) the opening of new courses and new curriculums in various fields in order to take into account the specific needs of companies and the professional world, (iii) the development of apprenticeship (including by the recruitment of 6,000 apprentices and the establishment of the Apprenticeship Technical Committee), (iv) the adoption by the Vocational Training Development Fund (*Fonds de Développement de la Formation Professionnelle – FDFP*) of a strategic and operational plan to better address the issue of continuing education and to identify measures that can help broaden the tax base for the purpose of increasing funding, (v) measures aimed at adapting ETFP to the business environment through companies immersion experiences for trainers, introduction of gateway classes and establishment of a system for monitoring trainees and (vi) organizational reforms such as the redesign of the ETFP examination environment, the reform of the management of vocational training scholarships, the revision of the institutional frameworks of the supervised institutions and the ongoing drafting of the preliminary bill on the line of strategy for ETFP; and
- the rehabilitation of the vocational training system, through the rehabilitation, construction and equipment of vocational training structures with the support of several partners in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. This programme led to the rehabilitation and equipment of eleven facilities, and the rehabilitation work is currently ongoing for nine additional facilities. As for constructions and acquisitions, the aim is to build and equip 28 new establishments over the 2016 - 2020 period and to bring vocational training offerings closer to the population, by acquiring 15 new mobile vocational training units intended for rural areas. As part of this programme, the Government has mobilized funding for the construction and equipment of nineteen technical education and vocational training establishments and an agricultural training department at the National Pedagogical Institute of Technical and Vocational Education (*Institut Pédagogique National de l'Enseignement Technique Professionnel – IPNETP*). The Mohamed VI Multisectoral Vocational Training Centre, which trains professionals in various sectors of activity, including construction and public works, hospitality and tourism, opened at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. Three establishments are expected to be operational in 2021 and fifteen institutions and a department of agricultural training are currently under construction.

Quality of Education

Côte d'Ivoire's illiteracy rate was 45.0% in 2015, according to the latest survey of living standards (2015). On the 51st International Literacy Day in October 2017, the Government announced the continued reduction of the illiteracy rate from 51% to 43.8%, representing a decrease of 7.2%. The Government's objective had been to decrease the illiteracy rate to 20% by the end of 2020, although this may take some years to achieve. The Government expects to achieve this objective as part of the 2021-2025 NDP.

Primary and secondary educational performance is limited by difficult practical conditions, lack of teaching materials, lack of infrastructure, as well as insufficient educational staff. The output of the educational system is still low, with increased levels of school dropouts. The education system is also characterized by substantial inequalities in access and educational performance. The chance of attending school is not equal for all children based on sex and geographic location. Over the past two decades, the Government has initiated a program for school cafeterias in public schools, free distribution of school kits including a book bag and school supplies (books and notebooks), as well as an intensive awareness program seeking to eliminate discriminatory behaviour towards young women. The implementation of these projects has helped improve school access, increase primary school completion rate and decrease disparities. Between

2011 and 2019, as a result of the Government's sustained efforts to improve the quality of education, 71,544 teaching and supervisory staff have been recruited, including 10,300 teachers, and 186,000 desk benches have been distributed.

The high rate of students repeating a year (11.5% in primary and 13% in general secondary school in 2016-2017) creates further pressure on already limited educational infrastructure. It negatively affects the internal efficiency and the performance of the educational system, and increases the costs of education for the State and for families. For 2018-2019, the repetition rate in primary schools was 12.2% and 14.4% in secondary schools. Studies are under way to understand the phenomenon and provide appropriate solutions.

Health

Côte d'Ivoire has a dual healthcare system, with the private sector and the public health sector practicing modern medicine on the one hand, and a traditional healthcare system practicing traditional medicine on the other.

The public sector is divided into three levels and comprised in 2018: (i) a primary or peripheral level including 2,479 First-Contact Health Facilities (*Etablissements Sanitaires de Premiers Contacts - ESPC*) of which 65.1% are located in rural areas, (ii) a secondary level comprising healthcare establishments supporting the first level, composed of 84 General Hospitals and 17 Regional Hospital Centers and (iii) a tertiary level including healthcare establishments supporting the second level, essentially composed of National Public Establishments with five University Hospitals (*Centres Hospitaliers Universitaires - CHU*), five Specialized National Institutes: the National Institute of Public Health (*Institut National de Santé Publique*), the National Institute of Public Hygiene (*Institut National d'Hygiène Publique*), the Raoul Follereau Institute (*Institut Raoul Follereau*), the Pierre Richet Institute (*Institut Pierre Richet*) and the Heart Institute of Abidjan (*Institut de Cardiologie d'Abidjan*). There are also four other supporting National Public Institutions: (a) the National Center for Blood Transfusion (*Centre National de Transfusion Sanguine*), (b) the National Laboratory of Public Health (*Laboratoire National de Santé Publique*), (c) the New Pharmacy for Public Health (*Nouvelle Pharmacie de la Santé Publique*) and (d) the Urgent Medical Care Service (*Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence*). Other Ministries, including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Public Service, Ministry of Interior and ministries in charge of administrative reform, solidarity, family, women and children and national education also participate in providing healthcare through their health facilities.

The private healthcare sector has evolved in recent years with the emergence of private healthcare facilities of all classes and categories such as polyclinics, clinics, medical centres and practices, pharmacies and private infirmaries, which have been well integrated into the various levels of the healthcare pyramid. Private healthcare is found primarily in large cities and economic centres.

Faith-based private sector organisations also participate in providing healthcare, particularly at the primary level, with 127 First-Contact Health Facilities (*Etablissements Sanitaires de Premiers Contacts - ESPC*) and 17 General Hospitals in 2018.

Despite this large healthcare system, there are still some zones with limited access to healthcare. According to the 2018 Annual Report on the Sanitary System (*Rapport Annuel sur le Système Sanitaire 2018 ("RASS")*), approximately 69.0% of the population was living less than 5 km away from a healthcare facility (compared to 66.9% in 2017), while 22.0% was between 5 and 15 km away and approximately 9.0% was more than 15 km away. The national ratio of one First-Contact Health Facility (*Etablissement Sanitaire de Premiers Contacts - ESPC*) for 10,164 inhabitants remains below the WHO standard of one First-Contact Health Facility (*Etablissement Sanitaire de Premiers Contacts - ESPC*) for 10,000 inhabitants, with 213,522 inhabitants per reference hospital.

In 2018, the pharmaceutical sector comprised one purchasing centre, the New Pharmacy for Public Health, 4 wholesalers-distributors, 726 private pharmacies and 557 public pharmacies. The local production segment of the pharmaceutical market represented less than 10% of total drug production and the rest, more than 90%, was imported. The main production units were Cipharm, Lpci, Lic Pharma, OLEA and Pharmivoire Nouvelle.

With regard to traditional medicine, the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene has implemented the recommendations of the WHO, integrating traditional medicine as an alternative option to serve the healthcare needs of the population, in

order to improve healthcare coverage and reduce inequality and disparities in the population's access to quality healthcare.

The practice and organization of traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia are regulated by law no. 2015-536 of 20 July 2015 and Decree no. 2016-24 of 27 January 2016 establishing the Ethics and Deontology Code for practitioners of traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia. This sector comprises more than 8,500 Traditional Medicine Practitioners, organized into national associations and federations, who have received additional training, in particular in anatomy, conventional hygiene, techniques for the collection and sustainable conservation of medicinal plants, disease and programs. Several research and development activities have been carried out and have resulted, for example, in the authorization to market Improved Traditional Medicines (Dartran®, Dimitana® and ALAFIA® Balm). In addition, a Traditional Medicine Unit was opened in September 2014 at the University Hospital (CHU) of Treichville, as part of a pilot project.

As part of the implementation of its Social Program ("PSGouv" 2019-2020), the Government has allocated CFAF 833 billion for the rehabilitation, construction and equipment of health centres in order to improve access to healthcare. This includes the construction of a University Hospital in Abobo, six Regional Hospital Centers, three military hospitals in Bouaké, Daloa and Korhogo, nine General Hospitals, and 200 First-Contact Health Facilities. With the regular recruitment of health workers and the improvement in health personnel salaries, available human resources indicators at the national level have improved in recent years. In 2017, these indicators were as follows: one doctor for 7,390 inhabitants, one nurse for 2,335 inhabitants and one midwife for 1,333 women of childbearing age. In 2018, the proportion of medical practitioners in the public service was 1.4 doctor for 10,000 inhabitants, 2.3 nurses for 5,000 inhabitants and 2.7 midwives for 3,000 women of childbearing age, thus reaching the WHO international recommendations (one doctor for 10,000 inhabitants, one nurse for 5,000 inhabitants, one midwife for 3,000 women of childbearing age). However, significant disparities persist, particularly in the ratio of doctors to the population in the various health regions. 8 sanitary regions, i.e. 40%, reached the WHO international recommendation of one doctor for 10,000 inhabitants in 2018. The sanitary regions of Abidjan 2 (2.1 doctors for 10,000 inhabitants), Sud Comoé (1.8 doctor for 10,000 inhabitants) and Béliér (1.6 doctor for 10,000 inhabitants) had the best ratios in both 2017 and 2018. The sanitary regions of Cavally-Guémon, Gboklè-Nawa San-Pédro (0.5 doctor for 10,000 inhabitants) and Poro-Tchologo-Bagoue (0.6 doctor for 10,000 inhabitants) have the lowest ratios.

In addition, over the 2015-2017 period, 10,000 health workers were recruited in the public healthcare sector. By 2015, exceptional recruitment initiatives had already increased the total number of health workers to 23,999, compared to 19,993 in 2012. To incentivize them, the Government undertook salary increases of 400 points for managers and 150 points for other categories. According to the Government, this policy has helped improve the health personnel/population ratio: the nurse/population ratio has thus improved from one per 3,069 inhabitants in 2011 to one per 1,932 in 2016. In 2018, with a ratio of 2.3 nurses for 5,000 inhabitants, Côte d'Ivoire largely reached the WHO recommendation of one nurse for 5,000 inhabitants. As for the midwives/women of childbearing age ratio, it was of 2.7 midwives for 3,000 women of childbearing age, i.e. 1 midwife for 1,104 women of childbearing age, thus reaching the WHO recommendation of 1 midwife for 3,000 women of childbearing age.

In 2017, life expectancy in Côte d'Ivoire reached 56.4 years, according to the INS, compared to 54.3 years in 2015 (50 in 2012). Life expectancy at birth, taking into account the impact of HIV/AIDS on the mortality rate, was estimated by SPECTRUM (analytic tool for decision-making developed by the NGO Avenir Health) to be 54.3 years in 2015 for Côte d'Ivoire, 53.4 years for men and 55.2 years for women.

According to the Government's official data, the child mortality rate has significantly decreased in recent years, decreasing from 68 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012 to 27 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 (2016 MICS). The neonatal mortality rate was 33 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 compared to 38 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012.

Malaria remains a major public health concern and caused 43% of morbidity in Côte d'Ivoire in 2014. The Government's objective is to reduce the occurrence of malaria by 40% by 2020. The average rate of new cases of malaria in the general population was 164.1 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2017 compared to 155 cases per 1,000 inhabitants in 2015. Malaria rates are influenced by a variety of factors, including education levels, geography and the availability of protective measures

such as insecticide-treated mosquito nets. In addition, malaria is the primary cause of infant mortality. For pregnant women and children under five, malaria represented nearly 42% of reasons for medical consultation as well as 36.1% and 62.4% of causes for hospitalization, respectively. Faced with this severe problem, the Government's response is based on therapeutic programs and prevention strategies under the National Fight Against Malaria Program (*Programme National de Lutte contre le Paludisme*).

Malaria remains the primary reason for medical consultation in the country, although the results of situational analysis surveys show a decrease from 50% in 2010 to 43% in 2012, and then to 33% in 2014. For children under 5 years of age, the number of malaria cases dropped from 389 per 1,000 in 2011 to 281.8 per 1,000 in 2017. The rate of malaria cases in the general population increased from 164.1‰ in 2017 to 189.9‰ in 2018. Such increase is explained in particular by (i) a deterioration in the population's living environment due to flooding in several localities in the country and (ii) a neglected use of long-lasting insecticidal nets.

Indicators	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Malaria cases in children under 5 years of age (out of 1,000), i.e., the number of new malaria cases in children under 5 years of age compared to the population of children under 5 years of age	352	302.61	445.89	291.79	286.87	281.8	492.9
Malaria cases in the general population (out of 1,000), i.e., the number of new malaria cases compared to the general population over 12 months	120	106	164	155.49	154.58	164.11	189.9

Source: Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene

The Ivorian public health situation is also characterized by a high HIV/AIDS-related mortality rate. AIDS is the leading cause of mortality among adult men and the second among women, after pregnancy-related problems and child birth. In 2016, the prevalence rate for HIV was 2.8% compared to 3.4% in 2015. This rate has been in constant decline since 2010 when the rate was 3.96%. According to the 2017-2018 CIPHIA (Côte d'Ivoire Population-based HIV Impact Assessment) of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, the HIV infection rate is more concentrated among adults aged between 15 and 64 years and stands at 2.9%. The HIV infection rate is 4.1% for women, compared to 1.7% for men. This represents approximately 390,000 people living with HIV aged between 15 and 64 in Côte d'Ivoire. The Government believes that HIV disproportionately affects women and adolescent girls because of their unequal cultural, social and economic status in society. Mountain (3.2%) and lake (3.3%) regions, and the city of Abidjan (6.1%) continue to be the most affected areas. Urban areas like Abidjan are particularly affected because of the large size of the populations at risk due to significant migratory flows. The mountain regions are affected as a result of population inflows from neighbouring countries due to socio-political crises in the affected regions.

To address this threat, the Ivorian authorities have placed the fight against HIV infection and sexually-transmitted diseases at the centre of their concerns. Following a 2011-2015 strategic plan, the Government has been pursuing a 2016-2020 strategic plan to continue the fight against the HIV pandemic and aiming to reverse the HIV propagation trend and alleviate the impact of AIDS on the Ivorian population, in particular for highly vulnerable groups. With the implementation of these reforms, the HIV prevalence rate decreased to 2.7% in 2018. The Government has taken several measures to accelerate the fight against AIDS with a view to eliminating the AIDS epidemic by 2030. These measures include the increase of the financing for the purchase of drugs, the strengthening of the capacity of key players involved and the training of healthcare personnel. Since 2007, HIV treatment has been free to all in Côte d'Ivoire. Such treatment includes free medical and biological consultations, free screenings and free antiretroviral drugs. This gratuity of HIV treatment was reaffirmed by the Government through a ministerial circular in March 2019. According to the Government, the cost of this programme of acquisition of antiretroviral drugs was CFAF 5.2 billion in each of 2017 and 2018. In each of 2019 and 2020 CFAF 5.3 billion were allocated to this programme.

Côte d'Ivoire faces significant public health issues related to undernutrition (acute and chronic malnutrition), including invisible hunger resulting from deficiencies in essential vitamins and micronutrients, and over-nutrition (excess weight and obesity) leading to chronic nutrition-related non-transmissible diseases. Malnutrition can result in stunted growth for children under five years of age, the prevalence of which has decreased over the years from 29.8% in 2012 to 21.6% in 2016 (2016 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey ("**MICS 2016**"). The prevalence of malnutrition at the national level underscores significant disparities between rural areas (27.4%) and urban areas (12.5%) and is higher in the northern

(29.6%), centre-western (28.7%), north-western (27.7%), north-eastern (25.8%) and western (25.6%) regions. This situation is strongly linked to households' living conditions (30.1% are in the poorest quintile and 8.7% in the richest quintile), a correlation which includes access to dietary supplements, zinc deficiency, incidence of diarrhoea, and intra-uterine growth retardation related in particular to the diet and nutritional profile of mothers. The prevalence of acute malnutrition at the national level decreased from 7.5% in 2012 to 6.0% in 2016, as well as the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition which decreased from 1.7% in 2012 to 1.2% in 2016 (MICS 2016). Acute malnutrition reached 7.2% in the centre-northern region and 6.7% in the centre-western region, according to the survey. The number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition for a period over one year decreased from 161,000 in 2012 to 119,000 in 2016, according to the MICS 2016 results. However, the quality and coverage of the treatment of severe acute malnutrition within the health system is still low and the detection of severe acute malnutrition is not yet regular and active across all health structures and all communities.

On 22 March 2014, an Ebola virus epidemic was confirmed in the region of Forest Guinea, close to the border between Guinea and Liberia, and subsequently in Conakry. After an alert launched by the WHO asking to reinforce the monitoring of illnesses akin to a viral haemorrhagic fever, the neighbouring countries of Guinea, including Côte d'Ivoire, implemented safety measures along their terrestrial borders and inside their territories in order to protect people at risk and to prevent virus propagation. On 10 August 2014, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire raised the risk of Ebola to "extremely high" and announced a series of prevention measures, including the suspension of all flights from affected areas and additional screening at entry points. On 22 August 2014, the Government closed the country's borders with Guinea and Liberia.

On 1 September 2014, the NSC announced the opening of humanitarian corridors for relief purposes, the operationalization of which remains a challenge. The Ivorian national carrier resumed flights to the affected countries on 20 October 2014. In 2014, the Government initially funded a CFAF 3 billion plan focused on general prevention measures. The Government subsequently put in place a CFAF 13.5 billion plan, fully financed by commitments from the EU, the World Bank, and AfDB, focused on prevention measures in the districts close to Liberia and Guinea. This plan, which was partially implemented in 2015 by continuing initiatives that had already been carried out, is part of a broader plan of a sub-regional fight against the epidemic via a synergy of efforts of the countries concerned. In this respect, Côte d'Ivoire participated in high-level African summits, namely the summit on strengthening sanitation systems and financing the fight against Ebola, which was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 20 to 21 July 2015. On 8 September 2016, the country re-opened its border with Guinea and Liberia following the end of the Ebola crisis.

In addition, a third CFAF 50 billion plan, financed through the IMF extended credit facility, will extend similar prevention measures to the whole territory. The United Nations Children's Fund and UNOCI helped to increase temporary treatment facilities, while the UNDP supported the mobilization of funds to equip and train up to 300 national and international health agents, as well as Ivorian border police, customs officers and other law enforcement officials in border areas. The UN also supported the development of a communications strategy and an outreach program, as well as the mapping of illegal border crossing points, while the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supported the Government's efforts to streamline clearance procedures and facilitate the operationalization of humanitarian corridors. To date, there has been no reported case of Ebola infection in Côte d'Ivoire. Furthermore, to show its support for affected countries and help them control the epidemic, Côte d'Ivoire provided a financial contribution of CFAF 500 million and sent a support team of eight doctors, four nurses and three hygienists to these countries.

According to the National Institute of Public Hygiene (*Institut National de l'Hygiène Publique* ("INHP")), in the first five months of 2019, 78 cases of dengue fever were confirmed. In order to prevent the spread of the virus, the Government has organized public awareness campaigns for the destruction of breeding sites and carried out several mosquito control operations.

Moreover, the Government took preventative measures to prevent the arrival of the Lassa fever epidemic into the country, which was recently declared in certain West African countries, namely Nigeria, Benin and Guinea. To date, the country has not recorded any cases of Lassa fever.

Côte d'Ivoire has also been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. On 10 March 2020, Côte d'Ivoire recorded its first case of coronavirus on its territory. On 23 March 2020, the President declared a state of emergency in Côte d'Ivoire which

was further extended until 30 July 2020 and the Government immediately implemented various measures in order to combat the spread of the virus within the country. Those measures included closure of land, sea and air borders, travel restrictions (with an exception for humanitarian aid missions) and mandatory quarantine, closure of schools and universities, closure of all cafes, bars, restaurants, nightclubs and theatres, implementation of a curfew between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., prohibition of public gatherings of more than 50 people, launch of a vast disinfection operation in Abidjan, creation of a toll-free emergency number, restriction of public transportation, and prohibition of all unauthorized travel between Abidjan and the interior of the country. On 15 May 2020, the Government started to ease certain containment measures in the interior of the country to allow for a resumption of economic activity. On 15 July 2020, the Government also started to ease certain containment measures in the greater Abidjan area which constitutes the epicentre of the pandemic in Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition to the above measures, on 23 March 2020, President Alassane Ouattara announced the adoption of a National Health Response Plan (*Plan de Riposte Sanitaire*) amounting to CFAF 95.8 billion. The main objective of the Plan is to break the chain of transmission of the coronavirus by providing adequate medical care to infected people, isolating, tracking and monitoring people who have been in contact with infected patients, while continuing efforts to keep the population safe from contamination. The implementation of the National Health Response Plan consists of the following: (i) strengthening the capacity for collecting and analysing data on suspected cases, (ii) extending sites exclusively dedicated to the treatment of infected patients (currently underway in Abidjan and in the interior of the country), (iii) placing urgent orders for all necessary healthcare equipment in order to protect medical personal (including personal protective equipment) and improve data collection, analysis and testing processes, (iv) reinforcing the health care system, and (v) reinforcing available stocks of medicines to meet actual and future needs. Moreover, the Government has been adapting the health care system to the current health crisis, in particular with the installation of 45 health centres, including 13 in Abidjan and of 16 treatment centers, including five in Abidjan. Treatment capacity has been increased to 566 beds in Abidjan (including 502 in inpatient care and 64 in intensive care) and to 418 in the interior of the country. These ad hoc facilities are exclusively dedicated to Covid-19 sampling and screening. The Government also built three Covid-19 containment centres and acquired equipment for the treatment of severe cases. As part of the Plan, a total of 111 million face masks were ordered and delivered to Côte d'Ivoire as of 29 June 2020.

With regard to the current Covid-19 crisis, as of the date of this Prospectus, a total of 29,967 confirmed Covid-19 cases have been reported, including 28,186 persons who successfully recovered, and 165 deaths.

On 13 July 2020, the National Security Council (NSC) met to report on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic. President Ouattara, who chaired the meeting, and the Committee of Experts of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene (*Comité des Experts du Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique*) noted the main developments and announced additional measures following the NSC's review of the evolution of the pandemic.

The NSC at the time highlighted the following developments of the Covid-19 pandemic in Côte d'Ivoire:

- more than three months following the appearance of the first Covid-19 case, the implementation of the Government's strategy and measures had helped to contain the evolution of the pandemic and the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases are in line with Government projections;
- as of 13 July 2020, the lethality of the disease, between 0.7% and 1% of Covid-19 patients in Côte d'Ivoire, remained contained well below initial forecasts of 5%, despite a slight increase in the contamination rate, particularly in the greater Abidjan area which remains the epicentre of the pandemic Côte d'Ivoire, with 96% of cases as of 13 July 2020;
- the patient recovery rate in Côte d'Ivoire was approximately 52% as at the end of June 2020 and the number of severe cases was less than 100, well below initial forecasts of 800, as of the end of June 2020;
- the capacity of the public health system to cope with the disease had been increased to 700 beds in Abidjan and the availability of drugs for treatment and inputs for sampling and testing continues to be assured, and the average occupancy rate of hospital beds was less than 30% as at the end of June 2020;

- the advanced screening strategy included operation of six reception centres in the greater Abidjan area out of the thirteen planned, while in the interior of the country, the health regions and districts continued to be strengthened through a system of diagnosis and integrated management (primarily in the cities of Bouaké, Korhogo, Abengourou, San Pedro, Man and Daloa);
- the increase in testing capacity reached 2,219 tests per day in early July 2020 and the free distribution of 22 million face masks to the general public, which started on 5 May 2020 and is continuing at the city and town level under the authority of the mayors;
- the activities of the Covid-19 Special Solidarity and Emergency Humanitarian Support Fund (*Fonds Spécial de Solidarité et de Soutien d'Urgence Humanitaire Covid-19*) have been accelerated; and
- the easing of certain containment measures and restrictions inside the country was followed by gradual resumption of economic activities.

With regard to the easing of the various containment measures implemented by the Government, following the recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene (*Comité des Experts du Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique*), the NSC in light of the situation at that time took the following decisions at its 14 May 2020 and subsequent meetings:

- the lifting of the curfew with effect from 15 May 2020;
- the extension of the state of emergency throughout the national territory until 30 July 2020;
- the extension of the closure of sea and land borders (with an exception for humanitarian aid missions);
- the resumption of domestic air transportation as of 26 June 2020, in strict compliance with health measures;
- the reopening of air borders and resumption of international air transportation from 1 July 2020 in strict compliance with health measures with all passengers arriving on international flights being subject to health checks and systematic monitoring during their stay in Côte d'Ivoire;
- the reopening of cafes and restaurants on 15 May 2020, subject to strict compliance with recommended barrier measures against Covid-19, including regular hand washing with soap or a hydro-alcoholic solution, the wearing of face masks and physical distancing of at least one meter between customers. Hotels remained open for business;
- the reopening of bars, nightclubs, cinemas and other entertainment venues as from 31 July 2020 subject to barrier and social distancing measures being scrupulously respected;
- population gatherings of more than 200 people are authorized again as from 31 July 2020 subject to authorization from the *préfets* and health authorities and to barrier and social distancing measures being scrupulously respected;
- the reopening of pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education institutions as of 25 May 2020 according to modalities and recommendations communicated by each of the relevant Ministries;
- the end of the lockdown of greater Abidjan as of 15 July 2020;
- the strengthening of the sampling and testing system to provide results within a maximum of 48 hours and the mandatory isolation of any person tested while awaiting test results;
- the continuation of the mandatory quarantine and systematic health monitoring of all persons coming from outside the country for a period of two weeks; and

- the systematic control by the security forces of the measures relating to the wearing of face masks, subject to a fine for breach, in public transportation, shopping centres, enclosed spaces, markets and any public place.

The containment measures helped limit the spread of the coronavirus in Côte d’Ivoire. On 26 October 2020, during its weekly press conference, the Government noted a continued decrease of the Covid-19 positivity rate and Covid-19-related deaths, as well a constant increase of the number of patients recovering from the disease.

In addition, in order to support healthcare personnel facing the risks of the pandemic, an incentive bonus was introduced. As of the date of this Prospectus, a total envelope of CFAF 28.9 billion have been allocated and disbursed to 33,200 healthcare employees since April 2020.

Since the beginning of 2021, there has been a slight increase in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases. However, the Government’s alert thresholds have not been reached as of the date of this Prospectus. The management of confirmed Covid-19 cases continues in dedicated health facilities. To prevent a second wave of contaminations and control the resurgence in the number of new confirmed Covid-19 cases, the NSC announced the following measures on 21 January 2021:

- intensified control of the measures relating to the wearing of face masks, particularly in public transportation, in public and private services, and in all public spaces and strict application of repressive measures in the event of non-compliance with barrier and social distancing measures;
- reduction of the validity period of the Covid-19 test for entering and leaving Côte d’Ivoire, from 7 to 5 days; and
- declaration of a new state of health emergency, from 21 January to 28 February 2021.

The Government plans to accelerate the acquisition and rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines. To this end, the Ivorian Agency for Pharmaceutical Regulation (*l’Agence Ivoirienne de Régulation Pharmaceutique*) has authorized the emergency use of the Covid-19 vaccines manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. The approval process for other Covid-19 vaccines manufactured by AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, and the Russian Sputnik V is underway as of the date of this Prospectus.

Moreover, the Government is participating in the COVAX initiative, which is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the WHO. The COVAX initiative aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of Covid-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access to such Covid-19 vaccines for every country in the world. As part of this initiative, the Government is expecting to receive 100,000 doses of the various approved Covid-19 vaccines by the end of February 2021 for the first phase of its vaccination campaign. This first phase of the vaccination campaign will be targeted at specific sections of the population, which the Government considers to be most exposed to the coronavirus, including health care personnel, teachers and law enforcement personnel. According to the Government, the COVAX initiative will enable Côte d’Ivoire to ultimately acquire up to 10 million doses for the vaccination of 5 million people, representing 20% of the Ivorian population.

The Government will also benefit from the “Revolving Fund” (*Fonds Renouvelable*) launched by the Conference of the ECOWAS Heads of States and Governments on 23 January 2021. The main purpose of this Fund is to secure the availability of up to 240 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines for its member countries through a common supply chain in the short term and regional manufacturing in the medium term. The Conference of the ECOWAS Heads of States and Governments also decided to harmonize the price of Covid-19 tests (capped at US\$50 or (approximately CFAF 27,000)) in the ECOWAS area in order to facilitate the movements of persons within the bloc.

From 2020 to 2025, the Government’s priorities will further focus on the specific targets of SDG 3 (*Good Health and Well-Being*), including maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health services, the health impact of pollution and contamination and tobacco control. In line with the targets of SDG 3 regarding universal health coverage, equitable and affordable access to quality vaccines and medicines, and sustainable financing, the Government will pay particular attention to the axes that constitute important pillars for the achievement of this objective, such as strengthening the implementation of primary health care, the health workforce and the health information system.

For various measures adopted by the Government to address the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic, see “*The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*”.

In an effort to allow access to healthcare for the entire population, and in particular for more vulnerable people as well as the poorest Ivorian residents, the Parliament passed law no. 2014-131 of 24 March 2014 establishing Universal Health Coverage (*Couverture Maladie Universelle* (“**CMU**”)). This law provides for collective coverage of health care costs as well as a contribution of CFAF 1,000 per person. On 27 May 2019, the 11 implementing decrees of this law were adopted in the Council of Ministers. These decrees relate to: (i) the creation of the Social Welfare Institution - National Sickness Insurance Fund (*Institution de Prévoyance Sociale – Caisse Nationale d’Assurance Maladie* (“**IPS-CNAM**”)), (ii) protection of personal data, (iii) covering population groups under the CMU, (iv) the conditions for accessing healthcare, (v) collecting contributions, (vi) agreements for healthcare service providers, (vii) procedures for medical examinations, (viii) the list of diseases covered as well as medical and biological acts, (ix) the list of covered medicines and (x) the implementation of an additional regime to the CMU managed by the General Mutual of Civil Servants (*Mutuelle Générale des Fonctionnaires* (“**MUGEFCI**”)), and (xi) the affiliation of low-income and indigent individuals to the CMU medical assistance regime.

The Government covered the launching costs of the CMU, which amounted to CFAF 10.5 billion in 2015, CFAF 11.6 billion in 2016, and CFAF 11.7 billion in 2017. The Government estimates the costs of the CMU at around CFAF 8.5 billion in 2018 and CFAF 4.5 billion in 2019 and projects such costs at CFAF 3.0 billion in 2020. In the medium-term, the CMU is expected to be self-financing from contributions, except for the cost of insuring the poorest households which will be publicly financed and covered by the budget.

The enrolment process for future insureds is underway, and the database of National Sickness Insurance Fund (*Caisse Nationale d’Assurance Maladie* (“**CNAM**”)) insureds includes 2,421,338 people as of the end of June 2020. 781,494 cards were produced and 102,231 people have benefited from CMU services. The number of health care institutions that have started providing CMU benefits has risen to 611 spread over the national territory. The rate of availability of medicines was 85% at the end of June 2020, with 90% availability for the most used drugs. The collection of contributions in the framework of the CMU started on 1 July 2019. As of 31 December 2019, contributions from the insureds amounted in CFAF 7.3 billion. The process is being extended through the identification of economically weak or destitute sections of the population and aims to cover the entire territory. To date, 117 sub-districts, 25 departments and 2,427 localities have been surveyed. To date, 585,616 persons have been identified and are in the process of being enrolled to benefit from the CMU’s Medical Assistance Scheme (*Régime d’Assistance Médicale* (“**RAM**”)).

Populations in the informal sector, who are enrolled in the CMU as the other target populations, are invited to pay their contributions through electronic payment channels and offices open in financial and banking establishments. However, the CNAM gradually implemented studies among the various socio-professional categories of the informal and agricultural sectors in order to retain and ensure sustainability of contributions. To this end, discussions are under way with relevant informal sector stakeholders (workers and ministries) in order to define mutually agreed modalities for systematic deduction at source. To date, only producers of cotton, cashew nut, oil palm, rubber, artisanal sugar cane producers, artisans and retailers are subject to the combined tax. The process continues and will gradually include all stakeholders from the informal sector (including the agriculture subsector).

The pilot phase of the implementation of the CMU, which was targeted at the university student population of 150,000, was launched on 25 April 2017 by the Prime Minister and began with the Nagui Abrogoua University. With a duration of six months, this phase was intended to test the system in order to identify obstacles. In total, 62,972 cards were distributed, allowing students to access services in the eight university healthcare centres involved in the experimental phase.

The general implementation phase started on 1 October 2019. The collection of contributions started on 1 July 2019 for workers in the private sector, and for active and retired civil servants and state agents. Contributions are withheld directly at source by the CNPS for the private sector and by the civil and military payrolls for civil servants and state agents, and the military. Moreover, to facilitate people’s access to healthcare, the Government decided to set the contribution to the different regimes managed by the IPS-CNAM at CFAF 1,000 per person and per month. Any individual affiliated with the general basic regime of CMU must contribute to such regime, with the exception of low-income and economically

disadvantaged individuals who are affiliated with the medical assistance regime of CMU, and whose contributions will be borne by the State.

Social Security

In addition to the CNAM, there are two social security and retirement pension funds in Côte d’Ivoire:

- the Government Employees’ General Pension Fund (*Caisse Générale de Retraite des Agents de l’Etat* (“**CGRAE**”)), which is in charge of (i) collecting premiums and subsidies for financing retirement pensions and other services as well as ensuring financial management of excess contributions and (ii) providing various services to designated beneficiaries in the public sector; and
- the National Social Security Fund (*Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale* (“**CNPS**”)), which manages the compulsory social security scheme of the private sector and, which covers work accidents and work-related diseases, as well as maternity, retirement, disability, death and family benefits. It also plays a role in the social welfare sector.

Poverty Reduction

The 2002-2011 political and military crisis impeded Côte d’Ivoire’s efforts with regard to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (“**MDGs**”). The MDGs are development goals based on the Millennium Declaration made during the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000. They are made up of eight interdependent objectives designed to reduce poverty and improve quality of life, particularly in rural areas. With the return to growth and the re-establishment of relations with development partners such as the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union, the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to work towards the realization of the MDGs, in the framework of the implementation of the NDP. Progress is being made in the fight against poverty as well as in primary education, gender parity in education, empowerment of women and maternal and infant health. The most significant progress has been made in combating HIV/AIDS and providing access to drinking water.

In September 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (“**SDGs**”) were adopted replacing the MDGs of 2000. In the next 15 years, all UN member countries are expected to facilitate reaching the various target numbers for the 17 SDGs.

To achieve this, the Government, which participated in the process of defining these sustainable development goals and has adopted them, is encouraging the involvement of all stakeholders in the interest of ensuring their successful implementation.

To facilitate the coordination of actions, a national workshop to promote the implementation of the SDGs in Côte d’Ivoire was held on 12 and 13 May 2016 in Grand-Bassam; the agenda addressed awareness initiatives, mobilization and support for parliamentary stakeholders, the Economic and Social Council, local and regional authorities and the Civil Society Organization in their contributions to fulfilling the SDGs.

With regard to the first of the SDGs, which is “to eliminate extreme poverty in all its forms and all over the world” by 2030, Côte d’Ivoire has made the fight against poverty a priority. This has resulted in a significant increase in budget allocations towards “pro-poor” expenses. From 2012 to 2018, these expenditures (aimed at improving living conditions of low-income populations) more than doubled between 2012 and 2019. Those “pro-poor” expenses rose from CFAF 1,080.3 billion in 2012 to CFAF 1,770.18 billion in 2015 and CFAF 2,550.58 billion in 2019. A budget of CFAF 2,754.91 billion in 2020 was allocated to these expenditures. For 2021, the Government has allocated CFAF 2,863.8 billion to pro-poor expenditure in its initial 2021 budget.

The table below presents the “pro-poor” expenses from 2015 to 2021:

<i>(in CFAF billions)</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021**
Agriculture and rural development	111.16	123.97	84.31	79.08	109.40	135.03	142.44
Fishing resources and animal production	9.80	9.11	10.20	12.09	13.11	19.25	23.30
Education	991.62	1,179.29	1,085.46	1,194.45	1,262.81	1,342.71	1,390.61

Health	279.50	330.44	338.95	305.58	387.38	446.24	466.68
Water and sanitation	74.82	58.64	48.27	57.57	52.23	108.32	127.42
Energy	53.55	45.46	113.87	189.46	210.91	143.44	139.67
Roads and engineering structures	155.61	153.83	329.36	426.66	393.75	396.00	381.11
Social affairs	28.78	38.40	27.22	24.58	40.49	46.72	63.82
Decentralization (excluding education, health and agriculture).....	47.96	55.14	55.04	59.63	67.07	81.21	87.44
Reconstructions, rehabilitations and other pro-poor expenses	17.37	20.51	16.96	12.34	13.43	36.00	41.33
Total	1,770.18	2,014.79	2,109.64	2,361.44	2,550.58	2,754.91	2,863.82
<i>Including multilateral financing in particular by the World Bank and the BOAD</i>	<i>164,60</i>	<i>142,33</i>	<i>363,27</i>	<i>506,68</i>	<i>314,63</i>	<i>314,84</i>	<i>336.3</i>

Source: MBPE/DGBF

* As budgeted in the initial 2020 budget.

** As budgeted in the initial 2021 budget.

In terms of achievements, the Government's various actions and policies have led to a reduction in the poverty rate. From 48.9% in 2008, it decreased to 39.4% in 2018. Such decrease constituted the first inflection of the increasing trend of the rate observed since 1998. The HDI, which measures the general wellbeing of the population, thus increased from 0.452 in 2013 to 0.512 in 2017 and 0.516 in 2018. The Gini index, which mainly measures inequalities and wealth distribution among a nation's residents, shows that inequalities among the Ivoirian population are globally declining. From 43.2 in 2008, the GINI index (based on World Bank estimates) reached 41.5 in 2015. According to the Government, the trends observed from 2008 to 2015 continued in 2018 due to the overall economic momentum.

Moreover, the Government continues its efforts to improve the living conditions of the population in a sustainable manner. In 2019, the Government initiated a major program called the Government's Social Program, or "PSGouv", to support the actions of the current NDP. With regard to the fight against poverty, the actions of PSGouv over the 2019-2020 period are focused mainly on the following: (i) access to drinking water for all at affordable prices; (ii) electrification of all villages with more than 500 inhabitants; (iii) education for all and better access to information through the program "one citizen, one computer, an internet connection" (*"un citoyen, un ordinateur, une connexion Internet"*); (iv) the strengthening of the healthcare system through effective implementation of primary healthcare and effective extension of Universal Health Coverage; (v) the provision of socio-economic housing to vulnerable populations and middle classes; (vi) the promotion of greater representation of women in decision-making bodies; and (vii) the empowerment of women. As a result of the PSGouv:

- as regards health and social protection, 50,000 rural households have benefited from cash transfers of CFAF 36,000 per household under the social safety net program in the first quarter of 2019, compared to 35,000 households at the end of 2018. The number of insured people has risen to a total of 2,421,338 at the end of June 2020, with 555,729 new insured during the first semester of 2020. Between October 2019 and June 2020, 102,231 insured have been treated. A large vaccination programme against measles and rubella has led to the vaccination of 928,653 children and 934,380 pregnant women in 2019, and 338,710 additional children in the first half of 2020;
- in the youth employment and entrepreneurship fields, 12,806 youths benefited from entrepreneurship training, skills development and internship opportunities under the Employment and Empowerment Support Program in the first quarter of 2019. By the end of 2019, a total of 34,399 entrepreneurship opportunities were created and 2,141 girls benefited from entrepreneurship training. This positive dynamic continued in 2020, with CFAF 120.4 million awarded in grants during the first semester and a total of 750 projects financed for the benefit of young people;
- as regards electrification, in the first quarter of 2019, 92,557 households benefited from a connection/subscription to the national electricity grid under the Electricity for All Program (*Programme Electricité Pour Tous ("PEPT")*), with an annual target of 200,382 households. At the end of June 2020, a total of 318,997 new electricity accesses have been provided to 1.2 million new beneficiaries, and 411 additional municipalities have been electrified. The Government's sustained efforts through the implementation of the PSGouv have helped to reduce the cost of electricity access from CFAF 150,000 to CFAF 1,000;

- as regards efforts to improve rural living conditions and food security, a total of 19,170 km of roads have been maintained from 2019 to June 2020 and access to drinking water has been improved through the repairing or replacement of 2,665 pumps in 2019 and 4,595 in the first half of 2020 and the maintenance of 3,184 pumps in 2019 and 5,250 in the first half of 2020.

Political System

The law no. 2016-886 of 8 November 2016, instituting the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, proclaims (i) a commitment to constitutional legality and democratic institutions, (ii) the organization of democratic elections permitting the people to freely choose its governors, (iii) the separation and balance of powers and (iv) the promotion of proper governance and transparency in conducting public affairs.

With regard to public authorities, the new fundamental law introduces new institutions and strengthens the organization and functioning of existing institutions. The President of the Republic alone is vested with executive power and is assisted by a Vice President, a newly-created office. Legislative power is now exercised by a bicameral structure: the National Assembly and the Senate. Judicial power is represented by three judicial institutions, the Court of Cassation, the Council of State and the Court of Auditors.

In order to reinforce the rule of law and bring the institutions closer to the citizens, a draft constitutional reform was presented by President Ouattara and adopted by the two chambers of the Parliament meeting in joint session on 17 March 2020. See “*Recent Political Developments*” above

Executive Power

The executive power in Côte d’Ivoire is composed of the President of the Republic, the Vice President of the Republic and the Government.

The President of the Republic embodies national unity and ensures compliance with the Constitution. Elected for a five-year term by direct universal suffrage, the President may be re-elected once. The President of the Republic determines and directs the policy of the nation. He is the head of the Administration and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and appoints civil and military officials. He presides over the Defence and Security Councils and Committees. The President of the Republic appoints the Prime Minister as head of the Government. He may delegate certain of his powers to the Vice President, the Prime Minister or members of the Government, by decree. In the case of vacancy of the Presidency of the Republic as a consequence of death, resignation or absolute impediment, the Vice President of the Republic automatically becomes the President of the Republic until the end of the term of office of the President being replaced. The President of the Republic is Mr. Alassane Ouattara, re-elected for a third five-year term after the presidential election held on 31 October 2020.

The Vice-President acts under the authority of the President of the Republic. The first Vice-President was Daniel Kablan Duncan, who was appointed on 10 January 2017 and resigned on 13 July 2020. As from the 2020 presidential elections, the Vice-President of the Republic will be appointed by the President of the Republic in consultation with the Parliament. The Vice-President is still to be appointed by President Ouattara.

The Government comprises the Prime Minister, who is the head of the Government, and the Ministers. The Prime Minister leads and coordinates government actions. The Prime Minister presides over the Government Council, a preparatory meeting for the Council of Ministers. Since 30 July 2020, the Prime Minister is Mr. Hamed Bakayoko, who is also Minister of Defence. Mr. Hamed Bakayoko replaced Mr. Amadou Gon Coulibaly who was appointed on 10 January 2017 until his death on 8 July 2020. Mr. Hamed Bakayoko is a member of the RHDP.

Legislative Power

Legislative power is exercised by the Parliament, which is composed of the National Assembly and the Senate. The Parliament votes on laws and determines taxes. It controls actions of the Government and evaluates public policy. Each year, the Parliament meets automatically for an ordinary session beginning on the first business day of the month of April and ending on the last business day of the month of December.

Members of the National Assembly are elected by direct universal suffrage for five years.

The Senate, created in 2016, and for which the first elections took place on 24 March 2018, ensures the representation of local communities and Ivoirians living outside of Côte d'Ivoire. Two-thirds of senators are elected by indirect universal suffrage and one-third are appointed by the President of the Republic for a term of five years. As the second chamber of Parliament, the Senate has the same prerogatives as the National Assembly. Draft and proposed laws are submitted to the office of the National Assembly and the Senate, for review by commissions of the two chambers. Any draft or proposed law must be reviewed in succession by the two chambers of Parliament and is passed when approved by a majority vote in each chamber. The draft finance law is submitted first to the National Assembly and draft or proposed laws relating to territorial communities are submitted first to the Senate.

The Constitution and its Title V govern relations between the legislative and executive powers. With specific regard to its control of government actions, members of the Government have access to parliamentary commissions and may be heard by these commissions. The Parliament may be informed of Government actions by means of oral questions, written questions, an inquiry commission or an evaluation initiative. The Court of Auditors assists the Parliament and the Government in monitoring the execution of finance laws and in the areas under its authority.

The first elections of the Third Republic reflected a changing political landscape. The current configuration of the National Assembly is dominated by the RHDP following its transformation into a unified political party, which holds 159 seats. Other opposition parties hold a total of 94 seats distributed among the following parliamentary groups: PDCI-RDA (68) and Rassemblement and Vox Populi (26).

The next legislative elections are scheduled for 6 March 2021.

The Judiciary

The judiciary is independent, and the President of the Republic guarantees this independence. He is assisted by the Supreme Council of Magistracy.

The Supreme Council of Magistracy examines matters relating to the independence and ethics of judges. The Council also proposes candidates for appointment as judges of the Supreme Court or the Court of Auditors, the First Presiding Judges of the Appeals Courts and the Presiding Judges of the first instance courts. The Supreme Council of Magistracy is presided over by an official appointed by the President of the Republic from among active or retired senior judges.

The constitutional reform on the organization of the judiciary of 19 March 2020 led to the abolition of the Supreme Court and the establishment of the Court of Cassation and the Council of State as the two institutions that represent the judicial power alongside the Court of Auditors. See "*Recent Political Developments*" above.

The Court of Cassation, the Council of State and the Court of Auditors are the institutions that represent the judicial power. Justice is served by the Court of Cassation, the Council of State, the Court of Auditors, the Appeals Court, the First Instance Courts, the administrative courts and the regional audit chambers.

The Court of Cassation oversees the application of the law by the courts of law. It is the highest court of the judicial branch. The Court of Cassation is presided over by a President appointed by the President of the Republic for a five-year term renewable once.

The Council of State ensures the application of the law by the administrative courts. It is the highest jurisdiction of the administrative order. The Council of State is presided over by a president appointed by the President of the Republic for a five-year term renewable once.

On 3 April 2020, President Ouattara signed the decree appointing the current President of the Court of Cassation and the current President of the Council of State in accordance with the new Constitution.

The Court of Auditors is the supreme controlling institution of public finances. It is vested with jurisdictional, control and consultation capacities. The Court of Auditors controls the management of the financial statements of the State's

Departments, national public institutions, territorial communities, independent administrative authorities and any organization benefitting from financial support from public companies and their subsidiaries. In this respect, it (i) ensures the proper use of loans, funds and assets managed by the State's departments and by other public entities; (ii) oversees the execution of finance laws (the State's budget); and (iii) expresses its opinion on the regularity and accuracy of the financial statements as well as the general management of public companies, semi-public companies and companies with public financial support. The Court of Auditors is also responsible for helping the Parliament and the Government. Furthermore, the Court may be consulted by the Government, National Assembly and Economic and Labor Board (*Conseil Economique et Social*) concerning economic and financial topics or the management of State and public entity departments.

The President of the Court of Auditors is appointed by the President of the Republic for a five-year term that may be renewed once. The current President of the Court of Auditors was sworn into office during a formal ceremony in the presence of the President of the Republic on 8 January 2018.

Other Courts

The Ivorian constitutional system includes two special courts: (i) a High Court of Justice (*Haute Cour de Justice*) and (ii) a Constitutional Council (*Conseil Constitutionnel*).

The High Court of Justice handles exceptional cases. It has sole jurisdiction to try the President of the Republic, the Vice President of the Republic and the members of the Government, including over alleged acts of high treason committed by the President of the Republic and crimes or offences committed by the Vice President of the Republic and members of the Government in the course of the performance of their official duties. It is presided over by the Presiding Judge of the Court of Cassation. The High Court is composed of an equal number of members elected by the National Assembly and the Senate upon the first session of the legislature.

The Constitutional Council is impartial and independent. It is the regulatory body that supervises the functioning of the public authorities. The Constitutional Council has jurisdiction over the constitutionality of the law. It also has jurisdiction over the monitoring of the presidential and parliamentary elections. It comprises the president, the former Presidents of the Republic (except in case of express waiver on their part) and six members appointed for a non-renewable six-year term, three of whom are appointed by the President of the Republic, two by the President of the National Assembly and one by the President of the Senate. One half of the members is renewed once every three years. The President of the Constitutional Council is appointed by the President of the Republic for a non-renewable six-year term.

Political Parties

The multi-party system has been authorized in Côte d'Ivoire since 1990. The main political parties of Côte d'Ivoire are: (i) the RHDP, a coalition of political parties (including the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara and the UDPCI) founded on 18 May 2005 and transformed into a unified political party on 26 January 2019; (ii) the PDCI, founded by former President Félix Houphouët Boigny, currently headed by former President Henri Konan Bédié; (iii) the FPI, the political party of former President Laurent Gbagbo, currently headed by former prime minister Mr. Pascal Affi N'Guessan whose leadership is contested by several prominent members of the party who are still loyal to Laurent Gbagbo, and (iv) the GSPS, created in October 2019 by Mr. Guillaume Soro, former Prime Minister and former president of the National Assembly, after officially parting with RHDP. On 28 April 2020, Mr. Soro, who is still residing in France, was found guilty of embezzlement of public funds and money laundering, following a trial in absentia. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, ordered to pay a CFAF 4.5 billion fine and disqualified from standing for election or holding public office for five years. On 7 May 2020, in a complaint filed with the French courts in Paris by a group of unidentified plaintiffs, Mr. Soro was accused of torture, murder and war crimes dating back to the years 2004 and 2011. Judicial proceedings are currently underway. On 18 November 2020, the Ivorian Government issued, and transmitted to the French authorities, international arrest warrants for Mr. Soro and three of his close aides, who are believed to be residing in France, including his director of communication and his aide-de-camp.

Local Communities

In addition to the two autonomous districts (Abidjan and Yamoussoukro), Côte d'Ivoire is divided into 12 districts, which are subdivided into 31 regions. The country is composed of administrative constituencies of 108 departments (*départements*). The village or neighbourhood constitutes the first level of administrative authority and they are respectively administered by a village or neighbourhood chief. Each region is administered by a Governor or a President of the Regional Council and each town by a mayor. The departments are administered by *préfets*.

The difficulties of the State to meet the equipment and human resources requirements of the decentralized communities remain a major constraint to the efficient implementation of the decentralization policy. In addition, the local development dynamic suffers from the absence of the decrees required to implement certain powers transferred to territorial communities, the low level of legal monitoring, and the lack of precision in the nature of the relations between the State and territorial communities.

The Government grants subsidies to the decentralized communities and pays the salaries of the civil servants working for these entities. Furthermore, it returns a portion of certain taxes to these decentralized communities, such as taxes on real estate, patents and licences. In addition, some decentralized communities can also levy taxes. For instance, municipalities levy a tax on local trade.

Legal System

As a former French colony, Côte d'Ivoire derives many of its fundamental legal texts and customs from the French civil law system. The primary sources of law in Côte d'Ivoire are the Constitution, international treaties, legislation voted by Parliament and governmental decrees.

The legal texts and regulations are published in an official gazette known as the *Journal Officiel de la République de Côte d'Ivoire*.

As in most former French colonies, the French Civil Code of 1804 is the reference document for non-criminal aspects of the legal system. The civil code was introduced in French colonies in 1833. It comprises the basic family, inheritance, trust, tort and contract law and the basic rules regarding the status of persons and is dealt with in a variety of different codes today in Côte d'Ivoire including the Family Code, the Nationality Code and the Code of Civil and Commercial Obligations.

Business law in Côte d'Ivoire is governed by regulations of the OHADA treaty, of which Côte d'Ivoire is a member. It was created on 17 October 1993 and now comprises 17 African member countries. The primary purpose of the OHADA is to harmonize laws in the area of business and commercial law. Under the OHADA, laws adopted by the group apply directly and immediately to each member country, without need for internal ratification. In addition, the OHADA treaty has created a supranational court, which is vested with judicial powers, and has authority to rule on substantive matters. Its decisions are binding on national courts. It also has advisory powers to ensure uniformity and consistent legal interpretation across the member countries.

In 2014, Côte d'Ivoire adopted law 2014-389 of 20 June 2014 relating to judicial and conventional mediation. In addition, the law 2016-1110 of 8 December 2016 relating to the establishment, organization and functioning of commercial courts requires any litigant to resort to mediation prior to taking their case to a commercial court. By adopting these laws, Côte d'Ivoire demonstrates its interest in mediation.

Further, other mediation and arbitration institutions exist in Côte d'Ivoire and render decisions. They are: (i) the Arbitration Court of Côte d'Ivoire (*Cour d'Arbitrage de Côte d'Ivoire*), and (ii) the Arbitration Centre of the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration (*Centre d'Arbitrage de la Cour Commune de Justice et d'Arbitrage*).

Judicial and Arbitral Proceedings

To the knowledge of the Republic, there are no current, pending or threatened judicial or arbitral procedures that could have, or recently have had, a significant impact on the economic and financial situation of the country.

Fight against Terrorism and Piracy

The Government has taken the following measures as part of the fight against terrorism:

- creation of an anti-terrorist cell within the Territorial Surveillance Department (*Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire* (“DST”));
- signing of cooperation agreements with Ghana and Liberia;
- strengthening cooperation with specialized organizations such as the Central Intelligence Agency in the United States and the Directorate-General for External Security (*Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure* (“DGSE”)) in France; and
- drafting of a law on terrorism, under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, with the aim of strengthening legislation in this domain in collaboration with institutions responsible for Côte d’Ivoire’s intelligence-gathering.

Despite these security measures, on 13 March 2016, heavily armed assailants attacked three hotels at a beach resort in Grand-Bassam, located approximately 40 km East of Abidjan and a popular weekend location for Ivorian families and western expatriates. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the attack, in which 19 people were killed, including 11 Ivoirians, one Nigerian, one German, four French, one Macedonian and one Lebanese citizen.

The Ivorian authorities took action immediately after the attack, deploying promptly special forces and commando operations against the assailants. An inter-ministerial committee lead by then Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko and Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi was immediately put in place to direct these operations.

In addition, Côte d’Ivoire called on the Sahel G5 (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad) for support and cooperation, as well as the other countries of the sub-region, who are also at risk of terrorism. Côte d’Ivoire has also been supported by several western countries to contain this threat. With the support of all parties, including France, Germany and the United States, the assailants in the 2016 attack, none of whom is of Ivorian nationality, were finally overcome and placed under arrest. Thanks to the regional cooperation among intelligence services, suspected accomplices of the assailants were arrested in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

As part of its commitment to fight against terrorism, Côte d’Ivoire relies on its law on the suppression of terrorism enacted in 2015 and, following the Grand-Bassam attacks, has enhanced its operational response capacity by putting in place a management protocol for addressing terrorist attacks. Côte d’Ivoire also actively participates in regional cooperation efforts against terrorism in order to better manage terrorist threats through the sharing of intelligence, regular meetings among ministries in charge of security, the harmonization of standards for the surveillance of national boundaries and the harmonization of national legislations. Moreover, with the support of France, Côte d’Ivoire is developing an International Counter-Terrorism Academy (*Académie Internationale de Lutte Contre le Terrorisme* (“AILCT”)). It is a regional centre that aims to meet the needs of many African countries in respect of the development and sharing of their counter-terrorism capabilities. The AILCT is built around three complementary pillars:

- A staff college for high-level counter-terrorism stakeholders from various ministries, including those of justice, interior and armed forces. The goal is to address all aspects of counter-terrorism, from intelligence to the work of special forces to legal proceedings. Training programmes, which are for staff from various backgrounds, will encourage exchanges of best practices, mutual understanding among stakeholders and the development of local and regional synergies, which are conducive to interoperable modes of action.
- A training camp with specific facilities (firing infrastructures, a range of urban, maritime, lagoon and 3D environments, etc.) approved by French elite units (Special Operations Command (*Recherche Assistance Intervention Dissuasion* – RAID and the National Gendarmerie Intervention Group – GIGN).
- A strategic research institute to share doctrines and analyses of terrorist threats, and to allow partners to share lessons learned.

The AILCT project was launched on 18 October 2018 in Jacqueville. The cost of the project is estimated at CFAF 13 billion.

With respect to piracy, the Government has also taken the following measures as part of the fight against maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea:

- strengthening the national navy's abilities via the acquisition of a patrol boat on 23 June 2014, as well as the acquisition of a second one christened "the Shield", commissioned on 30 July 2015 from RAIDCO Marine;
- the adoption of Decree No. 2014-30 on 3 February 2014 concerning the organization and coordination of the actions by the State at sea;
- the creation of the Regional Marine Surveillance Centre of West Africa;
- as part of the cooperation with Canada, two Canadian vessels participated in an exercise with the naval forces of the countries of the Gulf of Guinea;
- China has offered two patrol boats to Côte d'Ivoire; and
- Côte d'Ivoire has acquired two navy patrol boats from France.

In addition, nine judges, one gendarme and one police officer participated in an immersion exercise aboard a French ship named "*La somme*". This exercise was organized jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and funded by the European Union, and took place during a crossing between the harbours of Téma, Ghana and of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 7 and 8 November 2019. This exercise forms part of the sub-regional exercise named "Grand African Nemo", and aims at reinforcing the abilities of these law enforcement officers regarding the procedures of collection and processing of evidence at sea in the framework of judicial proceedings relating to maritime criminality in Côte d'Ivoire.

On 11 June 2020, the Kafolo armed forces and gendarmerie joint outpost located in the Sikolo Sub-Prefecture at the border with Burkina Faso (North-East of Côte d'Ivoire) was attacked by a group of suspected terrorists. The death toll of the attack stood at 14 military personnel, with another 5 wounded. Two of the assailants, including the alleged ringleader, were captured and another was killed by the Ivoirian armed forces. Investigations are underway to determine the nature, circumstances and final death toll of the attack. In the meantime, urgent measures have been taken in the area, including putting all troops on high alert and searching for the remaining assailants.

To further improve its fight against terrorism, enhance its operational response capacity at the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso and prevent future terrorist attacks in the northern area of Côte d'Ivoire, the Council of Ministers, on 13 July 2020, adopted a decree creating the Northern Operational Area (*Zone Opérationnelle Nord* ("**ZON**")). The ZON will allow Ivoirian defence and security forces stationed in the area to move from simple border surveillance to a defensive position, while providing a strong reversibility in the event of an offensive mission to prevent the risk of any infiltration of armed groups into the national territory. The key objectives of the ZON are to (i) strengthen the operational capabilities of the deployed troops as part of various military operations, particularly in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, (ii) establish a single command for military operations and all activities related to the operational defence of the territory for a better coordination between all defence and security forces stationed in the area, (iii) organise civil defence in the fight against terrorism and ensure effective coordination with military operations and (iv) create proper conditions for long stays of military officers in the field in order to acquire a better knowledge of the field, the local populations, the various facilitators and coordinators of operations.

External Relations

France

Since its independence, Côte d'Ivoire has (like many former French colonies) maintained privileged relations with France, its former colonial power. Until 1999, Côte d'Ivoire represented a model of political stability and success for French cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa. French companies enjoy a leading position in Côte d'Ivoire's economic activity and France is still an important trading partner. Defence and cooperation agreements were signed in 1961 between France and Côte d'Ivoire and recently renewed through the Defence and cooperation treaty signed in January 2012.

French-Ivorian relations went through a period of crisis with the military and diplomatic engagement of France in the conflict between the Government of President Laurent Gbagbo and the *Forces Nouvelles* in 2002-2003. France's initiatives were met with hostile nationalist reactions among the supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo, reflecting a feeling of dispossession of Côte d'Ivoire by foreign interests. After the victory of Alassane Ouattara in the presidential election of 2010, France has continued to play an important role alongside the United Nations Security Council in the supervision of the post-crisis process and the normalization of Côte d'Ivoire's relations with the international community. In 2014, France decided to transform its Licorne military presence in Abidjan into an advanced operational military base, the French Forces in Côte d'Ivoire (*Forces Françaises en Côte d'Ivoire*) (“**FFCI**”), which took effect on 1 January 2015.

This Ivorian-French cooperation is also marked by the signing of several economic agreements between the two countries, including the agreement for the financing of the ongoing construction of the urban train of Abidjan for an amount of €1.4 billion.

In 2019, France was the third largest supplier and the third largest customer of Côte d'Ivoire. There are about 800 French companies currently operating in Côte d'Ivoire, of which 160 are affiliated with large French groups such as Bouygues, Bolloré, Sade, BNP Paribas, Société Générale de Banques in Côte d'Ivoire, Orange, Total, CFAO, etc.

According to the 2019 World Investment Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published on 12 June 2019, foreign direct investment inflows to Côte d'Ivoire amounted to US\$913 million (CFAF 543.75 billion) in 2018. France remains the first source of foreign direct investment into Côte d'Ivoire, followed by Canada and Lebanon. Côte d'Ivoire is the third destination of French foreign direct investments in West Africa, after Nigeria and Ghana. Morocco is the first African investor in Côte d'Ivoire.

United States of America

Diplomatic and economic relations with the United States of America have gradually improved since the end of the crisis. In May 2014, the US Government restored eligibility of Côte d'Ivoire for the AGOA, legislation approved by the U.S. Congress in May 2000 with the purpose of assisting the economies of sub-Saharan Africa and improving economic relations between the United States and the region. Furthermore, in December 2014, Côte d'Ivoire became eligible for the US Government sponsored Millennium Challenge Corporation (“**MCC**”) program. The MCC, a program designed for developing countries that engage in good governance, economic liberalization, and investment in human resources, provides financing for infrastructure, human development, governance, and market access improvement projects by way of grants.

Moreover, alongside the implementation of reforms and vigorous efforts in terms of proper governance, liberalization of the economy and improvement of the quality of human resources, Côte d'Ivoire was declared eligible for the “Compact” aid program of the MCC aiming to contribute to the reduction of poverty through inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries. This eligibility was followed by a grant agreement from the Compact Program to Côte d'Ivoire of CFAF 315 billion, which was approved on 7 November 2017 in Washington, DC in the presence of the Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara and a MCC delegation.

As a result of different governance-related corporate reforms, Côte d'Ivoire was declared eligible for the Open Government Partnership (“**OGP**”) on 28 July 2015. OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens.

The resumption of bilateral relations between Côte d'Ivoire and the United States also resulted in the certification of Félix Houphouët Boigny International Airport for flights to the United States in 2015. Following the launch of the first direct air route between Abidjan and New York in May 2018, Ethiopian Airlines is considering opening a new direct route between Abidjan and Washington. Ongoing discussions initially contemplated an effective opening in the first half of 2020. However, such opening has been delayed to an unspecified date as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

European Union

Cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union is facilitated by the Cotonou agreement signed in 2000. The main sectors of this cooperation for the period 2014-2020 are the strengthening of the State and consolidation of peace, agriculture, food security and energy.

Other Bilateral Relations

In the context of the diversification of its external partners, Côte d'Ivoire has since 2011 increased its cooperation with a number of partners, notably China, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, India and Japan. It has put an emphasis on South-South cooperation notably with Morocco, Tunisia and South Africa, and on deepening regional integration. These relations aim to increase the volume of Côte d'Ivoire's trade with the rest of the world and to take advantage of the experience of these countries while accessing additional external resources required for its development. Furthermore, Côte d'Ivoire is developing relations with new political allies in the Arab world in order to attract financing originating from these countries.

Aside from the countries listed above, Côte d'Ivoire maintains diplomatic relations with most of the world's countries, either bilaterally or regionally and multilaterally. Côte d'Ivoire's diplomatic coverage rate was 71.13 per cent in 2019 with 57 diplomatic and consular posts. Côte d'Ivoire is currently analysing whether and how to share diplomatic representation among one or more countries in order to control costs in this domain. Côte d'Ivoire opened an embassy in Qatar in 2018, with its ambassador being appointed on 19 January 2019, and plans to close the one in Chad.

Membership in International and Regional Organizations

Côte d'Ivoire is an active member of the international community, and its policy is to foster good relations with foreign countries. Côte d'Ivoire is a member of international organizations and signed several international treaties on the global, African and regional level.

Global Organizations

On the global level, Côte d'Ivoire has been a member of the United Nations since 20 September 1960 and began a term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in January 2018. Côte d'Ivoire is a member of a majority of multilateral organizations such as the IMF and the World Bank, in each case since 11 March 1963, and the WTO since 1 January 1995.

African Union

Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the AU, the successor to the Organization of African Unity. The AU is modelled on the European Union and has had a common parliament since March 2004 when the Pan African Parliament was created. In addition, the AU aims to have a central bank in the long term, a court of justice, common defence and a single currency. Its day-to-day affairs are run by the AU Commission. All member States are required to pledge 0.5% of their GDP to fund the AU. At the Kigali summit in 2016, member States agreed to each levy a 0.2% tax on imports of certain "eligible" products in order to finance their contribution to the various budgets of the organization. To date, only 23 (out of 55) member States, including Côte d'Ivoire, have established such a tax and the AU is reliant on donor support. Complete implementation of this mechanism would allow the AU to double its staff and reach its objectives for the NEPAD. NEPAD is a vision and strategic framework for Africa, designed to address issues such as escalating poverty levels and underdevelopment in Africa. Côte d'Ivoire complies with this funding requirement since the ordinance dated 27 June 2017, effective as from 1 July 2017. In addition, many members are reluctant to make the necessary concessions regarding their sovereignty. The AU is however prepared to sanction military interventions through its Peace and Security Council, such as its intervention in Mali.

On 21 March 2018 in Kigali (Rwanda), the AU member States signed an agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area ("**AfCFTA**"). As at the end of December 2019, Côte d'Ivoire and 27 other countries have ratified the agreement out of 54 signatory countries. After reaching the number of 22 ratifications required by the AU Commission,

the AfCFTA agreement entered into force on 30 May 2019. Initially scheduled for 1 July 2020, the implementation of trading under the AfCFTA was delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Intra-African trade relations under the framework of the AfCFTA started on 1 January 2021.

ECOWAS

Côte d'Ivoire is an active member of the ECOWAS, established on 28 May 1975 with the signing of the Treaty of Lagos. The ECOWAS is headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria and has 15 West African members (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). The organization's mission is to promote economic integration in all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial matters, and social and cultural matters. In 1993, the ECOWAS treaty was revised to accelerate the process of integration and establish an economic and monetary union to stimulate economic growth and development in West Africa with the following objectives: (i) the removal of customs duties for intra-ECOWAS trade and taxes having equivalent effect, (ii) the establishment of a common external tariff, the harmonization of economic and financial policies and (iii) the creation of a single monetary zone. However, regional trade within the ECOWAS as a share of total trade remains limited due to the lack of harmonization of member States' economies.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire began its four-year term presidency of the ECOWAS Commission since 1 March 2018.

WAEMU and BCEAO

The WAEMU is an organization of eight West African countries established to promote economic integration among countries that share a common currency, the CFAF. The WAEMU was created by a Treaty signed at Dakar, Senegal, on 10 January 1994 by the Heads of State and Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. On 2 May 1997, Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony, became its eighth (and only non-Francophone) member State.

The BCEAO is the common central bank of the eight member states that form the WAEMU. See "*Monetary System—The Franc Zone and the BCEAO—The BCEAO*".

The WAEMU is also a customs union and monetary union. Its objectives are greater economic competitiveness, through open and competitive markets, along with the rationalization and harmonization of the legal environment, the convergence of macroeconomic policies and indicators, the creation of a common market, the coordination of sectorial policies and the harmonization of fiscal policies.

Côte d'Ivoire currently holds the presidency of the supreme body of the WAEMU, the Conference of State and of Government, a position it has held since January 2016. The President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has initiated a reform of the institution and a reflection on the future the CFAF. On 21 December 2019, Presidents Emmanuel Macron and Alassane Ouattara announced certain reforms to the monetary cooperation between France and the WAEMU, including the renaming of the "CFAF" as the "ECO" in 2020, the end of the requirement that the BCEAO keep 50% of its foreign currency reserves in the French Treasury, and the withdrawal of French representatives from the WAEMU's governing bodies. See "*Monetary System—The Franc Zone and the BCEAO - The ECOWAS Single Currency Project and the CFAF Reform—The CFAF Reform*".

Council of the Entente

The Council of the Entente (*Conseil de l'Entente*) is a West African regional cooperation organization created in May 1959, whose purpose is primarily economic. The founding countries were Dahomey (now Benin), Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Côte d'Ivoire and Niger. They were joined in 1966 by Togo. In 1966, the Council established permanent

administrative headquarters in Abidjan, in Côte d'Ivoire. A mutual aid and loan guarantee fund provides support for the most disadvantaged members.

African Development Bank

Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the AfDB, the main objective of which is to reduce poverty in its regional member countries by contributing to their sustainable economic development and social progress. The AfDB, which temporarily (2003-2014) moved its headquarters to Tunis after the military-civil crisis in 2003, transferred its operations back to Abidjan. The full transfer of its staff was completed in late 2014. The bank even held its annual meeting of May 2015 at Abidjan. The 55th annual meeting of the AfDB was held by videoconference on 26 and 27 August 2020.

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

Côte d'Ivoire is also a member of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (“ACP”), an organization created in 1975. It is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, with all of them, except for Cuba, signatories to the Cotonou Agreement, also known as the “ACP-EC Partnership Agreement” which links them to the European Union. The ACP includes 48 countries from sub-Saharan Africa, 16 countries from the Caribbean and 15 countries from the Pacific. The ACP was originally created with the aim of fostering cooperation between its members and the European Community. The ACP has evolved to also cover agreements with the European Union in the areas of trade, economics, politics and culture.

World Health Organization

The WHO is a key technical partner for Côte d'Ivoire. Although the financial cooperation of bilateral and multilateral institutions has decreased due to the socio-political crisis that affected the country, the WHO's assistance has remained uninterrupted and has in fact increased, mitigating the effects of the crisis. It has continued its assistance in social fields such as health and education.

The mission of the WHO's Country Office in Côte d'Ivoire is to promote the attainment of the highest possible level of health for the country's entire population, by collaborating with the Government and other partners in health development and by supplying technical and logistical support for the country's programs.

Alongside Côte d'Ivoire, the WHO has developed several cooperation strategies to encourage decisive qualitative guidelines for methods of intervention, coordination and advocacy by the WHO in Côte d'Ivoire. The first generation WHO cooperation strategy with Côte d'Ivoire was established covering 2004 to 2005 via a participative process that mobilized, in addition to national health entities, other technical and financial partners of Côte d'Ivoire. The second generation WHO cooperation strategy with Côte d'Ivoire was developed under a framework of priority interventions for the period covering 2009-2013.

This strategy is based on several programs, such as the 2013-2015 PNDS and the CDMT. It is based upon the mission, guidelines and priorities of the WHO, the UNDAF, the MDGs and the Paris Declaration.

The strategic initiatives for intervention were established as follows:

- accelerating the fight against disease;
- improving maternal, neonatal and child health, as well as the health of teenagers and other vulnerable groups;
- fostering an environment conducive to health;
- strengthening the health system; and
- preparedness for and response to emergencies and catastrophes.

Following and based on the evaluation of this second cooperation strategy, which took place in November 2015, the Government developed a strategy for the 2016-2020 period as part of the 2016-2020 NDP, with the support of the WHO. In connection with this strategy, Côte d'Ivoire is launching mass vaccination campaigns, mainly targeting children up to

5 years of age, in partnership with the WHO. The Government and the WHO are working closely to monitor and address the Covid-19 pandemic in Côte d'Ivoire. The National Health Response Plan was adopted with the support of the WHO and aims, amongst other things, at providing free care for infected people and equipping intensive care units, strengthening epidemiological and biological surveillance (i.e. virus testing, creation of a free call centre, rehabilitating and equipping laboratories) and reinforcing capacities of pharmaceutical industries. In addition, the WHO is supporting the Government in its discussions with technical and financial partners for the implementation of the National Health Response Plan.

THE ECONOMY

General Presentation

Côte d'Ivoire is the leading economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union ("WAEMU") in terms of GDP, according to the BCEAO and, according to WAEMU demographic statistics, the country with the largest population in the WAEMU. The population of Côte d'Ivoire is estimated at 25.8 million inhabitants in 2019 according to the National Institute of Statistics (*Institut National de la Statistique* ("INS")). Real GDP estimates published by the IMF ranked Côte d'Ivoire sixth among the most dynamic economies of Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of real GDP growth (after Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Benin and Uganda) in 2019 (*see* 2020 IMF Outlook). In addition, the IMF and the Government estimate Côte d'Ivoire's real GDP growth at 6.2% for 2019. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic adversely impacted economic growth globally and in Côte d'Ivoire. The 2020 IMF Outlook and the Government project real GDP growth in Côte d'Ivoire at 1.8% as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, compared to an initial forecast of 6.7% (*see* 2019 IMF Outlook). As of the date of this Prospectus, economic growth in 2021 is projected at 6.5% by the Government and 6.2% by the IMF. The 2020 IMF Outlook also projects an annual real GDP growth of 6.5% for Côte d'Ivoire between 2022 and 2025. The increase in public and private investment led to an average annual rate of real GDP growth of 6.9% over the 2015-2019 period. This dynamism, coupled with good governance, has contributed to improvements in health and education indicators, and facilitated access to international financial markets. In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire reinforced its position as the world's leading producer and exporter of cocoa, accounting for more than one-third of the world's cocoa production, and the leading cashew nut producer in the world (according to the statistics of Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Agriculture).

In March 2012, following the end of the 2011 post-election crisis, the Government adopted the first NDP, which sought to create an environment conducive to development, in order to boost economic growth and employment. This plan was implemented successfully over the 2012-2015 period and allowed for a dynamic revival of the economy and the stabilisation of the country. Real GDP growth was 9.2% on average over the 2012-2015 period. The second 2016-2020 NDP, supported by the IMF, was intended to lay the foundations for economic emergence of Côte d'Ivoire by the end of 2020 with a reinforced industrial base. In this regard, the implementation of this second NDP made it possible to consolidate the achievements of the 2012-2015 NDP by maintaining the investment dynamic and ensuring an effective implementation of structural reforms. The Government is preparing a third NDP for the 2021-2025 period, which is expected to be finalized by the end of the first semester of 2021..

The real GDP growth rate was 7.4% in 2017 and 6.9% in 2018. Economic growth rate is estimated at 6.2% in 2019 and 1.8% in 2020 by the Government and the IMF. For 2021, real GDP growth rate is projected at 6.5% by the Government and 6.2% by the IMF, taking into account and assuming the implementation of the 2021-2025 NDP. The IMF projects annual real GDP growth at 6.5% for Côte d'Ivoire between 2022 and 2025.

Côte d'Ivoire's economy is undergoing rapid change thanks to the dynamism of the secondary and tertiary sectors. However, the economy remains dependent on its agriculture, and in particular the coffee-cocoa sector. The Government's estimates show that, in 2018, coffee and cocoa together represented 39.8% of the value of exports (excluding exceptional goods) and 9.7% of the country's tax revenues. In 2019, coffee and cocoa represented 41.3% of the value of exports (excluding exceptional goods) and 9.9% of the country's tax revenues according to the Government's estimates.

This dependence on agriculture makes Côte d'Ivoire's economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global agricultural product prices and to weather conditions, both of which affected this sector and the cocoa industry particularly in 2016. In order to reduce the dependency of its economy on agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire has engaged in a series of reforms aiming to strengthen the resilience of its economy. See "*Risk factors – Côte d'Ivoire's economy is dependent on its agriculture sector and in particular the cocoa sector which is highly vulnerable to global price volatility and to weather-related shocks.*"

On the basis of an assessment of the industrial sector in 2012, the Government formulated a strategy with the objective of increasing the secondary sector's share of GDP from 24% in 2012 to approximately 40% in 2020. To achieve this goal, the Government has undertaken a series of measures including: (i) the adoption of an Investment Code in 2012, (ii) the creation of an Industrial Infrastructure Management and Development Agency (*Agence de Gestion et de*

Développement des Infrastructures Industrielles) in 2013, responsible for designing, implementing and ensuring the management of industrial development planning, (iii) the implementation of a program for the revival of the textile industry, (iv) the creation of a new industrial zone on the PK 24 site located approximately 24 km outside Abidjan, (v) the renovation of the Yopougon industrial zone, (vi) the implementation of a National Restructuring and Upgrading Program for industrial companies, (vii) the promotion of agricultural raw material processing, (viii) the adoption of a new Investment Code in 2018 to promote investment in the priority sectors of agriculture, agro-industry, health and hotels and (ix) the creation in January 2018 of the National Economic Policy Council (*Conseil national de politique économique*), whose role is to identify the main national and international economic challenges facing the State and to ensure overall medium- and long-term consistency between economic policies and governmental programmes.

Côte d'Ivoire initially aimed to reach a rate of at least 50% by the end of 2020 for the domestic processing of its agricultural production. However, such 2020 targets have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government. See “– *Presentation of Economic and Other Information – Macroeconomic Data*”. In 2018, this rate was 9% for cashew nuts and 100% for palm oil. In 2019, this rate was 16% for coffee and 30% for cocoa.

The table below presents Côte d'Ivoire's nominal GDP from 2015 to 2021:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>2019 (Est.)</u>	<u>2020 (For.)</u>	<u>2021 (For.)</u>
Nominal GDP (in CFAF billions)	27,086.2	28,423.9	29,955.0	32,222.3	34,298.9	35,124.6	37,698.5

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.
Source: MEF

The table below presents the breakdown of nominal GDP for each sector of activity from 2015 to 2021:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>2019 (Est.)</u>	<u>2020 (For.)</u>	<u>2021 (For.)</u>
Breakdown in % of GDP							
– Primary sector	18.4	19.7	18.7	20.5	20.7	20.8	20.1
– Secondary sector	19.5	19.1	20.5	21.0	21.2	20.2	20.5
– Tertiary sector	47.8	46.8	46.2	43.3	43.1	43.3	43.7
– Non trade GDP	6.9	7.6	7.2	8.5	8.5	9.1	8.9
– Duties and taxes	7.4	6.8	7.4	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.7

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.
Source: MEF

The table below presents the change in volume of real GDP for each sector of activity from 2016 to 2021:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>2019 (Est.)</u>	<u>2020 (For.)</u>	<u>2021 (For.)</u>
Change in volume (in %)						
Total real GDP	7.2	7.4	6.9	6.2	1.8	6.5
– Primary sector	-4.0	3.3	5.2	5.3	-1.3	3.5
– Secondary sector	5.3	15.4	4.3	11.5	1.6	9.7
– Tertiary sector	12.9	5.0	6.8	4.9	1.8	6.5
– Non trade GDP	9.0	0.0	22.8	4.0	7.0	4.1
– Duties and taxes	1.9	20.3	1.1	5.0	1.6	6.5

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.
Source: MEF

Côte d'Ivoire continues its efforts to modernize and diversify its economy by strengthening its competitiveness and making it more resilient to external shocks, in particular by strengthening the business climate, governance and the fight

against corruption. In this respect, it is committed to implementing its comprehensive agenda of far-reaching structural measures designed with the help of its international development partners, in particular the IMF and the World Bank.

These Government-led reforms, which aim, in particular, to move towards paperless procedures and acts, have allowed Côte d'Ivoire to move from 139th place in 2018 to 122nd place in 2019 and then to 110th place in 2020 in the World Bank's general "Doing Business" ranking, representing a 45-place improvement from 2012. Thus, Côte d'Ivoire is once again among the top 10 reformers worldwide. In terms of good governance, according to the 2020 Mo Ibrahim index report, Côte d'Ivoire progressed in each of the four categories of the IIAG, rising from 46th place to 18th place from 2010 to 2019. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire received the Anti-Corruption Award from the African Union during its 32nd ordinary session in February 2019.

Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic

In its updated 2020 World Economic Outlook published in October 2020, the IMF noted that the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is inflicting high and rising human costs worldwide, and the necessary protection measures are severely impacting economic activity. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the global economy is projected to contract sharply by -4.4% in 2020 according to the IMF. The global economy is projected to grow by 5.2% in 2021 as economic activity normalizes, helped by policy support.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Côte d'Ivoire's real GDP growth was initially projected at 6.7% by the IMF (*see* 2019 IMF Outlook) and at 7.2% by the Government in 2020. However, the Covid-19 pandemic and containment measures implemented to fight the spread of the coronavirus have adversely impacted the growth momentum in Côte d'Ivoire. According to the 2020 IMF Outlook, real GDP growth in Côte d'Ivoire is, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, now projected at only 1.8% for 2020. While the current trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic remains highly uncertain and the Government cannot predict the duration and severity of the impact of the pandemic or of any future containment efforts, the Government and the IMF have identified the following economic impacts (*see* IMF Country Report No. 20/132 of April 2020):

- A simultaneous external and domestic shock, the pandemic is expected to strongly impact Côte d'Ivoire: As in many countries, the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to depress Côte d'Ivoire's macroeconomic outlook, both indirectly as the spread of the disease slows down economic activity worldwide and directly via a sizable human and economic cost as strong containment measures are being implemented.
- The impact on trade and domestic production could be considerable: Lower demand from partner countries and supply chain disruptions could undermine Côte d'Ivoire's trade. The EU and China, regions that have experienced significant disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, are important trading partners for Côte d'Ivoire, accounting for approximately 50% of the country's total exports and imports. End-January data already shows signs of reduced traffic in Ivoirian air- and maritime ports. Furthermore, efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, such as the regulation of transportation, curfews and the prohibition of unauthorized travel within the country, are expected to depress domestic consumption and investment, disrupt the domestic market and the supply chain, and hinder production.
- The business sector and the wellbeing of populations are expected to be significantly affected: The containment measures implemented by the authorities resulted in business closures, temporarily led to a sharp decline of profits of some small and medium enterprises, and a loss of wages for workers, especially in the informal sector and among the self-employed. This will impact the wellbeing of families and communities and may drive already vulnerable families into poverty.
- The fiscal impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to be high, driven by declining tax revenues and higher demand on the Government's budget, with rising health-related expenditures and pressures to support the private sector and vulnerable families.

- The banking sector could face a sharp deterioration of its loan portfolio, exacerbating the likely decline in available credit in the economy resulting from the economic slowdown: The BCEAO took swift measures to ease liquidity constraints in the banking sector and support firms. See “*Monetary System – Monetary Policy*”. However, banks will likely experience a deterioration in the quality of their assets, including some public banks which are currently undercapitalized (such public banks hold only 3% of the total assets held by banks).

Côte d’Ivoire has taken various measures to address the adverse effects of the coronavirus pandemic on its economy and population. As part of the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and its economic and social impact, in addition to the CFAF 96 billion National Health Response Plan (*Plan National de Riposte Sanitaire*), the Government adopted, following a wide consultation with the entire private sector and various professional organizations, an Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*) estimated at CFAF 1,700 billion, representing approximately 5% of GDP. This Plan is designed to help mitigate the abovementioned impact of the pandemic and the various containment measures taken by the Government on the population and economic actors in the formal and informal sectors. See “*The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire – Health*”. It will also help to prepare a rapid resumption of the economic activity at the end of the pandemic. The Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan consists of (i) business support measures, (ii) economic support measures and (iii) social measures for the population and its implementation led to additional budgetary expenditures of CFAF 323.5 billion in 2020. In line with the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan and the National Health Response Plan, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire, has established four funds supporting the socio-economic environment with a combined global budget of CFAF 158.0 billion in 2020:

- a Covid-19 Special Solidarity and Emergency Humanitarian Support Fund (*Fonds Spécial de Solidarité et de Soutien d’Urgence Humanitaire Covid-19*), also known as the Covid-19 Special Solidarity Fund (*Fonds Spécial de Solidarité Covid-19*). In accordance with the social and humanitarian component of the National Health Response Plan against the Covid-19 pandemic, this Fund is intended to finance the Government’s solidarity actions towards the sections of the population impacted by the pandemic and their families, particularly the elderly and persons with disabilities. It also takes into account indigent patients, families of indigent people who died from the pandemic, vulnerable children and adolescents in orphanages, nurseries and homeless children. The Fund, which consists of budgetary allocations and donations from individuals, countries, institutions and companies, is designed to ensure the food and psycho-social security of the population during the pandemic. A total budget of CFAF 170 billion was allocated to the Covid-19 Special Solidarity Fund over the 2020-2021 period, representing approximately 0.5% of GDP.
- a Covid-19 Support Fund for Large Enterprises (*Fonds de Soutien aux Grandes Entreprises Covid-19* (“**FSGE Covid-19**”)). The FSGE Covid-19 is designed to provide large enterprises in difficulty with the necessary financial support from the State to preserve means of production and employment, with a view to guaranteeing the stability of the national economy. A total budget of CFAF 100 billion was allocated to the FSGE Covid-19 over the 2020-2021 period, representing approximately 0.3% of GDP.
- a Covid-19 Support Fund for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (*Fonds de Soutien aux Petites et Moyennes Entreprises Covid-19* (“**FSME Covid-19**”)). The FSME Covid-19 is created to provide small and medium sized enterprises in difficulty with the necessary financial support to preserve means of production and employment in order to sustain the stability of the national economy. A total budget of CFAF 150 billion was allocated to the FSPME Covid-19 over the 2020-2021 period, representing approximately 0.4% of GDP.
- a Support Fund for Participants in the Informal Sector (*Fonds d’Appui aux Acteurs du Secteur Informel*). This Fund is designed to help to identify participants in the informal sector affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in order to determine their financing needs, grant them loans and refinance the credit institutions involved in the implementation of financing programs. The management of these funds will be audited by the General Inspectorate of Finance (*Inspection Générale des Finances* (“**IGF**”)) and an international audit firm. A budget of CFAF 100 billion was allocated to this Fund over the 2020-2021 period, representing approximately 0.3% of GDP.

An emergency plan in support of agricultural export and the food production sectors impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic (*Programme d'urgence pour le soutien aux filières agricoles d'exportation et au secteur des productions alimentaires*), with a budget of CFAF 95.8 billion for 2020, was also created in order to support the agricultural sector impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The implementation of this emergency plan will entail public transfers, including price and income support, and the provision of goods and services, in particular fertilizer subsidies, plot development and seed distribution. This mechanism will be accompanied by specific regulations adapted to the implementation of this plan. In view of the urgency and seriousness of the situation, the Council has decided to set up a simplified governance framework called the Inter-ministerial Committee on Raw Materials (*Comité Interministériel des Matières Premières* (“CIMP”)) headed by the Prime Minister. This Committee, enlarged to include all Ministries connected to the agricultural sector (including the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, of Animal and Fishery Resources, of Rice Promotion, of Commerce and Industry, of Economy and Finance), will be supported by operational implementation units from the public and private sectors. A global budget of CFAF 300 billion was allocated to the agricultural export (CFAF 250 billion, representing approximately 0.75% of GDP) and food production (CFAF 50 billion, representing approximately 0.06% of GDP) sectors to preserve means of production and employment over the 2020-2021 period.

Various other initiatives, with a total budget of CFAF 69.4 billion, focus mainly on supporting public enterprises, strengthening and securing market supply, and fighting against soaring prices for consumer goods. The Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan thus contributed, on the one hand, to supporting production tool and maintaining jobs in order to ensure the continuity of business activities, and, on the other hand, to providing humanitarian support to vulnerable populations or those made vulnerable by the health crisis.

Côte d'Ivoire has benefitted from the continuous support of its technical and financial partners in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic impact. The BCEAO took a series of mitigating measures to support the WAEMU banking sector that have facilitated the financing of economic activity. The IMF provided financial support to Côte d'Ivoire in an amount of CFAF 536.0 billion under the Rapid Credit Facility and the Rapid Financing Instrument in order to address emergencies related to the Covid-19 pandemic. See “– *Public Debt – Multilateral Debt – International Monetary Fund (IMF)*”.

National Development Plans

2012-2015 NDP

Economic activity in Côte d'Ivoire significantly shrank by 4.2% in 2011 as a consequence of the post-election crisis, which led to a slowdown in economic activity and a rise in overall prices, in connection with the following factors:

- the suspension of cocoa exports by the Government from February to April 2011;
- the embargo on imports from two ports of Côte d'Ivoire (the Abidjan Port Authority (*Port Autonome d'Abidjan*) and the San Pedro Port Authority (*Port Autonome de San Pedro*)) and the sanctions adopted by the European Union against certain public companies in Côte d'Ivoire;
- the closing of nearly all commercial banks with the exception of the national banks (*Banque Nationale d'Investissement* (BNI), *Banque de l'Habitat de Côte d'Ivoire* (BHCI), Versus Bank, and *Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Epargne* (CNE)) by mid-February 2011; and
- the intensification of the post-election crisis from the end of March to mid-April 2011.

