

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Côte d'Ivoire Monthly Briefing June 2022

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#### Côte d'Ivoire Summary 17 June 2022

*Côte d'Ivoire hosts its first advisory group meeting on the Plan national de développement (PND) (national development plan) 2021-2025, raising 15,706 billion FCFA (\$24 billion) from various regional and international donors. Economy minister Adama Coulibaly reveals that the government has lost over \$650m in revenue since implementing subsidies and other measures to preserve the purchasing power of the population and control inflation. Ruling Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP) executive secretary and Agboville commune deputy Adama Bictogo is elected president of the Assemblée Nationale (national assembly). Charles Blé Goudé, former 'right-hand man' of former president Laurent Gbagbo (2000-2011), receives his passport in The Netherlands ahead of his return to Côte d'Ivoire after a decade of living in exile.*

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#### Côte d'Ivoire garners support for development plan

Côte d'Ivoire hosted its first advisory group meeting on 15 June on the **Plan national de développement (PND)** (national development plan) **2021-2025**, raising 15,706 billion FCFA (\$24 billion) from various regional and international donors. The meeting was organised in partnership with the **World Bank** and was attended by the **European Union (EU)**, **West African Development Bank**, **African Development Bank**, **Islamic Development Bank**, **United Nations (UN)** and private sector representatives.<sup>1</sup> Vice-president **Tiémoko Meyliet Koné** and prime minister **Patrick Achi** led the discussions.<sup>2</sup>

The PND aims to support development in six areas, namely structural and social transformation, development of human capital, promotion of gender equality, social protection, sustainability and strengthening governance.<sup>3</sup> The plan forms part of a longer-term strategy to have Côte d'Ivoire ranked as an upper-middle income country by 2030.<sup>4</sup>

The following donors committed funding during the consultations:

- African Development Bank – 2.6 billion FCFA (\$4.1m)
- Islamic Development Bank – 1.32 billion FCFA (\$2m)
- West African Development Bank – 652 billion FCFA (\$1 billion)
- World Bank – 5.4 billion FCFA (\$8.6m)
- United Nations – 425 billion FCFA<sup>5</sup> (\$683m)

The EU and its member states also committed more than \$6 billion to the PND under the umbrella of "Team Europe".<sup>6</sup> The delegation of EU ambassadors to Côte d'Ivoire in attendance on behalf of the EU highlighted the reforms and progress the country made between 2016 and 2020, maintaining this as a contributing factor to their support of the PND.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Abidjan.net, 16 Jun 2022

<sup>2</sup> 7info.ci, 15 Jun 2022

<sup>3</sup> Fratmat.info, 16 Jun 2022

<sup>4</sup> Abidjan.net, 16 Jun 2022

<sup>5</sup> Agence Ivoirienne de Presse, 16 Jun 2022

<sup>6</sup> [www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu), 15 Jun 2022

<sup>7</sup> Fratmat.info, 16 Jun 2022

The government's overall funding goal for the PND is 59 billion FCFA (\$94m), of which the private sector is anticipated to pledge three quarters.<sup>8</sup>

During the advisory group meeting, an announcement was made regarding the construction of a new 200MW thermal power plant, to be built by 2025, a part of the development plan.<sup>9</sup> Côte d'Ivoire currently has a capacity of 2,229MW and hopes to increase this to 4,000MW by 2030, positioning itself as one of the greatest electrical powers in the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** region.

### Government continues to subsidise essential products

Economy minister **Adama Coulibaly** revealed in an interview with **French** media house **RFI** on 24 May that the government has lost over \$650m in revenue since implementing subsidies and other measures to preserve the purchasing power of the population and control inflation.<sup>10</sup> These measures include suspending custom duties payable on wheat imports, and price caps on products including sugar, milk, rice, beef and pasta.

