

APPO Magazine

JULY 2025

EXCELLENCE, PASSION AND RIGOUR AT THE SERVICE OF AN ORGANIZATION IN FULL CHANGE

*H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua
Minister of Hydrocarbons of Congo
& President of APPO*

- **4th OPEC-Africa Energy Dialogue**
Strengthening the partnership between
APPO, AFREC, ARDA and OPEC
- **Under the leadership of Minister of Hydrocarbons
HE Aimé Sakombi Molendo**
DR Congo is back
- **History**
When the west plundered oil exporters
to rule the world



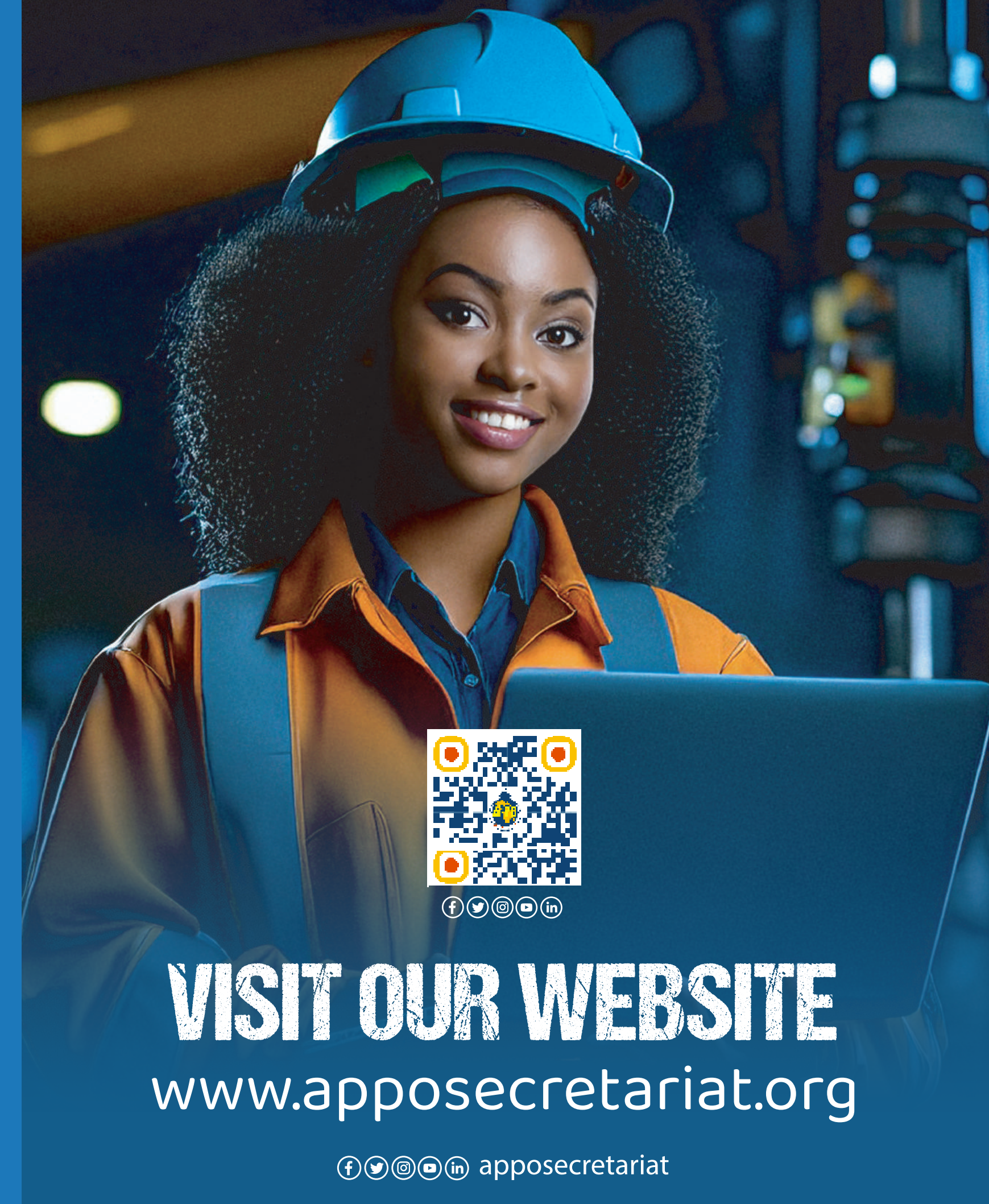


APPO TOWER



APPO MEMBER COUNTRIES

ALGERIA	CAMEROON	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	GHANA	NAMIBIA	SENEGAL
ANGOLA	CONGO	EGYPT	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	NIGER	SOUTH AFRICA
BENIN	DR CONGO	GABON	LIBYA	NIGERIA	CHAD



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.apposecretariat.org

 [apposecretariat](https://www.apposecretariat.org)

EDITORIAL

Reflections on a Mandate



*Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim
SG of APPO*

As APPO celebrates the 38th anniversary of its founding this year, the President of the Ministerial Council, His Excellency Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA, identified four

challenges that his term will focus on addressing. These are the much anticipated take-off of the Africa Energy Bank, a joint project being promoted by Afreximbank and APPO to fill the gap created by the decision of traditional financiers of oil and gas projects in Africa to abandon the continents hydrocarbons; the holding of the first summit of APPO Heads of State; the completion of the APPO Towers and the restructuring of the APPO Secretariat to meet the new challenges posed

to the industry by Energy transition. Mid-way into the year, we review progress made so far.

