



## Newsletter

My dear colleagues,

First, let us wish you the best for 2022 with the progressive hope of a more peaceful life.

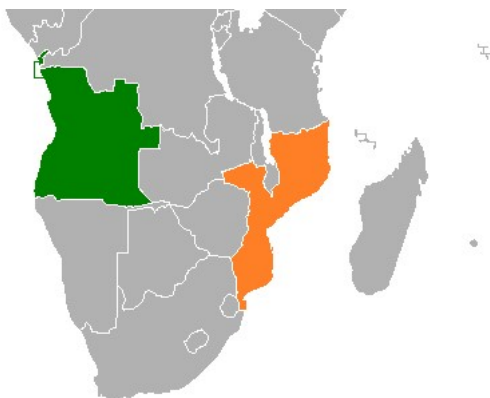
In this issue, we are pleased to announce the creation of an Italian branch of USF whose essential role will be to deal with Portuguese-speaking African countries. You will then find the proceedings of a seminar on the role of the United Nations in Mali, co-organized by USF, as well as a meeting with the Director-General of Higher Education of Ivory Coast dealing with the employability of students.

Wishing good reading and transmission of this newsletter to anyone potentially interested.

Prof. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB. ■

### Creation of an Italian subsidiary of USF

On December 3, 2021, a meeting was held in Milan, Italy, to establish an Italian subsidiary of USF "Universitari Senza Frontiere". Indeed, we have many Italian academics on our lists and they could also devote themselves to the modernization of universities in developing countries. It was decided that they would deal with Portuguese-speaking countries, such as Angola and Mozambique. Almost 80 academics from those countries were contacted.



In order to expand this activity, we would be grateful if you could send us the emails of the people potentially interested, both from Italian

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university professors and those from Mozambique and Angola.

For any information, contact Professor Luigi Mussio <[luigi.mussio@usf-awb.net](mailto:luigi.mussio@usf-awb.net)>. ■

### USF and ISTA Bamako organize a seminar on the role of the United Nations in Mali

The role of the United Nations in Mali was very particular: the specialized agencies and the Office of the Coordinator supported the Government's development policies in their areas of competence. This is in addition to the intervention of MINUSMA, mandated by the United Nations Security Council.



This seminar was organized in the framework of the collaboration between the Higher Institute of Applied Technologies of Mali

(Technolab-ISTA) and USF. It was the opportunity for master's students to have presentations and exchanges with the United Nations Coordination Service in Mali, the World Bank, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration.

Numerous discussions were held on the functioning of United Nations bodies and areas of intervention. These include the consolidation of democracy and improved governance, the resilience of people to conflict, reconciliation in an environment of peace and security, inclusive growth and environmental sustainability. One of the projects on violence against women and girls received a more detailed presentation. It contributes to the protection of women and girls, especially for groups exposed to multiple forms of discrimination against gender-based violence.



The World Bank, in its presentations to students, detailed the methodologies for the management and follow-up of priority projects to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. FAO, in presenting its projects, emphasized commitments to ensure food security. The International Labour Organization has detailed the means and incentives for the informal sector, affected by precariousness, particularly in the Covid era, to move into the formal sector.

As a result of this seminar, ISTA master's students will be able to access detailed information on projects implemented by United Nations agencies in the context of the preparation of reports, and for some of them to internships in the field. Lines of collaboration between United Nations agencies in Mali and ISTA are being developed to ensure continuity beyond the seminar. ■

## Ivory Coast: "the employability of students must be a priority of higher education"

The Director-General of Higher Education of the Ivory Coast, Professor Vafi Doumbia, assures his university teaching in Physics to his students at the same time as his responsibilities in the Ministry « a means of maintaining contact with students and academics ». In particular, he is responsible for the implementation of the national higher education policy.



The problem of the professional integration of students is certainly the most difficult. The level of integration of graduates of higher education is low, with the exception of graduates of higher education. Training offers do not always correspond to the training needs of national economic sectors, and the supply of employment is less than demand. Higher education graduates are four times more numerous than the number of jobs offered. Therefore, unemployment is massive.

A committed cooperation with the AFD in collaboration with the CNAM will make it possible to undertake a comprehensive study on the sectors with the highest growth and to better define priority trades. University courses leading to masters without accredited qualifications are too numerous. Emphasis should be placed on short-term technical training. The careers of industrial experts or professional baccalaureates should make it possible to better adapt higher education to the needs of economic sectors. The Ivory Coast has the support of the World Bank to reform higher education in this regard. "We will have to develop new sectors and abolish some that lead to unemployment". The field of Research should also be streamlined by the

development of Doctoral Schools that bring together the competences of several universities.

The current reflections and studies should lead us to examine, at national level, the effective arrangements that need to be put in place. This accompanying stage will be carried out with all the competences that can be associated so that a pragmatic approach is adopted. USF which has extensive experience in these areas, should be associated with this key stage in the change in higher education in the Ivory Coast that will begin.

For more information, please contact Professor Xavier Alphaize <xavier.alphaize@usf-awb.net>. ■

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