



**POWER OF DIALOGUE**

**PROMOTING THE VOICES OF**

**YOUTH**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

*Construire des partenariats collaboratifs pour la promotion de communautés pacifiques et sécurisées en Afrique*

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# About GORÉE INSTITUTE

## Creation

The Gorée Institute was created on 25 June 1992, during a stately ceremony presided over by His Excellency, Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, supported by Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Thus, a group of Africans dedicated to the ideals of progress, justice and freedom, with a strong belief in cooperation and self-reliance, initiated the creation of the Gorée Institute.

The proposal for the Institute, first made by President Abdou Diouf, came during the famous Dakar Meeting for Democracy in South Africa, organized on Gorée Island in 1987 by then exiled leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) and a group of progressive and liberal Afrikaners. This meeting, funded by the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation and the Soros Foundation, benefited from the presence and support of Africans from other parts of the continent and contributed greatly to the establishment of democracy in South Africa in 1994: an African solution to an African problem.

The Goree Institute is an independent, pan-African Public Interest Organization with diplomatic status, which guarantees its integrity. Neither its independence nor its integrity is negotiable: the pan-African Board of Directors is the repository of the organization's authority and decision-making power.

## Vision

The Goree Institute works towards a peaceful, just and prosperous Africa, more present on the international scene, with engaged societies, strong institutions and open and self-sufficient citizens, with democratic and efficient states, prosperous

and transparent businesses and an independent and engaged civil society.

## Mission

Our mission is to promote the emergence of just, peaceful and self-sufficient societies in Africa. We do this by striving to expand the range of paradigms, tools, skills and knowledge that can promote the emergence of peaceful and self-sufficient societies.

## Valeurs

The dedication of all staff to the Institute and its mission is our greatest asset. Innovation, creativity, critical thinking and participation in action networks are our core values, skills and activities.

## Strategic objectives

Through research, facilitation and intervention, the Institute aims to:

- Strengthen political dialogue and the roots for peace;
- Prevent conflicts and support people and institutions working on the national, sub-regional and regional level to develop effective solutions to social and political problems linked to the consolidation of peace;
- Improve political governance and electoral processes; and
- Highlight the value of human, artistic and economic creativity on the continent.

### Our approach

Our programmes, our activities and our institutional identity are inspired by three indispensable and interdependent elements: research, capacity building, and interventions. Research allows us to promote intellectual and artistic creation, as well as encouraging a visionary and even preventive approach to contemporary challenges; capacity-building based on knowledge generated to thus improve the skills and expertise of our citizens, a necessary precondition for future engagement; and interventions that allow us to act upon the results of the phases of reflection and research, which facilitate effective advocacy. The Gorée Institute does not take an activist stance. We are a facilitating and catalytic organization supporting the fundamental principle of collaborative action.

### Our path

Since its creation, training at the Gorée Institute has benefitted actors in all countries of West Africa and other African countries such as the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, the Republic of Congo and South Africa.

In 2022, our capacity-building programmes had an impact on more than 150 actors from 91 organizations throughout the Sahel in the framework of the Power of Dialogue (PoD) programme.



***Gorée Institute training has benefited civil society actors and others from all of West Africa and numerous other countries.***

# “ THE VOICE OF YOUTH

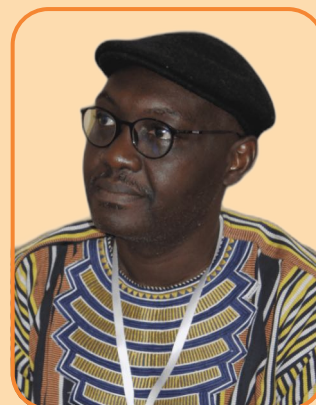


*“As a member of a political party and a manager of a youth structure within the party, the training allowed me to further strengthen my abilities.”*

**Fatou Binetou Mbodj, Jurist and Local elected official, Dakar Mayor’s Office, Senegal**

*“Gorée Institute training allowed me to better understand the dynamics of leadership and electoral violence in the other countries of the Sahel with which we share the same realities.”*

**Ouedraogo Souleymane, Artist musician, Member, Balai Citoyen, Burkina Faso**



*“In this training, I learned that elections are not events but processes and, consequently, civil society must play the role of citizen watch and electoral observation so that the electoral laws are respected.”*

**Samerou Diallo, Jurist, Film Director, Coordinator, Démocratie 101, Mali**





*“The Gorée Institute training allowed us to learn about the science of leadership and the techniques of prevention and resolution of electoral conflict. The training really opened us up to the different values and qualities of a leader.”*

**Traoré Ibrahim, Jurist, UPC member, Burkina Faso**

*“I can say that I am no longer the same since this training. I gave it a lot of thought and I realized just how important I am for my nation and that my dynamism in my association can change things.”*

**Adjaratou Tall, Journalist, Producer, AJEA member, Burkina Faso**



*“The Gorée Institute training brought me a lot because I learned about new concepts that awoke the leader sleeping in me.”*

**Nemata Brigitte Zoungrana, Accountant, National Treasurer, CNJ-BF, Burkina Faso**

# A word from the Director



In 2022, the Gorée Institute, Center for Democracy, Development and Culture in Africa, continued to pursue its objective of strengthening civil society in West Africa and the Sahel in particular, to contribute to the sustainable development of the region. The year 2022 had its challenges. Indeed, the Institute ran its programmes in the Sahel in a context marked by recurrent coups d'états in Burkina Faso and Mali, ECOWAS sanctions against Mali and the restriction of the civic space in Senegal.

The year 2022 not only saw a regression of the rule of law and democracy with a trend towards autocratic regimes, a restriction of civic space with a reduction of fundamental rights and liberties but also a simultaneous crisis in regulatory and monitoring institutions challenged with ensuring an impartial and independent judiciary.

Women and youth continue to express their basic desire to make their voices heard in order to participate in the formulation and implementation of public policies to strengthen governance processes. However, the indoctrinated patriarchal culture and the inherently patrimonial political system have permitted the emergence of only a few formal platforms adapted to their needs, interests

and expectations. As a result, it has become a privilege instead of a right for women and youth to make their voices heard in the political landscape. In other words, women and youth want to speak out about the democratic deficit or even be pioneers of change, but they are not listened to as they are perceived as lacking the required knowledge or intellectual capacity and are considered inexperienced in dealing with the critical issues of governance.