1. The take-off of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB)

This project is on course to being launched in the third quarter of the year. Started in 2022, all negotiations have been concluded. The Establishment Agreement as well as the Charter of the Bank have not only been signed off by the founding institutions, namely Afreximbank and APPO, they have been signed and ratified by the minimum number of APPO Member Countries required to make the Document an International Treaty.

Furthermore, the Headquarters of the Bank has been identified, Abuja, Nigeria and the equity capital is being raised. The process of recruitment of the pioneer staff of the Bank is in advanced stage.

From all indications, AEB shall see the light of the day before the close of the 3rd quarter.

2. The First Summit of Heads of State of APPO

To raise the profile of the Organization and make for collective decision making in critical policy issues, the reformers of APPA to APPO introduced the APPO Summit of Heads of State, borrowing from what obtains from OPEC and the GECF. The Republic of Congo was given the hosting right to the inaugural Summit. But Congo would not host the Summit until it is able to complete state-of-the-art 15-storey building headquarters it provided to the Organisation when it decided to return to Brazzaville after the reform.

Covid-19 and other challenges delayed work on the APPO Tower. But all those changed in 2025. The Tower is now completed, and Brazzaville is looking forward to hosting the first Summit of APPO Heads of State before the end of 2025.

3. The completion and official handover of the APPO Secretariat headquarters building

Another pledged made by the President of APPO at the beginning of the year was to see to the completion of the APPO Headquarters Building. As noted before, work on the Secretariat entered a high speed from the beginning of the year making it possible to complete all works by the middle of the year.

4. Reform of the Secretariat

To take the organization to the next level, especially in this era of energy transition where various challenges keep cropping up for the oil and gas industry, the President was convinced that the Secretariat needed to be restructured to effectively address the new challenges. After several meetings of the APPO Long Term Strategy, the staff of the Secretariat and the guidance of the Executive Board and the Ministerial Council, APPO is on the verge of a new era of greater professionalism.

To the President, all these could not have been achieved without the support of his colleagues, the Executive Board and the staff of the Secretariat. We look forward to the end of the year, where we shall look back with pride and what has been achieved in 2025.



Publisher

African Petroleum Producers' Organization, APPO
Address: City Centre 76, Av. Amilcar Cabral, Brazzaville,
Congo-Brazzaville
Phone: +242 06 563 5927
Email : info@apposecretariat.org

Website : www.apposecretariat.org

Visit the APPO website for the latest news and information about the Organization.

We are also available on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Membership and objectives Of APPO

The African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO) is an intergovernmental organization, established by eight African countries on January 27, 1987 in Lagos, Federal Republic of Nigeria to serve as a platform for cooperation and harmonization of efforts, collaboration, sharing of knowledge and expertise among African oil-producing countries. Its mission is to promote hydrocarbon cooperation of its Member Countries and other global institutions to foster fruitful collaboration and partnerships while using oil as a catalyst for energy security, sustainable development and economic diversification in Africa. APPO aspires to be the global reference and the leading institution on hydrocarbon-related issues in Africa. Today, the Organization is composed of 18 Member Countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Chad. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is an Honorary Member of APPO.

S U M

CONFERENCE

Libya Energy and Economic Summit 2025	8
Nigeria International Energy Summit 2025	10
EGYPES 2025	12
Congo Energy & Investment Forum (CEIF)	14
APPO's Side Event at CEIF	16
4th OPEC-Africa Energy Dialogue	18
2nd APPO R&D Forum	20
3rd APPO's O&G Training Institutes Forum	22
APPO at ARDA Week	24

PERSONALITY VISIT

Visit of ES ARDA	26
DRC Minister at APPO Headquarters	28

TOP NEWS

38th APPO anniversary at Brazzaville	30
--	-----------

PORTRAIT

APPO President	34
HE Bruno Jean Richard Itoua	

POSTCARD

Egypt, a giant with Pharaonic assets	36
Gabon, a forest jewel in heart of Africa	38



M A R Y

OPINION

The future of Energy in Africa is Female ! 42

ELSEWHERE NEWS

COP 29, Settlement or Compromise? 44

HISTORY

When the West plundered exporters to rule the world 46

OUR STUDIES

Study on Harmonisation of Fuel Grade In West Africa 48

BUSINESS FOCUS

Petroleum geological engineer 50

DID YOU KNOW ?

How and why APPA became APPO? 52

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Tips and tricks for using LPG 54

SEE ALSO OUR SUPPLEMENT CULTURAL PIPELINE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MAGAZINE



Office of the Secretary General

Secretary General : Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim

Head of the Office : Mr. Bakary Traoré

Legal Counsel : Mr. Bakamba Loguelko

Editor : Dr Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

Research Division

Director : Dr. Taher M. O. Najah

Head of the Energy Studies Unit: Dr Temilola George

Head of the Technical Cooperation Unit: Mr. Tchananti

Sahgui Tiatti

Division Support Services

Director : Mrs Philomena A. Ikoko

Head of the Administration, IT and Organization

Resources Unit : Mrs Chimdimma Okpara

Contributors to this issue:

Mr Viven Walter Kessi

Mr David Raymond Edet

Our thanks to :

Mr Didier Ngakama

Mr Alain Sockot

Cover

The cover of this issue shows the President of APPO and Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua (See the editorial and also the profile article on page 34).



LEES 2025

Libya aims for 1.6 million barrels per day in 2025

Now in its third edition, the Libya Energy and Economic Summit (LEES) is emerging as a crucial meeting of industry leaders, policymakers and experts who are coming together to shape the future of Libya's energy sector. With Africa's largest proven oil reserves estimated at 48 billion barrels, the country is opening up new opportunities for investment, innovation and economic development.