In March 2012, the Government adopted the NDP for the period covering 2012-2015 and made it operational through the Public Investment Program (*Programme d'Investissements Publics* (“PIP”)), a three-year rolling annual program, which aimed at implementing the NDP through concrete projects supporting the Government's economic and development strategy for this period. The purpose of the NDP was to reduce poverty and increase growth through investments with the general objective of making Côte d'Ivoire an emerging country by 2020. Through the creation of the 2012-2015 NDP, Côte d'Ivoire committed to giving a new impetus to its development policy. The 2012-2015 NDP also provided for the implementation of structural reforms (in the spheres of the business climate and competitiveness of the economy, democratic, administrative, economic and judicial governance, debt, public finance, institutional

management capacities and national statistical apparatus). This affected key sectors with growth potential such as agriculture, agrifood, building and public works, mining, petrol, gas and electricity, transportation and commerce, telecommunications and the research and development sector. This new strategy relied on a recovery and development plan based on private and public investment. It identified the main sources of growth, taking into account the comparative advantages of the country. In addition, the 2012-2015 NDP contained precise sectoral objectives and strategies to be implemented by the Ministries, with points of reference which allowed for a regular follow up on the progress achieved.

The strategic objectives of the 2012-2015 NDP included the following:

- build the basis to make Côte d'Ivoire an emerging economy by 2020;
- ensure and sustain macroeconomic stability, including a viable public debt;
- achieve a sustainable high GDP growth rate: according to Government figures, Côte d'Ivoire exceeded by approximately 1.5 percentage points its growth target of 8.6% in 2012 with real GDP growth of 10.1% in 2012, and by approximately 0.3% its growth target of 9.0% in 2013; the Government reached a real GDP growth of 8.8% in 2014, 8.8% in 2015 and 8% in 2016;
- reduce the poverty rate by half and re-join the group of African countries with the highest rankings in terms of the HDI of the UNDP;
- achieve, or make significant progress towards, the MDGs;
- create one of the best business environments in Africa, and strengthen the competitiveness of the economy;
- re-join the group of leading African countries in terms of good governance and fighting corruption; and
- strengthen Côte d'Ivoire's position at the regional and international level.

The 2012-2015 NDP aimed to significantly increase public investment and create an environment conducive to the development of the private sector, with a view to boosting economic growth and employment. In the preceding decade, public investment had contracted due to the political and military crisis, so that infrastructure could not be maintained or developed, due to the lack of financing. The PIP sought to bring the public component of the investments (in sectors such as safety, health, education, roads and bridges, agriculture, telecommunications, energy, industry and SMEs) in 2012 to 5.3% of GDP from a maximum of 3.3% on average over the preceding twelve years. Thus, public investments increased over the 2012-2015 period reaching 5.5%, 6.3%, 6.9% and 6.7% of GDP in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Similarly, the Government was able to attract private investments and to maintain dynamic, sustained and inclusive growth through (i) the restoration of safety over the whole territory of Côte d'Ivoire, (ii) the consolidation of national reconciliation through the actions of the CDVR on 11 September 2011, (iii) the efforts made by the Government to repatriate those in exile under the auspices of the tripartite agreements among Côte d'Ivoire, the host countries and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (iv) political dialogue with the opposition undertaken by the Government, (v) the unfreezing of bank accounts and assistance provided to former soldiers, (vi) the improvement of the business environment with a view to strengthening consumer confidence, as well as business and investor confidence and (vii) the promotion of good governance.

Financing Strategy for the 2012-2015 NDP

The total cost of the 2012-2015 NDP's investments (public and private) was CFAF 11,076 billion, including a public sector contribution of CFAF 4,579.6 billion.

According to the Government's estimates, the annual average cost stood at CFAF 2,769.0 billion, with an annual financing mobilisation capacity by the State of CFAF 519.6 billion. The remaining overall financing need of CFAF 2,501.1 billion, was primarily financed through the WAEMU and international capital markets through a strategy designed to avoid jeopardizing debt sustainability, in accordance with the 2013-2016 Medium-Term Debt Strategy (*Stratégie de la Dette à Moyen Terme* ("SDMT")) adopted by the Government on 19 December 2013. See "*Public Debt—Public Debt Management Policy—Institutional Measures: The CNDP and the SDMT*".

The table below presents the financing outline of the NDP for the 2012-2015 period, as contemplated by the NDP:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
	<i>(CFAF billions)</i>					
Total Cost of the Plan	1,520.9	2,263.3	3,129.5	4,162.3	11,076.0	2,769.0
Current Revenues	2,342.6	2,873.1	3,386.3	3,985.9	12,587.8	3,147.0
Current Expenditures	2,005.5	2,130.8	2,333.5	2,552.6	9,022.5	2,256.0
Public Investment (A)	676.4	1,000.0	1,291.2	1,612.0	4,579.6	1,145.0
Financing Received for Public Investment (B)	675.9	110.1	518.0	774.5	2,078.5	519.6
Public Investment Coverage Rate (%)....	99.9	11.0	40.1	48.0	45.4	45.4
Public Financing Needs (C=B-A)	(0.5)	(889.9)	(773.2)	(837.5)	(2,501.1)	(625.4)
Private Financing	844.5	1,263.3	1,838.3	2,550.3	6,496.4	1,624.1

Source: DGPE

Results of the 2012-2015 NDP

According to the 2012-2015 NDP Consulting Group, which was composed of Government representatives, bilateral and multilateral partners and private sector representatives, the development partners' commitments from 2012 to 2015 amounted to US\$9.9 billion (CFAF 4,950 billion), *i.e.*, a commitment rate of 146% in comparison to the amount announced. In terms of the absorption of resources, disbursements stood at US\$9 billion (CFAF 4,500 billion) for the same period, representing a disbursement rate of 91% compared to the commitments made.

The Government considers that the implementation of the 2012-2015 NDP was a success in several respects, in particular with regard to:

- the resumption of strong, lasting growth for the Ivorian economy with the support of its development partners;
- Côte d'Ivoire's inclusion and sustained presence among the countries with the highest economic growth in the world, with an annual average real GDP growth rate of 9% over the 2012-2015 period;
- an increase in investments, which rose from 9% of the nominal GDP in 2011 to 20% in 2015;
- the recovery of real income per inhabitant by nearly 25% between 2012 and 2015;
- a decrease in the poverty rate from 49% in 2008 to 46% in 2015;
- control over the budget deficit and indebtedness;
- control over the external deficit; and
- the improvement of diplomatic relations and reinforcement of so-called economic diplomacy.

As regards road infrastructure and transportation services, a high point in the implementation of the 2012-2015 NDP was the completion of the first engineering projects contemplated as part of the "emergence-by-2020" plan. They included the northern (Singrobo-Yamoussoukro) highway, the Riviera II highway interchange, and the Henri Konan Bédié, Bouaflé and Jacquville bridges. In terms of roadwork, 140 km of the Gesco-Singrobo highway were reinforced and paving was completed for 86 km of the Singrobo-Yamoussoukro section and for 120 km of the Boundiali-Tengrela section. In addition, more than 5,000 km of rural roads were upgraded.

Significant improvements were made in the social sectors. The number of jobs in the formal sector increased from 722,567 in 2012 to 868,209 in 2015. This progress was achieved in the context of efforts to address youth unemployment.

Marked improvements were made in terms of access to education; 9,291 primary school classrooms were built, in addition to 3,500 secondary school classrooms and 45 middle schools. These achievements, in addition to a significant recruitment of staff, contributed to an increase in access to education. In that context, the gross primary school admission rate increased from 73.4% in 2008 to 97.8% in 2014. The gross school enrolment rate increased from 76.2% in 2008 to 94.7% in 2014 according to the Ministry of Education.

Efforts undertaken to rehabilitate and re-equip hospitals and health centres contributed to an improvement in access to health services, as did the implementation of the initiative to provide mothers and children with free healthcare, caesarean sections, and medicines. In addition, efforts to equip and bring technical platforms of health facilities in line with standards contributed to an improvement in the quality of health services.

In terms of access to drinking water, the construction of 794 pumps and 76 water towers, as well as maintenance work performed on 11,446 human-powered pumps, contributed to a significant increase in access to drinking water infrastructure. Moreover, Abidjan's water treatment station now operates with a ground storage capacity of 10,000 m³. All of these developments are contributing to positive changes in the population's health and quality of life.

The commencement of 71 social housing construction projects throughout the country and allocation of 3,060 hectares of land for the low-cost social housing program is expanding the access of low-income populations to property.

The connection of roughly 800 rural towns to the electrical power grid and to ease service subscription costs for households has increased rates of access and coverage.

The private sector contributed significantly to the implementation of the 2012-2015 NDP, particularly through sizeable investments in the energy and mining sectors, especially the Tongon mine, oil and gas exploration, and the establishment of several processing units in the coffee, cocoa, and cashew sectors. Over the period 2012-2014, private sector investment amounted to CFAF 4,699 billion, compared with the predicted level of CFAF 3,946 billion, a 119.1% implementation rate. This performance attests to the role of the private sector as a driver of economic growth.

2016-2020 NDP

In order to continue its reform agenda, the Government adopted a new NDP for the 2016-2020 period on 9 December 2015. This 2016-2020 NDP, prepared following a thorough assessment of the 2012-2015 NDP's implementation and results, maintained the general objective of making Côte d'Ivoire an emerging economy by 2020. In the vision of the Government, emerging economy status will result in a significant reduction in poverty and a corresponding rise of the middle class, establishing a dynamic, development-oriented and liberal economy that is open to the outside world. This is expected to allow Côte d'Ivoire to successfully integrate into the global economy and further cooperate with its neighbours to strengthen regional integration.

As part of the 2016-2020 NDP, the Government initially expected growth to continue to be strong, sustained and inclusive so as to allow GDP per capita to double by the end of 2020 from its 2012 level and to maintain Côte d'Ivoire's status as a pre-emerging country. However, while the Government is still assessing and monitoring the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is expected to adversely impact the Ivoirian economy and growth momentum in the short term. Similarly, the 2016-2020 NDP targets for the end of 2020 will be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic the extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government. See “– *Presentation of Economic and Other Information – Macroeconomic Data*”. With the 2016-2020 NDP, a particular focus had been placed on the following: mandatory schooling, food self-sufficiency, access to drinking water, access to electricity in every village with more than 500 residents, improved social security coverage and local, effective health systems. Côte d'Ivoire also aims to rank within the top 50 countries in the world in terms of business environment (“Doing Business” ranking), within the leading group of African countries in terms of good governance and transparency in the management of public resources (World Bank index) and within the highest ranked African countries in the UNDP's HDI.

This plan establishes industry as one of the major pillars of the economy's structural transformation and focuses on the following strategies:

- strengthening the quality of the country's institutions and proper governance;
- accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being;
- accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization;
- developing infrastructure that is equitably spread throughout the country while at the same time protecting the environment; and

- strengthening both regional integration and international cooperation.

The implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP was designed at the outset to achieve the following targeted results:

- an average real GDP growth rate of 8.7% between 2016 and 2020. This performance was expected to be driven by the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, which are expected to record respective average annual growth rates of approximately 5.8%, 11.5% and 9.2% during this period;
- a rise of the investment rate from 19.5% of GDP in 2015 to 24.5% in 2020 with the private investment rate progressing from 12.8% in 2015 to 15.2% in 2020. This significant contribution expected from private investments reflected the Government's reliance on the private sector as an important pillar of emerging economies;
- an inflation rate maintained under the convergence threshold of +3.0% for WAEMU countries;
- an increase of total revenues and donations from CFAF 3,916.8 billion in 2015 to CFAF 6,492.3 billion in 2020, representing an average growth rate of 10.6%. These resources remained dominated by fiscal revenues, which were expected to rise from CFAF 2,954.9 billion in 2015 to CFAF 5,317.4 billion in 2020. Fiscal pressure was expected to grow from 15.1% in 2015 to 16.9% in 2020; and
- an improvement of the budget deficit, as a percentage of GDP, from 2.8% of GDP in 2015 to 1.9% of GDP in 2020.

As part of the Ivorian economy's structural transformation, the 2016-2020 NDP is supported by several significant reforms intended to amplify the effects of the investments to be made during the period of the plan's implementation. These reforms relate primarily to:

- the creation of a single population record;
- the creation of a unique identifier for companies;
- geo-referencing of the country's capital assets and natural resources;
- the creation of credit bureaux and a credit information centre; and
- the implementation of a system to prevent and manage natural risks and catastrophes.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government expected the macroeconomic framework to continue to be solid and sustainable, characterized by a low annual inflation rate (below 2%), a continued control over the level of the budget deficit (around 3% in 2020) and a consolidation of net foreign assets. Its baseline scenario was strong growth driven by structural investments in the main growth sectors and continued large-scale structural reforms. The real GDP growth rate, which reached 7.2% in 2016, 7.4% in 2017, 6.9% in 2018 and is estimated at 6.9% in 2019. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to adversely impact economic growth globally and in Côte d'Ivoire. The 2020 IMF Outlook projects real GDP growth in Côte d'Ivoire at 1.8% as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, compared to an initial forecast of 6.7% (see 2019 IMF Outlook). For 2020, in order to meet major challenges and fund additional expenditures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the funding of the National Health Response Plan (*Plan National de Riposte Sanitaire*) and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*), the Government and the IMF have agreed on a budget deficit of 5.9% of GDP in 2020 (compared to a pre-Covid-19 forecast of 3%). The budget deficit is expected at 4.6% of GDP for 2021 and is expected to converge towards the WAEMU community convergence criteria of 3% of GDP in 2023. On 27 April 2020, the WAEMU Conference of Heads of States and Governments declared a temporary suspension of the WAEMU growth and stability Pact, which sets six convergence criteria, including the 3% of GDP fiscal deficit rule, to help member-countries cope with the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government continues to monitor and assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy.

Financing Strategy for the 2016-2020 NDP

To achieve these growth objectives, the 2016-2020 NDP as adopted in December 2015 provided for an overall investment of approximately CFAF 30,000 billion of which 60% was expected to come from the private sector, including through

PPPs. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the investment rate was expected to reach 24.5% of GDP by the end of 2020 (public investment being expected to stand at 9% by the end of 2020 and private investment at 15.5% by the end of 2020). Inflation was expected to be controlled at an average of 2% per year over the period, below the WAEMU convergence criteria ceiling of 3%. However, the 2016-2020 NDP targets for the end of 2020 have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic although the extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government. See “– *Presentation of Economic and Other Information – Macroeconomic Data*”

The table below sets forth the financing outline of the 2016-2020 NDP, as contemplated by the Government (forecasts):

<i>(CFAF Billion)</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Revenue Excluding Grants	4,078.7	4,352.4	4,855.2	5,415.9	5,996.8	24,699.2
Total expenses and Net lending excluding Investment	3,510.2	3,613.4	3,753.5	3,901.1	4,136.7	18,915
Total Investment	4,277.2	5,148.5	6,000.3	6,847.3	7,726.7	30,000
Public (A)	1,643.7	1,950.7	2,286.3	2,560.4	2,843.4	11,284.4
Private	2,633.5	3,197.9	3,714	4,286.9	4,883.2	18,715.6
Public Savings (B)	568.54	739	1,101.7	1,514.8	1,860.2	5,784.2
Public Funding Requirements (C=B-A)	(1,075.2)	(1, 211.7)	(1,184.6)	(1,045.6)	(983.3)	(5,500.4)

Source: MDP/DGPLP, MEF/DPPSE, SEPMBPE

Implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP

The implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP began in an international context characterised by a global growth slowdown, a fall in the prices of major raw materials and low rainfall. This unfavourable context has not made it possible to achieve the macroeconomic growth and balance objectives envisaged in the 2016-2020 NDP. However, after four years of implementation, the annual reports on the implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP reflect overall satisfactory macroeconomic performance.

The Ivorian economy achieved annual rates of real GDP growth of 7.2% in 2016, 7.4% in 2017, 6.9% in 2018 and an estimated 6.2% in 2019 and is expected to reach 1.8% in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic according to the Government and the IMF. This steady creation of wealth has enabled the Government to increase spending in favour of the most disadvantaged sections of the population. Thus, pro-poor expenditures more than doubled between 2012 and 2018, rising from CFAF 1,080.3 billion to CFAF 2,361.4 billion. They amounted to CFAF 2,550.6 billion in 2019 and are projected at CFAF 2,754.9 billion in 2020 (pre-Covid-19 pandemic). For 2021, the Government has allocated CFAF 2,863.8 billion to pro-poor expenditure in its initial 2021 budget. Moreover, GDP per capita has been steadily increasing since 2012 to reach CFAF 1.261 million in 2018, and is estimated at CFAF 1.309 million in 2019.

This performance has been largely supported by significant investments, both private and public, which have continuously increased since 2011. Investments increased from CFAF 6,408 billion in 2015 to CFAF 7,157 billion in 2018. Investment rate increased from 23.7% of nominal GDP in 2015 (based upon the old GDP reference year 1996) to 22.3% in 2018, is estimated at 22.9% in 2019 and, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, is now expected to reach 23.4% in 2020, compared to an initial target of 24.5% in the 2016-2020 NDP. The Government is currently preparing a new National Development Plan for the 2021-2025 period. See “– *The Economy – 2021-2025 NDP*”.

Major achievements in the implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP include the following:

- In the transportation infrastructure and services sector:
 - Improvements in road infrastructure, notably the extension of paved and maintained roads from 3,500 km in 2015 to 10,000 km in 2016, to 15,279 km in 2017 and then to 18,434 km in 2019. With regard to the development of new roads, the amount of completed paved roads increased from 6,700 km in 2015, to 6,743 km in 2017 and then to 7,150 km in 2019. With regard to access-improving infrastructure, the completion of the Japanese-Ivorian Friendship Interchange in Abidjan brings the total number of access-improving infrastructure built over the 2016-2019 period to 22.

- With regard to transport services, the road and lagoon public transport sub-sector saw: (i) the increase of the SOTRA fleet with 500 new Tata buses acquired in 2017 compared to 51 new buses in 2015 and 71 in 2016 and (ii) the delivery of more than 200 new-generation taxis to operators as a result of support from the Road Transport Development Fund from 2016 to 2017. In the ship transport sub-sector, following the installation and effective start of activities of the two licensed operators in 2016 (CITRANS and STL), 17 ships entered into service in 2017 (7 from CITRANS and 10 from STL). In the air transport sub-sector, the national airline, Air Côte d'Ivoire, expanded its fleet with the acquisition of three aircraft in 2017 and the construction of the parallel taxiway and the extension of the cargo terminal at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Airport in Abidjan were completed. Thanks to the increasing attractiveness of the country and the Abidjan hub strategy being developed by Air Côte d'Ivoire, traffic at Félix Houphouët-Boigny Airport increased to 2,260,000 passengers in 2019 compared to 2,000,000 in 2017.
- In the social services and healthcare sector:
 - With regard to grade-school education, between 2016 and 2019: (i) the construction of 11,500 primary school classrooms, and 81 high schools and middle schools, (ii) the distribution of 11,728,922 school kits and (iii) the hiring of 23,417 primary school teachers. At the end of 2017: (i) the construction of 4,070 classrooms in public schools, including 630 in preschools and 3,440 in primary schools, the opening of 67 public middle schools, and the distribution of 26,859 desk benches, (ii) the distribution of 3,494,924 school supply kits and (iii) the hiring of 5,000 assistant teachers trained at special educational training centers (*Centre d'Animation et de Formation Pédagogique*), 683 middle school teachers and 213 high school teachers trained at the *Ecole Normale Supérieure* (ENS).
 - As regards higher education: (i) the construction of the Man University, (ii) the rehabilitation and equipment of the Cocody university campuses, (iii) the rehabilitation of athletic facilities and cultural centres on the university campuses of Abidjan (CROU A1), (iv) the rehabilitation and equipment of administrative offices, university residences and the CROU medical centre of Daloa, (v) the start of construction works of the universities of Bondoukou and San Pédro and (vi) the launch of a Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (*Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation* or "FONSTI") with a capital endowment of CFAF 3 billion.
 - In terms of employment, the number of employees rose with job creation, increasing from 86,195 jobs in 2016 to 95,710 in 2017 (including 83,764 for the private sector and 11,946 for the public sector), reaching 100,911 in October 2020 (including 79,432 in the private sector and 21,479 in the public sector) representing a 17.1% increase compared to 2016. Furthermore, 222,213 youths were able to benefit from the youth employment and integration programs in 2018.
 - As part of improving the supply of healthcare, the Government brought the number of first-contact health facilities (*Etablissements Sanitaires de Premier Contact* (ESPC)) from 2,023 to 2,479 over the 2016-2019 period, including 67.9% in rural areas and 32.1% in urban areas. In addition, in the framework of the social programme of the Government, the rehabilitation of 102 health centres financed by the World Bank and a large building/rehabilitation/equipment programme of 725 ESPC are being implemented. The availability rate of crucial drugs for the New Public Health Pharmacy (*Nouvelle Pharmacie de Santé Publique* (NPSP)) increased from 23% in 2011 to 90% in 2015 and then to 92.44% in 2018 at the central level. The availability rate of safe blood products increased from 122,112 blood bags in 2012 to 168,025 in 2016 and then to 159,551 in 2019.
 - Concerning drinking water coverage, the proportion of the population with access to a source of drinking water rose from 78.4% in 2015 to 80.7% in 2016 and then to 82% in 2017, reaching 84% in 2018, according to the National Office of Drinking Water (*Office Nationale de l'Eau Potable* (ONEP)). This improvement is due to the implementation of actions such as (i) the completion of work aimed at reinforcing the piezometric network for the monitoring of water tables in Abidjan, Dabou and Bonoua, (ii) the completion of the reinforcement of the drinking water supply in Bouna, Bondoukou, Aboisso,

Adzopé and surrounding communities, (iii) the construction of 300 new wells equipped with manually-operated pumps and of more than 100 improved hydraulic pumps, (iv) the rehabilitation of 100 obsolete manually-operated pumps and (v) the establishment of more than 500 women's committees for water source management.

- In the energy sector:

The national electricity coverage rate reached 69% on 31 December 2019, compared to respectively 58% in 2018 and 54% in 2017. The rate of access to electricity went from 89.5% in 2018 to 94% at the end of December 2019. These changes are explained by an increase in energy capacity from 1,805 MW in 2015 to 2,229 MW in 2019 thanks to, in particular, the inauguration of the Soubré hydroelectric dam with a capacity of 275 MW and the increase of 30 MW by improving the performance of the gas turbines of the Azito power plant. In addition, in order to promote effective access of households to electricity at a lower cost, 734,272 connections have been made under the Electricity for All Program over the period 2014-2019, including 203,000 connections in 2019. The successful implementation of the rural electrification programme (PRONER) also increased the number of electrified localities from 4,537 in 2016 to 4,639 in 2017, to 4,940 in 2018 and then to 5,861 in 2019 out of a total of 8,513 localities.

2021 – 2025 NDP

The 2021-2025 NDP currently under preparation will focus on supporting the Government's medium-term development strategy between 2021 and 2025. The implementation of the 2021-2025 NDP is expected to further consolidate the Government's achievements under the 2012-2015 NDP and the 2016-2020 NDP and aims to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth with the overall objective of making Côte d'Ivoire an upper middle-income economy by the end of 2025. Like the prior NDPs, the 2021-2025 NDP will be structured around several major pillars, including (i) the strengthening of productive transformation, development of industrial clusters and digitalization of the economy; (ii) the development of human capital and improvement of productivity; (iii) the strengthening of financial inclusion, national solidarity and social action; (iv) regional development through the creation of competitive economic zones and continued development of infrastructure to support growth in compliance with social and environmental requirements and the SDGs; and (v) the improvement of governance and further modernization of State institutions.

The Government's objectives under the 2021-2025 NDP remain the pursuit of structural reforms of the national economy and reduction of poverty. In addition to strengthening the business climate and governance, special emphasis will be put on attracting private investment in strategic sectors, mainly the agro-industry. The processing of agricultural products is expected to be further strengthened through continued implementation of various programmes and initiatives to improve the competitiveness of cocoa and cashew processing enterprises. The Government will also focus on the creation of adequate socioeconomic infrastructure, the development of human capital, the modernization of public administration, and the implementation of initiatives aimed at preserving the environment. The Government expects that Côte d'Ivoire will weather the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and resume its economic growth momentum, which would enable it to move into the upper middle-income economy bracket. Moreover, with a view to making growth more inclusive, mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the populations and further consolidating the achievements under the Government's Social Programme or "**PSGouv**", special emphasis will be put on programmes and initiatives with high social impact as part of the implementation of the 2021-2025 NDP. The 2021-2025 NDP investment programme will be funded through both public and private sources, including the Government's public investment budget and the mobilisation of external and private financing. The 2021-2025 NDP is expected to be finalized by the end of the first semester of 2021.

Structure of the Economy

For 2020 and beyond, all GDP and GDP related data disclosed in this Prospectus are based on the most recently available macroeconomic data. Governmental responses to address or mitigate the impact of Covid-19 pandemic or its aftermath may require implementation of new economic or other measures, which may involve additional fiscal incentives and require revisions to GDP and GDP related data estimates for 2020 and beyond. See "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Health*" and "*The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*"

above. Similarly, all initial targets set in the 2016-2020 NDP for the end of 2020 will be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government. Prospective investors should be aware that all estimated figures for 2020 and beyond disclosed in this Prospectus are subject to some degree of uncertainty and may be further adjusted, amended or revised, whether as part of regular review or otherwise, based on a number of evolving factors, which are uncertain and rapidly changing and cannot be predicted.

The contribution of the primary sector, which comprises food crops (live-stock breeding included), agriculture for export and forestry and fishing, to nominal GDP was 18.4% in 2015, 19.7% in 2016 and 18.7% in 2017. Its estimated contribution was 20.5% in 2018 and 20.7% in 2019. Such contribution is expected at 20.8% in 2020 and projected at 20.1% in 2021. Agricultural production is very diversified and comprises food crops (in particular rice, cassava and corn) and export crops such as coffee, cocoa, cotton, rubber tree, palm oil and cashew nuts.

The primary sector real GDP growth rate was -4.0% in 2016. Primary sector real GDP growth rate experienced successive increases of 3.3% in 2017, 5.2% in 2018 and estimated at 5.3% in 2019. The primary sector real GDP growth rate is projected at -1.3% in 2020 and -3.5% in 2021. The 2017 and 2018 situation reflected favourable climatic conditions, the recovery of coffee trees that had suffered from water stress during the severe drought that occurred from December 2015 to April 2016 and the implementation of reforms in the cashew nut sector. The 2019 estimates reflect the upturn in subsistence agriculture benefiting from continuing investments in the agricultural sector (National Agricultural Investment Program II (*Programme National d'Investissement Agricole II*, (NAIP II))) and from the revitalization of professional organizations in the food sector. They also reflect improved phytosanitary treatment of the plantations and an improvement of access roads and an increase in prices paid to farmers. The projected decreases in 2020 are expected to result in particular from decreases in cocoa production (-8.3%) due to the vegetative rest and the destruction of plantations infected by the swollen shoot. In 2021, cocoa production is expected to grow by 2.4% as a result of continued investment in the agricultural sector in accordance with NAIP II.

The growth of the agricultural sector over the last several years is primarily due to the implementation of the NAIP over the 2010-2015 period, for example the 2012-2020 National Rice Development Strategy (*Stratégie Nationale du Développement du Riz* (SNDR)), the objective of which is to cover all consumption needs through local production. Growth of the agricultural sector also resulted from the continuation of the coffee-cocoa sector reform and the implementation of reforms for the cashew nut and cotton sectors, which is expected to help better structure these sectors and improve their productivity rate. See “—Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy—Agricultural”.

The secondary sector, which comprises the extractive industry, agro-food industries, oil products and other sub-sectors, represented an estimated 21.2% of nominal GDP in 2019, 21.0% of nominal GDP in 2018, 20.5% of nominal GDP in 2017, 19.1% of nominal GDP in 2016 and 19.5% of nominal GDP in 2015. It is expected to represent 20.2% of nominal GDP in 2020 and 20.6% in 2021. The secondary sector real GDP growth rate was 5.3% in 2016, 15.4% in 2017, 4.3% in 2018 and 11.5% in 2019. This positive trend is primarily due to the development of the manufacturing and building and public works industries. The Government expects this trend to continue in 2020 at a level of 1.6%, due to the strength of most of its components and despite the expected decrease in petroleum products (-26.9%) and extractive activities (-4.8%). The secondary sector real GDP growth rate is projected at 9.7% in 2021, due to building and public works industry (+18.3%), petroleum products (+10.2%) and agro-food industry (+6.1%).

The tertiary sector, which comprises transportation, telecommunications, trade and other sub-sectors, is estimated to represent 43.1% of nominal GDP in 2019, 43.3% of nominal GDP in 2018, 46.2% of nominal GDP in 2017, 46.8% of nominal GDP in 2016 and 47.8% of nominal GDP in 2015. The tertiary sector is expected to account for 43.8% of nominal GDP in 2020 and 43.7% in 2021. The contribution of the tertiary sector to GDP is limited by the difficulties of certain market factors such as (i) infrastructure deficiencies, (ii) disruption of the supply for markets and supermarkets due to the degradation and insufficiency of railroad infrastructures, (iii) poor access of population to banking services, and (iv) a poorly developed tourism sector. The tertiary sector real GDP growth rate was 12.9% in 2016, 5.0% in 2017, and is estimated at 6.8% in 2018 and 4.9% in 2019. The tertiary sector real GDP growth rate is projected at 1.8% in 2020 and 6.5% in 2021. This trend is explained by the revival of activities of all sub-sectors of this sector since the 2011 post-election crisis and by the benefits tied to the growth of the primary and secondary sectors. Furthermore, the Government estimates that the implementation of its SME/SMI development strategy, adopted in February 2014, the reactivation of the SOTRA and the commencement of operations of the lagoon water plan to other companies, namely the STL, as well

as the return of the AfDB to Abidjan which was fully completed in late 2014, contributed to a significant increase in activity in the tertiary sector in 2016. The tertiary sector benefited from (i) investments in the telecommunications sector for national fibre optic coverage; (ii) investments in various ports and airports; (iii) the commissioning of new hotels, (iv) the economic benefits of the 2017 *Jeux de la Francophonie*; (v) the revival of maritime traffic, in particular in connection with cocoa and oil product exports; and (vi) the expected increase in the volume of margins for cocoa and oil product export businesses.

As a result of the rebasing of GDP, 2015 is now the new base year for the national accounts of Côte d'Ivoire. As of the date of this Prospectus, the Government is not able to produce a growth rate for 2015 since the growth rate itself is now based on the new 2015 reference year (which has become “year zero” of the national accounts). Therefore, in 2015, GDP growth rate, growth rates in the various sectors of activity (primary, secondary and tertiary) and the contribution of each sector of activity to GDP growth are considered to be zero. GDP growth rate, growth rates in the various sectors of activity and the contribution of each sector of activity to GDP growth for year 2015 will be available following the retropolation of the national accounts for years prior to 2015. The Government plans to finalise the preparation of the retropolation of the national accounts prior to 2015 using the 2015 base year by the end of the first semester of 2021. See “*The Economy — Gross Domestic Product — GDP Rebasing Project*”.

The table below presents the breakdown of the weight in real GDP per sector of activity in 2015 (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Weight in GDP	18.4	19.5	47.8	6.9	7.4	100.0

Source: MEF

The table below presents the breakdown of real GDP per sector of activity in 2016 (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Growth	-4.0	5.3	12.9	9.0	1.9	7.2
Weight in GDP	19.7	19.1	46.8	7.6	6.8	100
Contribution to GDP growth	-0.7	1.0	6.0	1.3	0.1	7.2

Source: MEF

The table below presents the breakdown of real GDP per sector of activity in 2017 (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Growth	3.3	15.4	5.5	-2.3	20.3	7.4
Weight in GDP	18.7	20.5	44.9	8.4	7.4	100
Contribution to GDP growth	0.5	3.0	2.7	-0.2	1.4	7.4

Source: MEF

The table below presents the breakdown of real GDP per sector of activity in 2018 according to the provisional accounts awaiting validation (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Growth	5.2	4.3	6.8	22.8	1.1	6.9
Weight in GDP	20.5	21.0	43.3	8.5	6.7	100
Contribution to GDP growth	0.8	0.9	3.3	1.8	0.1	6.9

Source: MEF

The table below presents an estimate of the breakdown of real GDP per sector of activity in 2019 (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Growth	5.3	11.5	4.9	4.0	5.0	6.2
Weight in GDP	20.7	21.2	43.1	8.5	6.5	100
Contribution to GDP growth	0.8	2.3	2.3	0.4	0.4	6.2

Source : MEF

The table below presents an estimate of the breakdown of real GDP per sector of activity in 2020 according to Government projections (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Growth	-1.3	1.6	1.8	7.0	1.6	1.8
Weight in GDP	20.8	20.2	43.3	9.1	6.7	100
Contribution to GDP growth	-0.2	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.1	1.8

Source : MEF

The table below presents an estimate of the breakdown of real GDP per sector of activity in 2021 according to the projections (as a percentage):

	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Non Merchant sector	Duties and Taxes	Total GDP
Growth	6.5	3.5	9.7	6.5	4.1	6.5
Weight in GDP	20.1	20.6	43.7	8.9	6.7	100
Contribution to GDP growth	0.5	2.0	3.1	0.4	0.5	6.5

Source : MEF

The table below presents contributions to GDP growth by sector of activity from 2016 to 2021:

	2016	2017	2018⁽¹⁾	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)	2021 (For.)
Primary Sector.....	-0.7	0.5	0.8	0.8	-0.2	0.5
Secondary Sector.....	1.0	3.1	0.9	2.3	0.3	2.0
Tertiary Sector.....	6.0	2.4	3.3	2.3	0.9	3.1
Non trade GDP	0.8	0.0	1.8	0.4	0.7	0.4
Duties and taxes	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.5
Total GDP	7.2	7.4	6.9	6.2	1.8	6.5

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.

Source : MEF

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The GDP is an economic indicator used to measure the level of economic production of a country. It is defined as the total monetary value of all the final goods and services produced over a given period in the territory of a State by the companies in the country, regardless of their nationality. To determine real GDP, its nominal value must be adjusted to take into account inflation. The growth of GDP is calculated on the basis of real GDP and used as an indicator for the economic growth of a country.

The rebasing of GDP resulted in various changes in GDP growth rate and GDP-related data. As of the date of this Prospectus, final data are available for years 2015 to 2017. For 2018, GDP data are from provisional accounts awaiting

final validation, and GDP data for 2019 are estimates from the provisional accounts. Data for 2020 are forecasts. All GDP figures used in this Prospectus are based on constant 2015 prices and all GDP and GDP-related data are presented on a 2015 reference year basis. See “*The Economy — Gross Domestic Product — GDP Rebasement Project*”.

Real GDP in 2016

In 2016, real GDP growth was 7.2% due to the performance of the secondary and the tertiary sectors. Sectoral changes were as follows.

The primary sector recorded a decrease of 4.0% in 2016, due to the decrease in agricultural exports of -6.7% mainly caused by difficult weather conditions and certain agricultural diseases. Food agriculture slightly increased by 1.0%.

The secondary sector grew by 5.3%, driven by the significant growth in the extractive industry (+16.9%), sustained energy production (+11.0%) and the maintenance of building and public works (+34.3%) in connection with construction projects related to the 2017 *Jeux de la Francophonie*, the continuation of building construction and public projects (the Tiébissou-Didiévi road, Ferké-Nassian-Kong road, Adzopé-Pont Comoé road, Tiemba bridge, Bettié bridge, the road of the PSAC Project, Korhogo-Korhogo Airport, etc.). However, the agrifood (-6.4%) and oil products (-180.9%) sectors experienced poor performance. The decrease of oil products was connected to financial difficulties faced by the SIR resulting in negative added value.

The tertiary sector recorded growth of 12.9% due to the dynamism of all of its sub-components, namely transportation (+10.8%), telecommunications (+47.2%), other services (+8.5%) and trade (+14.0%) in connection with the strength of the secondary sector and an improvement in revenue.

The non-market sector increased by 9.0% in connection with the implementation of a recruitment program in the social and security sectors, which helped increase the production of services to households.

Duties and taxes increased by 1.9% in volume.

Real GDP in 2017

In 2017, real GDP growth was 7.4%. This growth rate resulted from the rebound of the primary sector and the dynamism of the secondary and tertiary sectors.

The primary sector recorded growth of 3.3%, as compared to a decrease of 4.0% in 2016, thanks to the performance of food agriculture (+11.6%) and the stagnation of agricultural exports (+0.6%). Food crops benefitted from the implementation of the Food Crop Production Emergency Support Plan (*Plan d'Urgence d'Appui à la Production Vivrière*).

The secondary sector increased with 15.4% growth compared to 5.3% in 2016, in particular due to agrifood industries (+14.5%), to building and public works (+24.2%), to other manufacturing industries (+7.3%) and to energy (+128.0%). However, the growth in oil products stagnates and the extractive industry slows down by 17.4%, compared to its performance in 2016 (+16.9%).

The tertiary sector benefitted from the strong performances of the primary and secondary sectors in connection in particular with the organization of the 2017 *Jeux de la Francophonie* and the EU-AU Summit. It increased by 5.0% due to telecommunication (+19.5%), other services (+8.6%) and trade (+12.4%), benefitting from the increase in the volume of foreign trade margins. With regard to the transportation sector, it experienced a decrease (-17.5%).

The non-merchant sector stagnated at 0.0%.

Duties and taxes also increased by 20.3%, supported by the increase in exports of cocoa as well as household consumption.

Real GDP in 2018

According to the national provisional accounts awaiting final validation, the economic growth rate was 6.9% for 2018.

The primary sector recorded a growth of 5.2%, compared to 3.3% in 2017 as a result of strong performances in agricultural exports (+8.1%). The various increases in production observed were associated, in particular with (i) favourable weather conditions, (ii) the recovery of coffee plants that had suffered from a lack of water due to the severe drought that occurred from December 2015 to April 2016 and (iii) the implementation of the cashew nut sector reform. Food crop agriculture also benefited from the continued implementation of the Urgent Support Program for Food Crop Production (*Programme d'Urgence d'Appui à la Production Vivrière*), which aims to (i) allow farmers to produce in all seasons in order to improve and ensure food security in the whole country, (ii) modernize food crop production and (iii) increase producers' income.

Growth in the secondary increased by 4.3%, driven by building and public works (+6.5%) and other manufacturing industries (+9.3%), despite a decrease in the extractive industry (-38.2%). The growth recorded in the building and public works sector can be explained by the dynamic of public investments stemming from the continuation of work initiated in 2017. This includes, in particular, the rehabilitation of the Felix Houphouët Boigny bridge, the olympic stadium of Ebimpé, the construction of the Akwaba interchange and the construction of the fourth bridge linking the Plateau to Yopougon, through Attécoubé and Adjamé. Stable growth in the agrifood industries was due to an improvement in processing rates, particularly of coffee, palm oil and sugar. In addition, the manufacture of fat substances (olein), grain milling and the manufacture of wheat flour, animal feed and various food products are the principal factors behind the agrifood industry's performance.

The tertiary sector recorded growth of 6.8%, due to the good performance of telecommunications (+9.5%) and trade (+14.4%).

The non-merchant sector increased by an estimated rate of 22.8% due to the combined effects of limited growth in public administration recruitment, and the pursuit of mandatory education and universal healthcare policies. In addition, in an effort to create productive, decent and long-term jobs, several major initiatives have been taken, such as (i) promoting jobs for vulnerable individuals, especially women and handicapped persons and (ii) strengthening programs improving employability and fostering entrepreneurship.

Duties and taxes, net of subsidies, recorded a slight growth of +1.1%, driven by various reforms underway within the Tax Administration and the dynamic of household consumption, which has spurred increased collection of VAT.

Real GDP in 2019

The Government estimates economic growth at 6.2% in 2019, compared to a 6.9% growth rate in 2018.

The primary sector recorded an estimated growth of 5.3%, compared to 5.2% in 2018, driven by food crop agriculture (+0.5%), which benefitted from continued investments in the agricultural sector (NAIP 2) and the revitalization of professional organizations in the food crop sector, better plant health measures on plantations and improved service roads and prices.

Growth in the secondary sector is estimated at 11.5%, compared to 4.3% in 2018, driven by oil products (+19.0%), building and public works (+23.8%), agrifood industries (+5.6%) and extractive industry (+17.5%). In addition, industrial activity, supported by public investments, benefitted from an increase in production capacity, new facilities and dynamic private domestic demand.

The tertiary sector recorded an estimated growth of 4.9%, compared to 6.8% in 2018, as a result of all of its components, particularly transportation and telecommunications, which increased by an estimated 5.5% and 7.6%, respectively, trade, which increased by an estimated 4.9%. and other services, which registered an estimated increase of 4.2%. This dynamic resulted from the performances in the primary and secondary sectors.

The non-merchant sector increased by an estimated 4.0%, compared to 22.8% in 2018, taking into account the combined effects of the payroll control strategy and the pursuit of mandatory education and universal healthcare policies.

Duties and taxes, net of subsidies, continued to increase by an estimated rate of 5.0%, compared to 1.1% in 2018, as a result of the various reforms underway within the Tax Administration and dynamic economic activity.

Real GDP in 2020

Economic growth is projected at 1.8% in 2020, compared to an estimated 6.2% real GDP growth rate in 2019. This decline in economic growth rate is mainly due to a less favourable international and domestic environment, which has been deeply and adversely impacted by the current Covid-19 pandemic, the various containment measures and restrictions to international trade. These Government projections are based on an assumption that the Covid-19 pandemic will be contained by the end of December 2020 with the disruption of supply chains and access to market channels ending by then, both internally and internationally, and that economic activity will gradually resume in 2021.

The primary sector is expected to record a decrease of 1.3% in 2020, compared to an estimated growth of 5.3% in 2019, in connection with the expected decline in export agriculture (-2.2%) despite the increase in food agriculture (+2.6%). This decline is expected to result, in particular, from the decrease in cocoa production (-8.3%) and coffee production (-10.1%) due to the vegetative rest and the Government measures to rationalize the exploitation of forest resources and preserve the country's vegetation cover.

Growth in the secondary sector is expected at +1.6%, compared to an estimated +11.5% in 2019, suffering from the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. This slight growth will be driven by the increase in building and public works (+6.0%) and energy (+11.1%), despite the decrease in petroleum products (-26.9%), extractive industry (-4.8%), agrifood industries (-1.3%) and other manufacturing industries (-0.4%).

The tertiary sector is expected to record a growth of +1.8%, compared to an estimated +4.9% in 2019, as a result of the increase in telecommunications (+30.3%), despite the decrease in transportation (-1.8%), trade (-0.6%) and other services (-1.1%).

The non-merchant sector is expected to increase by +7.0%, compared to an estimated +4.0% in 2019, taking into account the measures implemented in the framework of the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan and the National Health Response Plan.

Duties and taxes, net of subsidies, are expected to continue to increase by +1.6%, compared to an estimated rate of +5.0% in 2019, as a result of the cessation or reduction of certain activities.

Real GDP in 2021

Economic growth is projected at 6.5% by the Government and 6.2% by the IMF in 2021. These projections are based on assumptions that the 2021-2025 NDP will be effectively implemented and the Covid-19 pandemic will be effectively controlled. The Government also expects to continue the implementation of the various reforms necessary to effectively support the economy.

The primary sector is expected to grow by 3.5% in 2021 according to Government estimates, compared to a projected decrease by 1.3% in 2020, due principally to the anticipated positive performance of export agriculture (+3.3) and food agriculture (+4.5%). Agricultural production would benefit from the emergency plan in support of agricultural export and the food production sectors impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic of CFAF 300 billion set up to support agricultural sectors affected by the pandemic, continued investment in the agricultural sector (NAIP II), the revitalization of professional organizations in various sectors and the control of national production by strengthening land border control measures.

Growth in the secondary sector is expected at +9.7% in 2021 by the Government, compared to an estimated +1.6% in 2020, due principally to the anticipated increase in building and public works (+18.3%), other manufacturing industries

(+5.1%), extractive industry (+1.4%), agrifood industries (+6.1%), energy (+1.3%) and petroleum products (+10.2%). This sector would continue to benefit from the increase in investments to increase production capacity.

The tertiary sector is expected to record a growth of +6.5% in 2021 according to Government estimates, compared to an estimated +1.8% in 2020, as a result of the increase in transportation (+6.7%), telecommunications (+6.6%), trade (+6.6%) and other services (+6.4%). This dynamic would be induced by the positive performance of the primary and secondary sectors described above.

The non-merchant sector is expected to increase by +4.1% in 2021 according to Government estimates, compared to an estimated +7.0% in 2020, taking into account the pursuit of mandatory education and universal healthcare policies and measures implemented in the framework of the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan and the National Health Response Plan.

Duties and taxes, net of subsidies, are expected to continue to increase by +6.5% in 2021 according to Government estimates, compared to an estimated rate of +1.6% in 2020, as a result of various reforms underway within the Tax Administration and the expected resumption of the economic activity.

The table below presents changes in Côte d'Ivoire's main economic indicators between 2015 and 2021:

Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018 ⁽¹⁾	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)	2021 (For.)
GDP nominal (CFAF billion).....	27,086.2	28,423.9	29,955.0	32,222.3	34,298.9	35,124.6	37,698.5
GDP nominal (US\$ billion).....	45.8	48.0	51.6	58.0	58.5	61.2	70.7
GDP per capita (CFAF thousand) ..	1143.7	1170.3	1202.6	1,261.4	1,309.2	1,307.4	1,368.2
Real GDP growth rate (%)	N/A	7.2	7.4	6.9	6.2	1.8	6.5
Real GDP per capita growth rate (%)	N/A	4.5	4.7	4.2	3.6	-0.8	3.9
FBCF (variation in volume as a %)	N/A	3.2	6.1	11.1	11.8	9.3	6.7
Inflation rate (WAEMU convergence standard, as a %)...	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.9
Investment rate (%).....	23.7	21.5	20.1	19.8	21.1	22.7	23.5

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.

Source: MEF

The table below presents the change in the breakdown of nominal GDP between the various sectors of the economy from 2015 to 2021:

(CFAF billions)	2015	2016	2017	2018 ⁽¹⁾	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)	2021 (For.)
Primary sector	4,974	5,611	5,613	6,621	7,090	7,308	7,562
Food crops, breeding	1,391	1,899	2,245	3,064	3,149	3,299	3,515
Agriculture for exportation	3,275	3,415	3,106	3,261	3,644	3,738	3,768
Forestry	165	132	132	138	155	129	129
Fishing	143	165	130	158	142	142	150
Secondary sector	5,291	5,427	6,130	6,773	7,267	7,099	7,746
Extractive industry	895	1,420	1,256	897	1,027	1,032	1,071
Agro-food industries	1,558	1,581	1,644	1,400	1,517	1,506	1,613
Oil products	124	-444	-248	682	784	573	652
Energy (gas, water, electricity)...	239	326	741	845	930	871	887
Construction industries	1,220	1,118	1,104	1,177	1,268	1,348	1,627
Other manufacturing industries ..	1,254	1,426	1,633	1,772	1,741	1,768	1,895
Tertiary sector	12,940	13,292	13,840	13,950	14,787	15,196	16,483
Transport	2,730	2,796	2,024	1,905	2,011	2,013	2,191
Telecommunications	742	1,021	1,132	1,256	1,225	1,549	1,655
Trade	3,797	4,271	5,072	5,560	5,831	5,833	6,342
Other Services	5,670	5,203	5,612	5,230	5,720	5,801	6,295
Trade GDP	23,204	24,330	25,583	27,344	29,144	29,603	31,791
Services of the APUs	1,692	2,002	2,006	2,551	2,731	2,979	3,148
NPIs	190	148	139	177	189	204	215

Non Trade GDP	1,882	2,150	2,145	2,727	2,920	3,183	3,364
Duties and taxes net of subsidies	2,000	1,943	2,228	2,151	2,235	2,339	2,544
Total GDP	27,086	28,424	29,955	32,222	34,299	35,125	37,698

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.
Source: MEF/DGE

The following table presents certain information related to elements of Côte d'Ivoire's nominal GDP in terms of expenses between 2015 and 2021:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018 ⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>2019 (Est.)</u>	<u>2020 (For.)</u>	<u>2021 (For.)</u>
(CFAF billions)							
Internal demand	26,546	27,948	29,566	32,476	33,904	34,493	37,279
Total Consumption	20,185	21,768	23,538	25,640	27,024	27,149	28,849
Private	17,655	18,939	20,380	22,218	23,426	23,330	24,836
Public	2,368	2,705	3,045	3,300	3,469	3,693	3,879
NPIs	162	123	113	123	129	125	133
Total Investments	6,408	6,117	6,028	6,368	7,240	7,966	8,595
Private	5,033	4,708	4,432	4,656	5,358	5,492	6,168
Public	1,355	1,390	1,575	1,682	1,846	2,437	2,389
NPIs	20	20	21	30	36	37	38
Net External Demand	-47	63	0	468	-360	-621	-165
Stock variation	540	476	389	-253	395	632	419

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.
Source: MEF

The table below presents the change in breakdown of nominal GDP between the various sectors of the economy from 2015 to 2021, as a percentage of GDP:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018 ⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>2019 (Est.)</u>	<u>2020 (For.)</u>	<u>2021 (For.)</u>
(as a % of GDP)							
Primary sector	18.4	19.7	18.7	20.5	20.7	20.8	20.1
Food crops, breeding	5.1	6.7	7.5	9.5	9.2	9.4	9.3
Agriculture for exportation	12.1	12	10.4	10.1	10.6	10.6	10.1
Forestry	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3
Fishing	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Secondary sector	19.5	19.1	20.5	21	21.2	20.2	20.5
Extractive industry	3.3	5	4.2	2.8	3	3	2.8
Agri-food industries	5.8	5.6	5.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3
Oil products	0.5	-1.6	-0.8	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.7
Energy (gas, water, electricity)	0.9	1.1	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.4
Construction industries	4.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.3
Other manufacturing industries	4.6	5	5.5	5.5	5.1	5	5.0
Tertiary sector	46.2	45.2	44.9	43.3	43.1	43.2	43.7
Transport	10.1	9.8	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8
Telecommunications	2.7	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.4	4.4
Trade	14	15	16.9	17.3	17	16.6	16.8
Other Services	19.3	16.8	17.5	16.2	16.6	16.5	16.7
Non trade GDP	8.5	9.1	8.4	8.5	8.5	9.1	9.0
Services of the APUs	7.7	8.5	7.9	7.9	8	8.5	8.4
NPIs	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Duties and taxes net of subsidies	7.4	6.8	7.4	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.7
Total GDP	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) Data from the provisional accounts awaiting final validation.
Source: MEF

GDP Rebasing Project

Following the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the project to change the GDP base year and the implementation of the 2008 SNA in January 2017, the technical execution was entrusted to the INS under the supervision of the Ministry of Planning and Development. On 11 March 2020, the Council of Ministers of Côte d'Ivoire officially announced its decision to update the base year for its national accounts from 1996 to 2015.

The project was funded by Côte d'Ivoire and received financial support from the WAEMU through the 2015-2020 Regional Statistical Program (RSP) and received technical assistance from AFRITAC West, AFRISTAT, the African Economic Community, the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

The purpose of the project was to:

- migrate the methodology for the compilation of national accounts to the most recent System of National Accounts adopted by the United Nations (the 2008 SNA, which replaces the SNA 93, the primary reference for the compilation of national accounts) and provide a better idea of the economic activity of Côte d'Ivoire;
- follow best practices for changing the base year of the National Accounts every five or ten years to correct errors resulting from annual estimates; and
- improve GDP coverage and the update of the structure of the economy by integrating two new important data sources, namely the fourth General Population and Housing Census (“GPHC”) completed by Côte d'Ivoire in 2014.

The GDP Rebasing Project is part of a dynamic initiated at a continental level for the implementation of the SNA 2008 following the example of countries like South Africa (increase of 4% of GDP), Cameroon (increase of 8% of GDP), Kenya (increase of 25% of GDP), Morocco (increase of 5% of GDP), Nigeria (increase of 60% of GDP), Senegal (increase of 30% of GDP) and Benin (increase of 36.7% of GDP). As a reminder, in Côte d'Ivoire, the base year of the last national accounts was 1996, which was 20 years old by reference to the new one, and the System of National Accounts used was the 1993 SNA, whereas international standards recommend changing the base year of the annual accounts every 5 years or 10 years at the most.

The 2015 GDP under the 2008 SNA was CFAF 27,086 billion, compared to CFAF 19,595 billion under the 1993 SNA, representing an increase of 38.2%. This observed effect on GDP is due to a combination of the change in base year and the changes under the 2008 SNA. The major changes that improved the national accounts after the rebasing of GDP and the transition to the 2008 SNA are the following:

- the adoption of new classifications for the annual accounts in line with the recommendations of the 2008 SNA, thus increasing the number of branches of activity in the economy from 44 to 48;
- the mobilization of data sources to improve the coverage of the economy: data sources have increased from 16 under the 1993 SNA to 44 under the 2008 SNA. Such additional data sources include the updating of data on the informal sector based on sector-specific surveys and the inclusion of the non-observed economy, in particular activities relating to drugs and prostitution; and
- the updating of the methods of calculation as recommended by the 2008 SNA (*i.e.* use of the financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) methodology).

A breakdown of the 2015 value added, by sector of activity indicates that:

- The value added of the primary sector was CFAF 4,974 billion. It increased by CFAF 519 billion, *i.e.* 11.6%, as compared to the 2015 national accounts under the 1993 SNA. The primary sector accounted for 18.4% of the

GDP in the new 2015 base (as compared to 22.7% in the old base under SNA 93). The strongest contributions by branch of activity remained export agriculture (10.3%) and food-producing agriculture (4.6%).

- The value added of the secondary sector stood at CFAF 5,436 billion in the new 2015 base as compared to CFAF 5,051.2 billion in the 2015 national accounts under the 1993 SNA, representing an increase of CFAF 385 billion (7.6% compared to the old GDP). Agribusiness (5.8%), construction (4.5%) and extractive industries (3.3%) are the branches of the secondary sector that contribute the most to GDP.
- The value added of the commercial tertiary sector rose to CFAF 12,819 billion as compared to CFAF 7,957.3 billion in the 2015 national accounts under the 1993 SNA, representing an increase of CFAF 4,862 billion with respect to the previous national accounts. It now represents 47.3% of GDP. The commercial tertiary sector is essentially driven by trade (14%), transport and storage (10.1%) and other services, including catering (13.2%). The value added of the non-merchant tertiary sector is 6.9% of GDP.

The Government is currently in the process of preparing a restatement of the national accounts using the 2015 base year. The Government has completed the national accounts for the 2015-2019 series using the 2015 base year and plans to finalise the preparation of the repolation of the national accounts prior to 2015 using the 2015 base year by the end of the first semester of 2021. Unless otherwise indicated, all GDP figures used in this Prospectus are based on constant 2015 prices and all GDP and GDP-related data are presented on a 2015 reference year basis.

Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy

Agriculture

Until reforms were introduced by the Government in the early 1990s, the developments in agriculture were driven by the actions of the State, which intervened at all levels of the agricultural sector. On the basis of the 1992 Agricultural Development Management Plan (*Plan Directeur de Développement Agricole* (“**PDDA**”)), Côte d’Ivoire introduced in the early 1990s restructuring efforts aimed at expanding capacity and making the professionals in the agricultural sector more responsible for their activity, managing their development, including through widespread education, research and training, and refocusing the Government on its orientation, incentivisation, regulatory and control functions. For instance, as part of a plan to develop rural areas, the Government built 48,000 km of country roads to integrate villages and encampments, as well as 361 agricultural dams for the irrigation of arable land, fishing and raising livestock in rural areas. These initiatives allowed the agricultural sector to maintain a prime position in the Ivorian economy. In 2018, the primary sector contribution to nominal GDP was estimated to be 17.5%. It also represented 59.1% of the country’s overall exports in 2016 and, according to the last census to date (2014), employed 46% of the country’s active population and was the main source of income for two-thirds of a population that is 50.3% rural.

While Côte d’Ivoire’s agriculture is still dominated by the coffee-cocoa sector, which played a major role in the Ivorian economic boom of the 1970s, Ivorian agriculture has diversified to include other crops such as palm oil, bananas, cotton, rubber trees, cashew nuts and rice. In 2019, Côte d’Ivoire reinforced its position as the world’s leading producer and exporter of cocoa, accounting for more than one-third of the world’s cocoa production, and the world’s leading cashew nut producer (according to the statistics of Côte d’Ivoire’s Ministry of Agriculture). In 2017, the value of processed cocoa exports declined due to falling prices, even though the volume exported increased in comparison with 2016. At the end of 2018, cocoa bean exports decreased by 12.4% in value as compared to 2017, due to a decrease in prices (-13.3%) despite an increase of the exports in volume (+1.0%). In 2019, the value of cocoa exports increased by 16.3% as compared to 2018, due to an increase in both volumes (+6.3%) and prices (+9.4%).

According to the Cotton and Cashew Nut Council (*Conseil du Coton et de l’Anacarde*), Côte d’Ivoire has been, since 2015, the world’s top producer of cashew nuts, of which 93% is exported raw. The cocoa, coffee, cashew nut, cotton and rubber tree sectors, which constitute the country’s primary exports, provide a living for more than half of the country’s active population.

The table below sets out the change in the output of major agricultural crops in Côte d'Ivoire between 2014 and 2019:

Production	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)
	<i>(in thousand tons)</i>					
Cocoa Beans.....	1,678.7	1,825.6	1,634.4	2,033.5	2,113.1	2,235.04
Yams.....	7,039.2	6,649.9	6,894.5	7,148.1	7,391.1	7,450.5
Plantain Bananas.....	1,671.7	1,739.1	1,809.3	1,882.3	1,955.7	2,030
Cashew Nuts.....	564.8	702.5	649.6	711.2	761.3	634.6
Manioc.....	4,239.3	4,390.9	5,269	5,366.5	5,608.0	5,877.2
Natural Rubber.....	317.3	360.0	453.0	606.4	622.3	850
Palm Oil.....	420.1	424.1	451.0	433.8	473.5	-
Green Coffee.....	105.9	126.7	105.6	33.6	123.9	94.2
Corn.....	960.8	906.0	967.2	1,025.2	1,055.0	1,102.4
Rice Paddies.....	2,053.5	2,152.9	2,054.5	2,119.6	2,006.8	1,884
Sweet Bananas.....	362.4	359.9	427.0	438.1	464.7	499.6
Cotton Seed.....	405.2	434.9	332.4	352.7	387.0	412.6

Source: MEF

The table below sets out the change in the main exports of the agricultural crops of Côte d'Ivoire between 2014 and 2019:

Product	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)
	<i>(in CFAF billions)</i>					
Cocoa Beans.....	1,505.9	2,099.7	1,818.4	2,056.9	1,516.4	1,671.0
Processed Cocoa.....	782.5	930.9	921.7	847.5	569.8	598.7
Cashew Nuts.....	391.8	427.4	469.5	606.5	585.7	408
Cashew Kernels.....	12.8	25.3	36.2	40.8	53.2	51.3
Green Coffee.....	57.3	60.6	67.3	41.5	76.7	108.9
Processed Coffee.....	39.3	49.5	33.8	34.8	13.8	15.4
Sweet Bananas.....	69.1	68.4	83.4	88.1	96.8	98.8

Source: MEF

Agricultural Policy

Despite a significant contribution to nominal GDP (22.4% in 2016, 21.6% in 2017, 17.5% in 2018 and an estimated 18.3% in 2019), productivity of Côte d'Ivoire's primary sector remains weak. This is partly due to unplanned and unanticipated Government disengagement, in particular during the political and military crisis from 2002 to 2011, as well as poor governance in the sector. These factors led to (i) unfair distribution of rebates generated by the different sub-sectors given that the producers are paid the lowest share, (ii) low prices for agricultural products paid to farmers and (iii) poor financing of the industry in general.

In November 2011, the Government adopted a proposal to reform the agricultural industry in the context of the 2012-2015 NAIP. This plan was based on six priority programmes: (i) improving the productivity and competitiveness of agricultural products; (ii) developing sectors; (iii) improving the governance of the agricultural sector; (iv) strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in agricultural development; (v) sustainable management of fishing resources; and (vi) renewing forest resources and reviving the wood sector. This programme, with an estimated total cost of CFAF 2,040 billion, recorded a level of financial resources of CFAF 1,309 billion available for its performance (or a 64.2% mobilization rate). The 2012-2015 NAIP sought to restore the agricultural growth rate to 9% per year, reduce the poverty rate to 16%, create 2.4 million jobs, reduce food insecurity and process at least 50% of Côte d'Ivoire's agricultural products in the country by 2020. The implementation of this programme began in the cocoa/coffee sub-sector and then spread to the cotton-cashew nut sector. A specific fund was created with an allocation of US\$150 million for cashew nuts and US\$150 million for cocoa. New legislation is being developed focusing on fertilizers and plant-treatment products. An important component of the NAIP was the SNDR, whose objective was to reach self-sufficiency in terms of rice production by 2016. For the implementation of the SNDR, the Agency for the Development of the Rice Sector in Côte d'Ivoire (*Agence pour le Développement de la Filière du Riz* ("ADERIZ")) an administrative public body, was created pursuant to Decree No. 2018-10 of 10 January 2018, to replace the National Office for the Development of Rice Farming created in July 2010. The ADERIZ is affiliated to the office of the Minister of Agriculture. The implementation of the SNDR made it possible to achieve the following results at the end of December 2018:

- 14 transformation units with a five ton per hour capacity installed, eight of which are functional;
- 19 transformation units with a two ton per hour capacity installed, four of which are functional;
- personnel at 100 mini rice plants were trained in technical and administrative management;
- 744 tons of seeds were produced;
- four mobile treatment units have been acquired under the agricultural productivity programme in West Africa (*Programme de Productivité Agricole en Afrique de l'Ouest*);
- 3,800 ha received hydro-agricultural area improvements;
- 30 storage devices (cocoons) were acquired; and
- 30 unions of operators for operationalizing the rice agricultural inter-branch organization (*Organisation Interprofessionnelle Agricole*) were established.

Moreover, the value chain approach which constitutes the basis of the SNDR made it possible to take into account not only the environment of each of the players of the sector but also to respond to their needs. After four years of implementation, the strategy resulted in (i) improved yields, (ii) increased rice-growing areas, (iii) improved farming techniques of rice farmers and (iv) improved quality of the industrial process of small processors.

The first phase of the NAIP helped the country achieve record results in terms of agricultural production and an improvement in producers' revenue. Revenues distributed to producers increased from CFAF 3,368 billion in 2012 to CFAF 5,652 billion in 2015 due to increased prices of cocoa, coffee, cashew nuts and, recently, rubber. Initiatives were also taken for agricultural processing. As a result, Côte d'Ivoire, world's top cocoa producer, also became the world's top cocoa grinder in 2015 and ranks second in 2019 with a volume of 598.7 tons (ICCO, 2019). The NAIP financially supported food crops production in order to improve production methods to substantially increase production levels. In order to consolidate the achievements of the 2012-2015 NAIP, the Government has prepared the second generation NAIP (NAIP 2), with the objective of a sustainable and competitive Ivorian agriculture creating equitably shared wealth.

The implementation of the 1998 land reform law remains a priority for the Ministry of Agriculture, which has benefitted from the assistance of the World Bank and the European Union for this purpose. A new law reforming land legislation was adopted on 23 August 2013 to guarantee legal certainty for holders of land titles and to contribute to reducing poverty. Such legislation should increase the legal certainty relating to land purchases and land rentals. It should put an end to operators' hesitation in the face of uncertainty concerning real estate, thus opening up opportunities to develop business and contributing to the reduction of poverty.

The Coffee and Cocoa Industries

The coffee-cocoa sector has benefitted from numerous reforms with the implementation of the NAIP in order to improve the productivity and revenues of producers. Côte d'Ivoire intends to maintain its position as the world's top cocoa producer. Export revenue from these two products increased from 33.2% of the total export revenue in 2012 to 46.7% in 2015, 44.4% in 2016, 41.7% in 2017, 40.4% in 2018 and such increase is estimated at 41.3% in 2019%.

Cocoa Production

At the end of 2016, total cocoa production was 1,634,424 tons, a decrease of 10.5% as compared to 2015, for which it amounted to 1,825,594 tons. This change was primarily due to dryness and an invasion of caterpillars that affected approximately 20,368 hectares of plantations before being completely contained by the Coffee Cocoa Council's (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) actions via a plant protection treatment. At the end of the 2015-2016 season (October 2015 – September 2016), cocoa production was 1,580,611 tons, compared to 1,795,852 tons at the end of the 2014-2015 season, a decrease of 12%. The decrease in production marked a departure from the upward trend observed since 2013, due to good rainfall conditions and the use of new, more productive varieties, namely the "Mercédès Cocoa". Cocoa production increased by 11.5% in 2013 and by 0.5% in 2014, with amounts of 1,669,651 tons and 1,678,718 tons, respectively. In 2015, production was 1,825,594 tons, or an increase of 8.8%.

In 2017, cocoa production was 2,033,525 tons, a 24.4% increase compared to 2016. This improved production, in a context characterized by decreasing prices in international markets, helped offset the impact of lower producer prices (the price at which the producer sells the product) on the revenue of farmers.

In 2018, cocoa production stood at 2,113,100 tons, an increase of 3.9% compared to 2017. The sector has benefitted from the execution of the “Quantity, Quality, Growth (2QG)” program (*Quantité, Qualité, Croissance - 2QC*) and initiatives taken by the Coffee-Cocoa Council (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) to support orchard production and productivity, such as grubbing up orchards to combat “swollen shoot” disease which affects cocoa trees, training producers in good farming practices, distributing improved seeds and distributing plant health products and burlap bags.

In 2019, cocoa production stood at 2,235,043.1 tons, an increase of 5.8%, benefiting from the entry into production of new plantations and the effects of the implementation of measures from the Coffee-Cocoa Council (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) for the improvement of plantation productivity, including training of producers in good agricultural practices. In addition, efforts made to combat “swollen shoot” resulted in the uprooting of 67,588.61 hectares as at 30 June 2020 corresponding to 67.6% of the objective of the program. The uprooting of an additional 36,000 hectares is contemplated from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Since the end of the 2011 post-election crisis, the cocoa processing rate has steadily improved. It grew from 27% in 2011 to 33% in 2014, then fell back to 27% in 2017 and remained stable at 27% in 2018. However, this drop in the processing rate, associated with a significant increase in production, has been accompanied by a rise in quantities processed (468,570 tons in 2013, compared to 569,799 tons in 2018). To date, 12 cocoa-grinding companies with an estimated total capacity of over 700,000 tons are operational and extensions are underway. Furthermore, in December 2017 the Ivorian government signed an agreement with Hershey, the leading US cocoa processing company, that is expected to enhance cocoa processing and allow Côte d’Ivoire to increase its revenues and reduce the financial gap related to the export of raw products over the coming years.

The Government maintains its goal of increasing the local cocoa processing rate to at least 50% by the end of 2020.

In order to manage the volatility of cocoa prices, the Government has set up a stabilization fund and a technical reserve fund to cover the risks arising from the price guarantee system for producers.

Coffee Production

Coffee production has declined significantly since 2008, and has not exceeded 150,000 tons per year for more than eight years (126,587 tons in 2015, 105,867 tons in 2014, 103,742.8 tons in 2013 and 121,400 tons in 2012). This has been mainly due to the difficulty of this work, coffee’s high sensitivity to changes in weather conditions, aging fields and low prices compared to those of cocoa. Dissatisfied farmers are attracted to more lucrative crops such as cocoa and rubber trees. Coffee production saw a rebound of 19.6% in 2015 compared to 2014, as a result of a better maintenance of plantations made possible by the good level of purchase prices paid to producers. At the end of 2016, total production was 105,601 tons, a decrease of 16.6% compared to 2015. In 2017, coffee production fell significantly to 33,590 tons, a decrease of 68.2%. The decline was a result of poor rainfall at the time of the coffee trees’ blossoming. Production recovered in 2018, reaching 123,948 tons, an increase of 269% compared to 2017. This increase is mainly linked to favourable weather conditions after the difficulties encountered in 2017, when heavy rainfall during the flowering period in orchards affected the harvest. The coffee industry continued to benefit from the coffee recovery program, launched in 2013. During the 2018 season, approximately 39,223.30 ha of coffee seedlings were distributed to producers. In addition, with regard to the valuation of coffee from Côte d’Ivoire, efforts to promote “Local” coffee continue. Concerning initiatives to diversify sources of income for producers, 80 producers have been trained and established to produce coffee-based honey in the Daloa region. Since 2010, two large-scale coffee processing companies with a total estimated capacity of over 20,000 tons and more than 15 small coffee roasting facilities have been established and are operational. In addition, in order to support coffee processing, the Coffee Cocoa Council (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) has trained, equipped and established ten young coffee roasters, each of them receiving a coffee roaster unit in 2019.

In 2019, coffee production decreased by 23.8%, amounting to 94,171.4 tons. The sector suffered from dormant periods within plantations following significant production in past years, especially in 2018. The sector however benefits from the efforts of the Coffee Cocoa Council (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) as part of the coffee stimulus package. Productivity improvement actions are implemented with the uprooting of old plantations and the distribution of improved seeds. In addition, the training of producers led to a diversification of their sources of income, including with the production of coffee-based honey.

Cocoa/Coffee sector reform

The Government approved a cocoa sector reform on 2 November 2011 and the Decree establishing the sector's new regulatory structure was signed in December 2011. The main elements of this reform involved the implementation of the following schemes, which the Government uses to regulate the sector:

- a central body, the Coffee-Cocoa Council, which was created in January 2012 and includes representatives of the various actors of the coffee-cocoa sector; this body is responsible for the management, regulation, development, and stabilization of prices in the cocoa sector;
- a marketing mechanism which includes forward contracts, forward sales of export licenses and price guarantees to exporters;
- the creation of two stabilization funds: (i) a fund housed at the BCEAO with a total amount of CFAF 170 billion at the end of December 2018; and (ii) a technical reserve fund to cover the risks resulting from the price guarantee system intended for producers implemented by the Government. The fund housed at the BCEAO is financed through a special tax included in the price of cocoa, whereas the technical reserve fund is financed by contributions from the exporters directly paid to the representatives of the Coffee-Cocoa Council and is managed by this Council. The technical reserve fund was initially approved by the Government with a capital of CFAF 40 billion and was increased to CFAF 70 billion in June 2015, then to CFAF 120 billion in January 2016 and CFAF 170 billion in December 2016 and remained at this level in 2017. This fund was partly used in the first quarter 2017 to support the producer prices following the decline of cocoa prices on the international market. For the intermediary 2016-2017 season launched in April 2017, producer prices have been adjusted downwards in accordance with the legislation governing this sector.
- quarterly communications in the Council of Ministers regarding the financial flows and production levels in the sector.

The main objectives of this reform are to:

- maintain Côte d'Ivoire's position as the world's largest cocoa producer;
- produce 200,000 tons of coffee per year as from 2020;
- improve the quality of coffee and cocoa;
- guarantee at least 60% of the CIF price (inclusive of cost, insurance and freight) to coffee and cocoa producers;
- improving the living conditions of producers;
- process 50% of cocoa production by the end of 2020;
- process 35% of coffee production by the end of 2020.

Furthermore, a monitoring committee for reform implementation was created in January 2012. It is responsible for ensuring the application of the core reform legislation through effective implementation of all related legislation and compliance with the rules and undertakings made in the context of the reform.

In line with these reforms, the Government took several measures in 2013 to increase production. These involved the implementation of the “Quantity-Quality-Growth” (*Quantité-Qualité-Croissance*) program aiming to improve the quality and productivity of fields by regenerating plantations, combatting the “swollen shoot” disease affecting cocoa trees, training producers with proper agricultural practices and supporting commercialization. Similarly, support was provided under the coffee recovery program and job placements were provided for young people in coffee and cocoa culture and processing. Furthermore, with the support of the Inter-professional Agricultural Research and Advisory Fund (*Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricole*), the National Centre for Agricultural Research (*Centre National de Recherche Agronomique*) and the National Agency for Rural Support and Development (*Agence Nationale d’Appui et de Développement Rural*), the Coffee-Cocoa Council has been providing direct support since early 2012 to producers through the free distribution of improved seeds and phytosanitary products. In addition, the Government intends to promote coffee originating from Côte d’Ivoire. Besides support for the sector’s productivity, reforms also seek to improve producers’ living conditions by strengthening their security and health via the construction of infrastructure in rural regions.

On an operational level, on 31 January 2012, the Coffee-Cocoa Council launched a new sales system, the Anticipated Forward Sales Program (*Programme de Ventes Anticipées à la Moyenne*) with regard to the marketing of the cocoa and coffee harvests. Since February 2012, all exporters use this new sales system which ensures that farmers receive at least 60% of the CIF export price. The mechanism is based on selling 80% of the forecasted harvest for the coming crop year, while the remaining 20% is sold during the crop year. The reference price corresponds to the average weighted price of sales realized by anticipation (forward sales) and sales realized during the crop year (spot sales). It is split up between the price for producers, taxes and other levies as well as intermediary costs. The sales take place via regular auctions organized by an automatic system with an electronic messenger interface for participants. A supervisory procedure has been implemented for producers, buyers and cooperatives, in order to ensure strict compliance with the guaranteed price and with quality standards.

The implementation of this mechanism gave a minimum guaranteed price of CFAF 825 per kilogram of cocoa for the main 2019-2020 season, as compared to CFAF 750 per kilogram of cocoa for the main 2018-2019 season, CFAF 700 for the main 2017-2018 season, CFAF 1,100 for the main 2016-2017 season, CFAF 1,000 for the 2015-2016 season and CFAF 850 for the 2014-2015 season. On this basis, cocoa producers’ gross income is estimated at CFAF 1,651 billion and CFAF 1,526 billion, respectively, for the principal 2015-2016 and 2014-2015 seasons. However, given the continued decrease in international cocoa prices, the minimum guaranteed price of the intermediary 2016-2017 season was set at CFAF 700, a decrease of 36.4% compared to the principal 2016-2017 season. This price represents at least 60% of the CIF price, in accordance with the legislation governing the sector. The total taxation was temporarily reduced from 22% to 16.285% in order to guarantee the minimum price set for the intermediary 2016-2017 season.

As for coffee, the guaranteed farm gate price has been set at CFAF 700 /Kg between January and June 2020.

In 2018, SAF CACAO, an important agrifood company specialised in cocoa trade and processing, was wound up by the lower court of Daloa due to contract breaches during the 2015-2016 season which impaired its financial situation, costing the State CFAF 25 billion, and requiring all its tending banks to set up a provision for the loss recorded. Notwithstanding this, such liquidation did not impact the level of cocoa production and all of SAF CACAO’s export contracts were reallocated to other exporters.

On 13 April 2017, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana signed the so-called “Abidjan Agreement” on cooperation between the two countries on the production and marketing of cocoa. This agreement covers the following six points: price policies, cocoa marketing, smuggling, production policy, promotion of processing and consumption as well as cooperation with international cocoa organizations.

In June 2019, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, the two world leading cocoa producers, announced that they would both refuse to sell cocoa for the 2020-2021 season (which opened in October 2020) at a price below US\$ 2,600 (around CFAF 1.5 million) per ton, in order to ensure their producers a minimum revenue. In July 2019, they further agreed that both countries would implement a similar mechanism (and return to the market for the 2020-2021 season), called in Côte d’Ivoire the decent income differential (*différentiel de revenu décent*, or “**DRD**”): this mechanism provides that, for the 2020-2021 season, any buyer in an export contract will pay, in any case, and in addition to the market price, an amount

of US\$ 400 per ton (around CFAF 232 per kilogram), in order to guarantee a price of at least US\$ 2,600 per ton (the market price was US\$ 2,389.59 per ton on 25 January 2021, according to the ICCO). The purpose of the DRD is to guarantee the producers at least 70% of the target price of US\$ 2,600 per ton and it is contemplated that, in the event that the cocoa market price rises above US\$ 2,900 per ton, the DRD would be transferred to a stabilization fund to be used if the prices were to drop in the future. The implementation of the DRD is effective since October 2020, for the 2020-2021 season.

In terms of improving the living conditions of producers, the Cocoa-Coffee Council maintains its efforts to build community infrastructure in the areas of agricultural access roads, health, education, hydraulics and village electrification. This support for the improvement of the living conditions and environment of producers is financed by the Rural Area Investment Fund (*Fonds d'Investissement en Milieu Rural*).

Concerning the road infrastructure, 1,355 km of rural roads are in the process of completion. In the field of education, schools have been built and 60,000 school kits, 5,000 table benches and 6,000 school uniforms have been distributed. As regards rural human hydraulics, 150 solar pumping stations and 184 pumps have been installed and 133 drillings have been realized.

As for rural health, infrastructures have been built and sanitary equipment supplied: five dispensaries, a maternity ward, five nurses' quarters and a midwife's dwelling are in the process of being completed. 20 ambulances, acquired in March 2019, have been distributed to health centers. As for rural electrification, 16 villages located in coffee and cocoa production areas have been electrified with solar energy.

Finally, in terms of security, six pick-up vehicles have been acquired to be used by the police forces during the 2020-2021 season. In addition, in order to ensure better coverage of needs in terms of productivity, quality management and infrastructure in rural areas, the Public-Private Partnership Platform ("PPPP") was set up in order to mobilise all initiatives in these fields.

In addition, the identification of coffee-cocoa producers and their orchards is a national issue for the well-being of coffee-cocoa producers and the development of Côte d'Ivoire. The end of field operations is scheduled for the end of 2020. The data will be used to design and refine strategies for sustainable development of the sector and optimal supply chain management. The overall strategy is based on the following projects:

- the revision of domestic marketing procedures and the implementation of traceability;
- the study of the orchard to optimize and stabilize production;
- the reduction of deforestation caused by cocoa plantations;
- the fight against illegal plantations in classified forests;
- the fight against child labor through the close monitoring of each child living in the registered producers' households.

The benefits of this operation will include:

- control of the real dimensions of the plantations and the annual production;
- implementation of a system of total traceability of products;
- good management of support (agricultural and other inputs) to the producers identified;
- securitization of production and domestic marketing;
- limitation of the area of cocoa cultivated;

- professionalization of the coffee-cocoa production activity.

The operation will take place in three stages: (i) identification and enumeration of producers' households; (ii) identification of producers and of their plantations in each household; and (iii) measurement of the actual dimensions of each plantation.

As of 31 August 2020, the overall completion rate was 93%, with 800,000 identified producers' households, 926,000 identified producers and 2,400,000 measured hectares.

Other Sectors

Rubber

In 2016, rubber production was 453,040 tons, an increase of 25.8% compared to 2015 (360,000 tons), in connection with the gradual increase of international prices, following decreases in 2014 and 2015. Côte d'Ivoire consolidated its position as the African leader. The rubber sector continued to benefit from massive investments made in new plantations due to the strong level of international prices from 2005 to 2013.

In 2012, a new tax was introduced by the Finance Law for 2012 on production of crumb rubber. The Government also introduced an income tax on revenues of rubber tree producers, following a continuing increase in global prices for the 2008 to 2011 period. This tax amounts to 5% of the turnover of production companies and is applicable whenever the monthly average international price per kilogram exceeds CFAF 1,000.

In 2016, the Government adopted strategic guidelines for the reform of the rubber tree and palm oil sectors. This reform is primarily based on technical assistance to planters to improve their production systems and strengthen their capacities. Furthermore, a new law establishing rules relating to the regulation, control and monitoring of the rubber tree and palm oil sectors' activities was adopted as part of the implementation of this reform. This law aims to improve the governance, productivity and competitiveness of these sectors, in order to allow all the sectors' participants, and particularly producers, to derive greater profits from their activities. It takes into account the similar problems and the agricultural complementarity of these two sectors to govern, under a single legal framework, subjects related to village plantations, marketing, processing and promoting rubber tree and palm oil products. In this respect, it establishes a single body responsible for regulating, controlling and monitoring the activities of the two sectors, in the interest of all the value chain participants.

In 2017, production was 606,420 tons, an increase of 33.9% compared to 2016, due to an increase in the area of cultivated land and improved prices.

In 2018, rubber production increased by 2.9% according to estimates, reaching 624,136 tons. The industry has benefitted from the progressive entry into production of numerous plantations created since 2012. However, as a function of the steady increase in production, the industry was faced with a lack of processing capacities in 2018 for the transformation of latex into rubber (dry). In addition, the industry continued to suffer from the drop in international prices. This resulted in disruptions in the sale of latex. A portion of the production had to be exported in the form of cup films. Marine freight and transit companies were reticent to export rubber with high levels of humidity. This situation caused a temporary accumulation of stocks during the year. The processing rate of raw material was 80.2% in 2018, compared to 79.6% in 2017.

In 2019, production is estimated at 850,000 tons, representing an increase of 36.6% compared to 2018, in the context of a continued decline in international prices.

Palm Oil

Côte d'Ivoire is, after Nigeria, the second largest producer of palm oil in Africa. Production amounted to 451,012 tons in 2016 compared to 424,100 tons in 2015, representing an increase of 6.3% in 2016 following 1.0% growth in 2015.

In 2017, production was 433,790 tons compared to 451,012 tons in 2016, representing a decrease of 3.8%.

In 2018, palm oil production increased by 18.5%, according to estimates, reaching 513,875 tons, due to the entry into production of new plantations. In 2019, palm oil production stood at 634,600 tons and is projected at 800.000 tons in 2020. In addition, the industry benefitted from (i) higher quality plants provided to producers, (ii) strengthened capacity of cooperative companies in optimizing collection activities, (iii) management advice and (iv) a supply of farming inputs and equipment.

Palm oil plantations cover approximately 240,000 hectares with more than 60% of village plantations and less than 40% of industrial plantations. All locally grown oil palm fruit is processed in Côte d'Ivoire by agro-industrial companies, such as the Singaporean OLAM group and independent processors. The palm oil sector is the only sector producing 100% of finished products. Furthermore, there are ongoing plans to use the biomass from production as an input for electrical energy production.

The Ivorian market consumes approximately two-thirds of national production. The balance is exported throughout the ECOWAS region, whose demand is not sufficiently met. To satisfy sub-regional demand, Côte d'Ivoire intended to increase its production and exceed 600,000 tons of raw palm oil by the end of 2020. In order to do so, the Government has adopted a law aiming to improve the sector's competitiveness, productivity and governance.

In addition, the Council for the Regulation, Control and Monitoring of Activities in the Rubber/Oil Palm Industry (*Conseil de régulation, de contrôle et de suivi des activités de la filière hévéa-palmier à huile*), the rubber-palm council, became operational with the official appointment of the members of the Board of Directors in October 2018. The rubber-palm council will only take into account the regulatory aspects of these industries. It is also responsible for ensuring that all participants in this sector receive equal pay and that processing plants are competitive at the national and international level.

The sector is also expected to benefit from the effects of the implementation of the palm tree plan, which seeks to increase the area of cultivated land and improve productivity, despite global price fluctuations and governance problems in the sector. The sector's target is to triple the current annual production of palm bunches to produce one million tons of crude palm oil by 2025.

Cashew Nuts

Côte d'Ivoire has been the world's top producer of cashew nuts since 2015 (according to the Cotton and Cashew Nut Council) with approximately 22% of global production, and the leading exporter of raw nuts with 40% of global supply. Today, Côte d'Ivoire is pursuing a policy of continuous improvement in its local processing capacity. 93% of cashew nuts are exported in raw form, mostly to Vietnam and India, which in 2016 accounted for approximately 62.8% and 34.3%, respectively, of all cashew nuts exports from Côte d'Ivoire. The sector benefits from the implementation of reforms targeted at increasing producer prices during recent years. There are around 250,000 producers in Côte d'Ivoire and approximately 1.5 million people in the country derive their livelihood directly from this agricultural product.

In 2016, cashew nut production decreased by 7.5% to reach 649,587 tons due to unfavourable weather conditions.

In 2017, cashew nut production stood at 711,236 tons, representing an increase of 9.5%. In 2018, production rose by 7.0%, reaching 761,317 tons. However, a drop in prices led to a 20% decrease in income distributed to producers, which was estimated at CFAF 404 billion in 2018, compared to CFAF 509 billion in 2017. In 2019, cashew nut production amounted to 634,631.0 tons, representing a decrease of 16.6%. The sector suffers from illicit traffic towards certain bordering countries and from the decrease of international prices resulting from the significant increase of cashew nut production.

In an effort to accelerate the development of processing capacity and optimize producers' income, the World Bank granted a CFAF 107 billion loan to the cashew nut industry in 2018 as part of the Project for the Promotion of Competitiveness in the Value Chain (*Projet de Promotion de la Compétitivité de la Chaîne de Valeur*). This project consists in investing in the various compartments of the value chain, particularly in varietal research, management of producers, development of rural roads in production zones, storage and local processing infrastructure.

This project comes in addition to the measures that have already been taken by the Government to increase local processing capacity. These measures relate, in particular, to the obligation for exporters to make 15% of production available for local processing and a CFAF 400 subsidy granted for every kilogram of cashew nuts produced locally and sold for such local processing.

These initiatives should help fulfil the potential for job creation in production zones, estimated at 440,000 jobs, including at least 60% for women.

Reforms undertaken in the sector to boost the processing rate led to an increase in the number of cashew nut processing companies to 22 in 2016 from only 10 in 2012 and consequently to achieve an overall installed capacity of 100,900 tons in 2016. Côte d'Ivoire has the goal, under the 2016-2020 NDP, of reaching a processing rate of 50% by 2020, this rate stood at 6.6% in 2017 and 9.0% in 2018. For 2018, this rate corresponds to a volume of 68,515 tonnes of cashew nuts delivered to 25 operating processing units with a total capacity of 116,350 tonnes. In addition, in order to improve the quality of nuts and productivity, high-quality cashew nut seeds and inputs are distributed to producers.

For the 2019 season, which began in February, the farm gate price was set at CFAF 375 /Kg of cashew nuts, well dried, well sorted and containing no foreign matter, down 25% compared to the price in the previous season (CFAF 500 /Kg).

For the 2020 season, opened by the Government on 6 February 2020, the farm gate price has been set at CFAF 400 /Kg of cashew nuts, well dried, well sorted and containing no foreign body, up CFAF 25 compared to the price in the previous season (CFAF 375 /Kg).

Cotton

Cotton production is one of the main sources of income and livelihood for communities living in the north of the country.

After enduring the political and military crisis that started in 2002, the country's cotton production since 2011 has been growing as a result of state subsidies granted to farmers over the 2011-2013 period. This growth is also due to the support of the European Union through the "New Seeds" (*Nouvelles Semences*) project which improved seed quality for many farmers. The assistance provided by the European Union allowed the restoration of seed production stations that began producing high-quality seeds, leading to a positive effect on production. In addition, efforts were made to preserve cooperative movements and secure funding for cotton production, primarily by private operators.

In 2015, cotton production increased by 7.3% compared to 2014 to reach 434,914 tons, following an increase of 13.3% in 2014 thanks to improvements in productivity due to supplying agricultural products and quality seeds to producers. This sector benefitted from reforms, in particular with respect to the minimum purchase price that is guaranteed to producers by the Cotton-Cashew Council, an entity which was created on the basis of the model of the Coffee-Cocoa Council in 2013.

In 2016, significantly unfavourable weather conditions characterized by late rains during the sowing period (late May and late July) and heavy rain after boll opening (late September to October) reduced yield. Furthermore, the number of cotton producers decreased whereas the number of cashew nut producers increased. As a result, cotton production declined by 23.6% compared to 2015 to reach 332,422 tons. However, the quality of cotton produced has significantly improved due to the distribution of higher-quality inputs. The rate of superior fibre increased to 48%, compared to 13% in 2015.

In 2017, cotton production reached 352,712 tons, a 6.1% increase compared to 2016, due to various measures taken to stem the effects of the poor weather conditions, namely improvements in the supply of input to producers (quality, quantity and price), the rise in the purchase price from the producer, the reinforcement of the current cottonseed production system, processing and conditioning of seed for the benefit of the chain as a whole.

The Government adopted Decree No. 2016-1153 of 28 December 2016 instituting agro-industrial zones in the cotton sector which resulted in the creation and allocation of exclusive business zones for each cotton company operating in Côte d'Ivoire, which aims to significantly reduce dysfunctions occurring following the liberalization of the sector and revive cotton production in a sustainable manner.

In 2018, cotton seed production stood at 386,989 tons, representing an increase of 9.7% compared to 2017. The industry has benefitted from a series of reforms, in particular:

- improvements in the supply of input to producers (quality, quantity and price);
- reinforcement of the seed production, multiplication and distribution system through the implementation of the seed plan, adopted by the industry in February 2017, for which a levy of CFAF 3/kg of cotton seed was authorized by the Government;
- monitoring of the implementation of zoning in the cotton basin, particularly compliance with the commitments contained in the concession agreement and the specifications.