The challenges seen throughout 2022 reveal political, security, governance and migratory issues in West Africa and prove that there is still much to be done in the sharing of the values of democracy, transparency, peace and development, so dear to Gorée Institute. These difficulties also demonstrate the need to mobilize the democrats of the world and the epistemic community of Africa and elsewhere to use all their energy to spread these values for future generations and to prepare a West African sub-region much less vulnerable to the tensions seen in 2022.

Through the Power of Dialogue Programme, the Gorée Institute and its partners are working to put young people and women at the centre of our institutions to bring democracy to life on the continent, particularly in the Sahel

countries. Research and analysis, capacity building workshops and multi-stakeholder dialogues contribute to creating citizen synergies to influence policies and practices for more freedom and justice, for shared responsibilities and for the institutionalization of shared dynamics.

The Gorée Institute, faithful to its values, will strive to achieve the objectives set by its Board of Directors for a peaceful, democratic, free and transparent Africa in the governance of public authorities. These values, to which the Gorée Institute attaches great importance, are becoming a major issue in this part of the continent and should not leave anyone indifferent. These values need to be consolidated and popularized among the population as well as among political and civil society actors.

This report outlines our main activities in the year 2022, carried out in collaboration with West African civil society organizations, state actors, the research community, policymakers at national and regional levels. Our work has been supported by our technical and financial partners all throughout the year.

The success of the second year of the Power of Dialogue programme as well as the Charter Project Africa, Governance of Natural Resources, and Strengthening Global Civil Society Organizations programme, is a testament to the commitment, resilience and innovation of the Gorée Institute staff who continue to adapt to an increasingly challenging environment.

Finally, the Gorée Institute is proud to have as strategic partners as the Government of the Netherlands, the Ford

Foundation, the European Union, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and to be associated with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and the European Partnership for Democracy in the framework of a consortium. More than ever, we need to work to build collaborative partnerships for an Africa with democratic and effective states, an engaged and vibrant civil society, open and informed citizens, and a prosperous and transparent private sector.

Enjoy your reading!

**Doudou DIA**

Executive Director, Gorée Institute





# CAPACITY BUILDING

The Gorée Institute’s training and capacity-building programmes have been guided by the 2020–2025 organizational strategic plan, in which the institutional approach highlights capacity-building. The Institute had set a goal of strengthening the capacities of more than one hundred civil society organizations (CSOs) each year in West Africa.

In 2022, a total of 152 actors from 91 civil society organizations benefitted from the capacity-building efforts of Gorée Institute. The Institute has continued to improve its training programme specifically aimed at civil society and has improved its approach thanks to effective facilitation techniques based on sharing experiences among grantees.

Capacity building in 2022, just like in 2021, has essentially been conducted within the five-year programme, “The Power of Dialogue”, which is focused on capacity-building for women and aspiring youth leaders. This training enables them to effectively influence and participate in political processes that respect and promote democratic norms and values. Women and youth empowerment is thus a central theme of the programme.

Civic and political actors are at the heart of the programme as they have complementary roles to play. While civic actors legitimately advocate for the needs of the population, political actors must be responsive and accountable to the population. Because women- and youth-led associations are not always traditional and institutionalized, the Consortium makes a conscious choice to work with these emerging associations and to prepare them to assume their roles of leadership and influence.

The ultimate goal of the Power of Dialogue Consortium is to “**contribute to a peaceful democratic space and inclusive, responsive and representative political decision-making at all levels.**” The programme specifically focuses on youth and emerging women leaders as agents of change for inclusive political systems and peaceful political change. These leaders need concrete support to enter the political system and exercise their right to influence decision-making.

## Leadership and electoral conflict prevention in the Sahel

The theme of the first training workshop held in 2022 in the framework of the “Power of Dialogue” programme was “Leadership and electoral conflict prevention in the Sahel”. Targeting CSOs, election management bodies, women’s rights groups, youth associations and political party representatives, this training included representatives from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

The overall objective of this regional activity was first to build the capacity of participants in the collection, processing, analysis, and reporting of data. Secondly, the activity taught participants how to apply peacebuilding and conflict-prevention knowledge, skills, and techniques to mitigate election-related violence.

Indeed, elections are critical moments in the life of a nation, especially in Africa. They are no longer events of national interest alone but have become issues of regional and sub-regional interest. Electoral violence and its aftermath, such as refugee movements and humanitarian crises, know no borders.

The training enhanced the leadership skills of 30 of the principal stakeholders, namely youth and women, to mitigate and even prevent the escalation of electoral violence throughout the electoral cycle.

Recommendations from this workshop included:

- Establishing systems for monitoring electoral violence, including the identification of hotbeds and sources of violence;
- Establishing reliable and effective frameworks for the resolution of electoral disputes;
- Developing legal provisions for credible voter registration and political party/candidate registration processes;
- Mobilizing and involving non-state actors in



discussions on the electoral framework to encourage citizen participation;

- Ensuring that the mapping of electoral boundaries is carried out in a timely manner and that political actors accept these boundaries;
- Establishing bodies and mechanisms to resolve electoral disputes at an early stage of the process;
- Promoting understanding of the role of non-state actors in the organization of peaceful elections, and advocate for the integration of alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms; and
- Training experts on conflict resolution in election law.

## Women's political leadership and conflict prevention in the Sahel

This workshop was motivated by the desire to bring together members of women's civil society organizations from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal, thereby creating the opportunity for heart-to-heart discussions on the insistent issue of women's involvement in decision-making spheres and peacebuilding processes. The West African context is marked by the persistence, and even the rise of multi-faceted violence, and the continued precarious situation of women, as well as their

environments, and enriching their civic engagement with political actors were also discussed. Participants were provided with a response framework that considers the plethora of multi-faceted advocacy, conflict prevention and peacebuilding instruments, the various actors able to act, the timely synergies between actors and instruments, the importance of taking context into account in the implementation of conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, and the relationship between gender and violence in the Sahel. This sub-regional initiative of the Institute, held from 20 to 22 June 2022 with the support of national and international partners, contributed to improving the understanding



marginalization in political processes. Indeed, it should be noted that women and men do not have equal access to resources, power, and decision-making before, during, and after conflicts.