*HE Dr Khalifa R. Abdul Sadek
Libya Minister of Oil and Gas*

The objective of the LEES 2025, held on January 18 and 19, 2025 in Tripoli was to look at the strategies, technologies and partnerships behind Libya's energy transformation and its impact on the regional and global economy. The summit was inaugurated by Libyan Prime Minister Abdulhamid Al-Dbeibeh, who highlighted

the country's achievements and ambitions: « We started in 2021 with 800,000 bpd. As of January 2025, Libya has achieved 1.4 million bpd, reflecting our dedication to ensuring stability in the oil and gas industry. The government is eager to reinvest sector revenues into further improvements, aiming to reach 1.6 million bpd.» Noting that the



Libyan government is motivated by a holistic vision of development, he added that the executive's commitment goes beyond the hydrocarbon sector alone, to integrate environmental initiatives as well as decarbonization efforts, such as the planting of one million trees. Libya's Minister of Oil and Gas, H.E. Khalifa Abdulsadek, for his part, presented the government's strategic roadmap to revitalize the national hydrocarbon sector. Mr. Massoud M. Suleman, Acting Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) of Libya, presented the company's strategy to increase production, attract investment and stimulate innovation in the sector.

country's refining capacity from 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) as part of the long-term strategy to strengthen energy security and sustainability. Minister Abdulsadek discussed Libya's energy strategy and priorities during the closing session of the Libya Energy & Economic Summit (LEES) 2025. « We are also looking at producing petroleum products to sustain our demand once we hit the two-million-barrel-per-day mark» the minister said. He also stated that the country aims to achieve complete self-sufficiency in refined petroleum products through local refineries such as Marsa al Brega and Ras Lanuf. In addition to refining, Minister Abdulsadek outlined Libya's approach to natural gas production and export, emphasizing the balance between domestic



One of the panels at LEES 2025

Increasing Libya's refining capacity

Libya does not only aim to increase its production. The country also wants to increase its refining capacity, as indicated by H.E. Khalifa Abdulsadek, Minister of Oil and Gas. He expressed plans to increase the

demand and export opportunities. After the plenary and parallel sessions, the participants left Libya, confident in a better future for oil and gas in that country, despite the challenges the country faces. The next edition of the Summit is scheduled to be held in Tripoli from 24 to 26 January 2026.

APPO AT N.I.E.S 2025

Leading Africa's Voice On Energy Sovereignty

"The challenge before us is existential. No one African country has all it takes to successfully address the energy challenges by itself. But working together, pooling our collective resources in one direction, we have all we need to successfully address the enormous challenges" – Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General, African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO).

For four days in the month of February, from the 24th to the 27th, the Nigerian federal capital city, Abuja, hosted a major event in defining Africa's energy journey — the 8th Nigeria International Energy Summit (N.I.E.S). Bringing together government officials, investors, thought leaders, and international partners, the summit served as a platform for reshaping Africa's energy future. At the center of this dialogue stood the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO), led by its Secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim. With powerful interventions and bold ideas, APPO emerged as one of the summit's most influential voices, championing a pan-African agenda for collaboration, self-financing, and sustainable development.

Strategic leadership for Africa's energy future

Dr. Ibrahim's presence at N.I.E.S 2025 was more than ceremonial—it was strategic. Representing an intergovernmental organization that brings together Africa's leading oil-producing nations, with 96,7% of the continents Oil production and 95,1% of Gas, the SG used his platform to challenge conventional thinking about the African energy industry, and called for a new paradigm shift in how to address the challenges the energy transition poses to the African oil and gas industry. "We have been made to believe the lie that Africa is too poor to finance energy projects," he remarked during one of his addresses. "That narrative must change."

The Africa Energy Bank: a bold step toward sovereignty

For APPO, this Summit was an opportunity to reaffirm its continental vision: to strengthen regional cooperation, align national policies, and establish African-controlled financial instruments—chief among them, the Africa Energy Bank (AEB). Headquartered in Abuja, the AEB represents a bold step toward economic sovereignty and investment autonomy for Africa's energy sector. "The only way we can develop Africa," Dr. Ibrahim declared, "is to collaborate and pool our resources. No one African country has all it takes to address the energy challenges by itself. But working together and pooling our resources in one direction, we have all it takes to surmount the challenges" These words echoed the summit's official theme — "Bridging Continents: Connecting Investors Worldwide with Africa's Energy Potential" — but also pointed to a deeper truth: that Africa's future depends not on foreign capital, but on internal alignment and collective will.

High-level sideline engagements: from OPEC Africa Energy Dialogue to Local Content Development

Beyond the plenary sessions and panels, APPO's engagements extended to several strategic sideline meetings. One of the most significant was the 4th High Level Meeting of the OPEC–Africa Energy Dialogue, held on the margins of N.I.E.S. Discussions centered around enhancing technical exchange, strengthening policy alignment, and advocating



for a more equitable global energy governance structure where African voices carry weight.

In another notable engagement, the APPO delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NC-DMB). This visit underscored APPO's strong commitment to promoting local content development not only within Nigeria but across all its member countries. The APPO delegation, which was headed by the Secretary General included the Director of Research at the Secretariat, Dr. Taher Najah, Head of the Secretary General's Office, Engr. Bakary Traore, the Head of Energy Studies, Dr. Temilola George, the Head of Technical Cooperation Mr. Sahgui Richard Tchananti as well as Mr. David Raymond Edet. Receiving the delegation was the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe with members of his management team.