The 2018-2019 season began in December 2018 with purchase prices from producers that were identical to those of the previous year, i.e. CFAF 265/kg for top-grade cotton seed and CFAF 245/kg for second-rate cotton seed. The Government took measures targeted to lead to an increase in financing, number of producers, farmed area and yield to achieve annual growth of 15% of the cotton production forecasted for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 seasons.

The estimates for the 2019-2020 season, which began in November 2019, are in line with the anticipated consolidation of achievements regarding zoning. In this framework, cotton seed production is estimated at 506,400 tons for the 2019-2020 season for a farmed area of 422.000 hectares and a yield of 1,200 kilogram per hectare.

The Government has set the following prices for cotton seed purchase from producers for the 2019-2020 season:

- CFAF 300 per kilogram for top-grade cotton seed;
- CFAF 275 per kilogram for second-rate cotton seed.

These prices reflect a commitment from the Government to increase by CFAF 44 the price of CFAF 256 per kilogram obtained pursuant to inter-professional agreements between stakeholders of the sector.

For the 2019-2020 season, the input sale price proposed by a committee comprising all stakeholders and presided by the Cotton and Cashew Nut Council (*Conseil du Coton et de l'Anacarde*) and approved by the Government is as follows:

- NPK fertilizer: CFAF 289 per kilogram, i.e. CFAF 14,450 for each 50-kilo bag;
- Urea: CFAF 289 per kilogram, i.e. CFAF 14,450 for each 50-kilo bag;
- Insecticide: CFAF 33,000 per hectare throughout the production cycle.

If met, the production estimates will represent an increase of 10.38% as compared to the previous season and 84% of the Government's objective of 600,000 tons for 2020.

Bananas

With the support of the European Union for the implementation of the 2014 sector's recovery plan, sweet banana production increased by 18.6% in 2016 to reach 426,975 tons. This recovery follows the 0.7% and 6.8% declines recorded in 2015 and 2014, respectively, due to the flooding of several hectares of plantations in 2014. Production reached 359,947 tons in 2015 compared to 362,363 tons in 2014.

In 2017, sweet banana production reached 438,107 tons, representing an increase of 2.6% compared to 2016 that was primarily a result of the effects of the sector's recovery plan, which sought to increase production to 500,000 tons by the end of 2020. However, heightened competition from producers in Latin American countries has threatened the export of sweet banana to European markets.

In 2018, sweet banana production stood at 449,094 tons, representing an increase of 2.5% compared to 2017. This change is due to the effects of the "Banana Support Measures" (*Mesures d'Appui à la Banane*, "BSM"), funded by the EU. As

a result of this performance, Côte d'Ivoire is the leading banana producer in Africa. In addition, the Ivorian Government has adopted a 10-year strategy for the banana sector, which is structured around the following four areas of development:

- continued reduction of production costs for plantations that export to Europe;
- relaunch of production among small-scale farmers;
- development of local and sub-regional markets;
- continued improvements in the living conditions of workers and efforts to protect the environment.

Pressure from European distributors to reduce prices and growing competition from Latin American banana producers presented a threat to sales in 2019.

However, in 2019, sweet banana production benefited from the increase in investments in the framework of the implementation of the government strategy for the improvement of sector competitiveness. It also benefited from the continuing implementation of the BSM program and from the improvement of the sector organization. Actions planned in the framework of the BSM program had an implementation rate of 67.7%. In 2019, sweet banana production stood at 499,575.6 tons, representing an increase of 7.5%.

Energy and Mining

Electricity

Côte d'Ivoire generates its electricity from thermal and hydroelectric plants. With the commissioning of the Soubré dam in May 2017, the country now has seven hydroelectric dams and four thermal power stations fuelled by natural gas sourced primarily from Côte d'Ivoire, with a gross installed overall capacity of 2,229 MW. Electricity production was 8,624.0 GWh in 2015, an increase of 5.0% compared to 2014. In 2016, net electricity production was 10,072.1 GWh, an increase of 16.8% compared to 2015. This trend is due to the production of thermal power, which increased by 17.86% to 8,537.33 GWh, as compared to 7,243.47 GWh in 2015, due to an increase in production capacity of the Azito site in April 2015 (+140 MW) and CIPREL in December 2015 (+111 MW) to meet increased demand. In addition, hydraulic production increased by 13.02% due to the increase of hydraulic stocks.

In 2017, net electricity production is 9,802.87 GWh, a decrease of 2.7%, due to lower domestic consumption and export sales. This decrease was driven by a reduction in thermal production of -9.0% which more than offset an increase in hydraulic production of +32.8%. In 2018, net electricity production stood at 9,835.3 GWh and is expected to reach 10,544.0 GWh in 2019, an increase of 7.2%, as a result of dynamic domestic and foreign demand. The share of hydraulic electricity, which represents 29.7% of total production, has significantly increased (44.69%), due to the commissioning of the Soubré dam in May 2017. The share of thermal power decreased by 10.96%, as a result of the reallocation in favour of hydraulic energy, which is less expensive to produce. Côte d'Ivoire only consumed 77.15% of its contract quantity under the Take or Pay with CIPREL, representing a production differential of 870.56 GWh. In 2019, total gross electricity production was 10,633 GWh, including 67.2% from thermal power. Total net electricity production was 10,436.3 GWh, as compared to 9,835.5 in 2018, representing an increase of 11%. The general increase in production translated into an increase in energy exports and the growth rate of gross national consumption, which increased by 5.8% in 2019 compared to 2018 and by 2.3% in 2018 compared to 2017. In 2020, production is expected to reach 11,167.0 GWh, representing an increase of 7%, as a result of dynamic domestic and external demands. Hydraulic production, which represents 32.8% of total production, experienced a sharp increase (44.69%) due to the commissioning of the Soubré dam in November 2017, good rainfall and high stock levels in 2019. Thermal production (67.2%) was down 10.96% due to the reallocation in favor of hydraulic production, which is cheaper to produce. CIPREL's Take or Pay was consumed at 83.9%, representing a production gap of 616.68 GWh. At Azito and Aggreko, 71.3% and 57.21% of the contractual power was used, respectively, representing a total of 235.233 MW not used. Work on the development of the Azito (253 MW) and CIPREL 5 (390 MW) combined-cycle thermal power plants is ongoing.

The energy mix is still dominated by thermal energy, which remains the main source of the supply of electricity, even though it decreased from approximately 79.9% of total supply in 2017 to 70.3% in 2018 and then to 67.2% in 2019. Thermal electricity production required the consumption of 1,755.270 billion cubic meters of natural gas, a decrease of

41.15% compared to 2018. This volume of gas cost the sector CFAF 196.137 billion, representing an increase of 20.38% as compared to 2018. This increase was partly due to a higher average exchange rate CFAF/USD, from 555.61 in 2018 to 582.268 in 2019. The electricity production of the Soubré dam (1,604.81 GWh) is sold at CFAF 35/kWh.

In the past, domestic natural gas production did not meet domestic demand, resulting in the use of more expensive HVO (liquid fuel) for electricity production. However, due to increased natural gas production, the entry into production of the Soubré dam in May 2017 and the combined cycles, the use of HVO is residual. This should result in a decrease in production costs over the medium and long term.

At the end of December 2018, fuel purchases stood at CFAF 209.34 billion, including CFAF 207.5 billion dedicated to the purchase of natural gas. Côte d'Ivoire produces more electricity than it consumes and exports electricity to neighbouring sub-Saharan African countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Transmission lines are currently under construction in order to export electricity to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia as part of the West African Power Pool, an ECOWAS initiative that seeks to open up the West African energy market. TRANSCO CLSG is in charge of carrying out this project and ensuring its financing, construction and operation. The implementation of the project is progressing well. Contracts with the construction companies have already been signed. Overall work progress at the end of February 2020 is estimated at 75%, and 85% in Ivorian territory. The updated project schedule foresees progressive commissioning from January 2021 to the end of 2022, as follows:

- Phase 1 (Côte d'Ivoire (Man) - Liberia (Monrovia) section): January-February 2021;
- Phase 2 (Liberia (Monrovia)-Sierra Leone (Bumbuna) section): February-March 2021;
- Phase 3 (Sierra Leone (Bumbuna)-Sierra Leone (Kamakwie) and Liberia (Yekepa)-Guniéé (Nzérékoré) sections): April-August 2021;
- Phase 4 (Sierra Leone (Kamakwie)-Guinea (Linsan) section): December 2021- December 2022.

Many households in Côte d'Ivoire still do not have access to electricity because of the high connection costs. The Government has launched works to provide electricity to all villages with more than 500 people. In the period from 2011 to 2015, the coverage rate and access rates went from 34% to 49% and 74% to 80%, respectively. These rates were 54% and 82% in 2017, 58% and 89.5% in 2018 and 69% and 94% in 2019. The Government plans to provide electricity to all villages of more than 500 residents by the end of 2020, and all regions of the country by 2025. Furthermore, measures are being taken to lower household electricity bills, in particular through the distribution of low-electricity-consuming lamps, decreasing subscription costs and a 20% reduction in the domestic low-voltage social rate of five Amperes. The Government intends to increase production capacity to 4,000 MW by 2022 (taking into account the needs of the mining industry), in order to meet domestic and external electricity demand.

An Electricity Code was adopted on 24 March 2014. The Code allows various segments of the electricity sector to open up to the private sector. The Government is anticipating the possibility of transmission and distribution lines being operated by different private companies, and the Electricity Code establishes a framework for the development of renewable energies, and includes provisions to combat fraud and acts of vandalism at the electricity plants. In 2012, actions related to the identification, securing and surveillance of customer counting and a better monitoring of streetlight meters were taken by the concessionaire, the *Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité*, to combat fraud in the country. These actions resulted in satisfactory earnings that reduced financial losses in the electricity sub-sector.

The Electricity Code establishes a procedure to fight against fraud on electricity. To this end, fourteen agents of the Directorate General for Energy were sworn in by the Court of First Instance of Abidjan on 27 March 2019. As part of the capacity reinforcement of these agents, the Directorate General of Energy organized a training workshop in December 2019.

According to the CIE, the anti-fraud operations have led to the arrest of 2,989 fraudsters between January and August 2019, including 1,344 customers (45%), 1,584 receivers (5%), 58 resellers (1.92%), 2 CIE agents (0.06%) and 1 gendarme accomplice of the CIE agent (0.03%) for a recovery of CFAF 1,387,687,960 (18 GWh), offset by the costs of

legal proceedings (CFAF 116,000,000). These actions led to the reduction in energy consumption related to non-technical losses (fraud) from 1,283 GWh to 758 GWh, for a gain of CFAF 13 billion from January to August 2019.

Electricity tariffs are regulated by the State and vary depending on the type of user (public household, general household and professional low voltage, medium voltage and high voltage). As part of the Government Social Program (PSGOUV), the inter-ministerial Decree No. 002/MPEEr/MEF/SEPMBPE of 2 January 2019 on the modification of electricity tariffs, has been adopted to reduce the five Amperes Low Voltage Domestic Social Rate by 20%.

In order to facilitate access to electricity for low-income populations, Côte d'Ivoire has decided to set up a programme called *Programme Electricité Pour Tous*, or PEPT. The PEPT addresses the problem of effective household access to electricity by reducing the cost of connection, which has been a real obstacle to the connection of people living in localities already electrified. The PEPT consists in offering subscriptions to the network for the underprivileged sections of the population at a subscription amount of only CFAF 1,000. The remainder of the total cost of the connection is reimbursed in instalments at the same time as the payment for the electricity, over a period of up to 10 years. As part of the Social Programme of the Government 2019-2020, the Government is responsible for the payment of the initial CFAF 1,000.

The outlook for the electricity sector was outlined in the Priority Action Plan of the Ministry of Energy, developed as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Document (*Document de Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté*) process in 2009 and reflected in the 2012-2015 NDP. As a result, in the last quarter of 2011, structural reforms of the sector were launched to reduce institutional overlapping and streamline the organization of the sector. In December 2011, the Asset Management Company of the Electricity Sector (*Société de Gestion du Patrimoine du secteur de l'Electricité*), which manages assets and monitors financial flows in the sector, and the Ivorian Electricity Company (*Société d'Opération Ivoirienne d'Electricité*), which plans and monitors the management of energy flows, were replaced by a single entity, the Côte d'Ivoire Energy Company (*Société Côte d'Ivoire Energies – CI-ENERGIES*). A decree modifying the name of Energies Côte d'Ivoire was signed in November 2017. It extends the corporate purpose of CI-ENERGIES to the conversion of all energy sources, including new and renewable energy sources, into power and the sale of power produced from these sources. CI-ENERGIES owns and operates the power plants owned by the State as well as the power storage and transportation facilities.

The National Authority for Electricity Regulation (*Autorité Nationale de Régulation de l'Electricité de Côte d'Ivoire*) remains in charge of distributors and independent electricity producers, and is responsible for arbitration and settling disputes between the different stakeholders, including consumers. With respect to CI-ENERGIES, a two-tranche financing agreement was concluded in 2019 with the support of the World Bank through its partial credit guarantee. The first tranche of CFAF 95 billion was raised from local banks, without the use of the guarantee. The second tranche, for EUR 300 million, was contracted with international banks and is guaranteed by the World Bank. This financing has been used, in priority, to repay domestic bank loans and to partially settle the arrears of independent power producers and gas suppliers. In addition, initiatives to reduce technical and non-technical losses combined with the optimization of thermal power plants are expected to improve efficiency. The expected growth in economic activity combined with the initiatives conducted by the Government aim at generating margins over the period 2019-2020 to cover charges without accumulating any arrears.

Increasing the supply of electricity to foster economic growth remains a priority of the Government. To this end, the Government took measures to reduce losses and in particular to reinforce existing sites with production plants using new types of combustibles, including biomass, and to improve the electricity transportation and distribution network to satisfy growing demand for electricity. In addition, investments amounting to CFAF 10,700 billion over the 2014-2030 period are ongoing. These investments will be financed by both the State and the private sector, with the State's share not exceeding 15% of the planned amount. In this respect, the Government has anticipated an average increase in power of about 150 MW per year for the next few years. The Government's efforts have allowed several projects to be implemented, including (i) the completion and installation of the AZITO 3 project on 30 June 2015, entailing the addition of a 139 MW steam turbine to the two existing ones, as well as recovery equipment for conversion to combined cycle, and (ii) the completion of phase B of the CIPREL 4 project on 31 December 2015, entailing the construction and commissioning of a combined-cycle gas plant consisting primarily of two gas turbines (TAG9 and TAG10), two recovery boilers and one steam turbine (TAV1). With a view to achieving the objective of reaching an electricity production

capacity of 4,000 MW by 2020, the State has entered into agreements and/or memoranda of understanding with private developers to complete power generation works. In an effort to improve the share of renewable energies in the energy mix, a strategy for their development was initiated by the Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energies, covering both “On-Grid” and “Off-Grid” sectors. In this regard, various initiatives have been taken, including the installation of solar kits and mini solar power plants, as well as the signature of concession agreements for the construction of solar power and biomass plants. Indeed, several solar power plants are expected to be commissioned between 2020 and 2021, including in Boundiali (37,5 MW), Korhogo (25 MW) and Poro (66 MW), and biomass power should be developed as well, with three power plant projects being contemplated, based on: (i) oil palm, in Aboisso (46 MW), (ii) cotton, in Boundiali (20 MW) and (iii) cocoa, in Gagnoa (25 MW).

The electricity sector faced an imbalance in its financial situation due to a combination of several factors: (i) the high price of gas, (ii) the failure to charge at marginal production cost, (iii) the failure to collect invoices in the CNO zone, and (iv) the extent of technical and non-technical losses due to the obsolescence of the distribution network. The results achieved through the implementation of a deficit reduction strategy for the electricity sector have led to a gradual improvement of its financial situation and helped it reach financial equilibrium (taking into account investments) in 2016. In 2018, revenues amounted to CFAF 572.684 billion, including CFAF 38.996 billion from rural electrification fees and VAT. Expenditure over the same period was CFAF 571.642 billion, representing a positive balance of CFAF 1.042 billion. Additional electricity requests from neighbouring countries will continue to be billed at the marginal production cost of HVO.

Significant investments have been made in the electricity sector. Over the 2011-2017 period, these investments stood at CFAF 980.3 billion for production and transport, and CFAF 363.9 billion for distribution.

Hydrocarbons

Côte d’Ivoire produces and mostly exports crude oil, and refines imported crude oil to satisfy its domestic market. On 31 December 2019, Côte d’Ivoire’s reserves amounted to an estimated 175.6 million barrels of crude oil and 1,191.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas. Taking into account proven reserves, approximately 38% of oil and 44% of crude oil remain to be extracted. From 2011 to 31 December 2019, 60 frillings, including 31 exploratory and appraisal drillings, and 29 development drillings have been made over the Ivorian sedimentary basin. Exploratory drilling resulted in the discovery of seven hydrocarbon deposits. One exploration well and three development wells were completed in 2019. In 2017, ExxonMobil completed the two ultra-deep water blocks, for which agreements were signed in December 2014. Oil promotional campaigns carried out by the Government resulted in the signing of nine production sharing contracts (*Contrats de Partage de Production*) in 2017, and five in 2018 including two with the SECI and FOXTROT consortium, two others with TULLOW and one with DRAGON OIL. In June 2019, four production sharing contracts were signed, two with ENI (blocks CI-501 and CI-504) and two with Total (blocks CI-705 and CI-706).

The maritime border between Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana has been officially defined, following the ruling rendered by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on 23 September 2017. This new border allows Côte d’Ivoire to more smoothly pursue its exploration projects with its oil partners. These two countries shared a maritime border that had until now remained non-delimited. In 2008, both countries established a mixed Commission responsible for the delimitation of this border. From 2008 to 2014, the mixed Commission held a series of meetings with the goal of reaching a consensus with regard to the borderline. The parties recommended different methods for the delineation of the border. In September 2014, although the parties had consistently favoured a negotiated solution, Ghana chose to appeal to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (*Tribunal International du Droit de la Mer*) to settle the issue of the delimitation of the maritime border between the two countries. In the face of this unilateral act, the Ivoirian Government chose, in turn, to appeal to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea with regard to this territorial dispute with Ghana, which led to the above-mentioned decision of September 2017.

Oil

The production of crude oil decreased from 12.4 million barrels in 2011 to 10.8 million barrels in 2012 and 9.1 million barrels in 2013 and 6.9 million barrels in 2014. This is primarily due to the natural depletion of a number of oil fields. In 2015, the production of crude oil grew from 6.901 million barrels in 2014 to 10.735 million barrels, or an increase of

55.5%. This progression is linked to investments in exploration, development and maintenance of existing wells and mines. In 2013, estimated production of 25,021.6 barrels/day was significantly less than imports of approximately 71,000 barrels/day. Côte d'Ivoire remained a net importer of crude oil in 2014 with crude oil production of 18,908.3 barrels/day compared to imports of approximately 62,000 barrels/day. In 2016, crude oil production was 15,425,895 barrels, or 42,147 barrels per day, an increase of 43.70% compared to 2015 due to the contribution of wells established during drilling campaigns at the Baobab (CI-40) and Marlin (CI-27) fields from 2015 to 2016. In 2017, crude oil production amounted to 12,440,504 barrels (34,084 barrels per day), representing a decrease of 19.35% compared to the production levels in 2016, due to the natural depletion of oil fields and production stoppages of the Espoir and Baobab fields during their annual maintenance periods and employee strikes. Crude oil production continued to decline in 2018 (-5.27%), with production reaching 11,784,642 barrels, or 32,287 barrels per day. More precisely, this contraction is mainly due to the CI11 (-43.0%), CI27 (-33.0%) and CI 26 (-8.6%) permits. In contrast, production of the CI40 permit increased moderately by 0.2%. Côte d'Ivoire remains a net importer of crude oil (1,565,194 tons, representing around 11,425,916 barrels, in 2018). Côte d'Ivoire's crude oil production at the end of December 2019 is 13,194,133 barrels, corresponding to a daily throughput of 36,148 barrels per day. This production increased by 11.96% compared to the same period in 2018 due to the increase in production observed respectively on Block CI-40 as a result of new wells drilled during phase 4 of the development (2018-2019) of the Baobab field and on Block CI-11 following works carried out on the wells.

In order to strengthen the national capacities of electric power generation and to reduce disturbances linked to the natural gas deficit, the Government granted its approval for the implementation of the Côte d'Ivoire Liquefied Natural Gas Supply Project (*Projet d'Approvisionnement de la Côte d'Ivoire en Gaz Naturel Liquéfié* – PACI-GNL) during the Council of Ministers on 10 February 2016. The shareholders' agreement between Total (34%) as project operator, Socar (26%), Shell (13%), Golar (6%), Endeavor Energy (5%) and the national companies Petroci (11%) and CI-Energies (5%) was signed in Abidjan on 25 November 2016. This project, estimated at a cost of approximately EUR 130 million (CFAF 85 billion), provides for the installation of a floating liquefied natural gas storage and regasification unit with a production capacity of 3 million metric tons per year and the construction of a gas pipeline connecting it to the existing gas network to supply the power plants and the coverage of domestic demands. The construction of this terminal is expected to contribute to Côte d'Ivoire's strategy of energy security. The detailed preliminary studies and ESIES studies have been finalized and the discussions for a 180 MW Gas-to-Power combined cycle project with the initial liquefied natural gas supply scheme are underway. Similarly, negotiations are ongoing to determine the price of gas and the price of electricity in this project.

Côte d'Ivoire also intends to participate in regional projects such as the construction of gas pipelines. PETROCI could also consider the acquisition of oil assets outside Côte d'Ivoire. Exploration of natural gas resources is carried out as part of the overall hydrocarbon exploration in the Ivorian sedimentary basin.

The Ivorian Refining Company (*Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage* ("SIR")) imports crude oil, mostly from Nigeria, and processes it to meet domestic demand in oil products and to export oil products to WAEMU countries. In 2019, the SIR imported 4,017,352.33 tons of crude oil, representing a total production of 4,089,752.89 tons.

PETROCI, a state-owned company, was created in 1975 to oversee the country's oil development following its independence in 1960. PETROCI is involved, through private partnerships with foreign oil companies, in exploring and extracting oil and natural gas reserves. PETROCI is entitled to a 10% participation right in these partnerships. Hydrocarbon research and extraction, as well as all PETROCI activities, are governed by the 1996 Petroleum Code, which was revised by Decree No. 2012-369 on 18 April 2012. Difficulties still persist, however, despite efforts to improve hydrocarbon production and distribution channels for oil products. In order to increase oil production, private investments in oil research and exploitation are needed. Reforms of the Petroleum Code take into account good governance, environmental sustainability and the application of the EITI, adopted by the Government in April 2012. In May 2017, the Government agreed to the sale of PETROCI's GPL distribution activities and assets to private investors, in order to allow the company to refocus its resources on its main activities, namely the development of Ivorian oil and gas potential and the import and storage of hydrocarbons. PETROCI has definitively sold its service stations business to Puma Energy, following the authorisation granted by the Government on 28 February 2018.

Oil permits granted by the State to concessionaires are based on shared production contracts (*Contrats de Partage de Production*) with consortiums headed by a technical operator which has a majority share in the consortium. The

consortium is also in charge of revenue distribution and gives PETROCI its respective share based on the terms of the CPP.

The SIR is the country's only oil refinery. Its main shareholders are PETROCI (45.7%), TOTAL (20.4%) and SONANGOL (20.0%). Refined products include super unleaded petrol, kerosene and fuel gas. However, the SIR, which has a monopoly over the import of the crude oil necessary for its production.

The SIR's production of refined products increased from 2.0 million tons in 2011 to 3.2 million tons in 2012, 3.2 million tons in 2013, 3.2 million tons in 2014 and 3.4 million tons in 2015. This increase was due to the revival of the national economy and the strength of exports to ECOWAS countries, particularly to Nigeria. However, the SIR's production of oil products decreased by 8.82% in 2016, amounting to 2.895 million tons. This decrease in production is the result of the combined effects of the shutdown of the HSK3 facility and the SIR's hydrocracker, as well as the low export refinery margins during the second quarter of 2016. The SIR consequently reduced its crude oil processing rate to ensure the supply of the local Ivorian market to the detriment of the export market. In 2017, production stood at 3.1 million tons, an increase of 5.51% compared to 2016. In 2018, oil products production stood at 3.3 million tonnes, representing an increase of approximately 6.62% compared to 2017. At the end of December 2019, the production of refined products was 4,089,752.89 tons, representing an increase of 18% as compared to 2018.

Pursuant to a revised oil price automatic adjustment mechanism adopted by the Government and implemented in April 2009, oil prices on the domestic market are intrinsically linked to international price fluctuations. The SIR has suffered due to the decline in refining margins on the international market. However, it has benefitted from several subsidies from the Government throughout the past decade. In October 2016, the Government approved a strategy for restructuring SIR's debt with a view to achieving financial stability in the medium term. An audit completed in early 2016 established SIR's debts to local banks and overdue liabilities to suppliers at CFAF 368 billion. The debt restructuring aimed to eliminate short-term debt largely borne by crude oil suppliers, improving terms of payment and restoring a positive net financial result. SIR entered in December 2018 into a long-term loan in the amount of CFAF 368 billion, guaranteed by the Government. As the restructuring has been completed, the repayment of this loan is backed in part by the ongoing fuel surcharge (*soutien à la marge*) granted by the Government to SIR. This surcharge is consolidated in the budget and the Government will transfer its proceeds as a subsidy to SIR.

In November 2012, the Government adopted an oil price structure that serves as a basis for an automatic adjustment mechanism of retail station prices. This new price structure has been in place since 1 April 2013. The changes made to this mechanism relate to the introduction of a price component that supports the refinery margin (margin support), the reduction of the VAT rates on oil products (from 18% to 9%) and the flexibility of the Unique Specific Tax (*Taxe Spécifique Unique*) collected by the State so as to maintain prices at a level that is acceptable to the population. Prices at the pump have been identical everywhere throughout Côte d'Ivoire since 1975 for liquid products and since April 2013 for butane gas. Since the beginning of September 2015, the price of super gasoline has decreased from CFAF 715 per litre to CFAF 680 per litre, then CFAF 615 and finally CFAF 570, similar to the price of fuel gas per litre. In addition, the price of super gasoline rose from CFAF 570 to CFAF 593 in May 2017 and CFAF 595 since December 2017, identical to that of fuel gas. In 2018, the average price of super gasoline was CFAF 610 and the average price of diesel was CFAF 605 per litre. In 2019, the average price of fuel gas was CFAF 613, representing an increase of 1.32% as compared to 2018, and the average price of super gasoline was CFAF 623, representing an increase of 2.13% as compared to 2018. As a result of the drop in crude oil prices and the Covid-19 pandemic, the average price of fuel gas per litre decreased. On 1 April 2020, the average price of super gasoline decreased from CFAF 625 to CFAF 595 per litre, while the average price of diesel decreased from CFAF 610 to CFAF 590 per litre. The Government expects the oil sector to be further impacted to a limited extent by any drop in crude oil prices and the Covid-19 pandemic. The extent of such sectorial impact is still being assessed by the competent ministry.

The distribution network for oil products significantly deteriorated during the 2002-2011 period due to the political and military crisis. About 24 distribution licenses for oil products were nonetheless granted during this period. The largest fuel distributors are members of the Professional Petrol Group created in 1971 (*Groupement des Professionnels de l'industrie du Pétrole*), including Total CI, Corlay CI, Vivo Energy CI, LibyaOil (now OLA Energy), Oryx Energies, Petro Ivoire, which collectively controlled approximately 72% of the domestic market as at 31 December 2019. Other

companies are members of the Côte d'Ivoire Professional Petrol Association (*Association professionnelle des pétroliers de Côte d'Ivoire*), created in 5 November 2003.

Gas

Natural gas production has been continuously growing over the 2011-2013 period, increasing from 57,660,048 British Thermal Units (“MMBTU”) in 2011 to 62,894,892 MMBTU in 2012 and 75,129,950 MMBTU in 2013, in conjunction with the increased demand from the electricity sector. Natural gas production was 75,306,277 MMBTU in 2014, an increase of 0.2% as compared to 2013 and 78,597,562 MMBTU in 2015, *i.e.*, a 4.4% increase as compared to 2014. In 2016, production was 84,630,719 MMBTU, an increase of 7.7% compared to 2015. In 2017, production was 76,086,924 MMBTU, a decrease of 10.1% compared to 2016. Similarly, natural gas production in 2018 decreased compared to 2017. Production was 69,091,226.6 MMBTU or 189,291 MMBTU/day, representing a decrease of 9.19%. This change was the result of disturbances observed on the installations of blocks CI-11 and CI-26 referred to above and a decrease in natural gas demand in the CI-27 block.

Natural gas sales in 2019 are estimated at 68.970 billion cubic feet (73,790,603 MMBTU) corresponding to a daily throughput of 188.959 million cubic feet (202,166 MMBTU). Sales were up 6.84% compared to 2018 results (64.552 billion cubic feet or 69,091,226.62 MMBTU) due to the increase in natural gas demand. The electricity sector is the main market for natural gas with a consumption of 61.765 billion cubic feet (65,617,618.95 MMBTU) corresponding to an average of 169.220 MMSCF/D (179,774 MMBTU/D) and 88.92% of the total quantity of natural gas sold. Natural gas consumption in the electricity sector was down 0.34% as compared to 2018. The population, especially within the interior of the country, has limited access to butane gas due to high prices in these regions. Since April 2013, prices have been standardized throughout the country and consumption in the interior of the country, excluding Bouaké, increased by 34.16% in 2013 as compared to 2012. The country's supply of butane gas is ensured by domestic production and imports.

In 2015, domestic production of butane gas by SIR (61.67%) and PETROCI (38.33%) represented 8.89% of national consumption, which stood at 241,887 metric tons. The remaining consumption was fulfilled by imports made by the SIR (66.91%) and PETROCI (33.09%). Storage capacity progressed from 9,795 metric tons in 2012 to 19,395 metric tons in 2015, an increase of 98.6%. In 2016, domestic production of butane gas by SIR (76.85%) and PETROCI (23.15%) represented 7.89% of national consumption, which stood at 268,904 metric tons. The remaining consumption (92.11%) was fulfilled by imports made by the SIR (67.74%) and PETROCI (32.26%). Storage capacity progressed from 19,395 metric tons in 2016 to 19,448 metric tons in 2017, or an increase of 0.27% and remained unchanged in 2017. In 2017, domestic production of butane gas by SIR (approximately 42%) and PETROCI (approximately 60%) represented approximately 7.1% of domestic consumption, which stood at approximately 305,047 metric tons, an increase of 16.1% compared to 2016. In 2018, butane production by the SIR stood at 18,448 metric tons and domestic consumption at 344,424 metric tons, *i.e.* an increase of 12.91%. The production of the SIR represents approximately 20 days of domestic consumption. Storage capacities in 2018 did not change compared to 2017. The overall storage capacity of butane gas in Côte d'Ivoire was 20,056 MT in 2019, representing about nineteen days of national consumption as compared to a capacity of 19,448 MT in 2018, representing an increase in capacity of 3.13%. The reception capacity per vessel (excluding the SIR) was 15,800 MT in 2019. Since April 2018, PETROCI has the exclusive right to import butane gas.

However, the population continues to use fuel wood as an energy source, which is a threat to the conservation of the environment and the balance of biodiversity.

Improving transparency in the hydrocarbon sector remains a priority for the Government, which has introduced the publication of quarterly reports since 2007 by the Council of Ministers concerning physical and financial flows related to the energy sector, including oil and gas.

Mines

Côte d'Ivoire possesses significant mining and geological potential. Over two-thirds of the country is covered by rock formations that are considered to be rich in diverse minerals including 35% of the birrimian greenstone belts of West Africa known for their recognized gold potential.

Studies carried out since independence have revealed significant deposits of:

- semi-precious and precious stones (rough diamonds);
- precious metals (gold);
- base metals (iron, nickel, copper, cobalt, coltan, and manganese);
- other substances (chrome, bauxite, phosphate and ilmenite).

The gold potential of Côte d'Ivoire is estimated at approximately 600 tons, distributed between the central, northern, western and south-eastern regions.

To support its ambition to achieve an emerging economy by the end of 2020, the Government has made serious efforts, since 2011, to implement a more dynamic mining policy, based on the promotion and advancement of the mining sector, with the goal of increasing the sector's contribution to GDP from its 2010 level of 2% and approximately 3% in 2018 to 4% by the end of 2020.

This political commitment to accelerate development in the mining sector was reflected in the 2014 reform of the legal framework of the mining sector, aiming to adapt it to new requirements relating to the extractive sector development and to attract more Foreign Direct Investments (FDI).

At the institutional level, a ministerial department exclusively dedicated to mines and geology was created for the first time on 10 July 2018. The new Ministry of Mines and Geology is in charge of continuing the implementation of the Government's sectoral reform policy to attain the objectives set out in the 2016-2020 NDP, in particular, by:

- installing geological and geophysical infrastructure throughout the country;
- increasing and diversifying mining production.

The Mining Development Company of Côte d'Ivoire (*Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire* ("SODEMI")), created in 1962, with a share capital of CFAF 600 million, is a State-owned company whose main mission is to promote exploration and exploitation of useful natural mineral substances (with the exception of hydrocarbons) and study the inherent problems of mining exploration. A decade of political-military crisis (2000-2010), coupled with a decrease in the price of base metals have had a negative impact on SODEMI, which has recorded significant losses. In 2011, the management team was reinvigorated, and SODEMI was restructured by the Government. Today, by comparison with established financial objectives, SODEMI is among the five highest-performing government-controlled companies in Côte d'Ivoire. Following audits carried out in 2017 and 2018, a targeted strategic plan in line with policies for development in the Ivorian mining sector is currently being conceived. Its goal is to consolidate the positive dynamic in the sector and generate more resources to turn SODEMI into a leading company in the mining sector.

The Mining Code (adopted by Law No. 2014-138 of 24 March 2014) provides that as a consideration for the granting of mining permits, the State is granted 10% of the share capital of the mining companies (non-contributing and non-dilutable interest). In addition to its non-contributing interest, the State may subscribe on market terms for an additional contributing interest, not exceeding 15% of the share capital of the mining company.

The current Mining Code increased the maximum exploration period from 7 to 10 years. It also brings more transparency to the mining title and authorization-awarding process and provides for a more advantageous tax treatment for mining companies in order to increase the competitiveness of the Ivorian mining sector.

However, an ordinance adopted on 14 February 2018 removed the tax exemption on Industrial and Commercial Profits (*Bénéfices Industriels et Commerciaux*). This ordinance does not apply to mining permits delivered and mining agreements entered into before 14 February 2018.

The reform of the mining legal framework in 2014 has addressed a number of challenges, including:

- (i) establishing better governance,
- (ii) protecting the environment and ecosystems,
- (iii) increasing State revenue,
- (iv) fostering local development of communities impacted by mining operations;
- (v) making private operators more profitable through win-win partnerships.

As a result of the reforms that have been implemented, mining production has increased, leading to a rise in the extractive sector's contribution to tax income, the creation of jobs and the generation of wealth.

As at 31 December 2019, 168 active exploration permits were recorded compared to 178 in 2018. Gold is the most sought-after substance, with 146 exploration permits compared to 154 in 2018, representing 86.9% of applications. Besides gold, columbite-tantalite, diamond, iron, copper-nickel-cobalt, chromium, bauxite, ilmenite and manganese are the subject of mining research.

Moreover, 18 industrial mining permits are active, compared to 16 in 2018. These 18 permits are distributed as follows: nine for gold (50%); four for manganese (22.22%); one for bauxite (5.55%); one for laterite nickel (5.55%); and three for mineral water (16.66%).

The table below presents the evolution of mining production from 2014 to 2019:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gold (kg)*	18,600.0	23,540	25,050	25,395	24,488	32,568
Manganese (tons)	361,747	263,200	217,000	511,868	930,959	1,181,803
Diamond (carats)**	-	13,900	16,292	7,360	5,678	3,989
Nickel (tons)***	-	-	-	379,766	889,585	660,144

Source: MIM/DGMG

* Since 2017, artisanal production is recorded by gold purchase and sale offices. It stood at 0.906 tons, thereby bringing gold production in 2019 to 32.568 tons.

** Diamond mining restarted in 2015 following the lifting of the embargo by the United Nations in 2014.

*** Nickel mining began in 2017.

Mining production in Côte d'Ivoire is dominated by gold. This trend is expected to be reinforced in the short term as a result of the projects underway, the mining permit requests under review and the formalization and control of semi-industrial and artisanal mining by the Ministry of Mining and Geology. Gold production demonstrated solid growth from 2012 to 2017, increasing from 13.2 to 25.4 ton over this period. For 2018, gold production stood at 24.488 tons, compared to the forecasted 26.5 tons, representing a decrease of 3.5% compared to 2017. This decrease in gold production is due mostly to the work stoppage observed at the Tongon SA mine (M'bengué department) observed over a period of five months. However, due to the beginning of production at the new Ity CIL plant intended for the processing of the minerals from the Ity and Daapleu mines, the increase of the production of the Tongon mine pursuant to the respite on the site, the reinforcement of the control measures of the mining sites and the repression of illicit gold panning, gold production was at 32.568 tons in 2019 and was initially expected to increase to 33.5 tons in 2020 and to 34.5 tons in 2021 pursuant to the development of advanced mining projects (Yaouré and Floleu in Zouan-hounien). However, such projections will likely be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government.

As for other ores, manganese production increased from 930,959 tons in 2018 to 1,181,803 tons in 2019 and is expected to increase to 1,250,000 tons in 2020, due in particular to the commissioning of enrichment units for the Lauzoua mines and Bondoukou mines. The increase in manganese production from 2016 to 2019 is the result of stable international manganese ore prices. Laterite nickel production, which began in 2017 with production of 379,766 tons, increased to 889,585 tons in 2018 and to 660,144 tons in 2019 and is expected to increase to 800,000 tons in 2020, in accordance with the initial production plan. Diamond production stood at 3,989 carats in 2019 and is expected to increase to 4,500 carats in 2020.

In 2018, the turnover declared to the Mining Authorities by all mining companies was CFAF 582.298 billion, compared to CFAF 539.072 billion in 2017, representing an increase of 10.23%. In 2019, the turnover declared to the Mining Authorities by all mining companies was CFAF 761.995 billion, compared to CFAF 582.298 billion in 2018, representing an increase of 30.86%. Such increase results from an increase in gold and manganese production and favourable price environment for mining products.

Tax income generated in 2018 by the mining sector and registered by the services of the Secretariat of State in charge of the Budget and those of the Mining Administration stood at CFAF 94.562 billion, compared to CFAF 56.441 billion in

2017, representing an increase of 43.62%. Tax income generated in 2019 by the mining sector and registered by the services of the Minister in charge of Budget and those of the Mining Administration stood at CFAF 90.621 billion, compared to CFAF 65.841 billion in 2018, representing an increase of 37.64%

Significant deposits have been discovered, including iron deposits in Mount Klahoyo, Mount Tia (Facobly) and Mount Gao (Bangolo); nickel-copper-platinum deposits in Samapleu; and nickel/cobalt deposits in Sipilou-Foungbesso. Research for the development of iron deposits in the abovementioned locations has been conducted, respectively, by PAN AFRICAN MINERALS and SODEMI. According to initial surveys, iron resources in these deposits are estimated at nearly 4 million tons. Research on the nickel-copper-platinum deposits in Samapleu and the nickel/cobalt deposits in Sipilou-Foungbesso has been conducted by SAMA RESOURCES and IC NICKEL, in partnership with SODEMI. On the basis of their initial surveys, resources in Samapleu have been estimated at 60 million tons of nickel-copper-platinum and resources in Sipilou-Foungbesso have been estimated at 260 million tons of nickel-cobalt. The nickel-cobalt deposits in Sipilou-Foungbesso are already being exploited, while the nickel-copper-platinum deposits are under development and the iron deposits have not yet been exploited, due to a lack of transportation and port infrastructure and the recent worldwide drop in iron prices.

This situation reveals the challenges in the mining sector, which include, in particular:

- (i) the lack of geological and geophysical infrastructure, as well as the absence of a national laboratory for mineral studies and geological analysis;
- (ii) the lack of road, railway and port infrastructure, which is currently hindering the exploitation of deposits in the western region of the country, such exploitation being part of the *Projet pour le développement minier intégré de l'ouest* (PDMIO);
- (iii) difficulties encountered in supplying power for certain major mining projects (such as Tongon SA and Sissingué);
- (iv) illegal gold mining, which damages the environment, threatens the health of surrounding populations and leads to evasion in artisanal gold production, resulting in the loss of financial resources and tax income; and
- (v) the lack of qualified workers in certain mining professions.

In order to address these challenges, the Ministry of Mines and Geology has initiated immediate and short-term reforms, as of July 2018, which include:

- conducting feasibility studies for the establishment of geological infrastructure and the construction of a national laboratory for geological studies and analysis;
- auditing the mining registry;
- developing the small mine sector by opening training sites throughout the country;
- drafting a local content policy document, accompanied by a strategic action plan for the 2019-2021 period;
- restructuring the SODEMI;
- establishing a multi-year training and capacity-building plan for mining authority personnel;
- auditing mining companies;
- creating a brigade to combat infringements to the Mining Code, including illegal gold mining;
- initiating negotiations to revitalize key mining projects; and
- drafting a mining policy document and a strategic action plan for the 2020-2025 cycle, a guiding and steering tool that presents the government's five-year vision, its key aspects and the reforms to implement, as well as the results expected.

Recent developments relate to the following projects:

- development of the gold mine in Yaouré (Angovia), the operating license of which was granted in 2019. The operation of this mine involves initial gold reserves of 47 tons over an operating period of 8.5 years and will require an investment of more than CFAF 150 billion;

- the exploitation project of the gold deposit of Floleu for which the feasibility study was delivered to the Mining Administration in order to obtain the operating license. The operation of this mine involves initial gold reserves of 12.84 tons over an operating period of 7 years and an investment of more than CFAF 19.2 billion;
- the exploitation project of nickel-copper deposits in Samapleu, in respect of which the company SAMA NICKEL contemplates the production of copper concentrate and nickel powder as well as high purity iron. The reserves are currently estimated at 24 million tons. Intense geophysical work through the Typhoon method are currently being conducted, in order to verify the establishment of the deposits and to intent increasing the reserves pursuant to the completion of the final feasibility study;
- the exploitation project of the gold deposit of Séguéla, for which the feasibility study is being conducted. The reserves are estimated at 31 tons; the exploitation project of the gold deposit of Zoukougbeu, for which the certification of resources continues; and
- the exploitation project of the gold deposit of Dabakala, for which the certification of resources continues.

Industrial Production

Industry constitutes the main part of Côte d'Ivoire's formal private sector. Côte d'Ivoire produces a variety of goods from the following major sectors: extractive industries (18.7%), agri-food and tobacco industries (32.1%), textile industries and leather (2.4%), wood and furniture industries (14.9%), paper, cardboard, printing and publishing industries (3.3%), oil, chemical, rubber and plastics industries (15.1%), glass, ceramics and construction materials industry (2.2%), manufacturing of machines and materials of any kind (4.3%), metallic industries (0.3%), electricity, gas and water (6.6%).

The years 2012, 2013 and 2014 benefited from renewed socio-political stability on a domestic level after the post-electoral crisis of 2011 and an increase in investments for major public projects as well as projects in the private sector, with the adoption of a new, more attractive Investment Code in 2012. This favourable environment allowed for the recovery of the industrial sector as a whole, particularly in agro-food, energy, furniture manufacturing, construction materials, petroleum products and textiles, as shown in the table below. In 2015, the industrial sector included more than 6,500 companies and contributed to the creation of over 800,000 jobs. The year 2015 was marked by an increase in the mining sector (20.4% compared to -3.3% in 2014) and the building and public works sector (18.3%). 2016 was marked by an increase in industrial activity, excluding oil and gas extraction, of 5.3%, driven in particular by the dynamism of extractive industry and the energy and building and public works sectors. Industrial activity increased by 15.4% in 2017, 4.3% in 2018 and 11.5% in 2019, mainly due to the recovery in construction and public works sector, oil products and agri-food industries excluding beverages and tobacco. Industrial production is expected to increase by only 1.6% (due to the Covid-19 pandemic) in 2020 and by 9.7% in 2021 (assuming an end to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and full resumption of economic activity).

In 2019, following the Economic Census of Industrial Enterprises and their Establishments (*Recensement Economique des Entreprises Industrielles et leurs Etablissements* or REEIE) carried out by the INS, Côte d'Ivoire was home to 11,425 industrial companies. These companies are mainly in the manufacturing sector and account for nearly 88% of the total workforce of the sector. They are followed respectively by the extractive industry (7.3%) and industries producing and distributing electricity, water, sanitation and waste (3.1%). The food processing sector represents the most companies in the manufacturing industry. It accounts for nearly a third (32.4%) of the companies in this branch. Concerning the extractive industry, the support activities come in first place with 34.1% of the total. The other extractive activities, consisting of the extraction of sand, stones and clays, potassium, salts, nitrates and other minerals for the chemical industry, come in second place with 30.1% of the companies in the extractive sector. Electricity production and distribution activities are mainly carried out by the CIE, the CIPREL and Azito Energie. As for the water sector, it is dominated by the SODECI.

In addition to these companies, according to the REEIE, the following national companies and subsidiaries of multinationals were among the country's main industrial actors in 2019: SIR, SACO PETROCI, CNRI, Sania Cie, CARGILL, SOLIBRA, TONGON S. A, SAPH, NESTLE CI, Barry Callebaut Négoce Sa, PALMCI SA, AGBAOU Gold Operations Sa, CEMOI Côte d'Ivoire, OLAM Cocoa Processing, SODECI, Société Multinationale de Bitumes, Svenska

Petroleum Exploration Ci Ab, Newcrest Hire Côte d'Ivoire, Les GMA, Lafarge Holcim Côte d'Ivoire, Solevo Côte D'ivoire, SCA CUIRASSE, Société des Caoutchoucs de Grand Bereby, CI-ENERGIES, SITAB, CIMAF, SUCAF Côte d'Ivoire Sa, Saur Energie Côte d'Ivoire, Nouvelle Parfumerie GHANDOUR, Foxtrot International Ldc, Ivory Cocoa Products (ICP), Société des Conserves de Côte D'Ivoire (SCODI), Dream Cosmetics, Commerce Et Distribution De Produits Alimentaires (CODIPAC), Filtisac Sa, Société Des Mines d'Ity.

The businesses active in the industrial sector include both national companies and subsidiaries of multinationals: Sifca, Nestlé, Palmci, Unilever, Solibra, Bouygues, Bolloré, Cargill, Sucaf, Cemoi, Olam, SICABLE, SIR, Barry Callebaut, Carena, ADM Total, Sifcom, SMB, PETROCI, Socimat, Bernabé, Sivop, Gandour, Filtisac and Uniwax are among the principal industrial players in the country.

The table below presents the variation of the value added of the secondary sector from 2016 to 2021:

Variation (in %)	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)	2021 (For.)
Secondary Sector	5.3	15.4	4.3	11.5	1.6	9.7
	-	0.0	-298.1	19.0	-26.9	10.2
Petroleum products	180.9					
Mining extraction	16.9	-17.4	-38.2	17.5	-4.8	1.4
Gold including diamonds and other extractions	6.6	3.8	7.7	-6.6	0.0	11.7
Manufacturing industries	-3.2	11.2	3.8	2.4	-0.9	5.6
Agro-food (excluding beverages and tobacco)	-20.8	9.6	-2.4	5.4	-1.5	5.9
Drinks and tobacco	62.3	11.6	15.4	15.4	6.8	13.5
Textiles and clothing	-9.7	-5.0	3.1	-0.5	-0.5	10.0
Wood, paper and print	-18.9	-31.3	16.3	23.9	7.9	19.4
Chemicals, rubber, plastics	297.7	91.1	1.3	0.1	-5.8	3.5
Non-metallic minerals	47.1	-5.9	27.1	6.6	10.0	14.6
Furniture and others	3.5	9.2	6.8	-7.7	-4.1	-2.5
Energy	11.0	128.0	9.4	7.3	11.1	1.3
BPW	34.3	24.2	6.5	23.8	6.0	18.3

Source: MEF

The primary industrial activities reside in agro-food business. Its share of GDP (excluding beverages and tobacco) was 5.2% in 2017, representing 25.5% of the secondary sector's added-value. In 2018, the share of this business represented 4.1% of GDP and 19.4% of the secondary sector's added-value. In 2019, the share of the agro-food business is estimated at 4.1% of GDP and 19.2% of the secondary sector. The share of the agro-food business in 2020 and 2021 are respectively projected at 4.0% and 3.9% of GDP and 19.6% and 19.1% of the secondary sector. The agrifood sector has largely diversified and is based primarily on cocoa and coffee products, the oilseed industry, dairy products, fruit and vegetable products, beverages, meat and fish products, grain mill products and starch products, tobacco, sugar; bakery, pastry and pastas. A variety of businesses, including subsidiaries of multinationals, share this growing market.

With respect to cocoa processing, twelve companies with a capacity of 746,000 tons per year operated in Côte d'Ivoire in 2018, positioning the country as a world leader in the development of primary processing, together with the Netherlands. In addition to these twelve companies, three companies for grinding non-standard cocoa beans, waste and residues coexist with an annual grinding capacity of more than 20,000 tons. The quantity of grinded beans in 2018 was 559,239 tons, representing about 28.5% of production. In 2019, the cocoa processing rate is estimated at 27.4%, representing 604,979 tons of processed cocoa.

The volume of processed cocoa over the 2016/2017 season is estimated at 577,000 tons as compared to 474,000 tons over the 2015/2016 season, representing an increase of 21.7%. For the 2017/2018 season, the volume of processed cocoa is estimated at 746,000 tons, representing an increase of 22.6% as compared to the previous season (a stable processing rate of 27% in 2017 and 2018).

The Government's objective has been to increase the cocoa processing rate from 31.1% in 2016 to 50% in 2020. Additional efforts have been made toward this objective, representing a volume of about 1,000,000 tons of processed

cocoa. To this end, the Government put in place a package of measures in 2016 to improve the competitiveness of the cocoa processing sector. These include:

- the elimination of the adjustment of certain items in the scale in favor of grinders, in particular the “transit” item and the “export bagging” item;
- the possibility for the mills to have a stock equivalent to one and a half months of their grinding capacity without having to cover this stock with releases;
- the possibility for shredders to carry over their stock from one marketing year to the next without any financial penalty;
- the application of the real rate of return to determine the taxable base for the Single Export Taxes (*Droits Uniques de Sortie*) (“DUS”) and for the collection of professional fees;
- the decision to reserve part of the intermediate harvest for the mills as from the 2015-2016 season, in order to sustainably settle the issue of mill supply; to this end, a secondary market reserved for mills has been open since the 2015-2016 season, making it possible to guarantee 70% of the mills' needs in export duties for the intermediate season, taking into account the installed grinding capacities;
- guaranteed supply of cocoa beans to processors at affordable prices;
- the introduction, through an ordinance issued in November 2016, of the differentiated DUS for cocoa products, taking into account the degree of processing of the beans;
- the return to the application of a DUS rate differentiated by type of processed product;
- on the basis of a commitment to increase conversion rates, companies shall benefit from the following reduced differentiated rates of DUS:
 - 13.2% by mass;
 - 11% for butter and cake;
 - 9.6% for powder;
 - 6.95% for chocolate coating;
 - 0% for chocolate and for other finished products as defined in article 16 of the fiscal annex of Law n°2015-840 of December 18, 2015 on the State budget for the year 2016.

By the end of 2017, eight processing units (Cargill Cocoa SARL, Condicaf SA, Foragri SA, Ivory Cocoa Product, Tafi SA, SACO, Unicao and Olam Cocoa Processing Côte D'ivoire) had already signed 5-year agreements with the government to increase the quantity of processed cocoa. The assessment of the first year, in relation to the eight companies benefiting from the differentiated DUS, shows that out of a target of 338,867 tons of cocoa beans to be processed, 345,288 tons were actually processed, representing an achievement rate of 102%. In particular:

- five companies have met their commitments;
- one has achieved 93% of its commitments, with a commitment to make up for the gap that remained unrealized in the second year; a draft amendment to the agreement for this company has been submitted for validation and signature by the relevant Ministers;
- two companies lost the benefit of the differentiated DUS;
- one new company (GPA Transformation) has requested to sign an agreement with Côte d'Ivoire to benefit from the differentiated DUS. This application is currently being approved by the relevant Ministries.

After the second year, pending the final evaluation of members of the OLAM Group, the signatory companies of the agreements collectively grinded 455,9534 tons compared to a contractual objective of 486,067 tons, *i.e.* an achievement rate of 94%.

The table below shows the results for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 seasons.

	Year 1	Year 2
	2017/2018	2018/2019
Contract targets (in tons)	454,873	355,061
Achievements (in tons)	468,780	339,925
Achievement rate (%)	103.6	96

Five years after the implementation of the differentiated DUS and on the basis of the projections of the new grinding units approved under the Investment Code, the volume of cocoa beans expected to be ground by the end of 2020 is around 846,571 tons, representing about 53% of the agricultural production recorded before the introduction of the conventions. For an agricultural production of two million tons, this would represent a minimum processing rate of 42%. However, such projections will likely be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government. The current challenge is to improve the competitiveness of primary processing, in particular by increasing the utilization rate of current grinding capacities, which is around 78,9% in 2019, as compared to more than 90% for competitors in North America and Europe, which constitute the main destination markets for these products. The other challenge is to engage in the upper segments of the value chain, especially the manufacturing of cocoa-based products and their distribution, which account for respectively 35% and 44% of total value added.

The processing of cocoa into butter, cakes, powder and chocolate bars is carried out by major global groups. These include the American multinationals Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland, the Barry Callebaut group from Zurich (represented in Côte d'Ivoire by the *Société Africaine de Cacao*), the SN Chocodi (acquired in 2008 by the Ivorian group CKG Holding), the French group Cémoi, as well as the Swiss group, Nestlé, which, for the past few decades, has dominated the processing of Robusta cherry into soluble coffee. In 2017, the Carré d'Or Group arrived in the soluble coffee segment.

The fruit industry is controlled by subsidiaries of French groups such as Selecima, *Compagnie Fruitière* and the *Société Agricole Kablan-Joubin*, which handle the conditioning and processing of fruit into juices within Côte d'Ivoire, before exporting them to Europe. This industry is marked by an abundance and availability of raw materials, including dessert banana (1st African producer), plantain banana (6th African producer), cola (1st African producer), pineapple and mango. For the development of fruit and vegetable processing, the Government focused on the following: (i) promoting the preservation and production of fruit juices and dried fruits, (ii) securing supplies to product processing units and (iii) improving storage and preservation capacity. Since 2014, the Government, with the support of the African Development Bank (ADB), has provided support for the industrial development of the fruit and vegetable sector within the framework of the Support Project for Strengthening the Competitiveness of the Industrial Sector (*Projet d'Appui au Renforcement de la Compétitivité du Secteur Industriel* or PARCSI). This support aims at promoting investments in the fruit and vegetable sector, specifically in mango and pineapple, in order to increase the industrial processing rate, to improve storage and preservation capacities, to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in the sector on good storage and preservation practices and to stimulate exports.

Since Unilever's withdrawal from the oilseed sector in 2009, the Sifca group has been controlling the national production of food oils. Since 2017, SARCI (*Société Africaine de Raffinage en Côte d'Ivoire*) has been operating in this sector with products ranging from food oil to soap.

In the brewery segment, the French multinational Castel, through its local subsidiary Solibra, had a monopoly over this sector until 2013. It acquired Les Brasseries Ivoiriennes in 2015, after it had been operating for two years. Solibra has an annual production capacity of two million hectolitres of beer and 400,000 hectolitres of carbonated beverages. Brassivoire, a joint venture established between Heineken and CFAO Côte d'Ivoire, was established in 2016 in Côte d'Ivoire. It represents an investment of CFAF 100 billion, with an annual production capacity of 1.6 million hectolitres of beer.

With three factories of canned tuna and spices (the *Société des conserveries de Côte d'Ivoire* and *Pêche et froid de Côte d'Ivoire*, held by the ThunnusOverseas Group, and a factory owned by Italian company NuovaCastelli), Abidjan is one

of the main canned tuna exporting centres in Africa. This sector represented the fourth largest export of the country in 2016 with more than CFAF 80.0 billion of annual revenue (EUR 122.0 million) in 2016 and CFAF 97 billion (nearly EUR 150 million) in 2017, and clearly prevails over the milk industry, represented by eight companies, namely Nestlé CI, Eurolait, Microdis, Finamark, Sapled, Sapro lait, Normandia and Cobci.

Today, many products from the Ivorian agro-food industry are exported to the WAEMU zone, despite competition from products from Europe. The strong performance of the Ivorian agro-food sector relies on increased local demand throughout the country, as well as from neighbouring countries. This sector aims to explore the larger market of ECOWAS, in particular in light of the possibility to export in a customs duty free zone, since the entry into force of the ECOWAS' Common External Tariff (*Tarif Extérieur Commun*) in 2015

Côte d'Ivoire hopes to benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area ("AfCFTA") established by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which officially entered into force on 30 May 2019. The operational phase of the AfCFTA was launched on 7 July 2019, during the AU extraordinary summit in Niamey (Niger). The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ("UNECA") and the AU estimate that the AfCFTA may increase trade levels amongst African States by over 50% by eliminating import duties alone (more if non-tariff barriers are also addressed). As to Côte d'Ivoire, the effective implementation of the AfCFTA is expected to improve exports of Ivorian goods throughout the African continent while attracting more investment inflows. The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance productivity and stimulate the external competitiveness of the Ivorian economy. Initially scheduled for 1 July 2020, the implementation of trading under the AfCFTA was delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Intra-African trade relations under the framework of the AfCFTA started on 1 January 2021.

For certain products, in particular palm oil, all production is processed in Côte d'Ivoire, which is done across the entire value chain. Rubber tree production undergoes 100% primary processing in Côte d'Ivoire. However, there still remains potential for an increase in secondary processing and the manufacturing of much more sophisticated products.

With respect to rubber, the processing capacity is 530,000 tons of dry rubber for a production of 720,000 tons in 2018, corresponding to the world's sixth leading producer. Plantations almost doubled between 2011 and 2017, from 318,000 hectares to 600,000 hectares. Measures for the development of rubber and oil palm processing were taken in 2018. These include : (i) the adoption of a law establishing rules relating to the regulation, control and monitoring of rubber and oil palm sector activities, (ii) the promotion of secondary processing, (iii) the extension of the order laying down conditions for the export of cup films and supporting the establishment of a college of producers with a view to setting up the rubber inter-branch organization and (iv) the signing of specific investment agreements between the State and rubber processing companies taking into account the granting of tax credits, over a maximum period of five years. To this end, an ordinance was adopted in 2019 in order to allow industrial companies processing natural rubber that carry out an increase in their machining capacities to benefit from provisions instituting specific tax incentives for investments made in the agricultural processing sector. A study is underway, in conjunction with the IFC, in order to propose additional measures to develop the value chain in the rubber sector.

Industries in the chemicals, rubber and plastics sector accounted for 2.8% of GDP and 10.7% of the secondary sector in 2019. This sector manufactures diverse products, ranging from intermediary goods to consumer goods destined for both the local market and for export. It consists, in particular, of agrochemicals (including fertilizer and pesticides), cosmetic products (including perfumes and creams) and processing of dampened rubber and plastic goods (including shoes, chairs and tables). In most cases, the inputs for production are imported. The principal companies are AF-Chem Sofaco, Callivoire, Polychimie, Stepc, Ghandour, 2CI, Najibco, SAI, Copaci, Africhim, Sadofoss, Saprochim, Themis and Socida.

The "furniture and other" industries sector comprises all branches of industry that are not specified in the tables above. In 2017, their share of GDP stood at 1.7% and they represented 7.1% of the secondary sector. In 2018, they represented 1.8% of GDP and 7.0% of the secondary sector. In 2019, they represented 1.7% of GDP and 6.7% of the secondary sector. Products manufactured by these industries include furniture for household and office use, vehicles and machine tools (fitting and assembling), barrels, trays, electrical cables and sheet metal. These products are primarily used for national and sub-regional needs. The principal companies operating in this sector are Mobidis, Macaci, Sicable, Lassire & Cie, Tôle Ivoire, Siem, Ivoiral, Metalux and Setr.

The following table shows the percentage share of the secondary sector and its principal components in the country's nominal GDP from 2015 to 2021:

Share of GDP as a %	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)	2021 (For.)
Secondary sector	19.5	19.1	20.5	21.0	21.2	20.2	20.5
Petroleum products	0.5	-1.6	-0.8	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.7
Mining extraction	3.3	5.0	4.2	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8
Gold including diamonds and other extractions	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.1
Manufacturing industries	10.4	10.6	10.9	9.8	9.5	9.3	9.3
Agro-food (excluding beverages and tobacco) ..	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9
Beverages and tobacco	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Textiles and clothes	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Wood, paper and print	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Chemicals, rubber, plastics	0.2	0.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Non-metallic minerals	0.3	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Furniture and others	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.0
Energy	0.9	1.1	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.4
Building and public works	4.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.3

Source: MEF

The following table shows the percentage share of the different branches of the secondary sector in the country's nominal GDP from 2015 to 2021:

As a % of secondary sector GDP	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)	2020 (For.)	2021 (For.)
Secondary sector	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Petroleum products	2.3	-8.2	-4.0	10.1	10.8	8.1	8.4
Mining extraction	16.9	26.2	20.5	13.2	14.1	14.5	13.8
Gold, including diamonds and other extractions	9.8	11.9	9.9	6.8	4.1	7.7	5.5
Manufacturing industries	53.2	55.4	53.5	46.8	44.8	46.1	45.3
Agro-food (excluding beverages and tobacco) ..	27.5	27.5	25.5	19.4	19.2	19.6	19.1
Beverages and tobacco	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7
Textiles and clothes	2.9	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.5
Wood, paper and print	4.2	3.2	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3
Chemicals, rubber, plastics	0.9	2.3	6.0	5.8	5.0	5.1	4.7
Non-metallic minerals	1.5	5.3	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.2	5.5
Furniture and others	14.1	12.2	11.5	11.5	10.0	10.1	9.5
Energy	4.5	6.0	12.1	12.5	12.8	12.3	11.5
Building and public works	23.1	20.6	18.0	17.4	17.4	19.0	21.0

Source: MEF

After carrying out an assessment of the industrial sector with the UNIDO's support, the Government adopted an industrial policy in 2013 whose purpose was to significantly increase the contribution of the industrial sector to the creation of wealth and jobs. To achieve this goal, the Government decided to: (i) strengthen the production-processing connection in order to create more added value and sustainable jobs in large quantities and (ii) create new development centres for the industrial sectors.

The industrial development strategy focuses on three axes: strong contribution from the private sector, use of comparative advantages and targeted assistance from the State in terms of support (e.g., quality, norms, restructuring, access to credit and industrial zones, targeted tax advantages). This strategy is centred around five key themes: (i) agro-industry; (ii) non-agricultural natural resources; (iii) structuring industries; (iv) consumer products; and (v) light manufacturing industries.

The strategic axes for supporting industrial companies include two essential pillars, which are transversal measures and sectoral measures.

Transversal measures involve: (i) reinforcing the incentive framework; (ii) improving the business climate; (iii) improving the quality and strengthening measures against counterfeiting; and (iv) reinforcing industrial infrastructure.

To reinforce the incentive framework, a more attractive Investment Code (compared to the 1995 Code) was adopted in 2012 in order to increase and encourage private investment. In addition, the objectives of this Code are a reduction of administrative procedures and a move toward paperless procedures and transparency. Over the 2013-2018 period, 1,196 companies were approved by the CEPICI, for an estimated total investment of CFAF 3,450 billion, and 38,700 jobs were created. In addition, a new Investment Code compliant with international standards, and taking into account its ecosystem and governance framework, was adopted by the Council of Ministers in August 2018; its purpose, for the Government, is to promote investment in priority sectors, such as agriculture, agrifood, health and hotels. The new Code entered into force on 1 January 2019. It provides full exoneration from customs duties for imported equipment and materials and an exemption from VAT during the investment period. It also offers a tax credit during the period of operation, takes into account the specificities of small and medium-sized companies and provides additional advantages associated with local content. The Code also provides guarantees relating to freedom of investment, equal treatment, freedom of access to foreign exchange, stability of benefits, protection of private property, freedom of access to raw materials, freedom to appoint company directors, work and residence visas, transfer of assets, full repatriation of operating profits and access to developed industrial zones and agricultural land. The implementation of this code in 2019 led to the registration of 174 intentions to create enterprises for a total investment of CFAF 379.69 billion, which should directly create 5,119 jobs. At the level of industry, 57 intentions to create enterprises (32.75% of overall intentions) have been recorded, for CFAF 244.09 billion of investment (64% of overall investment), which should directly create 2,828 jobs. The distribution of investments by sub-sectors of industrial activities is as follows: agro-industry: 45%, food industry: 24.43%, construction industry: 11.9%, other sectors: 18.67%. This distribution shows that the agro-industrial sub-sector remains the most attractive as to industry.

With respect to improving the business climate, the reforms and actions undertaken aim to encourage private domestic initiatives and private foreign investment (FDI). It involves, in particular: (i) the establishment of a Single Portal for Business Formalities (*Guichet Unique des Formalités des Entreprises*) within the *Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire* (CEPICI), helping to reduce the time (from 32 days to 24 hours) and costs required to create a company; (ii) the creation in 2012 of a Commercial Court to accelerate the processing of commercial disputes, by making procedures paperless and reducing delays; (iii) the establishment of the Court of Appeal of the Commercial Court in May 2018 with 13 new Consular Advisers (iv) the establishment, in December 2012, of a legal and institutional framework on PPPs, which was reformed by Decree dated 29 March 2018 for a more effective institutional framework and a greater impact on the national economy, (v) the establishment of the National Steering Committee for Public-Private Partnerships (CNP-PPP), (vi) Côte d'Ivoire's joining of the Open Government Partnership in 2015, (vii) the Government's adoption in July 2017 of a draft law on free trade zones and its submission to Parliament, (viii) the streamlining of procedures, wait-times and costs associated with the delivery of building permits (the wait-time is currently three months), (ix) the establishment of a bipartite Committee to monitor the payment of VAT credits pursuant to a clearance plan arranged in agreement with the private sector, (x) the creation of a Single Portal for Foreign Trade to reduce costs, wait-times and procedures in import and export operations in order to promote cross-border trade, (xi) the revitalization of the Committee for Dialogue between the State and the Private Sector (*Comité de Concertation Etat Secteur Privé*), (xii) the creation of a Single Portal for Investment Services in Côte d'Ivoire (www.225invest.ci) and the introduction of a unique identifier for SMEs. In addition, to reduce administrative complexities, other reforms have been initiated, such as the creation of a Single Portal for Building Permits to reduce wait-times for the delivery of building permits, the deployment of the Commercial Court of Appeal of Abidjan and the opening of the Credit Information Bureau (*Bureau d'information sur le Crédit - BIC*).

Improving the quality system and reinforcing the fight against counterfeiting is intended to reinforce consumer protection and improve companies' competitiveness, through the adoption of the law on standardization and quality and the law on counterfeiting in 2013. In support of the National Laboratory of Metrology Quality Tests and Analysis (*Laboratoire National d'Essais de Qualité de Métrologie et d'Analyse* or LANEMA) and Côte d'Ivoire Standardization (*Côte d'Ivoire Normalisation* or CODINORM), for the implementation of this legal system, two structures were established: the Ivorian Standardization Committee (*Comité Ivoirien de Normalisation*) ("CIN") and the National Committee to Fight Counterfeiting (*Comité National de Lutte contre la Contrefaçon*) ("CNLC"). The CIN is responsible for ensuring greater coherence among different stakeholders in the field of quality and assessment with standards compliance. The CNLC

carries out awareness-raising and enforcement measures with respect to counterfeit products. In addition, each year, the Ivorian Quality Award (*Prix Ivoirien de la Qualité*) and Award for Excellence (*Prix d'Excellence*) are given to encourage companies to be part of and maintain a quality approach. All these measures led to the accreditation of 16 Conformity Assessment Bodies, the entry into operational service of the SOAC (accreditation body of the WAEMU), the certification of 200 companies under ISO 9001, ISO 14 001, OHSAS 18001 and Sustainable Development standards, the accreditation of 150 auditors to CODINORM, the implementation of 22,000 national standards and 204 technical data sheets for industrial products and the training of more than 400 companies in the quality approach.

In terms of reinforcing industrial infrastructure, the reforms and measures undertaken have allowed: (i) better control of the management of industrial zones with the creation of the Industrial Infrastructure Management and Development Agency (*Agence de Gestion et de Développement des Infrastructures Industrielles*); (ii) the implementation of resources dedicated exclusively to industrial sites, with the creation of Industrial Infrastructure Development Fund (*Fonds de Développement des Infrastructures Industrielles*); (iii) the implementation of new procedures to provide industrial sites with the aim of speed, transparency and simplification; and (iv) the adoption of a draft law implementing a free trade zone regime.

The actions undertaken by the Government include:

- Streamlining the use of industrial sites via:
 - implementing a withdrawal-reallocation mechanism for undeveloped sites;
 - the creation of a monograph of industrial sites to indicate coordinates and information about companies through a geolocation system (completed for Yopougon).
- Rehabilitating the industrial zones of Abidjan (Yopougon (645 hectares), Koumassi (120 hectares) and Vridi (120 hectares)):
 - work on the Yopougon zone requiring investment of CFAF 24 billion, including work on roads and miscellaneous network (24 km), the potable water network (8 km), the electricity network (28 km) and the sewerage network;
 - technical studies are underway for those of Vridi and Koumassi.
- Strengthening the availability of industrial sites through:
 - the creation, in phases, of a new industrial zone of 940 hectares in Akoupé-Zeudji, Abidjan/PK24:
 - the ongoing development of 62 hectares for a cost of CFAF 12 billion (development rate is 90%), for which lots have been allocated and are being occupied;
 - the planned development, in the short term, of 227 hectares, broken down as follows: 100 hectares in public project ownership with the CHEC group and 100 hectares in PPP, in connection with AFREXIMBANK. The work commenced in August 2019 for a period of 18 months;
 - the purging of customary rights and compensation for crops on the entire industrial zone for a cost of CFAF 25.634 billion TTCA in 2019;
 - the launch of technical studies for the development of a 59-hectare zone dedicated to cement manufacturers and a 64-hectare zone under phase 2 emergency development.
 - the development of industrial parks within the country, namely Bouaké, San Pedro, Yamoussoukro, Bonoua, Korhogo, Aboisso, Man. Thus, in 2019 technical studies for the development of the Bonoua area on 334 hectares and Yamoussoukro on 250 hectares were launched and an agreement was signed in January 2020 with the Orient International group for the realization of feasibility studies for the

- development of a 100-hectare plot in Bouaké and the construction of a textile factory within the framework of the Textile Development Program;
- the development of industrial parks dedicated to the processing of cashew nuts, as part of the BIRD-Enclave Project, in Korhogo (25 hectares), Bouaké (15 hectares), Bondoukou (15 hectares) and Séguéla (15 hectares);
- the establishment of a strategy for the development of industrial zones in Côte d'Ivoire, following the approval of strategic studies conducted by Deloitte, with MCC funding;
- the completion of feasibility studies for the development of the duty-free textile zone in Bouaké;
- a survey, currently underway, of industrial businesses and their establishments, which will provide Côte d'Ivoire with a national directory of industrial businesses and establishments listed by geographical location, thus allowing it to easily measure the industrial sector's contribution to the national economy.

Sectoral measures undertaken by the Government relate to three key pillars: (i) the agri-industry (including cocoa, cashew nuts, coffee, cotton, palm oil, rubber, fruits and vegetables, and cereals among others), (ii) the structuring industries (including chemistry, manufacturing of construction materials, cement, metallurgy and steel mills, automobile among others) and (iii) the light manufacturing industries (assembly, computers, equipment, clothing, shoes, and wood among others).

The agrifood industry is the main value-added component of the manufacturing sector. It is dominated by cocoa and coffee products (38%), oilseed industries (27%) and dairy and fruit and vegetable-based products (18%). The value added of the manufacturing industry, in real terms, increased by an average of 8.3% over the 2012-2017 period. Its growth is estimated at 8.5% in 2018. The primary products for which the development of processing remains a priority are cocoa and cashew nuts.

For cocoa, the objective is to increase the processing rate from approximately 32.6% in 2016 to 50% in 2020. The volume of cocoa processed in the 2016/2017 season is estimated at 577,000 tons as compared to 474,000 tons in the 2015/2016 season, an increase of 21.7%. For the 2017/2018 season, the volume of processed cocoa is estimated at 746,000 tons, representing an increase of 22.6% compared to the previous season (for a stable processing rate of 27% in 2017 and 2018). The annual grinding capacity increased from 706,000 tons in 2017 to 820,000 tons in 2019, which leads to an expected volume of crushed beans of more than 800,000 tons per season from 2022 onwards. In 2019, the quantity of finished cocoa products manufactured and exported amounted to 598,670 tons, representing a processing rate of 27%. As for coffee, this rate is 16%.

The measures taken to reinforce the competitiveness of processing units relate to: (i) a cocoa bean supply guarantee to processors at accessible prices and (ii) the implementation of a system of DUS differentiated according to the degree of the cocoa beans' processing. At the end of 2017, eight processing units had already signed five-year agreements with the State to increase the quantity of processed cocoa. Results after the first year, with respect to the eight businesses that benefitted from the differentiated DUS, show that, for a target of 338,867 tons of cocoa beans to be processed, 345,288 tons were actually processed, representing a completion rate of 102%. These results show the following:

- five businesses fulfilled their commitments;
- one business fulfilled 93% of its commitments, with an undertaking to compensate for the unrealized gap in the second year; a draft amendment has been submitted to the relevant Ministers for validation;
- two businesses lost the benefit of the differentiated DUS;
- one new business (GPA Transformation) required an agreement with the Government in order to benefit from the differentiated DUS. This request is currently under consideration by the relevant Ministers.

With regard to the grinding conventions signed between Côte d'Ivoire and processing companies, the evaluation of the second year of implementation of these conventions for the benefit of the differentiated DUS by the nature of the

processed product shows that three companies out of five have achieved their contractual objectives: Cargill Cocoa achieved 107%, Ivory Cocoa Product achieved 125% and UNICAO achieved 100% of its objective.

For cashew nuts, the objective is to increase the processing rate to 50% by the end of 2020 as compared to 6.2% in 2016. In 2018, the installed processing capacity rose to 122,850 tons from 109,500 tons in 2017, representing an increasing of 12.1%. In 2019, the installed processing capacity increased to 137,190 tons and the quantity of raw nuts processed stood at 55,974 tons, representing a processing rate of 9.1%. With a view to addressing the low processing rate of cashew nuts, the Government has adopted various measures, including:

- the implementation of a mechanism to facilitate the processor's access to financing for the acquisition of raw materials. In this framework, the West African Development Bank (“**WADB**”) granted a CFAF 5 billion short-term credit facility to BGFIBank Côte d'Ivoire for the partial refinancing of the cashew nut 2019/2020 season;
- the signing of a World Bank loan for the implementation of the Cashew Nut Value Chain Competitiveness Promotion Project (*Projet de Promotion de la Compétitivité de la Chaîne de Valeur de l'Anacarde* or PPCA);
- tax exemptions and tax facilities for investments in cashew nut processing.
- the implementation of a mechanism to regulate the price at which unprocessed cashew nuts are sold to processing units. For prices over CFAF 850 per Kg of unprocessed nuts, the difference is subsidized by the State, using the DUS on exports of unprocessed nuts;
- the implementation of a mechanism to regulate the price at which unprocessed cashew nuts are sold to processing units. For prices over CFAF 850 per Kg of unprocessed nuts, the difference is subsidized by the State, using the DUS on exports of unprocessed nuts;
- the organization of the International Cashew Nut Processing Equipment and Technology Fair (*Salon International des Equipements et Technologies de Transformation de l'Anacarde* (SIETTA)) every two years, to promote cashew nut processing technologies. The 2018 edition was held from 08 to 10 November 2018;
- the implementation of the Program for the Promotion of Competitiveness in the Value Chain (*Programme de Promotion de la Compétitivité de la Chaîne de Valeur*) in the cashew nut sector, financed by the World Bank Group for an amount of US\$200 million to promote competitiveness in the cashew nut processing sector. As part of this Program, the development of industrial parks dedicated to cashew nut processing has been planned in Korhogo, Bouaké, Bondoukou and Séguéla.

Other measures have begun to be implemented by the Government in 2019 to facilitate processors' access to raw materials and strengthen their competitiveness:

- For cotton-textile, the measures and actions involve: (i) restructuring underperforming companies such as COTIVO, UTEXI and FTG Textile; (ii) the fight against fraud and counterfeiting; (iii) the sector's promotion through the organization of an International Textile Fair called SICTHA 2019; and (iv) restoring the sector's competitiveness, namely through the creation of a free trade zone. The cotton/textile sector is an integrated sector that includes the agricultural production of seed cotton, ginning, spinning / weaving, finishing, garment making and crushing. Since the 2007-2008 season, seed cotton production has shown a positive evolution, increasing from 120,000 tons to 450,000 tons in 2014-2015 and 458,762 tons in 2018-2019. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has revised its production objective to slightly below 500,000 tons of seed cotton for 2020 (compared to a pre-Covid-19 objective of 600,000 tons). The gearing activity is in fact held by 6 cotton companies or ginning facilities located mainly in the center and north of the country. They operate 13 ginning plants with a total capacity of 610,000 tons in 2019. They are: IVOIRE COTTON, which has 4 plants (Boundiali 1 and 2, Dianra and M'Bengué), Compagnie Ivoirienne de Coton (COIC), which has 3 plants (Korhogo 1, 2 and 3), Nouvelle Compagnie Ivoirienne pour le Développement des Textiles (Nouvelle CIDT), which has 3 ginning plants (Bouaké, Mankono and Séguéla), the Société d'Exploitation de Coton d'Olam (SECO) which also has 1 plant (Ouangolodougou), the Société Industrielle Cotonnière des Savanes (SICOSA) which has 1

plant located in Korhogo and Global Cotton (GLC) which also has 1 plant in Bouaké. For spinning or weaving, the installed capacity of the spinning / weaving units in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019 was 26,000 tons per year, operated by three companies located in Bouaké, Dimbokro and Agboville: Fillature Tissage de Gonfreville (FTG) and UTEXI-CI which has 2 plants (Dimbokro and Agboville). Two companies are active in the finishing activity and are located in Bouaké and Abidjan for a total capacity of 35 million meters of fabric per year in 2019: TEX-CI located in Bouaké and UNIWAX located in Abidjan, Yopougon industrial zone. The Ivorian crushing industry has two modern units, a medium unit and small semi-industrial cotton seed crushing units, with a total installed capacity of 345,000 tons of cotton seeds: OLHEOL in Bouaké, COTRAF in Korhogo, HCI (Huilerie de Côte d'Ivoire) in Bouaké and APMUT (*Association des Petites et Moyennes Unités de Trituration*). Finally, the garment sector is mainly composed of textile and fashion craftsmen.

- With respect to the development fruit and vegetable processing, the measures and actions involve: (i) promoting the conservation and production of fruit juice and dry fruit; (ii) securing the sourcing to product processing units and (iii) improving the storage and conservation capacity.

In terms of structuring industries, the Government has undertaken support measures to significantly increase cement production in order to address the high demand for the development of infrastructure and real estate.

The development of light manufacturing industries aims to create new industrial centres to catalyse the birth of new industry clusters. Discussions are ongoing with external partners to set up labour-intensive industrial units.

All of these measures and actions taken by the Government are expected to effectively contribute to Côte d'Ivoire's industrial development to create an Ivorian economy that is more competitive. In terms of strengthening the competitiveness of industrial companies, it should be noted that as part of the policy of opening markets, namely the Economic Partnership Agreements (*Accords de Partenariats Economiques*), the WAEMU launched the Program for Restructuring and Upgrade of Industries (*Programme de Restructuration et de Mise à Niveau des Industries* ("PNRMN") in order to improve local companies' competitiveness. The PRMN was replicated at a national level by the States.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the PRMN, at a total cost of CFAF 216.2 billion, benefitted from the support of the EU and UNIDO for its design and pilot phase. The PNRMN, which was launched in 2014, received CFAF 8.2 billion from the AfDB in 2016 for a term of four years. The PRMN's components relate to: (i) direct support to companies for their upgrades, (ii) the development of quality infrastructure and (iii) the creation of Support Centres for Competiveness and Industrial Development (*Centres d'Appui à la Compétitivité et au Développement Industriel*). As regards the support to companies:

- at the end of 2017, 59 companies benefitted from the PNRMN, out of a target of 120 companies. In the first half of 2018, 18 new industrial businesses acceded to the PNRMN, including nine for a strategic assessment, seven to receive support in the various procedural steps and in obtaining a certificate of quality and two for upgrade. Thus, the total number of businesses benefitting from this Program is now 77;
- at the end of 2019, this figure increased to 71 companies, all benefitting from global and strategic assessments, including four technical assistance missions in various fields (direction, marketing, maintenance, etc.). 308 executives of the companies members of the PNRMN benefitted from trainings. Together with the companies for the preliminary phase, a total of 96 companies currently participate in the PNRMN.

To promote innovation and the wide-spread use of technology, a document presenting the Policy for Innovation and the Widespread Use of Technology was drafted and adopted, with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). As part of this project, in addition to education, machine tools have been provided to the *Société Ivoirienne de Technologie Tropicale* (I2T) to strengthen its capacity to manufacture agrifood equipment and replacement parts. Additionally, as of the end of June 2018, 132 individuals from 18 SMEs have been trained in soldering techniques and the machining of mechanical parts. Initiatives to raise awareness and provide training in technological innovation to manufacturing SMEs are currently being implemented. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire set up laboratories and research centres which are the main tools for the creation of ideas exploited by the production system. In addition to the research structures of the public Universities and Grandes Ecoles, they encompass the following:

- the Ivorian Tropical Technology Company (*Société Ivoirienne de Technologies Tropicales* or I2T), whose aim is to design equipment for the valorisation of agricultural products, to act as a consulting engineer for agricultural production management companies in terms of selection of agricultural equipment, studies and agro-industrial achievements;
- the Centre for the Demonstration and Promotion of Technologies (*Centre de Démonstration et de promotion de Technologies* or CDT) whose aim is to demonstrate and promote the technologies developed by I2T as well as Indian technologies;
- Côte d'Ivoire Engineering (CI Engineering), a company specialized in the manufacturing of industrial equipment;
- the Ivorian Intellectual Property Office (*Office Ivoirien de la Propriété Intellectuelle* or OIPI) for the protection of industrial property rights. Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), organizations responsible for the management of patents and other intellectual property rights;
- Côte d'Ivoire SME Agency (*Agence Côte d'Ivoire PME*), which supports the development of SMEs by promoting coaching, advice and support for innovation in SMEs.

However, the challenge remains to put in place coherent and effective policies for the commercialization of publicly funded research results into viable and sustainable enterprises.

Building and Public Works Sector

Cement, sheet metal and containers, asphalt, electrical cables and wires, sand, gravel and concrete are, among others, the materials used in the building and public works sector. The usage rate of these materials reflects the production status of building and public works underway with the State's major projects as well as real estate developments and private entrepreneurs.

The building and public works sector has strengthened in recent years due to the completion of major Government projects (the third Abidjan bridge or Henri Konan Bédié bridge, built in 27 months, the fourth bridge connecting the Yopougon and Plateau municipalities and road infrastructure projects), the social housing program, the high demand driven by economic growth, the numerous private projects as well as through the efforts of private economic operators. International companies in the construction sector such as Colas, Bouygues, Bolloré or ArabContractors, have returned to Côte d'Ivoire in order to accompany the efficient realization of major projects.

In 2019, the share of cement in the building and public works sector is estimated at 48.1%, followed at far lower levels by sheet metal and containers (15.4%) and asphalt (10.6%). Cement production has been increasing since 2012, from 1,969,677.93 tons to 2,601,474 tons in 2014, before decreasing to 2,328,825 tons in 2015 and increasing again in 2016. Cement production increased from 2.5 million tons in 2016 to 3.5 million tons in 2017, representing an increase of 17%. This sharp increase is due to the entry into production of two industrial units with capacities of 1,000,000 tonnes per year each. Taking into account investments underway, cement production capacity reached 9.4 million tons in 2018 and 13.3 million tons in 2019.

The development of the sector is due to the actions carried out by the Government since 2012. These include the following:

- the search for solutions to the berthing problems encountered by cement manufacturers and addressing such problems thanks to coordinated work of the Ministry in charge of Industry and all stakeholders including producers, administrations and the Abidjan Port Authority (*Port Autonome d'Abidjan*).
- the completion of work to deepen the mineral wharves, which provided more operational wharves for cement and raw materials vessels to berth.

- the ongoing implementation of the Abidjan Port Authority (*Port Autonome d'Abidjan*)'s modernization of the mineral terminal.
- the implementation of a regulatory framework for cement quality control through the inter-ministerial order of 5 January 2017 which also created the Commission for the Monitoring and Control of Cement Quality in Côte d'Ivoire operational since January 2017.
- the delimitation of a zone dedicated to the cement industry within the new industrial zone of PK24, with a surface area of 59 hectares, allowing the creation of a favorable framework for the industrial activity of cement production and the reinforcement of the competitiveness of companies. This new zone makes it possible to meet the ever-increasing demand for industrial plots for new cement plants.
- the adoption in 2018 of the Decree on Mandatory Standards, of which the cement standard is a part.
- the issuing of an order regulating the type of packaging used to package cement.

In 2020, as a result of the actions and measures implemented by the Government, positive results have been achieved as follows:

- the increase in only 7 years in cement production capacity from 2,400,000 tons in 2011 to 12,550,000 tons in 2018, representing an increase of 423% from 2011 to 2018.
- the ongoing installation of seven new cement production units with a capacity of 7,782,000 tons, some of which have been operational since 2019 and others had been expected to be operational by the end of 2020; although operationalization of such production units have been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. These units are now expected to be fully operational by the end of 2021. Upon operationalization, these seven new cement production units are expected to bring total production capacity to 20,332,000 tons;
- an increase in investments made in the sector estimated at CFAF 232 billion from 2012 to 2018. These investments led to the creation of more than 3,600 direct and indirect jobs;
- the investments made in the sector are estimated at CFAF 125 billion in 2020;
- the provision of cement manufacturers with operational quays at the Abidjan Port Authority (*Port Autonome d'Abidjan*) to solve the problem of berthing ships;
- the protection of national industrial production units and securing the local market against fraudulent and uncontrolled imports and the marketing of good quality cement through the strict application of the inter-ministerial order of 5 January 2017;
- the absence of a cement deficit since 2017 thanks to the sharp growth of the number of industrial cement plants and production capacities installed;
- an approximately 10% to 20% drop in consumer prices on CPJ 32.5 and CPJ 42.5 cement by August 2019. Indeed, the 50kg bag which used to sell on average at 5000F/TM, was sold at between 4000 F/TM and 4300 F/TM in August 2019.

The cement market has demanded more and more cement and therefore requires increased local production to sufficiently supply it. In order to confront the current economic climate and reduce tension of prices, the Ivorian authorities decided on 24 April 2017 to carry out an emergency import transaction of 150,000 tons of cement over the period from May to July 2017. In addition, as part of the ongoing development of the new PK24 industrial zone, the State plans to grant 60 hectares for a cement plant.

The table below presents the national cement consumption during the 2014 to 2019 period:

Year	Consumption (tons)
2014	2,700,000
2015	3,000,000
2016	3,420,000
2017	4,000,000
2018	5,000,000
2019 (est.)	5,000,000

Source: Ministry of Industry and Mining

In 2018, local cement consumption was 5,000,000 tons. The commissioning of all project units currently under construction planned for 2017 and 2018, particularly the construction of two last-generation cement plants by CIMAF, made it possible to meet local demand. The Moroccan company CIMAF-Côte d'Ivoire has made its ambition to satisfy national consumption clear. To this end, it announced the start of the production of the San Pedro plant in June 2017 and the launch of the construction of the Bouaké plant in May 2017, to increase the production capacity from 1 million tons a year to 2.5 million extendable to 4 million tons, and the creation of more than 600 direct and indirect jobs. In addition, LafargeHolcim's local branch completed the construction of its sixth grinder, which will allow it to double its annual production capacity to two million tons at the end of 2017. In short, these new investments will help increase domestic cement production capacity to 5,800,000 tons per year. Thus, cement producers have invested more than CFAF 73 billion over the 2015-2017 period to increase their production capacity. In addition, the Nigerian group Dangoté intends to invest CFAF 150 billion in 2019 through its subsidiary, Dangoté Cement, in the construction of a cement plant in Côte d'Ivoire and the acquisition of logistical means, which is expected to generate approximately 800 direct jobs for a production capacity of 3 million tons with two lines of 1.5 million each; the plant is currently under construction and is expected to open in 2020. In total, seven installation projects have been recorded for the following cement companies: CIMOD, the Japanese-Ivorian cement company PCCI, OYAK, DANGOTE, Société de ciment de Côte d'Ivoire, ACA SARL and LCB.