The main objective of this workshop was to strengthen women's leadership in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and political decision-making in targeted Sahelian countries. Strengthening their skills in the anticipation and response to conflicts and crises, working effectively in unstable political

and highlighting the importance of involving and empowering the role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes. In addition, recommendations were made for the full participation of women in all aspects of their communities' lives in the Sahel. Recommendations were addressed globally to the States, to CSOs and to the Gorée Institute by the women who took part in this workshop, who jointly made public a document called the "Gorée Appeal" on the situation relating to the sanctions on Mali.

## Role of civil society organizations in mediation, negotiation and dialogue to influence policy in the Sahel

For this third activity of the Power of Dialogue programme, the Goree Institute involved civil society organizations and members of the Institute's networks from the peacebuilding and conflict prevention field in the target countries of the Sahel. A regional capacity-building training workshop was held from 29 June to 1 July 2022.

The Goree Institute, which has been building professional working relationships with credible civil society organizations and political actors since its inception, has worked throughout the decades to provide opportunities for CSOs and political actors to build their capacity and amplify their voices for greater impact in the Power of Dialogue programme target countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Thus, with the knowledge, resources, and mediation and negotiation techniques that were acquired from this training, Gorée Institute network partners and CSO representatives can now play a leading role in positive political persuasion to influence peacebuilding policies and practices in the target countries of the Sahel. The core component of the training included prevention, mediation and negotiation techniques, as well as conflict analysis and early response development.

This three-day workshop on the role of CSOs in influencing policy in the Sahel strengthened the capacity of CSOs and other members of the Institute's networks from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal to acquire the knowledge, skills and techniques needed to influence policy and peacebuilding practices.



The 30 workshop participants learned about the factors that underlie conflict and the type of peacebuilding and conflict prevention measures needed to resolve conflict or politically related violence at the community, national and regional levels.

Training participants learned how to identify key indicators of conflict and peace, and to categorize the indicators according to the national context. Participants from the four Sahelian countries now have a response framework that will consider the range of peace and security instruments available for action. The target groups also acquired the necessary tools to conduct the assessments, conflict analyses and plans that are required in conflict situations.

# Stakeholder engagement in the consolidation of peace and stability in the Sahel through an inclusive and participatory approach

Discussing peacebuilding and stability in the Sahel must consider the involvement of stakeholders who anticipate and respond to conflicts and crises with effective tools. Indeed, as in most African countries affected by conflict, certain stakeholders, particularly women, religious leaders, traditional and customary authorities, and youth, are most often excluded from official peace negotiation processes, which thus remain the preserve of political actors and certain members of civil society. Other stakeholders, who have an active role to play in peacebuilding, are neither visible nor recognized.

Thus, the Goree Institute, as part of its “Power of Dialogue” programme that promotes a peaceful democratic space and an inclusive, responsive and representative political decision-making process, strengthened the capacities of stakeholders through a three-day regional workshop on the theme: “Stakeholder engagement in peacebuilding and stability in the Sahel through an inclusive and participatory approach”.

This capacity-building workshop, which took place from 13 to 15 July 2022, brought together members of civil society organizations, representatives of peace and security institutions, youth associations and representatives of political parties, as well as religious leaders from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal.



Stakeholders learned about the principles of inclusive dialogue, conflict analysis techniques, and traditional and modern conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms.

Given the inclusive and participatory approach adopted by the Institute, the training allowed stakeholders, including civil society members, political actors, religious and customary leaders, youth and women’s associations, state institutions, parliamentarians and international institutions to improve their capacity to develop an analytical framework to understand and anticipate potential sources of conflict in order to develop optimal mitigation responses using several peacebuilding and conflict prevention tools and techniques.

Stakeholders were also trained on how to obtain indicators of violent outbreaks, and how to make the most of different types of opportunities to prevent politically, economically, and socially motivated conflicts and violence.



## Mentorship programme for youth and women

The Mentorship programme responds to a concern raised by the Goree Institute's regional political economy analysis that youth and women's representation in peacebuilding and policymaking processes is limited, particularly in rural areas, due to a perceived lack of experience, knowledge, and self-confidence. In response, the Goree Institute's mentoring programme targeted young men

des Human Rights (CSDH) and Timbuktu Institute. This was done under the supervision of a mentor and the Institute's staff.

At the end of this introductory workshop of the first phase of the Mentoring Programme, the following recommendations were made to encourage the full and effective participation of youth and women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. They are primarily addressed to mentees from the mentors and resource persons visited:

- Advocate for the ratification of the African Charter on Democracy by the Senegalese



and women who may not have had much experience, to introduce to them preventive action plans and interest-based advocacy. The first phase of the Mentoring Programme, which builds the capacity of young leaders of both genders to play an active role in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and policymaking at the national and regional levels, consisted of a five-day residential training programme on the island of Gorée in Dakar (18-22 July) and a variety of field visits to key state and non-state institutions such as the Centre des Hautes Etudes de Défense et de Sécurité (CHEDS), the Comité Sénégalais

Human Rights Committee;

- Advocate for the improvement and/or strengthening of the legal framework for promoting inclusion in the Sahel;
- Advocate for a security agenda in elections;
- Demonstrate more commitment, spirit and initiative and innovation in security initiatives;
- Revisit, rationalize, revalue, document and promote endogenous conflict resolution mechanisms in Africa with the involvement of women;

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- Build networks to amplify actions and improve impact; and
- Boost advocacy and social watch in favor of human rights, justice, the fight against discrimination and inter-community dialogue.

Act 2 of the programme to promote youth and women's leadership in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and policymaking in the Sahel was held on 24 October 2022 at the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix, Alioune Blondin Bèyede in Bamako, Mali. This second phase was a synthesis workshop that allowed mentees to discuss the progress made in their methods of spreading knowledge, competencies and experiences acquired in the framework of this mentoring programme.

This was seen as the concluding event of this programme and thus evaluated the ways in which the programme shaped the future aspirations of the young mentees and also determined if the programme, as it was conceived, corresponded to the reality and the objectives that the programme was meant to reach. The Bamako phase provided the mentees with a space to showcase their knowledge and skills acquired throughout the process. Mentees all took part in presenting what they had learned thus far in the programme including their knowledge, skills, advocacy experiences and change projects. This was followed by country group work



sessions and mentoring and presentations in the plenary session and, above all, critical reflections on the challenges and objectives set out in the mentoring programme and the formulation of recommendations for future collaboration. After the closure of the programme that had unfolded over four (4) months, the Gorée Institute and its mentees planned the creation of a network of the most dynamic youth in the Sahel region.



# DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY



For several decades, the African continent has had incessant crises due to cyclical and/or structural elements, exogenous shocks or endogenous events. Elements or shocks have been caused by several factors. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the redefinition of the contours of a New World Order contributed to the appearance of new forms of instability. Conflicts are no longer inter-state but intra-state. The emergence of new political dynamics, helped by the wave of democratization, allowed for the intrusion of new actors in the public space, drawing their legitimacy from several spaces and through several legally or legitimately established channels. The media, civil society, citizens' movements, etc., have sounded the death knell for solitary, unitary or autocratic management. The implementation of public policies is presided over upstream by numerous negotiations and arbitrations. We can say that a form of governance has been developing. Depending on the willingness of the actors to negotiate, and on the orientations of these negotiations, different trends in governance have emerged in Africa. From an empirical point of view, in everyday behavior, through the actions of both sides, it is important to note the convergence of actions emanating from both the “top” and the “bottom” that are causing an acute crisis of governance in Africa. Corruption, human rights violations, a biased power devolution, mismanagement of natural and environmental resources and crises of authority are some of the challenges Africa must face.

Traditional public strategies for dealing with terrorism have shown their limits. Strictly security-based options have not, to date, produced satisfactory results, at least they have not succeeded in curbing the phenomenon of violent extremism, which is growing in the West African subregion. In some cases, military solutions have been counterproductive, with failed security operations and their attendant blunders leading to further frustration and radicalization.

The Gorée Institute: Center for Democracy, Development and Culture in Africa, since its inception, has played a facilitating role and served as a forum for the expression of ideas. The annual dialogue sessions such as the Symposium and the Youth forum are a continuation of all the initiatives taken in mediation and facilitation in several conflicts in Africa. In a more open and diverse framework, to foresee solutions it is necessary to initiate political dialogue, it is a place to anticipate concepts and paradigms, and possible conflicts. Moreover, publications have accompanied these forums to document these annual meetings.

## Regional forum on democratic transitions and political stability in the Sahel

In response to the emerging political crisis and the challenges of democratic governance in the Sahel, Gorée Institute, Centre for Democracy, Development and Culture in Africa and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) have acted as partners and defined and readjusted their respective strategic priority plans to jointly

regional levels.

Despite a shared colonial past, Sahelo-Saharan states are experiencing very different phases and forms of political transition. Indeed, although the wave of change in the 1990s brought new hope for governance and transition in the subregion, there is no room for complacency. Except for Senegal and Cape Verde, countries in the subregion continue to suffer from a series of unconstitutional practices, with the military taking power through coups d'état and the tendency of politicians to seize and control power by any undemocratic means necessary, including electoral fraud and the rigging of constitutions



organize a regional multi-stakeholder Forum on Gorée island, on 12 and 13 September 2022 on the theme: “**Democratic transitions and political stability in the Sahel**”.

The initiative of these organizations based in Senegal and the Netherlands is part of a collective institutional effort to create a space for political and civic actors to discuss and reflect on common challenges to democratic governance and to adopt mutually agreed-upon positions and actions with a view to influencing decisionmakers at the national and

with the aim of prolonging mandates and monarchic devolution. These alarming processes prompted some soul-searching among the leaders of the Gorée Institute and NIMD, who see the need to bring civic and political actors together to discuss and reflect on the growing threat to democratic stability due to the recurrence of military coups, threats to political stability and development.

The Forum, which will be hosted by Gorée Institute, as a pan-African Institution, will also provide a framework for proposing



recommendations to international, regional, and national decision-makers to influence change in the Sahel target countries. It will also encourage post-forum engagement with the publication of a final document/communiqué through an advocacy campaign using various platforms, including both traditional and social media, to influence policy directives towards a peaceful political transition.

Implicitly, the Regional Forum remains committed to the collective vision of Gorée Institute and NIMD in response to growing frustration expressed by civic actors in particular regarding the trend of military coups and abuse of democratic principles that have proven detrimental to the well-being of citizens in the sub-region.

In addition, this multi-stakeholder dialogue process will help expand civic space in a complex and politically sensitive geographic area in West Africa. This therefore requires a collaborative effort as both institutions are highly visible in the target countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal through regional and national approaches in the

implementation of their respective Power of Dialogue initiatives.

This event will bring together multiple stakeholders such as the members of the Power of Dialogue Consortium (NIMD and Gorée Institute), policy makers from the executive and legislative branches of the target countries, prominent African academics and practitioners. Representatives of the ECOWAS Secretariat, representatives of the concerned states, representatives of the G5 Sahel, UNOWAS, civic groups, members of CSOs, youth associations and gender equality groups and media professionals will all be present.

At the end of this Forum, the various participants published what was called the “**Gorée Appeal**” on democratic transitions and political stability in the Sahel.

### Youth Forum in Bamako on engaging youth as strategic partners in peacebuilding and political processes in the Sahel

Providing a space for youth to dialogue and express their voices to influence change in their respective countries in the Sahel is one of

appreciated, their concerns are not generally taken into consideration and their policy suggestions are most often ignored. Worse, youth are often perceived by political leaders as lacking the knowledge, experience, and skills to offer evidence-based policy suggestions.

Goree Institute's annual event was graced by the presence of youth committed to the



the aims of the Power of Dialogue programme. The Youth Forum, organized annually in African capitals, has been an institutional tradition for the Goree Institute since 2016. The choice of this year's edition was for the Malian capital to host the event. To this end, a partnership was formalized with the School of Peacekeeping, Alioune Blondin Bèye of Bamako, Mali (EMP-ABB) for the joint organization of the event. With the theme “Engaging youth as strategic partners in peacebuilding and political processes in the Sahel”, the event organized on 25 and 26 October met the institutional objectives and programme guidelines of both institutions. Indeed, the results of the regional political economic analysis revealed that despite millions of young people who devote a lot of time, energy and human resources to make other young people's voices heard in public decision-making platforms, they are hardly

stabilization of the Sahel zone, as well as high-level personalities from Mali, including the Malian Minister of Youth and National Reconciliation and other key players in the country. The focus was on the main political obstacles, as well as the experience and challenges facing youth in the 21st century. In addition, thematic presentations focused on inspiring suggestions and recommendations for motivating youth, as well as policy options for influencing change.

