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Niagale Bagayoko is a political scientist. She has done extensive field research in several francophone countries in Africa and has studied the impact of Western security policies (France, United States, European Union) on African conflict-management mechanisms. She has taught at the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* in Paris. She now concentrates on the interface between security and development, especially its international dimensions. Niagale was awarded her PhD in 2002 by the Institute for Political Science, Paris and in 2003 she won the Prize for Scientific Research awarded by the *Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale*, French Ministry of Defence.