Dr. Ibrahim expressed deep appreciation to the NCDMB for the leadership role it has been playing in the development of African local content, noting that he receives request from African countries, including those outside APPO, for assistance to connect them to NCDMB to go and learn about the success story of local content. Dr. Ibrahim recalled that as Adviser to four successive ministers of petroleum in Nigeria before becoming APPO SG, his office was always inundated with requests from other African oil and gas producing countries for working visits to Nigeria.

The SG emphasized that local content must become a cornerstone of Africa's energy strategy, ensuring that African nations are not just hosts of resources, but key participants in value addition, innovation, and skilled employment. The SG once again commended the NCDMB for investing in the Africa Energy Bank, assuring the Board that it is one decision they will be happy they took.

Another strategic partner visited by the APPO delegation was the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited where the team was received by the Company's Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Bayo Bashir Ojulari and members of his management team.

The APPO team was meeting the new management of the NNPC for the first time after its appointment. In his remarks the APPO SG congratulated Engr. Ojulari and members of his team for the confidence reposed in them by President Tinubu to steer the affairs of the NNPC, noting that it is a herculean task, but that with God on their side, they should be able to deliver on their mandate. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim prayed that they will be insulated from undue pressures, so that they can remain focused.

The SG informed the GCEO that by virtue of his position as CEO of NNPC, he is a member of the Forum of CEOs of APPO NOCs and invited him to the next meeting of the Forum scheduled to be hosted by the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, in Accra in September 2025. He commended the NNPC for the role it played in the success of the NOCs Forum and appealed to the new GCEO to sustain the momentum, recognizing the leadership role that Nigeria plays in the African oil and gas industry. He commended NNPC for the leadership role it is playing in the establishment of the Africa Energy Bank.

Strengthening regional alliances and institutional partnerships

These engagements complemented a broader diplomatic effort by APPO to strengthen its institutional partnerships, align energy financing with regional goals, and support capacity building in African oil-producing countries. The APPO delegation also held bilaterals with a number of non-APPO African National Oil Companies, and international Oil Companies and energy financiers, further solidifying its role as a convener of Africa's energy future. As the summit concluded, APPO expressed its appreciation to the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its warm hospitality and for championing African leadership in global energy affairs. The organization also commended Brevity Anderson, whose seamless coordination ensured a successful summit experience. In every sense, APPO's participation at N.I.E.S 2025 was a clarion call. A call to rethink Africa's place in the world's energy map. A call to reject the narrative of dependency. And above all, a call to unite — because, as Dr. Ibrahim reminded us, no African country can do it alone. But together, we can achieve energy sovereignty, economic transformation, and a new era of continental pride.

EGYPES 2025

Building a secure and sustainable energy future

Held on February 17 and 18, 2025, the 8th edition of the Egypt Energy Show Conference and Exhibition (EGYPES 2025) took place at the Al-Manara International Conference Center in New Cairo.



Family picture

The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, HE Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, inaugurated on Monday, February 17, 2025, EGYPES 2025. Placed under the theme «Building a Secure and Sustainable Energy Future», the conference was held over two days. Two Heads of State participated, namely the President of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, and the President of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Ministers in charge of Energy were also present, including Eng. Karim Badawi,

Egypt's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, HE Ekperikpe Ekpo, Minister of Gas of Nigeria as well as their counterparts from Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Yemen and Djibouti, in addition to CEOs of NOCs and IOCs.

Bilateral sessions

The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt had bilateral meetings with Heads of State and officials on the sidelines of the conference, including with his Cypriot counterpart.



The two Presidents witnessed the signing of several cooperation agreements in the field of energy. These agreements are part of the strengthening of regional cooperation between the two countries in the field of natural gas. They also reaffirmed the centrality played by the country of the pharaohs as a regional centre, which makes it possible to benefit from Cypriot gas resources by exploiting Egyptian infrastructure to re-export them through Egypt. President Al-Sisi also met with the President of Equatorial Guinea H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. The two

try's efforts against harmful emissions to ensure a safer environment. It has shown that, as efforts intensify, the potential is vast. However, as costs remain high, investment, scale, deployment and implementation of a variety of innovative technologies and methods must continue if Africa is to achieve the scale of emissions elimination needed in the coming decades. The SG did not fail to make the contribution of APPO to this effort, in particular through its many initiatives to pool energies to face these important challenges. He stressed that APPO Member Countries, aware of



One of the panels at EGPES 2025

statesmen explored issues related to peace, security and stability in Africa. They reiterated their commitment to act in a unified manner to safeguard the continent's interests in international forums.

Reducing harmful energy emissions

Taking part in this summit, the SG of APPO H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim participated in a panel on the reduction of harmful energy emissions. This session highlighted the oil and gas indus-

the need to reduce harmful emissions, mobilized last year in Accra during a round table of the organization on the reduction of gas flaring and fugitive methane emissions. He also gave a brief on the creation of the Africa Energy Bank, whose objective is to provide financing solutions for the industry. Following the resounding success of this year's edition, EGPES 2026 will open its doors on 30 March 2026 and explore how Egypt, in the heart of Africa and the Mediterranean, is fostering a responsible transformation of the energy sector.

Congo Energy & Investment Forum

A first attempt, a masterstroke

APPO founder Member Country, the Republic of Congo, inaugurated on March 24, 2025, its energy and investments forum where it aims to provide a befitting platform to connect project developers with Congolese regulators and policymakers. Jointly organized by the Congolese Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy Capital & Power, the program benefited for the partnership of APPO.