The objective of the Forum was to provide youth with a framework for dialogue, reflection, learning, and exchange of experiences and best practices to enhance their participation in the political and peace processes in their respective countries in the Sahel. The forum involved experts and practitioners who shared their thoughts, analyses and experiences with the youth on the

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current state of civic space and the active participation of youth in peace building, conflict prevention and political decision making.

The event was graced by the presence of dignitaries such as Colonel Souleymane Sangaré, Director General of the Peacekeeping School, Alioune Blondine Bèye; Mr. Mossa Ag Attaher, the Minister of Youth and Sports; Colonel Major Ismael Wague, Minister of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, and Mr. Habib Dackouo, President of the National Youth Council of Mali, who, in turn, delivered inspiring goodwill messages emphasizing the need to support and forge a strategic partnership with youth to address common peace and security challenges in the Sahel. Similarly, presentations by thematic experts focused on inspiring suggestions and recommendations as critical motivation for youth, as well as policy options for influencing change.



## VIIIth Annual Symposium on security challenges and political dynamics in the Sahel

civic space and the inability of democratic institutions to promote and protect democratic principles.

The Goree Institute, dedicated to promoting peaceful, self-reliant, and open societies through research, reflection, and direct intervention, annually invites leading scholars, practitioners, civic



The Goree Institute Symposium is an annual exchange event that brings together researchers and practitioners from civil society, international organizations and the media working on issues of governance, peace and security, with the aim of serving as a frame of reference for states, civil society organizations and international organizations.

This year again, the Goree Institute did not deviate from the rule with the 2022 edition held on 15 and 16 November, focused on the theme “**Security challenges and political dynamics in the Sahel: Stakeholder engagement**”.

Indeed, the Sahel continues to be plagued by security threats with serious implications, some are common to all countries, others are specific to certain ones. Certain factors that are sources of conflict are generally associated with state fragility, including the shrinking of

groups, and policymakers from across the African continent to collectively reflect on and renew their knowledge about good democratic governance, as well as the challenges of peace and security, with the aim of finding practical African solutions to African problems.

The theme of the 2022 conference was deliberately chosen to highlight the search for good democratic governance in an uncertain political climate, with a focus on the role of state and non-state actors in addressing the entrenched structures of





democratic deficits.

To inform the discussions, specific studies were conducted on the target countries (Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso) to help address the issues and challenges affecting security, good democratic governance, and political stability in these countries.

As part of the Power of Dialogue programme activities, the seventh edition facilitated a good understanding of democratic governance issues and challenges affecting stability in West Africa, particularly in the Sahel. Results of this event included the following:

- A space was created to collectively reflect on and inform each other about good democratic governance, as well as peace and security challenges to inform the search for practical solutions to the political transition in Mali and Burkina Faso.
- A space was created to collectively reflect on how to promote the indivisible values enshrined in the principles and ideals of good democratic governance as a mutually reinforcing measure instituted by governments and regional institutions to achieve a peaceful political transition.
- Lessons from Senegal on the nature of political stability and regime coherence were shared with participants from neighboring countries that are experiencing a difficult

political transition.

- The structural vulnerability of ECOWAS member states to political instability, constitutional manipulations to extend presidential terms, and repercussions in the form of coups and shrinking civic space were discussed.
- A space was created for further reflection to unravel some of the persistent democratic deficits and implications for peace and political stability at the state level, while focusing on the predictive solution to the political situation, including the need to create networks and alliances to influence change at the national and regional levels.
- A final document reflecting the participants' common position on the challenges and how to influence a peaceful political transition was produced and disseminated to policy makers and non-state actors at the regional and national levels.
- A video documentary on the event was produced and shared on the corresponding social media platform with members of the network across West Africa.



### Regional multi-stakeholder dialogue workshop to promote West African citizen synergy for transparency and equity in the management and redistribution of resources from extractive industries



West African experts and stakeholders in the extractive sector met at the Gorée Institute on 29 and 30 November in an ongoing effort to promote transparency and equity in the management and redistribution of revenues from the extractive industries. These actors from the countries targeted by the Natural resource governance project, supported by the Ford Foundation, used the results of comparative studies conducted on the governance of natural resources in the West African countries targeted by the project to identify gaps and make recommendations to improve the governance of extractive resources.

The regional workshop organized by the Goree Institute on transparency and equity in the management of natural resources allowed civil society actors active in natural resource governance and researchers from different countries to discuss their findings and to encourage collective actions to improve the governance of extractive resources in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal

and Sierra Leone.

Over two days, the reflection on various perspectives related to the governance of extractive resources was based on a presentation of the results of comparative studies on the sharing of experiences in the field of natural resources, regulatory and policy reviews, cartography and an analysis of stakeholders and operational actors in the West African target states.

The presentation of the cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone

allowed us to question the challenges of the exploitation of natural resources in West Africa, but also to track its real impacts on human rights, and to grasp all the contours of the legislative framework.

The participants in this regional workshop, composed of experts from high-level state and non-state institutions active in the extractive sector, civil society, and the media, with different points of view, were able to exchange on all aspects related to the exploitation of natural resources in the countries concerned.

In examining the comparative study that was submitted, stakeholders in the various countries identified a host of shortcomings such as the lack of provision for the distribution of funds at the communal level, the lack of access to information, the lack of public debate, the absence of a

development plan to direct funds to benefit the population, the gap between regulation and practice in resource governance, etc. The reports presented were discussed with a view to highlighting good practices and persistent challenges in legislation, regulation, and community participation in the target countries.



During this regional workshop, the idea was raised of implementing a common advocacy platform that would consider the concerns of all countries involved in natural resource management. The different participants reached a consensus to work together to materialize the future platform after work by country groups on the establishment of the platform for dialogue, consultation, and production of content on the extractive sector. A platform which, beyond the organizations themselves, will concern the citizens of the various countries concerned to influence States and national and international organizations and the communities, especially those from the exploitation areas.

The setting up of such a platform is necessary as there is a problem of effective steering and coordination as remarked by the actors present who emphasized the fact that new mining codes reinforce the constitutional enshrinement of the shared public ownership of natural resources, which requires the consideration and strong involvement of citizens.

