FWS NEWS & EVENTS

The FWS Institutional Bulletin

INAUGURAL EDITION **21 OCTOBER 2026**

EDITORIAL

Introducing FWS News & Events

Welcome to the first edition of *FWS News & Events - The FWS Institutional Bulletin*. This publication will keep readers connected to the work of Famuya Wale So through institutional updates, publications, programs, and opportunities for dialogue and engagement.

Famuya Wale So is an independent Global Center for Strategy, Policy, Research & Publishing. Its African foundations inform an international outlook: a commitment to understanding the challenges shaping societies and contributing knowledge that helps people and institutions respond effectively.

Our objectives are to deepen understanding, strengthen human and institutional capacities, and connect rigorous inquiry with practical responses to society's needs. Through strategic studies, policy analysis, research, publishing, and intellectual exchange, FWS seeks to advance human dignity, prosperity, peace, responsible governance, and civilizational renewal.

The name Famuya Wale So expresses the philosophy behind this work: understanding, character, and purposeful action. We believe that knowledge carries a responsibility - to exercise sound judgment, act with integrity, and contribute to the common good.

Published twice a month, on the 7th and 21st, *FWS News & Events* brings together institutional updates, publications, opportunities to participate, and selected African and international developments with analysis of why they matter. Read each edition on the FWS website or download the PDF. Our companion publication, *FWS Perspectives*, offers one substantial essay each month for deeper reflection and debate.

We invite scholars, practitioners, policymakers, educators, institutions, and interested readers to join this conversation. Visit our website, explore our publications, and engage with the questions that guide our work.

Welcome to FWS News & Events.

IN THIS EDITION

02 / Book & Inside FWS

03 / Growth & Land

04 / Ghana & Connect

PUBLICATION IN FOCUS

The Renaissance of the African Ideal

Toward a Philosophy of Civilizational Renewal

By Cheick Boucadry Traore

How can Africa draw upon its inheritance to create a better future? This question guides *The Renaissance of the African Ideal*, which explores renewal as a responsibility shared across generations.

The book places people at the heart of Africa's development. Its argument connects historical awareness with the cultivation of knowledge, practical abilities, ethical leadership, and institutions that serve society. Renewal depends on what people can create together and what they prepare for those who follow.

Organized around three movements - **Remember. Build. Transmit.** - the work examines education, governance, family, citizenship, economic independence, and cooperation across the continent. Nine African symbols accompany this inquiry, connecting inherited wisdom with contemporary responsibilities.

For FWS, these themes speak directly to the relationship between understanding and purposeful action. They invite readers to consider how scholarship, public service, productive work, and everyday choices can contribute to a more dignified common future.

This first issue invites readers to discover the book and reflect on a question that concerns us all: what will our generation leave for the next?

Explore the book on the FWS website >

INSIDE FWS

Our Areas of Work

Famuya Wale So connects inquiry, public decision-making, the circulation of ideas, and the development of human capabilities. Five complementary areas help readers navigate this work.

Strategy & Policy

FWS examines the choices shaping societies over the long term. Its approach brings evidence, historical context, and foresight to questions of governance, economic transformation, security, technology, and the responsibilities owed to future generations.

Explore Strategy & Policy >

Research

Understanding a problem is the first step toward addressing it. FWS's research agenda spans institutions, education, economies, culture, technology, and the environment, drawing on different disciplines and forms of evidence to inform responsible action.

Explore Research >

Publishing

Publishing gives ideas a wider audience and a lasting record. FWS's publishing scope includes books, research reports, policy briefs, and essays that make substantive thought accessible, encourage critical discussion, and connect African perspectives with readers worldwide.

Explore Publishing >

Dialogue & Capacity Development

FWS's program framework connects intellectual exchange with the development of skills, leadership, and institutional capability. It includes dialogue, collaborative inquiry, and capacity initiatives. Priority programs remain in development and will be announced as they are formalized.

Explore Programs & Initiatives >

Knowledge & Learning

FWS Knowledge & Learning invites readers to explore programs, knowledge classes, and a reading library. It connects the Center's ideas with opportunities to deepen understanding and support continued learning.

Explore Knowledge & Learning >

MAJOR ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Growth, land and livelihoods

Developments reported through 9 October 2026

01 / ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Africa's Growth Outlook Improves - The Next Test Is Opportunity

The World Bank has raised its **2026 growth forecast for Sub-Saharan Africa to 4.3%**, an increase of **0.3 percentage points over its April forecast**. The region's economy grew by 4.1% in 2025.

Released on 6 October, the latest *Africa Economic Update* reports improved forecasts for nearly three-quarters of the region's countries, including Nigeria, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Angola. The Bank attributes the stronger outlook to reforms, improved economic management, domestic demand, and investment linked to energy transition and digital technologies.

However, it cautions that growth remains insufficient to substantially reduce extreme poverty or generate enough employment for the expanding workforce.

World Bank · 6 October 2026 >

WHY IT MATTERS / ANALYSIS

A stronger growth outlook creates an opportunity to improve living standards. Realizing that opportunity requires investment in skills, reliable infrastructure, productive enterprise, and institutions capable of delivering public services.

For FWS, the essential question is how economic progress translates into greater human capability: more opportunities to learn, work, build businesses, and contribute to society.

02 / LAND & DEVELOPMENT

Restoring Land, Strengthening Livelihoods

On **6 October**, UNEP announced a Great Green Wall programme supported by a **US$78 million grant from the Global Environment Facility**. Working with BOAD, participating governments, and other partners, the programme aims to restore **270,000 hectares** and improve livelihoods for **five million people**.

It covers Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. UNEP reports that additional co-financing brings total programme resources to more than US$500 million. These are programme commitments and targets; the results remain to be delivered.

UNEP · 6 October 2026 >

WHY IT MATTERS / ANALYSIS

Restoration connects environmental stewardship with food production, rural incomes, and the resilience of communities. Its success will depend on local participation, appropriate land-management practices, and sustained institutional support.

For FWS, the central issue is implementation: whether financing produces healthier landscapes and stronger livelihoods that communities can maintain. Measuring results should include both ecological recovery and the benefits reaching farmers, pastoralists, women, and young people.

MAJOR ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Ghana Signals a Bid to Join BRICS

Ghana has announced plans to formally pursue BRICS membership as part of its effort to broaden international economic partnerships. Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa disclosed the Cabinet-backed decision at a joint briefing with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Accra on **6 October**.

According to Ghana's Information Services Department, the government links its interest to trade, investment, industrialisation, and greater economic independence. India welcomed Ghana's interest while noting that membership requires collective consideration by BRICS members. The announcement therefore marks an intended application, rather than admission.

Ghana Information Services Department · 7 October 2026 >

WHY IT MATTERS / ANALYSIS

Diversifying partnerships can expand a country's diplomatic and economic options. The benefits depend on the arrangements negotiated and the domestic capacity to use them effectively.

For FWS, the question is how international engagement contributes to productive investment, skills, employment, and stronger institutions. New partnerships should be assessed by their practical contribution to national development and their compatibility with Africa's wider integration ambitions.

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We welcome your questions, your perspectives, and your interest in contributing to FWS's mission.