



The Canadian Council on Africa is proud to announce the organization of a mission in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from February 13th – 17th, 2012. Organized in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in Abidjan, this mission is a unique occasion to discover numerous business opportunities in a country that is rapidly rebuilding itself in many sectors, including:

**Infrastructure (buildings, public works, energy, environment, sanitation)
Education and technical and professional formation**

This mission is a unique occasion to shine and promote your enterprise or institution while positively contributing to the country’s economic recovery. During this mission, you will get the chance to better understand the business culture of this country and to meet potential business partners. This mission is for everyone who has an interest in contributing to the economic recovery of Ivory Coast: Quebecois and Canadian companies, business development reps, consultants, investors and vocational or specialized educators.

Thanks to the individual meetings and to the many activities planned during this economic mission in Ivory Coast, you will have the chance to participate to different seminars, meet with officials and exchange with the main decision makers and economic operators.

Why participate to the mission:

- ✓ Discover the priorities and projects of the international institutions active in Ivory Coast in order to help the country to finally turn the page
- ✓ To benefit from a large number of individual meetings in short amount of time
- ✓ Meet key policy makers
- ✓ Establish institutional relations
- ✓ Because it is important to be where the decisions are being made and it is important to be known to the local decision makers



All this plus benefiting from outstanding professional support from the CCAfrica Team

Ivory Coast Economy

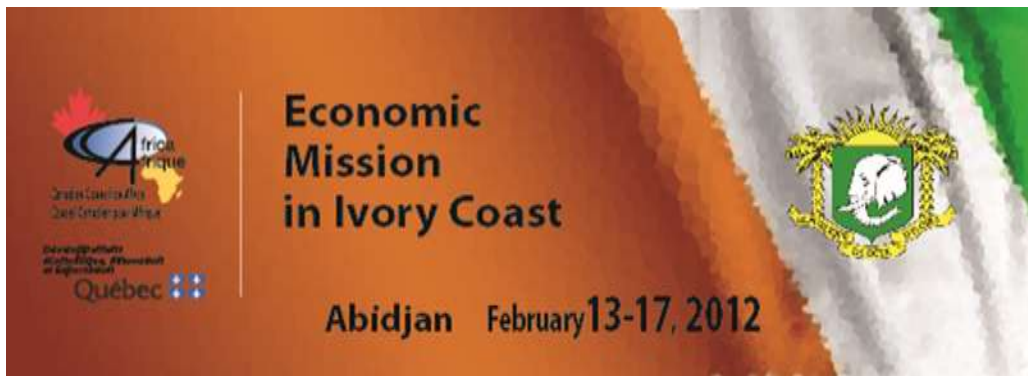
Ivory Coast is emerging from a socio-political crisis that lasted ten years and slowed its economic growth. This growth has been particularly hampered by a low investment and an unfavorable business climate.

After the end of the post-election crisis, the new government has set up a quick economic recovery program and began the socio-political normalization's process. The country's reunification progresses were possible thanks to the formation of new joint security forces and the redeployment of public administration in the areas of the former center-north-west. Security has improved dramatically, but work still needs to be done. Legislative elections are scheduled for mid-December 2011 and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission was set up to rebuild and strengthen social cohesion. The economy seems to be recovering faster than expected, inflation has fallen from its peak from April to 4½ percent in August, and the budgetary results are much better than expected.

On a short to medium timeframe, the authorities have prioritized to achieve a sustained high growth, reduce poverty, create jobs (especially for the youth) and to ensure fiscal and external sustainability. These objectives are consistent with the 2009-13 poverty reduction strategy that the government intends to update after extensive consultations. They form the basis of the program supported by a new three-year FEC agreement that will help the country move closer to the completion point under the HIPC Initiative.

Donors welcomed the rapid progress that the Ivory Coast has made in terms of economic recovery, public administration's rehabilitation and improve security after the post-election crisis. However, they recognize that there are still major economic and political challenges to overcome. They encouraged the authorities to continue to work towards national reconciliation, reform the security sector and to conduct sound economic policies in order to consolidate peace, to fully restore public order and lay the foundation for an economic growth and national solidarity. They place a high priority to the expansion and strengthening of the financial industry in support of private sector development. They stress the need to improve banking supervision and to restore the ability of the banking sector to play its role of intermediation of savings and provide credit to small and medium enterprises.

Ivory Coast represents more than a third of the WAEMU's GDP and nearly two thirds of the area's exports abroad. Ivory Coast has strong economic assets. It has strong infrastructure inherited from two successful decades called the "Ivorian miracle" (1960-1980): the second biggest port of sub-Saharan Africa, and a major road network. In the primary sector, the country is the first producer of cocoa in the world with nearly 40% market share. It appears at the forefront for several other African agricultural products for exportation (rubber, cashew, cotton, coffee, oil palm, banana, pineapple, and cola). In recent years, the country has been operating gas fields and oil allowing it to export electricity and crude oil as refined products.



Preliminary Program

Sunday February 12th

Arrival in Abidjan
 Settlement at the Hotel
 18h00 Briefing with Mrs. **Laetitia Gadegbeku** Commercial Delegate at the Canadian Embassy in Abidjan

Monday February 13th

09h00 Seminar « How to make business in Ivory Coast »
 13h00 Lunch (to be confirmed)
 15h00 Individual meetings

Tuesday February 14th

09h00 Individual meetings
 12h00 Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (to be confirmed)
 14h00 Individual meetings
 19h00 Reception at the official house of Canada

Wednesday February 15th

Day reserved to individual meetings and project site visits

Thursday February 16th

Day reserved to individual meetings and project site visits
 17h00 Debriefing session

Friday February 17th

Day reserved to individual meetings and project site visits

OR

Sightseeing
 Departure to Canada