Thus, in relation to all these highlighted shortcomings, the experts committed themselves to working on content for each country as a contribution to the comparative study that was submitted to them. At the end of the workshop, a Declaration on the governance of natural

resources in West Africa was drafted with the help of all participants who intend to make the said Declaration an advocacy document with strong recommendations to the States of the target countries, national and international organizations, West African civil society actors, extractive resource actors and communities from the exploitation areas.

To consolidate the gains and expand the impacts of public policies on the well-being of the population, the participants in this regional workshop issued a Declaration with the following recommendations:

- Work on a daily basis to support initiatives that improve the governance of extractive resources;
- Contribute to the creation of synergy among regional citizens to improve mechanisms for resource mobilization, management and sustainability;
- Restitute the different proposals of this workshop in their respective organizations in order to mobilize them in favor of regional citizen synergy;
- Support the efforts of the executive and advisory structures resulting from the regional workshop;
- Support advocacy initiatives to incorporate recommendations into public policies;
- Work with existing organizations and coalitions of CSOs at both the national and regional levels working on natural resource governance;
- Work on the establishment of an advocacy platform in West Africa on natural resource governance;
- Provide a platform or index for monitoring the proper implementation of the environmental and social management plan in localities designated as impacted or affected areas by the environmental impact assessment of extractive companies; and

## DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY

- Invite West African states to harmonize their legislative and regulatory frameworks for a better redistribution of revenues from the mining, oil and gas sector.

### Webinars on sharing experiences on managing revenues generated by the extractive sector

For the second phase of its Natural Resource Governance project, the Gorée Institute, which focused on Senegal during the first phase, extended its coverage throughout the West African region. Indeed, this new regional dimension seeks to promote principles of governance with particular emphasis on sharing experiences among the six (6) countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The poster features an orange header with the word 'WEBINAIRE' in white. Below it, the title 'Partage d'expériences sur la gestion des revenus générés par le secteur extractif en Guinée, au Sénégal et en Côte d'Ivoire' is written in black. The Gorée Institute logo is in the top right. Two circular portraits of speakers are shown: Moussa Mbaye GUEYE (ENDA LEAD) and Houleymatou BALDE (Gorée Institute). At the bottom, it specifies the date '30 Aout 2022', time '14H00 - 15H30', and a QR code. Meeting details include 'ID de réunion : 381 673 090 422' and 'Code secret : UwPYM2'.

To this end, the Gorée Institute organized a series of two webinars, on 30 August 2022 for French-speaking countries and 20 October 2022 for English-speaking countries, on the theme “Sharing experiences on the management of revenues generated by the extractive sector”.

These webinars brought together representatives of civil society organizations active in the extractive sector, representatives of public institutions mandated to monitor and oversee the extractive sectors, representatives of extractive companies, representatives of traditional authorities or extractive communities, and citizens of West Africa. These meetings provided a space for stakeholders and operational actors in the extractive sector to collectively review the natural resource governance system and processes, identify gaps and common challenges, and share experiences, lessons learned, and best practice models for the management of extractive sector revenues in target countries.

Among other objectives, these dialogue frameworks allowed participants to share experiences, knowledge, and best practice models from their respective countries, as well as their institutional perspectives. It also provided an opportunity to discuss natural resource regulations and policies to identify common gaps and challenges in policy implementation processes.

# RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

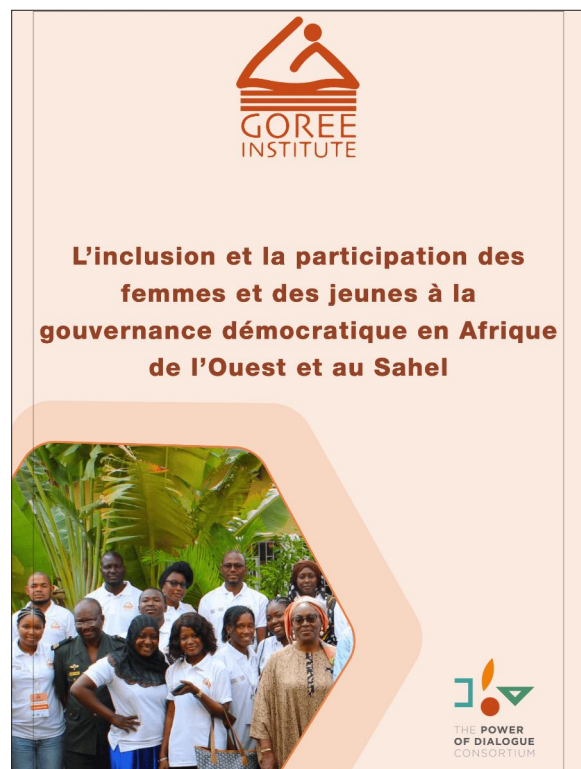
## The inclusion and participation of women and youth in democratic governance in West Africa and the Sahel

This book is the result of a reflection by actors and personalities from civil society and national and international organizations invited by the Gorée Institute as part of the larger “Power of Dialogue” programme. Organized around a regional multi-stakeholder forum, the Power of Dialogue examines issues related to women and youth in the context of Central Sahelo-Saharan states such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal, which for more than two decades have been experiencing major crises, ever evolving to say the least, that have succeeded in undermining the foundations of what remains of the state in this region.

The general theme of “Governance and civic space: Rethinking the inclusion and participation of youth and women” sets the scene in a Sahelian zone ravaged by a crisis of economic and political governance made even more unbearable by the collapse of security structures and the invasion of armed groups with ideologies that are difficult to identify. This programme therefore aims to create a peaceful democratic space that allows the various

actors in society to engage in political decision-making processes that are inclusive, responsive and representative.

The issue of gender has become more and more of a concern for governments. Youth is of particular importance. West African states are known for their high fertility rates among women



and the youthfulness of their populations. On average, nearly sixty percent are under the age of thirty-five. Both actors of positive change in societies and vectors of violence in conflicts, the management of this social category is a priority for governments to prevent it from becoming a demographic bomb. This has become even more urgent in light of the development of social networks and the proliferation of armed groups in the central Sahel, which find youth to be the breeding ground for their recruitment plans.