The government is continuing to subsidise fuel to maintain prices, costing the government 80 billion FCFA (\$128m) in May and bringing the total cost of the subsidy between January and May to 200 billion FCFA (\$321m). Without the subsidy, it is estimated that fuel would cost 830 FCFA (\$1.33) per litre, versus the current price of 735 FCFA (\$1.18).<sup>11</sup>

Fuel is not the only product the government is subsidising. On 30 May, the finance ministry announced it would begin paying subsidies to wheat millers to offset the increased price of wheat and thus prevent the price of bread from rising.<sup>12</sup> The government released 6.4 billion FCFA (\$10m) as a first payment to the sector on 27 May.<sup>13</sup> The increasing prices of these products are a direct consequence of the ongoing **Ukraine–Russia** conflict.

However, the government and its ECOWAS neighbours have realised that subsidies will not be enough to ward off the threat of a food crisis in the region, with approximately 23% of the ECOWAS bloc's population facing food pressure.<sup>14</sup> During the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **High-Level Committee on Food and Nutritional Security** of ministers in charge of agriculture and livestock across ECOWAS, it was announced that the region would require approximately 549 billion FCFA (\$882m) in funding to prevent this crisis.

### National Assembly election takes place

**Adama Bictogo**, executive secretary for the ruling party, **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)**, and deputy of **Agboville** commune, has been elected president of the **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly). The election follows the death of former national assembly president **Amadou Soumahoro** in **Abidjan** on 7 May (see *ARC Briefing Côte d'Ivoire May 2022*). Bictogo won 237 votes out of a possible 248 votes on 7 June.<sup>15</sup>

After submitting his candidacy on 31 May, Bictogo was faced with the task of garnering support from other political parties, including **Parti des Peuples Africains de Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI)**, the political party of former president **Laurent Gbagbo** (2000-2011).<sup>16</sup> After a visit by Bictogo to PPA-CI headquarters in **Cocody**, it was agreed that the party would not submit a candidate against him. PPA-CI vice president **Hubert Oulaye** published a press release stating that a motivating factor behind this is the RHDP being the majority in the national assembly, therefore, a candidate from the opposition

<sup>8</sup> 7info.ci, 15 Jun 2022

<sup>9</sup> Koaci.com, 15 Jun 2022

<sup>10</sup> Agence Ecofin, 25 May 2022

<sup>11</sup> Abidjan.net, 1 Jun 2022

<sup>12</sup> Abidjan.net, 30 May 2022

<sup>13</sup> Koaci.com, 30 May 2022

<sup>14</sup> Abidjan.net, 13 Jun 2022

<sup>15</sup> Abidjan.net, 7 Jun 2022

<sup>16</sup> Abidjan.net, 3 Jun 2022

would not necessarily stand a chance to be elected.<sup>17</sup> Oulaye also acknowledged the way Bictogo had approached the election, appreciating his visit to present his candidacy and his plans if elected to the PPCA-CI. The agreement between the ruling and opposition parties appears to be a continuation of the process of reconciliation that President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) is championing (*see ARC Briefing Côte d'Ivoire Dec 2021*).

Bictogo ran against **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** deputy **Jean-Michel Amankou**. However, Amankou ran without the support of his political party, who had decided to grant its vote to Bictogo.

### Return of Charles Blé Goudé

**Charles Blé Goudé**, former 'right-hand man' of former president Laurent Gbagbo, received his Ivorian passport on 30 May in **The Netherlands** ahead of his return to Côte d'Ivoire after a decade of living in exile. The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** acquitted both Goudé and Gbagbo on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in March 2021 (*see ARC Briefing Côte d'Ivoire Apr 2021*). In an interview with **France24**, Goudé said he is in talks with the presidency to organise his return. Goudé was handed a jail sentence of 20 years by the Ivorian justice system; however, it is unclear if he will serve this upon his return, although he is of the opinion he will not.<sup>18</sup> Any other conditions for Goudé's return have not been publicised.