Family picture

Kintélé International Conference Center was lit up with the shimmering colors of the Congolese oil and gas industry during the three-day Congo Energy & Investment Forum. Coming from Congo but also from other African and even non-African countries, the participants held exchanges and discussions in the interest of the country's industry. The African Petroleum Producers' Organization, APPO, an institutional partner of the Forum, also played its part, by animating a stand to

which visitors converged. The Secretary General of APPO, H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim reiterated, in his speech, the Organization's support for this forum. Congratulating the Ministry of Hydrocarbons of Congo for partnering with Energy Capital & Power in the organization of the forum, H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim welcomed the awakening of African countries who have understood that a new paradigm must be put in place to meet the challenges posed by the Global Energy Transition. He noted the

progress made by the Organization in recent years. His briefing on the progress of the project to create the Africa Energy Bank elicited a lot of interest among the participants.

Advocacy for a Just Energy Transition

The forum was officially inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO. Welcoming the holding of this important meeting within the framework of the National Development Plan (NDP), the President greeted delegations from all over the world. He did not fail to emphasize that the Congolese government aims to make the energy sector a lever, why not the lever of the nation's economic rebound, according to the vision of the Head of State. This is what explains the Congolese executive's commitment to fiscal, legal and organizational reform of the hydrocarbons sector, in order to offer greater attractiveness to investors. In his address, the President did not fail to plead for a just and equitable Energy Transition for the African continent. Finally, he encouraged investors to seize the opportunity of the improvement of the business climate in Congo, to come and invest massively in industry. «There can be no development of modern life without energy» he stressed, calling for the consolidation of relations between African partners, because for him, only a concerted approach based

on mutual trust and common interest will make it possible to build sustainable growth.

Exhibitions and discussions

The Forum itself consisted of a major exhibition attended by key industry players, including the African Petroleum Producers Organization. The APPO stand caught the attention of many visitors, curious to get information on the Organization's flagship project, the Africa Energy Bank. Various discussion panels also followed, around important themes, such as the increase in oil production and the flagship projects of the Republic of Congo, the implementation of the bold energy vision of Congo, in which H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General of APPO took part. Key industry personalities in attendance included HE Aimé Molendo Sakombi, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Democratic Republic of Congo, HE Gabriel Lima, President of the Central Africa Pipeline System Projects Funding and Investment Committee, and many other senior industry players across the continent. Energy and investment prospects were explored with a focus on natural gas, the fuel of progress. CEIF 2025 ended on a note of hope for the national industry, and the second edition is scheduled to be held in Brazzaville in 2026.

Partial view of the audience



APPO Side Event At The Congo Energy & Investment Forum

At the inaugural Congo Energy and Investment Forum, CEIF, held in Kintele, Brazzaville, between March 25 and 26, a major APPO side event took place. This was a key highlight of the forum, during which officials at very senior levels of government of many CEMAC countries and many other participants were given detailed briefings about the Africa Energy Bank, AEB, a project being promoted jointly by APPO and Afreximbank.



Family picture

The APPO side event, organized on the sidelines of the Congo Energy and Investment Forum, CEIF, focused on the theme: «The Africa Energy Bank: Energy Transition and Financing Options for the Oil and Gas Industry in Africa». The objective was to give participants and potential investors at the Forum an update on the establishment of the much-anticipated Africa Energy Bank, AEB, which is being promoted jointly by APPO and Afreximbank.

Relying on your own strengths

The idea for the creation of the Africa Energy Bank, said the presenter, and Head of the Office of the APPO Secretary General, Engr. Bakary Traoré, came from the realization that the global energy transition posed imminent funding challenges to the African oil and gas industry as those on whom African countries had for decades relied on to

fund oil and gas projects have decided to shift their investments to renewal energies. According to Mr. Traore, with over 125 billion barrels of proven crude reserves, and over 650 trillion cubic feet of gas, Africa cannot afford to abandon these resources in the ground especially when the African continent has the unenviable record of having the largest proportion of its people living without access to energy. With nearly a billion Africans, mostly in sub-saharan African living with no access to modern energy and some 600 million with no access to electricity, Africa must find alternative means of funding its oil and gas operations. Thus, in 2022 in Luanda, Angola, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between APPO and

Paradigm shift

The AEB is a major asset of the APPO, and more broadly of the African continent, to change its circumstances, in view of the imminent challenges the continent's oil and gas industry faces. The AEB is seen as a solution to the imminent funding challenges because of the withdrawal of traditional financiers, ostensibly due to climate concerns. Mr. Traore noted that a lot of progress has been made towards the launch of the Bank, whose Headquarters is located in Abuja, Nigeria. It is expected that the Bank shall take off in the third quarter of 2025. The shareholding structure of the Bank is in three classes. Class A sharehol-



Plenary session

Afreximbank for the creation of the Africa Energy Bank, AEB. Within two years, all negotiations had been finalized, documents signed by the founding institutions. By the end of the year, the Agreement had become a Treaty following the ratification of the Agreement by two member countries of APPO, namely the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Ghana.

ders include the founding institutions (Afreximban and APPO) and APPO Member Countries, Class B shareholders are other African countries (outside APPO) and Class C shareholders are non-African non-sovereign investors. While AEB shall seek to fund energy projects in general on the African continent, its main focus shall be oil and gas for the foreseeable future.

4th Meeting of the OPEC – Africa Energy Dialogue Strengthening the partnership between APPO, AFREC, ARDA and OPEC

The 4th High Level Meeting of the OPEC–Africa Energy Dialogue took place on 25 February 2025 in Abuja on the sidelines of the 8th Edition of the Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES).



