



RÉPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Cooperation, African Integration
and Togolese Abroad



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NEW TOGO-SAHEL STRATEGY 2026–2028



Context

The current international and regional environment is marked by profound geopolitical reconfigurations, the rise of spheres of influence, and the declining impact and effectiveness of traditional cooperation frameworks. In West Africa, these dynamics are accompanied by the persistence of terrorism in the Sahel, its expansion to the Gulf of Guinea states, and major institutional changes, notably the creation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

The context and all these different factors combined justified the development of the New Togo-Sahel strategy (2026-2028) under the leadership of the President of the Council, **H.E. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE**, in order to adapt Togo's commitment to current security and geopolitical realities, in line with new regional dynamics, and to contribute proactively to regional stability. This New Strategy, which will structure Togo's actions in the Sahel over the next three (3) years, replaces the previous strategy launched in September 2021, which served as the framework for engagement in the Sahel over the last four (4) years.

The New Strategy is part of a multidimensional strategic autonomy based on the defense of national, sub-regional, and continental interests and understood as the Togolese state's ability to sovereignly define its priorities, make independent decisions, and act freely and self-determinedly on the regional and international stage.

Vision and strategic ambition

The vision of Togo's New Strategy for the Sahel is to make Togo a bridge, a stabilizing actor of dialogue, and integration between the Sahel, the Gulf of Guinea States and the international community, capable of defending its strategic interests while actively contributing to peace, security, and sub-regional and regional development.

Guiding principles

The Strategy is implemented using an integrated and pragmatic approach, prioritizing prevention, respect for sovereignty, territorial anchoring, and diversified partnerships in order to promote sustainable, coherent, and appropriate responses to Sahelian, sub-regional, and regional dynamics.

Objectives of the New Strategy

The objective of the New Strategy is to contribute sustainably to regional stability and security, while consolidating sub-regional and regional cooperation and integration.

To this end, the Strategy aims to strengthen political dialogue between Togo and the AES, consolidate cooperation in regional and international diplomacy, security and the counterterrorism, as well as strengthen peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness, economic integration and trade.

Five main pillars of the new strategy

The New Strategy is structured around the following five complementary strategic pillars:

Pillar 1: Togo-AES political dialogue

The establishment of regular and structured political dialogue between Togo and the AES states is a central lever of the Strategy. It aims to strengthen mutual trust, improve strategic

coordination, and promote concerted positions on regional issues of common interest.

Pillar 2: Regional and international diplomacy and cooperation

Diplomatic action is mobilized as an instrument for regional and international cooperation. It seeks to promote dialogue, multilateralism, and inclusive partnerships in order to strengthen the coherence of regional initiatives and provide lasting support for stability in the Sahel.

Pillar 3: Counterterrorism and sub-regional defense and security policy

In response to persistent and spreading security threats, this pillar favors a preventive and coordinated approach. It emphasizes intelligence sharing, border security, and operational capacity building, with a view to cooperation and progressive strategic autonomy.

Pillar 4: Good neighborliness and peaceful coexistence

Strengthening good neighborly relations, solidarity, and peaceful coexistence with ESA countries is at the heart of this pillar. It is based on proximity diplomacy, cross-border cooperation, and the promotion of social cohesion in order to prevent tensions and consolidate regional stability.

Pillar 5: Sub-regional economic cooperation and integration

The promotion of enhanced economic integration between Togo and the Sahel region is seen as a key factor for lasting stability. Action focuses on opening up the region, facilitating trade, and developing logistics and trade corridors, thereby contributing to economic autonomy and regional resilience.