

# SENEGAL

Continent: Africa

[Population](#): 17.2 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#):

[Governance System](#): Presidential Republic

Capital: Dakar

[Area](#): 192,530 km<sup>2</sup>

Major Languages: French

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 27,719 US\$ Millions

## **Select Global Rankings**

[Human Development Index](#): 170

[Fragile States Index \(Inverted\)](#): 102

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 87

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 103

[Good Country Index](#): 122

## **Elite Sport System Rankings**

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 34

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): NR

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 0

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 0

## **Football/World Cup Profile**

[FIFA Region](#): AFC

[FIFA Ranking](#): 18

World Cup Appearances: 2

*Best World Cup Performance(s): Quarter Finals 2002*

Qualification: AFC 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Winner

[World Cup Group](#): A

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

## **SENEGAL in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Drake Kindred)**

Senegal is a West African Republic located at the westernmost point of the African continent and is often noted as the “Gateway to Africa.” The state was formed through the Independence of French West Africa from French Colonial Rule. As a result, the country’s official language is French. Senegal lies at an ecological boundary where grassland, oceanfront, and tropical rainforest converge, resulting in an ecologically diverse environment. The country is known as one of Africa’s most stable democracies and has undergone peaceful transitions of power between rival parties for over two decades. Senegal is also known for its relatively independent media and freedom of expression. However, before 2012, the Southern Region of Casamance experienced political and economic isolation that led to an independence movement. Over three decades, there were violent clashes, but in 2012 a truce was agreed to that has upheld political stability. Due to this stability, violence and terrorist activity characteristic of neighbouring countries has been prevented. Since then Senegal has upheld its reputation as a model Presidential Republic and strong partner of western states. As a result, Senegal has become known for actively pursuing peace efforts within the region and preventing violence, making the country critical to the stability of the region and Africa as a whole.

Senegal is a member state of several international organizations, including the African Union, the United Nations, and the Economic Community of West African States. Senegalese troops have often been a significant contributor to peacekeeping efforts sponsored by the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States as part of their peace and development efforts. Senegal also shares positive relations with developed western countries that view Senegal as a beacon of democratic values and ethnic and religious tolerance in the region. Senegal has also been a strong advocate for stronger development support from developed countries to the global south. Senegal also served on the United Nations Security Council in 2015 and 2016 and enjoys positive relations with its neighbouring countries.

Generally, Senegal does well in upholding democratic values but has been questioned on some human rights-related issues. Despite the relative stability, widespread violent protests erupted in March 2021 following the arrest of prominent opposition leader Ousmane Sonko on charges of rape; the demonstrations were characterized by high levels of violence against protesters by security forces. Despite this violence by security forces, the National Assembly revised several laws in June 2021 that may be used to silence dissent and expand police surveillance powers that local and international human rights groups condemned. Senegal also experienced hundreds of protests against LGBTQ+ rights where protesters demanded the government increase penalties for same-sex sexual activity or those that support it.

Economically, Senegal is a lower-middle-income country experiencing exponential growth before the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic had an adverse effect on critical sectors of the Senegalese economy, including transport, tourism, and exports. Despite economic containment measures, limited safety nets, a vulnerable healthcare system, and a large informal sector of the workforce have made economic recovery difficult. The War in Ukraine has exacerbated economic issues as trade disruptions have led to the inflation of essentials like energy and food. Overall, services remain the main contributor to the Senegalese economy, with agriculture being the most critical source of growth. Projections suggest that the economic recovery of Senegal will occur gradually over time and that its strong democratic institutions will help it through this process.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Senegal>

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/senegal>

<https://www.bmz.de/en/countries/senegal>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/senegal/overview>

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-senegal/>