Family picture

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO) and Head of its delegation. The OPEC delegation was led by H.E Dr. Haitham Al Ghais, OPEC Secretary General, while Mr. Anibor Kragha, Executive Secretary of the African Refiners & Distributors Association (ARDA) led the ARDA delegation. The Africa Energy Commission (AFREC)'s delegation was led by Mr. Yagouba Traore, Head of Policy Planning and Strategy at AFREC representing the Executive Director, Rashid Ali Abdallah. All delegations reaffirmed their commitment towards enhancing multilateral collaboration with more focus on Africa.

Highlighting Africa's potential

In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim welcomed the Parties to the Dialogue and reaffirmed that the Dialogue continues to be an invaluable opportunity for the partners to deliberate on the future of Africa's energy sector and strengthen collaboration between OPEC and African energy institutions. He added that Africa is rich in oil and gas resources as well as the critical minerals of the new energy economy, noting that Oil and Gas contribute significantly to APPO Member Countries' economies, and hence Africa should take control of the industry and excel in developing the required technology and expertise and provide innova-



tive funding solutions to finance O&G projects and operations. In this regard, he briefed the meeting on the advancement made in the establishment of the Africa Energy Bank which is tailored to support the O&G industry in the Continent.

Developing common positions

In his remarks, HE Al Ghaith thanked APPO Secretariat for hosting the Dialogue and the other African Parties for their participation and reiterated that OPEC is keen to develop further its Dialogue and collaboration with African Countries and Energy Ins-

zation. ARDA remains committed to promoting actionable frameworks to support investments across the African downstream energy industry that will ensure value-addition and reduction of petroleum products imports in the coming years while achieving a lower carbon footprint for the sector.

Sustaining the dialogue

Mr Yagouba Traoré first announced that a new Commissioner for Energy and Infrastructure was appointed by the African Union. He then emphasized the need to continue and foster collaboration among



H.E. Haithem Al Gheith, SG of OPEC

tutions with the aim of better understanding the challenges of the industry on the continent so that a common common position on these challenges can be developed and addressed.

Mr. Anibor Kragha also expressed ARDA's pride in being part of the Dialogue, which he sees as a major platform for ensuring that Africa's energy needs are met via robust initiatives that balance security and sustainability for the continent. He then emphasized the need for further collaboration amongst OPEC and pan-African energy institutions like APPO, ARDA and AFREC to promote an integrated, pan-African energy industry to meet the vastly increased energy demand required to fuel the continent's industriali-

global energy and African energy organizations, to ensure data and knowledge sharing and develop energy markets throughout the African Continent. The Parties resolved to strengthen cooperation in the areas of Carbon reduction technology, environmental concerns and sustainability of funding the industry in the African Continent. The Dialogue congratulated the new Commissioner of Energy and Infrastructure, H.E Lerato Mataboge, for her appointment and wished her a very successful tenure. The Dialogue also expressed appreciation to HE Amani Abou -Zeid, immediate past Commissioner for Energy and Infrastructure of the AU for her participation in previous Dialogues. The next Dialogue is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026.

2nd Meeting of the FORUM of APPO R&D Directors

Making Africa a hub of Innovation and Excellence in the Oil and Gas industry

Last year, Angola hosted the inaugural meeting of the Forum of Directors of Research, Development and Innovation Centers of APPO Member Countries. The objective of the Forum, which is to develop a platform for cooperation and collaboration among Oil and Gas Research, Development and Innovation Institutions in APPO Member Countries, seems to be bearing fruit. One year later, the Members of the Forum met again, for the 2nd time in Algeria. The Meeting was hosted by SONATRACH in Algiers on April 22 and 23, 2025.

The 2nd Meeting of the FORUM of APPO R&D Directors was declared open by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Arkab, Algerian Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies. In his opening remarks Minister Arkab expressed appreciation to APPO for the remarkable progress that the Organization has made since the reform from APPA, noting that the creation of the various fora such as the NOC, Training and R&D are signals that APPO is determined to address the fundamental issues facing the African oil and gas industry. Minister Arkab pointed out that Africa cannot take full control of its oil and gas industry without mastering the technology of the industry, and commended APPO and all the member countries that are participating in the meeting for their foresight. The Minister further noted that cooperation and collaboration in oil and gas training, research, development and innovation among APPO Member Countries is the surest way to overcome the technology challenge. He noted that Algeria take research and development and innovation seriously and that accounts for the over thirty patents they have registered in just three years. He assured the Organization of the continuous support of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

In his remarks, the President and Chairman of SONATRACH, the National Oil Company of Algeria, Mr. Rachid Hachichi noted that science,

research and innovation are key to addressing the imminent challenges that the energy transition poses to the African oil and gas industry. He noted that the era of APPO Member Countries going solo on oil and gas activities including training and research should be gone, and that we all need to cooperate and collaborate and pool our resources to address our common challenges. He noted that some countries have made some good progress while others are just beginning and assured that SONATRACH and Algeria are prepared to support other oil and gas producing countries. He advised against dissipating energy and our meagre resources through duplication of efforts and called for the pooling of resources to establish centers of excellence in oil and gas research, development and innovation across the continent. These centers shall address the specific challenges facing the oil and gas industry in the continent, he noted.

The out-going Chairman of the Forum, Dr. Vladimir Machado, CEO of the Sonangol R&D Center, recalled that at the inaugural meeting the foundations of the Forum were laid with a common vision which is to transform the National R&D Centers into strategic drivers of technological development, innovation and industrial resilience.



