

PART I

AN OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON BENIN'S DEVELOPMENT

This first part of the volume comprises three chapters that review the economic, social, political, and institutional development of Benin. Chapter 1 looks at the context in which Benin's development has taken place, including geography, historical legacies, and social and political characteristics. Chapter 2 provides a macro picture of growth performances and their determinants, structural change, and social achievements since 1960. Together, these two chapters contain many useful pieces of information required for a proper understanding of the background against which all the subsequent chapters should be read. To facilitate this understanding, the conclusion at the end of Chapter 2 summarises the main lessons drawn from both Chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 3 focuses on the institutional obstacles to development based on quantitative and qualitative evidence.

