

Abschlussstatement Christoph Rauh

9. CPO der Sahel-Allianz

Dear Fellow Members of the Sahel Alliance,

Dear Partners and Friends of the G5 countries,

Thank you very much for your **vivid participation** in our ninth steering committee meeting here in Bonn. The challenges we and our partners in the Sahel face are manifold, but I am confident that our **cooperation** will have an **impact** – thank you for your valuable contributions today to **advance our joint activities** and collaboration as Sahel Alliance members!

It was a pleasure to meet with you all in person again at my last CPO as Chairperson and it was an **honor** for me to **serve as Chair of the Sahel Alliance's steering committee** in the past **three years**. Please allow me to **make a brief review** – what did we **achieve**?

First, looking into this room today and remembering my first CPO as Chair, I am glad that we could **welcome many more members** in the past three years! As Sahel Alliance, we kept growing as the **central multilateral alliance for donor coordination in the Sahel** and we strengthened our **partnership with the G5 Sahel** to jointly coordinate our activities along **their development strategies**. I am glad that we could intensify our partnership in the last years and we may **continue to do so** even as governance mandates change.

The Sahel Alliance serves as a **platform to quickly exchange about recent developments** and to coordinate action and joint positions in these **times of multiple crises** – be it the COVID-19 pandemic, the political,

social and economic developments in the Sahel or the aggravated food insecurity in the region. Yet, as a donor coordination platform we also moved beyond finding joint positions and harmonizing actions: during the last years the Sahel Alliance became **a framework for developing new and innovative approaches** among partners and donors in the Sahel, such as the **integrated territorial approach ATI**. The ATI was launched in 2020 to support the G5 **to provide basic services** to the population in **zones of particular vulnerability**. In the last years, we progressed by identifying with our partners 10 vulnerable priority zones, we build a working group in which we agreed on a common definition of the ATI, members have volunteered to lead and co-lead the approach in different zones, coordinate its implementation and share the challenges, we have also established a database to map our activities in these zones.

Together with our partners from the G5 Sahel, we launched the G5 Sahel Facility last year which seeks to provide immediate assistance for the most fragile areas.

As the climate crisis affects especially the people in the Sahel, we **strengthened our cooperation with UNCCD**. Only a month ago, the Sahel Alliance held a joint side event with Global Green Growth Institute and UNCCD at the COP15 about the Great Green wall and its perspectives for an inclusive development in the Sahel.

Over the last years the **UCA greatly assisted the Sahel Alliance members** and ensured smoothly organized general assemblies, steering committee, and working group meetings – thank you very much! At this point, let me also take the opportunity to thank you, Adrien, for constantly improving structures and processes with your team. I enjoyed our good collaboration in the past two years, and I wish you all the best for your next chapter steadily engaging for West African countries and societies.

Let me outline one last **wish for the Sahel Alliance**: The last years have clearly shown, that the **Sahel Alliance thrives on the commitment of all members**! This is both, a lesson learnt and a wish for the future: Let us all together **stay committed** and engaged in our discussions and activities to bring tangible change in the Sahel. As member of the Sahel Alliance, **Germany remains committed** to the people in the Sahel and will keep contributing to the Sahel Alliance activities as well as the **funding for the UCA**. I thank you all for our good cooperation over the past years. My **special thanks** goes also to you, Eric Tiaré and Maman Sidikou, for your partnership and close collaboration!

I am delighted to announce that the World Bank will step in as new CPO Chair from now on. Mr. Diagana, I wish you all the best and a lot of success in further strengthening and shaping our collaboration as Sahel Alliance members.