In addition, the majority of large construction projects is open to international tender bids. The State ensures that small- and medium-sized enterprises participate in these projects through subcontracting in order to have a positive impact on local employment.

With respect to the overall evolution of the building and public works sector, its added value, which measures the level of activity in this sector, has recorded increases of 18.3% and 22.1% in 2015 and 2016, respectively, due in particular to the continuation of numerous public sector projects. Investments continue to be made in this sector.

Financial Sector

The financial sector in Côte d'Ivoire is comprised of banks, insurance companies and microfinance institutions.

Banks and Microfinance Institutions

For information on the banking sector, see "*Monetary System*".

Insurance Companies

Côte d'Ivoire's insurance business is regulated by the Insurance Code of member states of the InterAfrican Conference of Insurance Markets (*Conférence interafricaine des marchés d'assurance – CIMA*). The market participants, excluding policyholders, include insurance companies (30) and insurance intermediaries (295 certified brokers). There are two professional associations that assist in the development and the stabilization of the market. These are the Association of Insurance Companies of Côte d'Ivoire (*Association des Sociétés d'Assurances de Côte d'Ivoire – ASA-CI*) and the

National Association of Côte d'Ivoire Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers (*Association Nationale des Courtiers d'Assurance et de Réassurance de Côte d'Ivoire*). There are also several professional organizations that regulate the sector: ASA-CI, the Regional Commission of Insurance Control (*Commission Régionale de Contrôle des Assurances*) and the African Federation of Insurance Companies for African National Law (*Fédération des Sociétés d'Assurances de Droit National Africain*).

The size of the insurance sector in Côte d'Ivoire is modest but in steady expansion, with CFAF 360 billion in revenue in 2018, compared to CFAF 325 billion in revenue in 2017, CFAF 302.9 billion in 2016, CFAF 278.9 billion in revenue in 2015, CFAF 251 billion in revenue in 2014, CFAF 236 billion in revenue in 2013, and CFAF 209 billion in revenue in 2012. However, it continues to be the main market in the CIMA. Its contribution to GDP (revenue/GDP) remained stable at 1.5% from 2011 to 2015 (based on the 1996 GDP reference year). In 2017, revenue increased by 7.3% compared to 2016, well above the average rate in the CIMA zone, which is 0.9%. According to the Federation of African National Insurance Companies, the penetration rate on the African continent is 4.31%.

Less than 30 insurance companies compete to attract the interest of a population that has not yet developed sufficient interest in insurance products. In the distribution of their products, insurance companies work with intermediaries, including brokers and general agents, such as Gras Savoye and Marsh & McLennan, that still largely dominate the market for company insurance. The Ivorian insurance market also includes a reinsurer and international reinsurance companies or reinsurance representatives.

Tourism

After a period of relative growth, Ivorian tourism experienced a sharp decline from the end of 1999 to the end of the post-electoral crisis in 2011, due to the departure of major actors in tourism, as a result of the unstable socio-political situation and increasing insecurity throughout the political and military crisis that began in 2002. The sector experienced a decline in offer and demand as well as a slowdown in marketing activities. In terms of demand, the crisis has resulted in a significant decline in the number of tourists arriving at the Félix Houphouët Boigny international airport. In terms of supply, several major hotels closed, and other tourism infrastructure and sites deteriorated. Travel agencies have lost more than 80% of their revenue, resulting in the closure of many agencies.

Beyond socio-political instability, several factors were at the root of the decrease in tourist activity. According to the IMF report 13/172 “Côte d'Ivoire: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper” published in June 2013, the tourism sector is affected by (i) weaknesses in the legal and institutional framework, (ii) inadequate financing of the sector's activities, (iii) the deterioration and inadequacy of tourist and road infrastructures. To these factors are added (iv) the fragility of management structures, (v) inadequacy of the development of tourist products, (vi) price increases in air transport, (vii) lack of an efficient marketing of Côte d'Ivoire as a destination spot and (viii) insufficient partnerships.

The return to socio-political stability has created a favourable environment for the contribution of the tourism sector to the country's economic growth, as demonstrated by the 2017 Tourism Statistics Bulletin published by the Ministry of Tourism. According to this Statistics Information Bulletin, the tourism business' contribution to GDP was 5.16% in 2015 (based on the 1996 GDP reference year). The Government estimates the tourism business' contribution to GDP at 7.3% in 2019, representing an annual average growth rate of 9.06% over the 2015-2019 period. The IMF Report 15/148, published in July 2015, highlights that the main achievements of the Government included improving the legal and institutional framework of the sector by validating and adopting the new Tourism Code. Moreover, according to the same report, the private sector remains the main engine of the improvement of the tourist offer, mainly as regards the increase in the number of hotels. Between 2012 and 2015, six luxury hotels respectful of international standards (*Sofitel hôtel Ivoire, Golf hôtel, hôtel golf club, hôtel le Président, hôtel les Parlementaires de Yamoussoukro et hôtel la Paix de Daoukro*) have been rehabilitated. The total number of rooms at the national level increased from 34,102 in 2015 to 49,536 in 2019, representing a growth rate of 45.26%.

Ivorian tourism provides significant financial resources to the Ivorian State. The Government estimates the growth in tourism revenue at CFAF 1,174 billion in 2019 from CFAF 1,059 billion in 2015, representing a growth rate of 10.86%. According to figures from Côte d'Ivoire Tourisme, the supervisory body, between 2000 and 2015 the number of hotels virtually doubled, resulting in revenue of more than CFAF 500 billion, with a total amount of 2,038 hotel establishments.

In the five years following the crisis, the revival of the tourism sector made an important contribution, providing 3,000 direct jobs and 9,000 indirect jobs to more than 2% of the active population. The sector created a total of 113,000 direct jobs in 2016 and 128,800 jobs in 2019.

The country received more than 470,000 foreign travellers in 2015, compared to 400,000 in 2014, which makes the Ivorian tourism industry one of the most dynamic in West Africa. In order to stimulate tourism in Côte d'Ivoire, the Government intends to capitalize on the country's tourist assets, in particular the tropical forest and the beaches around San Pedro. The Government aims to favour eco-tourism and contemplates creating an international airport and an *Aérocité* in San Pedro. As for the Abidjan *Aérocité*, it will be an "airport city", which will offer a range of amenities, including commerce, hotels and housing. Located near the Félix Houphouët-Boigny airport in Abidjan, the *Aérocité* will be developed on a unique site with exceptional natural qualities and located between the ocean and lagoon. In 2016, the number of tourists was estimated to be 1,583,250, with 632,166 arriving by air and 951,084 arriving by land.

Continuing in the same vein, the tourism business performed well in 2018, due to large-scale events that were held in Côte d'Ivoire and numerous investments made in recent years in the sector. The number of hotels and hotel residences increased by 27.8%, rising from 2,040 in 2017 to 2,607 in 2018. In addition, according to "*Hospitality report 2018*", the third report prepared by Jumia Travel and presented on 27 September 2018 in Abidjan, the number of tourists in Côte d'Ivoire increased from 3.083 million in 2016 to 3.475 million in 2017, representing a 12.7% increase. In 2018, more than 3.4 million tourists were counted. The number of tourist arrivals in Côte d'Ivoire reached 4.0 million in 2019 while revenues from the activity amounted to about CFAF 1,174 billion in 2019 against slightly more than CFAF 1,114 billion in 2018.

This improvement is the result of the Government's commitment to prioritizing the rehabilitation of Côte d'Ivoire's image among tourists and business travellers. As part of this effort, the Ministry of Tourism has designed a strategic development plan called "Sublime Côte d'Ivoire", which has been integrated into the 2016-2020 NDP and will be extended as part of the 2021-2025 NDP. This strategy aims to make Côte d'Ivoire the 5th largest tourist industry in Africa and co-leader in business tourism by 2025. Achieving this goal will entail (i) improving the environment in the tourism and leisure sector, (ii) augmenting the tourism and leisure services offered and (iii) strengthening Côte d'Ivoire's competitiveness as a tourist destination. The "Sublime Côte d'Ivoire" strategy can be broken down into nine essential projects, which are expected to make tourism the third largest axis of economic development in Côte d'Ivoire by 2025 and generate over 600,000 jobs, making the tourism and leisure sector a source of job creation capable of participating in the country's overall development.

The tourism sector has been severely hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The pandemic had a negative impact on the tourism as a result of the precautionary measures taken by governments, including travel restrictions, border closures and lockdowns, which reduced international social mobility. In some instances, barrier measures have resulted in the total or partial cessation of tourism activities to such an extent that the World Tourism Organization reported that, for the 2020, the number of tourists will decrease by 60% to 80%, or even 90% compared to 2019. In this global context, Africa, in general, and Côte d'Ivoire, in particular, has been affected by the downward trend in economic activity in general and tourism and hotel activity in particular. While optimistic projections at the end of 2019 and early 2020 predicted a growth of tourism GDP of 8% in 2020, they have been revised downwards in light of this pandemic. Thus, while the tourism contribution to GDP is expected at around 3.5% in 2020 (compared to an estimated 7.3% recorded in 2019), representing a contraction of -52%, tourism revenues are expected to record a decrease of 70-90% depending on the sub-sectors concerned. The Covid-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions will likely continue to have an impact on the tourism sector although the Government continue to monitor the extent of such impact. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the sector in 2020, the pre-Covid-19 positive trend is expected to resume and continue until 2025.

The Government's objective is to attract 5 million tourists by the end of 2025. The tourism sector represents potential for growth in the Ivorian economy, and it recorded an increase by 0.65 percentage points of GDP between 2017 and 2018. The Government aims to increase the share of tourism in the GDP to about 10% by the end of 2025, through the "Sublime Côte d'Ivoire" strategy. The investments required for the implementation of this initiative are estimated at CFAF 3,200 billion. To fulfil this potential, the sector must continue to promote investment and improve its level of organization.

The Government has initiated a post-Covid-19 pandemic tourism recovery plan focussing on the development of domestic and regional tourism with the aim of making Abidjan a hub of business tourism and an entertainment and leisure destination for the West African region in particular. The Government is encouraging local businesses to organize and engage in initiatives for the emergence of national champions in the sport sector and related activities in the context of 2023 Africa Cup of Nations to be hosted by Côte d'Ivoire. The Government's plan also covers various projects and initiatives, including the Beautiful Beaches for All, Villas Ivoires and Relais Paillottes projects; the development of tourist routes such as the Route of the Kings, the Elephant Route, the Slave Route; the promotion of nature tourism and ecotourism to promote and support environmental preservation; the development of holiday savings schemes and other initiatives for the practice of tourism and the financing of vacation camps for young people in Côte d'Ivoire; the construction of tourist souvenir stores for the marketing of handicrafts and other products made in Côte d'Ivoire; the promotion and financing of start-ups; the creation of tourist villages based on authentic Ivorian models with a modern touch; the creation of a fund dedicated to financing activities in the tourism sector.

Economic Infrastructures

Road Transport

Côte d'Ivoire has approximately 82,020 km of road network, of which 7,000 km are asphalt roads and 75,000 unsurfaced roads and a public urban road network with over 4,000 km of asphalt roads throughout the national territory. In addition to these roads, it has approximately 200,000 km of rural tracks between villages, camps and plantations. Côte d'Ivoire also has approximately 20 ferry boats and approximately 4,600 engineering structures, including over 300 bridges.

Currently, this network is in a state of significant deterioration, with 90% of roads exceeding their theoretical lifespan. This state of deterioration, the result of more than 10 years of under-investment and insufficient maintenance, has major consequences both at the economic and social level, with increased transportation costs, a reduction in exchanges between the country's different regions and the impoverishment of isolated rural populations.

However, since 2012, as part of the strengthening of road infrastructure, several projects were completed. These include, in particular: (i) the third Abidjan bridge, (ii) the extension of the northern freeway (Singrobo-Yamoussoukro) and the renovation of the Abidjan-Singrobo freeway segment, (iii) the construction of the Abobo-Anyama road, (iv) the construction of a bridge over the Marahoué, (v) the improvement of urban roads in several major cities, (vi) the construction of the Boundiali-Tengrela road, (vii) the construction of an interchange over the Valéry Giscard d'Estaing Boulevard in Abidjan, (viii) the construction of the Jacquville bridge, (ix) the completion of the Abidjan-Bassam highway, (x) the construction of the Béoumi and Bassawa bridges, (xi) the construction of the Bolona-Tengrela-Mali border road and (xii) the improvement of the Pont Comoé-Agnibilekro-Abengourou road.

In 2017, 17,744 km of dirt roads were rehabilitated, including 7,740 km of heavy regrading and treatment of critical points and 9,886 km of light regrading. This work has brought the total rehabilitated dirt roads to 41,867 km over the 2012-2017 period. The new constructions have brought total developed roads to 866 km over the 2012-2017 period, including 752 km of new surfaced roads and 114 km of highways built.

In addition, the total percentage of surfaced roads in a state of significant deterioration (out of the total network of surfaced roads) decreased from 15% in 2015 to 10% in 2017, as a consequence of the efforts that have been made to maintain existing roads. However, additional efforts must be made to achieve the goal of 5% in 2020 for this indicator.

Moreover, since 2016, the Government has adopted an extensive National Road Development Programme (PNDR) for the period 2016-2025, for an overall cost of CFAF 3,760 billion. The first phase of this programme covers the 2016-2020 period. This programme aims to improve traffic in Abidjan and the interior of the country and increase the competitiveness of the Ivorian economy. This plan includes strengthening and extending urban roads and large-scale infrastructure projects. In terms of mobility in the Greater Abidjan area, large infrastructure projects have been announced. These include (i) the construction of the Japanese-Ivorian Friendship Interchange, (ii) the rehabilitation of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny bridge, (iii) the construction of the 4th Yopougon-Adjamé bridge, (iv) the construction of the Cocody-Plateau bridge, (v) the development of Boulevard de Marseille and (vi) the development of the Y4 by-pass highway (Section 1: Boulevard Mitterrand-Anyama Road (24.4 km) / Section 2: Anyama Road - Pk 24 of the North highway (12 km)). Nearly all of these projects were launched in 2018.

For the interior of the country, extending the paving of roads in district, regional and departmental capitals is planned. The most important project of the 2016-2020 programme involves improving and renovating 3,916 km of interurban asphalt roads at a cost of CFAF 1,246 billion, which were expected to be implemented between 2017 and the end of 2020. The Government also plans to build the Tiébissou-Bouaké section of the Yamoussoukro-Bouaké highway for an estimated cost of between CFAF 215 billion and CFAF 292 billion. Work officially began in November 2018 and is still ongoing. Construction of the Yamoussoukro-Tiébissou section (CFAF 64.5 billion) is ongoing. The construction and asphaltting of the Abidjan-Dabou section on the Abidjan-San Pedro highway, as well as the rehabilitation of the Grand Bassam-Aboisso, are also planned.

To date, out of an estimated total of 1,500 km initially expected to be completed by the end of 2020, 72% have been built or are in the process of being built.

The Government also intends to develop the road network between large urban communities in Côte d'Ivoire, to allow for harmonized development of the territory, and the major roads to the ECOWAS countries in order to deepen regional integration, including a highway between Abidjan and Lagos.

Urban road transportation services are concentrated in the city of Abidjan and centred around mass urban transportation by bus on specific sites (Bus Rapid Transit – BRT) for approximately 130 km operated by the *Société des Transports Abidjanais* (“SOTRA”) and other private operators.

Intercity road transport services have developed following a series of business reforms in this sector. This reform was put into effect through the preparation of legislation and regulations and the implementation of various actions, in particular:

- law no. 2014-812 of 16 December 2014 on of domestic transportation;
- Decree No. 2019-100 of 30 January 2019 on the organisation and functioning of the Urban Mobility Authority in Greater Abidjan (*Autorité de la Mobilité Urbaine dans le Grand Abidjan* (AMUGA));
- Decree No. 2019-101 of 30 January 2019 on the organisation and functioning of the Regulatory Authority for Domestic Transport (*Autorité de Régulation du Transport Intérieur* (ARTI));
- Decree No. 2015-269 of 22 April 2015 establishing the conditions for admission to the transportation profession and conditions to carry out road transportation activities;
- Decree No. 2015-235 of 8 April 2015 establishing the conditions to create and use bus stations;
- the creation of the Road Transportation Development Fund (*Fonds de Développement du Transport Routier*) to drive the renewal policy for transporters’ vehicle fleets;
- the organization of road transportation professionals and of an umbrella organization known as the High Council of Employers of Road Transportation Companies (*Haut Conseil du Patronat des Entreprises de Transport Routier*) of Côte d'Ivoire;
- the delivery of 200 new taxis and 832 trucks to transportation companies as part of the renewal of the existing vehicle fleet;
- the reinforcement of SOTRA’s fleet with 1108 buses as at the end of June 2020. This project will continue the delivery of new buses until the end of 2021 for a total of 2,000 buses. The SOTRA’s service capacity was significantly improved in 2018 with the construction of a 130 km network of roads dedicated to the circulation of buses. SOTRA, due to its strengthened fleet, was able to transport approximately 86 million passengers in 2017, 144 million passengers in 2018 and an estimated 300 million passengers in 2019. Current operating data report 120 city lines, 1,200 buses and an average volume of 800,000 passengers per day; and
- the commencement of work on a new international bus station for passenger transport by bus in Adjamé.

The reorganization of SOTRA's road network through the project to create urban parking stations for woro-wôrô and Gbaka on the outskirts of Abidjan around the BRT line network will optimize transportation of the population and reinforce urban mobility. The major impact of this will be a reduction in the number of smaller vehicles in urban centres and an improvement in Abidjan's traffic.

With respect to the governance of the infrastructure and transport services sector, the Government adopted the Transport Sector Investment and Adjustment Program (*Programme d'Investissement et d'Ajustement du Secteur des Transports or CI-PAST*), to reorganize the institutional framework and reform the legal and regulatory framework of the sector. This CFAF 12 billion program represents an important component of the Government's efforts to promote road maintenance and safety. Many other road infrastructure development projects are currently in progress. These projects include the construction of approximately 50 interchanges and 20 various transport infrastructures, including the Williamsville-Adjamé pedestrian bridge in Abidjan.

Two recent structures regulating the inland transport sector (the Greater Abidjan Urban Mobility Authority (*Autorité de la Mobilité Urbaine du Grand Abidjan or AMUGA*) and the Inland Transport Regulatory Authority (*Autorité de Régulation du Transport Intérieur or ARTI*)) have been operational since the appointment of their first in charge officers in January 2020.

River, Lagoon and Maritime Transport

Côte d'Ivoire has more than 500 km of coastline and two seaports in San Pedro and Abidjan, with San Pedro being a deep sea port.

The Abidjan Port Authority handles approximately 87% of Côte d'Ivoire's international trade. After the important resumption of port operations in 2012, both 2013 and 2014 had been marked by a contraction in total traffic. However, recent developments in maritime traffic indicate a recovery. Compared to December 2017, total cargo traffic in 2018 increased by 7.2%, reaching 24,177,261 tons. This positive performance, which was reflected in both imports (+6.5%) and exports (+8.6%), was essentially driven by dynamic domestic traffic. Domestic traffic increased by 13.6%, in connection with the steady performance of all of its components, which include general cargo (+11.3%), oil products (+19.4%) and fishing products (+7.2%). In 2019, total cargo traffic was at 25,738,345 tons, representing an increase of 6.3% compared to 2018. This performance had an impact on national traffic (+5.2%), transshipment (+4.0%) and transit (+24.1%).

The improvement observed in the Abidjan port is the result of numerous investments carried out. Indeed, in order to improve its competitiveness, modernisation and extension work has been undertaken, notably the widening and deepening of the Vridi canal, completed in December 2018, completion of the construction work of the second container terminal as well as other projects such as a roll-on/roll-off (RORO) terminal, which is currently under way. The completion of these investments should allow the Abidjan port to compete with its counterparts in South Africa and North Africa and breathe new life into the Ivorian port maritime sector.

Concerning the Autonomous Port of San Pedro (*Port Autonome de San Pedro*), total cargo traffic decreased by 9.9% in 2018 compared to 2017, to reach 4,081,163 tons. This decrease is due mainly to the 37.9% contraction of the transshipment business. Nevertheless, this decrease was attenuated by a 21.7% increase in domestic traffic.

In 2019, total global traffic increased by 24.1% to reach 5,065,685 tons. This increase results from activities outside of transshipment (+30.9%) as well as from transshipment (+3.5%). Traffic benefited from numerous trade measures implemented in order to attract new products with high potential which were not transiting through the Autonomous Port of San Pedro, especially fertilizers, nickel and manganese. In addition, several projects for the extension and modernization of the port were implemented, such as construction of a multipurpose industrial terminal and of a cold room for seafood products. In 2019, maritime transportation confirmed its strength with a volume of cargo traffic which increased by 9.0%, to reach 30,804,030 tons, compared to 28,258,424 tons in 2018. This positive performance is attributable to both ports.

River and lagoon transport had been provided since the 1980s by the Société des Transports Abidjanais (SOTRA) and by private small boats known as "pinnaces". However, since 2013, the Government has lifted the exclusivity on the

operation of the lagoon held by the SOTRA, aiming to strengthen the multiple modes of urban transport to facilitate the movements of populations, as such movements are increasing significantly every year. As part of this effort, the State has established concession agreements with two lagoon transportation companies, *Société de Transport Lagunaire* (“STL”) and *Compagnie Ivoirienne de Transport Lagunaire* (“CITRANS”).

The effective entry into operation of the two new structures in 2017 boosted lagoon transportation in Abidjan. The recent development of the sector has improved mobility among the populations (Yopougon, Koumassi, Marcory and Treichville) by reducing travel time.

These new structures have produced clear results; the total number of transported passengers has risen from 1,923,352 in 2017 to 3,948,058 in 2018, representing an increase of 105.3%. With 20 boats, the total number of passengers transported by STL increased from 3,494,966 in 2018 to 3,736,403 in 2019, representing an increase of 6.9%.

For the years to come, companies are forecasting:

- the construction of new stations and the acquisition of new boats to meet growing demand, in accordance with the commitments of the agreement with the State;
- the development of a strategy to attract the middle class (lagoon transport for people with vehicles);
- the provision of additional services in the stations (catering, Internet café, banking services, etc.)

When they became active in 2017, the operators (STL and CITRANS) were using more than 15 boat buses, which were able to transport approximately 25,000 passengers per day. These transportation capacities are expected to increase to 100,000 passengers per day in the coming years with the commissioning of new stations, currently under construction, and the opening of new lines.

Future plans to maintain a positive dynamic in the lagoon transportation sector include (i) the construction of new stations and the acquisition of new boats to respond to growing demand, in line with the commitments set out in the agreement between the operators and the State, (ii) the development of a strategy to capture middle class populations (transportation via the lagoon of individuals with cars) and (iii) offering additional services in stations (restaurants, internet cafés, banking services, etc.).

In parallel to this formal sector, a network of pinnaces provide daily, informal and relatively significant passenger services in Abidjan, as well as substantial merchandise traffic, carried out on approximately fifteen lines, in uncertain safety and comfort conditions. Beyond the Abidjan district, other pinnaces provide intercity and even interstate transport on the Aby and Ebrié canals. This method of transport is used by passengers in the lagoon zone going from the Ghana border to the city of Grand-Lahou. Efforts to promote multimodal urban transportation in Abidjan include the future completion of line 1 of the Abidjan Metro, for which Côte d’Ivoire has decided to establish a public service concession agreement relating to the design, financing, completion and operation of this line. Construction work was launched on 30 November 2017. Studies and preparatory work are underway, and the public procurement process began in February 2018. The project will be delivered in instalments from 2020 to 2022. The total cost of the project is estimated at CFAF 918 billion.

Rail Transport

Côte d’Ivoire has a 639 km railroad line that links it to Burkina Faso. This railway, which is made up of only one track, (except in Abidjan where there are dual tracks), passes through several cities in Côte d’Ivoire, with 35 stations and 18 stops. The operation of the rail infrastructures, which was awarded to the *Société Internationale de Transport Africain par Rail* (“SITARAIL”) in 1994, has resulted in a growth in merchandise traffic that doubled over five years, increasing from 504,000 tons in 1996 to more than 1 million tons in 2001. However, the rail transport remains confronted with the shortfalls and obsolescence of the infrastructures and of the operating stock. As a result, in constant decline, railway activity has not yet reached its 2001 level.

However, in 2018, the global traffic of merchandise by rail transport reached 928,243.7 tons, representing a 16.2% increase compared to the previous year. This good performance was driven by both trade with Burkina Faso which

recorded an increase of 4.6%, and domestic traffic which increased sharply from 7,820 tons in 2017 to 101,068 tons (+1,192.4%). In 2019, the global traffic of merchandise increased by 9.0%, to reach 1,015,874 tons.

This improvement is the result of various reforms undertaken with the aim of revitalizing this sector. Indeed, the continued slowing of business due to the poor condition of infrastructure, the Government signed an agreement with the Bolloré group for the rehabilitation of the railway for an amount of approximately CFAF 300 billion. This work will contribute to modernizing and developing services for the transportation of cargo and passengers by rail.

The Government intends to pursue the rehabilitation of the Abidjan-Kaya line to facilitate the transit of minerals from Burkina Faso to the port of Abidjan.

Rehabilitation work on the historic Abidjan-Ouagadougou-Kaya (1,210 km) railway was started on 5 December 2017. The Investment Program of the Revised Concession Agreement (*Programme d'Investissements de la Convention de Concession Révisée*) (“CCR”) was signed on 29 July 2016 between the Licensing Authority (Côte d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso) and Bolloré, and will be realized in two tranches. The first tranche will end by 31 December 2021 at the latest. The project’s total cost is CFAF 262.4 billion.

The implementation of this project will improve access to areas through which this railway passes. With the reopening of closed stations, economic activity will be boosted through the transportation of production from formerly-isolated areas toward consumer areas. Work on the first tranche has begun and is scheduled to end by 31 December 2021 at the latest.

In addition, as part of the search for long-term solutions to public transportation difficulties within the Abidjan District, the State of Côte d’Ivoire decided on the public service concession for the design, financing, completion and operation of Line 1 of the Abidjan Metro. Construction work on line 1 of the Abidjan metro was started on 30 November 2017. Studies and preparatory work are underway and the grant of rights of way was completed in February 2018. The project will be progressively completed between 2020 and the end of 2022. The project’s total cost is estimated at CFAF 918 billion. A concession agreement was signed on 6 July 2015. An amendment to the concession agreement is being drafted to reflect the replacement of the Korean companies Hyundai Rotem and Dong san by Alstom and Colas Rail. With respect to line 2 (Yopougon - Bingerville section), discussions are ongoing for the selection of an operator.

Furthermore, studies and fundraising efforts are underway to help complete several projects including integrated projects for ore mining in both Côte d’Ivoire and neighbouring countries such as Mali and Guinea. These involve the construction of the Pedro-Man-Touba-Odienné-Bougouni-Bamako railway for iron ore mining in the Klahoyo and Gao mountains, nickel in Biankouma, Man, Sipilou and Touba, manganese in Odienné and iron and bauxite in Mali. This construction requires the completion of preliminary design studies and the research of technical and financial partners. These prerequisites must be met as of 2018. The project’s total cost is estimated as CFAF 332 billion.

As for the construction of the Ouangolodougou-Niellé-Sikasso-Bougouni-Bamako railway, the terms of reference for detailed technical studies were adopted by the WAEMU’s railway experts. The WAEMU Commission is waiting to launch a call for bids to hire a firm to carry out these detailed technical studies for an amount of approximately CFAF 60 billion.

The line is 338 km, of which 86 km is on Ivorian territory, for an estimated cost of CFAF 240 billion, including CFAF 60 billion at Côte d’Ivoire’s expense. Other projects include (i) the construction of the 181 km long Man-Nzérékoré (Guinea Conakry) railway for an estimated cost of CFAF 127 billion, of which CFAF 105 billion at Côte d’Ivoire’s expense (151 km), for joint mining of Guinea’s iron ore and (ii) the “Rail City” project to improve the real estate assets of the SIPF in Abidjan Plateau, representing an investment of approximately CFAF 300 billion.

Airport Transport

Côte d’Ivoire has eight operational airports and airfields (Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, Bouaké, Daloa, San Pedro, Man, Korhogo and Odienné) three of which are international (Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, Bouaké). Excluding Daloa and Yamoussoukro, the national company Air Côte d’Ivoire currently services six other local destinations and 19 international destinations.

With the creation of Air Côte d'Ivoire in 2012 and the opening of the Ivorian airspace, the number of airline companies servicing Côte d'Ivoire increased from nine in 2010 to approximately 20 in 2017. At the end of 2018, the number of commercial passengers increased by 4.9% compared to 2017, reaching 1,971,978. Air cargo and direct transit have also increased by 5.9% and 15.5%, respectively. Traffic is dominated by flights to the ECOWAS region (39.4%), Europe (28.4%), particularly France (20.6%), and the rest of Africa (21.7%). The main airlines that account for this traffic are Air Côte d'Ivoire (780,652 passengers; 39.6%) and Air France (294,069 passengers; 15.9%).

These advances are the result of (i) investments made in the Abidjan Félix Houphouët Boigny (FHB) airport, (ii) the development of the national airline, Air Côte d'Ivoire, (iii) the addition of new commercial routes and (iv) the rehabilitation of domestic airports and airfields.

As a result the numerous investments made, Côte d'Ivoire has received certification from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), allowing it to open a direct line to the United States as of 13 May 2018, in collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines. In addition, as part of its expansion program, the national airline, Air Côte d'Ivoire, has ordered five Airbus, including two A320 aircraft delivered in 2017, a third one, initially expected to be delivered at the end of 2020, have been delayed to an unspecified date, and two additional A319 aircraft are expected in 2021. Finally, the reopening, in March 2018, of the San Pedro airport, which had been closed for construction, boosted domestic air traffic, which increased by 29.5% in the third quarter of 2018, after having decreased by 29.7% and 6.7%, respectively, in the first and second quarters of 2018.

In 2019, a total of 2,271,700 passengers passed through Abidjan international airport, representing an increase of 3.8% compared 2018. The total number of commercial passengers increased by 4.7% to reach 2,064,216. These increases relate to all destinations. For instance, traffic with Africa increased by 1.8% despite a general decrease of 0.9% within ECOWAS. Traffic with Europe increased by 5.7%, primarily due to the increase of traffic with France (+5.3%). Domestic air traffic benefited from the rehabilitation of San Pedro airport and of interior aerodromes, which led to an increase of 28.3% to reach 93,906 passengers.

To support Air Côte d'Ivoire during the Covid-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact on the airline, the Government adopted a dedicated support and recovery plan with a budget of CFAF 15 billion. As of 30 June 2020, a total amount of CFAF 14.0 billion was disbursed to help Air Côte d'Ivoire cover cash deficits and fixed costs, as well as debt repayments from April to June 2020. While the Government is confident that the dedicated support and recovery plan will help to keep Air Côte d'Ivoire afloat pending the lifting of travel restrictions and gradual resumption of air travel in the western Africa region and worldwide, it is currently preparing a post-Covid-19 support plan with a budget of CFAF 20 billion. The post-Covid-19 support plan is designed to support the development of Air Côte d'Ivoire, including the modernization of its fleet through acquisition of additional and more fuel efficient aircraft and the opening of new routes.

Other projects are also planned, both in Abidjan and in the country's interior. These include:

- the creation of the *Aérocité* consisting of the construction of an Abidjan airport zone;
- feasibility studies for the creation of an international airport in San Pedro that will be dedicated to freight;
- the certification of the Yamoussoukro and Bouaké airports;
- the rehabilitation of certain infrastructure of the Abidjan airport and interior aerodromes;
- the creation of an aerodrome in the east of the country (Bouana or Bondoukou); and
- continuing the reinforcement of the Air Côte d'Ivoire fleet, initiated with the acquisition of three aircraft in 2017, one aircraft in 2019 and the contemplated acquisition of three aircraft between 2020 and 2021. With regard to the capital increase of Air Côte d'Ivoire, out of the CFAF 67 billion subscribed in 2016, only CFAF 50 billion or 75% had already been effectively paid up. On 31 March 2019, the shareholders (West African Development Bank and Air France Finance) paid up the last quarter of their subscription, in cash (West African Development Bank) and through compensation (Air France Finance). Côte d'Ivoire paid up the last quarter of its subscription,

i.e. CFAF 5.2 billion in 2020, and Goldenrod, another shareholder of Air Côte d'Ivoire, is still expected to pay up its subscription of CFAF 11.8 billion, the disbursement date of which has not been confirmed by Goldenrod.

Environment

Since the 1992 Earth Summit, Côte d'Ivoire, as a stakeholder, has endeavoured, within its means, to comply with its international commitments in the field of the environment and sustainable development. To this end, the Ivorian Government drew up the National Environmental Actions Plan (*Plan National d'Action pour l'Environnement*) in 1994. This led to the strengthening of the Government's policy promoting environmental protection, through the ratification of and accession to the Rio Multilateral Agreements, specifically the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the related Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification/Land Degradation and the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement. These international instruments have all been provided with strategic documents required for the planning and coordination of their implementation. The first National Development Plan (NDP) 2012-2015 integrated actions in favour of the environment and sustainable development. Despite its efforts, Côte d'Ivoire's environmental heritage is threatened and has been deteriorating over the years.

Indeed, Côte d'Ivoire faces environmental challenges relating in general to climate factors, poverty exacerbated by global crises, soaring population growth, the excessive expansion of cities and human activity. Specifically, these difficulties are linked to: (i) regulatory and institutional deficiencies (such as no implementing decrees for the Environmental Code and lack of rigor of the authorities in applying regulations); (ii) the reduction of forest cover, which has decreased from 12 million ha in 1960 to 3,427 million ha in 2016 (representing 10.64% of the national area), representing a 71.44% loss over the past 50 years; (iii) a loss of biodiversity linked to the significant pressure exerted by humans (deforestation, poaching); (iv) pollution of marine and lagoon ecosystems related, among other things, to the use of toxic products in continental fishing; (v) pollution of lagoon bays (Cocody, Banco, Bietry, etc.) as a result of untreated industrial and household runoff; and (vi) a failure to integrate sustainable development into sectoral policies and plans.

In response to these challenges, the environmental actions as defined in the 2016-2020 NDP are intended to: (i) reinforce the institutional and regulatory framework of the environment, (ii) raise awareness among the population about the protection of the environment, (iii) strengthen biodiversity conservation, (iv) contribute to the fight against coastal erosion, (v) promote green sectors, (vi) strengthen sustainable protection of the environment and (vii) reduce the risk of disaster.

With regard to the reinforcement of the institutional and regulatory framework, a road map for sustainable development was adopted in 2014. The national policy document on the environment is in the process of being adopted by the Council of Ministers. The Environmental Code, which dates back to 1996, is being updated. A legislative text introducing an environmental taxation scheme is currently being developed in collaboration with the *Conférence des Grandes Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire* (CGECI) and the Committee for Dialogue between the State and the Private Sector (*Comité de Concertation Etat Secteur Privé*). To this end, two studies to facilitate the introduction of this tax system were approved at the beginning of January 2019 by all stakeholders. At the international level, Côte d'Ivoire has ratified several international treaties, including the recent Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement, and implements common policies with other WAEMU or ECOWAS countries, as reflected by the creation of two international authorities to protect the Niger river. In addition to these ratified treaties, Côte d'Ivoire has joined certain mechanisms, the most recent of which include: (i) the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) in March 2018, (ii) the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), to which it submitted its Expression of Interest in August 2018 and (iii) the accession of Côte d'Ivoire to the Ministries of Finance coalition for climate action in January 2020, aiming at assisting the member states in order to better comprehend the challenges of climate change in public finances policies.

With regard to the preservation and promotion of national biological diversity and the support of ecological processes, major initiatives have been taken, including: (i) the creation of committees for local management of natural reserves and parks, composed of representatives from populations in areas surrounding these parks (Mount Nimba, Mount Sangbé National Park, Mount Péko, the Haut Bandama Fauna and Flora Reserve, the Lamto Scientific Reserve and the Marahoué National Park), (ii) the construction of a monitoring station for the Mount Nimba Natural Reserve, (iii) the manual maintenance of 320.5 km of tracks, 763 km of conventional boundaries, the regrading of 12.5 km of boundaries and the

installation of 66 boundary landmarks in the Comoé and Taï National Parks, (iv) the preparation of 219 ha of land for natural regeneration in the Mount Péko National Park and (v) the production and distribution of over 11,000 forest fruit tree seedlings to more than three organizations in the area surrounding the Taï National Park.

Concerning efforts to combat coastal erosion and reducing the risk of natural disaster, Côte d'Ivoire has an online geo-portal to improve the system through which environmental information is managed and to develop the coastal region. In addition, in view of strengthening the resilience of Ivorian populations living along the coastline, the investment project to promote the resilience of coastal regions that is part of the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) has been under implementation since November 2018. Investigations for the collection of socio-economic data are underway for the socio-economic assessment of the Grand-Lahou pilot zone as part of the implementation of the WACA project. In connection with this same project, a firm was hired to quantitatively assess the natural risks and install an early warning system (EWS) in the Grand-Lahou pilot zone.

With regard to climate change, Côte d'Ivoire's strategy to combat this scourge is based on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in the framework of the Paris Agreement. Côte d'Ivoire thus intends to implement measures of reduction of greenhouse gas emission and adaptation measures in order to reinforce its resilience against harmful consequences of climate change. One of the main activities consists in raising awareness in rural communities (NGOs, growers) and urban communities with respect to climate change and the solutions for adaptation in the agricultural world, training on inventories for emissions of gas and climate and air quality-related pollutants and training on the Quality Assurance/Quality Control management system for greenhouse gas inventories. The first Payment for Environmental Services (PES) contracts were also signed with 200 producers as part of the PES pilot project. This project will help to simultaneously improve agricultural productivity, food security and living conditions for growers, while also protecting residual forests and biodiversity. To develop a national strategy to mobilize climate finance resources, Côte d'Ivoire, through its technical ministries, is implementing a project to pave the way for access to climate finance. This project entails improving the institutional framework that governs interactions with climate finance, updating priority sectors to attenuate and adapt to climate change and designing and providing national procedure manuals.

As regards the promotion of sustainable development and green industries, Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with its Technical and Financial Partners, has finalized the report on indicators monitoring the progress of SDGs in September 2018. This report concerns the mapping of these indicators, the baseline status of SDG monitoring indicators and the work carried out to prioritize SDG targets with the indicators used to monitor the SDGs implementation. The final report was presented at the United Nations High-Level Summit in July 2019.

In an effort to protect Ivorian forests, the Government adopted a new forest policy in May 2018: the Declaration of Policy for the Preservation, Rehabilitation and Expansion of Forests (*Déclaration de Politique de Préservation, de Réhabilitation et d'Extension des Forêts*). This policy, which is based on four principles and organized around six main objectives, addresses both the country's goal of achieving 20% forest cover and its land development and agricultural performance policies. This policy is supported by a new Forestry Code, adopted by the Government in 2019, which introduced the innovative approach of classifying forests to categories according to their level of deterioration. The new forest policy's objectives are the following: (i) to preserve biodiversity, (ii) to preserve a "national climate" conducive to agricultural activities and quality of life, (iii) to honour Côte d'Ivoire's commitments in favour of a "world climate"; and (iv) to gather the necessary forest resources to maintain and sustainably develop a competitive timber industry that will satisfy the domestic wood fuel needs. In addition, in view of restoring its forest cover, Côte d'Ivoire has been engaged, since June 2011, in the REDD+ process. This international mechanism aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and the deterioration of forests, including through sustainable development of natural resources, the reinforcement of forest carbon stocks and the conservation of forests. Côte d'Ivoire has also become a member of two international platforms for technical and financial support for REDD+: the UN-REDD program (an FAO/UNDP/UNEP partnership) and the FCPF (World Bank). In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has benefitted, since 2013, from the support of several technical and financial partners, including the French Development Agency (AFD), through the C2D and the EU REDD+ Facility. The National REDD+ Strategy, approved in 2017, has led to the implementation of several projects, including one concerning the monitoring of Côte d'Ivoire's land from space. Several major results have been obtained through this project, such as the availability of: (i) a land-cover database (maps of forests and land use); (ii) maps of changes in forest cover and land use on pilot sites, and (iii) a reliable system for monitoring and controlling land use.

The environment in urban zones has deteriorated as a result of industrial and domestic effluent wastes without prior treatment. The urban environment is further affected by the lack of an adequate wastewater system, with the poor areas hardly having any wastewater equipment. These issues are compounded by the rapid growth of the urban population, which now represents more than half of the total population. To implement the new system of collection and transportation of household and similar waste in the Abidjan District and definitively close the Akouédo landfill, an international tender process was launched in 2016. This process led, in 2017, to the selection of two private international operators, ECOTI SA and ECO EBURNIE, with which public service contracts for cleaning and sanitation services (in the form of PPPs) were signed and approved by the Council of Ministers on 25 October 2017. To implement these new services, the selected operators have mobilized new equipment and have built and operated, pursuant to technical and environmental requirements, modern waste management infrastructure (pooling sites and transfer centres). The new sanitation services in the Abidjan District were launched in the second half of 2018 under 7-year contracts. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire signed a service delegation agreement (in the form of a PPP) with CLEAN EBURNIE for the design, construction, financing and operation of a technical landfill in Kossihouen, which was approved by the Council of Ministers on 21 December 2017. This process aims to provide the District of Abidjan with modern infrastructure for ecological disposal of household and similar waste, with a view to launch waste recovery in subsequent years. The technical landfill in Kossihouen became operational in August 2018, also under a 7-year contract. The establishment of a sector dedicated to the ecological management of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) and used tyres began with the selection of the SGS Group (*Société Générale de Surveillance*) and the SAR (*Société Africaine de Recyclage*) through a service agreement in April 2017, the communication of this contract to the Council of Ministers on 21 December 2017 and the signature of a memorandum of understanding in January 2018. The project launched in November 2018.

With respect to water resources, Côte d'Ivoire has four primary tributaries (the Cavally, the Sassandra, the Bandama and the Comoé) and three main lagoon systems as well as many coastal rivers (the Ebrié, Grand-Lahou and Aby lagoon systems and the Mé and Agneby rivers). These lagoon systems and basins are the recipients for industrial effluents as well as agricultural and urban ground leaching. These areas are made up of invasive aquatic plant species and concentrations of algae.

Subterranean water is available throughout Côte d'Ivoire, often with varied supply and accessibility conditions, in the main geological formations which are the granitic bedrock and the sedimentary basin, occupying 97% and 3% of the territory, respectively. This water is used primarily for water supply through urban and village hydraulic systems. During the 2011 post-election crisis, the hydrological observation networks were destroyed. This situation was very detrimental to quality of data and especially to the supervision of hydrometric stations calibration. As part of a policy of sustainable development and preservation of water tables, the Government is concentrating on linking provincial villages and rural areas to rivers in close proximity, to ensure their drinking water supply. The Government thus expects to resolve the drinking water supply issue for the Abidjan area. It is in this context that it engaged in the construction and the inauguration in December 2014 of the water treatment facility of Yopougon Niangon and in March 2015 of the provision centre for drinking water in Bonoua. Additional projects designed to provide drinking water to the rest of the country are underway.

As part of the effort to monitor the quality of surface waters in rural areas, measurements and analyses are regularly carried out in Ivorian waters, particularly in the Aby lagoon, along the Ivorian coast and in the Comoé and Bandama rivers. Also, as part of the preparation for possible accidental pollution, a simulation exercise of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan is organized in Abidjan and Jacquville on an annual basis in order to develop the reflex of the plan's stakeholders. As part of the project to safeguard and enhance the value of the Cocody Bay, a feasibility study on the clean-up of Abidjan's lagoon bays was carried out in 2018, after which the identified the sanitation work was carried out.

In terms of fishery production, the use of toxic products in continental fishing has also resulted in the destruction of fishing areas. This situation has contributed to a drastic reduction in the number of species, some of which are threatened with extinction. Due to the lack of an adequate treatment system for contaminated waste coming from domestic, industrial, agricultural, mining and maritime activities, the sea and lagoon ecosystems are strongly affected by pollution.

The implementation of the first generation NAIP has also led, in general, to a net increase in fishery production (fishing and aquaculture), which has recorded cumulative growth of 90.76% over the 2012-2016 period. Environmental matters

and sustainable development were not sufficiently taken into account in the first generation NAIP. However, efforts have been made in terms of raising awareness and training for (i) NGOs involved in climate change matters, as noted above and (ii) producers in environmentally safe agricultural practices, soil conservation and environmental protection techniques using renewable energy and the proper agrochemical products. In the agricultural sector, a project aiming to manage obsolete pesticides and related waste has led to the establishment of a national inventory of pesticides in 90% of the country and the identification of 6,000 repositories. Approximately 1,000 tons of obsolete pesticides have been seized through voluntary declarations and the control of illegal pesticides. A pesticide database has been created and is currently being consolidated in preparation for its use.

The Government has prepared the second phase of the NAIP, whose major goals are the local processing of agricultural production, an integrated way of addressing production questions with full water control, agricultural mechanization, professional training and marketing.

This second generation NAIP, covering the 2018-2025 period, for a total estimated cost of CFAF 11,905 billion, takes environmental matters and sustainable development further into consideration. This investment program intends to address the need for a coordination of action and results between the various activities concerned. The innovation introduced by this second phase of the NAIP is the establishment of nine agropoles covering the entire national territory. It will improve agricultural production and address the needs of private and public actors in terms of conservation, processing and sales.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

ICTs have experienced a notable expansion since the privatization of the telecommunications sector at the end of the 1990s. The telecommunications sector today counts three mobile telephone operators, two fixed telephone operators, four Internet providers and many value-added service providers. The sector is supported by high-quality and modern infrastructure as well as an expanding market. It represented 3.6% of nominal GDP in 2016 and generated approximately CFAF 1,021.1 billion of revenue the same year. In 2017, this sector contributed 3.8% of GDP. It is estimated at 3.5% of GDP in 2018, according to the data of the National Accounts. The contribution of the telecommunications sector to GDP is estimated at 3.4% in 2019 and is projected at 3.6% in 2020.

In 2013, the investment in this sector was CFAF 146.5 billion, of which CFAF 131.4 billion were for mobile telephony and CFAF 15.1 billion for fixed telephony and Internet. In 2014, investments in the sector reached CFAF 131.7 billion, of which CFAF 106.6 billion were for mobile telephony, CFAF 21.3 billion for fixed telephony and CFAF 3.8 billion for Internet. In 2015, investments came to CFAF 108.3 billion, of which CFAF 94.4 billion were for mobile telephony, CFAF 12.9 billion for fixed telephony and CFAF 937.5 billion for Internet. In 2016, investments significantly increased to reach CFAF 280.3 billion, primarily in connection with the acquisition of 4G licenses by the three mobile telephony operators and the completion of significant investments to deploy such technology. In 2017, investments decreased by 39% by comparison to the significant investments carried out in 2016. Investments in this sector amount to CFAF 174.1 billion in 2018 and CFAF 68.2 billion in 2019 and cumulative investments over the 2012-2019 period are estimated at approximately CFAF 1,265.6 billion. The number of jobs created in December 2015 was 2,310 as compared to 2,620 in December 2016.

The sector is dominated by mobile telephony with revenues of CFAF 743.3 billion in 2013, or 78.0% of total revenues for the sector (mobile telephony, landline telephony and internet), which reached CFAF 952.6 billion in 2013. In 2014, mobile telephony revenues reached CFAF 776.1 billion, fixed telephony revenues reached CFAF 172.1 billion and Internet revenues stood at CFAF 34.3 billion. In 2015, revenues reached CFAF 852.3 billion for mobile telephony, CFAF 142.4 billion for fixed telephony and CFAF 34.9 billion for Internet. In 2016, mobile telephony recorded revenues of CFAF 852.3 billion, or 79% of the sector's overall revenues, fixed telephony revenues reached CFAF 196.5 billion, or 18.2% of the sector's overall revenues, and CFAF 30.0 billion for fixed Internet (the revenue connected to mobile Internet and to mobile money are included in the revenues of mobile telephony operators), or 2.8% of the sector's overall revenues. In 2017, revenue from mobile telephony, fixed telephony and fixed Internet were CFAF 927.8 billion (89.2% of the sector's total revenue), CFAF 81.6 billion (7.8%) and CFAF 30.9 billion (3%), respectively. Fixed and mobile telephony respectively count 272,145 and 19.4 million subscribers in 2013. In 2014, the number of mobile telephony subscribers was 22.1 million and 5.2 million subscribers to the internet service (including mobile internet). In 2015 and

2016, mobile telephony comprised 25.4 million and 27.5 million subscribers, respectively. In 2017, the number of mobile telephony subscribers was 31.8 million, an increase of 15.6% compared to 2016. In 2018, the number of subscribers of mobile telephony was 33.8 million, an increase of 6.3% compared to 2017. In 2019, the number of subscribers of mobile telephony was 36.8 million, an increase of 8.9% compared to 2018. In order to further increase their number of subscribers, private operators continue to extend their telecommunications services to users living in rural areas.

The services offered to clients of the sector include mobile telephony 2G/3G/4G, fixed telephony (with and without cable), data transmission, access to fixed and mobile Internet as well as added value services (games, multimedia downloading and virtual currency).

In 2013, the number of Internet subscribers in Côte d'Ivoire was 133,955, an increase of 12.1% as compared to 2012. From 2009 to 2013, the revenue generated by the activities of Internet providers increased from CFAF 16.9 billion to CFAF 30.2 billion, which reflects the expansion of the Internet market in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2014 and 2015, taking into account mobile internet, the number of subscribers to internet services rose to 5.2 million and 8.7 million, respectively. In 2017, the number of internet subscribers rose to 17.2 million. In 2018, the number of internet service subscribers stood at 16.8 million, and it is estimated to increase to 17.2 million in 2019. International connectivity passes through four undersea cables (SAT-3, WACS; ACE and MainOne) while national connectivity passes through the National Internet Exchange Point (CIVIX). Some mobile telephone operators also offer mobile Internet solutions, by using technologies such as GPRS/EDGE, CDMA (EVDO protocol), 3G, Wimax and LTE. The means of connection used are USB data Internet, boxes and WIFI stations.

The table below presents the number of telephone lines as well as Internet subscriptions from 2014 to 2019:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mobile Telephones (in millions)	22.1	25.4	27.5	31.8	33.8	36.8
Fixed Telephones	242,684	277,248	289,108	305,562	302,398	305,086
Internet ⁽¹⁾	5,232,831	8,712,464	10,490,997	17,227,389	16,827,974	17,240,006

Source: Ministry of Communication, the Digital Economy and the Post Office

⁽¹⁾ 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 data take into account mobile internet.

The audio-visual space is comprised of multiple private and public television channels as well as private, public and local radio channels. In the audio-visual sector, the leading national channel covers the entire country, as compared to a 80% coverage before the political and military crisis than began in 2002. The written press includes approximately 30 dailies, weeklies, monthlies, bimonthlies and quarterlies.

The 2016-2020 NDP provides for the elaboration of a new Telecommunications Code and a new Postal Code to allow for the creation of a legal and regulatory framework promoting access to information and communication technologies as well as a universal postal service.

The Government is also planning certain measures to encourage the population's access to a high-quality, low-cost telecommunications service, including (i) the realization of a project to develop the country's optic fibre network, (ii) the reopening of 66 postal offices, and (iii) the reopening the *Institut Supérieur Africain des Postes et Télécommunications*, that occurred in 2012 (and is now called *Ecole Supérieure Africaine des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication*). With AFD's support, Côte d'Ivoire is building an optic fibre network, reaching 5,435 km in 2019, with an objective of 7,000 km. Côte d'Ivoire also reopened 40 postal offices in 2019, with an objective of 66.

Labour Market

The labour market in Côte d'Ivoire is divided into two branches: the formal sector and the informal sector. The formal sector involves the public sector and the private formal sector. Save for surveys on the employment situation and registrations with Social Security Institutions, information about Côte d'Ivoire's labour market (particularly the informal sector) is limited by the lack of available statistical data. However; experts from the Labour Markets Information System

(*Système d'Information sur le Marché du Travail*, "SIMT") are working to set up an independent national observatory for employment capable of developing such tools.

After the November 2012 study of the employment situation, the Government carried out a second study for which the indicators were determined by the new rules adopted by the International Labor Office at the end of the 19th International Conference of Labor Statisticians in October 2013. This second study found an unemployment rate of 5.3%, as compared to 5.8% in the previous study. However, the results of the 2016 National Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (*Enquête Nationale sur la Situation de l'Emploi et le Secteur Informel "ENSESI"*) found that Côte d'Ivoire's unemployment rate was 2.8%. The 2017 Regional Integrated Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (*Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Secteur Informel*, "2017 ERI-ESI") established the unemployment rate at 3.3%.

According to this survey, the unemployment rate remains high in urban areas (8.6% in Abidjan, 2.8% in other cities) compared to rural areas (0.6%). It is also higher among young people. The unemployment rate is higher among women (3.9%) than men (2.9%).

This survey showed that the employed population is 7,646,169 persons, including 40.3% women and 59.7% men, and comprises 51.1% of uneducated persons. The district of Abidjan concentrates nearly a quarter (24.2%) of the employed population.

An analysis of the characteristics of employment in Côte d'Ivoire found that 41.8% of the jobs are in the agricultural sector (31.2% women and 68.8% men), 12.5% in the industrial sector (33.2% women and 66.8% men), 22.3% in trade (62% women and 38% men) and 23.4% in the service industry. Among surveyed women, 91.7% hold informal jobs. The 2017 ERI-ESI shows that employment in Côte d'Ivoire remains mostly informal (88.4%), although informal employment has been steadily decreasing, from 96.6% in 2014 to 93.6% in 2016 until it reaches its present value. Salaried employment accounts for less than a quarter of employment (22.8%).

The 2017 ERI ESI shows that the average remuneration from employment in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017 is CFAF 95,712. The lowest incomes are concentrated in jobs as family helpers and apprentices. Their average monthly remuneration is CFAF 55,490. The highest incomes are those of senior managers or engineers, with an average monthly income of CFAF 516,766. More than half (56.7%) of the jobs are paid below the guaranteed minimum wage (SMIG).

Côte d'Ivoire is involved in eradicating child labour, through an international and national legal framework. The international framework includes the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (since February 2003), the ILO Convention no. 138 on Minimum Age (since February 2003), the ILO Convention no. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (since February 2003), the UN Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (since August 2011) and the Ten-Year Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Africa (2020-2030). On a national level, an inter-ministerial and a national committee are both dedicated to fighting child labour. Since 2011, actions implemented and related initiatives have enabled Côte d'Ivoire to be consistently ranked in category 2 of the value scale established by the U.S. Department of State to evaluate the efforts of states worldwide. This category corresponds to that of States whose efforts are recognized in the fight against child labour. The country has thus met the ILO's criteria, in 2019, to become a "Pioneer Country" of the 8.7 SDG Alliance. The Government's current efforts aim at significantly reducing the worst forms of child labour by 2025. Côte d'Ivoire also benefits from the active support of the ILO through the "accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa" (ACCEL Africa) regional project with particular focus on specific supply chains, namely cacao, coffee, cotton and gold. The ACCEL Africa project is designed to accelerate action against child labour as part of the 8.7 SDG Alliance on the elimination of child labour by 2025.

Informal Sector

According to the 2017 ERI-ESI, Informal Production Units ("IPUs") relating to trade employ 40.5% of employed persons in the IPUs, and the IPUs relating to industry and services sectors employ respectively 34.2% and 22.3% of paid jobs in IPUs. Employment in IPUs is strongly focused on self-employment (63.5% of IPUs). The rate of salaried employment in the IPUs is very low (11.5%).

The proportion of women in jobs in the informal sector averages 57.7%. They are more represented in the trade sector (67.6%) but account for only 34.5% of jobs in industry. In rural areas, women account for 62.3% of employment in the informal sector, compared to 55.3% in urban areas.

The average age of the workforce in the informal sector is 33.8. However, differentials in the average age can be observed depending on the employment sector. Young people under the age of 25 account for 28.7% and 22.4% of workforce respectively in industry and services. The workers of these two sectors have an average age of 32.2 and 33.2 respectively. In trade, where the average age of the workforce is 34.8, only 18.2% are under 25.

The informal sector exists in industry, trade and services. The tables below present the structure by branch of IPU:

Place of Residence and Business Area	Employment rate	Self- employment	Non salaried			Salaried	Mixed
			<i>(as a percentage)</i>				
Abidjan							
Industry	29.7	42.5	22.9		29.7	4.9	
Trade	16.7	66.1	15.7		16.7	1.5	
Services	26.8	53.5	16.0		26.8	3.8	
Total	23.2	55.8	18.0		23.2	3.1	
Other Urban							
Industry	17.5	42.8	37.8		17.5	1.9	
Trade	6.6	74.3	17.4		6.6	1.7	
Services	14.2	55.2	28.2		14.2	2.4	
Total	11.5	60.8	25.7		11.5	2.0	
Total Urban							
Industry	20.7	42.7	33.8		20.7	2.7	
Trade	8.9	72.4	17.0		8.9	1.7	
Services	17.0	54.8	25.5		17.0	2.7	
Total	14.3	59.6	23.9		14.3	2.2	
Rural							
Industry	12.4	59.6	27.6		12.4	0.4	
Trade	4.8	74.6	19.4		4.8	1.2	
Services	7.6	69.2	21.0		7.6	2.2	
Total	7.7	68.9	22.2		7.7	1.2	
Total							
Industry	17.1	50.1	31.1		17.1	1.7	
Trade	7.2	73.3	18.0		7.2	1.5	
Services	13.2	60.7	23.7		13.2	2.5	
Total	11.5	63.5	23.1		11.5	1.8	

Source: 2017 ERI ESI

Place of Residence and Business Area	non- related to the head of IPU	unpaid workers or paid in kind	workers under 25	women	Job tenure	Average age of workers	Average length of successful studies
Abidjan							
Industry	24,1	25,9	28,3	35,5	6,4	32,1	7,8
Trade	9,9	34,1	14,7	64,0	6,3	34,5	10,4
Services	20,0	31,1	20,5	45,7	5,2	33,2	9,7
Total	15,6	31,4	19,3	53,0	6,1	33,6	9,6
Other Urban							
Industry	29,7	47,3	32,7	30,1	7,9	31,4	7,6
Trade	4,9	36,4	19,6	68,2	6,2	34,9	10,3
Services	17,3	47,0	24,7	61,2	5,5	32,8	9,1

Total	14,0	41,7	24,1	57,0	6,5	33,5	9,3
Total Urban							
Industry	27,4	38,5	30,9	32,3	7,3	31,7	7,7
Trade	7,0	35,5	17,5	66,4	6,3	34,7	10,3
Services	18,3	40,9	23,1	55,3	5,4	32,9	9,3
Total	14,7	37,5	22,2	55,3	6,3	33,6	9,4
Rural							
Industry	15,2	39,1	24,0	38,9	7,9	33,4	9,1
Trade	5,6	37,5	19,5	69,9	5,8	35,1	10,5
Services	5,1	39,9	21,0	68,3	6,1	33,6	9,9
Total	7,7	38,5	20,9	62,3	6,4	34,3	10,0
Total							
Industry	23,5	38,7	28,7	34,5	7,5	32,2	8,1
Trade	6,5	36,2	18,2	67,6	6,1	34,8	10,4
Services	13,6	40,6	22,4	59,9	5,7	33,2	9,5
Total	12,3	37,8	21,8	57,7	6,3	33,8	9,6

Source: 2017 ERI ESI

Analysis of the data in the above table shows that only 12.3% of the persons employed in IPU are not related to the head of the IPU in which they work. Industry is the sector in which employed persons are least related to the heads of the IPU in which they work (23.5%).

In addition to the low wage rate in the informal sector, 37.8% of workers in this sector are unpaid or paid in kind.

As for the under-25s, they account for 21.8% of those employed in the informal sector.

Employment continues to be at the centre of the Government's priorities and has been subject to several reforms in order to offer more quality jobs to young people and further reduce job precariousness. After having adopted a National Employment Policy (*Politique Nationale de l'Emploi*) on 7 June 2012, and an Employment Revival Strategy (*Stratégie de Relance de l'Emploi*) on 26 November 2013, the Government, in its desire to promote the creation of sustainable employment, established the Youth Employment Agency (*Agence Emploi Jeunes*) in April 2015. This organization, arising from the desire to rationalise operational employment systems, is responsible for organizing the contributions of various participants in order to address the issue of youth employment. The Youth Employment Agency has already provided employment opportunities to over 120,000 young people since its creation.

After the implementation of the SRE in 2015, the Government, placing particular emphasis on youth employment, adopted a 2016-2020 National Employment Policy (*Politique Nationale de l'Emploi 2016-2020*) as well as National Strategy for the Youth Employment and Integration (*Stratégie Nationale de l'Emploi et de l'Insertion des Jeunes*), the adoption and implementation of which have improved the employability of young people and offered them more quality employment opportunities. Thus, the Government has carried out and continues to carry out major reforms aimed at renewing the supply of training leading to qualifications and diplomas in order to ensure the employability and integration of young people. In addition, since 2017, various tax benefits have been granted to businesses based on their contributions to improving employability or creating jobs for young people. In addition, a Fund to Support Youth Professional Integration and Employment (*Fonds d'Appui à l'Insertion Professionnelle et à l'Emploi des Jeunes*) was established to support, in particular, the National Program to Support the Integration of Vulnerable Individuals (*Programme National d'Appui à l'Insertion des Personnes Vulnérables*) (women, handicapped individuals, individuals over 35 years of age) and the 2016-2020 Decent Employment Country (*Pays du Travail Décent*) program.

The Government, with the support of technical and financial partners, is gradually adapting professional training to the needs of the labour market by carrying out reforms to professional training. Since 2019, after adopting the texts that should govern the institutional framework, the Government has been implementing a reform aiming at (i) meeting the demands of technical and professional training, (ii) providing training adapted to the qualification needs expressed by the labour market, (iii) strengthening the school and company partnership, (iv) ensuring the conditions for the sustainable integration of job seekers and individuals in precarious situations, (v) setting up a skill certification mechanism, in cooperation with professional communities and (vi) promoting and implementing an effective and efficient governance

of Technical and Professional Training (*Formation Technique et Professionnelle*), while emphasizing the autonomy and responsibility of educational and training institutions. The Government is currently preparing a project on the Validation of Acquired Experience (*Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience –VAE*). This initiative is designed to help all economic actors who do not necessarily have an initial technical or professional training, to increase their productivity and improve employability.

The labour market in the modern sector (i.e. the sector covering workers registered in social protection structures) in Côte d'Ivoire recorded since 2012 an annual registration of approximately 860,579 new employees. Estimated at 83,906 in 2014, the number of new registrations in the modern sector reached 101,072 in 2018 before decreasing to 94,750 in 2019. In 2020, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of new registrations, at the end of October 2020 stood at 100,911. Most of the new registrations (85.48%) came from the private sector, whose performance supported the upward trend in registrations until 2018 before a decrease in 2019 and positive growth trends in 2020. The private sector registered 79,629, 76,072 and 83,764 employees respectively in 2015, 2016 and 2017, 89,041 employees in 2018, 83,625 employees in 2019 and 79,432 as of October 2020 (the Government projects the number of new registrations at over 90,000 at the end of December 2020).

The table below presents the evolution of registrations for the private sector as well as the inclusions to the Public Administration payroll file from 2014 to October 2020:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Oct. 2020	Total
Private sector	73,610	79,629	76,072	83,764	89,041	83,625	79,432	735,626
Public sector	10,296	17,313	10,123	11,946	12,031	11,125	21,479	124,953
Total	83,906	96,942	86,195	95,710	101,072	94,750	100,911	860,579

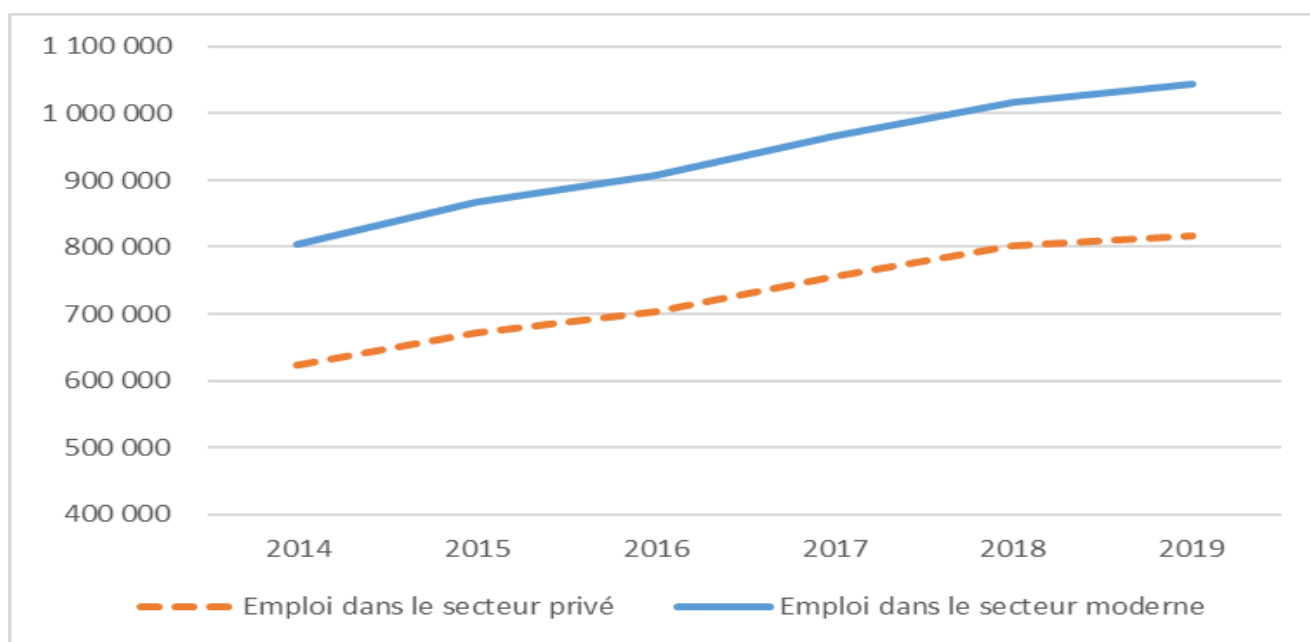
Source: *Tableau de bord Emploi, CNPS and CGRAE*

The table below presents the distribution of new registrations in the private sector in 2019. The sectors represented are those constituting approximately 96.15% of worker registrations in 2019:

<i>(as percentage (%))</i>	
Trade	29.84
Manufacturing industry	16.26
BPW	12.55
Ground and air transport	5.75
Private education	5.26
Agriculture	4.62
Forest-based agriculture	2.99
Engineering office	2.84
Agrobusiness	2.73
Hotel-restaurant	2.10
Financial institution	1.95
Cooperative group	1.72
Extractive industry	1.30
Health centers	1.28
Pharmaceutical business	1.13
General administration	1.02
Public service and ministries	0.97
Electricity	0.95
Logging and sawmilling	0.90

Source: *CNPS data; General Directorate of Employment calculations*

The chart below presents the evolution in the rate of employees in the modern sector (i.e. the sector covering workers registered in social protection structures) and the evolution in average jobs created per month in the private sector from 2014 to 2019:



* “Emploi dans le secteur privé” means employment in the private sector
 “Emploi dans le secteur moderne” means employment in the modern sector

Source : General Directorate of Employment, CNPS, SOLDE

In Côte d'Ivoire, the institutional framework is constantly being improved to provide an optimal production environment for the worker, the employer and the Government. Thus, complying with its international commitments through the relevant ratified instruments, Côte d'Ivoire, through its Labour Code of 2015, enables workers to organize themselves to defend and promote their rights. Union legislation, in particular the right to strike, is guaranteed by the Constitution. There are five trade union federations in Côte d'Ivoire which are the General Union of Côte d'Ivoire Workers (*Union Générale des travailleurs de Côte d'Ivoire* (UGTCI)); the Federation of Autonomous Unions of Côte d'Ivoire (*Fédération des syndicats autonomes de Côte d'Ivoire* (FESACI)); and the *Confédération des syndicats libres de Côte d'Ivoire*, also known as “*Dignité*”, the Humanism Trade Union Federation (*Centrale Syndicale Humanisme* (CSH)) and the National Union of Côte d'Ivoire Workers (*Union Nationale des Travailleurs de Côte d'Ivoire* (UNATRCI)). To these five trade union centres are affiliated various trade unions working for the interests of corporations, ministerial entities or other entities. In addition, in accordance with Annex II of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (Declaration on MNEs), Côte d'Ivoire has designated tripartite focal points and adopted an action plan in order to promote such Declaration. Within the framework of the Declaration and tripartite consultations, Côte d'Ivoire has established four structures, namely the Consultative Labor Commission (*Commission Consultative du Travail – CCT*), the National Council for Social Dialogue (*Conseil National du Dialogue Social - CNDS*), the Technical Consultative Committee for the Study of Questions related to the Health and Safety of Workers (*Comité Technique Consultatif pour l'étude des questions intéressant l'hygiène et la sécurité des travailleurs – CTC-HST*) and the Tripartite Consultative Committee on International Labor Standards (*Comité Consultatif Tripartite sur les Normes Internationales du Travail – CCTNIT*).

Promotion of SMEs

The implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP, which aims to change Côte d'Ivoire into an emerging economy, establishes the private sector as the engine of economic growth and the principal provider of jobs. As such, the Government has drafted a strategy with respect to SMEs, which accounted for 91% of the formal economic fabric, 20% of GDP, 17% of national investment and 25% of the active population in 2017. This strategy seeks to establish a series of measures to facilitate the creation, development and improved access to credit for SMEs, which represent approximately 50,000

companies). The goal is to create by 2020 a critical mass of competitive, dynamic and innovative SMEs, significantly contributing to Côte d'Ivoire's sustainable socio-economic development.

To this end, in view of stabilizing the SME environment, the Ivorian State adopted (i) Law No. 2014-140 of 24 March on the National Policy for the Promotion of SMEs (*Politique Nationale de Promotion des PME*) in 2014 as part of the implementation of the recommendations stemming from Decision No. 16/2003/CM/WAEMU relating to the Action Plan for the Promotion and Financing of SMEs in the WAEMU Region (*Programme d'Actions pour la Promotion et le Financement des PME dans l'UEMOA*), (ii) Decree No. 2015-525 of 15 July 2015 modifying Decree No. 2009-259 of 6 August 2009 on the Public Procurement Code, as amended by Decree No. 2014-306 of 27 May 2014, setting a quota for procurement contracts to be awarded to SMEs and introducing a margin of preference of 5% for local subcontracting, (iii) the tax credit that entered into force in 2016, (iv) Law No. 2017-802 of 7 December 2017 relating to leasing agreements, (v) the subcontracting and joint contracting charter signed on 12 August 2015 at the office of the Prime Minister in the presence of the Minister of National Entrepreneurship, the Promotion of SMEs and Crafts and the executives of the Ivorian Federation of SMEs (*Fédération ivoirienne des PME (FIPME)*), (vi) the creation of a Credit Information Bureau, on the basis of Decision No. CM/UEMOA/007/06/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the adoption of the draft uniform law on the regulation of Credit Information Bureaux (*Bureaux d'Information sur le Crédit (BIC)*) in the member States of the WAMU, (vii) the creation of the *Caisse des dépôts et consignations* during the Council of Ministers held on 10 January 2018 and the subsequent Law No. 2018-574 of 13 June 2018 on the creation, role, organization and functioning of the *Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations de Côte d'Ivoire (Cdc-CI)*, adopted by the National Assembly, (viii) and finally, the Development Strategy for Ivorian SMEs, entitled the Phoenix Program, at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 18 September 2015.

The Phoenix Programme is a global strategy for the development of SMEs. The coherence of this strategy adopted by the Government is ensured by the adoption of a road-map for the promotion and development of SMEs, and the creation of a SMEs Development Agency (*Agence de Développement des PME*). Its role will be to coordinate strategic actions to promote SMEs.

The Phoenix Programme focuses on four strategic axes: (i) facilitating access to financing and to public and private markets, (ii) reinforcing technical and managerial capacities, (iii) improving the business environment for SMEs, and (iv) developing a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. The plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 25 February 2014. At an expected cost of between CFAF 150 and 250 billion, the plan is designed to facilitate the creation and development of a fabric of innovative, dynamic and performing SMEs, that could amount to between 100,000 and 120,000 enterprises by 2020 and would contribute to the creation of jobs and wealth in the long term. With respect to public procurement, the State and the banks signed a convention on 11 March 2015 to facilitate access to bank loans for SMEs participating in public procurement.

The Phoenix Programme is currently being implemented. For this purpose, the Côte d'Ivoire SME Agency, in charge of implementing the Programme, was created and is now operational, which has contributed to accelerating the implementation of the Programme in order to promote and provide support for SMEs. Several initiatives have been launched as part of its implementation, including: (i) the creation in August 2017 of the Committee for the Identification of Support and Aid Structures on the initiative of the BCEAO and with the aim of supporting the financing of SMEs by establishing special dedicated windows in lending establishments through a mechanism for loan refinancing and assistance for eligible SMEs, (ii) the creation of a credit bureau for SMEs, established in 2016, which takes into account the specific characteristics of SMEs, (iii) the creation of an effective guarantee fund (under a public-private arrangement) for banks and the IMF, a decree on the organization and functioning of which was signed on 8 January 2020 and entered into force on 11 May 2020 and a management committee was created on 18 February 2020, (iv) the execution of a CFAF 5 billion agreement to finance Ivorian women entrepreneurs and a CFAF 10 billion agreement for artisans and local merchants with the Banque Atlantique Côte d'Ivoire (BACI) and Coris Bank, respectively, which has provided 80 women entrepreneurs with over CFAF 1.317 billion from the BACI, (v) the establishment of a collaborative platform with the Public Procurement Directorate (*Direction des Marchés Publics (DMP)*) to improve SMEs' access to the public procurement process, (vi) the signature of a framework agreement with the *Bourse de Sous-Traitance et des Partenariats (BSTP)* for the implementation of the SME development programme through the reinforcement of subcontracting in June 2016 with the FIPME, the CGECI, the Ministry of Economic Infrastructure, the Ministry of Budget and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, (vii) the establishment in Côte d'Ivoire of "entrepreneur status" (*statut de l'entrepreneur*), (viii)

the establishment of a collaborative platform with the Ministry of National Education in view of designing and implementing a programme for the promotion of entrepreneurial culture in schools, (ix) the organization of National SME Promotion Days by the FIPME; (x) the organization of the first edition of the women's financing day on 17 October 2017; (xi) the launching of the 100,000 women entrepreneur "caravan" by the FIPME in Dabou in May 2018 and (xii) the annual organization of the CGECI Academy, which began in 2012.

In addition, as part of the completion of a mapping of SMEs, the Agency is overseeing the establishment of an electronic identification platform and the "entrepreneur status" (*statut de l'entrepreneur*). With regard to SMEs' access to financing, two agreements have been signed with two private banks, for a total financing of CFAF 15 billion, and two other agreements have been signed with two other banks for a total financing of more than CFAF 350 billion. With the support of Bpifrance, a French organization centred on business financing and development, the Agency is also establishing a guarantee fund with a SME risk rating system. In addition, as a result of an agreement planned with the Regional Incubator of Aquitaine-Bordeaux (*Incubateur Régional d'Aquitaine-Bordeaux (IRA)*), an internationally renowned structure, Côte d'Ivoire is equipped with four pilot incubators (Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, Bouaké and San Pedro). The Abidjan incubator has been operational since 2018. The opening of the San Pedro incubator initially scheduled for March 2020 has been delayed to a later date to be determined due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The building housing the Bouaké incubator has been acquired and is waiting to be rehabilitated and equipped. In addition, a multi-year capacity-building program for managers, executives and associations of SMEs is currently being implemented.

Furthermore, the Government will continue to implement the Financial Sector Development Strategy (*Stratégie de Développement du Secteur Financier*) driven by the Financial Sector Development Program (*Programme de Développement du Secteur Financier*) to build a stable, attractive financial sector that responds to the economy's growing financing needs. The strategy's major initiatives relate primarily to stabilizing and developing the sector and improving financial inclusion. In this context, the final options concerning the portfolio restructuring of public banks and the microfinance sector will be finalized and implemented. Furthermore, improving the business framework, strengthening the transparency and availability of financial information and developing innovative financing for SMEs will be pursued, in addition to implementing the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (*Stratégie Nationale d'Inclusion Financière*) and strengthening the supervision of the insurance sector. The PDESFI is expected to help entrench the stability of the financial sector over time and allow for increased financing of the economy by increasing the bank usage rate and improving access to loans by households and SMEs.

The Government will also pursue the stabilization and strengthening of the supervision of the microfinance sector in order to facilitate financing of SMEs. In this respect, it will continue to carry out the National Microfinance Strategy (*Stratégie Nationale de la Microfinance*) to consolidate the stability of the microfinance institutions sector, improve the sector's governance and boost small savers' confidence.

To support SMEs in their search for financing, BRVM created on 19 December 2017 a compartment dedicated to SMEs on the stock exchange. To this end, it has launched a support programme called "ELITE BRVM LOUNGE", similar to the programme implemented by the London Stock Exchange and the Casablanca Stock Exchange. According to BRVM, this programme is designed to help the most efficient and effective companies in the industry to prepare and structure the next stage of their growth. The selection of issuers is in progress.

The Government is also focused on increasing the share of the SMEs in public procurement. The Government has thus adopted a competition management framework for public procurement below the procurement threshold of CFAF 100 million and completed in 2017 the creation of Public Procurement Departments (*Cellules de Passation des Marchés Publics*) within different ministries, with a view to gradually decentralizing public procurement procedures in order to facilitate competition by SMEs for public procurement.

Lastly, the Government plans to strengthen the attractiveness of its economy by pursuing the implementation of "Focus Doing Business" reforms designed to develop and strengthen the role of the private sector as an engine of economic growth and a job provider. In this respect, several reforms have already been implemented: (i) the Single Portal for Building Permits and the Credit Information Bureau (*Bureau d'Information sur le Crédit*), (ii) enhancing minority shareholder rights against agreements involving a conflict of interest, (iii) facilitating the repayment of VAT credits and (iv) implementing special procedures to settle small disputes.

The Government has implemented the 2018-2020 Reform Agenda, which has enabled Côte d'Ivoire to occupy the 110th place in the Doing Business 2020 report and to increase its ranking by 12 places as compared to the previous year. Building on these achievements, the Government adopted the 2020-2022 reform agenda in February 2020. This agenda integrates the unfinished reform projects and emphasizes the popularization of the implemented measures so as to make them visible in the field and for the Doing Business 2021 report. The 2020-2022 reform agenda includes 44 measures grouped into 12 projects. In addition, two additional projects have been initiated and aim at measuring the effectiveness and impact of the reforms.

Projects to improve the business environment include the following:

- introducing the Unique Identifier to newly registered companies within the country;
- regularizing formerly registered companies by assigning them a unique identifier in Abidjan and within the country;
- streamlining the dematerialization of licenses and business permits;
- establishing a support mechanism for newly created companies;
- establishing the collaborative platform and removing the requirement for proof of ownership, Topographical Extract Visas (*Visas Extrait Topographique*, VET) and Urban Planning Certificate (*Certificat d'Urbanisme*, CU);
- operationalizing the Unique Parcel Identifier and setting up a unified Geographic Information System;
- carrying out studies relating to electrical connections, international trade and updating of urban planning easements;
- improving the effectiveness of tax procedures;
- strengthening the effectiveness and transparency of the judicial system;
- strengthening business regulation and supporting companies in difficulty;
- regularizing the mass of untitled plots in the Autonomous District of Abidjan; and
- monitoring other reforms with stakeholders, in particular electricity and water companies, social security institutions, tax authorities, courts and the Ministry of Trade.

Private Investment Promotion

Strategy

Faced with the challenge of economic development, Côte d'Ivoire is committed to making the private sector the engine of its growth. The promotion of the private sector, begun in the 1990s with the policy of Government withdrawal from productive sectors, has accelerated over the years with the implementation of reforms aiming to increase Côte d'Ivoire's attractiveness. Since the implementation of the first 2012-2015 NDP, the private sector has contributed to more than two-thirds of GDP and to the creation of jobs. The Government has focused on consolidating the business climate. The "Doing Business 2019" ranking positions Côte d'Ivoire 122nd out of 190 countries in 2019 compared to 139th out of 190 countries in 2018, representing an increase of 45 ranks between 2012 and 2019. Côte d'Ivoire is once again among the top 10 reformers worldwide according to this report. In terms of good governance, according to the 2020 Mo Ibrahim index report, Côte d'Ivoire is among the eight nations that progressed in each of the four categories of the IIAG. It rose from 46th place to 18th place from 2010 to 2019. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire received the Anti-Corruption Award from the African Union during its 32nd ordinary session of the Assembly in February 2019. In terms of achievements, the investment rate was 19.8% in 2018 compared to 20.1% of GDP in 2017 and 21.5% of GDP in 2016, reflecting efforts

undertaken by the Government to simplify procedures to create business, good governance and the fight against corruption. This rate is expected to be 21.1% of GDP in 2019 and projected to be 22.7% in 2020 and 22.8 in 2021.

In addition, a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strategy was prepared by the Government. It is based on recent reports that present Asia and North America as the largest providers of FDI in the world. As such, the Government's efforts are targeted toward these geographic areas without forgetting its traditional partner, Europe.

According to the 2019 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report on worldwide FDIs covering the 2017-2018 period, global FDI flows to Africa increased by 11% to reach US\$46 billion in 2018. However, FDI flows to West African countries decreased by 14.6%, reaching US\$ 9,565 million. Among them, Côte d'Ivoire recorded a 6.2% decrease from 2017 to 2018, from US\$ 973 million to US\$ 913 million (representing a 58.2% increase from 2016, where the FDI inflows stood at US\$ 577 million). Nevertheless, Côte d'Ivoire remains the most attractive country in the WAEMU with 28.8% of FDI attracted over the period.

Furthermore, the Government intends to continue attracting private investments and to maintain the dynamic of strong, sustained and inclusive growth through (i) the restoration of security throughout the entire country, (ii) the consolidation of national reconciliation, (iii) the continued improvement of the business environment, with a view toward consolidating the confidence of households, economic operators and investors and (iv) the promotion of good governance. This framework is designed to encourage strong involvement of the private sector in building and public works, port and airport sectors, agriculture, energy, road infrastructure and housing. These investments are expected to help reduce the poverty rate and to revive employment, especially in the youth.

Investment Incentive Measures

The Government's private investment promotion strategy is strengthened by a set of investment incentive measures provided by the Investment Code, the Mining Code, the Telecommunications Code, the Environmental Code and the Labour Code. In this context, fiscal reductions were agreed upon in order to create the conditions necessary for a sustainable revival of the private sector. As such, the tax rate for industrial and commercial profits was reduced from 35% to 27% for individuals and to 25% for companies and legal persons. Furthermore, in the context of regional economic integration, customs, fiscal and sector-specific reforms were initiated to benefit companies.

The Investment Code, adopted through law 2012/487 of 7 June 2012 significantly improved the business climate and encouraged the flow of foreign capital, due, in particular, to (i) specific advantages to small and medium enterprises, (ii) lower investment caps, (iii) lengthening of the duration of guarantees (five, eight and 15 years) and (iv) the possibility to grant more favourable advantages to investors than those under the 1995 Code. In order to promote investments in the priority sectors of agriculture, agri-food, health and hotels, a new Investment Code was adopted in 2018. This new Code places a higher priority on regional development and the promotion of local content.

The Government adopted Decree No. 2012-05 of 11 January 2012, defining Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) for better targeting of policies. In 2013, the Government established a Single Portal for Business Formalities (*Guichet Unique des Formalités des Entreprises*) which aims to reduce the time required to set up businesses to a maximum of 48 hours and a minimum of 24 hours while simplifying procedures; and a Single Portal for Foreign Trade (*Guichet Unique de Commerce Extérieur*) to simplify formalities for the import of goods and reduce the number of documents required and deadlines for approvals.

Furthermore, on 2 May 2013, the Government adopted a new competition law to combat anti-competitive cartels and the abuse of dominant positions. In addition, the Government has carried out an in-depth reform of the public procurement law. Except for strictly regulated exceptions, public procurement contracts are the subject of a competitive tender bid process. The National Authority of the Regulation of Public Markets (*Autorité Nationale de Régulation des Marchés Publics*), an independent administrative authority, is in charge of ensuring fair and independent attribution procedures. Furthermore, a guideline to strengthen public markets was adopted on 27 May 2014 and provides for a separation of regulatory, executive and control functions in contracting as well as a procurement plan for credit administrators for greater transparency in the implementation in the budget. The public procurement system is now operational and will continue to be improved, in particular, by establishing Public Procurement Units (*Cellules de Passation des Marchés*

Publics (“CPMPs”)) throughout the ministries and putting the Integrated System for Public Procurement Management (*Système Intégré de Gestion des Marchés Publics*) online, which is intended to make transactions more accessible and accelerate their processing. All CPMPs have now been installed within the various ministries.

In addition to these measures, the implementation of a single form and other measures related to online procedures (online payments and statements) are effective and operational since January 2017. In addition, online tax reporting and payment were extended in 2018 to all medium and large companies. Payment of taxes and duties by mobile phone for property tax payers and combined tax payers has been in effect since February 2018. The Government has also intensified the implementation of reforms which have encouraged the move towards paperless procedures. In this respect, the single portal for investment services in Côte d’Ivoire is operational as of 8 December 2018 and features information on real estate property. The virtual electricity connection desk has been operational since 18 October 2018. Procedures for requesting electricity connections can now be completed online and Unit Price Slips (*Bordereau de Prix Unitaire* (BPU)) for connections are available, in addition to a quotation calculator and user access to Electricity Sector services. Capitalizing on these achievements, the Government is continuing to improve the business climate through the implementation of its new Reform Agenda for the 2018-2020 period, adopted by the Council of Ministers in September 2018. Thus, in 2019, the E-Cadastre application has been deployed, the statistics of the judicial activity of the Commercial Court of Abidjan are now online, the deadlines for carrying out geotechnical studies have been reduced from 25 to 10 days, the deadlines for issuing the fire safety notice have been reduced from 10 to 2 days, the deadlines for issuing the certificate of conformity have been reduced from 73 to 10 days and the online declaration of social contributions is currently operational.

Several targeted actions have been undertaken to favour the private sector, including the continuation of fiscal measures to support economic recovery, within the framework of the 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 tax annexes; the establishment of a bipartite committee to monitor VAT credit payments resulting in the non-accumulation of new VAT credits in 2012; the continuation of efforts to clear internal arrears; the regular payment of capital expenditure within 90 days to stimulate economic recovery by increasing investment through a system of isolation of resources allocated to the payment of investments with dedicated monitoring; the improvement of the conditions under which economic activity is carried out in order to fight against smuggling and counterfeiting and strengthen customs risk analysis; the strengthening of the fight against money laundering, with the creation of the National Cell for Financial Information Processing (*Cellule Nationale de Traitement de l’Information Financière*) and the operationalization of the Intergovernmental Action Group Against Money Laundering (*Groupe Intergouvernemental d’Actions contre le Blanchiment d’Argent*); the strengthening of private initiative dedicated structures such as the Investment Promotion Center in Côte d’Ivoire (*Centre de Promotion des Investissement en Côte d’Ivoire*), the Exportation Promotion Association in Côte d’Ivoire (*Association pour la Promotion de l’Exportation en Côte d’Ivoire*), the Ivorian Fund for Development of National Enterprise (*Fonds Ivoirien pour le Développement de l’Entreprise Nationale*), the Laboratory of Metrology and Analysis (*Laboratoire de Métrologie et d’Analyses*); and the creation of credit offices (*Bureaux de crédit*).

Reforms of the legal system have also been undertaken to improve the business climate, including the adoption in 2012 of a regulation on the recognition of arbitration judgments and the creation of commercial courts which issue decisions within a maximum period of 90 days. The Court of Appeal of the Commercial Court has been operational since April 2018.

Public-Private Partnerships

The Government considers PPPs to be a major tool for the fulfilment of the NDP and an important factor of growth and job creation. In addition to facilitating the realization of major infrastructure projects, PPPs are expected to boost Ivorian production, particularly in the agricultural sector, to stimulate the core of local SME/SMIs and develop the private sector. They are also expected to reinforce the Government’s decentralization policy by fostering the creation of local regional economic poles.

