Feedback from RECOTRADE, Mali  
(Translated from French)  
*Mamadou Ben Chérif Diabaté*

Over-indebtedness contributes little to the consolidation of peace. I propose the initiation of meetings of exchange with identified experts outside of your analysis of the strengths and weaknesses since sovereign debt became an issue. For effectiveness, and in order to identify and correct weaknesses, it is necessary to develop an open dialogue with all States concerned with issues of sovereign debt. Populations of these indebted governments must be informed, both to know and to understand. In Africa, 90% of the population is illiterate—this must be taken into account in the development of such a communication plan. It is better to see a proposition one time than to hear it 100 times. Send a mission to get to know us, or if not, organize an informational round table so we can better understand one another.

My proposition is as follows: Organize regular meetings with civil society members to discuss advancements on the issue of sovereign debt (including strengths and weaknesses); Put in place a synergistic framework of exchange for experts from civil society to educate people on the ground to better understand the issues and for those on the ground to more effectively contribute to the amelioration of sovereign debt, especially in Western Africa. Developing a solution to sovereign debt issues could be an instrument of peace consolidation to better the welfare of African populations. Together we can develop a more equitable and profitable approach to the issue of sovereign debt.