AFROPAC

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP IN LOME, TOGO (16TH – 19TH JAN, 2017)

Chairman's official opening remarks

Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Lome, Togo. Let me first express our sincere gratitude to the National Assembly of Togo, and especially the Chairperson PAC and WAAPAC, Hon. Ayawovi Tignokpa for hosting us in this beautiful country.

This is the first of our outreach efforts as was resolved in the AGM held in Nairobi. These efforts are chiefly aimed at attaining the conference resolutions, which I believe you have copies of, and the founding objectives of the organization which were the following;

(i)   To enhance Parliamentary oversight over financial accountability in Africa;

(ii)   To share experiences amongst its Members;

(iii)   To promote professional and technical development and co-operation among members of AFROPAC and other bodies such as the African Parliament and AFROSAI;

(iv)   To promote and maintain relations with national, regional and international institutions promoting transparency, accountability and good governance of public resources;

(v)   To support the independence of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in terms of Lima and Mexico declarations.

AFROPAC was formed therefore to provide linkages between regional bodies and members across Africa to tackle matters that are of common interest to us, and that threaten our continents well-being.

The organization received invitation from WAAPAC to attend its conference in Niamey, Niger, held on 9th – 12th January 2017. After consultation with the Secretary General, Hon. Nicolas Gumbo, I travelled to attend the conference and represent AFROPAC. I was honored to have been given an opportunity to espouse our ideals as AFROPAC and sell the concept on much needed cooperation amongst us. Indeed, I was pleased that the conference theme resonated with that of AFROPAC which we held last year, on curbing illicit financial flows. This showed me that the message is already hitting home.

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, this workshop will breathe life into the conference resolutions by creating its medium term work-plan. The secretariat circulated questionnaires to members of the Executive Committee and it is the basis of which priorities have been identified and we will proceed. It is my belief that the vigour and selflessness showed by all of us in attendance, and even those who did not make it will produce the desired outcome.

Allow me to state briefly the expected outcomes of this workshop that include the following;

1. Development of a network of leadership of all regional bodies, WAAPAC, EAAPAC and SADCOPAC;
2. Facilitate active learning opportunities and peer- to- peer exchanges between PAC's, regional bodies and AFROPAC;

3. Publicize, inform and entrench the resolutions of the 2nd Annual Conference and AGM to regional bodies;

4. A medium term work plan for the organization to actualize effective implementation of the resolutions of the 2nd Annual Conference and AGM.

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank all of you for attending this workshop and I invite you all to fully participate and make meaningful contributions. Allow me to pass our special gratitude to GIZ for facilitating logistical arrangements, and providing us with a professional consultant that will assist us develop the work plan.

Lastly, I want to state that the momentum we have built must not be lost. We must start thinking of our next outreach station, preferably a northern African country, to champion the formation of NAAPAC. I propose that the next Executive Committee meeting be held in one of these countries. Further, we must also start preparing for our next conference and general meeting.

It is now my pleasure to declare the workshop officially open. Thank you.