Côte d’Ivoire already has a long tradition in PPPs in various forms, particularly in the sectors of water (SODECI), energy (CIE, AZITO, CIPREL), transport (AERIA, SITARAIL, BIVAC and WEBB FONTAINE) and road infrastructure construction (third bridge of Abidjan, Henri Konan Bédié). PPPs have also been put into place for the hydraulics and sanitization sectors (wastewater treatment and household waste collection). Concessions have been signed in the

telecommunications sector between the State and Orange Côte d'Ivoire (formerly Côte d'Ivoire Telecom). Some PPPs have also been entered into in the domain of public health (such as the Mère-Enfant de Bingerville Hospital).

To capitalize on the country's strong potential to attract private investors and realize such partnerships, and to assist the Government's PPP strategy, a specific legal framework was implemented, in addition to the Investment Code and the Public Procurement Code, via three decrees: Decree No. 2012-1151 of 19 December 2012 relating to PPP contracts; Decree No. 2012-1152 of 19 December 2012 on the responsibilities, organization and functioning of the institutional framework for managing PPPs; and Decree No. 2014-246 of 8 May 2014 amending Decree No. 2012-1152 of 19 December 2012. Furthermore, a National Steering Committee responsible for the promotion and development of PPPs was officially created on 23 August 2011. It is currently operational and constitutes a decision-making, validation and policy-making body for PPPs.

In December 2017, the CNP-PPP proposed draft texts to its upper management intended to replace the legal and institutional regime of public-private partnerships that has prevailed since 2012 with a new regulatory framework based on feedback on the implementation of PPP projects over the past four years.

The proposals of the CNP-PPP were approved, and the Council of Ministers, in its meeting on 29 March 2018, adopted two new decrees:

- Decree No. 2018-358 of 29 March 2018 establishing rules relating to public-private partnership agreements; and
- Decree No. 2018-359 of 29 March 2018 on the responsibilities, organization and functioning of the National Steering Committee for Public-Private Partnerships.

These new decrees intend to improve and strengthen the legal and institutional framework of PPP agreements with a view to encouraging and simplifying the execution of this specific type of public agreement in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular by providing a clear definition of PPP agreements and reinforcing the role of the CNP-PPP, which is now placed under the authority of the Prime Minister.

The CNP-PPP aims at improving and reinforcing the legal and institutional framework of PPP agreements in order to stimulate development and simplify the execution of these specific public agreements in Côte d'Ivoire. Of the approximately fifty PPPs in force, only three provide for a state guarantee to the lenders. The only agreement having enforced such guarantee in relation to the non-achievement of a minimum monthly traffic is the concession agreement for the third bridge of Abidjan; which is already being closely monitored. The payments made by the State are recorded in the budget each year since their occurrence.

Privatizations

In order to promote the private sector and efficiently manage the State's portfolio, the Ivorian Government adopted a strategy on 26 May 2012 in order to restructure public companies. The strategy's goal was to reduce the State's portfolio by 25% through privatization, merger and liquidation. At the 2 December 2013 Council of Ministers, the Government established a list of 15 companies to be privatized: SIB, BIAO-CI, BFA, VERSUS-BANK, SMI, NEI-CEDA, SUCRIVOIRE, CI-ENGINEERING, SN-SOSUCO, SIVAC, SONITRA, TRCI, CI-TELECOM, IPS-WA and PALMAFRIQUE.

To successfully accomplish this goal, a Privatization Committee was created in May 2013 by the President of the Republic, via Decree No. 2013-321 of 21 May 2013 appointing nine members, later supplemented by 11 members via Decree No. 2014-315 of 4 June 2014. This committee became operational in November 2013. It is responsible for implementing the privatization strategy prepared by the Government. From 2013 to 2019, it carried out eight asset sale transactions concerning the SMI, SIB, NEI-CEDA, the 10 villas of the Indénié hotel, Sucrivoire, the CIDT, NSIA bank and the BHCI. These transactions provided Côte d'Ivoire with total proceeds of circa CFAF 90 billion. However, as regards the BHCI, the buyer failed to fulfil its commitments. The Government thus decided on 13 November 2019 to cancel the transfer of the State's shareholding. Furthermore, BFA bank was liquidated on 30 September 2014.

To date, the status of progress of privatizations is as follows:

- Process completed: eight companies

- Société Ivoirienne de Banque (SIB)
 - Nouvelle Edition Ivoirienne – Centre d’Edition et de Diffusion Africaine (NEI-CEDA)
 - Adjoining villas of the Hôtel Indénié d’Abengourou
 - Compagnie Ivoirienne de Développement des Textiles (CIDT)
 - SUCRIVOIRE
 - Société Nouvelle Sucrière de la Comoé (SN SOSUCO)
 - Société des Mines d’Ity (SMI): sale of 25% to ENDEAVOUR MINING CORPORATION
 - Nouvelle Société Interafricaine d’Assurance (NSIA) Banque
- In progress: seven companies
- Société des Mines d’Ity (SMI): sale of 5% of the share capital of the Didier DROGBA group
 - CI-ENGINEERING
 - PETROCI – Gas
 - La Loyale Vie: sale of the stake held by Caisse Nationale des Caisses d’Epargne (CNCE)
 - Société Nationale Ivoirienne des Travaux (SONITRA)
 - Orange Côte d’Ivoire (formerly, Côte d’Ivoire TELECOM)
 - Palmafrique
- Awaiting review: two companies
- Versus Bank
 - Banque de l’Habitat de Côte d’Ivoire
- Suspended: two companies
- Tropical Rubber Côte d’Ivoire (TRCI)
 - Industrial Promotion Services Côte d’Ivoire (IPS WA)

Free Trade Zones

The development of free trade zones or of special economic zones plays an increasing role in Ivorian economic policy. It targets two main objectives: (i) creating a regional development centre and (ii) increasing the labour sector’s potential. The creation of the first free trade zone, initially planned in Grand Labou (152 km from Abidjan), was finally completed in 2007 in the city of Grand Bassam (43 km from Abidjan). A company with a minority public shareholding, *Village des Technologies de l’Information et de la Biotechnologie*, was created in November 2007 to develop and coordinate the activities of this free trade zone, known as the “Free Trade Zone of Biotechnology and Information and Communication Technologies” (*Zone Franche de la Biotechnologie et des Technologies de l’Information et de la Communication* (the “ZBTIC”)) of Grand-Bassam. To date, approximately 30 companies are licensed users and there is one authorized facilitating company within the Free Trade Zone.

In addition, since 2015, development works of 180 hectares are underway to establish high-quality, viable facilities that are easy to access and less than 10 minutes from the Abidjan airport, thereby making the ZBTIC the most attractive zone for investment within the region. Within this framework, general earthworks, roads and various networks dedicated to biotechnology and ICT companies have been completed. The building of the business hotel has been constructed and

houses about ten companies. The fence securing the VITIB space has been rehabilitated and biotechnology equipment and ICT infrastructures have been installed on the site.

The Government intends to exports goods to the region from this free trade zone and thereby strengthen its business leadership. In this respect, VITIB's development plan will take place over 20 years. The Government's objective is to involve the country in the knowledge-based economy of the future and offer foreign and multinational companies an economic space favourable to their investments.

In this respect, Law No. 2018-985 relating to the free trade zone regime was adopted by the National Assembly and promulgated by the President of the Republic on 28 December 2018. This law is intended to (i) strengthen the domestic economy's competitiveness, (ii) develop export-oriented economic activities and (iii) strengthen job and wealth creation. This law is consistent with the broader goal of the Government's industrial policies. It will involve developing new centres of economic growth in Abidjan and inside the country, seizing the opportunity of the relocation of numerous export-oriented international companies and accelerating the transfer of technologies and developing new sectors of activities, namely in the sectors of fitting, assembly, electro-mechanics and electronics.

FOREIGN TRADE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Introduction

Balance of Payments

The balance of payments is used to record the value of the transactions carried out between a country's residents and the rest of the world. The balance of payments is composed of:

- the current account, which comprises:
 - net exports of goods and services (the difference in value of exports minus imports);
 - net factor income;
 - net transfers;
- the capital account, which represents the balance of non-financial assets and capital transfers between residents and non-residents; and
- the financial account, which represents the difference between financial inflows and outflows of direct investments, portfolio investments, derivatives and reserve assets.

Current Account

The current account records (i) flows of goods and services, (ii) flows of primary revenue and (iii) flows of secondary revenue between residents and non-residents. The balance of these accounts is known as the current account balance.

One of the most important components of the current account is the trade balance. The four primary factors that drive the trade balance are:

- the relative rate of economic growth of a country as compared to that of its trading partners generally: if a country's economy grows faster than that of its trading partners, its relative level of consumption of goods and services will tend to increase, and its level of imports will tend to increase more rapidly than its level of exports;
- the relative level of domestic prices against foreign prices, as reflected by the real exchange rate: generally, if a country's domestic prices increase relative to those of its trading partners, there is a tendency for the country's level of exports to decline, and for its level of imports to increase;
- changes in production costs, technology and worker skills: more efficient production will tend to lower production costs, which in turn will tend to lower prices. As prices fall, there will be a tendency for the country's level of exports to increase; and
- changes in consumer tastes, which may affect the demand for a country's goods and services abroad, and the demand for foreign products in the domestic market.

Côte d'Ivoire's current account deficit was CFAF 119.1 billion in 2015 (0.5% of nominal GDP), CFAF 245.5 billion in 2016 (0.9% of nominal GDP), CFAF 609.2 billion (2.2% of nominal GDP) in 2017, CFAF 1,153.9 billion in 2018 (3.9% of nominal GDP), and is estimated at CFAF 1,082.4 billion for 2019 (2.4% of nominal GDP).

Capital Account

The capital account records the financial flows linked to project grants and includes (i) capital transfers to be received and to be paid between residents and non-residents and (ii) the acquisition and sale of non-financial, non-produced assets between residents and non-residents.

Côte d'Ivoire received CFAF 137.3 billion, CFAF 156.4 billion and CFAF 110.9 billion of capital transfers in 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. This amount stood at CFAF 111.8 billion and CFAF 87.8 billion in 2017 and 2018, respectively. In 2019 capital transfers amounted to CFAF 107.6 billion and are estimated at CFAF 171.4 billion in 2020.

Financial Account

The financial account describes the way in which net financing capacities/needs are allocated or financed. It serves to quantify (i) FDIs, (ii) portfolio investments, (iii) financial derivatives and (iv) other investments.

Balance of Payments

As a member country of the WAEMU, Côte d'Ivoire's balance of payments is established by the BCEAO.

The table below presents balance of payments data for Côte d'Ivoire from 2015 to 2020:

<i>(in CFAF billions)</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Est.)
a. Current account (1+2+3)	(119.1)	(245.5)	(609.2)	(1,153.9)	(790.3)	(940.6)
1. Goods and services	680.2	638.4	584.7	60.2	533.2	555.7
Balance of goods	1,874.0	1,817.8	1,959.4	1,363.7	1,846.4	2,250.4
Exports of goods FOB ⁽¹⁾	6,938.0	6,449.3	6,899.7	6,619.6	7,399.2	7,871.9
Imports of goods FOB	(5,064.0)	(4,631.5)	(4,940.3)	(5,255.9)	(5,552.8)	(5,621.5)
Imports of goods CIF ⁽²⁾	(5,957.6)	(5,448.8)	(5,758.5)	(6,183.4)	(6,111.8)	(6,613.5)
Balance of services	(1,193.9)	(1,179.5)	(1,374.6)	(1,303.4)	(1,313.2)	(1,694.7)
Credit	453.0	541.6	565.2	624.8	680.9	629.1
Debit	(1,646.8)	(1,721.1)	(1,939.8)	(1,928.3)	(1,994.1)	(2,323.9)
2. Primary income	(595.5)	(637.8)	(893.7)	(904.9)	(985.8)	(1,186.0)
3. Secondary income	(203.7)	(246.1)	(300.1)	(309.3)	(337.8)	(310.3)
Public administrations	98.1	83.4	88.6	86.5	94.4	103.5
Other sectors	(301.8)	(329.5)	(388.7)	(395.8)	(432.1)	(413.8)
b. Capital account (4+5)	156.4	110.9	111.8	84.7	105.3	172.4
4. Acquisitions/sale of non-financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	(3.1)	(2.3)	1.0
5. Capital transfers	156.4	110.9	111.8	87.8	107.6	171.4
Public administrations	128.6	106.2	115.2	87.4	107.4	171.4
Other sectors	27.8	4.7	(3.4)	0.3	0.0	0.0
c. Balance of current account and capital account (a+b)	37.4	(134.6)	(497.4)	(1,069.2)	(685.0)	(768.2)
d. Financial account (6+7+8+9)	(250.3)	(87.4)	(496.7)	(1,356.3)	(1,164.2)	(863.6)
6. Direct investments	(283.8)	(325.5)	(173.6)	(264.2)	(433.4)	(380.3)
7. Portfolio investments	(574.2)	(349.3)	(783.6)	(888.7)	(9.4)	(581.1)
8. Derivative financial instruments	0.0	0.0	(3.0)	0.5	0.0	1.0
9. Other investments	607.7	587.4	463.5	(203.8)	(721.4)	96.8
Public administration	(174.5)	(53.6)	(314.3)	(340.7)	(601.7)	(372.6)
Other sectors	782.2	640.9	777.7	136.9	(119.7)	469.4
e. Errors and omissions (net)	(39.1)	5.8	(2.9)	(2.5)	(1.5)	0.0
f. Overall balance (c-d+e)	248.5	(53.1)	(3.6)	284.6	477.7	95.4
g. Valuation Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁽¹⁾ FOB – “Free on board” exports, without transportation fees and other fees and related taxes and without insurance.

⁽²⁾ CIF – Cost, insurance, freight (FOB + freight, insurance, travel and other nonfactor services).

Source: BCEAO

Balance of Payments in 2015

The balance of payments recorded a surplus of CFAF 248.5 billion at the end of 2015, after recording a global surplus of CFAF 273.8 billion a year before.

In particular, the current account balance recorded a deficit of CFAF 119.1 billion (-0.4% of GDP), compared to a surplus of CFAF 252.2 billion in 2014, in connection with a deepening of the deficit in services, primary and secondary income, combined with a decrease in the surplus of the balance of goods.

The surplus of the balance of payments decreased by 2.1% compared to the level reached in 2014, in connection with a less significant rise in exports than in imports.

The deficit of services grew by 11.8% compared to 2014, due to an increase in freight payments, consumption of construction and public works services and a strong demand in various specialized services.

Similarly, the primary income deficit worsened by 32.5% in 2015, due to an increase in public debt interest and investment income payments, as a result of increased financial liabilities of companies towards foreigners.

With regard to secondary income, the deficit worsened by 40.1% compared to 2014, due to a decrease in budgetary aid received by the Public Administration and an increase in contributions to the functioning of international organizations, in particular the payment of community contributions and an increase in migrants' remittances issued.

The capital account surplus improved, in particular, with an increase of project grants received by the private sector.

The financial account showed a deficit of CFAF 250.3 billion, after a surplus of CFAF 89.9 billion in 2014, reflecting increased financial liabilities due to growth in foreign direct investments and portfolio investments.

Balance of Payments in 2016

At the end of 2016, the balance of payments showed a deficit of CFAF 53.1 billion, after recording a surplus of CFAF 248.5 billion in 2015, primarily as a result of an increase in the current account deficit.

The current account recorded a deficit of 0.9% of GDP due to deficits in primary and secondary incomes, as well as in services, despite the surplus of the balance of goods.

The surplus in the balance of goods decreased by 3.0% compared to 2015 in connection with a drop in the value of exports, which outweighed the drop in imports. Exports decreased by CFAF 488.7 billion in 2016 compared to 2015, due to a drop in the prices of several products, such as crude oil, oil products, rubber, processed wood, and green coffee. In addition, the quantities exported decreased in connection with the decrease in production of main export crops, particularly cocoa, cashew nuts, cotton and certain processed products (palm oil, processed cocoa and oil products). Imports of goods decreased by CFAF 432.5 billion in 2016 compared to 2015. They showed a rise in the volume of goods and a decrease in prices. The quantities of equipment goods, food products, and intermediate goods grew in connection with the implementation of the second NDP (2016-2020) and the increase in household consumption. Conversely, prices of goods fell, due to the lowering prices of food products, energy products, intermediate goods and equipment goods.

The structural deficit of the balance of services decreased by 1.2% in 2016, after having risen by 11.8% in 2015. This reduction reflects a rise in exports of services that more than offset a rise in imports of services. In addition, expenses linked to freight payments decreased due to a decline in imports of goods.

The deficit in the balance of primary income rose by 7.1%, in connection with a rise in investment income payments, due to a rise in financial liabilities of the economy with respect to foreign countries.

Similarly, the deficit in the balance of secondary income increased by 20.8% compared to 2015 as a result of an increase in amounts paid to sub regional bodies for community contributions and increased outward transfers of migrants.

The capital account recorded a reduced surplus compared to 2015, as a result of a decline in inward project grants.

The financial account showed a deficit of CFAF 87.4 billion, compared to CFAF 250.3 billion in 2015. This situation reflects a rise in financial liabilities of the economy with respect to foreign countries, due to inflows from portfolio investments and a rise in foreign direct investments.

Balance of Payments in 2017

At the end of 2017, having recorded a deficit of CFAF 53.1 billion a year earlier, the balance of payments showed a deficit of CFAF 3.6 billion.

In particular, the current account balance recorded a deficit of CFAF 609.2 billion (-2.0% of GDP), compared to a deficit of CFAF 245.2 billion (-0.9% of GDP) in 2016, in connection with a deepening of the deficit in services and income, despite a recovery in the trade balance.

The surplus of the balance of payments rose by 7.8%, in connection with a greater rise in exports than in imports. Exports of goods (on the basis of the balance of payments) stood at CFAF 6,899.6 billion, compared to CFAF 6,449.3 billion a year earlier, representing an increase of CFAF 450.3 billion (+7.0%).

This performance resulted from an increase of CFAF 442.1 billion (+7.4%) in exports of general goods. These exports have been driven, on the one hand, by an increase in the quantity of cocoa, gold and rubber sold and, on the other hand, by a rise in prices across a number of raw materials, such as cashew nuts, uncombed cotton, rubber and crude oil.

Imports increased by 6.7% due to an increase in the purchase of food products (+12.3%) and other consumer goods (+16.3%).

The deficit in services grew by 16.5% in 2017 in connection with an increase in freight payments, specialized services, technical services, particularly in the extraction industry, and construction services.

Similarly, the primary income deficit grew from CFAF 637.8 billion in 2016 to CFAF 893.7 billion in 2017, due, in particular, to an increase in investment income, as a result of a rise in financial liabilities of the economy with respect to foreign countries.

With regard to secondary income, the deficit worsened by 22.0% compared to 2016 due mainly to an increase in migrants' remittances issued.

The capital account surplus improved by 0.9%, with an 8.5% increase in the surplus of capital transfers from the Public Administration due to an increase in project grants received and a deficit in capital transfers from other sectors.

The financial account showed a net foreign capital inflow of CFAF 496.6 billion, compared to CFAF 87.4 billion in 2016. This development can be explained mainly by a rise in financial inflows from portfolio investments in connection with the issuance of CFAF 1,143.5 billion in Eurobonds by Côte d'Ivoire in June 2017.

Balance of Payments in 2018

In 2018, the current account recorded a deficit corresponding to 3.6% of GDP, compared to a deficit of 2.0% of GDP in 2017. This outcome reflected the continuation of the structural deficits in services and incomes as well as the strong decline in the balance of goods.

Indeed, the balance of goods fell by 30.4% as a result of the combined effects of a 4.8% decrease in exports and a 6.4% increase in imports. The change in exports of goods is due to the decrease in value of cocoa bean sales (-CFAF 225.2 billion or -12.4%), processed cocoa (-CFAF 117.1 billion or -13.8%), non-monetary gold (-CFAF 32.4 billion or -6.6%), cashew nuts (-CFAF 20.8 billion or -3.4%), and rubber (-CFAF 70.4 billion or -14.4%). These developments result from a decrease in the export price of cocoa, cashew nuts and rubber and a drop in the quantity of non-monetary gold exported.

The increase in imports is due to the rise in imports of intermediate goods (+32.0%), of other consumer goods (+29.9%), of food products (+20.9%) and of equipment goods (+17.1%).

The deficit in primary income deteriorated, going from CFAF 893.7 billion in 2017 to CFAF 904.9 billion in 2018, due to an increase in payments of investment income as a result of an increase in financial liabilities of the economy with respect to foreign countries.

As for secondary income, the deficit increased by 3.0% as compared to 2017. The deterioration of the deficit was essentially due to the increase in personal transfers, mainly funds issued by migrant workers.

The capital account surplus diminished by 24.3% due to a decrease in project grants received by the Public Administration throughout the year.

The financial account recorded a deficit of CFAF 1,356.3 billion, as compared to CFAF 496.6 in 2017, thus showing a higher net increase of the liabilities of the economy with respect to foreign countries in 2018 as compared to 2017. This development resulted in particular from higher financial inflows related to portfolio investments, in connection with the issuance of Eurobonds by the Public Administration for CFAF 1,115 billion in March 2018 and the mobilization of debt in view of delivering on the Côte d'Ivoire's projects.

Balance of Payments in 2019

In 2019, the total balance of payments recorded a surplus of CFAF 477.7 billion (1.4% of GDP), as a result of high levels in the mobilization of external financial resources.

The trade balance surplus rose by 35.4% after having decreased by 30.4% in 2018, due to a good recovery in exports (+11.8%) and a decrease in imports (-1.2%). The deficit in the services balance decreased by 0.7%, following the 5.2% decrease recorded in 2018.

The deficit in the primary and secondary income balances continued to worsen by 8.9% and 2.1%, respectively.

The surplus in the capital account increased to CFAF 105.3 billion (0.3% of GDP) in 2019, compared to CFAF 84.7 billion (0.3% of GDP) in 2018.

Finally, the financial account recorded a decrease in net capital inflows, from CFAF 1,356.3 billion in 2018 to CFAF 1,164.2 billion in 2019, in connection with an active management of liabilities. Direct investments increased by 64.0%, while portfolio investments decreased by 98.9%. Other investments recorded a net capital inflow of CFAF 721.4 billion in 2019, compared to a net inflow of CFAF 203.8 billion in 2018.

Balance of Payments in 2020 – Estimates

The total balance of payments is expected to record a surplus of CFAF 810.4 billion (2.3% of GDP) in 2020 due to mobilization of external financial resources for portfolio investments and public administration.

The trade balance surplus is expected to decrease by 5.8% after having risen by 35.4% in 2019, due to a decrease in exports (-3.6%) that was greater than in imports (-2.9%). The deficit in the services balance is expected to decrease by 4.0%, following the 0.7% increase recorded in 2019.

The deficit in the primary income balance is expected to continue to worsen by 13.4%, as compared to the deficit in the secondary income balance, which should decrease by 4.5%.

The surplus in the capital account is expected to increase to CFAF 172.4 billion in 2020, compared to CFAF 105.3 billion in 2019 (+ 63.7%).

Finally, the financial account is expected to record an increase in net capital inflows, from CFAF 1,164.2 billion in 2019 to CFAF 863.6 billion in 2020, due to an increase in the net inflow of portfolio investments and other investments, in particular for public administration.

For 2021, the Government's projects an overall economic recovery, following a year 2020 disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Projections in connection with the balance of payments are subject to assumptions in the real economy as part of the national macroeconomic framework. See “–The Economy”.

Foreign Trade

Trade Policy

Foreign trade in Côte d'Ivoire is not regulated by a specific law. Most trade policy tools were instituted by presidential decree, sometimes supplemented by orders from the relevant ministry or by decrees and administrative rulings. Questions of trade policy are the responsibility of the Ministry of Trade, which oversees its coordination. Other ministries that exercise jurisdiction in this domain include the Ministries of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Economy and Finance, Industry, Foreign Affairs, Mining and Energy and Transportation and the promotion of SMEs.

The major objective of Côte d'Ivoire's trade policy is to consolidate its economic growth, particularly through foreign trade. Côte d'Ivoire is pursuing a policy aimed at encouraging exports and further liberalizing imports in order to stimulate the external competitiveness of the Ivorian economy and lower consumer prices.

Côte d'Ivoire's tariff policy is primarily governed by the Common External Tariff ("CET") regime of the ECOWAS. The ECOWAS CET requires members to harmonize ad valorem tariff rates into four bands: (i) zero duty on social goods such as medicine and publications, (ii) 5% duty on imported raw materials, (iii) 10% duty on intermediate goods, and (iv) 20% on finished goods. The four-band CET was subsequently revised in June 2009 to include a fifth band of 35% duty on finished goods that are manufactured locally and which are considered to require some protection in the interest of promoting local industries. In September 2008, Côte d'Ivoire's trade regime was amended to lower tariffs for a wide range of goods and to replace a number of import bans with tariffs. The CET was confirmed in October 2013 in Dakar by ECOWAS Member State Presidents and came into force on 1 January 2015. The CET is regularly amended as the international market evolves. Accordingly, to adapt to technological developments, environmental constraints and international trade requirements, a new CET, based on the 2017 version of the harmonized system, was adopted and entered into force on 1 January 2018.

Measures in support of the CET

1. Enforcement of the customs value rule

According to Article 4 of Regulation No. 05/99/CM/UEMOA, the customs value of imported goods is the transactional value in application of Article VII of the GATT, i.e. the price effectively paid or to be paid following adjustments. In 2019, the transactional value rule was applied by Côte d'Ivoire for most commercial transactions. In support of such enforcement of the transactional value, Côte d'Ivoire put in place a Value Arbitration Committee (*Comité d'Arbitrage de la Valeur*), an appeal body jointly representing the Customs Administration and the private sector, in charge of dispute resolution in respect of customs value. Consequently, Circular 2007/SEPMBPE/DGD dated 29 March 2019 put an end to the role of the inspection company WEBB FONTAINE in the inspection, valuation and tariff classification of imported goods with an FOB value superior to CFAF 1 million. Thus, since 1 April 2019, powers initially conferred to the Customs Administration and exercised by this company returned to the Customs Administration. However, in order to fight against under-invoicing and protect certain industrial units, administrative values remain applied in some cases.

2. Process of acknowledgement of community origin

In Côte d'Ivoire, goods originating from WAEMU and ECOWAS member countries can move freely without being subject to customs. Requests for acknowledgement of community origin are treated by the National Approval Committee (*Comité National d'Agrément*), which is chaired by the Minister of Industry and within which the Customs Administration has a seat.

The Customs Administration can take any measure to fight against and put an end to any obstacle to the free movement of approved goods originating from the WAEMU and ECOWAS zones (Circular No. 1981/SEPMBPE/DGD dated 11 December 2018).

3. Application of harmonised rules in respect of exemptions

With respect to exemptions, Côte d'Ivoire applies the WAEMU directives relating to VAT harmonization, in particular (i) Directive No. 02/2009/CM/UEMOA amending Directive No. 02/98/CM/UEMOA dated 22 December 1998 on harmonization of the Member States with respect to Value Added Tax (VAT), and (ii) Directive No. 06/2002/CM/UEMOA

dated 19 September 2002 setting a common list of drugs, pharmaceutical products, and specialized goods and materials for medical activities, exempted from VAT within the WAEMU.

Pursuant to Article 14 of the Investment Code adopted on 1 August 2018, companies approved under the investment regime benefit from tax and customs advantages during the early stage of the realization of their investment program for the creation or the development of their activities. These advantages include:

- an exemption from customs duties except for the statistical charge and community and continental duties; and
- a 2-year temporary suspension of the VAT on acquisitions of imported goods.

These advantages are conditioned upon the investor presenting to the Customs Administration an approval certificate delivered by the Centre for the Promotion of Investments in Côte d'Ivoire (*Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire*, CEPICI), duly signed by the Director General of the CEPICI and the Director General of the Customs Administration.

4. *Utilisation of the harmonised customs instruments*

As part of its utilisation of the harmonised documents, Côte d'Ivoire complies with the WAEMU's recommendations on the utilization of a single model for declarations, namely the Single Customs Declaration (*Déclaration en Douane Unique*, DDU), as well as the utilisation of a single certificate of origin for all the countries of the WAEMU, namely the harmonised model of certificate of origin. However, harmonisation efforts remain to be done in terms of codification of the regime.

5. *Other measures*

Tariff measures on exportations

With respect to tariff measures on exportations, Côte d'Ivoire applies a single *ad valorem* exit duty, mainly on cocoa beans and cocoa-derived products (14.6% and 6.95% of the value, respectively), coffee cherries (5%), cola (14% of the CIF reference price), logged wood and some wood products (between 1% and 49%). Other tariffs concern residues and wastes of cocoa, namely CFAF 25 per kilogramme of cocoa butter or non-processed cocoa, and CFAF 10 per kilogramme of cocoa shells. For exportations of cashew nuts, a single exit duty has been set at 7% of the CIF reference value (Circular No. 2014/SEPMBPE/DGD dated 19 April 2019).

Besides, a tax on exportation of scrap metal and iron by-products has been created. Such tax is due by the exporters of scrap metal to the Ministry of Trade (Circular No. 1541 dated 16 July 2012). It amounts to CFAF 100,000 per ton.

A tax is also due on the exportation of rough diamonds. It amounts to 3% of the market value of the diamond, as indicated on the valuation report prepared by the Permanent Secretariat of the Kimberley Process's Representing Body in Côte d'Ivoire.

Tariff measures on goods in transit

Transit is not subject to any levy. There is consequently no tariff measure concerning goods in transit.

Implementation of the Verification of Compliance (VOC) programme

A new verification of compliance programme concerning goods imported to Côte d'Ivoire was implemented in replacement of the Import Verification Programme (*Programme de Vérification à l'Importation*, ("PVI")), which ended in 2013. This Verification of Compliance ("VOC") programme consists of ensuring, before loading, that the goods intended for the Ivorian market comply with the standards applicable in Côte d'Ivoire.

The programme aims at (i) reducing the fraud and forgery opportunities in import transactions; (ii) improving security and quality of imported goods in compliance with Ivorian standards and specifications; (iii) ensuring the traceability of foreign goods placed on the Ivorian market, ensuring a certain quality to the consumer population, safeguarding the local industrial production, and opposing unfair competition practices.

With the end of the PVI in 2013, the goods brought into the Ivorian territory were not subject to any quality control, thus exposing the Ivorian market to all possible abuses. To tackle this situation, in accordance with letters No. 1656 dated 3 June 2013 and No. 2373 dated 9 August 2013, the Ministry of Trade led negotiations with several potential contractors for the implementation of a verification of compliance programme in Côte d'Ivoire. As a consequence, by decree No. 2017-567 dated 6 September 2017 approving the public service concession agreements for the verification of compliance of goods shipped to Côte d'Ivoire, the Government decided to implement the VOC programme.

The launch of the VOC programme, initially planned on 16 April 2018, effectively took place on 16 July 2018 (date of the bill of lading, airway bill or waybill) but, in the interest of flexibility and support for operators, the programme started with a 3-month pilot period, from 16 July 2018 to 16 October 2018.

During this pilot period, 13 categories of goods were subject to mandatory control: food products, electric, electronic or renewable energy products, cosmetic and body hygiene products, construction materials, packages, automobile spare parts and lubricants, machines, pressure equipment, personal protection equipment, other products related to health, security and the environment, fabrics, shoes and toys.

Following three months of operation, the VOC programme was suspended on 12 October 2018 in order to expand the consultations of private sector actors, consumer associations and public administrations involved in the implementation of the programme. The VOC programme resumed on 15 February 2019 and is fully operational as of the date of this Prospectus.

As regards the operation of the VOC programme, depending on the nature of the goods and the results of the risk analysis, the contractor shall apply one of the following three verification routes:

- Route A: non-regular suppliers/exporters or shipments of “sensitive” goods for which a quality control is necessary on a regular basis.
- Route B: regular suppliers/exporters having previously registered their goods. A certificate of registration remains valid for one year. At least one verification of compliance must have been performed in order to request a certificate of registration. Occasional controls may be performed following such registration, the frequency of which depends on the risk associated with the goods.
- Route C: licensed products are subject to a mechanism of verification through audit of the manufacturing process and testing of samples collected in factories. The certificate of compliance delivered on the basis of such verification is valid for one year.

The private contractors' fees are set according to a percentage of the reported FOB value, from 0.30% to 0.45%, depending of the case, with a minimum fee between CFAF 167,450 and CFAF 197,000 and a maximum fee set between CFAF 2,281,400 and CFAF 2,684,000, also depending on the case.

Côte d'Ivoire's trade policy may benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area (“**AfCFTA**”) established by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which officially entered into force on 30 May 2019. The operational phase of the AfCFTA was launched on 7 July 2019, during the African Union (“**AU**”) extraordinary summit in Niamey (Niger). The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (“**UNECA**”) and the AU estimate that the AfCFTA may increase trade levels amongst African States by over 50% by eliminating import duties alone (more if non-tariff barriers are also addressed). This is expected to increase investment flows within Africa and thus support the economic development all members. A number of other potential benefits have been identified, including access to markets (African and global) particularly for small and medium-sized companies, intra-African supply chain integration, job creation and an increase of sustainable exports. As for Côte d'Ivoire, the effective implementation of the AfCFTA is expected to improve exports of Ivorian goods throughout the African continent while attracting more investment inflows. The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance productivity and stimulate the external competitiveness of the Ivorian economy.

Initially scheduled for 1 July 2020, the implementation of trading under the AfCFTA was delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Intra-African trade relations under the framework of the AfCFTA started on 1 January 2021.

Exports and Imports

In 2015, exports of goods (excluding exceptional goods) stood at CFAF 6,729.1 billion, compared to CFAF 6,141.5 billion the year before, i.e. an increase of CFAF 587.6 billion (+9.6%). This progression was due to an increase in the export of cocoa beans (+593.8 billion; +39.4%), processed cocoa (+141.4 billion; +19%), cashew nuts (+35.5 billion; +9.1%) and gold (+99.3 billion; +28.6%). The five main exports comprised: cocoa (beans and processed cocoa), petroleum products (crude and processed goods), cashew nuts, gold and rubber. These goods represented 76.8% of export revenues in 2015.

Imports in 2015 stood at CFAF 5,227.7 billion, compared to CFAF 4,951.7 billion in 2014, representing an increase of 5.2%, in connection with an increase in the purchase of food products (+16.2%) and growth in the acquisition of equipment goods (+33.6%). The principal goods acquired from suppliers were crude oil, mechanical machinery, iron, cast iron, steel and steel works, refined oil products, rice, plastics and fish. Together, these goods represented 50.0% of purchases from abroad.

In 2016, exports of goods (excluding exceptional goods) stood at CFAF 6,404.2 billion, compared to CFAF 6,729.1 billion in 2015, representing a decrease of CFAF 324.9 billion (-4.8%). They decreased due to the effects of diminishing values in the sale of primary goods (-3.8%) and processed goods (-6.3%).

This decrease in value of primary goods originated from industrial agriculture and export products (-6.8%), in particular cocoa beans (-CFAF 281.3 billion; -13.4%) and uncarded, uncombed cotton (-CFAF 25.0 billion; -18.0%). However, this decrease was attenuated by growth in exports of cashew nuts (+CFAF 42.2 billion; +9.9%) and rubber (+CFAF 26.6 billion; +9.9%), as well as mining products, such as gold (+CFAF 35.1 billion; +8.5%) and crude oil (+CFAF 23.3 billion; +7.2%).

The decrease in value of processed goods was primarily evident in oil products (-CFAF 199.3 billion; -31.2%), processed cocoa (-CFAF 9.2 billion; -1.0%) and essential oils (-CFAF 0.9 billion; -0.7%). This decrease in processed goods was offset by an increase in exports of certain products, in particular, palm oil (+CFAF 12.5 billion; +13.6%).

Imports in 2016 represented CFAF 5,087.1 billion, compared to CFAF 5,227.7 billion in 2015, in connection with a decrease in the associated sub-components: food products (-0.4%), intermediate goods (-23.5%) and equipment goods (-2.8%). The main imported goods, which represented close to 50%, evolved as follows: crude oil (-32.3%), mechanical machinery (-13.8%), iron, cast iron, steel and steel works (-36.1%), refined oil products (+3.9%), rice (+6.4%), plastics (-11.1) and fish (-0.7%).

In particular, consumer goods increased by 2.4% due mainly to increases in pharmaceutical products (+40.4%), rice (+6.4%), oil products (+3.9%) and automobiles (+4.5%). These increases were countered by a decrease in imports of rubber (-20.3%), plastic products (-11.1%), dairy products (-15.4%), meat and edible offal (-15.8%) and wheat (-8.3%).

Intermediate goods decreased due to the diminished value of crude oil (-32.3%), iron, cast iron, steel and steel works (-36.1%), clinker (-11.2%) and metal products (-13.8%). However, this decrease was offset by increased purchases of chemical products (+2.0%), essential oils and plant extracts (+5.4%) and cement (+15.9%).

Equipment goods decreased due to diminished acquisitions of mechanical machinery (-15.0%), electrical machinery (+5.0%), road transportation equipment (-28.6%) and air navigation equipment (-44.0%).

In 2017, the exchange of goods through special trade, which refers to the goods that have been cleared through customs (excluding exceptional goods), increased by 12.2% compared to 2016. Despite the congestion observed in the Abidjan port area in the first half of 2017, which contributed to hindering trade, exports increased by +CFAF 560.8 billion (+8.8%

and imports by +CFAF 169.5 billion (+3.3%). This has resulted in a trade surplus (FOB-CAF) (excluding exceptional goods) of CFAF 1,708.4 billion, up by 29.7% (+CFAF 391.4 billion) from the surplus recorded in 2016.

The 8.8% increase in exports (excluding exceptional goods) was due to primary goods, which grew by 15.1%, despite a slight decrease in processed goods (-0.6%). This increase in the value of primary goods stemmed from agriculture, particularly cocoa beans (+CFAF 238.5 billion; +13.1%), cashew nuts (+CFAF 137.0 billion; +29.2%), rubber (+CFAF 160.9 billion; +48.9%) and uncombed cotton (+CFAF 5.9 billion; +5.2%). However, this increase was offset by a decrease in the value of processed goods (-4.8%), particularly exports of processed cocoa (-CFAF 74.2 billion; -8.1%) and palm oil (-CFAF 10.3 billion; -9.9%).

Imports (excluding exceptional goods) stood at CFAF 5,256.6 billion in 2017, compared to CFAF 5,087.1 billion in 2016, an increase of 3.3%. Equipment goods increased by CFAF 200.6 billion (+17.6%) compared to 2016. However, intermediate goods decreased by CFAF 80.2 billion (-5.4%). Consumer goods also increased by CFAF 384.85 billion (+23.0%), due mainly to a rise in rice imports (+CFAF 19.5 billion; +6.3%), oil products (+CFAF 318.2 billion; +229.6%) and plastics (+CFAF 38.5 billion; +16.2%). These increases were offset by a decrease in imports of pharmaceutical products (-CFAF 46.0 billion; -18.6%).

Intermediate goods declined due to a drop in crude oil (-CFAF 135.3 billion; -22.3%). However, this decrease was partly compensated by an increase in purchases of chemical products (+CFAF 13.5 billion; +12.8%), as well as cast iron, steel and steelworks goods (+CFAF 1.3 billion; +0.5%).

Equipment goods increased due to purchases of road transportation equipment (+CFAF 6.1 billion; +3.3%), printing machinery (+CFAF 1.4 billion, +8.5%), transportation equipment for air navigation (+CFAF 14.7 billion, +99.5%), and marine transportation and navigation equipment (+CFAF 224.4 billion, +168.5%). These increases were attenuated by decreases in acquisitions of mechanical machinery (-CFAF 17.6 billion; -3.8%) and electrical machinery (-CFAF 24.1 billion; -11.1%).

In 2018, foreign trade of goods through special trade, excluding exceptional goods, recorded a decrease in the value of exports of CFAF 417.8 billion (-6.0%) and an increase of CFAF 747.9 billion (+14.2%) in the value of imports. At the end of December 2018, exports (excluding exceptional goods) reached CFAF 6,547.2 billion, while imports (excluding exceptional goods) amounted to CFAF 6,004.5 billion. This caused the trade surplus (FOB-CIF) to decline to CFAF 542.7 billion in 2018 compared to CFAF 1,708.4 billion in 2017, representing a decrease of (-68.2%). The rate of coverage of imports by exports was 109.0% in 2018.

A decrease in value of exports resulted from the reduction of sales of primary goods (-CFAF 253.2 billion; -5.8%) and processed goods (-CFAF 164.5 billion; -6.4%). This decrease in primary goods was due to a decrease (-7.3%) in prices, despite a slight increase in volume (+1.6%). The decrease in exports of processed goods resulted from a decrease in price (-4.0%) and volume (-2.5%).

A decrease in value of primary goods is mainly the result of a decline in industrial and exported agriculture goods, in particular, cocoa beans (-CFAF 255.2 billion; -12.4%), cashew nuts (-CFAF 20.8 billion; -3.4%) and rubber (-CFAF 70.5 billion; -14.4%). These three products recorded a decrease in prices of (-13.3%), (-7.9%) and (-17.7%), respectively.

The decrease in value of processed goods is due to the decline in products of primary processing (-CFAF 101.9 billion; -7.6%) and in manufactured goods (-CFAF 389.4 billion; -26.5%). Specifically, the sale of processed cocoa decreased in value by CFAF 117.3 billion (-13.8%), while the sale of essential oils and plant extracts increased by CFAF 9.8 billion (+7.6%), despite a 2.3% decrease in their price. Moreover, the price of palm oil, processed wood and processed coffee decreased by (-15.0%), (-11.2%) and (-8.3%), respectively.

Imports (excluding exceptional goods) amounted to CFAF 6,004.5 billion for 2018, representing an increase of CFAF 747.9 billion (+14.2%) compared to 2017. This is due to an increase in volume (+7.5%) and in price (+6.3%). In addition, this increase in imports reflected an increase in associated sub-components: consumer goods and intermediate goods, with the exception of equipment goods, which decreased.

Intermediate goods increased in value by CFAF 507.2 billion (+35.9%), driven by a 12.7% increase in volume and a 20.6% increase in price. The principal intermediate goods recorded an increase in imports are crude oil (+CFAF 387.9 billion; +82.2%), cast iron, steel and steelworks goods (+CFAF 75.3 billion; +30.1%), metal products (+CFAF 40.8 billion; +52.8%), chemical products (+CFAF 8.5 billion; +7.1%) and paper and cardboard (+CFAF 7.1 billion; +7.1%). The value of purchases of crude oil was affected by an increase in quantity and price of imports of 51.9% and 20.0%, respectively.

With regard to the purchase of equipment goods in 2018, the CFAF 113.0 billion (8.4%) decrease is the result of that of prices (-22.2%). The main goods that recorded the highest increase in imports are electrical machinery (+CFAF 66.2 billion; +34.4%), mechanical machinery (+56.5 billion; +12.6%) and road transportation equipment (+CFAF 29.4 billion; +15.4%).

In 2019, foreign trade of goods through special trade, excluding exceptional goods, recorded an increase of CFAF 800.9 billion (+12.0%) in the value of exports and of CFAF 138.8 billion (+2.3%) in the value of imports. At the end of December 2019, exports reached CFAF 7,348.1 billion, while imports amounted to CFAF 6,143.3 billion.

The increase in value of exports of 12.2% in 2019 resulted from the increase in sales of primary goods (+CFAF 334.6 billion; +16.7%), mining products (+CFAF 357.5 billion; +39.6%) and processed goods (+CFAF 109.1 billion; +4.5%). Primary goods recorded an increase in prices (+1.0%) and in volumes (+9.2%). Processed goods recorded a decrease in price, offset by an increase in volume (+8.0%).

The increase in value of primary goods resulted mainly from industrial and exported agriculture goods, in particular, cocoa beans (+CFAF 193.2 billion; +16.3%), rubber (+CFAF 112.7 billion; +26.9%), and uncombed cotton (+CFAF 53.1 billion; +33.4%). Prices of cocoa beans and uncombed cotton increased respectively by 9.4% and 4.3%, contrary to rubber, the prices of which decreased by 0.5%. The increase in cocoa exports was due to a global rise in cocoa prices.

Exports of mining products increased significantly due to the strong performance of exports of gold (+CFAF 187.2 billion; +42.1%) and crude oil (+CFAF 136.0 billion; +34.7%). Gold export benefited from a global rise in gold prices while crude oil export was subject to price fluctuation related to recurrent geopolitical tensions and measures adopted by OPEC and the United States in view of regulating supply.

The increase in value of processed goods was due to the rise in products of primary processing (+CFAF 36.1 billion; +2.9%), which recorded an increase of 4.2% in volume, and in manufactured goods (+6.9%), the volume of which increased by 13.5%.

Imports increased by 2.3% in value in 2019 due to an increase in all its component, namely consumer goods (+CFAF 21.1 billion; +0.7%) intermediate goods (+CFAF 99.7 billion; +5.2%) and equipment goods (+CFAF 18.2 billion; +1.6%). In addition, this increase in exports reflected a similar increase in price (+0.2%) and volume (+2.1%).

The increase in consumer goods was mainly due to enhanced preference for food products, in particular fish (+CFAF 12.9 billion; +4.4%), plastics and plastic works (+CFAF 18.6 billion; +7.3%), soft wheat (+CFAF 8.7 billion; +8.8%) and pharmaceutical products (+CFAF 2.8 billion; +1.3%) in connection with the importers' will to provide consumers with a diversified range of products.

By contrast, the increase in value of consumer goods was reduced by the decrease in value of oil products other than crude oil (-CFAF 39.9 billion; -8.6%) and purchase of rice (-CFAF 30.9 billion; - 8.0%).

Intermediate goods increased in value by 5.2%, driven by a 3.2% increase in volume and a 1.9% increase in price. The principal intermediate goods of which the import price increased are crude oil (+CFAF 10.6 billion; +1.2%), chemical products (+CFAF 17.4 billion; +13.6%), and fertilizers (+CFAF 42.0 billion; +95.2%). In addition, in order to meet the needs of the construction industry, the demand in cast iron, steel and steelworks goods (+CFAF 8.7 billion; +2.7%) increased slightly. The value of purchases of crude oil decreased due to the combination of a 4.5% decrease in quantity

and a 6.0% increase in price of imports. With regard to the purchase of equipment goods in 2019, the 1.6% increase in value was the result of an increase of volume (+5.9%) and a decrease of prices (-4.0%). The main equipment goods which contributed to the increase in import prices are electrical machinery (+CFAF 9.1 billion; +3.5%) and mechanical machinery (+23.9 billion; +4.7%), showing the new orientations of the economic policy implemented in the country, which aim at a structural change of the economy.

However, the increase in value of equipment goods was reduced by the decrease in value of road transportation equipment (-CFAF 9.8 billion; -4.5%).

In 2020, according to Government estimates, foreign trade of goods through special trade, excluding exceptional goods, is expected to record a decrease of CFAF 180.3 billion (-2.5%) in the value of exports and of CFAF 30 billion (-1.5%) in the value of imports. As of 31 December 2020, exports are expected to reach CFAF 7,167.8 billion while imports should reach CFAF 6,113.3 billion. The decrease in the value of exports is due to the decrease in sales of cocoa beans (-0.4%), crude oil (-51.5%), oil products other than crude oil (-33.7%) and uncombed cotton (-22.2%). However, the decrease in exports is expected to be mitigated by the increase in exports of rubber (+12.5%), non-monetary gold (+33.4%) and cashew nuts (+13.9%). Foreign trade during the year has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which prompted various containment measures worldwide and in Côte d'Ivoire, including the closure of land and air borders by the Government.

In 2021, the Government projects an increase in exports and imports by around 5.1% and 8.6%, respectively, compared to the 2020 levels, as result of the expected resumption of the global economic activity and a gradual lifting of the various containment measures adopted in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, including lockdowns, border closures and travel restrictions.

The table below presents Côte d'Ivoire's imports and exports of goods from 2015 to 2021:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Est.)	2021 (For.)
	<i>(CFAF millions)</i>						
Exports							
Cocoa beans	2,099,744	1,818,438	2,056,926	1,801,704	2,094,868	2,085,000	1,921,800
Green processed coffee	109,947	101,105	76,374	114,974	133,228	90,413	79,602
Green coffee.....	60,559	67,343	41,546	76,601	95,088	51,739	53,633
Cashew nuts.....	427,352	469,546	606,501	585,678	428,166	487,683	638,892
Cotton, not carded or combed	139,198	114,191	120,070	158,795	211,874	164,870	253,137
Rubber	299,782	329,341	490,272	418,347	531,853	597,241	669,934
Crude oil	322,172	345,521	363,208	392,335	538,364	256,422	283,765
Gold	446,953	482,086	489,931	444,110	631,277	811,202	830,530
Processed cocoa	930,910	921,691	847,467	730,618	804,810	885,830	915,823
Palm oil.....	91,462	103,941	93,612	104,816	118,095	122,851	133,709
Essential oils and vegetal extracts.....	131,329	130,387	140,772	137,862	125,063	145,812	118,673
Petrol products.....	639,107	439,721	558,522	650,349	722,985	479,210	503,076
Total principal products	5,588,568	5,222,206	5,808,827	5,500,727	7,068,157	4,093,273	4,480,774
Total exports (excluding exceptional goods – FOB)	6,729,065	6,404,152	6,964,984	6,547,207	7,348,130	7,167,811	7,428,326
Imports							
Fish	230,393	228,772	266,485	295,020	307,916	329,788	N/A
Semi-milled rice	290,838	309,420	328,901	385,033	354,160	317,451	N/A
Petrol products	133,413	138,595	456,792	465,429	425,492	347,058	N/A
Pharmaceutical products	175,882	246,901	200,868	214,169	217,012	276,757	N/A
Plastics	266,652	237,164	275,685	256,584	275,213	296,729	N/A
Crude oil	897,472	607,204	471,939	859,831	870,444	825,733	1,009,846
Iron, cast iron, steel and construction.....	389,466	248,860	250,113	325,418	334,104	316,272	N/A
Mechanical machinery.....	547,161	471,774	448,446	504,943	528,876	466,617	N/A
Electrical machinery	205,918	263,325	192,224	258,409	267,513	312,365	N/A
Road transportation equipment	258,925	196,466	190,883	220,263	210,430	232,250	N/A
Total principal products	3,396,120	2,948,481	3,082,336	3,785,099	3,791,160	3,721,020	N/A
Total imports (excluding exceptional goods – FOB)	5,227,747	5,087,149	5,256,625	6,004,505	6,143,289	6,113,280	6,575,998

Source: MEF/DGD/BCEAO

N/A: Not available as of the date of this Prospectus

Principal Trading Partners

Based on customs statistics, in 2017, sales to Europe stood at CFAF 3,119.0 billion, CFAF 1,561.4 billion for Africa, CFAF 1,200.8 billion for Asia and CFAF 923.7 billion for North and Latin America. In 2016, these figures stood at CFAF 2,979.4 billion for Europe, CFAF 1,622.9 billion for Africa, CFAF 917.2 billion for Asia and CFAF 837.8 billion for North and Latin America.

Europe was thus the main market for Côte d'Ivoire exports in 2017. The share of this continent stood at 45.4% in 2017, compared to 46.5% in 2016. Europe is followed by Africa, with a share of 22.7% in 2017, compared to 25.3% in 2016. Asia is next, with a share of 17.5% in 2017, compared to 14.3% in 2016, followed by North and Latin America with a 13.4% share in 2017, compared to its 13.1% share in 2016.

In Europe, the main clients of resident economic operators were the Netherlands (11.8% of total exports and 26.1% of sales to the area in 2017, compared to 11.6% and 25.0% respectively in 2016), France (5.9% of total exports and 13.0% of sales to the area in 2017, compared to 5.4% and 11.7% respectively in 2016) and Germany (5.2% of total exports and 11.5% of sales to the area in 2017, compared to 5.1% and 10.9% in 2016, respectively).

In Africa, Burkina Faso remained the leading recipient of Ivorian products (4.5% of total exports, compared to 4% in 2016).

In North and Latin America, goods were shipped mainly to the United States (10.0% of total exports in 2017, compared to 8.9% in 2016) and Canada (1.7% of sales, compared to 2.2% in 2016).

In Asia, the most significant buyers were India (2.8%, compared to 3.5% in 2016) and China (1.0% of exports to this area in 2017, after 0.7% in 2016).

In 2018, Europe continued to be the main recipient of Ivorian products, accounting for CFAF 2,773.2 billion (42.3%), followed by Africa with CFAF 1,537.6 billion (23.5%), Asia with CFAF 1,303.4 billion (19.9%) and North and Latin America with CFAF 839.7 billion (12.8%).

In Europe, the principal partners remained the same as in 2017, namely the Netherlands, Germany and France, which should account for 11.4%, 6.4% and 5.8% of total exports, respectively.

In Africa, Burkina Faso remained the main partner with 5.2% of total exports, followed by Mali, which accounted for 4.8%.

In North and Latin America, goods were shipped mainly to the United States (9.1% of total exports) and Canada (2.2%).

Finally, in Asia, India remained the most significant buyer (4.4%), while China's share of Ivorian exports was 1.5% in 2018.

In 2019, according to Government estimates, Europe should continue to be the main recipient of Ivorian exports, accounting for CFAF 3,461.0 billion (45.8%), followed by Africa with CFAF 1,726.1 billion (22.8%), Asia with CFAF 1,488.3 billion (19.7%) and North and Latin America with CFAF 778.0 (10.3%).

In Europe, the principal partners should remain the same as in 2018, namely the Netherlands, France and Germany, which should account for 10.5%, 6.3% and 4.6% of total exports, respectively.

In Africa, Mali is expected to become the main partner with 4.8% of total exports, followed by Burkina Faso, which is expected to account for 4.6%.

In North and Latin America, goods are expected to be shipped mainly to the United States (6.0% of total exports) and Canada (2.8%).

In Asia, goods are expected to be shipped mainly to India and China, which account respectively for 3.6% and 2.9% of total exportations.

The table below summarizes the geographic exports distribution from 2015 to 2019:

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)
	<i>(in CFAF millions)</i>				
Europe	3,295,950	2,979,364	3,118,959	2,773,220	3,461,010.50
European Union	2,858,676	2,577,920	2,731,170	2,429,431	2,981,673.80
Euro zone	2,611,153	2,329,168	2,437,208	2,172,532	2,673,168.90
France.....	404,513	348,939	406,051	380,194	476,601.20
Germany.....	425,973	326,159	358,426	417,282	346,866.20
Italy.....	138,890	140,573	154,975	134,525	131,336.20
Netherlands.....	843,605	745,111	874,188	747,950	796,032.90
Belgium.....	458,824	397,024	348,880	238,504	340,806.00
Other EU countries	244,247	244,192	293,963	256,898	308,504.90
United Kingdom.....	169,769	189,714	203,784	156,253	196,849.30
Other European countries	437,274	401,404	387,789	343,790	479,336.70
Switzerland.....	270,238	294,133	272,174	237,462	350,619.00
Russia.....	1,539	1,429	3,389	3,856	4,430.60
Africa	1,737,812	1,622,909	1,561,393	1,537,577	1,726,134.40
WAEMU	726,411	777,474	795,529	874,052	1,008,843.00
Benin.....	37,903	23,672	31,031	31,765	36,022.30
Burkina-Faso.....	227,234	256,739	312,449	343,058	350,458.40
Côte d'Ivoire.....	-	-	-	-	0
Guinea-Bissau.....	400	1,299	655	905	729.7
Mali.....	226,481	279,981	272,422	315,288	364,116.90
Niger.....	45,094	25,849	44,260	54,333	56,651.10
Senegal.....	69,310	70,381	68,034	65,080	76,443.50
Togo.....	119,989	119,553	66,679	63,623	124,421.10
ECOWAS (excluding WAEMU)	594,925	481,706	413,271	322,916	314,975.80
Nigeria.....	271,812	106,576	85,881	106,761	128,065.10
Ghana.....	259,704	303,335	260,009	161,441	138,220.00
CEMAC	111,940	62,332	43,516	69,325	61,360.80
Cameroon.....	48,077	18,187	13,284	48,212	28,862.40
Gabon.....	10,430	6,904	7,233	8,852	9,843.80
Other African countries	304,536	301,397	309,078	271,284	320,239.20
South Africa.....	189,149	190,677	227,344	191,341	235,958.10
Morocco.....	5,497	14,188	9,291	3,605	5,666.50
Tunisia.....	2,951	1,030	2,009	1,391	8,707.00
Algeria.....	45,812	53,533	31,068	39,871	41,578.40
Libya.....	7	13	2	3	58.3
Egypt.....	3,360	5,443	3,316	3,061	3,322.90
North and Latin America	748,085	837,776	923,694	839,673	778,046.70
USA.....	568,475	569,948	690,497	597,994	451,400.60
Canada.....	76,685	141,362	117,851	145,091	208,621.20
Brazil.....	35,923	26,455	40,602	48,955	76,753.20
Asia	888,474	917,236	1,200,787	1,303,423	1,488,332.20
China.....	56,245	42,383	66,095	98,661	217,504.40
Japan.....	3,407	1,643	1,307	1,570	1,773.80
India.....	292,966	221,282	191,839	288,830	275,377.50
Pakistan.....	22,778	11,210	24,882	7,867	13,913.80
United Arab Emirates.....	8,859	10,671	21,879	13,984	23,262.10
Thailand.....	7,157	5,208	2,884	2,838	2,332.10
Other countries	57,743	46,866	68,087	98,702	106,436.10
TOTAL	6,729,065	6,404,152	6,872,920	6,552,597	7,559,959.80

Source: DGD/BCEAO

The geographical distribution of imports (special trade excluding exceptional goods) was characterized in 2016 by the continued decline in the market share of African countries (-4.7%), in favour of those of European (+4.2%), Asian (+2.2%) and North and Latin American countries (+1.0%) compared to 2015.

Concerning imports in 2017, purchases from Europe stood at CFAF 2,050.5 billion, CFAF 1,151.2 billion for Africa,

CFAF 1,738.6 billion for Asia and CFAF 334.3 billion for North and Latin America in 2017. In 2016, these figures stood at CFAF 1,796.9 billion for Europe, CFAF 1,071.7 billion for Africa, CFAF 379.2 billion for North and Latin America and CFAF 1,806.4 billion for Asia.

In terms of proportions, the share of imports originating from European countries increased from 35.3% in 2016 to 38.0% in 2017. Asia's share stood at 33.0% in 2017 compared to 35.3% in 2016. The share of African countries increased from 21.1% in 2016 to 21.7% in 2017. As for North and Latin American countries, their share stood at 6.5% in 2017, as compared to 7.5% in 2016.

In Europe, France remained the main supplier with 11.9% of total purchases in 2017, compared to 13.3% in 2016. The share in total imports from Europe represented 30.8%.

The same applies to Africa for Nigeria, totalling 11.7% of total orders, compared to 11.4% in 2016, and 54.1% in 2017 of imports originating from Africa in 2017, compared to 53.5% in 2016.

In Asia, Côte d'Ivoire imported predominantly from China with 14.3% of total imports, compared to 17.4% in 2016. China accounted for 43.9% of imports from the Asian continent in 2017, compared to 47.2% in 2016. The second Asian supplier was India, with 4.6% of total imports in 2017, compared to 4.5% in 2016.

In North and Latin America, purchases originate mainly from the United States with 4.1% of total imports in 2017, compared to 3.7% in 2016. In North and Latin America, the share of products imported by the US represented 64.5% of total imports from the area, compared to 50.8% in 2016.

In 2018, imports experienced an overall increase of 17.4% (general trade, excluding exceptional goods), and originated mainly from Europe with 34.8% of total imports, followed by Asia with 33.7% and Africa with 22.7%.

In bilateral trade, France remained the main supplier in 2018, with 10.4% of total imports and 29.9% with respect to Europe.

In Africa, Nigeria accounted for 12.0% of total imports and 53.0% of imports from Africa.

In Asia, Côte d'Ivoire imported mostly from China, which accounted for 14.8% of total imports and 44.1% of imports from the Asian continent in 2018. The second main supplier in Asia was India, with 4.5% of total imports.

In North and Latin America, the main supplier is the United States in 2018, representing 3.4% of total imports and 42.6% of goods imported in the region.

In 2019, imports are expected to experience an overall decrease of 0.7% (general trade, excluding exceptional goods), and to originate mainly from Europe with 34.5% of total imports, followed by Asia with 32.7% and Africa with 23.0%.

In bilateral trade, France should remain the main supplier in 2019, with 10.4% of total imports and 31.7% with respect to Europe.

In Africa, Nigeria should account for 13.3% of total imports and 57.9% of imports from Africa.

In Asia, Côte d'Ivoire is expected to import largely from China, which should account for 17.2% of total imports and 52.4% of imports from the Asian continent in 2019. The second main supplier in Asia should be India, with 4.3% of total imports.

In North and Latin America, the main supplier is expected to be the United States in 2019, representing 5.0% of total imports and 58.3% of goods imported in the region.

The table below presents the geographic imports distribution from 2015 to 2019:

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)
			<i>(in CFAF millions)</i>		
Europe	1,918,794	1,796,919	2,050,529	2,170,601.00	2 136 473,60
European Union	1,764,843	1,618,599	1,754,944	1,865,602.90	1 736 135,80
Euro zone	1,561,245	1,459,941	1,582,753	1,641,319.90	1 537 242,60
France.....	769,931	674,674	632,379	648,982.42	676 662,40
Germany.....	154,997	164,801	182,156	181,176.22	164 484,80
Italy.....	217,849	119,029	121,766	143,033.52	137 426,00
Netherlands.....	106,256	139,269	179,849	226,761.69	170 467,30
Belgium.....	94,904	117,345	153,626	131,422.88	92 104,20
Other EU countries	203,528	158,551	203,120	224,283.00	198 893,30
United Kingdom.....	135,262	96,349	91,746	125,601.92	87,012.60
Other European countries	153,951	178,314	264,656	304,998.10	400,319.40
Switzerland.....	22,001	20,404	20,027	36,988.98	28,925.40
Russia.....	24,139	35,131	48,329	85,522.93	90,595.90
Africa	1,588,616	1,071,722	1,151,246	1,416,713.62	1,426,726.60
WAEMU	104,524	118,480	123,206	196,096.17	149,307.20
Benin.....	5,007	7,359	7,666	6,155.90	5,684.40
Burkina-Faso.....	3,972	5,349	6,576	7,210.24	7,882.30
Côte d'Ivoire.....	-	29	0	0	0
Guinea-Bissau.....	1,612	6,127	3,625	2,246.65	12,256.20
Mali.....	1,931	2,237	2,810	4,344.31	3,566.90
Niger.....	3,302	3,526	3,281	3,222.79	5,265.20
Senegal.....	77,335	82,826	87,642	74,773.94	100,885.20
Togo.....	11,364	11,027	11,605	98,142.35	13,767.00
ECOWAS (excluding WAEMU)	883,874	616,088	688,675	817,480.75	904,262.20
Nigeria.....	854,413	579,434	622,345	751,260.49	826,524.50
Ghana.....	26,689	31,855	51,337	57,712.42	67,976.50
CEMAC	27,014	19,728	9,833	11,969.75	3,385.40
Cameroon.....	2,196	1,549	1,591	3,891.93	480.30
Gabon.....	1,185	1,970	1,792	1,377.96	134.90
Other African countries	284,158	284,158	329,532	391,766.90	369,614.60
South Africa.....	61,349	67,631	61,934	69,456.99	61,761.70
Morocco.....	121,922	106,305	103,114	95,516.15	124,052.20
Tunisia.....	25,945	24,735	28,778	48,870.04	35,989.20
Algeria.....	7,159	3,698	8,320	9,081.44	20,792.00
Libya.....	2,506	16	876	3,391.77	26.20
Egypt.....	26,819	24,598	26,700	29,109.88	26,171.20
North and Latin America	395,413	379,168	334,271	495,380.60	537,118.20
USA.....	220,822	192,573	215,576	211,234.72	312,923.90
Canada.....	14,567	16,964	12,074	11,033.08	15,327.00
Brazil.....	25,424	32,808	41,768	35,024.81	44,039.60
Asia	2,050,717	1,806,436	1,738,635	2,102,139.30	2,029,190.00
China.....	717,371	884,100	762,520	926,517.79	1,063,503.30
Japan.....	129,196	122,329	122,112	130,722.30	94,990.40
India.....	219,955	224,000	261,914	282,851.38	265,392.80
Pakistan.....	36,992	35,567	24,201	27,511.57	30,115.30
United Arab Emirates.....	28,412	32,259	35,703	32,284.88	46,041.60
Thailand.....	135,951	156,229	153,899	141,511.99	70,946.40
Other countries	162,086	162,086	407,141	57,551.90	67,569.20
TOTAL	5,515,996	5,087,149	5,315,394	6,242,386.40	6,197,077.50

Source: DGD/DCPE/BCEAO

Foreign Direct Investments

Several factors have encouraged FDI inflows into Côte d'Ivoire, including (i) an increasingly secure environment, (ii) an improvement in the supply and quality of infrastructure, (iii) an improvement in the regulatory and institutional framework to facilitate economic activity and (iv) an improvement in the supply and quality of labour. FDI trends form part of prospects for growth over the medium-term, in connection with the significant reforms implemented and currently underway. See "The Economy – Principal Sectors of the Ivorian Economy".

Inflows of FDIs stood at an estimated net capital inflow of CFAF 173.6 billion in 2017, compared to CFAF 325.5 billion in 2016. This change is the result of a net increase of CFAF 566.1 billion in the Ivorian economy's liabilities and of CFAF 392.5 billion in net acquisitions of assets from foreign residents.

FDIs received by the Ivorian economy amounted to CFAF 566.1 billion in 2017, compared to CFAF 342.4 billion in 2016, representing an increase of (+65.33%). These FDIs include CFAF 166.2 billion from flows other than reinvestment of profits, compared to CFAF 144.1 billion in 2016, CFAF 207.8 billion from reinvestment of profits, compared to CFAF 170.6 billion in 2016, and CFAF 192.1 billion in debt instruments, compared to CFAF 27.7 billion in the previous year.

The main sectors of activity that are net beneficiaries of these capital inflows are the extractive industry (39.2%), financial intermediation (27.8%) and telecommunications (13.6%). They are followed by the manufacturing industries (8.0%), the hotel industry (5.3%) and transportation (4.1%).

In 2018, net FDI inflows stood at CFAF 264.2 billion (1.0% of GDP), compared to CFAF 173.6 billion (0.8% of GDP) in 2017. This increase is due to a decrease in FDI outflows. Indeed, FDIs amounted to CFAF 80.3 billion, after CFAF 566.1 billion in 2017. In 2017, domestic economic operators made significant direct investments abroad in an amount of CFAF 392.5 billion, after CFAF 17.0 billion in 2016. The amount of FDI outflows are usually not very significant. However, in 2017, an economic operator in the banking sector made significant investments abroad by extending its network in the WAEMU. These external investments have thus reduced the amount of net FDI inflows in 2017 compared to previous years. These investments abroad declined in 2018 to their usual level.

The table below presents net FDI inflows from 2015 to 2019:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Est.)
<i>(in CFAF billions)</i>				
283.8	325.5	173.6	264.2	360.0

Source: BCEAO

Europe is the main source of FDI (42.1% in 2017, compared to 64.8% in 2016). In Europe, in 2017, France, Belgium and Switzerland were the three leading investors in Côte d'Ivoire with CFAF 96.6 billion, CFAF 96.0 billion and CFAF 34.2 billion, respectively. In Africa, Morocco was the primary investor in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017, with a share of 17%.

In 2018, Europe kept its dominant position among the countries of origin of FDIs, with FDIs from France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands amounting to CFAF 109.8 billion (31.9%), CFAF 57.7 billion (16.8%) and CFAF 23.8 billion (7.0%), respectively. In Africa, the leading investors are Morocco and Togo, with CFAF 23.0 billion (6.7%) and CFAF 20.6 billion (6.0%), respectively.

In 2019, net FDI inflows are expected to stand at CFAF 360.0 billion based upon the current trend in Côte d'Ivoire's GDP growth.

The table below presents gross incoming FDI per country of origin from 2015 to 2018:

Country	2015	Country	2016	Country	2017	Country	2018
Belgium.....	20.5%	France.....	18.6%	France.....	22.3%	France.....	31.9%
France.....	20.0%	Belgium.....	11.1%	Canada.....	17.1%	United Kingdom.....	16.8%
Canada.....	12.2%	England.....	11.0%	Morocco.....	17.0%	Lebanon.....	7.0%
Morocco.....	11.0%	British Virgin Islands.....	6.8%	Belgium.....	12.9%	Netherlands.....	6.9%
Netherlands.....	7.0%	Netherlands.....	5.7%	United States.....	11.4%	Morocco.....	6.7%
Other.....	29.3%	Singapore.....	5.6%	Cayman Islands.....	7.5%	Togo.....	6.0%
		Australia.....	4.4%	Switzerland.....	6.0%	Singapore.....	5.3%
		Other countries.....	36.60%	Other countries.....	5.8%	Other countries.....	19.5%

Source: BCEAO/CEPICI

PUBLIC FINANCE

General

As part of its economic policy, the Government's ongoing efforts aim to preserve the stability of the macroeconomic framework and the consolidation of its public finances by strengthening the collection of revenues and streamlining expenses. In particular, over the medium-term the Government intends to control changes in the payroll bill and operating expenses, reduce subsidies to the electricity sector until it achieves financial equilibrium and stabilize the domestic debt situation.

The 2018 and 2019 budgets were executed in a context shaped by the consolidation of progress achieved since 2012 on an economic and socio-political level. Despite the general context of a slowing global economy, the Ivoirian economy has sustained its momentum. At the economic level, the budget significantly contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the Government's economic and financial programme established with the IMF, thanks to an overall control of expenditure and a good level of revenue collection. Côte d'Ivoire's public finance management efforts continued since 2017, despite domestic (social movements) and external disruptions (drop in cocoa prices and rise in oil prices) that adversely affected the mobilization of income and placed significant pressure on expenses. Despite these challenges, measures taken by the Government limited the deficit in 2017 to 3.6% of GDP (compared to an initial forecast of 3.5%). In 2018 the deficit was 2.9% of GDP, an improvement compared to 2017. In 2019, the deficit amounted to 2.3% of GDP, in line with the objectives of the Government's economic and financial programme established with the IMF. For 2020, in order to meet major challenges and fund additional expenditures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the funding of the National Health Response Plan (*Plan National de Riposte Sanitaire*) and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*), the Government and the IMF have agreed on a budget deficit of 5.9% of GDP. The budget deficit is expected at 4.6% of GDP for 2021; and is expected to converge towards the WAEMU community convergence criteria of 3% of GDP in 2023. On 27 April 2020, the WAEMU Conference of Heads of States and Governments declared a temporary suspension of the WAEMU growth and stability Pact, which sets six convergence criteria, including the 3% of GDP fiscal deficit rule, to help member-countries cope with the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government continues to monitor and assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy.

The consolidation of the global budget balance in 2019 highlights the Government's continued commitment to strengthening the management of public finances. The execution of the budget was characterised by a relatively satisfactory level of revenue collection and a good control of the level of expenses, which in turn helped offset capital losses. Tax revenue amounted to 12.2% of GDP, compared to a forecasted 12.5% of GDP. This level of revenue collection was impacted in particular by (i) the ban on the importation of vehicles more than five years old, (ii) the introduction of the import conformity certificate (*certificat de conformité à l'importation*) through the VOC programme which applies to all imported goods (with exemptions for certain designated goods, including arms, ammunition and other war material intended for the armed forces and security services), (iii) the lower volumes of the main petroleum products released for consumption, (iv) the reduction in the contribution of VAT in the telecommunications sector due to major investments and (v) a lower level of taxation on cocoa than targeted. However, the good results achieved in the control and collection of tax arrears mitigated the impact of these factors.

On the socio-political front, the actions taken by the Government aimed at strengthening social peace and national cohesion contributed well-adapted solutions to social movements, particularly with the signature of a memorandum of understanding establishing a five-year "truce" by which, in exchange for a no strike movement, the State committed to improve the quality of life and working conditions of civil servants through various measures, including the payment of all civil servant arrears estimated at CFAF 249.6 billion as at 2018 with 70% of the total payable between 2018 and 2022 and the remaining 30% between 2023 and 2025. From February to May 2019, some teachers in the primary and secondary education sectors and their unions went on strike demanding a revaluation of their wages and an increase in their housing allowances. None of the claims were accepted and no payments were made by the Government. However, the continued dialogue between the Government and the unions has eased tensions and allowed for an orderly completion of the 2018 – 2019 school year.

In addition, efforts to implement the NDP for the 2016-2020 period led to consistent economic growth. Following real GDP growth of 7.2% in 2016 and 7.4% in 2017, the provisional economic growth rate for 2018 was 6.9%. For 2019, economic growth rate is estimated at 6.2% by the Government, maintaining Côte d'Ivoire's rank among the leading developing countries in terms of economic growth. This dynamic was driven by the implementation of reforms to promote improvement in the country's business climate, in particular (i) the online availability of all information relating to building permits, (ii) the creation of a web portal with commercial information designed to strengthen cross-border exchanges, (iii) the continued implementation of the Phoenix Programme to promote SMEs, and (iv) the establishment of online tax returns and tax payment systems to improve revenue collection.

In this context, the country has been able to maintain the trust of its foreign partners. The organization of the 5th Africa-European Union Summit in Abidjan in November 2017, Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the Compact G20 initiative and the compact programme of the MCC are evidence of this fact. With regard to the MCC, a grant agreement for an amount of CFAF 315 billion was signed with the US Government in 2017 to finance, in particular, projects in the education and road infrastructure sectors. As of 30 June 2020, total disbursements in relation to the grant were US\$21.3 million.

To support this improving trend, the World Bank provided budgetary support of US\$425 million over the 2017 – 2019 period. This budgetary support is part of the Development Policy Financings (“DPF”), which are aimed at enhancing tax revenue collection, strengthening the education sector, improving the energy sector and consolidating transparency in the cocoa sector. The first tranche of US\$125 million was disbursed in December 2017. The disbursement of the second tranche of US\$100 million occurred in 2018. The disbursement of the third tranche of US\$200 million initially planned for 2019 has been postponed to 2020 by the World Bank due to the unavailability of the total IDA-XIX resources (under constitution) on which the financing is based. The loan agreement relating to this third tranche was signed on 3 April 2020 between the representative of the World Bank and the Minister of Economy and Finance. The disbursement is expected in the second half of December 2020.

Budgetary policies for 2020 and the medium-term are centred around the 2016-2020 NDP's objectives and take into account the 2016-2020 NDP's priority actions.

The 2020 budget focuses on the continued implementation of Government priorities with a particular emphasis on the objectives of the Government's Social Program (*Programme Social du Gouvernement – PSGOUV*), in particular, expanding socio-economic infrastructure and basic services that have a significant impact on the population's well-being, improving the education system to adapt to the needs of the job market, reinforcing the healthcare system to make it more accessible to the most disadvantaged groups, improving the population's food situation and reinforcing the security and defence system whose major guidelines are defined in the military and security planning laws. The 2020 budget is also designed in particular to promote job creation, particularly for young people, and to strengthen investments in the energy, transport and drinking water provision sectors.

The Government is also pursuing the implementation of policies and priorities with respect to the improvement of the population's well-being, namely through developing education and healthcare infrastructure and reinforcing economic activity. In this respect, the Government intends to increase the completion rate of its investments, in particular those subject to C2D financing, by implementing measures intended to help regularly monitor projects. The purpose of C2Ds is to ensure that the resources used for the repayment of loans are (with the lender's consent) allocated to the financing of specific expenses for targeted development projects. When a loan repayment is made, France pays Côte d'Ivoire a non-refundable grant equal to such repayment. The grant is then allocated to financing poverty reduction programmes jointly selected by the two parties. The country is thus able to use its resources previously allocated to debt repayment for the purposes of financing development projects. Following bilateral negotiations, in 2012 France granted a debt cancellation of a portion of Côte d'Ivoire's outstanding debt, in the amount of CFAF 1,486 billion (€2.265 billion) and signed the first C2D for a total amount of CFAF 413.25 billion (€630 million over the 2012-2015 period), of which 85% has already been allocated to projects. A second C2D contract was signed in Paris on 3 December 2014 between France and Côte d'Ivoire, for an amount of CFAF 738 billion (€1.125 billion) for the 2016-2020 period. (See “*Public Debt*”)

As part of the implementation of the Government's targets with regard to employment, in 2017, 52,129 young people were able to benefit from the services of the Youth Employment Agency (*Agence de l'Emploi pour les Jeunes*) under the programme “training, my ticket to a job” (“*Une formation, mon passeport pour l'emploi*”). Initiatives have also been

undertaken to support young independent entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. In this context, more than 13,000 individual and collective projects were financed with governmental resources and the support of the French Development Agency (*Agence française de développement*). In addition, 1,133 young people were placed in internships prior to employment and 409 young people were placed directly into employment.

Furthermore, the Government continues to strengthen the education system in order to promote education for all. In this respect, it works on increasing the number of classrooms and hiring teachers. In addition, registration costs were reduced, in particular for the poorest people, through the free distribution of school supplies to children registered in public primary schools. Various awareness-raising campaigns were also carried out, primarily to promote education for girls. The Government intends to continue this trend with the implementation of the sectoral education and training plan covering the 2016-2025 period. The plan aims to broaden fair access to different education levels both in terms of the quality and diversity of the education programme offered.

The Amended 2020 Budget

Following its initial assessment of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on expenditures as initially set forth in the 2020 Budget, on 23 December 2020, the Government adopted the amended Finance Law No. 2020-970 (*Loi de Finances Rectificative*) for 2020 amending the Finance Law No. 2019-1080 on the State budget for 2020 dated 18 December 2019 (as published in the Official Journal on 27 December 2019).

The amended Finance Law for 2020 has been adopted in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic and social consequences on the global economy, including Côte d'Ivoire. As noted by the IMF in its October 2020 projections, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a downward revision of growth prospects for the world economy, with a sharp contraction of -4.4% in 2020 (*see 2020 IMF Outlook*), compared to an initial growth forecast of 3.3%. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the growth momentum and led to a slowdown in economic activity and prompted a revision of real GDP growth to only 1.8% for 2020 by the IMF and the Government, compared to an initial growth forecast of 6.7% by the IMF (*see 2019 IMF Outlook*) and 7.2% by the Government. See “– *The Economy*”. The various measures and initiatives implemented by the Government to contain the spread of the coronavirus in the country and support the Ivoirian economy and population, including the National Health Response Plan (*Plan de Riposte Sanitaire*) and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*), have significantly affected the initial forecasts of resources and expenditures as initially set forth in the Finance Law for 2020. See “– *Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Health*” and “– *The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*”. Accordingly, pursuant to the Organic Law No. 2014-336 of 5 June 2014 relating to Finance Laws, the amended Finance Law on the State budget for 2020 was intended to take into account the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Côte d'Ivoire's expenditures, and budgetary and financial balance for 2020.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in an overall increase in the State budget of CFAF 354.4 billion. Thus, the revised State budget for 2020 amounts to CFAF 8,415.4 billion, compared to an initial budget of CFAF 8,061.0 billion set forth in the Finance Law for 2020, representing an increase of 4.2%.

The main changes to the initial 2020 budget are as follows:

State resources

Budgetary revenues decreased by CFAF 515.5 billion to CFAF 3,864.0 billion, compared to CFAF 4,379.5 billion projected in the initial budget:

- tax revenues, initially projected at CFAF 3,940.8 billion, have been revised to CFAF 3,501.0 billion, representing a contraction of CFAF 439.8 billion;
- non-tax revenues have increased by CFAF 9.0 billion to reach CFAF 88.0 billion, compared to CFAF 79.0 billion projected in the initial budget;
- grants, initially projected at CFAF 359.7 billion, have been revised to CFAF 275.0 billion, representing a net decrease of CFAF 84.7 billion;

- cash resources, including budgetary support and borrowing, initially projected at CFAF 2,921.7 billion, have been revised to CFAF 3,879.3 billion, representing an increase of CFAF 957.6 billion; and
- revenues from Special Treasury Accounts have decreased by CFAF 87.6 billion to CFAF 672.1 billion, compared to CFAF 759.7 billion projected in the initial budget.

State expenditures

Budgetary expenditures have been increased by CFAF 765.6 billion to CFAF 6,572.8 billion CFAF, compared to CFAF 5,807.2 billion projected in the initial budget:

- financial costs of public debt have increased by CFAF 117.0 billion to reach CFAF 760.1 billion, compared to CFAF 643.0 billion projected in the initial budget;
- purchases of goods and services have increased from an initial forecast of CFAF 747.9 billion to reach CFAF 763.9 billion, representing net increase of CFAF 16.0 billion;
- transfers to various administrations have increased from CFAF 545.8 billion to reach CFAF 869.1 billion, representing a net increase of CFAF 323.3 billion;
- capital expenditures have increased by CFAF 309.3 billion to reach CFAF 2,409.6 billion compared to CFAF 2,100.3 billion projected in the initial budget;
- cash expenses, consisting of capital repayments of public debt, have decreased by CFAF 323.5 billion to CFAF 1,170.6 billion compared to CFAF 1,494.1 billion projected in the initial budget; and
- Special Treasury Account expenditures have decreased by CFAF 87.6 billion to CFAF 672.1 billion, compared to CFAF 759.7 billion projected in the initial budget.

The Priorities of the 2021 Budget

The initial 2021 budget, adopted through Finance Law No. 2020-972 dated 23 December 2020 (as published in the Official Journal on 28 December 2020) and consisting of expenditures amounting to CFAF 8,398.9 billion, provides for the continued implementation of the Government's priorities. The 2021 budget represents a decrease of 0.2% compared to the 2020 budget and was adopted in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and its adverse impact on Côte d'Ivoire's economy and its population.

Through the 2021 budget, the Government intends to pursue its policy of alleviating poverty and social disparities. It is therefore paying particular attention to spending that promotes improvement of living conditions and well-being of the most disadvantaged sections of the population. To this end, the Government has allocated CFAF 2,863.8 billion to "pro-poor" expenditure. This level represents an increase of 4.0% compared to 2020 and represents 7.6% of GDP.

This expenditure covers the following social sectors in particular:

- education (CFAF 1,390.6 billion);
- health sector (CFAF 466.7 billion);
- social affairs (CFAF 63.8 billion) ;
- agriculture, animal and fishing resources (CFAF 165.7 billion) ;
- sanitation and improvement of drinking water and electricity supplies (CFAF 267.1 billion); and
- economic and social development actions by local authorities (CFAF 87.4 billion).

The expenditure of the 2021 budget is allocated by sector and the Government's priorities can be broken down as follows:

Public Authorities, Sovereignty and Governance

This sector has been allocated a total envelope of CFAF 692.8 billion under the 2021 budget distributed as follows:

- legislative bodies (CFAF 28.8 billion);

- executive bodies (CFAF 169.0 billion);
- jurisdictional bodies (CFAF 15.0 billion);
- consultative bodies (CFAF 30.1 billion);
- external affairs (CFAF 101.5 billion); and
- and decentralisation (CFAF 348.3 billion).

Defence, Security and Justice

The 2021 budget has allocated CFAF 591.8 billion for defence, security and justice, including CFAF 351.4 billion for defence services, including the *gendarmerie*, CFAF 171.0 billion for the police, and CFAF 69.4 billion for justice.

This allocation is destined to various expenditures, including:

- the operation of the CNS (CFAF 15 billion);
- military installation leases (CFAF 38.6 billion) and police installation leases (CFAF 19.1 billion); and
- food (CFAF 40.0 billion) and fuel (CFAF 14.4 billion) for the armed forces.

The 2021 budget provides for a CFAF 69.4 billion allocation intended for the improvement of the judicial and penitentiary system.

General Administration and Economic Development

Credits for general administration and economic development amount to CFAF 3,343.2 billion under the 2021 budget and cover the following in particular:

- matters of general and financial administration (CFAF 31.5 billion);
- finance (including the servicing of the public debt for up to CFAF 2,132.8 billion) (CFAF 2,477.1 billion);
- coordination of budgetary affairs and public expenditure (CFAF 808.5 billion); and
- planning, programming and general statistics (CFAF 24.1 billion).

Education, Training and Research

Credits for training, teaching and research amount to CFAF 1,391.0 billion under the 2021 budget and cover the following in particular:

- strengthening the operational resources of educational structures;
- private school subsidies for student and pupil school fees (CFAF 145.9 billion);
- payment of student and pupil scholarships and transportation costs (CFAF 56.5 billion); and
- organization of exams (CFAF 15.7 billion).

The 2021 budget also emphasizes the development of infrastructure in the field of education and training, through:

- the construction, outfitting and rehabilitation of secondary school infrastructure (CFAF 49.6 billion), in particular through the construction programme of middle and high schools (CFAF 12.7 billion), the construction and outfitting of five boarding high school for girls (CFAF 4.9 billion) and the integrated programme for the continuation of school canteens (*Programme intégré de pérennisation des cantines scolaires*) (CFAF 15.2 billion);
- the construction, outfitting and rehabilitation of higher education infrastructure (CFAF 42.2 billion), primarily including the construction, rehabilitation and outfitting of universities (CFAF 25.8 billion); and

- the construction, outfitting and rehabilitation of vocational training infrastructure (CFAF 58.9 billion), including construction and equipment of seven vocational training infrastructure (CFAF 40.5 billion), the Project for the Development of the Vocational Training System with Reverse Flow Partnership (*Projet de Développement du Système de Formation Professionnelle à Partenariat à Flux Inversés*) (CFAF 9.0 billion), the project to create and renovate technical and vocational education institutions (CFAF 1.9 billion), construction and equipment of the Daloa vocational high school in partnership with the Kuwaiti fund (CFAF 3.3 billion), and the development project for the vocational training system (CFAF 3.2 billion).

Health and Social Affairs

The health and social services sector has benefited from a CFAF 510.2 billion allocation, including CFAF 411.5 billion for the health sector, CFAF 22.5 billion for the protection of women and children, as well as CFAF 76.3 billion for social protection and employment actions. The amount allocated to the health sector is intended for:

- the rehabilitation and re-equipment of CHUs, general hospitals and other health facilities;
- consolidating efforts to prevent and fight pathologies and endemic diseases, as well as HIV/AIDS; and
- free targeted health care (CFAF 18.0 billion) covering childbirth costs, caesarean sections and the fight against malaria, targeted social expenditure (CFAF 6.8 billion) to support the vaccination and drug price reduction policy, including antiretroviral.

Culture, Youth, Sport and Leisure

A budget of CFAF 177.6 billion has been allocated to support the promotion of culture, sports activities and communication, including CFAF 109.4 billion for the sport sector alone. This amount is earmarked, among others, for the construction, rehabilitation and reinforcement of the sports infrastructure park.

Production, Industrial and Commercial Development

The 2021 budget provides for CFAF 322.2 billion, including CFAF 305.1 billion for agriculture and fishery resources and a credit of CFAF 13.9 billion for the promotion of industry and SMEs and CFAF 5.6 billion for the promotion of rice production.

The agricultural, animal and fishing resources sectors are allocated CFAF 305.1 billion in the 2021 budget, covering the Rural Area Investment Fund (*Fonds d'Investissement en Milieu Rural*) (CFAF 7.7 billion), programmes for the development and promotion of agriculture, hydro-agricultural planning projects, agricultural diversification projects and land management as well as rural equipment. These credits also take into account the reliance on cattle rearing, dairy production, fishing, aquaculture, and subsistence crops in order to ensure food self-sufficiency.

Environment, Living Conditions and Nature Protection

The 2021 budget allocates CFAF 214.5 billion, including CFAF 178.5 billion for environmental protection and sanitation and CFAF 36.0 billion for the protection of fauna and flora.

These allocations are provided to fund actions to improve sanitation and the supply of drinking water and the supply of electricity. They are dedicated mainly to sanitation and removal of domestic waste, as well as urban and village hydraulics via the reparation and installation of human-powered pumps. These allocations also cover the continuation of rural electrification programmes and the extension of urban networks.

Development of Collective Infrastructures and Equipment

The 2021 budget provides for an envelope of CFAF 1,157.7 billion, intended in particular for road equipment and maintenance (CFAF 588.8 billion), housing and town planning (CFAF 64.8 billion), hydraulic sector (CFAF 86.1 billion), oil and energy (CFAF 268.0 billion), as well as transport and maritime affairs (CFAF 82.0 billion).

