

THE CHALLENGES OF BUILDING A REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE



DR. ANOUAR BOUKHARS
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AD-HOC SECURITY COALITIONS

- Ad-hoc security coalitions forged to combat specific transnational threats are gradually becoming key features of the African security landscape.
- Such coalitions allow for the adoption of issue-specific approaches, which yield engagement strategies limited in their goals and geographical reach.
- They also benefit from institutional and operational advantages over formal regional or continental security mechanisms, which can be large and unwieldy.



G5 SAHEL

- **G5 Sahel was created at a time of rising regional security threats and the adoption by donors of a number of Sahel strategies.**
- **G5 Sahel stated goal is to promote security and development through regional cooperation and coordinated engagement with the international community.**
- **The focus on security, however, has overshadowed the broader agenda of improving governance and promoting development.**



G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE

- The G5 Sahel Joint Force main task is limited to securing the borders of the eastern sector of the Sahel involving Niger and Chad, the central sector involving Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, and the western sector involving Mauritania and Mali.


The G5 Sahel
A joint force to tackle security threats


3 missions
counter-terrorism,
organized cross-border
crime and human
trafficking.

5 countries
Mauritania, Niger, Chad,
Burkina Faso and Mali

5,000 men
spread across 7 battalions
in 3 sectors

Hamdanmourad

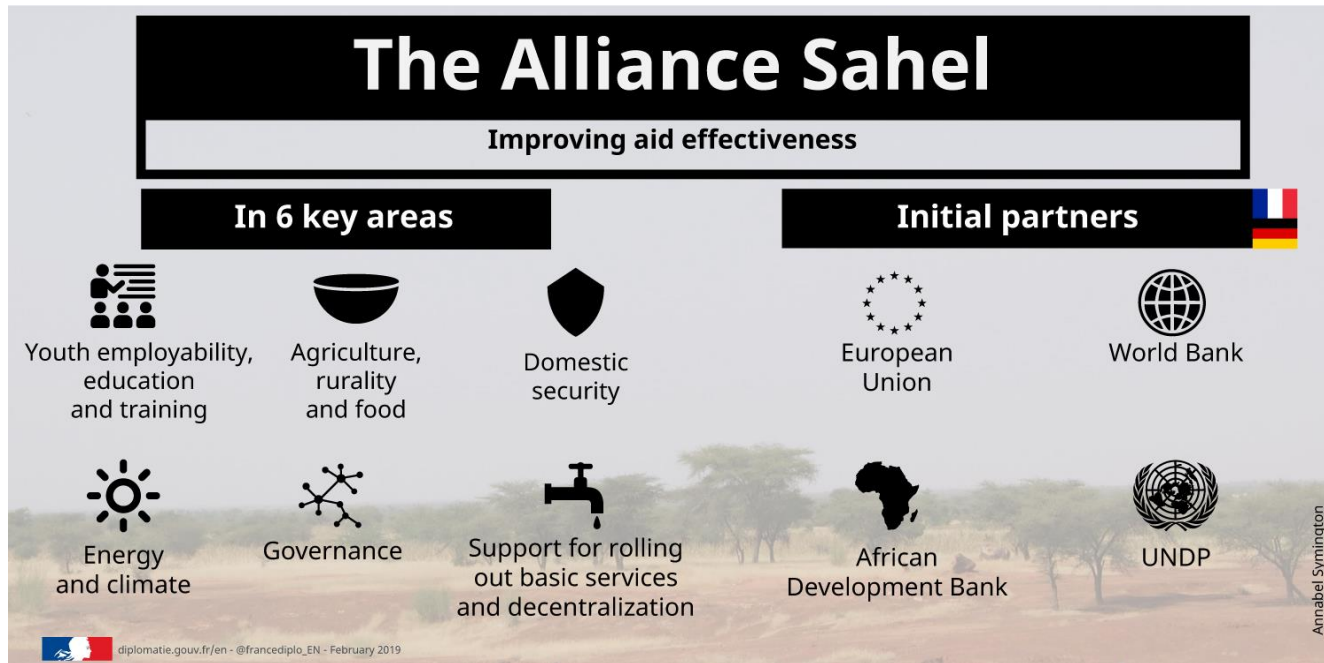
 diplomatie.gouv.fr/en - @francediplo_EN - December 2017





COMPLEMENTARY INITIATIVES

- To accompany the military efforts of the Joint force, France and Germany, as well as the EU, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Program launched the Alliance for the Sahel in July 2017.



CHALLENGES

- **The G5 Sahel Joint Force is still in a capacity development phase, heavily dependent on French military assistance and the goodwill of donors.**
- **The success of the G5 Sahel joint force is also dependent on its ability to differentiate itself in a crowded security environment, while coordinating action with other African and Western military forces present in the region**
- **A third major challenge for the G5 Sahel Joint Force is to gain the support of local populations.**



CONCLUSION

- The G5 Sahel Joint Force is a worthy initiative that can enhance regional military cooperation in a vast geographical area that is crisscrossed by transnational armed groups and smuggling and trafficking rings.
- But to optimize its stabilizing role, the force must rest upon a political framework that improves people's access to justice and reduces socioeconomic inequalities.