Goudé also confirmed in the interview that his former mentor, Gbagbo, has not invited him to join his new political party, the PPC-CI, but Goudé will instead return to his political party, the **Congrès panafricain pour la justice et l'égalité des peuples (Cojep)**, maintaining his ambition to one day be president.<sup>19</sup> However, Goudé did not confirm if he would run in the 2025 elections. Goudé has expressed his desire to contribute to the process of national reconciliation currently underway in Côte d'Ivoire and has committed to banishing hate speech and violent actions, but it remains unclear what the Ivorian population thinks of his return.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> 7info.ci, 6 Jun 2022

<sup>18</sup> France24, 10 Jun 2022

<sup>19</sup> France24, 10 Jun 2022

<sup>20</sup> Jeune Afrique, 31 May 2022

## Planner

2023 **(Côte d'Ivoire)** Local elections

2025 **(Côte d'Ivoire)** Presidential elections

## Chronology

16 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net* The **Norwegian Investment Fund (Norfund)** announces it will officially launch activities in Côte d'Ivoire;

15 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. A spokesperson for the armed forces denies rumours circulating on social media of a terror attack on the border with **Ghana**;

14 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. The Ivorian and **United States** chambers of commerce have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen their cooperation;

13 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **European Union** and **Agence française de développement** (French development agency) approve financing of \$7.3m to improve access to electricity;

13 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. President **Alassane Ouattara** opens the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Africa CEO Forum**, attended by several heads of government and business owners from across **Africa**;

12 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat.info*. Vice-president **Tiémoko Meyliet Koné** and the **Saudi Arabia** ambassador, **Abdullah Bin Hamad Alsobaiee**, meet to discuss expanding cooperation;

10 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *All Africa*. **United States (US)** President **Joseph Biden** selects **Jessica Davis Ba**, a career diplomat with extensive Africa experience, as the US ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire;

9 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *7info.ci*. Mobile money distributors implement a new fee of 100 FCFA (\$0.16) to deposit and withdraw money from approved mobile money points;

8 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Mining.com*. **Canada**-headquartered **Montage Gold** enters into agreement with mining giants **Barrick Gold** and **Endeavour Mining** to acquire a 100% interest in the **Mankono-Sissédougou** joint venture project in **Côte d'Ivoire**;

7 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. **Adama Bictogo** is elected president of the **National Assembly**, winning the election by 97.53%;

7 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat.info*. **International Finance Corporation**, part of the **World Bank**, commits 10 billion FCFA (\$16m) to semi-public cotton company, **Compagnie ivoirienne pour le développement des textiles (CIDT)**, to create 150 direct jobs and 8,050 indirect jobs;

7 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **European Union (EU)** and the government agree on the principles for the signing on a **Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)** on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, which will provide a legal framework to prove that timber imported to the EU was produced legally and in a traceable manner;

4 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. **Côte d'Ivoire** president **Alassane Ouattara** nominates **ECOWAS Commission** president **Jean-Claude Brou** to be governor of the regional central bank, **Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO)**;

3 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *7info.ci*. **World Bank** releases figures indicating that the services sector, digital services sector and industrial sector were the biggest contributors to Côte d'Ivoire's economy in 2021;

2 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. **General Directorate of Hydrocarbons** raises the petrol price from 695 FCFA (\$1.13) per litre to 735 FCFA (\$1.20);

1 Jun 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. The **West Africa European Union Business Forum** will be hosted in Abidjan from 16-17 June with 150 companies from the **European Union** and **ECOWAS** anticipated to be in attendance;

30 May 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Finance ministry has released a 6.4 billion FCFA (\$10m) subsidy to wheat millers, aimed at helping maintain the price of flour and bread against the background of the **Russia-Ukraine** conflict;

30 May 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Japan**, through the **Japanese International Cooperation Agency**, has provided funding of 185 billion FCFA (\$302m) for energy and health projects;

26 May 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *MyJoyOnline.com*. **Air Côte d'Ivoire** launches a new route to **Johannesburg, South Africa** after a surge in trade between the two countries;

23 May 2022 **Geneva (Switzerland)** *Abidjan.net*. **Côte d'Ivoire's** prime minister, **Patrick Achi**, will represent his country at the **World Economic Forum**;

18 May 2022 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Inflation reaches its lowest in 10 months in April 2022, sitting at 4% year-on-year;

18 May 2022 **Sikensi (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Defence and security forces seize a large quantity of weapons including one rocket launcher, one mortar, grenades and 3,000 rounds of ammunition and arrest several suspects in Sikensi, 80km from **Abidjan**;

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