For the reinforcement of road infrastructure, the 2021 budget provides CFAF 588.8 billion for the purpose of road opening and refurbishment works, as well as for the construction of civil engineering works. This entails the Road Maintenance Fund (*Fonds d'Entretien Routier*) (CFAF 169.9 billion) and multiple specific projects, including:

Projects located in Abidjan

- the Abidjan Urban Transport Project (CFAF 71.8 billion);
- the Project to Support the Competitiveness of Greater Abidjan (CFAF 33.2 billion)
- the development of the Cocody bay area (CFAF 49.3 billion);
- the development of the Marseille Boulevard (CFAF 8.8 billion); and
- the rehabilitation of FHB Bridges (CFAF 9.1 billion).

Projects Located in the Rest of the Country

- the rehabilitation of the Bouaké-Ferké road (CFAF 9.6 billion) ;
- the development of the Boundiali-Odiénné-Mali and Guinea borders road (CFAF 30.5 billion);
- the road development and transport facilitation programme within the Mano River Union (CFAF 20.2 billion);
- the development of the Yamoussoukro-Bouaké highway (CFAF 23.1 billion);
- the Bamako-Zantiébogou Kani Boundiali-San-Pédro Corridor Road Project (CFAF 16.0 billion);
- the construction of Toulepleu-Zouan-Houien and Séguéla Mankono central-western roads (CFAF 15.0 billion);
- the reinforcement and development of the Kanawolo-Korhogo road (CFAF 22.6 billion); and
- the asphaltting of the Agboville-Cechi road (CFAF 5.1 billion).

Fiscal Policy and Administrative Reforms

In recent years, the Government has been implementing a series of major measures to significantly strengthen revenue collection. Since 2014, the average annual amount of revenue collection increased by approximately 12%. The tax pressure rate was 12.3% in 2019 compared to 12.0% in 2018, 12.2% in 2017 and 11.8% in 2016. Measures taken by the Government to reach these levels include administrative measures and a series of measures aimed at expanding the tax base. The goal is to attain a tax pressure rate of 12.9% of GDP by the end of 2022 through continued implementation of the fiscal policy and administrative measures which should enable for significant improvement in the tax pressure rate by the end of 2022, compared to the 2019 level. The principal measures that have been implemented since 2014 are the following:

- the adoption of a single declaration form in January 2016, which helped significantly reduce the number of procedures undertaken by taxpayers as well as the amount of time spent on tax formalities;
- the establishment of online declarations and payments since January 2017 for companies whose revenue is equal to or greater than CFAF 200 million. These companies must now declare and pay their taxes and duties online via an online e-tax portal on the e-impots.gouv.ci or dgi.gouv.ci website;
- the digitalization of the land registry via the creation of an electronic land registry. It has been accessible to sector professionals (notaries) since 2014 via the link <http://econsultation.dgi.gouv.ci>;
- the creation of a Fiscal Policy Coordination Cell in November 2016 within the cabinet of the Budget Ministry. This Cell is responsible for coordinating and conducting fiscal reform activities;

- since January 2017, the implementation of a programming and execution system for the automated fiscal control programme in order to avoid overlapping controls, and the increase in the number of companies subjected to this procedure;
- the continuation of large-scale survey operations targeted at taxpayers;
- the improvement in the quality of financial information contained in the summary financial statements of companies, through the creation in 2016 of an obligation for a prior visa on such financial statements before their transmission to the Single Filing Window for Financial Statements (*Guichet unique de Dépôt des Etats Financiers*);
- the improvement of customs clearance for land borders, namely through the modification of the procedure of customs clearance and the deployment of two new scanners at the land border offices;
- the reinforcement of the control of customs transformation regime for the purpose of insuring the veracity of declarations;
- the reinforcement of international transit controls to improve the traceability of goods in transit;
- in 2014, the harmonization of tax rates applicable to income from capital to adapt Ivorian tax to WAEMU community standards;
- since 2014, the improvement of telecommunications taxation, by imposing a new tax on telephone communications at a rate of 3% of revenues and increasing the income tax rate from 25% to 30% for companies in this sector;
- in 2014, the establishment of a minimum tax charge of CFAF 400,000 for taxpayers subject to the simplified taxation regime;
- in 2017, developing regulations relating to transfer prices, namely via the establishment of an obligation to produce a status of transactions between related companies or with foreign companies, as well as the adoption of a more restrictive tax regime on transactions made with low-tax countries (tax havens) in terms of income tax;
- the optimization of VAT credit repayments to companies by improving the processing of repayments to such companies.
- the gradual reduction of VAT exemptions by terminating certain such exemptions, except for those provided for by the WAEMU Directive and in compliance with prior commitments;
- the extension of online tax declarations and payments to all taxpayers;
- the limitation of one-time exemptions to the social sectors and those related to grants, and the non-renewal of temporary exemptions;
- the completion of various studies relating to increasing VAT proceeds and reinforcing its neutrality;
- the adoption of a new Investment Code by the Council of Ministers in August 2018. This Code came into force on 1 January 2019;
- the implementation of measures relating to thin capitalization;
- an upward adjustment of excise duties on alcoholic and energy drinks and tobacco;
- the electronic transmission of financial statements and the development of an IT processing application for financial statement data;
- the establishment of withholding tax on the sale of timber;
- the establishment of a tax on gambling receipts.

In addition, laws were adopted relating to the reduction of the Community Solidarity Tax (*Prélèvement Communautaire de la Solidarité*) through decree no. 2017-412 of 28 June 2017, the establishment of an import tax of the African Union (AU) through decree no. 2017-425 of 28 June 2017 and the amendment of decree no. 1916-1012 establishing DUS rates applicable to coffee cherries, cocoa beans and coffee and cocoa products. A 10% tax on cashew nut exports was introduced in accordance with order no. 2018-145 of 14 February 2018. However, this tax has been temporarily revised to 3.5% from September in 2018 to March 2019 and to 7.0% since April 2019 in order to take into account the adverse economic situation resulting from the decline in external demand. In 2019, revenues from this tax amounted to CFAF 26.78 billion compared to CFAF 49.64 billion in 2018. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, tax revenues projected for 2020 amount to CFAF 22.6 billion, compared to an initial pre-Covid-19 forecast of CFAF 23.8 billion.

On an organizational level, the measures implemented by the Government involved the creation at the end of 2016 of the Medium-Sized Companies Department to ensure better tracking of transactions as part of the continued segmentation of taxpayers, and the Investigation, Cross-Referencing and Analysis Department (*Direction des Enquêtes, des Recoupements et de l'Analyse*) to enhance the fight against tax fraud and evasion. In addition, fiscal controls were decentralized by assigning this responsibility to the Large Companies Department (revenue greater than CFAF 3 billion), the Medium-Sized Companies Department (revenue between CFAF 200 million and CFAF 3 billion) and the Regional Departments (revenue below CFAF 200 million). In 2019, the Integrated Tax Management System in Côte d'Ivoire (*Système Intégré de Gestion des Impôts en Côte d'Ivoire* – “SIGICI”) was deployed at the DGI. The SIGICI aims to help the Government (i) secure tax revenues, (ii) collect reliable information for tax audits, (iii) monitor in real time the state of compliance with tax obligations and (iv) provide decision-makers with relevant information for effective management.

In addition, the customs authorities have stepped up the fight against fraud by (i) optimizing the use of scanners for imported and exported goods in the Autonomous Port of Abidjan and San Pedro, (ii) increasing the monitoring of the coastline and lagoons, (iii) strengthening the capacity to combat fraud and smuggling at land borders through the acquisition and installation of two scanners at the border offices of Noé in the east and Ouangolodougou in the north in 2017, (iv) increasing control over international transit to improve tracking of goods in transit, (v) the installation of a second scanner at the northern border (Ouangolodougou office) in May 2018 and (vi) the rehabilitation of six customs posts at land borders in the second half of 2018 as part of the strengthening of control operations. In 2019, post-clearance checks were stepped up regarding the customs clearance of petroleum products through the cross-checking of delivery notices and declarations.

With regard to strengthening its operational capacity, the needs of the Directorate General of Customs for additional weapons and ammunition have been addressed under the military planning law.

Concerning international transit, several measures have been implemented, including: (i) prohibiting re-export by land to neighbouring countries with a maritime border (circular no.1857/MBPE/DGD of 22 May 2017), (ii) rearranging the procedure for processing operations for the re-export of goods inland by rail (circular no. 1846/MBPE/DGD of 22 March 2017) and (iii) the modification of the Committee for the Approval of Economic Operators and Customs Commissioners (*comité d'Agrément des Opérateurs Economiques et des Commissionnaires en Douane Agréés*) in charge of transit operations (decision no. 63/MBPE/DGD of 18 May 2017). On 28 December 2017, a special flying squad for the customs was also created for transit operations. In 2019, surveillance has been reinforced at border offices not equipped with scanners in order to improve the handling of goods and prevent the smuggling of goods through these offices.

The Medium-Term Payroll Control Strategy

On 5 May 2014, the Government adopted a medium-term payroll control strategy for the 2014-2022 period. It intends to continue its implementation pursuant to the priorities under the 2016-2020 NDP, in particular, in terms of recruitment in the education and healthcare sectors. The budgetary repercussions linked to the implementation of the military planning and domestic security laws, as well as laws relating to agreements with civil servant and State agent unions, were taken into account in the 2018 draft finance law. The ratio of the payroll bill to tax revenues is expected to maintain a declining trend and converge with the WAEMU standard in 2021, according to which the payroll bill cannot exceed 35% of tax revenues. In addition, as part of an effort to modernize and streamline procedures and practices in the public sector, a draft law revising the general status of the public sector is under review and is expected to be adopted by the Government.

The main measures within this strategy are the following:

- unfreezing of indexed salary raises (unblocking of salaries);
- the readjustment of the State's employers' contribution rates from 19% to 16.67%, as of the last year of the unfreezing;
- resumption of paygrade advancement every two years; and
- supervised hiring: hiring forecasts for the 2014-2020 period are based on personnel reinforcement needs due to the implementation of the NDP, mainly in social sectors (education and health).

Since the implementation of the strategy, the “payroll to tax revenue” ratio has seen a decreasing trend and has dropped from 45.2% in 2015 to 40.9% in 2018. It remained above the 35% standard in 2019 (39.8%) and is projected to remain above the 35% standard in 2020 (37.3%), due to the implementation of salary increase measures for civil servants and State agents as well as recruitment in the social sectors. However, the ratio is expected to gradually improve to 35.1% in 2021 and 34% in 2022.

In addition, particular attention has been given to recruitment in the education and healthcare sectors.

Transparency, Fight against Corruption and Public Procurement Framework

The Government continues to prioritize the fight against corruption. To this effect, the Government implemented a Programme for Supporting Good Governance (*Programme d'Appui à la Bonne Gouvernance*) for the 2009-2013 period, which benefited from US\$83.8 million of Government funding. The Government has also funded the development of a National Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Plan (*Plan National de Bonne Gouvernance et de Lutte contre la Corruption*), the implementation of which has resulted in the following measures and actions:

- the Court of Auditors (*Cour des comptes*) was created by organic law no. 2015-494 of 7 July 2015, and its president was appointed on 8 January 2018;
- online publication of the final reports on the implementation of the budget and declarations of conformity for the years 2003 to 2017;
- a High Authority for Good Governance (*Haute Autorité pour la Bonne Gouvernance*) was created by a presidential decree adopted on 20 November 2013 and the presidential decree n°2014-213 of 16 April 2014 on the attributions, organisation and functioning of the High Authority for Good Governance was adopted;
- campaigns to raise awareness among political, economic and social figures with regard to the harmful effects of corruption; and
- an Observatory and a Special Court in charge of preventing and fighting against corruption (*Observatoire de la lutte contre la corruption* and *Cour spéciale de prévention et de lutte contre la corruption*).

The Government also took measures to further regulate the conditions of applicability of the public procurement code with respect to bilateral contracts awarded without tenders below CFAF 30 million and therefore were not subjected to the Public Procurement Code.

It is fighting against corruption in particular by seeking to make public procurement systems more transparent on two fronts:

- since November 2013, all procurements agreed outside of public procurement proceedings are systematically audited by the Public Expense Review Committee (*Cellule de Revue Dépenses Publiques*– “CRDP”) before they may be approved; and

- the effectiveness of the implementation of sanctions was strengthened through decree no. 118 MPMB of 26 March 2014 which sets out the rules for the application of sanctions for violations of public procurement regulations.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire complies with the standards established by the EITI since May 2013. The purpose of this organization is to increase public transparency with regard to State revenues originating from the oil, gas and mining sectors and their use.

In order to strengthen the public procurement management framework, new measures promoting SMEs were adopted by the Government in 2016. These measures aim to promote the extensive participation of SMEs in public procurement and facilitate their access to public procurement. They involve:

- increasing the public procurement threshold: increasing the thresholds helped to reduce the volume of contracts subject to prior controls by the Public Procurement Department (*Direction des Marchés Publics*) and thereby increasing the share of transactions made below this reference threshold subject to more accessible procedures for SMEs;
- reserving bids for SMEs by setting the bid quota to be granted to SMEs: to increase the share of bids won by SMEs, contracting authorities are asked to reserve an annual share of their budget for SMEs equal to 20% of the expected value of expenses for works, supplies and services that are eligible for public procurement;
- granting a preference margin for local subcontracting: this involves encouraging large companies to subcontract a share of their bids (30% of total value) by granting them, during tender bids, a preference margin on the price that may not exceed 5%;
- reducing requirements of administrative documents: in order to reduce constraints and thus the rejection of SMEs' offers during the Tender Opening and Bid Assessment Committee (*Commission d'Ouverture des plis et de Jugement des Offres*) preliminary review for absence or non-validity, it was decided that tax and labor certifications are now only required upon market approval;
- raising awareness of contracting authorities for a favourable allocation to SMEs;
- introducing simplified competitive processes in public procurement;
- reducing the amount of the provisional deposit; and
- implementing a company categorization.

Moreover, in the context of the consolidation of the public procurement system, several actions were carried out over the last two years, including the following:

- all public procurement units have become operational and cover all ministries since October 2018;
- the dematerialized public procurement system is now operational in ten ministries, with the "*e-marchés publics*" (electronic public procurement) module since July 2018; and
- 18 State enterprises and 36 national public institutions are connected to the Integrated Public Procurement Management System (*Système Intégré de Gestion des Marchés Publics* – “SIGMAP”) via the Internet;
- revision of the Public Procurement Code to take into account new methods of contracting and new methods of bid evaluation with a view to ensuring more efficient public procurement procedures. The revised code was adopted by presidential order n°2019-679 of 24 July 2019;
- continuation of the process of dematerialisation of public procurement procedures with the extension of Phase 1 modules to all ministries at the end of December 2019. Phase 2, which is dedicated to the private sector, will be implemented with the support of the World Bank and tested in 2020 with a view to generalizing the dematerialization process in 2021; and

- deployment of the SIGMAP in the district of Abidjan and in 5 communities other than those in the district of Abidjan: the Autonomous District of Yamoussoukro, the Regional Council of Gontougo (Bondoukou), the Regional Council of Poro (Korhogo), the Regional Council of Tonkpi (Man), and the Regional Council of Haut Sassandra (Daloa).

The Budget Process

The process begins each year in March and ends with the submission of the draft budget to the National Assembly at the latest on the first Tuesday of October. The draft budget becomes a Finance Law (*Loi des finances*) upon a vote by the National Assembly. The Finance Law for each year is enacted by the President of the Republic and made effective as of 1 January of the relevant year.

Côte d'Ivoire's budget elaboration process comprises the following steps:

- development of the macro-economic framework: it allows for the making of projections for the main aggregate figures for the years to come with regards to macroeconomic growth;
- validating the macroeconomic framework: it allows the Government to declare its approval or suggest adjustments to the macroeconomic framework;
- development of the budgetary framework: this aims to establish a balance between the commitments of the State and available resources;
- validation of the budgetary framework: this enables the Government to approve the spending decisions and the level of available resources and opens the way to the distribution of funds between the Ministries, Institutions and Decentralized Authorities;
- determination of the use of budgetary funds: this allows the allocation of budgetary credits to the Ministries, Institutions and Decentralized Authorities;
- Prime Minister's framework letter: this communicates to the Ministries, Institutions and Decentralized Authorities the budgetary funding allocated to each of them;
- budgetary conferences with the Heads of Administrative and Financial Affairs (*Directeurs des Affaires Administratives et Financières*): this allows for an examination of the proposed allocations prepared by the Ministries, Institutions and Decentralized Authorities;
- arbitrage and amendments to the draft budget: these aim to summarize the modifications carried out and an arbitrage of additional requests;
- adoption of the draft budget by the Council of Ministers: this marks the end of the executive power's involvement in the budget elaboration process; and
- examination of the budget by the National Assembly: this step allows the National Assembly to examine the budget after a presentation by the Minister in charge of Budget, after which the budget is voted into law.

In order to ensure that budgeted investments are carried out efficiently, a research fund was set up by the Government in 2012 to finance the necessary feasibility studies for relevant projects. For 2018 and 2019, this fund received an allocation of CFAF 10.0 billion and CFAF 15.0 billion, respectively. In 2020, CFAF 10.0 billion has been allocated to it.

To render Côte d'Ivoire's budget management more transparent and more efficient, the Government has instituted a publicly available quarterly report. A publicly available quarterly report on the status of public procurement contracts awarded by the Ministry in Charge of the Budget has also been instituted. Adjustments may be made to the national budget via amended Finance Laws (*Lois de Finances Rectificatives*), adopted under the same conditions as the Finance Law (*Loi de Finances Initiale*).

New Framework for Public Finance Management

In 2009, the Council of Ministers of the WAEMU adopted six new Directives for purposes of harmonizing the public financial management legal framework in the Union. This new framework institutes, among other things, multi-year expenditure programs and budgeting by program.

Côte d'Ivoire transposed the WAEMU Directives into national law following the adoption by the National Assembly of two laws (*lois organiques*) voted on 5 June 2014: one establishing a Transparency Code, and another one dealing with the Finance Law. Four implementing decrees were adopted on 9 July 2014 with respect to:

- the State Budget Nomenclature: this decree sets the fundamental principles of presentation of the general budget, ancillary budgets and special Treasury accounts.
- the State Financial Transactions Table: this decree sets the general principles relating to the preparation and presentation of the statistics on the financial transactions of the WAEMU member States.
- the Accounting Plan of the State: it determines the subject matter of the State's general accounting and the standards, rules and procedures relating to its preparation and the production of the accounts and financial statements. It adopts an accounting plan the basis of which is common to all WAEMU member States.
- the General Rulebook on Public Accounting: it sets the fundamental rules governing the spending of public budgets, accounting, control of financial transactions, management of public funds, values and assets.

The principal changes brought about by the adopted laws include:

- the shift from a means- to an outcome-oriented strategy so that public money is spent more efficiently;
- the use of multi-year budgets;
- the decentralization of the principal authorizing power: the Ministers and Institution Presidents are the principal authorizers of credits and their programmes;
- a debate on budget execution in the National Assembly at the end of the second quarter of every year, during which the Government will defend its social and economic policies; and
- the reinforcement of the mission of each Technical Minister: to this effect, each Minister will have to defend his budget in front of the National Assembly and provide an account of his management through a detailed yearly performance report.

In order to facilitate the application of these rules, the Government carried out several actions in the course of 2018, including:

- the transposition of the community Directive relating to stock records in the national legal framework. Decree no. 2018-928 of 12 December 2018 on stock records determines the organization, management and control of operations relating to the accounting of materials held in inventory. With this legal framework, the keeping of genuine, accurate, regular, precise and exhaustive accounting records will facilitate the decision-making process, and so, to contribute to the control of asset management by public decision makers;
- continued work to finalize the Budgetary and Accounting Information System which will allow for the preparation and spending of the budget as part of the budget programme. The development module has been completed and work in relation to the execution module is being finalized;
- the adoption of directive no. 001/SEPMBPE/DGBF/DRBMGP of 20 December 2018 providing for the terms for the codification of budget items;
- continued preparation of the Annual Performance Reports (*Rapports Annuels de Performance* ("APRs")) by five pilot ministries, which began in 2017 and the ongoing education of the other ministries in view of preparing their respective APRs;

- continued dissemination of collections of transposed regulations, the methodological guide on performance and instructional guides;
- the adoption of the circular no.0567/cab-PM/SEMPBPE/DGBF/DRBMGP on the designation of the Programme Managers within the various Ministries; and
- the continued strengthening of the capacities of the central and decentralized parties involved in the implementation of the program budgets as described in the organic law relating to finance laws.

Moreover, in order to consolidate the legal framework for public finance management, decree no. 2019-81 of 23 January 2019 on the Charter for the Management of Programs and Allocations (*Charte de Gestion des Programmes et des Dotations*) was adopted in January 2019. This decree defines the roles and responsibilities of the various participants involved in the implementation of programs and allocations as well as rules relating to their management. It also sets out the rules relating to the steering and performance of programs.

In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire prepared and published its first citizen's budget (*budget citoyen*). The citizen's budget is a more simplified form of the state budget presented in an accessible to and less technical manner for all citizens of Côte d'Ivoire. It is designed to keep the population informed about public management and to help improve budget transparency in Côte d'Ivoire.

Finally, in order to ensure better consistency between its development objectives and its budgetary resources, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted the *budget-programme* system, a system of equivalence between a budget and a programme. This system is effective since 1 January 2020 and replaces the budgeting system based on the resources, which was in force since the country became independent in 1960. In accordance with the new system, the finance law establishing the 2020 State budget is structured into 35 allocations and 149 budget programs across the ministries and government agencies.

Treasury Single Account

A methodology for the creation of a Treasury Single Account (*Compte Unique du Trésor*) (“TSA”) and a timetable for closing the public accounts in commercial banks were adopted in December 2014.

Treasury management will be further modernised and optimised through the TSA’s implementation, which addresses the necessity of controlling all public funds in real time and ensuring optimal management of treasury and public debt. To this end, all public resources must be held in a Settlement Account with the BCEAO from which all State expenditures will be carried out.

Accordingly, the Government initiated a survey of public accounts mainly held with commercial banks and the Central Account Agency (*Agence Comptable Centrale des Dépôts*) (“CAA”) (also referred to as the Government Deposit Bank (*Banque des Dépôts du Trésor*)). The closing process has begun with dormant or redundant accounts. A pilot phase relating to the revenue section of the TSA has also been launched. To this end, the CAA agencies have been given equipment to scan bank notes so as to accelerate collection of revenue for deposit in the TSA. This operation is expected to aid in rapidly processing bank accounts held by these agencies.

The revenue and expenditure components of the TSA are now operational at the level of the Directorates-General for Taxes, Customs and the Public Treasury. After the pilot phase of the TSA from 28 February 2017 to 24 January 2018, which was deemed satisfactory, the rollout is under way with the first phase completed in December 2018, which involved 278 line items for the revenue component and 65 accounting line items for the expenditure component.

In 2019, the TSA entered its operationalization phase. Thus, 486 accounting line items (Directorates-General for Taxes, Customs and the Public Treasury) were connected to the revenue component and 285 accounting line items to the

expenditure component. As a result, 1,532 accounts were closed with public and commercial banks. In addition, the users' ability to understand the functionalities of the TSA's automated management system was improved.

Integrated System for the Management of Public Finances

In order to ensure control over public expenditures, in 1999 the Government introduced a management tool for public finances, known as the Integrated System for the Management of Public Finances (*Système Intégré de Gestion des Finances Publiques – SIGFiP*). This system connects principal participants of the public expenditure chain and provides a framework for expenses within budgetary allocations and regulates the budget.

The SIGFiP continued to be deployed with the connection of 11 additional National Representations Abroad (*Représentations Nationales à l'Étranger – “RNEs”*), bringing the number of connected RNEs to 43 out of the 52 planned, including 6 localities in the interior of the country in 2019.

Revenues and Expenses

The table below shows the changes in public revenues and expenses from 2015 to 2020 as set forth in the State Financial Transactions Table (*Tableau des Opérations Financières de l'Etat*):

<i>in CFAF billions</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total revenues and Grants	3,916.8	4,176.6	4,523.4	4,764.1	5,158.4	5,089.6
Total revenues	3,634.6	3,884.2	4,257.3	4,517.9	4,883.5	4,808.3
Tax revenues (including earmarked revenues and parafiscal)	2,954.9	3,352.6	3,660.8	3,882.4	4,205.4	4,191.5
Direct taxes	788.4	851.9	948.3	1,093.9	1,139.7	1,102.9
Including taxes on oil profits	72.0	55.0	64.1	87.3	100.6	63.1
Indirect taxes	691.6	789.7	839.9	860.6	982.7	1,022.3
Non -tax revenues	679.8	531.6	596.5	635.6	678.1	616.8
Social Security contributions	383.5	443.3	455.7	479.2	509.6	483.7
Others	296.2	88.3	140.8	156.4	168.5	133.1
Including: PETROCI dividends	18.8	0.0	2.6	8.5	9.8	8.2
Grants	282.2	253.5	266.1	246.2	274.9	281.3
Projects	128.6	105.9	115.2	87.4	107.4	173.1
Programmes (including those linked to the crisis)	153.6	147.6	150.9	158.7	167.5	104.6
Total expenses	4,469.8	5,014.6	5,521.7	5,708.3	5,943.9	7,174.1
Current expenses	3,222.7	3,606.2	3,995.0	4,161.0	4,444.6	5,222.7
Salaries and wages	1,331.6	1,400.8	1,512.3	1,621.9	1,703.0	3,776.6
Social security benefits	255.4	260.7	263.7	296.3	331.3	357.3
Subsidies and other current transfers (including health and education)	414.7	385.8	430.1	403.7	431.1	389.2
Including: electricity subsidies	77.7	7.5	28.9	18.2	24.5	14.4
Other current expenses	814.8	1,069.4	1,364.4	1,372.2	1,403.5	(117.1)
Including: damages paid with respect to toxic waste/Ebola	13.2	20.9	4.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Expenses connected to the crisis/Security expenses	108.7	129.4	44.9	32.6	54.7	126.1
Interest owed	297.5	360.1	379.5	434.2	520.9	690.6
Domestic debt	145.3	183.2	203.7	206.1	221.7	261.7
External debt	152.2	177.0	175.8	228.0	299.3	428.9
before rescheduling/ refinancing on new financings						
Investment expenses	1,247.3	1,408.4	1,526.8	1,547.3	1,499.3	1,951.4
Financed by domestic resources	790.9	1,054.0	927.1	891.2	977.3	1,008.7
Financed by external resources	456.3	354.4	599.6	656.1	521.9	942.6
Net loans	(0.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Basic primary balances⁽¹⁾	(68.1)	(394.9)	(281.4)	(99.2)	(17.5)	(732.5)
Global balance, including grants	(553.0)	(837.9)	(998.3)	(944.2)	(785.5)	(2,084.5)
Global balance, excluding grants	(835.2)	(1,091.5)	(1,264.5)	(1,190.4)	(1,060.4)	(2,365.7)
Variation of domestic past due amounts (excluding debt service)	1.5	78.9	(76.2)	(53.1)	106.2	(25.0)
Net variation of external past due amounts (interests)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Past due amounts write offs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Accumulation of new past due amounts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Global balance (cash basis).....	(551.4)	(759.1)	(1,074.2)	(997.3)	(679.3)	(2,109.5)
<i>Source: MEF/DGE/DPPSE</i>						

(1) Total revenues (excluding grants) minus expenses, excluding scheduled interests and investment expenses financed through foreign resources.

In 2019, the situation of public finances indicates that tax collection levels stood at CFAF 4,205.4 billion (12.3% of GDP) compared to a target of CFAF 4,299.4 billion (12.5% of GDP). The capital loss of CFAF 94.0 billion is due to the weak performance of domestic tax, which recorded a negative gap of CFAF 97.4 billion, offset by higher export revenues. Compared to 2018, tax revenues and net expenditure and loans improved by 8.3% and 4.1% respectively.

Total expenditure and net loans were CFAF 5,943.9 billion in 2019 compared to a target of CFAF 6,049.2 billion, resulting in an underutilisation of CFAF 105.3 billion. This gap is related to a lower than expected execution of staff expenses, capital expenditure and payment of debt interest.

The basic primary balance was deficit of CFAF 17.5 billion and the total budgetary deficit was CFAF 785.5 billion, compared to expected deficits of CFAF 164.1 billion and CFAF 790.2 billion respectively. Recourse to both domestic (CFAF 982.5 billion) and external (CFAF 504.1 billion) financings partly helped to finance this deficit.

The year 2020 was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. The health crisis led to a slowdown in economic activity at the global and national level. As part of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic and social impact, the Government adopted a CFAF 96 billion National Health Response Plan (*Plan National de Riposte Sanitaire*) and an Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*) estimated at CFAF 1,700 billion, which significantly disrupted budget forecasts as set out in the initial Finance Law for 2020 in terms of resources and expenditure.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused a significant loss of revenue and a significant increase in public expenditure in 2020 (+CFAF 419.4 billion), mainly driven by the National Health Response Plan and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have led to a budget deficit of 5.9% of GDP in 2020 compared to 2.3% in 2019. Total revenue and grants are estimated at CFAF 5,089.6 billion (14.5% of GDP) compared to expenditure of CFAF 7,174.1 billion (20.4% of GDP). To finance its deficit, the Government expects to rely on the WAEMU monetary and financial markets for an amount of CFAF 1,319.8 billion, and on the support of its technical and financial partners through budgetary support programmes estimated at CFAF 1,146.5 billion, including CFAF 688.5 billion from the IMF, and project loans in the amount of CFAF 769.6 billion.

Taxation

Missions of the General Tax Directorate (Direction Générale des Impôts)

The *Direction Générale des Impôts* (“DGI”) is responsible for elaborating and applying fiscal and para-fiscal legislation and preparing and applying international tax treaties. As such, it is responsible for determining the tax base, the liquidation and the collection of taxes and the collection of fiscal and para-fiscal revenue other than customs duties on behalf of the State. It is also responsible for managing tax disputes relating to the tax base and tax collection.

Certain Duties and Taxes

General Income Tax

Côte d’Ivoire’s taxation system for natural persons includes category-specific taxes and a base tax on overall revenue, after deduction of category-specific taxes.

The base for the general income tax is the net overall income of natural persons. This is a progressive tax with a specific rate per earning band.

The general income tax is part of payroll and income taxes (excluding taxes on securities), which amounted to CFAF 314.7 billion in 2013, CFAF 339.5 billion in 2014, CFAF 354.4 billion in 2015, CFAF 403.7 billion in 2016, CFAF 449.0 billion in 2017, CFAF 498.6 billion in 2018 and CFAF 527.2 billion in 2019. For 2020, it is estimated at CFAF 581.6 billion.

Tax on Industrial and Commercial Profit

The tax on profits is due on profits generated in Côte d’Ivoire, in particular arising from the exercise of commercial or industrial activities, provision of services, crafts or forestry, agricultural, mining or oil operations.

The ordinary tax rate is 25% for legal entities and 20% for individuals. The ordinary tax rate for companies operating in the telecommunications sector is 30%.

However, the amount of the tax may not be lower than a minimum amount equal to 0.5% of revenues (all taxes included) for the ordinary tax regime and 2% of revenues for the simplified tax regime, subject to certain exceptions.

Special provisions are provided for the taxation of the mining and oil sectors.

Côte d’Ivoire’s taxes on industrial and commercial profit (excluding oil and gas) represented CFAF 211.0 billion, CFAF 226.6 billion, CFAF 237.1 billion, CFAF 259.4 billion, CFAF 306.8 billion, and CFAF 354.1 billion in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. In 2019, they represented CFAF 335.8 billion. This decrease is due to lower tax recoveries in certain sectors, including the banking, telecommunications and oilseed industries. For 2020, the Government estimates these taxes at CFAF 254.0 billion. As a reminder, the taxes on industrial and commercial profit are recovered on the basis of N-1 year results.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT is applied to activities carried out against payment such as deliveries of goods and provisions of services, excluding salaried and agricultural activities. Imports, operations carried out by the developers, and real estate agents and similar, the specialized transports and the deliveries of materials extracted in Côte d’Ivoire are also subject to VAT.

The WAEMU set the basic rate of VAT at between 15% and 20%, with a restricted list of exemptions.

However, in accordance with WAEMU community standards, WAEMU member states have the option of applying a reduced VAT rate ranging from 5% to 10% for certain products and operations.

With respect to Côte d’Ivoire, the base rate was reduced by the Finance Act 2003 from 20% to 18% to be applied to revenues before tax. In addition, a reduced 9% rate applies to certain recurrent consumer goods such as milk, 100% durum wheat semolina pasta and oil products.

Côte d’Ivoire’s VAT revenues were CFAF 619.4 billion, CFAF 710.5 billion, CFAF 795.2 billion, CFAF 882.8 billion and CFAF 963.7 billion in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. For 2020, VAT revenues are estimated at CFAF 997.6 billion.

The table below shows the changes in VAT revenues from 2015 to 2020:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<i>(CFAF billions)</i>					
Total tax revenues.....	2,954.9	3,352.6	3,660.8	3,882.4	4,205.4	4,191.5
VAT.....	619.4	710.5	795.2	882.8	963.7	997.6
DGI.....	286.2	286.2	379.6	428.7	466.9	535.8
DGD.....	393.9	387.5	415.8	454.4	496.7	461.8
VAT / tax revenues (%).....	21.0%	21.2%	21.7%	22.7%	22.9%	23.8%

Source: MEF/DGE/DPPSE

PUBLIC DEBT

Overview

The Government stresses that external debt figures in this section for 2014 and later years do not take into account (i) the amount of debt eligible under Debt Reduction and Development Contracts (*Contrats de Désendettement et de Développement* (“C2D”)) due to France, and (ii) the amount of debt under the Program for the Conversion of Debt into Development Projects (*Programme de Conversion de dette en projets de Développement* – “PCD”) with Spain. C2D-eligible debt and PCD debt is excluded from the stock of external debt in accordance with the definition of the IMF and the World Bank (IMF report dated 20 November 2014).

Public debt is comprised of domestic and external debt. Public debt amounted to CFAF 13,300.2 billion at the end of 2019 (compared to CFAF 11,607.8 billion at the end of 2018), including CFAF 8,867.5 billion of external debt (CFAF 7,613.4 billion at the end of 2018) and CFAF 4,432.7 billion of domestic debt (CFAF 3,994.4 billion at the end of 2018). Outstanding public debt at the end of 2019 represented 38.8% compared to 36.0% of GDP in 2018. At the end of June 2020, outstanding public debt amounted to CFAF 15,165.4 billion, including CFAF 10,065.6 billion of external debt and CFAF 5,099.8 billion of domestic debt. Outstanding debt at the end of June 2020 represented 43.2% of GDP. The WAEMU convergence criteria for public debt is 70% of nominal GDP, Côte d’Ivoire complies with this standard. On 1 December 2020, Côte d’Ivoire concluded a liability management transaction financed in part by proceeds from the issuance of a €1,000,000,000 4.875 per cent. amortizing Eurobond due 2032. The transaction also allowed the Government to raise €460 million in new money to ensure the completion of resource mobilization for the year 2020. See “ – Active Debt Management ” below.

Outstanding external debt at the end of 2019 comprised 18.1% in bilateral debt, 25.5% in multilateral debt and 56.4% in debt to private creditors. 93.5% of bilateral debt is due to creditors that are not members of the Paris Club, of which 83.7% is due to China, and 6.5% is due to members of the Paris Club, of which 5.8% is due to France. With respect to multilateral debt, the main creditors are the IMF (37.7%), the World Bank (the IBRD and IDA) (29.9%), the AfDB (12.1%), the IDB (9.5%) and the BOAD (5.9%). Private sector external debt, calculated based on total commercial debt, is essentially made up of Eurobonds (88.6%) maturing in 2024, 2025, 2028, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2040 and 2048.

Outstanding external debt at the end of June 2020 comprised 16.9% in bilateral debt, 30.0% in multilateral debt and 53.1% in debt to private creditors. 92.4% of bilateral debt is due to creditors that are not members of the Paris Club, of which 82.8% is due to China, and 7.6% is due to members of the Paris Club, of which 5.2% is due to France. With respect to multilateral debt, the main creditors are the IMF (44.7%), the World Bank (the IBRD and IDA) (28.5%), the AfDB (9.3%), the IDB (8.6%) and the BOAD (5.4%). Private sector external debt, calculated based on total commercial debt, is essentially made up of Eurobonds (82.7%).

Outstanding C2D-eligible debt due to France stood at CFAF 696.4 billion (2.0% of GDP) at the end of 2019, compared to CFAF 811.3 billion (2.5% of GDP) at the end of 2018 and CFAF 965.1 billion (3.2% of GDP) at the end of 2017. Total stock of C2D-eligible debt represents a total amount of CFAF 896.6 billion at the end of 2019. This amount includes CFAF 147.6 billion in maturities to be paid under the C2Ds already concluded in 2020 and a balance of CFAF 749 billion to be negotiated from 2021 onwards. At the end of June 2020, outstanding C2D-eligible debt due to France amounted to CFAF 622.6 billion and represented 1.8% of GDP.

Outstanding PCD debt stood at CFAF 7.2 billion (0.02% of GDP) at the end of 2019 and CFAF 18.3 billion (0.08% of GDP) at the end of 2018 and CFAF 29.4 billion (0.13% of GDP) at the end of 2017.

At the end of 2019, domestic public debt was comprised of banking sector debt (70.4%) and non-banking sector debt (29.6%) incurred in WAEMU zone. Banking sector debt is principally borrowed from holders of securities issued by the Government on the primary financial market of the WAEMU (87.8%) and the BCEAO (12.2%). Non-banking sector public debt is mainly borrowed from holders of bond certificates (99.2%). At the end of June 2020, domestic public debt was comprised of banking sector debt (63.2%) and non-banking sector debt (36.8%) incurred in WAEMU zone. Banking sector debt is principally borrowed from holders of securities issued by the Government on the primary financial market

of the WAEMU (88.2%) and the BCEAO (11.8%). Non-banking sector public debt is mainly borrowed from holders of bond certificates (95.9%)

The table below presents the trends in public debt figures between 2015 and the end of June 2020. Figures are in CFAF billions, unless otherwise indicated.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	End June 2020
			(CFAF billions)			
Total debt (as % of GDP)	29.2%	31.7%	33.5%	36.0%	38.8%	43.2%
Total debt⁽¹⁾.....	7,914.8	9,023.2	10,045.1	11,607.8	13,300.2	15,165.4
Outstanding	7,896.5	9,023.2	10,045.1	11,607.8	13,300.2	15,165.4
Arrears	18.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt service due	1,151.7	1,287.9	1,448.2	1,547.2	1,821.5	982.9
Debt service paid	1,528.8	1,306.2	1,448.2	1,547.2	2,764.6	982.9
Total external debt⁽²⁾.....	4,489.1	4,974.2	5,770.0	7,613.4	8,867.5	10,065.6
Outstanding	4,489.1	4,974.2	5,770.0	7,613.4	8,867.5	10,065.6
Arrears.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt service due	264.0	336.7	556.3	610.2	759.1	427.8
Debt service paid	264.0	336.7	556.3	610.2	1,583.7	409.8
Total domestic debt	3,425.7	4,049.1	4,275.1	3,994.4	4,432.7	5,099.8
Outstanding	3,407.4	4,049.1	4,275.1	3,994.4	4,432.7	5,099.8
Arrears	18.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt service due	887.7	951.3	891.9	937.0	1,062.4	555.1
Debt service paid	1,264.8	969.5	891.9	937.0	1,180.9	587.3
Nominal GDP	27,086.2	28,423.9	29,955.0	32,222.3	34,298.9	35,124.6

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants (Direction de la Dette Publique et des Dons)

⁽¹⁾ Total debt, including C2D-eligible debt and PCD debt, amounted to CFAF 9,198.1 billion at the end of 2015, CFAF 10,129.3 billion at the end of 2016, CFAF 11,039.7 billion at the end of 2017, CFAF 12,437.4 billion at the end of 2018, CFAF 14,003.8 billion at the end of 2019, and CFAF 15,795.2 billion at the end of June 2020.

⁽²⁾ External debt, including C2D-eligible debt and PCD debt, amounted to CFAF 5,772.4 billion at the end of 2015, CFAF 6,080.3 billion at the end of 2016, CFAF 6,764.5 billion at the end of 2017, CFAF 8,443.0 billion at the end of 2018, CFAF 9,771.3 billion at the end of 2019 and CFAF 10,695.4 billion at the end of June 2020.

Due to greater public investments (5.1% of GDP on average over the 2015-2019 period), the outstanding amount of public debt after cancellation of external debt obtained as a result of achieving the completion point of the HIPC initiative reached CFAF 7,914.8 billion (29.2% of GDP) in 2015, CFAF 9,023.2 billion (31.7% of GDP) in 2016, CFAF 10,045.1 billion (33.5% of GDP) at the end of 2017, CFAF 11,607.8 billion (36.0% of GDP) in 2018 and 13,300.2 billion (38.8% of GDP) in 2019.

The debt service is the sum of principal and interest recorded in the State's annual budget. The debt service paid corresponds to the sum of settlements made of both principal and interest, be it redemptions due in the current year or arrears paid in the current year.

Public Debt Management Policy

The public indebtedness and public debt management policy in Côte d'Ivoire seeks to optimize the mobilization and use of loans, maintain the debt at a sustainable level and make effective, on-time payments upon the debt maturity dates, at the lowest cost and a prudent level of risk, both in the medium- and long-term. This policy aims to improve the process of determining the form of financing for the economy and optimize the decision-making process regarding the allocation of budget and financing resources in order to promote sustainable and inclusive growth.

Since 2011, the State has undertaken reforms in connection with public debt management to adopt an approach that meets international standards. This involves:

- implementing a new public debt management institutional framework through the creation of the Public Debt National Committee (*Comité National de la Dette Publique* (“**CNDP**”)), the Debt Experts Committee (*Comité des Experts de la Dette* (“**CED**”)) and the new Department of Public Debt & Grants (*Direction de la Dette Publique et des Dons* (“**DDPD**”));
- implementing a new legislative framework for managing public debt with the development of laws and decrees (for example the Law on national policy of public indebtedness in Côte d'Ivoire, the Decree amending Decree 83-501 of 2 June 1983 regulating the conditions for the grant of State guarantees and their management and the Decree on the reorganization of the CNDP);
- regulating and monitoring indebtedness via the SDMT and the DSA;
- reducing the country’s credit risk, reflected by the Government's intent to continually improve the country’s sovereign credit rating in foreign and local currencies; and
- complying with commitments toward its creditors.

Indebtedness and debt management institutional framework

In order to attain its objectives relating to indebtedness and debt management, the Government considered it necessary to undertake further institutional reforms. The reforms carried out in 2011 resulted in the creation of the CNDP, the CED and the reorganization of the DDPD. In addition, a trading room was created to follow changes in the price and yield of securities in real time, in order to carry out transactions geared towards active debt management.

The CNDP was created by Decree No. 2011-424 of 30 November 2011. The CNDP is a body that coordinates the national indebtedness and debt management policy with budgetary and monetary policies. It is under the authority of the Minister of Economy and Finance. This Committee is responsible for approving and monitoring the SDMT’s implementation, validating significant readjustments to the annual financing plan during the course of the fiscal year and approving non-concessional and unanticipated financing to the annual financing plan.

The CED was created by ministerial decree No. 078/MEF/MPD/SEPMBPE of 5 February 2018 on the creation, organization and functioning of the Debt Experts Committee. Like the CNDP, the CED is placed under the authority of the Minister of Economy and Finance. Its mission includes preparing the medium-term debt management strategy document, examining the annual financing plan, expressing an opinion on various financing options and carrying out any assignment entrusted to the CNDP. The CED examines all documents before they are sent to the CNDP.

Pursuant to Article 13 of WAEMU Regulation no. 9, which provides that "*Each Member State shall prepare and implement a manual of procedures relating to the borrowings and debt management functions and activities*", a CNDP manual of procedures has been prepared.

The DDPD, created by Decree No. 298/MPMEF/DGTCP/DEMO of 11 August 2015 as amended by Decree No. 512/MPMEF/DGTCP/DEMO of 30 December 2016, is from now on the sole debt management entity. It is organized with a front, middle and back office in accordance with international standards. The reorganization of the DDPD aims to centralize all the departments responsible for public debt management (single debt desk) and the treasury for more effective functioning.

At the WAEMU level, the *Agence UMOA-Titres*, in collaboration with the BCEAO, undertook reforms, namely with the introduction of Primary Dealers (*Spécialistes en Valeurs du Trésor*, “**SVT**”) to stimulate the financial market in order to raise more significant amounts. Côte d’Ivoire has ten institutions authorized as SVTs by the Public Treasury since 7 September 2015. SVTs are responsible for participating in Treasury securities issuances by tender and by syndication, leading the secondary market of public debt securities, promoting Treasury securities and providing advisory and information services to the Treasury and the *Agence UMOA-Titres*. SVTs are effectively operating since 1 March 2016.

The SDMT and the DSA

The use of loans is governed by the SDMT, which is prepared each year and reinforced by the DSA. The SDMT helps to guide the Government's decisions on indebtedness and public debt management every year. At the end of 2019, the rate of indebtedness of 38.8%, like that of previous years, remained below 70% (the WAEMU indebtedness convergence threshold) with a moderate risk of over-indebtedness. However, the Government is working to improve the debt sustainability level, namely by strengthening the macroeconomic framework.

Current financing over the 2016-2020 period required for the implementation of the NDP stands at CFAF 30,000 billion, including CFAF 11,284 billion for the public sector. In order to reach this target, the State, while remaining cautious, is focusing in particular on investor diversification and new financing opportunities. This includes resorting to (i) the international financial market, (ii) Islamic loans and (iii) the domestic financial market. The SDMT's objective for this same period is to borrow under the most favourable conditions (i.e. extend the maturities of public securities, reduce the cost of loans, limit exchange rate risk, favour external financing for structural projects and increase the use of semi-concessional loans).

The table below sets out the new disbursements of the central administration for 2020 to 2023:

Sources and Types of Instruments	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average
	2019-2023				
External debt (%)	63	57	60	60	60
Instruments:					
Concessional	10	10	10	0	8
Semi-concessional	64	35	40	50	47
Commercial	26	55	50	50	45
Domestic debt (%)	37	43	40	40	40
Instruments:					
WAEMU market	90	90	90	90	90
Bond 1 year	10	10	10	10	10
Bond 2-5 years	40	40	40	40	40
Bond > 5 years	40	40	40	40	40
CFAF⁽¹⁾-denominated external debt/Debt to local banks in the form of loans	10	10	10	10	10

Source: CNDP

(1) CFAF of West Africa (XOF).

The 2021 financing plan, elaborated after discussions between Côte d'Ivoire and the IMF, and taking into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, provides for a CFAF 3,017.2 billion total financing requirement, including CFAF 1,714.2 billion in external debt and CFAF 1,303.0 billion in domestic debt.

The table below sets out the outstanding public debt profile for 2019 to 2023*, taking into account borrowings projected during the period from 2019 to 2023*:

in CFAF billions	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	SDMT	SDMT	SDMT	SDMT	SDMT
TOTAL	13,300.2	15,452.2	16,676.7	18,022.0	19,184.1
As a % of GDP	38.8%	44.0%	44.2%	44.4%	44.0%
Source of financing					
External	8,867.5	10,114.9	11,157.1	12,463.4	13,256.9
Domestic	4,432.7	5,337.3	5,519.6	5,558.6	5,927.3
Nominal GDP	34,298.9	35,124.6	37,698.5	40,555.0	43,593.5

Source: CNDP

* This table takes into account all financial support earmarked for the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, including the IMF support of CFAF 536 billion, WADB support of CFAF 15 billion, AfDB financing of €75.0 million, and €30.0 million of financing from France and AFD. While the projected debt to GDP ratios between 2020 and 2023 presented herein take into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as of the date of this Prospectus based on the latest available projections, they may be subject to further revision at a later date to account for any future developments of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This strategy helps to contain the average cost of the debt portfolio, reduce the risk of refinancing, limit exchange rate risks and improve the indebtedness rate over the long-term. The expected composition of the public debt portfolio by 2023 is a 71-29 distribution between external debt and domestic debt compared to a 66-34 distribution, at the end of 2018. The debt exposed to exchange rate fluctuations (which excludes CFAF and EUR due to the fixed exchange rate between these two currencies) in 2023 should be reduced by 24.7% compared to 37.1% in 2018.

The share of domestic debt maturing within one year should be limited to 16% in 2023 compared to 17% in 2019 in connection with the profile of existing debt and the investor base which still relies mainly on banks.

While the risk of external over-indebtedness is considered to remain moderate, however, the portfolio of external debt remains vulnerable to a shock from deteriorating export revenues, a depreciation of the euro/US dollar exchange rate or tighter financing conditions.

Similarly, while the risk of overall indebtedness also remains moderate, the portfolio of total public debt remains vulnerable to a shock from a deterioration of the economic growth rate.

Reducing the country's credit risk

Sovereign financial ratings help to evaluate solvency and credit risk in foreign or domestic currency. The authorities have adopted this process to meet the Government's objective of improving the country's image vis-à-vis investors and strengthening mutual confidence in order to obtain financing at competitive terms. In 2014, the international credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch assigned Côte d'Ivoire ratings of B1 and B, both with a positive outlook. These ratings reflect the country's performance on economic, financial and socio-political levels following the post-election crisis. At the end of the last quarter of 2015, Côte d'Ivoire's rating was upgraded, from B1 to Ba3 by Moody's, with a stable outlook, and from B to B+ by Fitch, with a stable outlook. Moody's confirmed these ratings in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Following Fitch's ninth review in November 2019, Côte d'Ivoire's sovereign rating outlook improved from B+ with a stable outlook to B+ with a positive outlook. On 3 June 2020 and 17 December 2020, Fitch confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's B+ rating with a positive outlook.

According to Fitch, the positive outlook reflects expectation of continued commitment to fiscal prudence and reforms by the Government. Côte d'Ivoire's general government debt is expected to stabilise well below the current 'B' and 'BB' medians over the medium term, despite a temporary hit to public finances and economic growth from the Covid-19 pandemic-related shock. The rating reflects the strong outlook for Côte d'Ivoire's economy, in line with its continued growth outperformance against rating peers since 2012, while comparatively moderate external and fiscal deficits and low inflation will limit risks for macroeconomic stability.

Fitch also noted that the deterioration in the external environment and national prevention measures to stem the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic will impact economic activity in a broad range of domestic sectors. The contraction in external demand is expected to weigh on exports, while domestic investment will be affected by disruptions to ongoing large-scale infrastructure projects and a slump in FDI inflows. However, increased budget spending under the Government's economic relief plan will partially mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on domestic demand. The contagion of the global shock to the domestic economy will be milder than in similar-sized countries and Côte d'Ivoire's consistent growth outperformance against rating peers since 2012 is expected to continue over the rating horizon. The forecast takes into consideration the Ivoirian economy's comparatively low reliance on tourism and remittance inflows, which tend to be important channels of propagation of the global shock. It also reflects the resilience of the international prices of cocoa to the global shock, limiting its impact on exports, public finances and disposable income. Côte d'Ivoire's rating strengths are balanced against weak development indicators, persistent risks to political stability and high dependence on agricultural commodities. As Côte d'Ivoire is the largest economy of the WAEMU, it benefits from its situation as a regional centre, which increases investment opportunities.

On 12 June 2020, following official announcement of Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the G20 and Paris Club Debt DSSI on 10 June 2020, Moody's placed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating under review for downgrade. See "*G20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative*" below. Moody's noted that the decision to place Côte d'Ivoire's rating under review for downgrade reflects its assessment that the country's participation in the DSSI raises the risk that private sector creditors will incur losses. On 14 October 2020, Paris Club members and the G20 agreed to extend the DSSI for a further six

months, until 30 June 2021, for eligible countries that request such an extension. In January 2021, the Government requested and benefited from an extension of the DSSI for a further six months, until 30 June 2021.

According to Moody's, the suspension of debt service obligations to official creditors alone would be unlikely to have rating implications. However, the G20's call upon private sector creditors to participate in that initiative on comparable terms raises the risk of default on privately-held debt. It should be noted that the G20 called for a voluntary private sector participation in the DSSI through the Institute of International Finance (IFI). On 28 May 2020, the IFI published its terms of reference for voluntary private sector participation in the DSSI (<https://www.iif.com>). Moreover, the Government has formally excluded any request for an extension of the DSSI to private sector debt and has confirmed its commitment to continue comply with all of its contractual obligations vis-a-vis private sector creditors and its intention not to extend the DSSI to such private sector creditors. On 12 November 2020, the IFI reaffirmed private creditors' readiness to participate in the extended DSSI upon request from eligible countries. To support the DSSI extension. On 3 December 2020, the IFI published an addendum that extends and updates its May 2020 terms of reference for voluntary private sector participation in the DSSI.

Moody's noted that the review period will allow it to understand the significance of the statement in the DSSI term sheet that private sector creditors should participate on comparable terms. Moody's review will also assess whether Côte d'Ivoire's participation in that initiative will indeed be implemented without private sector participation, in which case the rating will likely be confirmed at the current level; or, if not, what lower rating would be consistent with expected losses. On 7 August 2020, Moody's concluded its review and confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's Ba3 rating, with a stable outlook.

Good relations with the international community since 2012 have helped the country secure substantial amounts of concessional loans to finance reconstruction and development efforts.

Complying with commitments toward creditors

The Government is committed to making debt service payments on time and not accumulating debt arrears. In this respect, Côte d'Ivoire has respected all of its public, external and domestic debt service commitments. From 2016 onwards, Côte d'Ivoire has not accumulated any arrears.

Côte d'Ivoire's last debt service arrears date back to 2011. During the 2011 post-election crisis, Côte d'Ivoire was not able to honour the interest payments in respect of the 2032 Eurobonds falling due in December 2010, June 2011 and December 2011, totalling approximately US\$91.0 million which led to a payment default on these interest payments. In November 2012, Côte d'Ivoire agreed an arrears clearance plan providing for full settlement of these three missed interest payments by 31 December 2014 and fully complied with its undertaking under this plan.

In 2019, the current debt maturities (external and domestic) falling due amounted to CFAF 1,821.5 billion. These payments included CFAF 1,583.7 billion of external debt service and CFAF 1,180.9 billion of domestic debt service. For this service, the Government made a payment of CFAF 147.6 billion for the annual C2D payment with France and CFAF 11.1 billion for its PCD with Spain.

In 2020, current debt maturities (external and domestic) falling due amounted to CFAF 1,930.6 billion. At the end of June 2020, the payments made included CFAF 409.8 billion of external debt service and CFAF 563.1 billion of domestic debt service.

Public Debt

The table below sets out the debt profile for the next 10 years* on the basis of provisional outstanding debt estimates at the end of December 2019 (provisional figures in CFAF billion), using end-of-period exchange rates (published by the IMF), (with USD 1 = CFAF 590.0 in 2019 and USD 1 = CFAF 572.89 in 2018), with the situation in 2018 and 2019 as a reminder. As a result, they do not take into account disbursements after 2019.

(CFAF billions)	2018	2019	2020 For.	2021 For.	2022 For.	2023 For.	2024 For.	2025 For.	2026 For.	2027 For.	2028 For.	2029 For.
	<i>(CFAF billions)</i>											
Total Debt	11,607.8	13,300.2	12,219.6	11,274.7	9,935.3	9,081.0	8,061.0	7,038.5	6,123.1	5,506.7	4,750.5	4,065.5
<i>As a % of GDP</i>	36.0%	38.8%	34.8%	29.9%	24.5%	20.8%	17.2%	13.9%	11.2%	9.4%	7.5%	6.0%
External Debt	7,613.4	8,867.5	8,617.1	8,302.4	7,936.1	7,542.6	7,041.9	6,328.7	5,681.7	5,110.4	4,397.4	3,736.1
<i>As a % of GDP</i>	23.6%	25.9%	24.5%	22.0%	19.6%	17.3%	14.9%	12.5%	12.2%	10.1%	8.1%	6.3%
Domestic Debt	3,994.4	4,432.7	3,602.5	2,972.3	1,999.2	1,539.0	1,046.1	709.8	441.4	396.3	353.2	329.3
<i>As a % of GDP</i>	12.4%	12.9%	10.3%	7.9%	4.9%	3.5%	2.2%	1.4%	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6
Nominal GDP	32,222.3	34,298.9	35,124.6	37,698.5	40,555.0	43,593.5	46,940.0	50,531.1	54,915.3	58,838.6	63,034.8	67,516.2

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

* While the projected debt profile and debt to GDP ratios from 2020 and beyond presented herein take into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as of the date of this Prospectus based on the latest available projections, they may be subject to further revision at a later date to account for any future developments of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since 31 July 2018, the thresholds of indebtedness indicators are defined by a composite index taking into account the CPIA (initially used for the definition of thresholds). Côte d'Ivoire's composite index is 2.95 and ranks it among the countries with moderate debt capacity. The ratio of the current value of debt to GDP was assessed at 38.6% at the end of 2019 and remains below the reference point (55%) of the IMF Debt Sustainability Assessment Framework.

The continuation and the finalization of ongoing investment works in the country will require more borrowing in 2021 and for the following years. These borrowings are expected to lead to a significant increase in total outstanding debt. The Government intends to align the pace of the debt's growth with that of the GDP so that changes in the debt ratio remain under control.

The table below sets out Côte d'Ivoire's outstanding public debt with a residual maturity of up to one year, from 2015 to 2020:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
External debt	7.20	0.0	2.82	18.3	23.3	30.8
Domestic debt	401.98	339.20	311.18	387.2	251.2	154.2
Total debt	409.18	339.20	313.98	405.4	274.5	184.9

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants / in CFAF billions

The weighted average maturity of the total debt portfolio at the end of 2019 was eight (8) years and eight (8) months; that of external debt was ten (10) years and nine (9) months and that of the domestic debt four (4) years and three (3) months. The average interest rate of the total public debt portfolio stood at 4.2% at the end of 2019. The average cost of external debt (including concessional and non-concessional borrowings) stood at 3.8% and the average cost of domestic debt stood at 4.8% at the end of 2019.

External Public Debt

External debt is comprised of bilateral debt, multilateral debt and debt held by private creditors (including commercial debt and international capital markets issues).

As of the date of this Prospectus, the average cost of the external public debt is estimated at 3.8%.

At the end of December 2019, the total outstanding amount of external public debt was estimated to be CFAF 8,867.5 billion, compared to CFAF 7,613.4 billion at the end of 2018 and CFAF 5,770.0 billion in 2017. The increase in 2019

compared to 2018, representing CFAF 1,254.1 billion, or 16,5%, is primarily attributable to the 2031 and 2040 Eurobonds issued in 2019, the disbursements relating to the project loans of Eximbank China (CFAF 245,5 billion), the World Bank (CFAF 132.2 billion), the AfDB (CFAF 91.5 billion), the IDB (CFAF 16.3 billion), and the BOAD (CFAF 9.9 billion) as well as budgetary assistance from the IMF (CFAF 157.0 billion).

In 2019, debt service due for external debt, totalling CFAF 759.1 billion, was fully repaid, including the C2D payment of CFAF 147.6 billion and the PCD payment of CFAF 11.1 billion.

As of the date of this Prospectus, the Government is in compliance with all its borrowed moneys obligations, having made all debt payments in a timely manner.

The external public debt position of Côte d'Ivoire on 31 December 2019 is set out in the table below (in CFAF billions):

31 December 2019	MULTILATERALS			BILATERALS			PRIVATE CREDITORS			TOTAL			
	Capital	Interest	Total	Capital	Interest	Total	Capital	Interest	Total	Capital	Interest	Total	
<i>Outstanding as of 31 December 2018</i>	1,878.2	0.0	1,878.2	1,379.5	0.0	1,379.5	4,355.7	0.0	4,355.7	7,613.4	0.0	7,613.4	
<i>DRAWINGS in 2019</i>	419.4	0.0	419.4	268.9	0.0	268.9	1,470.4	0.0	1,470.4	2,158.6	0.0	2,158.6	
DEBT SERVICE DUE	Total	115.2	26.4	141.6	239.5	28.3	267.8	95.6	254.1	349.7	450.3	308.8	759.1
	<i>Arrears</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Maturities</i>	115.2	26.4	141.6	239.5	28.3	267.8	95.6	254.1	349.7	450.3	308.8	759.1
DEBT SERVICE PAID	Total	115.2	29.4	144.6	235.4	30.9	266.3	919.6	253.2	1,172.8	1,270.2	313.5	1,583.7
	<i>Arrears</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Maturities</i>	115.2	29.4	144.6	235.4	30.9	266.3	919.6	253.2	1,172.8	1,270.2	313.5	1,583.7
ARREARS	Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Arrears</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Maturities</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Outstanding as of 31 December 2019</i>	2,258.8	0.0	2,258.8	1,604.0	0.0	1,604.0	5,004.8	0.0	5,004.8	8,867.5	0.0	8,867.5	
Total Debt as of 31 December 2019	2,258.8		2,258.8	1,604.0		1,604.0	5,004.8		5,004.8	8,867.5		8,867.5	

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

NB:

The service due and the service paid in capital include the C2D and PCD amounts.

The outstanding amounts at the end of 2018 and 2019 were calculated using the respective exchange rates at the end of 2018 and 2019.

The external public debt position of Côte d'Ivoire on 30 June 2020 is set out in the table below (in CFAF billions):

As of 30 June 2020	MULTILATERALS			BILATERALS			PRIVATE CREDITORS			TOTAL		
	Capital	Interest	Total	Capital	Interest	Total	Capital	Interest	Total	Capital	Interest	Total
<i>Outstanding as of 31 December 2019</i>	2,258.8	0.0	2,258.8	1,604.0	0.0	1,604.0	5,004.8	0.0	5,004.8	8,867.5	0.0	8,867.5
<i>DRAWINGS end June 2020</i>	815.0	0.0	815.0	131.6	0.0	131.6	387.7	0.0	387.7	1,334.3	0.0	1,334.3
DEBT SERVICE DUE	Total	65.3	20.6	85.9	104.3	16.7	120.9	38.1	182.8	221.0	207.8	427.8
	<i>Arrears</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Maturities</i>	65.3	20.6	85.9	104.3	16.7	120.9	38.1	182.8	221.0	207.8	427.8
DEBT SERVICE PAID	Total	57.1	16.5	73.6	106.0	16.6	122.6	46.8	166.7	213.5	210.0	409.8
	<i>Arrears</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Maturities</i>	57.1	16.5	73.6	106.0	16.6	122.6	46.8	166.7	213.5	210.0	409.8
ARREARS	Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Arrears</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<i>Maturities</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Outstanding as of 30 June 2020</i>	3,016.7	0.0	3,016.7	1,703.3	0.0	1,703.3	5,345.6	0.0	5,345.6	10,065.6	0.0	10,065.6
Total Debt as of 30 June 2020	3,016.7		3,016.7	1,703.3		1,703.3	5,345.6		5,345.6	10,065.6		10,065.6

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

NB:

The service due and the service paid in capital include the C2D and PCD amounts.

The outstanding amounts as of the end of June 2020 were calculated using the exchange rates as of the end of June 2020.

The table below presents information on the breakdown of total external debt by creditor category as at 31 December 2019:

CREDITORS	Outstanding amount as at 31 December 2019	As a % of total debt	As a % of GDP*
External Debt	8,867.5	100%	25.9%
COMMERCIAL DEBT	5,004.8	56.4%	14.5%
Eurobond Investors	4,435.0	50.0%	12.9%
Others (international banks and companies).....	569.8	6.4%	1.7%
BILATERAL DEBT	1,604.0	18.1%	4.7%
PARIS CLUB	103.7	1.2%	0.3%
ODA excluding C2D	55.2	0.6%	0.2%
Non-ODA	48.5	0.5%	0.1%
of which AFD	36.9	0.4%	0.1%
EXCLUDING PARIS CLUB	1,500.3	16.9%	4.4%
of which China	1,342.5	15.1%	3.9%
MULTILATERAL	2,258.8	25.5%	6.6%
IMF	852.3	9.6%	2.5%
WB-IDA	674.7	7.6%	2.0%
AfDB/ADF	272.4	3.1%	0.8%
IDB	215.3	2.4%	0.6%
BOAD.....	133.7	1.5%	0.4%
Others.....	110.4	1.2%	0.3%
GDP (current prices)			34,298.9

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

The table below presents information on the breakdown of total external debt by creditor category as at 30 June 2020:

CREDITORS	Outstanding amount as at 30 June 2020	As a % of total debt	As a % of GDP*
External Debt	10,065.6	100%	28.7%
COMMERCIAL DEBT	5,345.6	53.1%	15.2%
Eurobond Investors	4,419.3	43.9%	12.6%
Others (international banks and companies).....	926.4	9.2%	2.6%
BILATERAL DEBT	1,703.3	16.9%	4.8%
PARIS CLUB	130.2	1.3%	0.4%
EXCLUDING PARIS CLUB	1,573.1	15.6%	4.5%
of which China	1,410.8	14.0%	4.0%
MULTILATERAL	3,016.7	30.0%	8.6%
IMF	1,347.3	13.4%	3.8%
WB-IDA	858.3	8.5%	2.4%
AfDB/ADF	279.1	2.8%	0.8%
IDB	258.1	2.6%	0.7%
BOAD.....	161.5	1.6%	0.5%
Others.....	112.4	1.1%	0.3%
GDP (current prices)	-	-	35,124.6

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

The table below sets out the currency composition of Côte d'Ivoire's total public debt as at 31 December 2018:

Currency	Total Debt in Original Currency (millions)	CFAF Exchange Rate	Total Debt (CFAF billions)	US Dollars Exchange Rate	Total Debt (USD millions)	Distribution by Currency (% total)
CNY	3,417.7	86.9	296.9	0.2	518.3	2.6
EUR	3,627.3	656.0	2,379.4	1.2	4,154.7	20.5
KWD	7.5	1,886.6	14.1	3.3	24.6	0.1
SAR	76.1	152.7	11.6	0.3	20.3	0.1
SDR	408.9	796.5	325.7	1.4	568.7	2.8
USD	6,386.7	572.7	3,657.6	1.0	6,386.7	31.5
CFAF ⁽¹⁾	4,922,538.6	1.0	4,922.5	0.0	8,595.5	42.4
TOTAL			11,607.8		20,268.9	100.00

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

⁽¹⁾ External debt and domestic debt (BOAD, IMF, WAEMU).

The table below sets out the currency composition of Côte d'Ivoire's total public debt as at 31 December 2019:

Currency	Total Debt in Original Currency (millions)	CFAF Exchange Rate	Total Debt (CFAF billions)	US Dollars Exchange Rate	Total Debt (USD millions)	Distribution by Currency (% total)
CNY.....	4,060.6	87.4	354.8	0.1	619.5	2.7
EUR.....	6,019.7	656.0	3,948.7	1.1	6,895.0	29.7
KWD.....	8.0	1,954.3	15.6	3.3	27.3	0.1
SAR.....	71.5	157.3	11.3	0.3	19.6	0.1
JPY.....	112.7	5.4	0.6	0.0	1.1	0.0
SDR.....	427.4	813.8	347.8	1.4	607.3	2.6
USD.....	5,428.3	590.0	3,202.7	1.0	5,592.4	24.1
CFAF ⁽¹⁾	5,418,741.7	1.0	5,418.7	0.0	9,461.9	40.7
TOTAL			13,300.2		23,224.2	100.00

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

⁽¹⁾ External debt and domestic debt.

At the end of 2019, the CFAF (XOF) is the dominant currency in Côte d'Ivoire's debt (40.7% of the total), followed by the Euro (29.7%) and US Dollar (24.1%). The CFAF is the national currency and all domestic debt (33.3% of the portfolio of public debt) is denominated in CFAF. Furthermore, certain multilateral organizations, in particular the IMF and the BOAD hold loans denominated in CFAF. Outstanding debt denominated in Euro includes essentially the 2025, 2030, 2031, 2040 and 2048 Eurobonds, debt owed to France and to the European Investment Bank (*Banque Européenne d'Investissement*), which together represent 28.9% of total external debt. The relatively high level of debt denominated in US Dollars is mainly due to the outstanding Eurobonds due 2024, 2028, 2032 and 2033 (22.5% of the external debt) and structured loans due to China.

The table below sets out the changes in outstanding external public and publicly guaranteed debt in 2019-2023*, following the SDMT's medium-term debt management strategy (see “– *The SDMT and the DSA*”, above):

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average 2019-2023
External debt.....	8,867.5	10,114.9	11,157.1	12,463.4	13,256.9	11,171.9
Bilateral.....	2,258.8	1,838.9	2,031.9	2,307.3	2,465.1	2,049.4
Commercial.....	1,604.0	5,270.1	5,890.3	6,572.2	7,006.6	5,948.8
Multilateral.....	5,004.8	3,005.9	3,234.9	3,583.9	3,785.2	3,173.7
Guaranteed debt.....	609.2	565.9	523.3	469.4	402.1	514.0
Total.....	9,476.7	10,680.8	11,680.4	12,932.8	13,659.0	11,685.9

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

* This table takes into account all financial support earmarked for the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, including the IMF support of CFAF 536 billion, WADB support of CFAF 15 billion, AfDB financing of €75.0 million, and €30.0 million of financing from France and AFD. While the projected debt profile between 2020 and 2023 presented herein takes into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as of the date of this Prospectus based on the latest available projections, it may be subject to further revision at a later date to account for any future developments of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over the 2019-2023 period, external public debt service is expected to record an upward trend, due to Eurobond maturities, particularly the 2032 Eurobonds, whose grace period on principal payments expired at the end of 2015, coupons of the 2024, 2028, 2025 and 2033 Eurobonds and repayment of IMF budgetary support.

Domestic Public Debt

The amount of domestic debt has been constantly growing since 2002 after the removal of statutory advances by the BCEAO. Indeed, the BCEAO used to grant to each member State of the WAEMU a cash advance as a percentage of the Member State's economic weight within the Union. This direct monetary assistance was terminated in 2003, resulting in significant recourse to domestic issuance on the WAEMU market to finance the Government's budget needs.

As at the end of December 2019, the total estimated amount of domestic debt amounted to CFAF 4,432.7 billion (excluding the CFAF 774.5 billion outstanding publicly guaranteed domestic debt), compared to CFAF 3,994.4 billion in 2018, CFAF 4,275.1 billion in 2017, and CFAF 4,049.1 billion in 2016. This debt includes mainly outstanding debt held by various investors in market securities (including banks) (CFAF 3,921.2 billion, or 88.4%), the BCEAO (CFAF

381.0 billion, or 8.6%), commercial banks (excluding market securities) (CFAF 119.8 billion, or 2.7%) and private sector companies (CFAF 10.7 billion, or 0.3%). This debt is denominated in CFAF.

It is important to note that the Government negotiations with the BCEAO led to the signing of a rescheduling agreement in January 2015 with respect to the debt stock due 31 December 2014, excluding SDR special allowances for which the maturities are paid on time. The terms of this restructuring, currently underway, of a global amount of CFAF 366.48 billion, are as follows:

- rescheduling over 40 years, with a ten-year grace period, of the consolidated statutory overdrafts. The interest rate is 3% and repayments would be semi-annual; and
- rescheduling over 30 years, with a ten-year grace period, of the repayment of cash withdrawn from the BCEAO branches of Bouaké, Man and Korhogo during the post-election crisis and the payments due to the IMF made by the BCEAO for the account of Côte d'Ivoire. The rate is nil and repayments would be semi-annual.

The table below presents the situation of outstanding domestic public debt at 31 December 2019 (in CFAF billions, unless otherwise indicated):

CREDITORS	<u>Outstanding Debt as of 31 December 2019</u>	<u>As a % of Outstanding Debt</u>	<u>As a % of GDP</u>
Domestic Debt	4,432.7	100%	12.9%
Central Bank	381.0	8.6%	1.1%
SDR Allocations	5.3	0.1%	0.0%
Restructuring	375.7	8.5%	1.1%
Commercial Banks	119.8	2.7%	0.3%
Securitization	54.1	1.2%	0.2%
Authorized Debt	65.7	1.5%	0.2%
Securities	3,921.2	88.4%	11.4%
Companies	10.7	0.3%	0.0%
Securitization	10.7	0.2%	0.0%
Authorized Debt	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
GDP (current price)	34,298.9		

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

The table below presents the situation of outstanding domestic public debt at 30 June 2020 (in CFAF billions, unless otherwise indicated):

CREDITORS	<u>Outstanding Debt as of 30 June 2020</u>	<u>As a % of Outstanding Debt</u>	<u>As a % of GDP</u>
Domestic Debt	5,099.8	100%	14.5%
Central Bank	380.2	7.5%	1.1%
SDR Allocations	4.4	0.1%	0.0%
Restructuring	375.7	7.4%	1.1%
Commercial Banks	108.1	2.1%	0.3%
Securitization	49.0	1.0%	0.1%
Authorized Debt	59.1	1.2%	0.2%
Securities	4,533.8	88.9%	12.9%
Companies	77.7	1.5%	0.2%
Securitization	77.7	1.5%	0.2%
Authorized Debt	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
GDP (current price)	35,124.6	-	-

Source: Department of Public Debt and Grants

As of the date of this Prospectus, the average cost of domestic public debt is 4.8%.

Guarantees

The outstanding amount of guaranteed debt at the end of 2019 amounted to CFAF 774.5 billion and corresponds to 2.2% of GDP. It includes in particular the SIR debt of CFAF 304.3 billion (amount actually disbursed out of a total of CFAF 324.6 billion) and the Cashew and Cotton Council of CFAF 107.4 billion. Outstanding guaranteed debt at the end of June 2020 amounted to CFAF 755.6 billion and represented 2.2% of GDP.

Unlike public debt borrowings, the issue of guarantees by the State is not subject to parliamentary approval. Guarantees are granted by the Minister in charge of finance and subject to authorization or ratification by a decree adopted in the Council of Ministers. Guaranteed debt is not included in the calculation of the State's public debt figures. The Government's policy is to grant guarantees only in limited cases, in light of the fact that amounts covered by State guarantees are taken into account in Côte d'Ivoire's DSA. As of the date of this Prospectus, the existing guarantees are those granted to Air Côte d'Ivoire, to the Cotton and Cashew Nut Council, to ANSUT, to CI-Energies and to the SIR, amounting to CFAF 774.5 billion at the end of December 2019. In 2015, the State granted a guarantee in respect of a 10-year loan incurred by Air Côte d'Ivoire for the purpose of financing the acquisition of aircraft. The total amount covered by this guarantee was CFAF 34 billion as of 31 December 2017. In October 2016, the Government approved a strategy for restructuring the debt of SIR, estimated at CFAF 368 billion in early 2016. The restructuring of accumulated debts, through a new long-term loan in an amount of CFAF 368 billion guaranteed by the Government, was completed in December 2018. The repayment of the loan is backed in part by the ongoing fuel surcharge (*soutien à la marge*) granted by the Government to SIR. This surcharge will be consolidated in the budget and the Government will transfer its proceeds as a subsidy to SIR (see "*The Economy*").

Financial debt of State-related entities

State-related entities are public sector bodies, in particular national public institutions (*établissements publics nationaux*, "EPN"), including administrative public institutions (*établissements publics administratifs*, "EPA") and industrial and commercial public institutions (*établissements publics à caractère industriel et commercial*, "EPIC").

The financial and accounting regime of EPN is established by the following regulations: Law No. 2020-627 of 14 August 2020 establishing rules and categories applicable to EPN and Decree 81-137 of 18 February 1981 regarding the financial and accounting regime of EPN, which set out in particular the conditions under which an EPIC may apply for loans. Pursuant to these regulations, (i) the loan must be for an investment project, (ii) the opportunity analysis must demonstrate the economic, financial and social profitability of the proposed investment and (iii) at least 60% of the entity's resources must be its own funds. In addition, any borrowing by these entities is subject to the prior authorization of the Ministries in charge of the Budget and Finances who ensure compliance with the above-mentioned conditions. The directorate in charge of reviewing these proposed loans has the authority to approve the financing proposals of the investment projects presented by the EPN.

As of the date of this Prospectus, no EPN has incurred external or domestic financial debt.

In 2019, the 101 EPN (including 17 public health institutions and 16 public higher education institutions) had a cumulative budget of approximately CFAF 562.1 billion, compared to a budget of CFAF 433.4 billion in 2019. In the 2019 budget, operating expenses stood at approximately CFAF 321.8 billion (77.1% of the budget) and investment expenses stood at approximately CFAF 128.7 billion (22.9% of the budget).

Hedging

The Minister of Economy and Finance of Côte d'Ivoire may enter into swap and other derivatives transactions for the purpose of managing the State's debt liabilities, subject to prior authorization by the Council of Ministers. In this context, as part of the debt management strategy in the medium term, Côte d'Ivoire entered into a strip of FX Forwards transaction to hedge the currency risk associated with its external public debt in 2018 and 2019. This currency hedging transaction concerned the service of public debt denominated in US Dollars, for a total amount of USD 1.4 billion, and made it possible to fix the euro/dollar exchange rate for part of the maturities to be paid for debt service on Eurobonds denominated in US Dollars over the period from December 2018 to December 2022.

In December 2019, a second transaction was carried out with a notional amount of USD 724 million covering the 2020 – 2024 period and concerned all the unhedged flows (capital and interest) of the 2024, 2032 and 2033 Eurobonds over the 2020 – 2024 period and all the flows (capital and interest) of three lines of bilateral loans over the 2020 – 2024 period. This transaction, executed under favourable market conditions and at very competitive prices, helped Côte d’Ivoire reduce its exposure to foreign exchange risk while improving the sustainability of the country’s public debt.

Relationship with Creditors

Concessional and Non-Concessional Debt

Unlike non-concessional debt, concessional debt is characterized by lower interest rates, longer maturities and relatively long grace periods. For Côte d’Ivoire, concessional loans include a grant element of at least 35%. According to the IMF, a non-concessional loan includes a negative grant element, whereas concessional financing contains a grant element of at least 35%. A loan is deemed semi-concessional when its grant element is positive but less than 35%. As such, the authorities prioritize recourse to concessional loans in the context of the SDMT management. However, the significant financing need, in line with the high level of public investments and the scarcity of concessional financings, have led the Government to turn to non-concessional forms of financing, including bond issuances such as the Eurobonds. These resources will be used for the financing of development projects provided for 2016-2020 NDP.

The issuance of the 2030 and 2048 Eurobonds on non-concessional terms was taken into account by the SDMT 2018-2023 and was authorized in the 2018 budget. The Government believes that such non-concessional financing allows Côte d’Ivoire to achieve the investments necessary to reach the emerging country status objective.

However, Côte d’Ivoire intends to find the means to finance its development with controlled costs and risks. The reliance on financing by the State should not lead to unlimited borrowing. To this end, the Government intends to use new sources of financing, while complying with the strategic choices recommended by the SDMT.

Multilateral Debt

In terms of multilateral debt, the principal creditors, based on their share in the outstanding debt at the end of 2019, are the IMF (37.7%), the World Bank “IBRD and IDA” (29.9%), the AfDB (12.1%), the IDB (9.5%) and the BOAD (5.9%).

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative

Côte d’Ivoire reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (“HIPC”) initiative in June 2012. This success allowed the country to benefit from CFAF 4,090.0 billion in external debt relief vis-à-vis its multilateral creditors and the Paris Club creditors. These debt cancellations involved debt relief under the HIPC initiative and additional debt relief under the MDRI and the implementation of C2Ds by France. In addition to HIPC debt cancellations, 80% of total commercial debt in connection with the Brady bonds held by London Club creditors was exchanged in April 2010 for 2032 Eurobonds, of a term of 23 years, with the remaining 20% being cancelled.

All this restructuring significantly contributed to restoring Côte d’Ivoire’s debt servicing capacity, the sustainability of its public debt and of its public finances. The most recent Ivorian DSA prepared by the CNDP in December 2019 and the one prepared by the IMF’s department in September 2018 concluded that the risk of over-indebtedness remains moderate, notwithstanding the significant volume of loans taken out between 2012 and 2018, including three Eurobonds denominated in US Dollars and three Eurobonds denominated in Euros.

However, Côte d’Ivoire’s debt remains vulnerable to potential external economic shocks. Since 2011, the Government has undertaken various institutional reforms whose primary objective is to control the changes in its indebtedness ratio. The following main reforms were carried out:

- the CNDP was created in 2011 and is operational;

- the Debt Experts Committee (CED) was created in 2018 and is also operational;
- a draft law establishing a national public debt policy was prepared and is currently being finalized;
- a document on the SDMT is regularly prepared and annually updated at the same time as a DSA;
- the department responsible for public debt management was reorganized into a single entity with a front, middle and back office. At the back office level, the scope of the public debt management has been expanded to take account of public organization debt.

In terms of the outlook of external debt management, the authorities intend to continue to carry out and strengthen reforms in order to effectively contain costs and risks related to new external loans, in particular funds to be obtained from the international financial market. This involves:

- sustaining improvement of the SDMT's quality, including through the conduct of more detailed analysis and evaluating risks related to different loan instruments, simulating a larger debt burden by taking into account the other conditional liabilities;
- smoothing out the medium-term debt repayment profile (for example, avoiding a concentration of significant maturities between 2024 and 2028);
- carrying out, as needed, buyback transactions as important debt maturities draw near;
- hedging against potential risks related to new loans from the international market;
- diversifying the investor base by focusing new loans on niche financing that has not yet been sufficiently explored (for example, Islamic finance);
- improving the quality and reliability of the debt reporting of public undertakings through the interconnection between the Debt Analysis and Management System (*Système d'Analyse et de Gestion de la Dette* – “**SYGADE**”) and the Public Company Information and Management System (*Système d'Information et de Gestion des Entreprises Publiques* – “**SIGEP**”).

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Côte d'Ivoire has maintained good relationships with multilateral institutions, including the IMF, as evidenced by the visit made to Côte d'Ivoire by the Deputy Managing Director from 24 February to 27 February 2016 and the entering into of a new economic program supported by the Extended Credit Facility (“**ECF**”) and the Extended Fund Facility (“**EFF**”) for the 2016-2019 period.

Between 2009 and 2011, an economic and financial program supported by the ECF (formerly the PRGF) was adopted, but its implementation was disrupted by the post-election crisis from November 2010 to April 2011. The Rapid Credit Facility was then adopted in May 2011 and its successful implementation allowed the creation of another ECF over the 2011-2015 period.

The 2011-2015 ECF allowed for the implementation of important structural reforms in key economic sectors (public finance, governance, the coffee-cocoa sector, financial sector, energy sector, business climate and a reform of public administrations). This was followed by the restoration of macroeconomic stability and an improvement in the economy's competitiveness and resilience.

The implementation of the 2009-2011 and 2011-2015 three-year programs, supported by the ECF, helped to reach the completion point of the HIPC initiative in June 2012, thereby significantly reducing total debt from 69.9% of GDP in 2011 to 33.9% of GDP in 2012 (based upon the GDP reference year 1996).

The debt portfolio remained relatively less costly due to, in particular, a diversification of instruments used and international sovereign ratings.

The satisfactory implementation of the Economic and Financial Program resulted in access to more significant resources. Total disbursements under the 2012-2015 ECF agreement stood at US\$728.84 million. Furthermore, Côte d'Ivoire was able to raise funds on the international capital markets at competitive interest rates.

To support the 2016-2020 NDP, the Government entered into a new agreement on 12 December 2016 under an economic and financial program with the IMF for the 2016-2019 period. The new EFP/EFF-ECF programme has granted access to a combined total of SDR 487.8 million (about US\$658.9 million, or 75% of Côte d'Ivoire's quota), given Côte d'Ivoire's outstanding credit (119.1% of its share) and the fact that its share doubled at the end of 2015 to reach SDR 650.4 million or about CFAF 524 billion.

According to IMF report no. 17/372 Second reviews under the EFF-ECF from December 2017, Côte d'Ivoire was selected from among the seven countries eligible to receive the 2017 funding as part of the G20 Compact with Africa.

For the fifth review, the IMF delegation that visited Côte d'Ivoire from 14 to 27 March 2019 and the Ivorian authorities reached an agreement, approved by the IMF Management and the Board of Directors on 14 June 2019 (see IMF report no. 19/197). The IMF's report confirmed that all quantitative indicators and almost all structural benchmarks had been met and accordingly the IMF maintained its growth forecasts for 2019 and 2020.

For the sixth review, the IMF delegation visited Côte d'Ivoire from 17 September to 1 October 2019. The resulting report confirmed that performance under the IMF-supported programme was satisfactory in the first half of 2019. All performance criteria and all indicative targets for end-June 2019 were met. All but one of the structural benchmarks on public finance management, public enterprise monitoring, and tax policy and administration were also met. The fiscal budget deficit converged with the WAEMU regional deficit norm of 3.0% of GDP at the end of 2019 thereby meeting a key programme objective. Following the review, the IMF mission and authorities reached a staff level agreement, which was approved by the IMF Executive Board, on a one-year programme extension until 12 December 2020 and fiscal policy measures for the 2020 budget to pursue implementation of key programme objectives. For 2020, in order to meet major challenges and fund additional expenditures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the funding of the National Health Response Plan (*Plan National de Riposte Sanitaire*) and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan (*Plan de Soutien Economique, Social et Humanitaire*), the Government and the IMF have agreed on a budget deficit of 5.9% of GDP in 2020. The budget deficit is expected at 4.6% of GDP for 2021; and is expected to converge towards the WAEMU community convergence criteria of 3% of GDP in 2023. On 27 April 2020, the WAEMU Conference of Heads of States and Governments declared a temporary suspension of the WAEMU growth and stability Pact, which sets six convergence criteria, including the 3% of GDP fiscal deficit rule, to help member-countries cope with the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government continues to monitor and assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy.

The first six programme reviews already carried out by the IMF have all considered that the implementation of Côte d'Ivoire's economic and financial programme was satisfactory. The seventh and eighth programme reviews were combined and held remotely between 15 September and 4 October 2020. The seventh review of the program initially scheduled for March 2020 was delayed because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and was overtaken by discussions that led to an emergency assistance under the Fund's Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) in April 2020. Côte d'Ivoire and the IMF have reached a staff-level agreement on the combined seventh and eighth reviews of the ECF and EFF arrangements, which were subsequently approved by IMF management and the Executive Board on 9 December 2020.

In addition, according to the IMF, its adherence to the Open Government Partnership reflects the Government's commitment to improve public services and public resource management. These funds should help it to reach the 2016-2020 NDP objectives, including average growth above 7% over the 2018-2020 period.

On 17 April 2020, the Executive Board of the IMF approved a total disbursement US\$886.2 million to Côte d'Ivoire. This disbursement consisted of a portion drawn under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) equivalent to SDR 216.8 million (about US\$295.4 million, or 33.3% of Côte d'Ivoire's quota), and a purchase under the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) equivalent to SDR 433.6 million (about US\$590.8 million or 66.7% of Côte d'Ivoire's quota). The disbursement is

expected to help Côte d'Ivoire meet the urgent balance of payments needs stemming from the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the adverse economic impact of the various containment and mitigation measures deployed by the Government. See *"The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Health"* and *"The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic"*.

World Bank

Côte d'Ivoire has also maintained good relationships with the World Bank. The World Bank Group has taken an active role in implementing Côte d'Ivoire's social and economic development program through its institutions (the IBRD, IDA, IFC and MIGA) and its special funds.

The World Bank's operations in Côte d'Ivoire began prior to independent infrastructure financing (US\$7.5 million for the Abidjan-Niger Railway in 1954). They were consolidated after 1960 with an initial loan in 1968 (US\$5.8 million for a road network project) and in 1969 (US\$3.3 million for the palm oil sector).

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire benefits from MIGA guarantees in its capacity as a member country of the World Bank Group. These guarantees are subject to framework agreements attached to each financing and are used according to needs defined by the Government.

Overall, there have been five phases in the development of the World Bank's operations in Côte d'Ivoire:

- Until 1980, Côte d'Ivoire had access to international financial markets and the World Bank's gross disbursements stood at US\$492 million and did not exceed 0.5% of Côte d'Ivoire's GDP. These loans were primarily dedicated to infrastructure in an expanding economy. During this period, more than half of all loans were for agriculture and transportation; in 91% of cases, project results were deemed satisfactory.
- During the 1980-1993 period, given that Côte d'Ivoire had lost access to financial markets in 1981 and to most sources of credit after the first debt rescheduling in 1984, the World Bank's loans reached 2% of GDP. Between 1980 and 1987, the World Bank's disbursements reached 2.4% of Côte d'Ivoire's GDP and adjustment loans replaced investment loans. From 1988 to 1993, the World Bank's involvement was limited to analysing measures to accompany a potential devaluation. This preparatory work contributed to the preparation of extensive economic liberalization measures.
- From 1994 to 2000, the World Bank's disbursements reached their maximum (3.6% of GDP over the 1994-1996 period) and the World Bank enhanced its role as a coordinator of aid to Côte d'Ivoire's development. Its principal partners have been (and still are) the European Union, the United States and Japan. The World Bank's influence was also strengthened by its close cooperation with the IMF.
- From 2000 to 2011, the World Bank adapted its interventions to the successive socio-political and military crises, namely in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2010. Certain projects were interrupted and the IDA program was suspended in June 2004 due to arrears. Nonetheless, the World Bank maintained its relationship with Côte d'Ivoire via (i) analysis activities and a trust fund program to promote the reinsertion of child soldiers, support community recovery in former CNW zones and employment of at-risk youth and (ii) a grant of US\$120 million for a post-conflict assistance project exceptionally approved in 2007 before the clearance of arrears toward the IDA.
- Since 2011, the World Bank's actions have been reinforced and close to 50 financing agreements were entered into with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. These actions are, for the most part, budgetary support in an amount of approximately CFAF 579.4 billion. With regard to project financing, the main sectors that benefitted from the support of the World Bank are infrastructure, in an amount of approximately CFAF 461.5 billion, and employment and the environment, in an amount of CFAF 221.3 billion. The health and agricultural sectors each received financing in a total amount of CFAF 171.9 billion and CFAF 83.5 billion, respectively. On 21 April 2018, two credit agreements were signed with the IDA to finance the projected investment for the resilience of the coastal areas of West Africa for an amount of EUR 24,1 million and the projected improvement of the land in Côte d'Ivoire for a total amount of EUR 41.8 million.

The implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement signed in March 2007 helped restore relationships with technical and financial partners and to adopt a post-conflict program with the IMF, the World Bank and the AfDB. The satisfactory implementation of this program combined with the adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers prepared with the technical support of the World Bank resulted in attaining the decision point of the HIPC initiative and the adoption of a three-year economic program supported by the ECF in March 2009.

In addition, in November 2009, in connection with the post-Ivorian economic crisis recovery strategy, the World Bank granted Côte d'Ivoire US\$15 million to implement the Small and Medium Enterprise Revitalization and Governance Project (*Projet d'Appui à la Revitalisation et à la gouvernance des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises* ("PARE-PME")).

The 2010 post-election crisis led to another suspension of the ECF program, thereby explaining the low amount of disbursements during this period during which interventions were designated as "post-election financing", as the World Bank solely approved grants.

The 2012-2015 period was characterized by the normalization and consolidation of Côte d'Ivoire's relationship with the World Bank. Due to participants' proactiveness, Côte d'Ivoire quickly restored its relationships with all its technical and financial partners. Projects begun since 2009 (in particular PIUIR and PASEF) were strengthened and new projects were launched.

Among others, these include the Agriculture Support Project (*Projet d'appui au secteur agricole* ("PSAC")) of an amount of CFAF 25 billion, which is part of recovery efforts for agricultural development, via the implementation of the National Agricultural Investment Program (*Programme National d'Investissement Agricole* ("PNIA")). A total of US\$993 million was approved, including US\$502 million already disbursed.

The table below sets out changes in the World Bank's disbursements to Côte d'Ivoire:

	Authorized (\$)	Disbursed (\$)
Before 1980	492,800,000	492,800,000
IBRD	485,300,000	485,300,000
IDA	7,500,000	7,500,000
1980-1993	2,521,850,843	2,521,850,843
IBRD	2,376,700,000	2,376,700,000
IDA	138,700,000	138,700,000
Trust Funds	6,450,843	6,450,843
1994-2000	1,749,741,154	1,749,741,154
COFIN	10,542,878	10,542,878
IDA	1,691,418,000	1,691,418,000
Trust Funds	47,780,277	47,780,277
2001-2011	1,207,712,075	1,204,270,793
IDA	1,190,670,366	1,187,552,290
Trust Funds	17,041,709	16,718,503
2012-2015	933,548,699	502,128,428
IDA	885,000,000	480,856,119
Trust Funds	48,548,699	21,272,309
2016-2019	2,208,496,476	757,697,573
IDA	2,203,346,476	756,943,190
Trust Funds	5,250,000	754,383
Total	9,114,249,247	6,930,748,769

Source: World Bank/Department of Public Debt and Grants

In conclusion, since the reopening of the portfolio in 2007, Côte d'Ivoire benefits from budgetary assistance to support its financing plan. Over the 2012-2019 period, the cumulative amount of this budgetary assistance was CFAF 350.3 billion.

Budgetary assistance for 2018 was EUR 86.4 million, or approximately CFAF 56.7 billion, for the Third Support Credit to reforms on the Education-Energy-Cacao budgetary management.

On 29 September 2015, the World Bank Group's Board of Directors approved a new partnership framework with Côte d'Ivoire covering the 2015-2019 period. For this four-year period, the World Bank Group provided a loan and investment program of approximately US\$3 billion. The goal is to help Côte d'Ivoire build a competitive and inclusive economy.

In the context of this program, around 40 financing agreements were signed with the World Bank between 2015 and 31 December 2019, for a total amount of CFAF 1,522.4 billion. The main projects financed include:

- The PRSC-3 of an amount of US\$100 million, or approximately CFAF 58.7 billion;
- The Obsolete Pesticides Management Project (*Projet de gestion des pesticides obsolètes en Côte d'Ivoire* (“**PROGEP-CI**”)) of an amount of US\$7 billion, or approximately CFAF 4.2 billion, in the form of a grant;
- The African Centres of Excellence in Higher Education Project (*Projet de Centres d'Excellence d'Enseignement Supérieur en Afrique*) of an amount of EUR 13.4 million, or approximately CFAF 8.9 billion in the form of a loan;
- The electricity transmission and access project for an amount of USD 325 million, or approximately CFAF 187 billion;
- Infrastructures for urban development and competitiveness of secondary agglomerations for an amount of EUR 112.4 million, or approximately CFAF 73.7 billion;
- The Abidjan urban mobility project for an amount EUR 267.6 million, or CFAF 175.5 billion; and
- The strategic purchase and alignment of health resources and knowledge project for an amount EUR 174.2 million, or CFAF 114.3 billion; and
- The sanitation and urban resilience project for an amount of EUR 287.7 million, or CFAF 187.7 billion.

Disbursements for the loans signed over the 2015-2019 period stand at CFAF 560.4 billion.

The World Bank granted a CFAF 229.1 billion funding to Côte d'Ivoire on 19 April 2019, through the signing of three agreements relating to the Public Services Improvement Program (PAGDS) in the amount of CFAF 57.1 billion, the Development Support for Higher Education (PADES) in the amount of 57.7 billion and the Strategic Procurement and Alignment of Health Resources and Knowledge Project (“**SPARK**”) in the amount of CFAF 114.3 billion, respectively.

On 5 May 2020, the World Bank and the Government signed a US\$35 million credit agreement from the International Development Association to scale up efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic in Côte d'Ivoire. This credit supplements US\$40 million in financing already provided under the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) of the Strategic Purchasing and SPARK, bringing the total financing allocated by the World Bank to Côte d'Ivoire's Covid-19 emergency measures to US\$75 million.

African Development Bank

Côte d'Ivoire is home to the AfDB's headquarters.

The 2013-2017 Country Strategy Paper (“**CSP**”), elaborated by the AfDB, had two pillars: (a) to strengthen governance and accountability and (b) to develop infrastructure to support economic recovery. The first pillar was aimed at: (i) strengthening post-crisis socio-economic inclusion, by responding to demands for improved governance and delivery of basic services to populations; (ii) supporting social and economic integration/reintegration processes; (iii) strengthening economic, financial and institutional governance; and (iv) accelerating the structural reforms needed for industrialization. The second pillar was intended (i) to support economic recovery through the optimal use of natural resources, through the development of quality infrastructure in the fields of agriculture, transport and energy, while preserving the environment; and (ii) accelerate the development of human capital and the promotion of well-being; and to strengthen regional integration and international cooperation.

On a strategic level, both pillars of the strategy were aligned with the country's priorities and, on an operational level, the implementation of the CSP was generally satisfactory and contributed to the end of the crisis. Most of the initiatives made it possible to achieve the planned outcomes, although there were some differences depending on the sectors of the initiatives. Thus, the various assessment tasks for the implementation of the CSP highlighted the challenges hereinafter which will have to be addressed as part of the strategies to come and include:

- Strengthening the inclusiveness of growth, by accelerating the structural transformation of the agricultural sector;
- Giving priority to rural infrastructure that can have a catalytic effect on the development of agro-industrial value chains while promoting a gender-sensitive approach;
- Strengthening the alignment and coherence of the AfDB's actions with the national budgetary framework to make resource mobilization predictable;
- Strengthening the dialogue on policy and strategic issues, supported by relevant analytical work through sectoral studies and reviews;
- Strengthening monitoring and assessment of the achievement of results at the level of the AfDB's operations and strategies;
- Consolidating and capitalizing on sectoral initiatives by strengthening the AfDB's action in rural development infrastructure.

With a view to making the gains sustainable and to addressing the challenges that arose from the implementation of the 2013-2017 CSP, the AfDB has prepared the 2018-2022 CSP. This strategy is aligned with the 2016-2020 NDP, while keeping an eye on the AfDB's operational priorities (High 5s: (i) feeding Africa; (ii) lighting Africa; (iii) industrializing Africa; (iv) integrating Africa; and (v) improving living conditions in Africa). It is focused on sectoral governance and the development of agro-industrial value chains for a structural transformation of the economy. The AfDB's strategy relies on two pillars: (i) strengthening structuring infrastructure and governance, for the competitiveness of the economy and the efficiency of investments; and (ii) developing agro-industrial value chains for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The first pillar includes three of the strategic focuses (1, 4 and 5) of the 2016-2020 NDP (strengthening the quality of the country's institutions and proper governance; developing infrastructure that is equitably spread throughout the country while at the same time protecting the environment; and strengthening both regional integration and international cooperation). The objective is to develop ICT transport, urban development and energy infrastructure at the national and regional levels.

The second pillar includes the two other strategic focuses (2 and 3) of the 2016-2020 NDP (accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being; and accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization). This pillar aims to move up the value chain in the agro-industrial transformation processes of buoyant sectors, with a view to diversifying the Ivorian economy's sources of growth and making it more inclusive and less vulnerable to external shocks resulting from fluctuations in commodity prices and climatic variations.

Transversal aspects are also systematically taken into account by the AfDB in order to facilitate the implementation of the strategy and the preparation of its operations. This includes better consideration in all the AfDB's operations of aspects related to fragility, climate change, green growth, gender, social protection, health, nutrition and youth employment. Thus, the AfDB continually reinforces its cooperation with certain specialized agencies of the United Nations system (UN Women, ILO, UNIDO, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNHCR), national public agencies (ANAFOR, CI-PME Agency, AGEPE also known as *Agence Emploi-Jeunes*) and civil society organizations.

Part of the financing of the CSP will be carried out using ADF resources, as part of the Performance Based Allocations (PBA). The CSP will also benefit from AfDB window resources, on a case-by-case basis, for sovereign loans. Therefore, the inclusion in the CSP of projects with high integrative potential will make it possible to leverage additional funds from the regional ADF envelope. These resources will be complemented by those from trust and/or mobilizable funds through the use of partial guarantee instruments. All these resources would make it possible to attract joint financing from technical and financial partners (TFPs) as well as private sector participation through PPPs.

Furthermore, at its 23 October 2019 session, the AfDB Board of Directors approved the reclassification of Côte d'Ivoire to Category B (mixed) in AfDB's country classification.

As at the end of September 2020, the AfDB's current portfolio in Côte d'Ivoire comprises 37 operations with commitments of SDR 1,868.5 million, equivalent to CFAF 1,505.0 billion. The average size of these operations is SDR 47.0 million.

The sectoral distribution of the portfolio indicates the predominance of transport infrastructure (43.6%) followed by energy (23.8%), agriculture (18.8%), governance (8.7%), social (4.9%) and water and sanitation (0.1%). This distribution is in line with the pillars of the 2018-2022 CSP, as well as the AfDB's ten-year strategy 2013-2022 and the Bank's "Top 5" operational priorities. The portfolio of national public sector projects comprises 21 operations for a total commitment volume of SDR 1,094.9 million. It also includes 7 regional operations for a cumulative amount of SDR 217.7 million. At the private sector level, there are ten (10) ongoing operations for a total commitment of SDR 773.5 million. Over the last few years, the AfDB's portfolio in Côte d'Ivoire has experienced a significant increase. It has been multiplied per 4 from 2015 to 2020, from SDR 448.5 million to SDR 1.86 billion due to the approval of important projects through the AfDB's public sector window and also via the non-sovereign window dedicated to the private sector.

Since 2017, Côte d'Ivoire has been a member of the African Trade Insurance Agency ("ATIA"), which aims at ensuring the availability of financing for investment in Africa and the expansion of African foreign trade and intra-African trade. As a result, Côte d'Ivoire has access to the insurance provided by this organization, as well as risk syndication in the reinsurance market through the ATI-ACA. Two bank loans to the Government were signed and disbursed in 2019 for amounts of EUR 164 million and EUR 150 million, respectively, benefiting from an ATI-ACA insurance policy and a number of private insurers' reinsurance.

On 8 June 2020, the AfDB approved a EUR 75 million loan (approximately CFAF 49.12 billion) to support Côte d'Ivoire's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic through the National Health Response Plan (*Plan de Riposte Sanitaire*). The financing is part of the AfDB's Covid-19 Response Facility (CRF) programme.

Bilateral Debt

Paris Club

In terms of bilateral debt at the end of 2019, debt owed to non-Paris Club creditor countries has become largely dominant (93.5%). At the end of June 2020, debt owed to non-Paris Club creditor countries represented 92.4% of Côte d'Ivoire's bilateral debt.

As a reminder, on 29 June 2012, following admission to the "completion point" under the HIPC initiative, the Paris Club creditors of Côte d'Ivoire (the main creditors being France, the United States, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy and Japan) granted a debt cancellation in principal amount equal to US\$1.77 billion (approximately CFAF 900 billion).

Following bilateral negotiations in 2012, certain Paris Club creditors of Côte d'Ivoire agreed on an additional cancellation of CFAF 3,143.7 billion, including an outstanding C2D eligible debt of CFAF 1,486.2 billion from France and CFAF 23.6 billion through debt conversion agreement with Germany.

As of 31 December 2019, the amount of outstanding debt owed to the Paris Club creditors¹ was CFAF103.7 billion (excluding the C2D), compared to CFAF 87.6 billion at the end of 2018. At the end of June 2020, the amount of outstanding debt owed to the Paris Club creditors stood at CFAF 130.2 billion.

Debt Reduction and Development Contracts (*Contrats de Désendettement et de Développement*)

Upon reaching the completion point of the HIPC initiative, France granted Côte d'Ivoire an additional cancellation of its debt under the terms of ODA, in December 2012. This cancellation involved the gradual implementation of the C2D program. The process with France consists in transferring back to Côte d'Ivoire in the form of grants all of its reimbursements made under conditions defined in the C2D contracts effectively concluded. Total C2D-eligible debt,

¹ Since the cancellations at the completion point of the HIPC initiative in 2012, Côte d'Ivoire no longer has any debt in the Paris Club. The debt concerned in this paragraph is that owed to the member countries of the former Paris Club for Côte d'Ivoire.

taking into account the outstanding amount as well as the interest to be paid on all ODA loans was estimated at EUR 2.86 billion, or CFAF 1,900 billion at the end of 2012.

Two C2Ds have already been concluded with France, amounting to EUR 1,755 million, or CFAF 1,151.2 billion. The first C2D, totalling EUR 630 million, or CFAF 413.25 billion, was signed in December 2012 and was repaid over the 2012-2015 period. The second C2D, totalling EUR 1,125 million, or CFAF 737.95 billion, was signed in December 2014 and is to be repaid over the 2016-2020 period.

As they take into account both the State's ability to mobilize its resources to meet debt repayments and its capacity to absorb these resources through the implementation of projects, the C2D contracts consist in modifying the initial structure of the repayment schedule of the cancelled ODA debt. These development projects are mutually agreed upon and jointly monitored by France and Côte d'Ivoire.

At the end of 2019, outstanding C2D-eligible debt due to France stood at CFAF 896.6 billion (2.4% of GDP), including CFAF 147.6 billion for C2Ds already concluded, compared to an outstanding amount of CFAF 811.3 billion (2.5% of GDP) at the end of 2018 and CFAF 965.1 billion (3.2% of GDP) at the end of 2017.

On 9 June 2020, France, through a C2D contract and a sovereign loan from the French Development Agency (AFD), approved a EUR 30 million financing to support Côte d'Ivoire's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic through the National Health Response Plan (*Plan de Riposte Sanitaire*).

Program for the Conversion of Debt into Development Projects (*Programme de Conversion de dette en projets de Développement*) – Spain PCD

After having completed the HIPC initiative, the Spanish government granted Côte d'Ivoire additional debt relief in 2014.

Accordingly, a Program for the Conversion of Debt into Development Projects was concluded with Spain on 6 October 2017 for an amount of CFAF 32.7 billion, representing 50% of the Ivorian debt owed to Spain of a total amount of CFAF 67.3 billion. The Spain PCD will be carried out over the 2017-2020 period. It functions in a similar manner to the French C2D. The water and energy sectors were elected in the context of this programme.

Under the PCD, CFAF 11.1 billion was repaid by Côte d'Ivoire in 2019. The outstanding debt for this PCD stood at CFAF 7.2 billion as at 31 December 2019.

China

China is the most significant bilateral creditor outside the members of the Paris Club for Côte d'Ivoire. At the end of 2019, the outstanding debt of Côte d'Ivoire to China represented CFAF 1,342.5 billion, or 83.7% of its bilateral debt and 15.1% of its external public debt, compared to CFAF 1,111.3 billion, or 80.6% and 14.6% in 2018, respectively. At the end of June 2020, the outstanding debt owed to China amounted to CFAF 1,410.8 billion and represented 82.8% of Côte d'Ivoire's bilateral debt and 14.0% of its external public debt.

Côte d'Ivoire maintains close economic and financial relations with China. The Government concluded financing agreements for important development projects with China, in particular through Eximbank China, through (i) the financing agreement for the building of the Soubré hydroelectric dam for an amount of US\$500 million in January 2013 for which construction work was completed at the end of March 2017, (ii) the signature of the expansion and modernization project of the Abidjan Port Authority for an amount of US\$793 million in December 2014, (iii) the signature of the project for the rehabilitation and development of Côte d'Ivoire's electrical network for an amount of US\$776 million in December 2015 and (iv) the financing agreement for the construction project of the Agboville-Rubino-Céchy and Odienné-Gbéléban roads concluded on 14 November 2017 for an amount of CNY 801 million (CFAF 68.9 billion). In 2019, Eximbank China approved two major financings for the implementation of the drinking water supply reinforcement project in twelve localities in Côte d'Ivoire for an amount of Yuan 1.9 billion (CFAF 166.3 billion) and the Gribo Popoli hydroelectric development project for an amount of US\$285.9 million (CFAF 169.4 billion).

The financing agreements concluded with China were assigned to certain public companies in order to complete the relevant public projects. In particular, these include: (i) the Abidjan Port Authority, in connection with a loan for its expansion and modernization, (ii) Côte d'Ivoire Energie (CI-ENERGIES), for the financing of the renovation and development project of Côte d'Ivoire's electrical network, and (iii) the National Water Fund (*Fonds National de l'Eau*) for the financing of the second phase of the project to supply drinking water to Abidjan from the Bonoua groundwater and of the implementation of the drinking water supply reinforcement project in twelve localities throughout Côte d'Ivoire.

G20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative

The current Covid-19 pandemic is inflicting high and rising human costs worldwide, and the necessary protection measures are severely impacting economic activity of the most vulnerable countries, including Côte d'Ivoire. See "*The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – Health*" and "*The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*". To support the poorest countries in their containment measures and support their respective economies, the G20 member states and Paris Club creditors, supported by certain multilateral institutions (IMF, World Bank Group), have offered to temporarily suspend debt service payments for all eligible countries that make such a request, also known as the Debt Service Suspension Initiative ("**DSSI**"). On 15 April 2020, Paris Club members and the G20 agreed a common term sheet providing for the key features of the DSSI, the main feature of which envisages a suspension of payments from 1 May 2020 until the end of 2020, subject to a possible extension. On 14 October 2020, Paris Club members and the G20, recognising the significant financing needs that the eligible countries to the DSSI are expected to face in 2021, agreed to further extend the DSSI for six months, until 30 June 2021, subject to a possible further extension. All countries that were eligible to participate in the DSSI on the basis of the common term sheet dated 15 April 2020 remain eligible to participate in the DSSI extension, except those who failed to comply with the requirements set forth in the common term sheet. To benefit from the DSSI extension, eligible countries must file a request to that effect with the Paris Club and the G20.

The G20 decision to temporarily suspend debt service payments only concerns bilateral creditors. The G20 member states further called upon private creditors, working through the Institute of International Finance (IFI), to participate in the initiative on comparable terms and invited multilateral development banks to further explore options for similar time-bound suspension of debt service payments. On 28 May 2020, the IFI published its terms of reference for voluntary private sector participation in the DSSI (<https://www.iif.com>). The Institute also highlighted the widespread goodwill of the private sector towards the vital objectives of the DSSI. On 12 November 2020, the IFI reaffirmed private creditors' readiness to participate in the extended DSSI upon request from eligible countries. On 3 December 2020, the IFI published an addendum that extends and updates its May 2020 terms of reference for voluntary private sector participation in the DSSI.

On 10 June 2020, Côte d'Ivoire officially announced its participation in the DSSI and addressed official requests to its main official bilateral creditors, as well as to the Paris Club. Côte d'Ivoire believes this G20-led initiative is consistent with the multiple support programmes deployed by official creditors since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those have been part of an exceptional and coordinated international response in favour of developing countries, which are undeniably pivotal in view of the unprecedented challenges entailed by the current crisis. Côte d'Ivoire's request was approved by the representatives of the Paris Club creditor countries on 11 June 2020 and the appropriate documentation was negotiated with the relevant creditors. On 14 October 2020, Paris Club members and the G20 agreed to extend the DSSI for a further six months, until 30 June 2021, for eligible countries that request such an extension. In January 2021, the Government requested and benefited from an extension of the DSSI for a further six months, until 30 June 2021.

Under the DSSI, the scope of eligible debt is limited to loans from governments or relevant institutions of participating creditor countries concluded before 24 March 2020. The amount of bilateral external debt service eligible for suspension under this initiative amounts to CFAF 38 billion, representing approximately 4.4% of external public debt service in 2020. The amount of bilateral external debt service eligible for suspension under the extension of this initiative amounts to CFAF 121.8 billion, representing approximately 11.5% of external public debt service in 2021.

In line with the purpose of the DSSI, Côte d'Ivoire intends to use this additional budgetary resources to increase its health, social and economic expenditure dedicated to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact on its

populations, in line with the National Health Response Plan and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan announced in March 2020 by President Ouattara and the Government. See “*The Economy – Measures in Support of the Economy During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic*”.

In a communiqué dated 10 June 2020, Côte d’Ivoire formally excluded any request for an extension of the DSSI to private sector debt and has confirmed its commitment to comply with all of its contractual obligations vis-a-vis private sector creditors and its intention not to extend the DSSI to such private sector creditors.

External Debt due to Commercial/Private Creditors

At the end of 2019, external debt due to commercial/private creditors amounted to US\$8,482.6 million² (CFAF 5,004.8 billion) compared to US\$7,605.7 million³ (CFAF 4,355.7 billion) on 31 December 2018 and US\$5,431.88 million⁴ (CFAF 2,970.9 billion) on 31 December 2017. Private debt represented 56.4% of external debt at the end of 2019, compared to 57.2% at the end of 2018 and 51.5% at the end of 2017 and 53.5% at the end of 2016. All outstanding Eurobonds of the issuer correspond to 88.6% of external debt due to private creditors.

WAEMU Financial Stability Fund (FSF)

Following a decision by the WAEMU Council of Ministers on 10 May 2012, a FSF was established to manage the member states’ potential payment defaults on their debt issued on financial markets.

The financial assistance of the FSF consists exclusively in managing the public debt service issued in the form of Treasury bills and bonds on the regional or international markets. FSF assistance cannot exceed a period of five years and repayment procedures are determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to significant fund replenishment constraints. Contributions to the FSF are being made progressively by the Central Bank.

Active Debt Management

On 7 June 2017, Côte d’Ivoire repurchased US\$250 million in aggregate principal amount of its outstanding 2024 Eurobonds and US\$500 million in aggregate principal amount of its outstanding 2032 Eurobonds. As a result, its outstanding debt from the 2024 Eurobonds decreased from US\$750 million to US\$500 million, and its outstanding debt from the 2032 Eurobonds decreased from US\$2,468.5 million to US\$1,968.5 million. These transactions reduced annual amortisation on the 2032 Eurobonds and limited the risk linked to refinancing the 2024 Eurobonds.

In September 2018, Côte d’Ivoire hedged the foreign exchange risk associated with its external debt through a swap transaction concerning the servicing of US\$-denominated public debt for a total amount of US\$1.4 billion. The transaction made it possible to freeze the euro/dollar exchange rate for part of the maturities to be paid for servicing the debt relating to US\$-denominated Eurobonds, for the period from December 2018 to December 2022.

In October 2019, Côte d’Ivoire successfully concluded a Eurobonds liability management transaction meeting all the objectives set by the Government. The transaction enabled the repurchase of a total nominal amount of EUR 1.314 billion of the outstanding dollar-denominated 2024 Eurobonds (72% participation rate), euro-denominated 2025 Eurobonds (48%) and dollar-denominated 2032 Eurobonds (43%), resulting in a significant reduction of the refinancing and foreign exchange risks associated with the public debt portfolio, as well as a substantial increase in leeway with regard to the IMF’s debt sustainability analysis ratios. Under this transaction, Côte d’Ivoire attracted an order book of EUR 4.5 billion, enabling a new Eurobonds issue in a total amount of EUR 1.7 billion, comprising two tranches of 12 and 21 years (with an average maturity of 11 and 20 years), at a coupon of 5.875% and 6.875%, respectively. The transaction also allowed the Government to raise EUR 318 million (CFAF 208 billion) in new money to ensure the completion of resource

² US\$1 = CFAF 590.0043, to estimate the debt at the end of December 2019.

³ US\$1 = CFAF 572.6881, to estimate the debt at the end of December 2018.

⁴ US\$1 = CFAF 546,9500, to estimate the debt at the end of December 2017.

mobilization for the year 2019. With the October 2019 transaction, Côte d'Ivoire recorded the largest liability management transaction ever carried out for an issuer in Sub-Saharan Africa.

On 1 December 2020, Côte d'Ivoire successfully concluded a Eurobonds liability management transaction meeting all the objectives set by the Government. The transaction enabled the repurchase of a total nominal amount of US\$496,203,914 of the outstanding euro-denominated 2025 Eurobonds, U.S. dollar-denominated 2028 Eurobonds and U.S. dollar-denominated 2032 Eurobonds. Concurrently, Côte d'Ivoire called for redemption \$90,768,000 in principal amount of its 2032 Eurobonds. This liability management transaction resulted in further reduction of the refinancing and foreign exchange risks associated with the public debt portfolio, while improving the country's debt profile in accordance with the IMF's debt sustainability analysis ratios and objectives. These liability management transactions were financed by part of the proceeds from the issue by Côte d'Ivoire of its €1,000,000,000 4.875 per cent. amortizing Eurobond due 2032. The transaction also allowed the Government to raise €460 million in new money to ensure the completion of resource mobilization for the year 2020. With the December 2020 transaction, Côte d'Ivoire reaffirmed its presence in the international financial markets and obtained its lowest coupon despite the Covid-19 pandemic and relatively uncertain market conditions.

MONETARY SYSTEM

The Franc Zone and the BCEAO

Côte d'Ivoire has been a member of the Franc zone since its independence in 1960 and a member of the West African Monetary Union (“WAMU”) since 1962. The Central Bank of West African States (*Banque Centrale des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest*, the “BCEAO”), headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, is the common central bank for the WAMU member states. A national branch of the BCEAO is installed in each WAMU member State.

The Franc Zone

The Franc zone is composed of 14 French-speaking countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the Comoros and France. It is the offspring of monetary relations between France and its former African colonies, and it reflects the desire of its member nations to maintain an institutional framework of monetary cooperation. Like the Bank of Central African States (*Banque des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale*, the “BEAC”) and the Central Bank of the Comoros, the BCEAO has an operational account on the books of the French Treasury, which guarantees the convertibility of its CFAF. The peg of the CFAF to the French franc was replaced by a peg to the Euro from 1 January 1999, with a fixed exchange rate of 1 Euro = CFAF 655.957. The substitution of the Euro for the French franc did not affect the monetary cooperation mechanism of the CFAF zone.

The monetary cooperation between France and the African countries of the CFAF zone is governed by four fundamental principles: (i) a guarantee by the French Treasury of unlimited convertibility of the three central banks' currency, (ii) a fixed peg, (iii) free transferability and (iv) centralization of currency reserves. In exchange for this convertibility guarantee, the BCEAO and the BEAC are required to deposit at least 50% of their currency reserves in an operational account with the French Treasury (this rate is set at 65% for the Central Bank of the Comoros). The management of the operational accounts is formalized by agreements between the French authorities and representatives of the member states of the three African central banks in question. These accounts are operated as current accounts opened at the French Treasury, are remunerated and may, in exceptional circumstances, have a debit balance. The convertibility guarantee comes into play when the operational account is overdrawn. Several preventive measures provided for in the operational account agreement, such as direct debits by the BCEAO from foreign currency cash results other than those deposited on the operational account, the use by member States of their SDR with the IMF, or the exchange of their SDR against cash are put into place to avoid any overdrafts.

The cooperation between France and the CFAF zone is the subject of regular meetings between French and African officials, in particular the bi-annual meeting of the Finance Ministers, Presidents of regional institutions and Central Bank Governors of the CFAF zone. Such bi-annual meetings generally take place a week in advance of the IMF and World Bank meetings, alternatively in Africa (before spring meetings) and in Paris (before Annual General meetings).

The ECOWAS Single Currency Project and the CFAF Reform

The ECOWAS Single Currency Project

The goal of a common currency for the whole ECOWAS area, including the WAEMU member states currently using the CFAF, was officially stated by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government in December 2000. The common currency was first planned to be introduced in 2004, but was postponed several times in recognition that the macroeconomic convergence conditions were not met.

At its ordinary session held on 29 June 2019 in Abuja (Nigeria), the ECOWAS Conference of Heads of State and Government adopted “ECO” as the name of the single currency and confirmed that the common monetary policy would be based on the principle of a flexible exchange rate regime with a monetary policy framework based on inflation targeting. The conference further instructed the ECOWAS Commission, in consultation with the West African Monetary Agency and the Central Banks, to accelerate the implementation of the revised roadmap with a view to establishing the ECO in July 2020. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged, however, that adoption of the single currency by the member States would be gradual so that only countries that respect the required convergence criteria would join.

The ECOWAS convergence criteria are of two kinds:

- the first set of convergence criteria are (i) to maintain the budget deficit at a level below or equal to 3% of nominal GDP, (ii) to maintain an annual average inflation rate below 10%, (iii) to ensure that the budget deficit/central bank ratio is below 10% of the previous year's tax revenues, and (iv) to hold a 3-month or more gross reserves in months of imports; and
- the second set of convergence criteria are (i) to maintain the variation of the nominal exchange rate with a range of 10% upwards or downwards, and (ii) to maintain the total public debt ratio below the threshold of 70% of nominal GDP.

On 10 February 2020, the President of Nigeria issued a statement requesting a postponement of the launch of the ECO, pointing out the fact that the convergence criteria are not met by the majority of countries and that it is therefore necessary to extend the deadline for the launch of the ECOWAS single currency. It is expected that the Conference of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government will discuss these questions at its next ordinary summit in June 2020.

The CFAF Reform

At a joint news conference held in Abidjan on 21 December 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron and President Alassane Ouattara announced that, pursuant to the agreement of all member States, the monetary cooperation between France and the WAEMU would be reformed and the name of the CFAF would be changed to “ECO”. This decision was taken in response to a longstanding demand by anti-CFAF opponents and activists across the region, who organized several demonstrations to request the abolishment of the CFAF accused of being a symbol of the colonial past and of undermining African countries’ sovereignty. According to the joint statement made by President Ouattara and President Macron, the proposed reform will entail:

- the renaming of the “CFAF” as “ECO” in 2020;
- the end of the requirement that the BCEAO keep 50% of its foreign currency reserves in the French Treasury. Such reserves will be transferred back to the BCEAO who will be able to invest them at its discretion with central banks or the Bank for International Settlements (BIS); and
- the withdrawal of French representatives from the WAEMU's governing bodies (BCEAO's Board of Directors and Monetary Policy Committee, Banking Commission).

However, the proposed reform will leave unchanged the key pillars of the CFAF with regard to the Euro and France:

- the peg of the ECO to the Euro at a fixed exchange rate (at the current parity of 1 Euro = CFAF 655.957); and
- France's unlimited and unconditional guarantee of currency convertibility.

The guarantee of the ECO convertibility and the fixed exchange rate against the Euro have been maintained at this stage of the reform in order to consolidate macroeconomic stability and economic growth. In a press release dated 17 February 2020 (*Entrée dans l'âge de l'eco : implications de la réforme monétaire en Afrique de l'Ouest*), S&P commented that so long as the parity with the euro and France's unlimited guarantee of convertibility are maintained the proposed reform would have no immediate effect on its sovereign ratings of the WAEMU member states.

Following the joint news conference by Presidents Emmanuel Macron and Alassane Ouattara, a new cooperation agreement providing for the proposed changes to the monetary cooperation between France and the WAEMU was initialled by the Minister of Finance of France and the President of the Council of Ministers of the WAEMU. The entry into force of the new cooperation agreement is subject to it being ratified by the French Parliament and by each WAEMU member state in accordance with its respective rules. The implementation of the CFAF reform was delayed to a later unspecified date after being initially scheduled for 2020. However, in order to fully implement the CFAF Reform, the current monetary agreements will need to be abrogated and replaced. In addition the withdrawal of France from monetary

bodies also implies changing the rules governing these monetary bodies. A clear timeline for the implementation of these changes has however not yet been made public. On 20 May 2020, the French Council of Ministers adopted a draft law approving the CFAF reform.

In the context of the parallel process towards the ECOWAS common currency, the WAEMU member states will need to come to an agreement with the other ECOWAS member states on various questions, including the use of the same name for the reformed CFAF and for the future ECOWAS single currency, the peg to the Euro or the maintenance of a French guarantee. However, the Conference of the ECOWAS Heads of States and Government noted at their 23 December 2019 meeting that the proposed reform of the UMOA monetary zone will facilitate its integration into the ECOWAS monetary zone.

The BCEAO

The BCEAO is the common central bank of the eight member states of the WAMU, which are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. It is a public international institution with headquarters located in Dakar, Senegal. It is governed by the bylaws annexed to the WAMU Treaty. In all WAMU member states, it enjoys privileges and immunities usually only granted to international financial institutions. The BCEAO is managed by a Governor, with the support of a board of directors and national credit boards. The Governor is appointed by the WAMU Council of Ministers for a renewable six-year term.

The institutional reform of the WAMU and Central Bank which took place in 2010 strengthened the independence of the BCEAO and established a better division of roles and responsibilities between the different WAMU and BCEAO entities. These entities are as follows:

- The WAEMU Council of Ministers, in which every member-state of the WAMU is represented by two ministers, is responsible for implementing the general guidelines and decisions made by the Conference of Heads of States and Governments (*Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement*), which is the WAEMU supreme body. The WAMU Council of Ministers is also responsible for defining the regulatory framework for the financial and banking system and for defining the WAMU exchange rate policy);
- the Monetary Policy Committee (*Comité de Politique Monétaire*, “MPC”) is responsible for defining monetary policy;
- the Board of Directors is in charge of the management of BCEAO, in accordance with its constitutional provisions. The Board is assisted by an Audit Committee;
- the Governor is responsible for the management of the BCEAO and implements the monetary policy defined by the MPC; and
- the National Credit Councils (*Conseils Nationaux de Crédit*) are consultation committees at the member State level, comprised of representatives of the administration and of the principal associations or socio-professional groups. They are in charge of issuing opinions and recommendations on the functioning of the banking system to better manage the concerns of economic actors in the implementation of credit and monetary policy.

Building on this reform, in the context of the devaluation of the CFAF, the WAEMU was created on 10 January 1994 in Dakar, Senegal, in an effort to consolidate economic integration in the CFAF zone.

As an issuing institution and a monetary authority, the BCEAO maintains a wide range of relationships with banks and financial institutions working with the WAEMU member states. These relationships consist mainly of banking system monitoring operations and distribution/credit control operations. As part of its implementation of monetary policy, the BCEAO regulates liquidity on the WAEMU interbank market. Assistance granted to credit institutions includes advances guaranteed by negotiable debt securities, as well as discounts, acquisitions, sales, repurchases or secured loans against security of claims in respect of WAEMU's member states, companies and individuals.

In addition to issuing the common currency in the member States, which is the exclusive mission of the BCEAO, the BCEAO is in charge of (i) implementing monetary policy, (ii) ensuring the stability of the banking and financial system, (iii) promoting, monitoring and safeguarding payment systems, (iv) implementing the WAEMU exchange rate policy, (v) centralizing the WAEMU currency reserves, (vi) accounts keeping for WAEMU member states, and (vii) monitoring banking and financial activity. The principal objective of the BCEAO is to ensure monetary and price stability, target inflation and maintain the CFA-Euro peg. The BCEAO also supports the economic policies of WAEMU member states to foster sound and sustainable growth.

Monetary policy tools include setting reference rates and establishing the system of mandatory reserves. Their implementation takes into account changes in the internal and external economic and financial environment of the WAEMU zone, in particular the situation of the Euro zone. As a result of the peg of the CFAF to the Euro, the monetary policies of the CFAF zone closely follow those of the European Central Bank. Slight policy differences will normally arise because the BCEAO takes into account its members' economic situation such as inflationary pressures, the outcome of agricultural campaigns, trends in credits to the economy and bank liquidity.

With respect to the monitoring of credit institutions, a community supervisory institution, the Banking Commission (*Commission Bancaire*), was created on 24 April 1990 for the WAEMU. It is chaired by the Governor of the BCEAO and is entrusted with the supervision of the organization and control of the banking system in the WAEMU.

The current regulation of the banking sector is based on several texts, namely the banking law and its implementing provisions, memoranda from the Banking Commission, regulations governing banking and financial activity, prudential regulations and instructions and notices to credit institutions.

The WAEMU is characterized in particular by the adoption of a single foreign exchange policy in all member States in order to ensure the freedom of financial relations within the Union. Financial payments and capital movements between the WAEMU and foreign countries, as well as foreign exchange transactions within the WAEMU, can only take place through the BCEAO, the postal administration or a licensed intermediate bank.

Immediately following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the WAEMU, the BCEAO implemented various measures aimed at reinforcing the banking system's liquidity. The BCEAO decided to provide credit institutions with additional liquidity to ease their cash difficulties and allow them to continue to fulfil their mission of financial intermediation. In this regard, the cash demands by the banks were granted by 21 March 2020, at a single rate of 2.5%, revised down to 2.0% as from 24 June 2020. Such measure resulted in an increase in the level of refinancing granted by the BCEAO from CFAF 4,488.9 billion on 17 March 2020 to 6,083.5 billion on 27 October 2020. The BCEAO also expanded the scope of the mechanisms available to the banks to access its refinancing windows.

More generally, in order to support the containment efforts of WAEMU member states against the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) and mitigate its adverse effects on WAEMU's banking system, economy and population, the BCEAO announced various measures in support of the WAEMU communities. See “ – *Monetary System – Monetary Policy*” below.

Inflation

The table below sets out certain information regarding inflation rates in Côte d'Ivoire for the periods indicated:

Inflation (Consumer Price Index)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Côte d'Ivoire – Annual average	1.2%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.80%	1.0%
WAEMU – Annual average	1.0%	0.3%	1.0%	1.1%	-0.7% ⁽¹⁾	1.8%

⁽¹⁾ *WAMU Monetary Policy Report, BCEAO, September 2020*

Source: MEF, BCEAO

The panel used for the determination of Consumer Price Index includes 684 different products and has not been modified since 2008.

In 2015, inflation was at 1.2% on average, due to good food crop production and improved distribution channels. Control of inflation was also facilitated by market measuring instruments.

In 2016 and 2017, inflation decreased to an annual average of 0.7%. The evolution of consumer prices reflected, on the one hand, the actions of the Government which allowed to contain tensions on food prices, and, on the other hand, the contraction in the prices of non-food products. The Government's actions included improvements to the water management system, distribution of enhanced seeds, and extension of cultivated areas dedicated to food crop production.

In 2018 and 2019, inflation was relatively contained and increased from an annual average of 0.6% to 0.8%. Inflation stayed below WAEMU's 3.0% inflation rate ceiling due to an increase in the supply of food products, to the price stability of oil products, to an improved supply of markets for other final consumer goods, and to the continuation of government policies against high cost of living.

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation in Côte d'Ivoire is expected to stay below WAEMU's 1.0% inflation rate ceiling in 2020, according to the Government's most current economic forecasts dated September 2020. However, according to the latest IMF projections (which account for the impact of Covid-19 pandemic), inflation in Côte d'Ivoire is expected to stand at 1.2% in 2020 and 1.4% in 2021. The entire Franc Zone has historically exhibited low inflation, because of the relative stability of the regional currency as well as the conservative monetary policy of the BCEAO. This helps dampen inflationary volatility in Côte d'Ivoire, which stems in part from the diversification of the food-crop production.

WAEMU Foreign Reserves

Foreign reserves are centralized within the BCEAO and managed according to a solidarity principle between WAEMU member states, subject to the conditions set out in the operational account agreement. There is no apportionment between the member states. The CFAF Reform provides for the end of the requirement that the BCEAO keep 50% of its foreign currency reserves in the French Treasury. Such reserves will be transferred back to the BCEAO who will be able to invest them at its discretion with central banks or the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). See "*The CFAF Reform*" above.

The table below sets out certain information regarding the WAEMU's foreign reserves in number of months of imports for each of the years indicated:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>June 2020</u>
Reserves in CFAF billions.....	7,487.0	6,529.4	7,184.2	8,561.0	10,357.0	11,155.6
Reserves in number of months of imports.....	5.4	4.3	4.1	4.8	4.7	6.2

Source: MEF, BCEAO

In 2017, the foreign reserves of WAEMU member countries covered 4.1 months of imports. At the end of December 2018, this ratio was 4.8 months of imports. This increase is due to an improvement in the level of export revenue repatriation. As of 31 December 2019, the ratio remained relatively constant with 4.7 months of imports, due, *inter alia*, to continuous efforts to mobilise external resources by WAEMU member states, and a stable level of repatriation of export revenues by the banks and economic operators.

As of June 2020, the stock of foreign reserves was estimated to amount to 6.2 months of imports of goods and services.

Money Supply

The table below sets out certain information regarding Côte d'Ivoire's monetary situation, including foreign reserves, as at 31 December for each of the years indicated:

	2016	2017	2018	2019
	<i>(CFAF billions)</i>			
Net foreign assets	1,753.5	1,762.7	2,032.1	2,497.5
Central bank	1,399.0	1,550.7	1,702.3	2,102.4
Commercial banks	354.5	212.1	329.8	395.1
Net domestic assets	7,229.9	8,299.9	9,345.7	10,236.1
Net credit to the State	1,733.7	1,990.3	2,327.4	2,791.7
Central bank	484.9	447.4	418.9	568.3
Commercial banks	1,239.6	1,533.7	1,899.3	2,223.4
Including guaranteed obligations.....	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
Postal savings bank (<i>Caisse d'épargne et des chèques postaux</i> ("CNCE"))	0	0	0	0
Credit to the economy	5,496.2	6,309.6	7,018.3	7,444.3
Seasonal credits	460.3	411.1	411.0	N/A
Other credits (including guaranteed obligations)	5,035.9	5,898.5	6,607.3	N/A
Other items (net)	1,121.3	1,478.6	1,645.0	N/A
Money supply (M2)	7,852.9	8,574.9	9,723.7	10,770.1
Currency outside banks	2,273.4	2,301.0	2,439.9	2,692.3
Deposits	3,225.6	3,620.2	4,237.0	4,612.5
Other deposits	2,353.9	2,653.6	3,046.8	3,465.3
CNCE	0	0	0	0
Change in percentage as at 31 December				
Net foreign assets	5.1	0.5	15.3	22.9
Net domestic assets	14.3	14.8	12.6	9.5
Net credit to the State	17.5	14.9	17.0	19.9
Central bank	(13.4)	(7.7)	(6.4)	35.7
Commercial banks	36.5	23.7	23.8	17.1
Credit to the economy	13.3	15.3	11.3	6.1
Money supply	11.0	9.2	13.4	10.8

Source: MEF, BCEAO

N/A: not available (the data requested is no longer provided in the new monetary statistics framework)

The monetary situation at the end of December 2019 was marked in particular by an increase in net foreign assets of 22.9% and stood at CFAF 2,497.5 billion compared to CFAF 2,032.1 billion in 2018. This increase was due mainly to an increase in the rate of repatriation of export revenues (76% at the end of December 2019, compared to 61.1% at the end of December 2018). The growth in credits to the economy and net credits to the State was due to the vibrancy of the economic activity, improvements in the business climate and restored confidence in both the economic operators and the banking system.

From a general standpoint, the Covid-19 pandemic is not considered to have materially affected the monetary system. Money supply, as well as its components, have continued to follow their usual trends. WAEMU's money supply level recorded a 13.2% increase at the end of June 2020, mainly due to the loans granted to the Member States (+43.2%), in connection with the financing of significant spending due to the fight against the health crisis. WAEMU's foreign reserves also increased on an annual basis, covering 6.2 months of imports at the end of June 2020, compared to 4.7 months at the end of December 2019.

The analysis of the conditions of refinancing with the BCEAO during the second quarter of 2020 shows a decrease in applicable rates, in line with the measures adopted by the BCEAO to mitigate the negative effects of the Covid-19

pandemic on the WAEMU's economies. The average bid rate applied to liquidity injection tenders was 2.46% for the second semester of 2020, compared to 2.90% for the previous quarter. As from 24 June 2020, it has been set at 2.00%.

At the end of June 2020, net foreign assets increased by CFAF 650.2 billion compared to the second quarter of 2019 (+11.3%). At the end of March 2020, net external assets had already increased by CFAF 940.3 billion (+16.5%).

For 2021, money supply is expected to continue to evolve on a normal basis and the States' responses to the crisis are expected to continue to affect receivables against the Administration.

Between 31 December 2020 and the end of June 2020, the variation of the monetary aggregates was as follows:

- an increase in money supply by CFAF 490 billion (+4.5%);
- an increase in net foreign assets by CFAF 286.3 billion (+11.5%); and
- an increase in domestic credit by CFAF 267.3 billion (+2.6%).

Exchange Rate

Due to its membership in the WAEMU monetary zone, Côte d'Ivoire applies an exchange regime that is exempt from any restrictions on payments and transfers relating to normal international transactions.

The common currency of the WAEMU is the CFA Franc (CFAF), which is pegged to the Euro at a fixed exchange rate of 1 Euro = CFAF 655.957. As a result, the U.S. Dollar exchange rate will fluctuate in line with Euro/U.S. Dollar rates. This rate has been fixed and has not changed since the introduction of the Euro.

According to the latest available information published by the BCEAO (*WAMU Monetary Policy Report, September 2020*), the Real Effective Exchange Rate ("REER") decreased by 2.3% in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. This reflects a gain in competitiveness primarily due to an inflation differential favourable to the WAEMU (-3.2%) with respect to its partners although this has been mitigated by an increase in the nominal effective exchange rate ("NEER") (+0.9%). The change in the NEER in the second quarter of 2020 primarily signals an appreciation, on an annual basis, of the CFAF compared to the Ghanaian cedi (+6.4%), the pound sterling (+3.0%) and the Indian rupee (+4.6%). However, the CFAF depreciated against the Nigerian naira (-2.1%), the U.S. Dollar (-0.2%), and the Swiss franc (-0.5%). The WAEMU inflation rate stood at 1.7% in the second quarter of 2020 compared to a 5.2% average increase in partner countries.

According to Government estimates, following a decrease in competitiveness in the first and second quarters of 2018, marked by an increase in the REER of 3.1% and 1.0%, respectively, the Ivorian economy improved its competitiveness in the third and fourth quarters, with REER decreases of 1.5% and 1.7%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2017. This was due to a favourable inflation differential of 3.5% and 2.6% respectively, compared to partner countries, in spite of NEER increases of 1.7% and 0.8%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2017.

In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire's competitiveness improved with respect to its main trade partners in the first quarter of 2019, compared to the fourth quarter of 2018 and during the same period in the previous year. The REER decreased by 2.1% from the fourth quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2019. Compared to the same period in 2018 (Q1 2018), the REER decreased by 4.7% during the period under review (Q1 2019). This favourable competitive position continued during the second quarter of 2019. Indeed, according to the forecasts, the REER decreased by 1.3% compared to the first quarter of 2019 and decreased by 4.8% compared to the same period in 2018. Unlike in 2018, the decline in the REER is driven by the decline in the nominal exchange rate of 1.4% and 0.8%, respectively, in the first and second quarters of 2019 and by an increase in the inflation differential of 3.9% and 4.7%, for the same periods, between Côte d'Ivoire and its main trading partners.

Monetary Policy

The MPC is in charge of monetary policy within the WAMU. In 2016, the MPC decided to maintain the minimum bid rate applied to liquidity injection tenders at 2.50%, the rate in force since September 2013, thus confirming the

accommodating trend in the BCEAO monetary policy. However, in order to boost the interbank market and generally improve the functioning of the Union's monetary market, the MPC decided to expand the range between the minimum bid rate applied to liquidity injection tenders and the marginal lending rate by one percentage point. Thus, the marginal lending rate was raised from 3.50% to 4.50%, effective as of 16 December 2016.

In 2017, to accompany the implementation of measures aiming to improve the functioning of the interbank market, the MPC decided to decrease the mandatory reserves coefficient applicable to banks within the Union by 200 basis points, lowering it from 5.0%, the rate in effect as of 16 March 2012, to 3.0%. This decision came in effect as of 16 March 2017.

In 2018 and 2019, the reserve requirement coefficient was 3.0%. Based upon data related to the overall decrease in prices within the Union and its assessment of the domestic and international environment, the MPC decided, at its 4 December 2019 meeting, to maintain the BCEAO's reference rates unchanged. Such rates stood at 2.5% for the minimum bid rate on liquidity injection tenders, and at 4.5% for the marginal lending rate.

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, stimulus packages were implemented by WAEMU member States, and the gradual lifting of lockdowns and travel restrictions permitted a gradual resumption of economic activity and production recovery in the WAEMU zone. On 24 June 2020, in order to back this dynamic, the MPC decided to lower by 50 basis points the BCEAO's policy rates. As a result, the minimum bid rate on liquidity injection tenders stands at 2.0% instead of 2.5% and the marginal lending rate stands at 4.0% instead of 4.5%. Since banks' position with regards to their mandatory reserves is comfortable, the mandatory reserves coefficient applicable to banks within the WAEMU remained stable, at 3.0%.

In order to support the containment efforts of WAEMU member states against the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) and mitigate its adverse effects on WAEMU's banking system, economy and population, the BCEAO announced various measures in support of the WAEMU communities. In particular, the BCEAO decided to:

- increase the resources made available to the banks, in order to allow them to maintain and increase their role in the financing of the economy. In this respect, as from 27 March 2020, all liquidity demands on open markets are being satisfied, with a single rate corresponding to the BCEAO's lowest refinancing rate (lowered from 2.5% to 2.0% as from 24 June 2020);
- expand the scope of mechanisms available to the banks eligible for a refinancing from the BCEAO. In particular, the BCEAO decided to include 1,700 private companies in the list of companies eligible for such mechanisms, thus allowing the banks to access additional resources amounting to CFAF 1,050 billion and the newly included companies to negotiate competitive borrowings terms;
- assist member States in the structuring and issuance of public securities called "Covid-19 Bonds" which, due to attractive features, allowed WAEMU member States to quickly mobilize important resources at a low cost. Such bonds benefit from favourable conditions of refinancing by the BCEAO with regards to interest rate, maturity (with the creation of a special window mechanism for 3-month refinancing), and from additional borrowing capacities with the BCEAO as issuing institution (with such contributions not being accounted for in the calculation of the maximal refinancing ratio);
- allocate CFAF 25 billion to the West African Development Bank's interest subsidy fund to allow it to subsidize interest rates and increase its lending capacity to WAEMU member states for the financing of urgent investment and equipment expenditures as part of their fight against the Covid-19 pandemic;
- raise banks' awareness regarding utilization of the resources made available to them under the BCEAO's special window mechanism for the refinancing of SMEs. Such uncapped special window was created by the BCEAO, the financial institutions and member States, as part of the mechanism for facilitating the financing of SMBs in the WAEMU area;

- implement a relevant framework in order to support businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and experiencing difficulties to servicing their debts. The BCEAO encourages banks to grant appropriate deferrals of payment dates and moratoriums, in particular to SMEs and individuals affected by the Covid-19 pandemic;
- negotiate with electronic money establishments in order to lower or waive transaction fees and encourage the local populations to use digital payment methods in order to effectively limit contacts and contain the spread of the coronavirus. The BCEAO announced several measures aiming at promoting electronic payments, including the gratuity of payments via mobile phone of water and electricity bills up to CFAF 50,000 and the waiver of fees due by merchants on the transactions paid via electronic means of payment;
- provide the banks with a sufficient quantity of cash to allow them to maintain a satisfactory operating level of ATMs; and
- as may be necessary, reorganize the calendar of public securities issuances on the regional market.

Banking System

Banking Environment

As of 30 June 2020, the Ivorian banking system comprised 31 credit institutions, including 29 banks and 2 financial institutions with banking activities. Two new banks were approved in 2019, Mansa Bank and Orange Bank Africa, and started operating on 23 January and 23 July 2020, respectively.

As of 30 June 2020, 5 of the 29 operating banks have total assets of over CFAF 1,000 billion each. They hold 58.7% of the outstanding loans of the banking sector (compared to 60.1% at the end of December 2019 and 59.4% at the end of June 2019) and 53.4% of the deposits (compared to 54.1% at the end of December 2019 and 55.2% at the end of June 2019).

The table below presents information on assets of Côte d'Ivoire's banking sector from 2015 to 2019:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019*</u>
Commercial banks' assets					
Total assets	8,294	9,669	11,096	12,144	13,629

* Estimated data

Source: MEF, BCEAO

Banking Sector Performance

The table below presents information on the performance of Côte d'Ivoire's banking sector from 2015 to 2019:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Result indicators					
Capital adequacy ratio (%) ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Equity capital/ assets weighted according to risk (Core capital/RWA)</i>	8.2	8.0	9.8	9.5	10.7
<i>Total skilled human capital / assets weighted by risk</i>	7.0	7.0	8.6	8.6	10.0
Asset quality					
<i>Non-performing loans / total loans (%)</i>	10.6	9.0	9.8	9.2	8.4
<i>Provisions / gross non-performing loans (%)</i>	68.6	71.0	63.6	65.1	69.8

Source: BCEAO

(1) The capital adequacy ratio is equal to equity capital divided by risk-weighted assets.

As at the end of June 2020, the Ivorian banking system showed a negative cash position of CFAF 313.4 billion compared to a CFAF 775.7 billion deficit the previous year. This deficit was funded through loans from the BCEAO, the regional interbank market and other financial institutions outside the WAMU.

Indicators of financial stability in the Ivorian banking sector as of the indicated dates are shown in the table below:

	As of 30 June 2018	As of 31 December 2018	As of 30 June 2019	As of 31 December 2019	As of 30 June 2020
Capital Standards (in %)					
CET1 Equity Capital Ratio.....	7.91	8.54	9.23	10.04	N/A
Tier 1 Equity Capital Ratio	7.95	8.58	9.27	10.00	N/A
Total solvency ratio.....	8.79	10.6	10.18	10.76	N/A
General provisions/ Risk-weighted assets	5.82	5.67	5.66	5.59	N/A
Equity capital / Total assets.....	5.98	6.26	6.43	6.88	N/A
Composition and quality of the assets (in %)					
Total credits/Total assets.....	56.76	58.80	56.22	56.98	51.25
Concentration: Credits to the 5 biggest borrowers/Equity capital	96.60	88.34	68.36	60.15	N/A
Gross distressed credits/Total credits	8.68	9.16	8.8	8.99	9.74
General provisions/Gross distressed credits	75.13	65.08	72.26	69.8	70.69
Net distressed credits (after provisions)/Total credits.....	2.31	3.40	2.44	2.71	2.85

Source: BCEAO

N/A: not available (Prudential statements for June 2020 were due by the banks on 31 October 2020. As of the date of this Prospectus, three institutions have not submitted their statements on time.)

Financing of the Economy

Since 2009, the offer of new payment means and of new financial services in general has become more diverse thanks to the use of mobile phones as a support system. The use of this instrument has significantly contributed to increasing access of populations to financial services, which stood at nearly 77.92% in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019, compared to 70.36% in 2018, 61.36% in 2017 and 49.9% in 2016, while the bank penetration rate, strictly speaking, was 17.80% in 2016 and 16.65% in 2017.

In addition, the meeting of the WAEMU Council of Ministers of 24 and 25 June 2016 adopted the framework document of policy and regional strategy for financial inclusion in the WAEMU, along with a corresponding roadmap and budget. Elaborated in the context of the prominent role of microfinance and the solid expansion of financial services via mobile phones, this strategy aims at ensuring access to a diversified range of suitable and affordable products and financial services over the next five years to 75% of the WAEMU adult population.

The quality of the banks' credit portfolio improved with a gross rate of outstanding receivables of 8.46% at the end of December 2019, compared to 9.16% as at the end of December 2018. However, a deterioration was recorded as of 30 June 2020, with a rate of outstanding receivables standing at 9.1%. This deterioration was mitigated by the measures taken by the BCEAO to support the WAEMU member States and the banking sector in the context of the fight against Covid-19 pandemic. See also " – Monetary System – Monetary Policy" above.

Despite strong growth, financial intermediation in Côte d'Ivoire is still low: the credit to the economy/nominal GDP ratio was 28.7% at the end of December 2019, compared to 29.4% at the end of December 2018. The main obstacles to greater financial intermediation are, in particular: the difficulties to register property and land, which inhibits owners from using them as collateral to obtain loans and banks from repossessing them in the event of default; a legal system that does not allow fast resolution of trade or credit disputes, which discourages bank credit; and a lack of information relating to borrower solvency and the lack of internal credit desks to which banks can resort to make their loan decisions, in particular for small businesses.

An analysis of the structure of loans reported to the BCEAO's central risk department revealed that the tertiary sector absorbed 55.5% of outstanding loans at the end of December 2019 (48.5% in 2018 and 49.3% in 2017) and remains the principal beneficiary of bank financing. The secondary sector ranks second and accounts for 38.3% of bank loans (41.9% in 2018 and 42.6% in 2017). The share accounted for by the primary sector is 6.2% (9.6% in 2018 and 8.1% in 2017). Medium- and long-term loans, which are essential for real estate investments and other investment projects, represented 29.8% and 2.9%, respectively, of global outstanding loans declared (23.8% and 2.7%, respectively, in 2018; and 25.7% and 3.0%, respectively, in 2017).

However, the ratio of loans to the private sector/GDP, which represents an indicator of the depth of the financial system, increased from 19.7% in December 2014 to 28.5% at the end of 2017 and then 29.4% at the end of December 2018, according to the BCEAO's monetary statistics, reflecting the slight improvement of the business climate and a consolidation of the economic recovery. However, at the end of December 2019, this ratio went down to 28.7% due to the decrease in short-term loans (with a maturity inferior to 2 years).

As part of its efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financing of the economy, the BCEAO has allowed credit institutions to classify "healthy" receivables to clients benefitting from payment deferral dates and moratoria due to the Covid-19 pandemic in a specific account within a category of healthy receivables, and not in the category of non-performing loans. Credit institutions are allowed to grant, upon request, to their clients adversely affected by the pandemic a 3-month payment deferral which can be extended only once for no longer than 3 months. Such deferrals would be free of interest, fees or late-payment penalties. Credit institutions granting such deferrals with respect to certain credit facilities must provide the BCEAO with data relating to the relevant credit facilities. The BCEAO has noted a deterioration of the quality of banks' loan portfolios due to non-performing loans as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the BCEAO, as of 30 June 2020, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans issued by the banking sector represented 9.1% of the banks' loan portfolio in Côte d'Ivoire, compared to 8.4% as of 31 December 2019. The average ratio of non-performing loans in the WAEMU area was 11.1% as of 30 June 2020. However, the BCEAO expects this situation to gradually improve as a result of the various measures implemented to support the WAEMU banking system and the member States. See "*Monetary System – Monetary Policy*".

As of June 2020, outstanding loans amounted to CFAF 8,092.6 billion, *i.e.* a 1.4% decrease compared to the situation at the end of December 2019, and a 6.8% increase on an annual basis. As of the date of this Prospectus, no Ivorian bank has met serious difficulties in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The BCEAO also allowed microfinance institutions to grant, upon request, to their clients adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic a 3-month payment deferral, renewable once. Such deferrals would also be free of interest, fees or late-payment penalties. The BCEAO requires that the concerned loans be classified in a specific sub-account within the category of long-term loans during the deferral period. Microfinance institutions granting such payment deferral dates must provide the Government Supervision Structures (*Structures Ministérielles de Suivi*) with data relating to the relevant loans.

For businesses encountering difficulties to find secure sources of financing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially those businesses which cannot reach an agreement with their usual funding partners on a deferral of payment or moratoria, the BCEAO has implemented a Covid-19 supervision and facilitation mechanism. Such mechanism aims at facilitating a dialogue between impacted companies and their finance partners by finding mutually acceptable solutions.

Compliance with Prudential Regulations

New prudential regulations implementing Basel II and Basel III Standards have been in force since 1 January 2018. The measures were supplemented by five circulars, listed below, adopted by the WAMU Banking Commission and in force as of 2 July 2018:

- Circular No. 01-2017/CB/C relating to the governance of WAMU credit institutions and financial companies;
- Circular No. 02-2017/CB/C relating to the exercise conditions of the duties of administrators and directors at WAMU credit institutions and financial companies;

- Circular No. 03-2017/CB/C relating to the internal control of WAMU credit institutions and financial companies;
- Circular No. 04-2017/CB/C relating to risk management at WAMU credit institutions and financial companies; and
- Circular No. 05-2017/CB/C relating to the management of compliance with applicable standards by WAMU credit institutions and financial companies.

The implementation of the new prudential standards was accompanied by the adoption of a methodological framework for the identification of Systemically Important Banking Institutions (*Etablissements Bancaires d'Importance Systémique*) (“EBIS” or “SIBIs”). Such framework was communicated to the professionals of the banking sector through the Avis No. 001-12-2019 related to the methodology of SIBIs’ identification in the WAMU and the determination of equity capital supplement (*Avis n°001-12-2019 relatif à la méthodologie d'identification des EBIS dans l'UMOA et de détermination de la surcharge de fonds propres*). In addition, the WAMU Banking Commission, in its decision dated 27 March 2020, made public for the first time a list of SIBIs and the additional equity capital requirement applicable to such institutions.

The table below presents banking violations of prudential regulations at the indicated dates:

PRUDENTIAL STANDARDS	Required level				
	for 2019	30/06/18	31/12/18	30/06/19	31/12/19
Number of banks concerned *		26	25	25	25
A. Solvency standards					
1- CET 1 ratio (%)	6.25%	6	4	4	4
2- T1 capital ratio (%).....	7.25%	6	5	5	4
3- Total solvency ratio (%).....	9.25%	5	5	5	4
B. Risk diversification standard					
4- Risk diversification standard (%)	55.00%	7	7	6	5
C. Leverage ratio					
5- Leverage ratio (%).....	3%	4	3	3	3
D. Other prudential standards					
6- Individual limit on investments in commercial entities (% of the company’s capital)	25%	1	1	1	1
7- Individual limit on investments in commercial entities (% of the institution’s T1 capital).....	15%	0	1	0	0
8- Overall limit on investments in commercial entities (% of the institution’s effective equity).....	60%	0	1	1	0
9- Limit on non-operating fixed assets (%)	15%	3	2	2	3
10- Limit on total fixed assets and investments (%).....	100%	3	3	2	3
11- Limit on loans to shareholders, executives and personnel (%).....	20%	3	4	2	2
Total amount of violations.....		38	36	31	29

Source: BCEAO, banks’ prudential statements

As of 30 June 2020, three State-controlled credit institutions have been placed under close supervision by the WAMU Banking Commission due to failures to comply with banking and/or prudential regulations. In October 2018, the BCEAO withdrew the license of one such bank for noncompliance with prudential norms.

As part of the implementation of the PDESFI, for which a decree determining the organization and functioning of the programme was adopted by the Council of Ministers in September 2015, the Government has built a strategy to build an attractive and reliable financial sector capable of responding to the growing financing needs of the economy. The key aspects of the strategy include the consolidation and development of the sector and the improvement of financial inclusion. In the long term, this programme will help to maintain the soundness of the financial sector, increase the financing of the economy by fostering the utilization of the banking system, and, ultimately, improve access to credit for households and SMEs.

A restructuring process is underway for three State wholly-owned banks: the CNCE, known as the Banque Populaire de Côte d'Ivoire (the “**BPCI**”) since November 2019, the BNI and the Versus Bank. With respect to the BPCI, the implementation of the restructuring plan is expected to reinforce its capital, currently in the negative, and restore profitability by 2021. Moreover, land sales and reversals of 2018 provisions are planned in connection with its recapitalization, as well as the identification of strategic acquirers. Concerning the optimization of operating costs, action will be taken to reduce general costs, specifically by introducing tender procedures. Concerning the two other State wholly-owned banks (the BNI and the Versus Bank), one (Versus Bank) was recapitalized in December 2018, while the decision to recapitalize and open the capital of the second one (BNI) was taken by the Government in March 2019. The closing of such transaction, initially scheduled for the second half of 2019, took place in the first semester of 2020. The privatization of the BHCI bank, majority-owned by the State, initially carried out in 2018, was retroactively terminated by the Government on 13 November 2019 as a result of the buyer’s failure to fulfil its commitments under the share purchase agreement.

The implementation of the strategic plan for the 2017-2021 period has continued in accordance with the timeline set out with the support of an international strategic advisory firm. This strategy is based on (i) the intensification of commercial activity through the digitalization of banking services, (ii) the development of a network of agencies, (iii) the improvement of risk management, (iv) the development of human capital and (v) the improvement of governance.

On 26 June 2020, the WAMU Council of Ministers, upon a proposal from the BCEAO, decided to defer the implementation of certain prudential standards in order to take into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the WAMU banking system. The prudential measures applicable to credit institutions and financial companies in the WAMU, which are applicable as from 1 January 2018, are subject to transitional measures providing for the gradual implementation of certain standards in order to allow the relevant entities to progressively comply with such standards. The WAMU Council of Ministers decided to defer by one year the deadline for implementation of transitory prudential measures. Regulatory requirements for 2019 remain therefore applicable and unchanged for 2020. The requirements for the following years are also deferred by one year. For instance, with regards to minimum equity capital requirements, the gradual implementation of regulatory thresholds, which was initially expected to be completed in 2022, has been deferred by one year, to 2023. The BCEAO did not take any additional measures aiming at modifying the prudential ratios applicable to banks and financial institutions operating in the WAMU.

Microfinance

In addition to the traditional banks, the financing of Côte d'Ivoire’s economy also relies on microfinance institutions , also called Decentralized Financial Systems (“**DFSs**”). These institutions seek to meet the needs of the less solvent sections of the population, which are generally outside the traditional banking system.

As of 30 June 2020, the microfinance sector comprises 45 accredited DFSs, compared to 48 as of 31 December 2019 and 50 as of 31 December 2018. Three of these institutions are mutualist unions (*unions coopératives*), 25 are unitary funds (*caisses unitaires*) and 17 are public limited companies (*sociétés anonymes*). These DFSs serve 1,965,368 members or clients (compared to 1,888,093 members or clients as of 31 December 2019 and 1,703,978 members or clients as of 31 December 2018) through 388 points of service spread throughout the Ivorian territory. Besides, as of 30 June 2020, these institutions account for:

- total assets amounting to CFAF 529.1 billion (compared to CFAF 502.6 billion as of 31 December 2019);
- aggregate savings amounting to CFAF 350.2 billion (compared to CFAF 349.7 billion as of 31 December 2019); and
- aggregate outstanding loans amounting to CFAF 335.6 billion (compared to CFAF 341.1 billion as of 31 December 2019).

The DFSs have multiplied over the past decade, increasing from a single licensed DFS in 1996 to 55 licensed DFSs as at September 2016 (4 cooperative unions (*unions coopératives*); 35 unitary cooperatives (*coopératives unitaires*); and 16 public limited companies (*sociétés anonymes*)). The DFSs have (i) 350 points of service across the country, (ii) 1,093,107

members or clients, (iii) aggregate savings amounting to CFAF198 billion, and (iv) aggregate outstanding loans amounting to CFAF 176.2 billion. The microfinance sector benefited from significant support between 1994 and 1999 through subsidies, subsidized loans and technical support, which helped its expansion. Following this period, the issuance of licences to unsustainable institutions was not matched by a strengthening of their institutional capacities, which led to a deterioration of their operating conditions, in connection with the low repayment rate of numerous “bad debtor” enterprises that benefit from microloans.

The DFSs tend to be undercapitalized and often suffer from problems of governance, non-compliance with prudential laws, poor management capabilities, and low-quality information systems. Since 2008 as of 30 September 2016, a total of 126 approvals were withdrawn (including the basic funds which are affiliated to network), including 15 in 2016. According to monitoring tasks reports and collected financial statements, four other DFSs were identified as non-viable. With respect to such entities, procedures for the withdrawal of their approvals are underway.

To address this situation, Côte d’Ivoire has developed a SNM for the 2010-2018 period. The SNM’s action plan has a budget of CFAF 61.8 billion over eight years covering three objectives:

- improving the legal, regulatory and institutional environment, for a safer development of the sector;
- developing a viable and sustainable offer for an adapted, diversified and larger range of products and services, particularly in rural regions and regions not covered by increasingly professional DFSs; and
- strengthening the collaboration between DFSs and banks, encouraging the financing of SMEs and integrating the microfinance sector into the financial sector.

As of the end of June 2020, the deterioration rate of the sector’s credit portfolio, as measured by portfolios at risk at 90 days (PAR 90), stands at 7.4% (compared to 6.6% as of the end of December 2019), above the 3% regulatory standard.

There has been a significant focus by the Ivorian Government on strengthening the supervision over the last few years as part of a consolidation policy. This includes (i) strengthening the conditions for the grant of approvals, (ii) auditing DFSs, and (iii) adopting and implementing disciplinary measures and sanctions. With regard to the conditions for the grant of approvals, the supervisory authorities continue to apply the highest standards in order to include in the sector only strong and sustainable structures able to pursue their activities in the long term. Due to such enhanced prudence, in 2019, the Minister of Economy and Finance granted only one approval for the exercise of DFS activities and withdrew such approvals from three institutions. In addition, the monitoring of institutions for which additional supervision is required was reinforced as six new entities were placed under close supervision in 2019. As of the date of this Prospectus, 14 DFSs are now under close supervision and one institution, the UNACOOPEC-CI, is under temporary administration.

Financial Inclusion

Like the other countries in the WAEMU zone, Côte d’Ivoire still has a low bank penetration rate. The extended bank penetration rate calculated by the BCEAO stood at 30.79% in 2018, compared to a sub-regional average of 39.70%, obtained using the 15-plus population as a basis. The strict bank penetration rate stood at 19.08% in 2019, compared to a regional average of 18.03%.

This distinction between the two indicators shows the impact of decentralized financing systems on financial inclusion, which includes four aspects: access, use, quality and well-being. The fourth aspect is not yet taken into account by the data-collection system implemented by the BCEAO to monitor financial inclusion, as it requires qualitative information that is currently unavailable.

Specifically, the emergence of mobile money and the promotion of microfinance institutions have contributed to improving financial inclusion. As of 31 December 2019, Côte d’Ivoire had 48 approved institutions. As a result, financial inclusion indicators have shown marked progress in Côte d’Ivoire over the past 10 years.

In general, reforms have been introduced as part of the national development strategy in the financial sector and specifically aim to improve financial inclusion. As part of these reforms:

- The Agency for the Promotion of Financial Inclusion (*Agence de Promotion de l'Inclusion Financière* (“**APIF**”)), established on 30 May 2018, is now operational. It is an executive agency in charge of promoting financial inclusion in Côte d’Ivoire and implementing the national strategy for financial inclusion for the 2019-2024 period. For these purposes, it is expected to develop and adapt the financial service offering to low-income people and small and medium-sized companies;
- The Law on the creation and the powers, organization and operation of the *Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations de la Côte d'Ivoire* (“**CDC-CI**”) was adopted by the National Assembly on 13 June 2018 and enacted on 26 October 2018. The creation of the CDC-CI aims in particular at ensuring prudent and informed management of its assets and resources, increasing the resources for productive investments through rationalization of the existing mechanisms and securement of the deposits, creating a tool for the financing of the economy allowing SMEs to develop and finance structuring infrastructure projects using the related leverage, and playing a counter-cyclical role, by supporting segments of the economy which do not usually attract traditional private funds. The CDC-CI’s Supervisory Committee (*Commission de surveillance*) was set up on 24 February 2020. Since its creation, the activities of the CDC-CI has mainly focused on the development of partnerships with all actors of the financial ecosystem, which led to the signature of 30 partnership agreements as of 30 June 2020; and
- The Credit Information Bureau (*Bureau d'Information sur le Crédit* (“**BIC**”)) has been strengthened through the development of “credit scoring” services for financial institutions, and the integration of major utilities into the BIC’s database. At the end of 2019, the BIC’s database included 3.2 million individuals, compared to 2.8 million individuals at the end of 2018, and 12,032 businesses at the end of 2019, compared to 9,105 businesses at the end of 2018. As of 31 July 2020, 2,702,909 loan agreements related to 1,050,461 borrowers (including 13,491 legal persons and 1,036,461 natural persons) were reported to the BIC by financial institutions. Major utility companies reported 2,932,484 subscription contracts. Such subscriptions are related to 2,386,007 subscribers (including 13,500 legal persons and 2,372,507 natural persons). Moreover, in order to improve accessibility to the BIC services, the BIC’s fee schedule, approved in 2020, recorded very significant reductions. The cost of a solvency report decreased, for banks and financial institutions, from CFAF 1,650 to CFAF 1,000 and, for DFSs, from CFAF 600 to CFAF 400, representing cost reductions of 40% and 33%, respectively.

The following table shows the evolution of the main indicators of financial inclusion (according to latest available data), with regard to its first three aspects, *i.e.* access, use and quality (based on the population aged 15 or more):

Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Indicators of financial service access					
TGPSFd	23.03	25.11	35.44	60.21	114.89
TGPSFg	101.81	114.66	167.51	293.01	573.75
Indicators of financial service use					
TBS (%)	15.83	17.19	17.24	17.79	19.08
TBE (%)	23.03	25.11	25.51	28.79	30.79
TUSME (%)	25.51	33.10	46.02	49.48	60.12
TGUSF (%)	41.60	49.89	61.30	67.07	77.92
Indicators of accessibility – financial service price					
TRD	3.72	4.37	4.25	4.35	3.99
TRC	4.83	5.43	5.68	5.70	5.50

Source: BCEAO, (*Indicators of financial inclusion monitoring in the WAEMU for 2019*)

- *TGPSFd* = Total rate of demographic penetration of financial services: (total number of financial service points / adult population)*10,000

- *TGPSFg = Total rate of geographic penetration of financial services: (total number of financial service points / total area)*1,000 km²*
- *TBS = Strict banking rate :number of individuals holding deposit or credit accounts with banks, postal services, savings banks and the Treasury / adult population*
- *TBE = Extended banking rate: number of individuals holding deposit or credit accounts with banks, postal services, savings banks, the Treasury and Decentralized Financial Systems (Systèmes Financiers Décentralisés) / adult population*
- *TUSME = Rate of use of electronic money services (active account basis): number of individuals holding active electronic money accounts with EMIs, banks that issue electronic money and other financial institutions / adult population*
- *TGUSF = Total rate of use of financial services: active electronic money account basis, adjusted to account for multibanking): extended banking rate + rate of use of electronic money services, active account basis, adjusted to account for multibanking*
- *TRD = Real interest rate on deposits at the bank level: nominal interest rate on deposits at the bank level – average inflation rate*
- *TRC = Real interest rate on loans at the bank level: nominal interest rate on loans at the bank level – average inflation rate.*

Total rate of demographic penetration of financial services (TGPSFd), calculated on the basis of the adult population, increased by 55 service points, from 60 service points for 10,000 adults in 2018 to 115 service points for 10,000 adults in 2019.

Like the demographic penetration rate, the total rate of geographic penetration of financial services (TGPSFg) increased from 293 service points for 1,000km² in 2018 to 574 service points for 1,000km² in 2019.

The total rate of use of financial services adjusted to account for multibanking (TGUSF), or financial inclusion rate, calculated on an active electronic money account basis, increased by 10.85 percentage points between 2018 and 2019, from 67.07% to 77.92%. Taking into accounts all the opened electronic money accounts, the TGUSF was 90.92% in 2019, compared to 78.26% in 2018. Those results show that electronic money significantly contributed to the progression of financial services use in Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, the rate of use of electronic money services (active account basis) stood at 60.12% in 2019, contributing to more than half of the financial inclusion rate (TGUSF).

As of 31 December 2019, there were seven approved electronic money institutions in Côte d'Ivoire.

In order to improve financial inclusion, besides the creation of the above-mentioned APIF by the Government in 2018, the DGTCP set up on 31 May 2018 a Network of the Financial Education Stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, the Government adopted, on 15 May 2019, a national strategy for financial inclusion. For the 2019-2024 period, Côte d'Ivoire's national strategy for financial inclusion mainly aims at providing the most vulnerable sections of the country's population with financial products and services provided by formal financial institutions. People targeted by such strategy include women, young people, rural populations, SME developers and actors of the informal sector. The action plan of the national strategy for financial inclusion is based on the following 5 strategic axes: (1) improving access to financial services for vulnerable and excluded populations, (2) promoting digital finance, (3) protecting clients and providing financial education, (4) ensuring the evolution and adaptation of regulation and a more efficient supervision, and (5) developing a fiscal framework and policies favouring financial inclusion. In 2019, four working groups were created by the Committee for National Monitoring and Implementation of Financial Inclusion Strategies (*Comité National de Suivi et de Mise en Œuvre des Stratégies d'Inclusion Financière*), for the purpose of formulating and monitoring the implementation of such strategic axes.

At a regional level, the BCEAO organised, from 18 to 23 November 2019, the second edition of the WAEMU Financial Inclusion Week, on the topic "Digitalization at the service of Financial Inclusion: Issues for the financial sector and the member states of the WAEMU".

Banking Regulator

The regulation of the banking sector is performed by the WAMU Banking Commission. This commission is responsible for monitoring the organization and control of banks and financial institutions. It meets at least once every quarter. It has a permanent secretariat composed of BCEAO officers, who prepare reports and studies concerning compliance by WAMU credit institutions with liquidation and sound management rules.

In order to fulfil its responsibilities, the Banking Commission has the following powers: (i) document inspection and on-site visits of banks and financial institutions, (ii) approval of banks and financial institutions operating on the territory of a WAMU member state, (iii) implementation of administrative measures in case of non-compliance with applicable provisions (warning, injunction, disciplinary measures) and (iv) disciplinary sanctions depending on the seriousness of the violation (warning, reprimand, suspension or ban of some or all operations, limitations on practicing the profession, suspension or resignation of responsible executives, withdrawal of authorization).

Regional Stock Exchange

On 18 December 1996, the eight member states of the WAEMU established the *Bourse régionale des valeurs mobilières* (“**BRVM**”). The BRVM is a specialized financial institution headquartered in Abidjan which is responsible for organizing and ensuring the proper execution of securities transactions and proper information of the public in the WAEMU zone.

The BRVM has the following functions: organizing the market, managing the rating and trading of securities, publishing stock prices and stock market information and ensuring the promotion and development of the securities market. The BRVM has a representative from each WAEMU country.

The BRVM is an entirely electronic stock exchange. The central site of the stock exchange in Abidjan ensures all of the quotation services, the negotiations and the diffusion of information. The BRVM is composed of a stock market which has a debt securities compartment and an equity securities compartment.

The Regional Council for Public Savings and the Financial Market is the regulatory body of the regional financial market. In 2012, this body strengthened market regulations to safeguard transactions and the interests of market participants.

Stock Market

There are currently 45 companies listed on the BRVM market, of which 34 are Ivorian, three are Senegalese, three are from Burkina Faso, one is Beninese, one is Nigerian, one is Malian and two are Togolese.

The BRVM has established two indices, the BRVM 10 index and the BRVM composite index, to measure the development of listed companies' stock prices. The first index comprises the 10 most liquid shares and the second comprises all listed companies.

Stock market activity decreased in 2020, compared to 2019. The BRVM 10 fell from 149.11 points on 31 December 2019 to 130.88 points on 31 December 2020 and the BRVM composite, from 159.24 points on 31 December 2019 to 145.37 points on 31 December 2020. Similarly, capitalization recorded a decrease of CFAF 372.9 billion over this period. The average level of the BRVM 10 index and of the BRVM composite index in 2020 decreased by 12.23% and 8.71%, respectively, compared to 2019.

The decline in the indices is due to the micro structure of the market. First, the decline resulted from a readjustment of the market after three years of intensive growth from 2012 to 2015. Second, the decline was due in part to the attractiveness of bond market rates, which have been marked by the pressing demand from governments, which pre-empted some of the liquidity available on the market. A third cause is the disaffection of small savers who have turned away from the market. This situation does not only affect the BRVM. Most African markets have been similarly affected by the decrease. In 2020, market activity was also, and continues to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The table below shows the evolution of BRVM 10 and of BRVM composite over the past six years.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
BRVM 10	290.38	261.95	219.65	154.4	149.11	130.88
BRVM composite	303.93	292.17	243.06	172.2	159.24	145.37
Stock market capitalization (in CFAF billion)	7,499.7	7,706.3	6,836.2	4,844.5	4,740.6	4,367.6

Source: BRVM, data as of 31 December 2020

As of 22 January 2021, the equity market capitalization was CFAF 3,969.1 billion. The BRVM 10 stood at 114.38 and the BRVM Composite at 132.10, representing annual decreases of 12.61% and 9.13%, respectively, compared to 2020.

Bond Market

The BRVM is one of the most dynamic bond markets in Africa with 103 bond issues listed as of 22 January 2021, for a bond market capitalization of CFAF 6,160.1 billion.

These 103 bonds are composed, as of 22 January 2021, of 69 sovereign bonds, 15 private sector bonds, 16 bonds by regional and international institutions, and 3 Sukuk issues.

Ongoing Reforms

In terms of reforms, the 2014-2021 Strategic Plan for the WAEMU regional financial market is mainly centred around four key actions:

- enhancing the attractiveness of the regional financial market and its contribution to financing WAEMU economies;
- strengthening protections for savings, as well as monitoring market participants;
- improving regional and international institutional integration, and the organization, functioning and financing of all market players; and
- promoting the financial market at the WAEMU level and strengthening inter-African and international cooperation.

The current major reforms aim at ensuring stronger regional integration and increasing significantly the stock market's impact on financing the economy. Since 2013, the BRVM and other ECOWAS stock markets (Lagos in Nigeria and Accra in Ghana) are working to implement a mechanism for cross-transactions. The possibility to invest across these three markets should contribute to improving the depth of the WAEMU regional financial market. In addition, on 19 March 2018, the BRVM opened a compartment (the third share compartment) dedicated to small capitalizations in order to position itself as an alternative to bank financing.

Besides, on 17 February 2020, the BRVM launched its new market surveillance platform. This platform will allow in particular to (i) detect in real time all forms of market manipulation, (ii) monitor the behaviour of markets participants and (iii) undertake a close supervision of stakeholders identified as at risk and/or suspected of abnormal practices.

On 26 February 2020, the BRVM and the Storage Receipts System Regulation Authority (*Autorité de Régulation du système des Récépissés d'Entreposage*) entered into a memorandum of understanding on a partnership as part of the projected creation of Côte d'Ivoire's agricultural commodity exchange (*Bourse des Matières Premières Agricoles*).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE NOTES

The following is the text of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes which, upon issue, will represent the terms and conditions applicable to all Notes, and, subject to completion and amendment and except for the text in italics, will be endorsed on each Certificate in respect of the Notes. The terms and conditions applicable to any Note in global form will differ from those terms and conditions which would apply to the Note in definitive form to the extent described under the “Form of the Notes” section.

The €600,000,000 4.875 per cent. Amortizing Notes due 2032 (the “**New Notes**”) are consolidated and form a single series with €1,000,000,000 4.875 per cent. Amortizing Notes due 2032 (the “**Original Notes**”, and together with the New Notes, the “**Notes**”, which expression shall in these Conditions, unless the context otherwise requires, include any further notes issued pursuant to Condition 15 (*Further Issues*) and forming a single series with the Notes) of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire (the “**Issuer**”) are issued subject to and with the benefit of an Agency Agreement dated 1 December 2020, as supplemented by a supplement to such Agency Agreement dated 15 February 2021 (such agreement as so supplemented and as amended and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, the “**Agency Agreement**”) each entered into between the Issuer, Citibank, N.A., London Branch, as fiscal agent (the “**Fiscal Agent**”), as paying agent (the “**Paying Agent**”) and as transfer agent (the “**Transfer Agent**”) and Citigroup Global Markets Europe AG as registrar (the “**Registrar**” and, together with the Fiscal Agent, the Transfer Agent and the Paying Agent, the “**Agents**”). The holders of the Notes are entitled to the benefit of a Deed of Covenant dated 1 December 2020 as supplemented by a supplement to such Deed of Covenant dated 15 February 2021 (as so supplemented, the “**Deed of Covenant**”) and each made by the Issuer.

The statements in these Conditions include summaries of, and are subject to, the detailed provisions of and definitions in the Agency Agreement. Copies of the Agency Agreement are available for inspection during normal business hours by the Noteholders (as defined below) at the Specified Office (as defined in the Agency Agreement) of each of the Paying Agents. The Noteholders are entitled to the benefit of, are bound by, and are deemed to have notice of, all the provisions of the Agency Agreement applicable to them. References in these Conditions to the Fiscal Agent, the Registrar, the Paying Agents and the Agents shall include any successor appointed under the Agency Agreement.

1. **Form, Denomination and Title**

1.1 **Form and Denomination**

The Notes are in registered form, serially numbered and issued in denominations of €100,000 and integral multiples of €1,000 in excess thereof, each an “**Authorized Denomination**”. The Issuer will cause a register of Noteholders (the “**Register**”) to be kept by the Registrar, in which will be entered the names and addresses of the holders of the Notes and the particulars of the Notes held by them and all transfers and redemptions of the Notes.

1.2 **Title**

Title to the Notes passes only by registration in the Register. The holder of any Note will (except as otherwise required by law) be treated as its absolute owner for all purposes (whether or not it is overdue and regardless of any notice of ownership, trust or any interest or any writing thereon, or the theft or loss thereof) and no person will be liable for so treating the holder. In these Conditions, “**Noteholder**”, and in relation to a “**Note**”, “**holder**” means the person in whose name a Note is registered in the Register (or, in the case of a joint holding, the first named thereof). A certificate in definitive form (each a “**Certificate**”) will be issued to each Noteholder in respect of its registered holding of Notes.

*Notes sold to qualified institutional buyers in the United States in reliance on Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”) will be represented by the Restricted Global Note Certificate. Notes sold to investors outside the United States in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act will be represented by the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate (the “**Global Note Certificates**”). The Global Note Certificates will be deposited with, and registered in the name of a nominee for, a common depositary for Euroclear Bank SA/NV (“**Euroclear**”) and Clearstream Banking, société anonyme (“**Clearstream**”). Ownership of beneficial interests*

in the Global Note Certificates will be limited to persons that have accounts with Euroclear or Clearstream or persons that may hold interests through such participants. Beneficial interests in the Global Note Certificates will be shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected through, records maintained in book-entry form by Euroclear, Clearstream and their participants as applicable. Global Note Certificates will be exchangeable for Certificates only in certain limited circumstances specified in the Global Note Certificates.