From left to right : Dr. Vladimir Machado, CEO of the Sonangol R&D Center, HE Dr Omar Farouk, APPO's SG, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Arkab, Algerian Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies, Mr. Rachid Hachichi, President and Chairman of SONATRACH, the National Oil Company of Algeria and Mr. Mustapha Mohamed Benamara, Sonatrach's Central Director of R&D

The Secretary General of APPO, H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, conveyed the gratitude of all the delegates to the meeting to H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the Republic for the constant support that Algeria, a founding Member Country, has been providing to APPO, recalling that Algeria played a key role in the establishment of APPO in the mid 1980s. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim expressed his gratitude to H.E. Mohamed Arkab, for

his visionary leadership, noting the central role played the minister in the transformation of APPO, particularly since the reform. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim also thanked the Chairman and CEO of SONATRACH for the organization of the 4th Meeting of the CEOs of SNH, the inaugural meeting of the Training Forum and this 2nd Meeting of Directors of Research, Development and Innovation, saying that these are clear demonstrations of commitment to the cause of cooperation and collaboration among APPO Member Countries.

Building partnerships based on knowledge and best practices

Incoming President of the Forum, Mr. Mustapha Mohamed Benamara, SONATRACH's Central Director of R&D, said that R&D is essential to optimize exploration and production through advanced and cost-effective techniques (including digitalization), develop and apply environmentally friendly technologies to align with global Energy Transition goals, strengthen local human and scientific capacity and foster a competitive African oil and gas industry.

Identification of key areas of focus

Under the theme «Innovation and Collaboration», the Technical Meeting focused on an update by Member Countries on their capacities and activities since the inaugural meeting of the Forum. The APPO Secretariat briefed the meeting on R&D policies and regulatory frameworks. The highlight of the Meeting was the discussion of proposals, options and strategies for joint projects among Member Countries, as well as ways and means for the promotion of existing R&D Institutions into African Centres of Excellence in specific industrial sectors. The Forum identified four major areas of the oil and gas sector requiring in-depth research, namely:

1. **Upstream Technology** to be led by SONATRACH.
2. **Data Management and Artificial Intelligence Solutions** to be led by SONANGOL.
3. **Sector Decarbonization and Environment Protection Solutions** to be led by NNPC Limited.
4. **O&G Industrial Facilities Design, Development and Integrity Management solutions** to be led by GNPC.

The next meeting of the Forum will assess the level of collaboration in these domains. It is planned for April 2026. It will be hosted in Abuja (Nigeria) by NNPC Limited – RTI. In the meantime, the Member Country Algeria invited all members of the Forum to participate in the 12th edition of the SONATRACH Scientific and Technical Days, scheduled for June 2025 in Oran.

3rd Meeting of Forum of Directors of APPO O&G Training Institutions Towards the creation of a Certification Framework for the African Oil and Gas Sector

The 3rd Meeting of the Forum of Directors of APPO Member Countries' Oil and Gas Training Institutions was held in May 2025 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. In attendance were the Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutions from the energy ministries, as well as the NOCs. Their objective was to share thoughts on the methodology of oil and gas training across the continent, consolidate efforts at harmonizing training programmes, pool resources to optimize efforts and work on developing a certification framework for the African oil and gas industry.



The 3rd meeting of the Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutions in APPO Member Countries was hosted from May 12 to 14, 2025 in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) by the Institut National Polytechnique Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY (INP-HB). His Excellency Mamadou Sanga-

Family's picture

fowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire declared the meeting open where he congratulated INP-HB for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. He commended APPO Secretariat for the transformation that APPO is going through since the



reform, noting that the creation of the Forum of APPO Member Countries' Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutions and the enthusiasm demonstrated by members in the last two editions of the meetings is testimony to how APPO is driving the efforts to wean Africa from undue dependence on foreign expertise in the oil and industry. The Minister who was represented by his chief of Staff emphasized the continued support of Cote D'Ivoire to APPO and its programmes and noted the need for Africa to adapt to the global energy transition. He called for the integration of new technologies, the professionalization of training and the harmonization of curricula and bridging the gap between academia and industry.

In his remarks, the Secretary General of APPO, Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim expressing his gratitude to APPO Member Country the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire for the continuous support that APPO has received from the country noting that the reform from APPA to APPO was conceived in Cote D'Ivoire, back in 2014. He expressed appreciation to Minister Sangafowa-Coulibaly for his personal support and that of the agencies under his ministry.

Turning to the participants, the SG invited the members of the Forum to be proactive, not only by participating in the meetings, but also by ensuring the implementation of the Forum's recommendations in their respective countries and institutions.

A lot of progress made...

The chairmanship of the Forum for this year is Mr. Fodé Kadialy Kanté, Director of the High School of Chemistry, Petroleum and Energy of INP-HB. He succeeded Mrs. Folashade Adekeye, Director of the NNPC Academy. Under the leadership of the incoming President, and with the assistance of Dr. Taher Najah, Director of the APPO Research Division, the Forum examined several reports. The Chair of the Forum's Working Group (WG), Abdelkader Guenoune, Director of the Algerian Petroleum Institute, briefed participants on the status of the six assignments entrusted to the WG at the second meeting. These missions are to conduct a Comparative Analysis of MCs O&G training

Institutes, to undertake analyses of Common industry jobs and competencies, conduct a review of Methodologies for on-the-job training, to make recommendations for the creation of an APPO training data base, Consider the creation of an APPO training certification framework and finally propose mechanisms for collaboration with academia.