### The impact of poor governance on the civic voice of women and youth political leaders in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal)

The context of overlapping crises is likely to accentuate the vulnerability of large segments of the population in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. In these countries, the populations have a legitimate need for democracy, security, governance and development. Implementing public policies to meet their aspirations requires considerable effort to expand civic spaces and to overcome the multiple challenges they face in a more difficult international context. This should enable women and youth to exploit their full potential and thus contribute to the strengthening of political dialogue and the consolidation of democratic processes and institutions.

As part of its programme, “The Power of Dialogue”, Goree Institute’s objectives through this research are to:

- Examine the policies, legislative system and processes of governments, as well as the actors involved in political decision-making that are responsible for expanding or shrinking civic space for women and youth political actors;
- Deepen understanding of the power, positions, and perspectives of civic actors who may have an interest in and/or who may

influence the civic space positively or negatively;

- Examine the limitations and implications of the recent unconstitutional political transition and critically discuss the unhealthy friction between political and civic actors due to threats to the individual or collective interests of civic groups or political entities within the civic space;
- Identify and analyze opportunities to increasingly advocate for the inclusive formulation, implementation, and monitoring of national and international policies and legal instruments for youth and women, which should enable their voices to be heard in accordance with their needs, interests and expectations in the political landscape; and
- Propose recommendations for action to address the governance challenges responsible for the shrinking or expanding of civic space for voices of women and youth political actors.



## Legislative elections of 31 July 2022 in Senegal: Monitoring of the media and dangerous speech



Most of the instabilities in Africa have their source in badly organized elections. The conflict-producing nature of elections is no longer in question, as examples abound. The media, due to a combination of several factors related to training, taking sides in a debate, manipulation, etc. contribute to these instabilities. Hence, during election periods, the media play a crucial role; thus, the importance of initiatives that make it possible to assess the behavior of these media in a perspective of anticipating any desire for destabilization of the electoral process or electoral or post-electoral violence.

Media monitoring is considered a tool to promote free elections and respect for fundamental rights related to the principles of freedom of expression. It can be defined as an independent, objective and impartial observation of the media during the election period.

Indeed, the media is a central element of electoral processes and should ensure:

- Equal treatment of candidates: equal access of candidates to the media, relative equality in the treatment of information concerning candidates and the question of pluralism;
- Citizen information: the formation of a free and enlightened choice by the citizen (information on the modalities of the electoral process, on the programmes of the candidates and important themes in the campaign, etc.);
- Citizen participation: inclusion of the entire population, especially the most vulnerable, taking into account the demands for debate expressed by the citizen and civil society;
- Electoral education (civic education): awareness on the modalities of the electoral process, the act of voting etc.

As part of the Charter Project Africa (CPA), the Goree Institute initiated a media-monitoring programme during elections implemented in partnership with the Centre d'Études des Sciences et Techniques de l'Information (CESTI).

The **Charter Project Africa**, funded by the European Union, is implemented by the Goree Institute and five (5) other African and European organizations, namely AfricTivistes, Code4Africa, Democracy Works Foundation, European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) et European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). This three-year, pan-African project focuses on the commitments contained in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (CADEG), the African Union's (AU) primary policy document for advancing democratic governance in member states. The project promotes the use of civic technology to amplify the voice of citizens by providing financial resources, through grants, as well as technical resources, through expertise, to civic democracy initiatives, particularly those led by underrepresented groups.

### Political economy analysis to promote and protect children's rights in a smaller civic space

As part of the implementation of the Global CSO strengthening programme in partnership with Save the Children, the Goree Institute undertook a political economy analysis, the overall objective of which was to propose diagnostic answers to the questions posed, in order to better understand the fundamental, formal and informal factors responsible for the weakening of civic space, with impacts on the protection of children's rights and the prevention of abuse.

Consistent with the overall objective, the political economy analysis will conduct a situational analysis of key trends, actors and their dynamics related to civic engagement. This will help identify appropriate measures needed to prevent abuse. Part of the effort will also determine the extent to which the provisions and principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international legal instruments are effectively implemented. The goals are:

- To provide an overview of the political and economic context (contemporary political context, economic situation, social context, policies, institutions and processes affecting citizens' engagement in the promotion and protection of children's rights);
- To identify and analyze the legal framework, national policies, institutions and processes affecting citizen engagement in the promotion and protection of children's rights;
- To identify and discuss the factors and actors responsible for increasing or

strangling the civic voices of children's rights organizations in the civic space, and propose ways to address these issues;

- To deepen understanding of the power, positions and perspectives of civic actors who may have an interest in, and/or are likely to positively or negatively influence civic space (stakeholder analysis of national government, local government, private sector, CSOs, media, citizens, development partners, and religious communities).
- To deepen understanding of the barriers responsible for the narrowing of civic space, and recommend how civic space can be protected in target countries in the context of children's rights (implications and reflections, key stakeholder groups as change agents, future opportunities to expand civic space for child advocacy organizations).
- To identify the pillars of engagement with each stakeholder group (governments, child advocacy groups, citizen movements, child rights organizations, CSOs, citizens, youth, women, media, private sector, and development partners).





# TERAL : A SELF-FINANCING INSTRUMENT

The TERAL department, created in 1994, is the self-financing mechanism of the Gorée Institute. Through the seminars and trainings it facilitates, the TERAL Department, through the services it provides, supports the programmes in the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Gorée Institute and contributes to the operating expenses of the Institute.

TERAL offers an ideal setting not only for exchange and interaction, but also for relaxation by offering several services ranging from the organization of seminars and conferences to the coordination of recreational activities on the Island of Gorée.

The TERAL Department mainly targets international organizations, institutions dedicated to issues of interest to Africa and to the world, researchers, leaders of organizations, artists, businessmen, economists, scientists, etc.

The TERAL Department team includes six people:

- The TERAL Manager,
- The seminar organization manager,
- A customer service representative,

- A technician,
- A heritage manager, and
- A liaison officer.

The objectives of the TERAL Department are to:

- Support the Institute's commitment to regional and international collaboration, and
- Strengthen the financial security and stability of the Institute by contributing to current expenses and operating costs.

Teral, a revenue-generating department and the self-financing tool, par excellence of the Gorée Institute, is obliged to improve its quality of services to effectively fulfill the mission assigned to it.

Over the years, the department's contribution to the general operating budget has become less important due to the consequences of crises with a high socio-economic impact, the latest of which was the COVID-19 pandemic.

