

***Lomé, Togo, November 14 (Infosplusgabon) - Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara on Wednesday called on member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) to 'invest massively' in renewable energy sources, noting that less than half of the regional population has access to energy.***

President Ouattara, who is the incumbent Chair of the WAEMU leaders, was speaking at the opening of a forum to mark the 45th anniversary of the West African Development Bank (WADB) in Lomé, the Togolese capital.

He urged the WADB to engage in the financing of the energy sector for the development of the WAEMU member countries,

"More and faster efforts must be made to enable easy access to electricity for the people and for more development of the countries," he added.

The WADB is commemorating its 45th anniversary with a two-day forum on 'Solar energy in the economies of WAEMU countries: Evaluation, stakes and policies'. Through the forum, it aims to "foster the emergence of an economy based on renewable energy sources in general and solar energy in particular".

## **President Ouattara urges WAEMU countries to invest in renewable energy sources**

Écrit par Antoine Lawson

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Its governor, Christian Adovelande, has praised the economic potentialities offered by renewable energy sources and underlined that WADB is committed to finance the sector for access to energy as a socioeconomic development factor.

Set up on 14 November 1973 with its seat in Lome, WADB has become the financial wing of the WAEMU. Its goal is to “promote balanced development of its member states and achieve West Africa’s economic integration through the financing of priority development projects.”

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