2. **Transfers of Notes and Issue of Certificates**

2.1 **Transfers**

Subject to Condition 2.4 (*Closed Periods*) and Condition 2.5 (*Regulations*), a Note may be transferred, in whole or in part, by depositing the Certificate issued in respect of that Note, with the form of transfer on the back duly completed and signed, at the Specified Office of the Registrar or any of the Agents together with such evidence as the Registrar or Agent may require to prove the title of the transferor and the authority of the individuals who have executed the form of transfer; *provided however that* a Note may not be transferred unless the principal amount of the Notes transferred and (where not all of the Notes held by a Holder are being transferred) the principal amount of the Notes not transferred, are Authorized Denominations.

2.2 **Delivery of New Certificates**

Each new Certificate to be issued upon transfer or exchange of Notes will, within five business days of receipt by the Registrar or the Transfer Agent of the duly completed form of transfer endorsed on the relevant Certificate, be mailed by uninsured mail at the risk of the holder entitled to the Note to the address specified in the form of transfer. For the purposes of this Condition, “**business day**” shall mean a day on which banks are open for business in the city in which the Specified Office of the Agent with whom a Certificate is deposited in connection with a transfer is located.

Where some but not all of the Notes in respect of which a Certificate is issued are to be transferred a new Certificate in respect of the Notes not so transferred will, within five business days of receipt by the Registrar or the Transfer Agent of the original Certificate, be mailed by uninsured mail at the risk of the holder of the Notes not so transferred to the address of such holder appearing on the Register or as specified in the form of transfer.

2.3 **Formalities Free of Charge**

Any transfer of Notes will be effected without charge by or on behalf of the Issuer, the Registrar, or any Agent but upon payment (or the giving of such indemnity as the Registrar or any Agent may reasonably require) in respect of any stamp duty, tax or other governmental charges which may be levied or imposed in relation to such transfer.

2.4 **Closed Periods**

No Noteholder may require the transfer of a Note to be registered during the period of 15 calendar days ending on the due date for any payment of principal or interest on that Note.

2.5 **Regulations**

All transfers of Notes and entries on the Register will be made subject to the detailed regulations concerning transfer of Notes scheduled to the Agency Agreement. The regulations may be changed by the Issuer with the prior written approval of the Registrar. A copy of the current regulations will be mailed (free of charge) by the Registrar to any Noteholder upon request.

3. **Status**

The Notes constitute direct, unconditional and (subject to the provisions of Condition 4 (*Negative Pledge*)) unsecured obligations of the Issuer and (subject as provided above) rank and will rank *pari passu*, without any preference among themselves, and with all other unsecured and unsubordinated External Indebtedness (as

defined in Condition 10.2 (*Interpretation*)) of the Issuer outstanding from time to time, *provided, however, that* the Issuer shall have no obligation to effect equal or rateable payment(s) at any time with respect to any other External Indebtedness and, in particular, shall have no obligation to pay other External Indebtedness at the same time or as a condition of paying sums due on the Notes and *vice versa*. The full faith and credit of the Issuer is pledged to the due and punctual payment of the Notes.

4. Negative Pledge

4.1 Negative Pledge

So long as any Note remains outstanding (as defined in the Agency Agreement) the Issuer will not, save for the exceptions set out below in Condition 4.3 (*Exceptions*) create, incur, assume or permit to subsist any Security upon the whole or any part of its present or future assets, undertakings or revenues to secure (i) any of its Public External Indebtedness; (ii) any Guarantees in respect of Public External Indebtedness; or (iii) the Public External Indebtedness of any other person; without at the same time or prior thereto securing the Notes equally and rateably therewith or providing such other arrangement (whether or not comprising Security) as shall be approved by an Extraordinary Resolution or by a Written Resolution (each as defined in the Condition 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*)). For the avoidance of doubt, any such approval shall not constitute a Reserved Matter (for the purposes of and as defined in the Condition 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*)).

4.2 Interpretation

In these Conditions:

- (a) “**Guarantee**” means any obligation of a person to pay the Indebtedness of another person including, without limitation: an obligation to pay or purchase such Indebtedness; an obligation to lend money, to purchase or subscribe shares or other securities or to purchase assets or services in order to provide funds for the payment of such Indebtedness; an indemnity against the consequences of a default in the payment of such Indebtedness; or any other agreement to be responsible for such Indebtedness;
- (b) “**Indebtedness**” means any obligation (whether present or future) for the payment or repayment of money which has been borrowed or raised (including money raised by acceptances and leasing);
- (c) “**person**” means any individual, company, corporation, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, organization, trust or other juridical entity, state or agency of a state or other entity, whether or not having a separate legal personality;
- (d) “**Public External Indebtedness**” means any Indebtedness (i) expressed or denominated or payable or which, at the option of the relevant creditor may be payable, in any currency other than the lawful currency from time to time of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, and (ii) which is in the form of, or is represented by, bonds, notes or other securities with a stated maturity of more than one year from the date of issue which are, or are capable of being, quoted, listed or ordinarily purchased or sold on any stock exchange, automated trading system, over the counter or other securities market; and
- (e) “**Security**” means any mortgage, pledge, lien, hypothecation, security interest or other charge or encumbrance including, without limitation, anything analogous to the foregoing under the laws of any jurisdiction.

4.3 Exceptions

The following exceptions apply to the Issuer’s obligations under paragraph 4.1 (Negative Pledge) of this Condition:

- (a) any Security upon property to secure Public External Indebtedness of the Issuer or any Guarantee by the Issuer of Public External Indebtedness of any other person incurred for the purpose of financing the acquisition or construction of such property and any renewal and extension of such Security which is limited to the original property covered thereby and which (in either case) secures any renewal or extension of the original secured financing; and
- (b) any Security securing Public External Indebtedness of the Issuer or any Guarantee by the Issuer of Public External Indebtedness of any other person incurred for the purpose of financing all or part of the costs of the acquisition, construction or development of a project; provided that (A) the holders of such Public External Indebtedness or Guarantee expressly agree to limit their recourse to the assets and revenues of such project or the proceeds of insurance thereon as the sole source of repayments of such Public External Indebtedness and (B) the property over which such Security is granted consists solely of such assets and revenues.

5. Interest

The Notes bear interest on their outstanding principal amount from time to time from and including 1 December 2020 (the “**Interest Commencement Date**”) to but excluding the Maturity Date (as defined in Condition 7.1 (*Redemption*)) at the rate of 4.875% per annum (the “**Rate of Interest**”), payable annually in arrear on 30 January in each year (each an “**Interest Payment Date**”) commencing on 30 January 2022 for the period commencing on (and including) the Interest Commencement Date to (but excluding) 30 January 2022 (and thus a long first interest period), all subject as provided in Condition 6 (*Payments*). Each period beginning on (and including) the Interest Commencement Date or any Interest Payment Date and ending on (but excluding) the next Interest Payment Date is herein called an “**Interest Period**”.

Each Note will cease to bear interest from and including its due date for redemption unless, upon due presentation, payment of the principal in respect of the Note is improperly withheld or refused or unless default is otherwise made in respect of payment. In such event, interest will continue to accrue until whichever is the earlier of:

- (a) the date on which all amounts due in respect of such Note have been paid; and
- (b) seven days after the date on which the full amount of the moneys payable in respect of such Notes has been received by the Fiscal Agent and notice to that effect has been given to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 12 (*Notices*) (except to the extent that there is any subsequent default in payment).

Where interest is to be calculated in respect of a period which is equal to or shorter than an Interest Period, the day count fraction applied to calculate the amount of interest payable in respect of each Note shall be the number of days in the relevant period from (and including) the date from which interest begins to accrue to (but excluding) the date on which it falls due, divided by the number of days in the Interest Period in which the relevant period falls (including the first such day but excluding the last). Where interest is to be calculated in respect of a long first Interest Period, Actual/Actual (ICMA) method will apply to calculate the amount of interest payable in respect of each Note.

6. Payments

6.1 Payments in Respect of Notes

Payment of principal and interest will be made by transfer to the registered account of the Noteholder or by a cheque in Euro drawn on a bank that processes payments in Euro mailed to the registered address of the Noteholder if it does not have a registered account. Payment of principal will only be made against presentation and surrender of the relevant Certificate at the Specified Office of any of the Paying Agents. Interest on Notes due on an Interest Payment Date will be paid to the holder shown on the Register at the close of business on the date (the “**record date**”) being the fifteenth day before the due date for the payment of interest.

For so long as the Notes are represented by Global Note Certificates, the Issuer will make each interest payment to the holders of record of the Notes at the close of business (in the relevant clearing system) on the Clearing System Business Day immediately before the due date for such payment (which date shall constitute the “record date” when the Notes are represented by Global Note Certificates), where “Clearing System Business Day” means a day on which each clearing system for which Global Note Certificates are being held is open for business.

For the purposes of this Condition 6, a Noteholder’s “**registered account**” means the Euro account maintained by or on its behalf with a bank that processes payments in Euro, details of which appear on the Register at the close of business, in the case of principal, on the second Business Day (as defined below) before the due date for payment and, in the case of interest, on the relevant record date, and a Noteholder’s “**registered address**” means its address appearing on the Register at that time.

6.2 **Payments Subject to Applicable Laws**

Payments in respect of principal and interest on Notes are subject in all cases to any fiscal or other laws and regulations applicable in the place of payment, but without prejudice to the provisions of Condition 8 (*Taxation*).

6.3 **No Commissions**

No commissions or expenses shall be charged to the Noteholders in respect of any payments made in accordance with this Condition 6 (*Payments*).

6.4 **Payment on Business Days**

Where payment is to be made by transfer to a registered account, payment instructions (for value the due date or, if that is not a Business Day, for value the first following day which is a Business Day) will be initiated and, where payment is to be made by cheque, the cheque will be mailed, on the due date for payment or, in the case of a payment of principal, if later, on the Business Day on which the relevant Certificate is surrendered at the Specified Office of an Agent.

Noteholders will not be entitled to any interest or other payment for any delay after the due date in receiving the amount due if the due date is not a Business Day, if the Noteholder is late in surrendering its Certificate (if required to do so) or if a cheque mailed in accordance with this Condition 6 arrives after the due date for payment.

In this Condition 6, “**Business Day**” means a day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which commercial banks are open for general business in London, on which the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer (TARGET) System (the “**TARGET System**”) is open and, in the case of presentation of a Certificate, in the place in which the Certificate is presented.

6.5 **Partial Payments**

If the amount of principal or interest which is due on the Notes is not paid in full, the Registrar will annotate the Register with a record of the amount of principal or interest in fact paid.

6.6 **Agents**

The names of the initial Agents and their initial Specified Offices are set out in the Agency Agreement. The Issuer reserves the right at any time to vary or terminate the appointment of any Agent and to appoint additional or other Agents *provided that* there will at all times be a Fiscal Agent, a Registrar and a Transfer Agent in a major European city.

Notice of any termination or appointment and of any changes in Specified Offices will be given to the Noteholders promptly by the Issuer in accordance with Condition 12 (*Notices*).

In acting under the Agency Agreement and in connection with the Notes, the Agents act solely as agents of the Issuer and do not assume any obligations towards or relationship of agency or trust for or with any of the Noteholders.

7. Redemption and Purchase

7.1 Redemption

Redemption by Amortization and Final Redemption

Unless previously redeemed, or purchased and cancelled, each Note shall be partially redeemed on each date specified below (each an “**Amortization Date**”) by the relevant amortization amount specified below (each an “**Amortization Amount**”) payable as provided in Condition 6 (*Payments*). The outstanding principal amount of each such Note shall be reduced by the Amortization Amount for all purposes with effect from the relevant Amortization Date, unless the payment of the relevant Amortization Amount is improperly withheld or refused. In such a case, the relevant principal amount will remain outstanding until whichever is the earlier of (a) the day on which all sums due in respect of such Note up to that day are received by or on behalf of the relevant Noteholder and (b) the Business Day after the Fiscal Agent has given notice to the Noteholders of receipt of all sums due in respect of all Notes up to that Business Day (except to the extent that there is any subsequent default in payment in accordance with these Conditions). Each Note shall be finally redeemed on 30 January 2032 (the “**Maturity Date**”) at its final Amortization Amount payable as provided in Condition 6 (*Payments*).

Amortization Date	Outstanding principal amount of each €1,000 principal amount of Notes on the relevant Amortization Date prior to payment of the relevant Amortization Amount (in €)	Amortization Amount per €1,000 principal amount of Notes to be repaid on the relevant Amortization Date (in €)	Outstanding principal amount of each €1,000 principal amount of Notes on the relevant Amortization Date after payment of the relevant Amortization Amount (in €)
30 January 2030	1,000.00	333.00	667.00
30 January 2031	667.00	333.00	334.00
30 January 2032	334.00	334.00	0.00

In these Conditions, references to “**principal**” shall, unless the context requires otherwise, be deemed to include any Amortization Amount and references to the “**due date**” for payment shall, unless the context requires otherwise, be deemed to include any Amortization Date.

7.2 Purchase and Cancellation

The Issuer may at any time purchase Notes in the open market or otherwise and at any price, *provided that* such purchase is made in accordance with the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”) and any other applicable securities laws. Any Notes so purchased may be cancelled or held or resold (*provided that* any resales in the United States must be in accordance with an effective registration statement or in a transaction exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act). Any Notes so purchased, while held by or on behalf of the Issuer shall not entitle the holder to vote at any meeting of Noteholders and shall not be deemed to be outstanding for the purposes of such meetings. Any Notes so cancelled will not be reissued.

8. Taxation

8.1 Payment Without Withholding

All payments in respect of the Notes by or on behalf of the Issuer shall be made without withholding or deduction for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature

("Taxes") imposed or levied by or on behalf of the Relevant Jurisdiction, unless the withholding or deduction of the Taxes is required by law. In that event, the Issuer will pay such additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the net amounts received by the Noteholders after the withholding or deduction shall equal the respective amounts which would have been receivable in respect of the Notes in the absence of the withholding or deduction ("Additional Amounts"); except that no Additional Amounts shall be payable in relation to any payment in respect of any Note:

- (a) in circumstances where the holder of the Note is liable for Taxes on payments in respect of the Note by reason of his having some connection with the Relevant Jurisdiction other than the mere holding of the Note; or
- (b) if such Note is presented or surrendered for payment more than 30 days after the Relevant Date (as defined below), except to the extent that the relevant holder would have been entitled to such Additional Amounts if it had presented or surrendered such Note on the last day of such period of 30 days assuming, whether or not such is in fact the case, that day to have been a Business Day (as defined in Condition 6 (Payments)); or
- (c) where such withholding or deduction is imposed as a result of any combination of (a) and (b) above.

8.2 Interpretation

In these Conditions:

- (a) "**Relevant Date**" means the date on which the payment first becomes due but, if the full amount of the money payable has not been received by the Fiscal Agent on or before the due date, it means the date on which, the full amount of the money having been so received, notice to that effect has been duly given to the Noteholders by the Issuer in accordance with Condition 12 (*Notices*); and
- (b) "**Relevant Jurisdiction**" means the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire or any political subdivision or any authority thereof or therein having power to tax in respect of payments made by it of principal and interest on the Notes.

8.3 Additional Amounts

Any reference in these Conditions to any amounts in respect of the Notes shall be deemed also to refer to any Additional Amounts which may be payable under this Condition 8.

9. Prescription

Claims against the Issuer in respect of principal and interest will become void unless made within 10 years (in the case of principal) and five years (in the case of interest) from the Relevant Date, as defined in Condition 8 (*Taxation*).

10. Events of Default

10.1 Events of Default

If any of the following events (each, an "**Event of Default**") shall have occurred and be continuing:

- (a) **Non-payment**
 - (i) the Issuer fails to pay any principal on any of the Notes when due and payable and such failure continues for a period of 15 business days; or
 - (ii) the Issuer fails to pay any interest on any of the Notes or any amount due under Condition 8 (*Taxation*) when due and payable, and such failure continues for a period of 30 days; or

(b) **Breach of Other Obligations**

the Issuer does not perform or comply with any one or more of its other obligations in the Notes or the Agency Agreement, which default is incapable of remedy or is not remedied within 45 days following the service by any Noteholder on the Issuer of notice requiring the same to be remedied; or

(c) **Cross-acceleration**

- (i) any other External Indebtedness of the Issuer becomes due and payable prior to stated maturity thereof by reason of default, or
- (ii) any such External Indebtedness is not paid at maturity; or
- (iii) any Guarantee of such External Indebtedness is not honoured when due and called upon, and, in the case of (ii) or (iii), that failure continues beyond any applicable grace period,

provided that the aggregate amount of the relevant External Indebtedness in respect of which one or more of the events mentioned in this paragraph (c) have occurred equals or exceeds US\$25,000,000 or its equivalent in any other currency or currencies; or

(d) **Moratorium**

a moratorium on the payment of principal of, or interest on, the External Indebtedness of the Issuer shall be declared by the Issuer; or

(e) **International Monetary Fund Membership**

the Issuer shall cease to be a member of the International Monetary Fund or any successor (whether corporate or not) that performs the functions of, or functions similar thereto (the “**IMF**”) or shall cease to be eligible to use the general resources of the IMF; or

(f) **Validity**

- (i) the validity of the Notes shall be contested by the Issuer; or
- (ii) the Issuer shall deny any of its obligations under the Notes (whether by a general suspension of payments or a moratorium on the payment of debt or otherwise); or
- (iii) it shall be or become unlawful for the Issuer to perform or comply with all or any of its obligations set out in the Notes or the Agency Agreement, including, without limitation, the payment of interest on the Notes, as a result of any change in law or regulation in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire or any ruling of any court in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire whose decision is final and unappealable or for any reason such obligations cease to be in full force and effect; or

(g) **Consents**

if any authorization, consent of, or filing or registration with, any governmental authority necessary for the performance of any payment obligation of the Issuer under the Notes, when due, ceases to be in full force and effect or remain valid and subsisting,

then the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes (as defined in the Agency Agreement) may, by notice in writing to the Issuer (with a copy to the Fiscal Agent), declare all the Notes to be immediately due and payable, whereupon they shall become immediately due and payable at their principal amount together with accrued interest without further action or formality. Notice of any such declaration shall promptly be given to all other Noteholders by the Issuer.

If the Issuer receives notice in writing from holders of at least 50% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes to the effect that the Event of Default or Events of Default giving rise to any above mentioned declaration of acceleration is or are cured following any such declaration and that such holders wish the relevant declaration to be withdrawn, the Issuer shall, give notice thereof to the Noteholders (with a copy to the Fiscal Agent), whereupon the relevant declaration shall be withdrawn and shall have no further effect but without prejudice to any rights or obligations which may have arisen before the Issuer gives such notice (whether pursuant to these Conditions or otherwise). No such withdrawal shall affect any other or any subsequent Event of Default or any right of any Noteholder in relation thereto.

10.2 Interpretation

As used herein:

“**External Indebtedness**” means Indebtedness expressed or denominated or payable, or which at the option of the relevant creditor may be payable, in any currency other than the lawful currency from time to time of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire.

11. Replacement of Certificates

If any Certificate is lost, stolen, mutilated, defaced or destroyed it may be replaced at the Specified Office of the Registrar upon payment by the claimant of the expenses incurred in connection with the replacement and on such terms as to evidence, security and indemnity as the Issuer may reasonably require. Mutilated or defaced Certificates must be surrendered before replacements will be issued.

12. Notices

All notices to the Noteholders will be valid if mailed to them at their respective addresses in the Register. Any notice shall be deemed to have been given on the fourth business day after being so mailed. Notices concerning the Notes shall also be published (so long as the Notes are listed on Euronext Dublin and the rules of that Exchange so require) on the website of Euronext Dublin (*www.ise.ie*).

13. Meetings of Noteholders, Modifications and Waivers

13.1 Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions

- (a) The Issuer may convene a meeting of the Noteholders at any time in respect of the Notes in accordance with the Agency Agreement. The Issuer will determine the time and place of the meeting. The Issuer will notify the Noteholders of the time, place and purpose of the meeting not less than 21 and not more than 45 days before the meeting.
- (b) The Issuer or the Fiscal Agent will convene a meeting of Noteholders if the holders of at least 10 per cent. in principal amount of the outstanding Notes (as defined in the Agency Agreement and described in Condition 13.9 (*Notes controlled by the Issuer*)) have delivered a written request to the Issuer or the Fiscal Agent (with a copy to the Issuer) setting out the purpose of the meeting. The Fiscal Agent will agree the time and place of the meeting with the Issuer promptly. The Issuer or the Fiscal Agent, as the case may be, will notify the Noteholders within 10 days of receipt of such written request of the time and place of the meeting, which shall take place not less than 21 and not more than 45 days after the date on which such notification is given.
- (c) The Issuer (with the agreement of the Fiscal Agent) will set the procedures governing the conduct of any meeting in accordance with the Agency Agreement. If the Agency Agreement does not include such procedures, or additional procedures are required, the Issuer and the Fiscal Agent will agree such procedures as are customary in the market and in such a manner as to facilitate any multiple series aggregation, if in relation to a Reserved Matter the Issuer proposes any modification to the terms and conditions of, or action with respect to, two or more series of debt securities issued by it.

- (d) The notice convening any meeting will specify, *inter alia*;
- (i) the date, time and location of the meeting;
 - (ii) the agenda and the text of any Extraordinary Resolution to be proposed for adoption at the meeting;
 - (iii) the record date for the meeting, which shall be no more than five business days before the date of the meeting;
 - (iv) the documentation required to be produced by a Noteholder in order to be entitled to participate at the meeting or to appoint a proxy to act on the Noteholder's behalf at the meeting;
 - (v) any time deadline and procedures required by any relevant international and/or domestic clearing systems or similar through which the Notes are traded and/or held by Noteholders;
 - (vi) whether Condition 13.2 (*Modification of this Series of Notes only*), or Condition 13.3 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Single limb voting*), or Condition 13.4 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Two limb voting*) shall apply and, if relevant, in relation to which other series of debt securities it applies;
 - (vii) if the proposed modification or action relates to two or more series of debt securities issued by the Issuer and contemplates such series of debt securities being aggregated in more than one group of debt securities, a description of the proposed treatment of each such group of debt securities;
 - (viii) such information that is required to be provided by the Issuer in accordance with Condition 13.6 (*Information*);
 - (ix) the identity of the Aggregation Agent and the Calculation Agent (each as defined in these Conditions), if any, for any proposed modification or action to be voted on at the meeting, and the details of any applicable methodology referred to in Condition 13.7 (*Claims Valuation*); and
 - (x) any additional procedures which may be necessary and, if applicable, the conditions under which a multiple series aggregation will be deemed to have been satisfied if it is approved as to some but not all of the affected series of debt securities.
- (e) In addition, the Agency Agreement contains provisions relating to Written Resolutions. All information to be provided pursuant to Condition 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*) shall also be provided, mutatis mutandis, in respect of Written Resolutions.
- (f) A “**record date**” in relation to any proposed modification or action means the date fixed by the Issuer for determining the Noteholders and, in the case of a multiple series aggregation, the holders of debt securities of each other affected series that are entitled to vote on a Multiple Series Single Limb Extraordinary Resolution or a Multiple Series Two Limb Extraordinary Resolution, or to sign a Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution or a Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution.
- (g) An “**Extraordinary Resolution**” means any of a Single Series Extraordinary Resolution, a Multiple Series Single Limb Extraordinary Resolution and/or a Multiple Series Two Limb Extraordinary Resolution, as the case may be.
- (h) A “**Written Resolution**” means any of a Single Series Written Resolution, a Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution and/or a Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution, as the case may be.
- (i) Any reference to “**debt securities**” means any notes (including the Notes), bonds, debentures or other debt securities (which for these purposes shall be deemed to include any sukuk or other trust certificates

representing the credit of the Issuer) issued by or on behalf of the Issuer in one or more series with an original stated maturity of more than one year.

- (j) **“Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation”** means those debt securities which include or incorporate by reference this Condition 13 (*Meetings of Noteholders, Modifications and Waivers*) and Condition 14 (*Aggregation Agent; Aggregation Procedures*) or provisions substantially in these terms which provide for the debt securities which include such provisions to be capable of being aggregated for voting purposes with other series of debt securities.

13.2 **Modification of this Series of Notes only**

- (a) Any modification of any provision of, or any action in respect of, these Conditions, the Agency Agreement and/or the Deed of Covenant (other than changes which are formal, minor or technical nature, are made to correct a manifest error, or in the sole opinion of the Issuer, are not materially prejudicial to the interests of Noteholders, as provided in the Agency Agreement) may be made or taken if approved by a Single Series Ordinary Resolution, a Single Series Extraordinary Resolution or a Single Series Written Resolution as set out below.
- (b) For the purposes of a meeting of Noteholders convened in respect of the Notes only and for the purposes of passing a Single Series Ordinary Resolution and/or a Single Series Extraordinary Resolution (each as defined below) (a **“Single Series Meeting”**), at any such Single Series Meeting any one or more persons present in person holding Notes or being proxies or representatives and holding or representing in the aggregate not less than 50 per cent. in principal amount of the Notes for the time being outstanding (or, in the case of an adjourned meeting, one or more persons present in person holding Notes or being proxies or representatives (whatever the principal amount of Notes so held or represented)) shall (except for the purposes of passing a Single Series Extraordinary Resolution) form a quorum for the transaction of business and no business (other than the choosing of a chairman) shall be transacted at any such Single Series Meeting unless the requisite quorum be present at the commencement of business. The quorum at any such Single Series Meeting convened for the purpose of passing a Single Series Extraordinary Resolution shall be one or more persons present in person holding Notes or being proxies or representatives and holding or representing in the aggregate not less than 66.67 per cent. of the principal amount of the Notes for the time being outstanding, (or, in the case of an adjourned meeting, one or more persons so present in person holding Notes or being proxies or representatives and holding or representing in the aggregate not less than 33.34 per cent. in the principal amount of Notes for the time being outstanding).
- (c) A **“Single Series Ordinary Resolution”** means a resolution passed at a Single Series Meeting duly convened and held in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Issuer and the Fiscal Agent pursuant to Conditions 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*) and 13.2(b) in respect of any matter other than a Reserved Matter, by a majority of at least 66.67 per cent. of the votes cast.
- (d) A **“Single Series Extraordinary Resolution”** means a resolution passed at a Single Series Meeting duly convened and held in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Issuer and the Fiscal Agent pursuant to Condition 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*) and Condition 13.2(b) in respect of a Reserved Matter by a majority of at least 75 per cent. of the votes cast.
- (e) A **“Single Series Written Resolution”** means a resolution in writing signed or confirmed in writing by or on behalf of the holders of:
 - (i) in the case of a Reserved Matter, at least 75 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes; or

- (ii) in the case of a matter other than a Reserved Matter more than 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes.

Any Single Series Written Resolution may be contained in one document or several documents in the same form, each signed or confirmed in writing by or on behalf of one or more Noteholders.

- (f) Any Single Series Ordinary Resolution, Single Series Extraordinary Resolution duly passed or Single Series Written Resolution approved shall be binding on all Noteholders, whether or not they attended such Single Series Meeting, whether or not they voted in favour thereof and whether or not they signed or confirmed in writing any such Single Series Written Resolution, as the case may be.

13.3 Multiple Series Aggregation – Single limb voting

- (a) In relation to a proposal that includes a Reserved Matter, any modification to the terms and conditions of, or any action with respect to, two or more series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation may be made or taken if approved by a Multiple Series Single Limb Extraordinary Resolution or by a Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution as set out below, provided that the Uniformly Applicable condition is satisfied.
- (b) A “**Multiple Series Single Limb Extraordinary Resolution**” means a resolution considered at separate meetings of the holders of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation, duly convened and held in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Issuer and the Fiscal Agent pursuant to Condition 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*), as supplemented if necessary, which is passed by a majority of at least 75 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (taken in aggregate).
- (c) A “**Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution**” means each resolution in writing (with a separate resolution in writing or multiple separate resolutions in writing distributed to the holders of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation, in accordance with the applicable bond documentation) which, when taken together, has been signed or confirmed in writing by or on behalf of the holders of at least 75 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (taken in aggregate). Any Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution may be contained in one document or several documents in substantially the same form, each signed or confirmed in writing by or on behalf of one or more Noteholders or one or more holders of each affected series of debt securities.
- (d) Any Multiple Series Single Limb Extraordinary Resolution duly passed or Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution approved shall be binding on all Noteholders and holders of each other affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation, whether or not they attended any meeting, whether or not they voted in favour thereof, whether or not any other holder or holders of the same series voted in favour thereof and whether or not they signed or confirmed in writing any such Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution, as the case may be.
- (e) The “**Uniformly Applicable**” condition will be satisfied if:
 - (i) the holders of all affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation are invited to exchange, convert, or substitute their debt securities, on the same terms for (i) the same new instrument or other consideration or (ii) a new instrument, new instruments or other consideration from an identical menu of instruments or other consideration; or
 - (ii) the amendments proposed to the terms and conditions of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation would, following implementation of such amendments, result in the amended instruments having identical provisions (other than provisions which are necessarily different, having regard to different currency of issuance).

- (f) It is understood that a proposal under Condition 13.3(a) above will not be considered to satisfy the Uniformly Applicable condition if each exchanging, converting, substituting or amending holder of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation is not offered the same amount of consideration per amount of principal, the same amount of consideration per amount of interest accrued but unpaid and the same amount of consideration per amount of past due interest, respectively, as that offered to each other exchanging, converting, substituting or amending holder of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (or, where a menu of instruments or other consideration is offered, each exchanging, converting, substituting or amending holder of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation is not offered the same amount of consideration per amount of principal, the same amount of consideration per amount of interest accrued but unpaid and the same amount of consideration per amount of past due interest, respectively, as that offered to each other exchanging, converting, substituting or amending holder of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation electing the same option from such menu of instruments).
- (g) Any modification or action proposed under Condition 13.3(a) may be made in respect of some series only of the Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation and, for the avoidance of doubt, the provisions described in this Condition 13.3 may be used for different groups of two or more series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation simultaneously.

13.4 Multiple Series Aggregation – Two limb voting

- (a) In relation to a proposal that includes a Reserved Matter, any modification to the terms and conditions of, or any action with respect to, two or more series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation may be made or taken if approved by a Multiple Series Two Limb Extraordinary Resolution or by a Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution as set out below.
- (b) A “**Multiple Series Two Limb Extraordinary Resolution**” means a resolution considered at separate meetings of the holders of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation, duly convened and held in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Issuer and the Fiscal Agent pursuant to Condition 13.1 (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*), as supplemented if necessary, which is passed by a majority of:
 - (i) at least 66.67 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of affected series of all Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (taken in aggregate); and
 - (ii) more than 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities in each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (taken individually).
- (c) A “**Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution**” means each resolution in writing (with a separate resolution in writing or multiple separate resolutions in writing distributed to the holders of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation, in accordance with the applicable bond documentation) which, when taken together, has been signed or confirmed in writing by or on behalf of the holders of:
 - (i) at least 66.67 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (taken in aggregate); and
 - (ii) more than 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities in each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation (taken individually).

Any Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution may be contained in one document or several documents in substantially the same form, each signed or confirmed in writing by or on behalf of one or more Noteholders or one or more holders of each affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation.

- (d) Any Multiple Series Two Limb Extraordinary Resolution duly passed or Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution approved shall be binding on all Noteholders and holders of each other affected series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation, whether or not they attended any meeting, whether or not they voted in favour thereof, whether or not any other holder or holders of the same series voted in favour thereof and whether or not they signed or confirmed in writing any such Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution, as the case may be.
- (e) Any modification or action proposed under Condition 13.4(a) may be made in respect of some series only of the Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation and, for the avoidance of doubt, the provisions described in this Condition 13.4 may be used for different groups of two or more series of Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation simultaneously.

13.5 **Reserved Matters**

In these Conditions, “**Reserved Matter**” means any proposal:

- (a) to change the dates, or the method of determining the dates, for payment of principal, interest or any other amount in respect of the Notes, to reduce or cancel the amount of principal, interest or any other amount payable on any date in respect of the Notes or to change the method of calculating the amount of principal, interest or any other amount payable in respect of the Notes on any date;
- (b) to change the currency in which any amount due in respect of the Notes is payable or the place in which any payment is to be made;
- (c) to change the majority or quorum required to pass a Single Series Ordinary Resolution, an Extraordinary Resolution, a Written Resolution or any other resolution of Noteholders or the number or percentage of votes required to be cast, or the number or percentage of Notes required to be held, in connection with the taking of any decision or action by or on behalf of the Noteholders or any of them;
- (d) to change this definition, or the definition of “Extraordinary Resolution”, “Single Series Ordinary Resolution”, “Single Series Extraordinary Resolution”, Multiple Series Single Limb Extraordinary Resolution, Multiple Series Two Limb Extraordinary Resolution, Written Resolution, Single Series Written Resolution, Multiple Series Single Limb Written Resolution or Multiple Series Two Limb Written Resolution;
- (e) to change the definition of “debt securities” or “Debt Securities Capable of Aggregation”;
- (f) to change the definition of “Uniformly Applicable”;
- (g) to change the definition of “outstanding” or to modify the provisions of Condition 13.9 (*Notes controlled by the Issuer*);
- (h) to change the legal ranking of the Notes or other specified substantive covenants as appropriate, to be determined on a case-by-case basis;
- (i) to change any provision of the Notes describing circumstances in which Notes may be declared due and payable prior to their scheduled maturity date, set out in Condition 10 (*Events of Default*);
- (j) to change the law governing the Notes, the courts to the jurisdiction of which the Issuer has submitted in the Notes, any of the arrangements specified in the Notes to enable proceedings to be taken or the Issuer's waiver of immunity, in respect of actions or proceedings brought by any Noteholder, set out in Condition 16 (*Governing Law and Submission to Jurisdiction*);

- (k) to impose any condition on or otherwise change the Issuer's obligation to make payments of principal, interest or any other amount in respect of the Notes, including by way of the addition of a call option;
- (l) to modify the provisions of this Condition 13.5;
- (m) except as permitted by any related guarantee or security agreement, to release any agreement guaranteeing or securing payments under the Notes or to change the terms of any such guarantee or security; or
- (n) to exchange or substitute all the Notes for, or convert all the Notes into, other obligations or securities of the Issuer or any other person, or to modify any provision of these Conditions in connection with any exchange or substitution of the Notes for, or the conversion of the Notes into, any other obligations or securities of the Issuer or any other person, which would result in the Conditions as so modified being less favourable to the Noteholders which are subject to the Conditions as so modified than:
 - (i) the provisions of the other obligations or debt securities of the Issuer or any other person resulting from the relevant exchange or substitution or conversion; or
 - (ii) if more than one series of other obligations or debt securities results from the relevant exchange or substitution or conversion, the provisions of the resulting series of debt securities having the largest aggregate principal amount.

13.6 Information

Prior to or on the date that the Issuer proposes any Extraordinary Resolution or Written Resolution pursuant to Condition 13.2 (*Modification of this Series of Notes only*), Condition 13.3 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Single limb voting*) or Condition 13.4 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Two limb voting*), the Issuer shall publish in accordance with Condition 14 (*Aggregation Agent; Aggregation Procedures*), and provide the Fiscal Agent with the following information:

- (a) a description of the Issuer's economic and financial circumstances which are, in the Issuer's opinion, relevant to the request for any potential modification or action, a description of the Issuer's existing debts and a description of its broad policy reform programme and provisional macroeconomic outlook;
- (b) if the Issuer shall at the time have entered into an arrangement for financial assistance with multilateral and/or other major creditors or creditor groups and/or an agreement with any such creditors regarding debt relief, a description of any such arrangement or agreement. Where permitted under the information disclosure policies of the multilateral or such other creditors, as applicable, copies of the arrangement or agreement shall be provided;
- (c) a description of the Issuer's proposed treatment of external debt securities that fall outside the scope of any multiple series aggregation and its intentions with respect to any other debt securities and its other major creditor groups; and
- (d) if any proposed modification or action contemplates debt securities being aggregated in more than one group of debt securities, a description of the proposed treatment of each such group, as required for a notice convening a meeting of the Noteholders in Condition 13.1(d)(vii) (*Convening Meetings of Noteholders; Conduct of Meetings; Written Resolutions*)

13.7 Claims Valuation

For the purpose of calculating the par value of the Notes and any affected series of debt securities which are to be aggregated with the Notes in accordance with Condition 13.3 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Single limb voting*) and Condition 13.4 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Two limb voting*), the Issuer may appoint a calculation

agent (the “Calculation Agent”). The Issuer shall, with the approval of the Aggregation Agent and any appointed Calculation Agent, promulgate the methodology in accordance with which the Calculation Agent will calculate the par value of the Notes and such affected series of debt securities. In any such case where a Calculation Agent is appointed, the same person will be appointed as the Calculation Agent for the Notes and each other affected series of debt securities for these purposes, and the same methodology will be promulgated for each affected series of debt securities.

13.8 **Manifest error, etc.**

The Notes, these Conditions and the provisions of Agency Agreement may be amended without the consent of the Noteholders to correct a manifest error. In addition, the parties to the Agency Agreement may agree to modify any provision thereof, but the Issuer shall not agree, without the consent of the Noteholders, to any such modification unless it is of a formal, minor or technical nature or it is not materially prejudicial to the interests of the Noteholders.

13.9 **Notes controlled by the Issuer**

For the purposes of (i) determining the right to attend and vote at any meeting of Noteholders, or the right to sign or confirm in writing, or authorise the signature of, any Written Resolution and (ii) this Condition 13 (*Meetings of Noteholders; Modifications and Waivers*) and (iii) Condition 10 (*Events of Default*), any Notes which are for the time being held by or on behalf of the Issuer or by or on behalf of any person which is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the Issuer or by any public sector instrumentality of the Issuer shall be disregarded and be deemed not to remain outstanding, where:

- (a) **“public sector instrumentality”** means the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), any department, ministry or agency of the government of the Republic or any corporation, trust, financial institution or other entity owned or controlled by the Republic or any of the foregoing; and
- (b) **“control”** means the power, directly or indirectly, through the ownership of voting securities or other ownership interests or through contractual control or otherwise, to direct the management of or elect or appoint a majority of the board of directors or other persons performing similar functions in lieu of, or in addition to, the board of directors of a corporation, trust, financial institution or other entity.

A Note will also be deemed to be not outstanding if the Note has previously been cancelled or delivered for cancellation or held for reissuance but not reissued or previously become due and payable at maturity or otherwise and the Issuer has previously satisfied its obligations to make all payments due in respect of the Note in accordance with its terms.

In advance of any meeting of Noteholders, or in connection with any Written Resolution, the Issuer shall provide to the Fiscal Agent a copy of the certificate prepared pursuant to Condition 14.4 (*Certificate*), which includes information on the total number of Notes which are for the time being held by or on behalf of the Issuer or by or on behalf of any person which is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the Issuer or by any public sector instrumentality of the Issuer and, as such, such Notes shall be disregarded and deemed not to remain outstanding for the purposes of ascertaining the right to attend and vote at any meeting of Noteholders or the right to sign, or authorise the signature of, any Written Resolution in respect of any such meeting. The Fiscal Agent shall make any such certificate available for inspection during normal business hours at its specified office and, upon reasonable request, will allow copies of such certificate to be taken.

13.10 **Publication**

The Issuer shall publish all Extraordinary Resolutions and Written Resolutions which have been determined by the Aggregation Agent to have been duly passed in accordance with Condition 14.7 (*Manner of publication*).

13.11 **Exchange and Conversion**

Any Extraordinary Resolutions or Written Resolutions which have been duly passed and which modify any provision of, or action in respect of, the Conditions may be implemented at the Issuer's option by way of a mandatory exchange or conversion of the Notes and each other affected series of debt securities, as the case may be, into new debt securities containing the modified terms and conditions if the proposed mandatory exchange or conversion of the Notes is notified to Noteholders at the time notification is given to the Noteholders as to the proposed modification or action. Any such exchange or conversion shall be binding on all Noteholders.

14. **Aggregation Agent; Aggregation Procedures**

14.1 **Appointment**

The Issuer will appoint an aggregation agent (the “**Aggregation Agent**”) to calculate whether a proposed modification or action has been approved by the required principal amount outstanding of Notes, and, in the case of a multiple series aggregation, by the required principal amount of outstanding debt securities of each affected series of debt securities. In the case of a multiple series aggregation, the same person will be appointed as the Aggregation Agent for the proposed modification of any provision of, or any action in respect of, these Conditions or the Agency Agreement in respect of the Notes and in respect of the terms and conditions or bond documentation in respect of each other affected series of debt securities. The Aggregation Agent shall be independent of the Issuer.

14.2 **Extraordinary Resolutions**

If an Extraordinary Resolution has been proposed at a duly convened meeting of Noteholders to modify any provision of, or action in respect of, these Conditions and other affected series of debt securities, as the case may be, the Aggregation Agent will, as soon as practicable after the time the vote is cast, calculate whether holders of a sufficient portion of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes and, where relevant, each other affected series of debt securities, have voted in favour of the Extraordinary Resolution such that the Extraordinary Resolution is passed. If so, the Aggregation Agent will determine that the Extraordinary Resolution has been duly passed.

14.3 **Written Resolutions**

If a Written Resolution has been proposed under the terms of these Conditions to modify any provision of, or action in respect of, these Conditions and the terms and conditions of other affected series of debt securities, as the case may be, the Aggregation Agent will, as soon as reasonably practicable after the relevant Written Resolution has been signed or confirmed in writing, calculate whether holders of a sufficient portion of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes and, where relevant, each other affected series of debt securities, have signed or confirmed in writing in favour of the Written Resolution such that the Written Resolution is passed. If so, the Aggregation Agent will determine that the Written Resolution has been duly passed.

14.4 **Certificate**

For the purposes of Condition 14.2 (*Extraordinary Resolutions*) and Condition 14.3 (*Written Resolutions*), the Issuer will provide a certificate to the Aggregation Agent up to three days prior to, and in any case no later than, with respect to an Extraordinary Resolution, the date of the meeting referred to in Condition 13.2 (*Modification of this Series of Notes only*), Condition 13.3 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Single limb voting*) or Condition 13.4 (*Multiple Series Aggregation – Two limb voting*), as applicable, and, with respect to a Written Resolution, the date arranged for the signing of the Written Resolution.

The certificate shall:

- (a) list the total principal amount of Notes outstanding and, in the case of a multiple series aggregation, the total principal amount of each other affected series of debt securities outstanding on the record date; and
- (b) clearly indicate the Notes and, in the case of a multiple series aggregation, debt securities of each other affected series of debt securities which shall be disregarded and deemed not to remain outstanding as a consequence of Condition 13.9 (*Notes controlled by the Issuer*) on the record date identifying the holders of the Notes and, in the case of a multiple series aggregation, debt securities of each other affected series of debt securities.

The Aggregation Agent may rely upon the terms of any certificate, notice, communication or other document believed by it to be genuine.

14.5 **Notification**

The Aggregation Agent will cause each determination made by it for the purposes of this Condition 14 (*Aggregation Agent; Aggregation Procedures*) to be notified to the Fiscal Agent and the Issuer as soon as practicable after such determination. Notice thereof shall also promptly be given to the Noteholders.

14.6 **Binding nature of determinations; no liability**

All notifications, opinions, determinations, certificates, calculations, quotations and decisions given, expressed, made or obtained for the purposes of this Condition 14 (*Aggregation Agent; Aggregation Procedures*) by the Aggregation Agent and any appointed Calculation Agent will (in the absence of manifest error) be binding on the Issuer, the Fiscal Agent and the Noteholders and (subject as aforesaid) no liability to any such person will attach to the Aggregation Agent or the Calculation Agent in connection with the exercise or non-exercise by it of its powers, duties and discretions for such purposes.

14.7 **Manner of publication**

The Issuer will publish all notices and other matters required to be published pursuant to the Agency Agreement including any matters required to be published pursuant to Condition 13 (*Meetings of Noteholders, Modifications and Waivers*), this Condition 14 (*Aggregation Agent; Aggregation Procedures*) and Condition 10 (*Events of Default*) in accordance with Condition 12 (*Notices*) and:

- (a) through Euroclear and Clearstream and/or any other international or domestic clearing system(s) through which the Notes are for the time being cleared;
- (b) in such other places and in such other manner as may be required by applicable law or regulation; and
- (c) in such other places and in such other manner as may be customary.

15. **Further Issues**

The Issuer may from time to time without the consent of the Noteholders create and issue further notes, having terms and conditions the same as those of the Notes, or the same except for the amount and date of the first payment of interest, which may be consolidated and form a single series with the outstanding Notes; *provided, however, that unless any further Notes are issued pursuant to a "qualified reopening" of the original Notes, are otherwise treated as part of the same "issue" of debt instruments as the original Notes or are issued with no more than a de minimis amount of original issue discount, in each case for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such further Notes will have a separate CUSIP, ISIN or Common Code (as applicable) so that they are distinguishable from such Notes.*

16. **Governing Law and Submission to Jurisdiction**

16.1 **Governing Law**

The Notes and the arbitration agreement contained in Condition 16.2 (*Arbitration*) including any non-contractual obligations arising from or connected therewith are governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, English law.

16.2 **Arbitration**

Subject to Condition 16.3 (*Noteholders' Option*) and 16.4 (*English Courts*), the Issuer agrees that any claim, dispute or difference of whatever nature arising under, out of or in connection with the Notes (including a claim, dispute or difference regarding its existence, termination or validity or any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with the Notes) (a “**Dispute**”), shall be referred to and finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by three arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules. The seat or legal place of the arbitration shall be London, England. The language of the arbitration shall be English. Sections 45 and 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 shall not apply.

16.3 **Noteholders' Option**

At any time before any Noteholder has nominated an arbitrator to resolve any Dispute or Disputes pursuant to Condition 16.2 (*Arbitration*), the Noteholders, at their sole option, may elect by notice in writing (an “**Election Notice**”) to the Issuer that such Dispute(s) shall instead be resolved in the manner set out in Condition 16.4 (*English Courts*), 16.5 (*Appropriate Forum*) and 16.6 (*Rights of the Noteholders to take proceedings outside England*).

Following any such election, no arbitral tribunal shall have jurisdiction in respect of such Dispute(s).

16.4 **English Courts**

In the event that any of the Noteholders serves an Election Notice in respect of any Dispute(s) pursuant to Condition 16.3 (*Noteholders' Option*), the Issuer agrees for the benefit of the Noteholders that Condition 16.2 (*Arbitration*) shall not apply to any such Dispute and that the courts of England shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any such Dispute(s) and that the Issuer may not commence proceedings (“**Proceedings**”) for the determination of any such Dispute(s) in any other jurisdiction.

16.5 **Appropriate forum**

For the purposes of Condition 16.4 (*English Courts*), the Issuer irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction of the courts of England and waives any objection which it might now or hereafter have to the courts of England being nominated as the forum to hear and determine any Proceedings and agrees not to claim that any such court is not a convenient or appropriate forum.

16.6 **Rights of the Noteholders to take proceedings outside England**

Condition 16.4 (*English Courts*) and 16.5 (*Appropriate Forum*) are for the benefit of the Noteholders only. As a result, following the service of an Election Notice by any of the Noteholders, nothing in this Condition 16 (*Governing Law and Submission to Jurisdiction*) shall (or shall be construed so as to) limit the right of any of the Noteholders to bring Proceedings for the determination of any such Dispute(s) in the courts of England or in any other court of competent jurisdiction, nor shall the bringing of such Proceedings in any one or more jurisdictions preclude the bringing of Proceedings by any other Noteholders in any other jurisdiction (whether concurrently or not) if and to the extent permitted by law.

16.7 **Process Agent**

The Issuer confirms and agrees that the documents which start any Proceedings and any other documents required to be served in relation to those Proceedings may be served on it by being delivered to Her Excellency Madame Ambassador of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire located at 2 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BJ, United Kingdom. If such agent ceases to be able to act as a process agent or to have an address in England, the Issuer irrevocably agrees to appoint a new process agent in England as soon as practicable thereafter. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the right of any party to serve process in any other manner permitted by law.

16.8 **Consent to Enforcement and Waiver of Immunity**

The Issuer consents generally in respect of any Proceedings to the giving of any relief or the issue of any process in connection with such Proceedings including (without limitation but subject as provided in the following paragraph) the making, enforcement or execution against any property whatsoever of any order or judgment which is made or given in such Proceedings.

To the extent that the Issuer may in any jurisdiction claim for itself or its assets or revenues immunity from suit, execution, attachment (whether in aid of execution, before judgment or otherwise) or other legal process, including in relation to the enforcement of any arbitration award, and to the extent that such immunity (whether or not claimed) may be attributed in any such jurisdiction to the Issuer or its assets or revenues, the Issuer agrees not to claim and irrevocably waives such immunity to the full extent permitted by the laws of such jurisdiction (and consents generally for the purposes of the State Immunity Act 1978 to the giving of any relief or the issue of any process in connection with any Proceedings). The Issuer does not hereby waive such immunity from execution or attachment in respect of (a) property, including any bank account, used by a diplomatic or consular mission of the Issuer or its special missions or delegations to international organizations, (b) property of a military character and under the control of a military authority or defence agency of the Issuer, or (c) property located in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and dedicated to a public or governmental use by the Issuer (as distinct from property which is for the time being in use or intended for use for commercial purposes within the meaning of the State Immunity Act 1978). The Issuer reserves the right to plead sovereign immunity under the US Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 with respect to any actions brought against it in any court of or in the United States of America under any United States federal or state securities law.

17. **Rights of Third Parties**

No rights are conferred on any person under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any term of the Notes, but this does not affect any right or remedy of any person which exists or is available apart from that Act.

18. **Currency Indemnity**

If any sum due from the Issuer in respect of the Notes or any order or judgment given or made in relation thereto has to be converted from the currency (the “**first currency**”) in which the same is payable under these Conditions or such order or judgment into another currency (the “**second currency**”) for the purpose of (a) making or filing a claim or proof against the Issuer, (b) obtaining an order or judgment in any court or other tribunal or (c) enforcing any order or judgment given or made in relation to the Notes, the Issuer shall indemnify each Noteholder, on the written demand of such Noteholder addressed to the Issuer and delivered to the Issuer or to the Specified Office of the Fiscal Agent, against any loss suffered as a result of any discrepancy between (i) the rate of exchange used for such purpose to convert the sum in question from the first currency into the second currency and (ii) the rate or rates of exchange at which such Noteholder may in the ordinary course of business purchase the first currency with the second currency upon receipt of a sum paid to it in satisfaction, in whole or in part, of any such order, judgment, claim or proof.

This indemnity constitutes a separate and independent obligation of the Issuer and shall give rise to a separate and independent cause of action.

FORM OF NOTES

Form of Notes

The Notes will be in registered form, without coupons attached. The New Notes sold in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S will be represented on issue by the Unrestricted Global Note Certificates, which will be deposited with a common depository and registered in the name of a nominee of Euroclear or Clearstream. The New Notes sold to qualified institutional buyers in reliance on Rule 144A will be represented on issue by the Restricted Global Note Certificate, which will be deposited with a common depository, and registered in the name of a nominee of Euroclear or Clearstream.

The Notes (including beneficial interests in the Global Note Certificates) will be subject to certain restrictions on transfers, set forth in the Notes and in the Agency Agreement and will bear a legend regarding such restrictions as provided in the “*United States Transfer Restrictions*”. Under certain circumstances, transfer may be made only upon receipt by the Registrar of a written certification in the form of Schedule 8 (*Form of Transfer Certificate*) to the Agency Agreement.

Book Entry Ownership of the Global Note Certificates

The Issuer has applied to Euroclear and Clearstream for acceptance in their respective book entry settlement systems of the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate and Restricted Global Note Certificate.

Principal and interest payments on the Notes will be made by the Issuer through the Paying Agents to a nominee of Euroclear and Clearstream as the holder of the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate and of the Restricted Global Note Certificate. All payments duly made by the Issuer as aforesaid shall discharge the liability of the Issuer under the Notes to the extent of the sum or sums so paid. Therefore, after such payments have been duly made, none of the Issuer or any of the Paying Agents will have any direct responsibility or liability for the payment of principal or interest on the Notes to owners of beneficial interests in the respective Global Note Certificates.

Exchange of Interests in Notes

A holder of a beneficial interest in the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate may transfer such interest within the United States to a person who takes delivery in the form of an interest in the Restricted Global Note Certificate in accordance with the rules and operating procedures of Euroclear and Clearstream and only upon receipt by the Registrar of a written certification in the form of Schedule 8 (*Form of Transfer Certificate*) to the Agency Agreement from the transferors.

Beneficial interests in the Restricted Global Note Certificate may be transferred to a person who takes delivery in the form of an interest in the Restricted Global Note Certificate without any written certification from the transferor or the transferee.

Beneficial interests in the Restricted Global Note Certificate may be transferred to a person who takes delivery in the form of an interest in the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate only upon receipt by the Registrar of a written certification in the form of Schedule 8 (*Form of Transfer Certificate*) to the Agency Agreement from the transferor to the effect that such transfer is in accordance with the transfer restrictions applicable to the Notes and Rule 903 or 904 of Regulation S or Rule 144A under the Securities Act (if applicable).

Any beneficial interest in one of the Global Note Certificates that is transferred to an entity who takes delivery in the form of an interest in the other respective Global Note Certificate will, upon transfer, cease to be an interest in such Global Note Certificate and become an interest in the other respective Global Note Certificate and, accordingly, will thereafter be subject to all transfer restrictions, if any, and other procedures applicable to beneficial interests in such other respective Global Note Certificate for as long as it remains such an interest.

Transfer of interests in the Global Note Certificates within Euroclear and Clearstream will be in accordance with the usual rules and operating procedures of the relevant clearing system. The laws of some States of the United States require that certain persons receive Individual Note Certificates in respect of their holdings of the Notes. Consequently, the ability

to transfer interests in a Global Note Certificate to such persons will be limited. Because Euroclear and Clearstream only act on behalf of participants, who in turn act on behalf of indirect participants, the ability of a person having an interest in a Global Note Certificate to pledge such interest to persons or entities which do not participate in the relevant clearing system or otherwise take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of an Individual Note Certificate representing such interest.

Although Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of interests in Global Note Certificates among participants and account holders of Euroclear and Clearstream, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither the Issuer, the Registrar nor any Paying Agent will have any responsibility for the performance of Euroclear and Clearstream or their respective direct or indirect participants or account holders of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their respective operations.

Individual Note Certificates

The Issuer will issue the Notes in individual form only if:

- (i) Euroclear or Clearstream is closed for a continuous period of 14 days (other than by reason of legal holidays) or announces an intention to permanently cease business; or
- (ii) the Issuer, at its option, elects to terminate the book entry system through Euroclear or Clearstream; or
- (iii) an Event of Default (as defined in Condition 10 (*Events of Default*) of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes) has occurred and is continuing, upon request of a Noteholder.

Global Depositories

The information set out below in connection with Euroclear and Clearstream (together the “**clearing systems**”) is subject to change in or reinterpretation of the rules, regulations and procedures of the clearing systems currently in effect. The information in this section concerning the clearing systems has been obtained from sources that the Issuer believes to be reliable, but neither the Issuer nor any Joint Lead Manager takes any responsibility for the accuracy of such information. Investors wishing to use the facilities of any of the clearing systems are advised to confirm the applicability of the rules, regulations and procedures of the relevant clearing system. Neither the Issuer nor any other party to the Agency Agreement will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of interest in the Notes held through the facilities of, any clearing system or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

Euroclear and Clearstream

Euroclear and Clearstream have advised the Issuer as follows:

Euroclear and Clearstream hold securities and book entry interests in securities for participating organizations and facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between their respective participants through electronic book entry changes in accounts of such participants. Euroclear and Clearstream provide to their participants, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Euroclear and Clearstream interface with domestic securities markets. Euroclear and Clearstream participants are financial institutions such as underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and certain other organizations. Indirect access to Euroclear and Clearstream is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear or Clearstream participant, either directly or indirectly.

TAXATION

The following discussion summarizes certain U.S. federal income and Côte d'Ivoire tax considerations that may be relevant to a holder of New Notes that is not a resident of Côte d'Ivoire. This overview does not describe all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to the holder or such holder's situation, particularly if the holder is subject to special tax rules. The holder should consult its tax adviser about the tax consequences of holding debt securities, including the relevance to such holder's particular situation of the considerations discussed below, as well as of state, local and other tax laws.

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Taxation

This section, which has been approved by the *Direction générale des impôts* of the Republic, describes the material Ivorian tax consequences of owning and disposing of the New Notes with respect to Ivorian taxes, including in particular under the tax on income from movable capital (*Impôts sur le revenu des capitaux mobiliers*), for investors that are not considered to be residents of the Côte d'Ivoire for tax purposes (“**Non-residents**”).

Tax treatment applicable to the New Notes

The following section does not purport to address the treatment of New Notes with respect to any Ivorian taxes other than tax on income from movable capital.

Ivorian tax on income from movable capital encompasses two schedular taxes, namely (a) the tax on income from transferable securities such as bonds (*Impôt sur le revenu des valeurs mobilières*), and (b) the tax on income from debt claims (*Impôt sur le revenu des créances*).

Tax on income from transferable securities

Under Article 180 of the Côte d'Ivoire general tax code (*Code Général des Impôts de Côte d'Ivoire*), the tax on income from transferable securities is imposed on interest, arrearages and other amounts payable on bonds (*obligations*) issued by public entities and certain other issuers.

Under Article 218 of the Côte d'Ivoire general tax code, interest, arrearages and other amounts payable by or on behalf of the Republic as well as capital gains with respect to borrowings issued by the Republic outside the Republic are exempt from the tax on income from movable capital.

Under Article 236 of the Côte d'Ivoire general tax code, payments and redemption premiums on bonds made or paid to holders of bonds that are not established in a member state of the WAEMU are exempt from the tax on income from movable capital.

Tax on income from debt claims

The tax on income from debt claims applies to interest, arrearages and other amounts payable on debt claims of a kind described in Article 192 of the Côte d'Ivoire general tax code. Article 192 does not refer to amounts payable on bonds.

As described above, Article 218 of the Côte d'Ivoire general tax code provides for an exemption of tax on income from movable capital, which includes tax on income from debt claims, on sovereign loans raised outside the Republic.

Taxes withheld at source

Based on the provisions described above, and in particular on Article 218 of the Côte d'Ivoire general tax code, the Ivorian tax administration has confirmed that all payments and income (including capital gains) that could be generated by the New Notes will be exempt from all and any Ivorian withholding tax applicable to Non-resident bondholders.

U.S. Federal Income Taxation

The following discussion summarizes certain U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be material to a beneficial owner of New Notes that is a citizen or resident of the United States, or a domestic corporation or otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of the Notes (a “**U.S. Holder**”) that purchases New Notes in this offering at the offering price set forth on the cover hereof and holds the New Notes as capital assets. This overview does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to invest in the New Notes, including tax considerations that arise from rules of general application to all taxpayers or to certain classes of taxpayers or that are generally assumed to be known by investors. This overview also does not address all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to persons in special tax situations including dealers in securities or currencies, banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, thrift institutions, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, tax-exempt organizations, entities or arrangements classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and partners therein, traders in securities that elect to mark-to-market and dealers in securities or currencies, persons that hold or will hold New Notes as part of a position in a “straddle” or as part of a “hedging,” “conversion” or other integrated investment transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, U.S. expatriates, non-resident alien individuals present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year or persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

This overview is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “**Code**”), Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof, as of the date hereof, all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. The discussion does not describe any tax consequences of the alternative minimum tax or Medicare tax on net investment income, or tax consequences under special timing rules prescribed under section 451(b) of the Code or arising out of the laws of any U.S. state, local or non-U.S. jurisdiction.

The issuance of the New Notes is expected to be treated as a “qualified reopening” of the Original Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the remainder of this discussion assumes that this issuance is a “qualified reopening.” Accordingly, the New Notes will be deemed to have the same issue date, the same issue price, and the same adjusted issue price as the Original Notes. The Original Notes were treated as issued with original issue discount, or “**OID**,” and, therefore, the New Notes also will be treated as issued with OID.

Original Issue Discount

Because the New Notes provide for an initial interest payment period of longer than one year, stated interest on the New Notes will not qualify as “qualified stated interest” under the applicable Treasury Regulations. As a result, the New Notes would be treated as issued with OID.

In general, the amount of OID with respect to a debt instrument is equal to the excess of (i) the “stated redemption price at maturity” of the debt instrument (which will equal the sum of all payments due under the debt instrument other than “qualified stated interest” (of which the New Notes will have none)), over (ii) the issue price of the New Notes (equal to the first price at which a substantial amount of the New Notes are sold for money, ignoring sales to bond houses, brokers or similar persons acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). In general, “qualified stated interest” is stated interest that is unconditionally payable in cash or in property at least annually at a single fixed rate. As the New Notes have an initial interest payment period of longer than one year, the New Notes will not bear any qualified stated interest. Accordingly, all payments or accruals of stated interest on the New Notes will be included in the stated redemption price at maturity of the notes, thereby increasing the amount of OID on such New Notes.

In general, U.S. Holders will be required to include OID in gross income under a constant-yield method over the term of the New Notes in advance of cash payments attributable to such income, regardless of whether the U.S. Holder is a cash or accrual method taxpayer, and without regard to the timing or amount of any actual payments. Under this

treatment, U.S. Holders will include in ordinary gross income the sum of the “daily portions” of OID on the New Notes for all days during the taxable year that such U.S. Holder owns the New Notes. The daily portions of OID on a New Note are determined by allocating to each day in any accrual period a ratable portion of the OID allocable to that accrual period. Accrual periods may be of any length and may vary in length over the term of the New Notes, provided that no accrual period is longer than one year and each scheduled payment of principal or interest occurs on either the final day or the first day of an accrual period. The amount of OID on a New Note allocable to each accrual period will be determined by (a) multiplying the “adjusted issue price” (as defined below) of the Note at the beginning of the accrual period by the “yield to maturity” (as defined below) of such New Note (appropriately adjusted to reflect the length of the accrual period) and (b) subtracting from that product the amount (if any) of stated interest allocable to that accrual period.

The “adjusted issue price” of a New Note at the beginning of any accrual period generally will be the sum of its issue price, including any accrued interest, and the amount of OID allocable to all prior accrual periods, reduced by the amount of payments made on the New Note. The “yield to maturity” of a New Note will be the discount rate (appropriately adjusted to reflect the length of accrual periods) that causes the present value of all payments on the New Note, including any payments of principal payable at or prior to the maturity of the note, to equal the issue price of such New Note. As a result of this constant-yield method of including OID income, the amounts includable in income by a U.S. Holder in respect of a New Note generally will be less in the early years, and greater in the later years, than amounts that would be includable on a straight-line basis.

All payments on a New Note, including payments of stated interest (none of which will be qualified stated interest, as discussed above), will generally be viewed first as payments of previously accrued OID to the extent thereof, with payments attributed first to the earliest-accrued OID, and then as payments of principal. U.S. Holders should determine the U.S. dollar amount includable as OID for each accrual period by (i) calculating the amount of OID allocable to each accrual period in Euros using the constant-yield method described above and (ii) translating that Euro amount at the average exchange rate in effect during that accrual period (or, with respect to an interest accrual period that spans two taxable years, at the average exchange rate for each partial period). Alternatively, U.S. Holders may translate the Euro amount at the spot rate of exchange on the last day of the accrual period (or the last day of the taxable year, for an accrual period that spans two taxable years) or at the spot rate of exchange on the date of receipt, if that date is within five business days of the last day of the accrual period, provided that the U.S. Holder has made such an election. Because exchange rates may fluctuate, U.S. Holders may recognize a different amount of OID income in each accrual period than would be the case if the U.S. Holder were the holder of an otherwise similar bond denominated in U.S. dollars. Under these rules, upon the receipt of an amount attributable to OID (whether in connection with a payment of stated interest or in connection with the sale or retirement of the New Note), U.S. Holders will recognize ordinary income or loss measured by the difference between the amount received (translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect on the date of receipt or on the date of disposition of the New Note, as the case may be) and the amount accrued (using the exchange rate applicable to such previous accrual).

If a U.S. Holder acquires a New Note at a price (excluding any amount paid for accrued interest) greater than its adjusted issue price, but less than or equal to the sum of all remaining amounts payable on the New Note, the U.S. Holder is required to reduce its periodic inclusions of OID income to reflect the premium paid over the adjusted issue price. In such a case, the amount of OID income otherwise includable in the U.S. Holder’s income during an accrual period is reduced by a fraction, the numerator of which is the excess of such acquisition price over the adjusted issue price of the New Note at the time acquired and the denominator of which is the excess of the sum of all amounts payable on the New Note after the purchase date over the New Note’s adjusted issue price at the time acquired. As an alternative to reducing the amount of OID otherwise includable in income by this fraction, the U.S. Holder may elect to compute OID income by treating the acquisition of the New Note as a purchase at original issuance and applying the constant yield method described above.

The rules governing instruments with OID are complex, and prospective investors should consult with their own tax

advisers about the application of such rules to the New Notes.

Sale, Exchange or Disposition of New Notes

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the New Notes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount the U.S. Holder realizes on such sale, exchange or other disposition (less any accrued and unpaid interest, which will be taxable as such) and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the New Notes. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a New Note will, in general, equal the U.S. Holder's cost for the New Note in U.S. dollars (excluding any portion of the cost that is allocable to interest that accrued from the date of the issuance of the Original Notes through the date such New Notes are issued, which will be treated as a nontaxable return of such accrued interest to the U.S. Holder), increased by the amount of any OID or market discount previously taken into account by the U.S. Holder and reduced (but not below zero) by any payments received by a U.S. Holder other than payments of qualified stated interest (of which there is none) and by the amount of any amortizable bond premium previously amortized by the U.S. Holder with respect to the New Notes. Subject to the discussion below of foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the New Notes, the gain or loss that the U.S. Holder recognizes on the sale, exchange or retirement of a New Note generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder has held the New Note for more than one year on the date of disposition. Certain non-corporate U.S. Holders (including individuals) may be eligible for preferential rates of taxation on long-term capital gain. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

If a U.S. Holder receives Euros on a sale, exchange, retirement, or as an Amortization Amount, its amount realized will be the U.S. dollar value of the Euros received calculated at the exchange rate in effect on the date the instrument is disposed of or the date such Amortization Amount is received. The cost of a New Note to a U.S. Holder will be the U.S. dollar value of the Euro-denominated purchase price on the date of purchase (or, in the case of an Amortization Amount, the relevant portion of the purchase price), increased over time by the amount of OID included in such U.S. Holder's gross income in respect of the New Notes (determined in the manner described above under "—Original Issue Discount") and decreased by the amount of payments of qualified stated interest (of which there is none) on the New Notes (translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect on the date that the payment is received). If the New Notes are treated as traded on an established securities market, a cash-method U.S. Holder (and, if it so elects, an accrual-method U.S. Holder) will determine the U.S. dollar value of the cost of, or amount realized on, the New Note by translating the amount paid at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the purchase or sale. This election must be applied consistently to all debt instruments from year to year and cannot be changed without the consent of the IRS. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisers about the availability of this treatment, and in the case of accrual-method U.S. Holders, the advisability of making this election in their particular circumstances.

Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. Holder on the sale, exchange or retirement of a New Note generally will be treated as ordinary income or loss to the extent that the gain or loss is attributable to changes in exchange rates during the period in which the U.S. Holder held the New Note. This foreign currency gain or loss will not be treated as an adjustment to interest income received on the New Notes. In addition, upon the sale, exchange or retirement of a New Note, a U.S. Holder that uses the accrual method of accounting may realize foreign currency gain or loss attributable to amounts received in respect of accrued and unpaid interest. The amount of foreign currency gain or loss realized with respect to principal and accrued interest will, however, be limited to the amount of overall gain or loss realized on the disposition. For an accrual-method U.S. Holder that cannot or does not make the election described above, the foreign currency gain or loss may include amounts attributable to changes in exchange rates between the trade date and the settlement date. The conversion of U.S. dollars to Euros and the immediate use of Euros to purchase a New Note generally will not result in taxable gain or loss for a U.S. Holder.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to payments on the New Notes made to, and the proceeds of dispositions of New Notes effected by, certain U.S. Holders unless the U.S. Holder establishes it is an exempt recipient, and backup withholding will apply to such amounts if the U.S. Holder fails to establish it is an exempt recipient and fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number or is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on its U.S. federal income tax return. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Specified Foreign Financial Assets

Individual U.S. Holders that own "specified foreign financial assets" with an aggregate value in excess of US\$50,000 on the last day of the taxable year or US\$75,000 at any time during the taxable year are generally required to file an information statement along with their tax returns, currently on IRS Form 8938, with respect to such assets. "Specified foreign financial assets" include any financial accounts held at a non-U.S. financial institution, as well as securities issued by a non-U.S. issuer (which may include any New Notes issued in individual form) that are not held in accounts maintained by financial institutions. Higher reporting thresholds apply to certain individuals living abroad and to certain married individuals. Regulations extend this reporting requirement to certain entities that are treated as formed or availed of to hold direct or indirect interests in specified foreign financial assets based on certain objective criteria. U.S. Holders that fail to report the required information could be subject to substantial penalties. In addition, the statute of limitations for assessment of tax would be suspended, in whole or part. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisers concerning the application of these rules to their investment in the New Notes, including the application of the rules to their particular circumstances.

Reportable Transactions

A U.S. Holder that participates in a "reportable transaction" will be required to disclose its participation to the IRS. The scope and application of these rules is not entirely clear. A U.S. Holder may be required to treat a foreign currency exchange loss relating to a New Note as a reportable transaction if the loss exceeds US\$50,000 in a single taxable year if the U.S. Holder is an individual or trust, or higher amounts for other U.S. Holders. In the event the acquisition, ownership or disposition of a New Note constitutes participation in a "reportable transaction" for purposes of these rules, a U.S. Holder will be required to disclose its investment to the IRS, currently on IRS Form 8886. Prospective purchasers should consult their tax advisers regarding the application of these rules to the acquisition, ownership or disposition of New Notes.

The Proposed Financial Transaction Tax

On 14 February 2013, the European Commission published a proposal (the "**Commission's Proposal**") for a Directive for a common financial transaction tax (the "**FTT**") in Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia (the "**Participating Member States**") and which, if enacted, could apply under certain circumstances to transactions involving the New Notes. The issuance and subscription of the New Notes should, however, be exempt. Estonia has since stated that it will not participate.

The mechanism by which the tax would be applied and collected is not yet known, but if the proposed directive or any similar tax is adopted, transactions in the New Notes would be subject to higher costs, and the liquidity of the market for the New Notes may be diminished.

Following the lack of consensus in the negotiations on the Commission's Proposal, the Participating Member States (excluding Estonia) and the scope of such tax is uncertain. Based on recent public statements, the Participating Member States (excluding Estonia which withdrew) have agreed to continue negotiations on the basis of a proposal raised by Germany that would reduce the scope of the FTT and would only concern listed shares of European companies with a market capitalisation exceeding EUR 1 billion on 1 December of the year preceding the taxation year. According to this revised proposal, the applicable tax rate would not be less than 0.2% (rather than 0.1% as provided in the Commission's Proposal). Such proposal remains subject to change until a final approval and it may therefore be altered prior to any implementation, the timing of which remains unclear. Additional EU Member States may decide to participate and/or certain of the Participating Member States (in addition to Estonia which already withdrew) may decide to withdraw. If and when the FTT is enacted, the French FTT provided by article 235 ter ZD of the French tax code will be repealed.

Prospective holders of the New Notes are advised to seek their own professional advice in relation to the consequences of the FTT that could be associated with subscribing for, purchasing, holding and disposing of the New Notes.

SUBSCRIPTION AND SALE

Each of the Joint Lead Managers has, pursuant to a Subscription Agreement entered into with Côte d'Ivoire (the "**Subscription Agreement**") to be dated on or about 11 February 2021 severally and not jointly agreed to subscribe or procure subscribers for the principal amount of the New Notes at the issue price of 104.538% of the principal amount of the New Notes plus an amount corresponding to accrued interest from and including 1 December 2020 to but excluding 15 February 2021.

The Issuer will reimburse the Joint Lead Managers in respect of certain of their expenses, and has agreed to indemnify the Joint Lead Managers against certain liabilities (including liabilities under the Securities Act) incurred in connection with the issue of the New Notes. The Subscription Agreement may be terminated in certain circumstances prior to payment of the net subscription money in respect of the New Notes to the Issuer. The Subscription Agreement provides that the obligations of the Joint Lead Managers to subscribe for, or procure subscriptions for, the New Notes are subject to certain customary conditions.

Each of the Joint Lead Managers and its affiliates have, from time to time, engaged in, and may in the future engage in, various investment banking and/or commercial banking transactions with, and may perform services for, the Issuer in the ordinary course of business. In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, each of the Joint Lead Managers and its affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the Issuer. Certain of the Joint Lead Managers or their respective affiliates that have a lending relationship with the Issuer routinely hedge their credit exposure to the Issuer consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such Joint Lead Managers and their respective affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in securities, including potentially the New Notes. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the New Notes. The Joint Lead Managers and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Allocation of the New Notes

Allocations of the New Notes to potential investors in the offering will be made in accordance with customary allocation processes and procedures following the completion of the bookbuilding process for the offering of New Notes and will be made at the sole discretion of Côte d'Ivoire.

United States

The New Notes have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act and may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Accordingly, the Joint Lead Managers have severally and not jointly agreed to offer the New Notes for resale in the United States initially only to persons they reasonably believe to be qualified institutional buyers in reliance on Rule 144A and outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S. Terms used in this paragraph have the respective meanings given to them by Regulation S.

In addition, until 40 days after the commencement of the offering, an offer or sale of New Notes within the United States by any dealer (whether or not participating in the offering) may violate the registration requirements of the Securities Act if such offer or sale is made otherwise than in accordance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act.

Each Joint Lead Manager has severally and not jointly represented and agreed that neither such Joint Lead Manager nor its affiliates, nor any persons acting on its or their behalf, have engaged or will engage in any directed selling efforts (as defined in Regulation S) with respect to the New Notes.

To the extent that any Joint Lead Managers that are not U.S. registered broker dealers intend to effect any sales of New Notes in the United States, they will only do so through one or more U.S. registered broker dealer affiliates as permitted by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority guidelines.

United Kingdom

Each Joint Lead Manager has severally and not jointly represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended from time to time, (the “**FSMA**”)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any New Notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the Issuer; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the New Notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire

Each Joint Lead Manager has severally and not jointly represented, warranted and agreed that it has not offered or sold, and will not offer or sell, any New Notes in Côte d’Ivoire and the WAEMU except in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

The Republic of Italy

The offering of the New Notes has not been cleared with the *Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa* (“**CONSOB**”) pursuant to Italian securities legislation and, accordingly, each Joint Lead Manager has severally but not jointly represented and agreed that it has not offered, sold or delivered, and will not offer, sell or deliver, directly or indirectly, any New Notes in the Republic of Italy (“**Italy**”) and that copies of this Prospectus or any other document relating to the New Notes have not and will not be distributed in Italy by it, except (i) to qualified investors, as defined in Article 2, letter e) of the EU Prospectus Regulation, pursuant to Article 1, fourth paragraph, letter a) of the EU Prospectus Regulation as implemented by Article 35, paragraph 1, letter d) of CONSOB Regulations No. 20307 of 15 February 2018 (the “**Intermediaries Regulation**”); or (ii) in any other circumstances which are exempted from the rules on public offerings pursuant to Article 1 of the EU Prospectus Regulation.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression “offer of New Notes to the public in Italy” means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the New Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the New Notes, include the placement thereof through authorised intermediaries.

Each Joint Lead Manager has severally but not jointly represented and agreed that any such offer, sale or delivery of the New Notes, or distribution of copies of this Prospectus, or any other document relating to the New Notes, by it in Italy under (i) or (ii) above must be effected in accordance with all Italian securities, tax, exchange control and other applicable laws and regulations and, in particular, must be made:

- (a) by investment firms, banks or financial intermediaries permitted to conduct such activities in Italy in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Intermediaries Regulation, Legislative Decree No. 58 of 24 February 1998, CONSOB Regulation No. 20307 of 15 February 2018 and Legislative Decree No. 385 of 1 September 1993 (the “**Banking Act**”) (in each case, as amended from time to time) and any other applicable laws or regulations;
- (b) in compliance with Article 129 of the Banking Act and the implementing guidelines of the Bank of Italy, as amended from time to time, pursuant to which the Bank of Italy may request information on the offering or issue of securities in Italy; and

- (c) in compliance with any other applicable laws and regulations or requirements that may be imposed from time to time by the Bank of Italy, CONSOB or any other Italian authority.

Any investor purchasing the New Notes is solely responsible for ensuring that any offer, sale, delivery or resale of the New Notes it purchased in this offering occurs in compliance with applicable Italian laws and regulations.

Singapore

Each Joint Lead Manager has severally represented, warranted and undertaken with the Issuer and each other Joint Lead Manager that it has not offered or sold any New Notes or caused the New Notes to be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase and will not offer or sell any New Notes or cause the New Notes to be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, and has not circulated or distributed, nor will it circulate or distribute, the Preliminary Prospectus, the Prospectus or any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the New Notes, whether directly or indirectly, to any person in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor (as defined in Section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289) of Singapore, as modified or amended from time to time (the “SFA”)) pursuant to Section 274 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA pursuant to Section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Hong Kong

Each Joint Lead Manager has represented and agreed that:

(1) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in Hong Kong, by means of any document, any New Notes other than (a) to “professional investors” as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong (the “SFO”) and any rules made under the SFO; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a “prospectus” as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong (the “C(WUMPO)”) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the C(WUMPO); and

(2) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the New Notes, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to New Notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO.

Canada

The New Notes may be sold only to purchasers purchasing, or deemed to be purchasing, as principal that are accredited investors, as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* or subsection 73.3(1) of the *Securities Act* (Ontario), and are permitted clients, as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*. Any resale of the New Notes must be made in accordance with an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this Prospectus (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser’s province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser’s province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

Pursuant to section 3A.3 of National Instrument 33-105 *Underwriting Conflicts* (“NI 33-105”), the Joint Lead Managers are not required to comply with the disclosure requirements of NI 33-105 regarding underwriter conflicts of interest in connection with this offering of the New Notes.

Switzerland

The offering of the New Notes in Switzerland is exempt from the requirement to prepare and publish a prospectus under the Swiss Financial Services Act ("**FinSA**") because the New Notes have a minimum denomination of CHF 100,000 (or equivalent in another currency) or more and the New Notes will not be admitted to trading on any trading venue (exchange or multilateral trading facility) in Switzerland. This Prospectus does not constitute a prospectus pursuant to the FinSA, and no such prospectus has been or will be prepared for or in connection with the offering of the New Notes.

General

No action has been taken by the Issuer or any of the Joint Lead Managers that would, or is intended to, permit a public offer of the New Notes in any country or jurisdiction where any such action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, each Joint Lead Manager has severally and not jointly undertaken that it will not, directly or indirectly, offer or sell any New Notes or distribute or publish the Prospectus or any other document or information relating to the New Notes in any country or jurisdiction except under circumstances that will, to the best of its knowledge and belief, result in compliance, in all material respects, with any applicable laws and regulations and all offers and sales of New Notes by it will be made on the same terms.

UNITED STATES TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS

Because of the following restrictions, purchasers are advised to consult legal counsel prior to making any offer, sale, resale, pledge or other transfer of the New Notes.

Each purchaser of the New Notes will be deemed to have represented and agreed as follows (terms used in this paragraph that are defined in Rule 144A or in Regulation S under the Securities Act are used herein as defined therein):

1. it is not an “**affiliate**” (as defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act) of the Republic or acting on behalf of the Republic and (A) (i) is a qualified institutional buyer, (ii) is aware that the sale of the New Notes to it is being made in reliance on Rule 144A, and (iii) is acquiring such New Notes for its own account or the account of a qualified institutional buyer or (B) it is, or at the time the New Notes are purchased will be, the beneficial owner of such New Notes and is outside the United States (within the meaning of Regulation S);
2. it acknowledges that the New Notes have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act or with any securities regulatory authority of any jurisdiction and may not be offered or sold within the US except as set forth below;
3. it understands and agrees that if in the future it decides to resell, pledge or otherwise transfer any New Notes or any beneficial interests in any New Notes other than the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate, such Notes may be resold, pledged or transferred only (A) by an initial investor (i) to the Republic, (ii) to a person whom the seller reasonably believes is a qualified institutional buyer that purchases for its own account or for the account of a qualified institutional buyer in a transaction meeting the requirements of Rule 144A under the Securities Act, (iii) in an offshore transaction meeting the requirements of Rule 903 or 904 of Regulation S under the Securities Act or (iv) pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act provided by Rule 144 under the Securities Act (which may or may not be available) (resales described in sub clauses (i) through (iv) of this clause (A), “**Safe Harbor Resales**”), or (B) by a subsequent investor, in a Safe Harbor Resale or pursuant to any other available exemption from the registration requirements under the Securities Act (*provided that*, as a condition to the registration of transfer of any New Notes otherwise than in a Safe Harbor Resale, the Republic or the Fiscal Agent may require delivery of any documents or other evidence (including but not limited to an opinion of counsel) that it, in its sole discretion, may deem necessary or appropriate to evidence compliance with such exemption), and in each of such cases, in accordance with any applicable securities laws of any state of the US and any other jurisdiction;
4. it agrees to, and each subsequent holder is required to, notify any purchaser of the New Notes from it of the resale restrictions referred to in clause 3 above, if then applicable;
5. it understands and agrees that (A) New Notes initially offered in the US to qualified institutional buyers will be represented on issue by the Restricted Global Note Certificate and (B) that New Notes offered outside the US in reliance on Regulation S will be represented on issue by the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate;
6. it understands that the New Notes, other than the Unrestricted Global Note Certificate, will bear a legend to the following effect unless otherwise agreed to by the Republic:

THIS NOTE HAS NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 AS AMENDED (THE “**SECURITIES ACT**”). THE HOLDER HEREOF, BY PURCHASING THIS NOTE, AGREES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D’IVOIRE (THE “**REPUBLIC**”) THAT THIS NOTE MAY BE OFFERED, RESOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED ONLY (A) BY AN INITIAL INVESTOR (AS DEFINED BELOW)(1) TO THE REPUBLIC, (2) SO LONG AS THIS NOTE IS ELIGIBLE FOR RESALE PURSUANT TO RULE 144A UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT (“**RULE 144A**”), TO A PERSON WHOM THE SELLER REASONABLY BELIEVES IS A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER (AS DEFINED IN RULE 144A) IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 144A, (3) IN AN OFFSHORE TRANSACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 903 OR 904 OF REGULATION S UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OR (4) PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 144 UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT (WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE)

(RESALES DESCRIBED IN SUBCLAUSES(1) THROUGH (4) OF THIS CLAUSE (A), “**SAFE HARBOR RESALES**”), OR (B) BY A SUBSEQUENT INVESTOR, IN A SAFE HARBOR RESALE OR PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER AVAILABLE EXEMPTION FROM THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT (*PROVIDED THAT*, AS A CONDITION TO THE REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER OF ANY NOTES OTHERWISE THAN IN A SAFE HARBOR RESALE, THE REPUBLIC OR THE TRANSFER AGENT MAY REQUIRE DELIVERY OF ANY DOCUMENTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AN OPINION OF COUNSEL) THAT IT, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, MAY DEEM NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO EVIDENCE COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH EXEMPTION), AND IN EACH OF SUCH CASES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ANY OTHER JURISDICTION, AS PROVIDED IN THE AGENCY AGREEMENT. THE HOLDER HEREOF, BY PURCHASING THIS NOTE, REPRESENTS AND AGREES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE REPUBLIC THAT IT WILL NOTIFY ANY PURCHASER OF THIS NOTE FROM IT OF THE RESALE RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE;

FOR ALL PURPOSES OF THIS NOTE, THE TERM “**INITIAL INVESTOR**” MEANS ANY PERSON WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH THE INITIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THIS NOTE, ACQUIRES SUCH NOTE FROM THE REPUBLIC OR ANY JOINT LEAD MANAGER (AS SUCH TERM IS DEFINED IN THE AGENCY AGREEMENT) PARTICIPATING IN SUCH DISTRIBUTION OR ANY AFFILIATE OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING;

7. it acknowledges that, prior to any transfer of New Notes or of beneficial interests in a Global Note Certificate, the holder of New Notes or the holder of beneficial interests in a Global Note Certificate, as the case may be, may be required to provide certifications and other documentation relating to the manner of such transfer and submit such certifications and other documentation as provided in the Agency Agreement; and
8. it acknowledges that the Republic and the Joint Lead Managers and others will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing acknowledgments, representations and agreements and agrees that, if any of such acknowledgments, representations and agreements deemed to have been made by virtue of its purchase of New Notes are no longer accurate, it shall promptly notify the Republic, and if it is acquiring any New Notes as a fiduciary or agent for one or more accounts, it represents that it has sole investment discretion with respect to each such account and that it has full power to make the foregoing acknowledgments, representations and agreements on behalf of each such account.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Authorization

The Republic has obtained all necessary consents, approvals and authorizations in Côte d’Ivoire in connection with the issue and performance of the New Notes. The issue of the New Notes was authorized pursuant to (i) the Finance Law No. 2020-972 dated 23 December 2020 (as published in the Official Journal on 28 December 2020), (ii) the Presidential Decree No. 2020-601 dated 3 August 2020 appointing the Minister of Budget and State Portfolio, (iii) the Presidential Decree No. 2019-726 dated 4 September 2019 (as amended by Presidential Decrees No. 2020-456 dated 13 May 2020 and No. 2020-601 dated 3 August 2020) on the appointment of the Members of the Government of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, appointing amongst other things, (a) the Minister of Economy and Finance, and (b) the Minister of Budget and State Portfolio and (iv) the Presidential Decree No. 2019-755 dated 18 September 2019 on the attribution of the Members of the Government of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, delegating certain powers, notably, to the Minister of Budget and State Portfolio and the Minister of Economy and Finance.

Listing and Admission to Trading

Application has been made to Euronext Dublin for the New Notes to be admitted to its Official List and trading on the Regulated Market; however, no assurance can be given that such admission will be maintained. The Regulated Market is a regulated market for the purposes of MiFID II. It is expected that admission of the New Notes to the Official List and to trading on the Regulated Market will be granted on or about 15 February 2021, subject only to the issue of the Notes. The expenses in connection with admission to trading of the Notes are expected to amount to €4,800.

Arthur Cox Listing Services Limited is acting solely in its capacity as listing agent for the Issuer in relation to the New Notes and is not itself seeking admission of the New Notes to the Official List of Euronext Dublin for the purposes of the EU Prospectus Regulation.

Clearing Systems

The New Notes have been accepted for clearance through the facilities of Euroclear (1 Blvd du Roi Albert II Brussels, 1210, Belgium) and Clearstream (42 Avenue JF Kennedy, Luxembourg, 1855 Luxembourg). The relevant trading information is set out below:

New Notes sold pursuant to Regulation S (which is the same as for the Original Notes):	Common Code.....	226487182
	ISIN	XS2264871828
New Notes sold pursuant to Rule 144A (which is the same as for the Original Notes):	Common Code.....	226496866
	ISIN	XS2264968665

No significant change

Since 31 December 2019, there has been no significant change in the Issuer’s gross public debt, foreign trade and balance of payments, foreign exchange reserves, tax and budgetary systems figures, financial position and resources and income and expenditure, except as disclosed in this Prospectus in relation to estimated figures for 2020 and beyond. See “ – *The Economy*”; “ – *Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments*”; “ – *Public Finance*”; “ – *Public Debt*”; and “ – *Monetary System*”. Such figures are subject to some degree of uncertainty in light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and may be further adjusted, amended or revised by the Government, based on a number of evolving factors, which are uncertain and rapidly changing and cannot be predicted. The extent of such impact is still being assessed by the Government.

Litigation

The Republic is not presently involved, nor has it in a period covering at least the previous 12 months been involved in any governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened of

which the Republic is aware) which may have or have had in the recent past a significant effect on the financial position of the Republic.

Documents

For the period of 12 months following the date of this Prospectus, copies of the budget of the Republic for the last two years (*i.e.* 2020 and 2021) will be available for inspection during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) at the specified office of the Paying Agent for the time being in London and on the website of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Issuer at www.finances.gouv.ci:

In addition, copies of this Prospectus are available on Euronext's website at www.ise.ie.

Joint Lead Managers transacting with the Republic

Certain of the Joint Lead Managers and their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in investment banking and/or commercial banking transactions with, and may perform services to, the Republic and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Yield

On the basis of the issue price of 104.538% of their principal amount, the yield on the Notes is 4.300% on an annual basis.

Interested Persons

No person involved in the offering of the New Notes has any interest in such offering which is material to such offering.

Contact

The Issuer's contact numbers are +225 20 25 09 80 and +225 20 20 08 70.

Legal Entity Identifier

The Legal Entity Identifier (“LEI”) of the Issuer is 254900ICW11T82O6H590.

ISSUER

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
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United Kingdom

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25 Canada Square
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