To this effect, it has become urgent to revisit the commercial strategy of the department in its entirety and to redesign its product by opting to rely on the opportunities offered by the great

## TERAL: A SELF-FINANCING INSTRUMENT

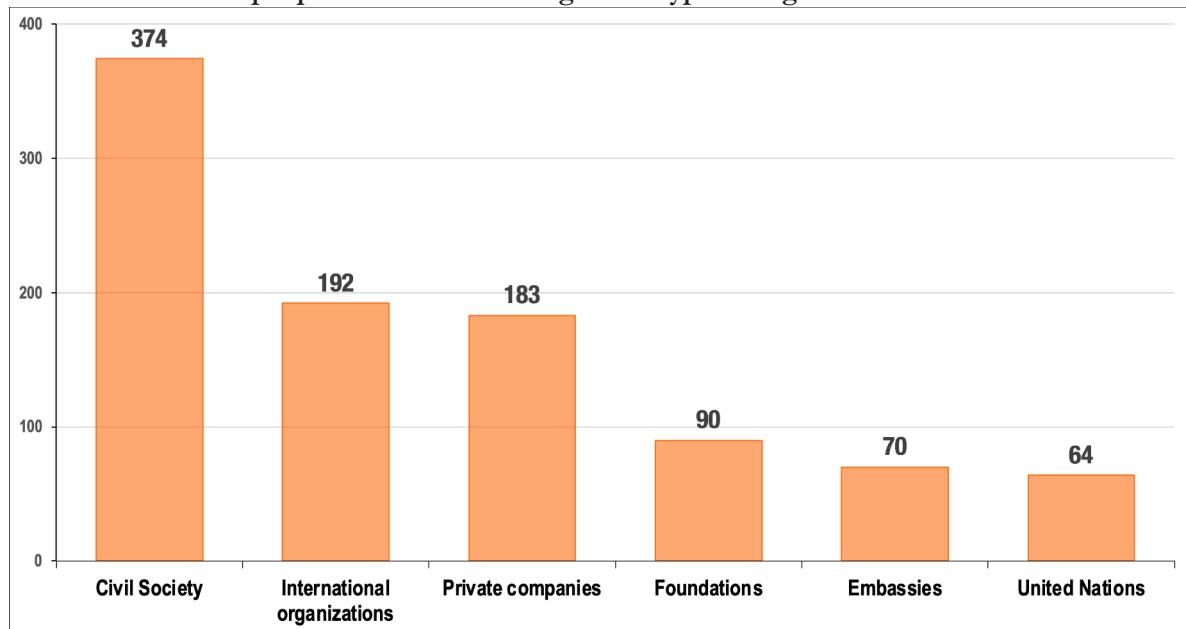
digital revolution underway and on the countless training opportunities that the Institute can offer, for an effective and efficient revival of TERAL activities.

The TERAL department facilitated 40 activities in the past year, compared to 17 in 2021. In 2022, Teral welcomed 973 people, distributed by type of organization as shown in the following graph:

By 2023, Teral's ambition is to improve its product and expand its range of services to offer a better quality service by focusing on:

- Renovating the Soros residence
- Increasing the capacity of the facility
- Continually training the staff
- Diversifying the product offering and innovating
- Constructing a large conference room at the Soros residence.

Distribution of the people received according to the type of organization:



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>Expenditure statements</b>		
1	Salaries	170 918 594 F CFA
2	Maintenance	13 930 755 F CFA
3	Utilities	13 149 335 F CFA
4	Administration	26 749 367 F CFA
5	Governance	17 396 792 F CFA
6	Equipment	14 175 654 F CFA
7	Programs and Teral Activities	449 748 212 F CFA
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>706 068 709 F CFA</b>
<b>Funds received</b>		<b>767 219 877 F CFA</b>
1	Fund received and Revenue	713 817 530 F CFA
	NEDHERLAND INSTITUTE FOR MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY (NIMD)	429 177 250 F CFA
	FORD FOUNDATION	85 650 000 F CFA
	SAVE THE CHILDREN	45 207 200 F CFA
	TERAL	153 308 080 F CFA
	REGULARIZATION(*)	475 000 F CFA
2	Beginning Balance(01/01/2022)	53 402 347 F CFA
<b>Balance on 31/12/2022</b>		<b>61 151 168 F CFA</b>

# PARTNERS

Netherlands Institute for **Multiparty Democracy**



FORD FOUNDATION



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY



Save the Children



Sida



DEMOCRACY REPORTING INTERNATIONAL



AFD  
AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

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# VISITS

## Visit of the President of Germany

During his official visit to Senegal, the **President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeir**, visited Gorée Institute on 22 February 2022. During the visit, questions of peace, security in the sub-region and particularly the Sahel were discussed.





# ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

## Annual retreat



The entire staff of the Gorée Institute left Dakar for Saly, Mbour for the annual strategic retreat, from 1 to 4 August. Away from the island, the staff worked on strengthening its team effectiveness, its collective leadership and the value chain within the Institute. The four-day absence was also a pretext not only to discuss organizational capacity building, but also to think and decide on policies and strategies to be adopted in the coming years.

The annual retreat also provided an opportunity to consider the programme review, to look ahead to 2023 and to discuss institutional challenges and organizational sustainability.

## Organizational Capacity Development and Self-Assessment Workshop

The Goree Institute conducted a self-assessment of its organizational capacities to put in place mechanisms and strategies to develop. This was done within the framework of the Sida CSO 2022 - 2026 programme on strengthening West African civil society, through a self-assessment and organizational capacity building workshop on 12 and 13 October 2022.

The general objective of this workshop was to carry out a self-assessment of the Goree Institute with a view to developing a plan to strengthen its organizational capacities.

The Institute carried out its institutional and organizational self-assessment during this two-day workshop. This diagnosis was done in partnership with SCI, notably through the provision of tools and the facilitation of the self-assessment workshop, which now serve as a reference for the development of a capacity strengthening plan based on the shortcomings identified.

The workshop was organized in an inclusive and participatory manner with the active involvement of the entire GORIN team including the Executive Management, Communication and Knowledge Management, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources and Administration, Programmes, TERAL, Technical Staff, Monitoring and Evaluation and other categories.

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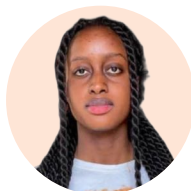
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