

AFROPAC

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

Treasurer's remarks on background and status report

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to submit this status report on behalf of the Secretary General who has not been able to attend this workshop due to pressing issues back at home.

Since the Juba declaration and its launch in Arusha, Tanzania, AFROPAC has evolved into a unique platform for networking and collaboration across Africa, with the goal of raising the bar in oversight and accountability on the continent. The organization successfully held its 2nd Annual Conference and General Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 29th August – 2nd September, 2016. Allow me to congratulate the host country, Kenya, for its impeccable organization of the event.

A major outcome of the conference were the resolutions which emphasized the need for cooperation with regional PAC bodies; WAAPAC, EAAPAC, SADCOPAC and to champion formation of NAAPAC, for northern African countries. This would be majorly promoted through outreach by AFROPAC to these bodies, through their respective leaderships.

To actualize the resolutions, the newly elected Executive Committee immediately at the conclusion of the conference in Nairobi, resolved to hold a workshop in Lome, Togo as its first efforts towards outreach and engagement with regional bodies, starting with WAAPAC. Hon. Ayawovi Tinogkpa, Chairperson PAC Togo, agreed to host the Executive Committee of AFROPAC on 16th – 19th January, 2017. As a result we are all here and can only thank the host for having us here.

The AGM in Nairobi held elections and the following were elected to the Executive Committee;

1. Hon. Sen. Edward Dagoseh from Liberia – Chairperson
2. Hon. Angelline Ossegge from Uganda – Vice-chairperson
3. Hon. Nicolas Gumbo from Kenya– Secretary General
4. Hon. Prof. Ahmed Magzoub from Sudan- Treasurer
5. Hon Aleki Menyani from Malawi– Deputy Secretary General

Also included in the Executive Committee were representatives of WAAPAC and SADCOPAC.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, the strides we have made so far have not come without its challenges. Key among them has been financial constraints that have hampered effective running of the organization. Subscriptions have not been received because members probably adopted a wait and see approach to the growth of the organization. This was why it was imperative to hold a successful conference and AGM, coupled with this workshop to develop a work plan. It is our view that these will convince members to pay up.

Financial incapacity has meant we have been unable to recruit staff to run the organization, solely relying on the goodwill of the host National Assembly of

Kenya, and the sacrifice of its PAC Committee Clerks. With subscriptions we hope to recruit staff, or at the very least incentivize the staff currently seconded there.

Being a large organization covering the continent, the capacity of staff must also be boosted. It is at this launching stage that the organization will succeed or fail. I appeal to GIZ who have experience in running large programmes to consider sponsoring the secretariat staff for short professional courses in running of complex organizations.

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is this workshop that will now give us the roadmap to take the organization to the next level. I thank the secretariat for their efforts, as well as the cooperation of our partners GIZ. It is through a convincing work plan that we will now go to members and push for full engagement, including subscriptions of which only Kenya has so far complied. I urge all members of the Executive Committee to push their countries to lead by example in remitting subscriptions to enable us run the organization effectively.

The organization continues to fully engage partners to attain its mandate and as has been reported, was fully represented in the WAAPAC conference by the Chairperson. We are grateful EAAPAC and SADCOPAC have shown desire for cooperation and we will continue to strengthen ties. We are then left with the formation of NAAPAC which we must champion to establish.

With those few remarks, I thank you.