The Members of the Forum then exchanged views on the bilateral agreements established and underway between the institutes of the Member Countries, highlighting the progress made, the challenges encountered and the prospects. Regarding training programs, discussions focused on the harmonization of training programmes, the use of simulators in O&G training, certification of training institutes, programmes and instructors, on-the-job-training, suppliers training programmes, E-learning and Distance Learning and training in collaboration with R&D centres.

... but it's not yet Uhuru

Eight areas of training were identified by the Forum as new frontiers in the oil and gas industry. These are the areas of Deep offshore operations, EOR activities, enhanced safety and environmental protection, AI, directional drilling and hydraulic fracturing, advance exploration techniques, renewable integration and innovative energy solutions. Although some institutes already cover part of these fields, it was recommended that all institutes ensure that they are integrated into their curricula. Two new areas, namely biomass management and carbon credit valuation, have also been identified. In addition, it has been observed that a distinction is made between traditional universities, which focus on theoretical learning, and technical universities, or polytechnics, which focus on practical and concrete training. In order to address the skills gap in the sector, the Forum recommended that training institutions actively collaborate with traditional universities to complement academic education with practical skills in line with the needs of the industry. Finally, the Forum highlighted the importance of harmonizing certification processes for the industry in Africa, noting that it would be a fundamental step towards the development of an African Certification Framework for the oil and gas sector.

« Africa is changing for the better and APPO is championing a new paradigm shift in the search for solutions to the challenges posed to the African oil and gas industry as a result of our failures in the past »

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim at the opening of ARDA Week



HE Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim
APPO's SG at ARDA WEEK 2025

«Africa First – Delivering Our Energy Future» was the theme of the ARDA Week, organized from 7 to 11 April 2024 in Capetown, Republic of South Africa, by ARDA. Invited to speak at the opening ceremony of this Forum, the APPO SG gave an inspiring speech in which he identified the necessary conditions for «Africa First» to move from being a beautiful slogan to a reality that can change the face of the continent for the better.

Organized by the African Refiners and Distributors' Association, ARDA Week has become, over the years, the unmissable event for the African downstream oil industry. This year's edition of ARDA Week with the theme: Africa First – Delivering Our Energy Future was declared open on 7th April in Cape Town and brought together representatives from African refineries, governments, banks, regulators, importers, distributors, traders, storage companies, marketing firms and suppliers of refinery equipment and technology. Delivering the Keynote Address at the Opening ceremony the SG of APPO, H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim said that the choice of the theme was most apt given the rapidly changing global energy and geopolitical context. Recalling the sad reality of the African oil and gas industry, dominated for the last three

advent of a global paradigm shift, euphemistically called the Energy Transition, which has allowed Africa to realize its mistakes. «Better late than never,» he said, adding that «Africa is changing for the better and APPO is championing a new paradigm shift in the search for solutions to the challenges posed to the African oil and gas industry as a result of our failures in the past.» The SG concluded that the saying «Africa First» will only become a reality if Africans come to control the financing of the energy industry, while ending their undue dependence on the technologies developed by others to explore, produce and process the continent's oil and gas. Also, he added as a sine qua non condition for the realization of this noble objective, the development of cross-border, regional and continental energy markets, challenges that the APPO



Anibor Kragha
Executive Secretary, ARDA

quarters of a century by the dictates of the needs of actors outside the continent, he regretted that the needs of Africa with its nearly one billion inhabitants without access to modern energy have not been a factor taken into account in the search for energy on the continent. « Is it not ironic,» he remarked, « that Africa exports 75% of the oil and 45% of the gas it produces when we also boast of having the largest proportion of the world's population living without access to modern energy?» Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim welcomed the

has striven to meet in the most practical way on the continent. The SG noted that the «Africa First» goal is achievable, provided that the three identified challenges facing the African oil and gas industry, namely finance, technology and markets, are successfully addressed. No country on the African continent has all that it takes to address these challenges by itself, but working in synergy Africa has all it needs to address the challenges, he concluded.

Visit of the Executive Secretary of ARDA to the APPO Secretariat

Consolidating A Win-Win Partnership



ES of ARDA Kragha signing the APPO guestbook

H.E. Eng Anibor Kragha, Executive Secretary of ARDA paid a courtesy visit on Monday, March 24, 2025 to H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, at the General Secretariat of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization, APPO, in Brazzaville. The opportunity was taken by the two personalities to strengthen the already existing good working partnership between their institutions, and to define areas of concerted action.



The Executive Secretary of ARDA and the Secretary General of APPO, surrounded by the APPO Directors

The reunion between officials on the executive of APPO and ARDA comes just after the success of the 4th high-level meeting of the OPEC-Africa Energy Dialogue in which the two organizations participated in Abuja, Nigeria on February 25, 2025, on the sidelines of the Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES) 2025. The courtesy visit of the Executive Secretary was an opportunity to present the two institutions through the challenges they face. Thus, from its origins, to the major reform that allowed it to adopt its current form, APPO was presented, with a major focus on the project to create the Africa Energy Bank. ARDA was encouraged to invite its members to become shareholders of the Bank, which is about to take off. Also, ARDA was invited to join the partnership with CABEF for the CAPS.

Twenty years in the service of the downstream industry

Introducing the African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA), H.E. Eng Anibor Kragha said it is the leading pan-African organization for the downstream oil sector. Founded in 2006, ARDA's members include petroleum refiners, importers, terminal operators, major distributors and

industry regulators. As an established platform to improve interaction between refiners, African operators working in the storage, transport and distribution chain as well as international marketing, trading, engineering and financial services companies, ARDA organizes the annual ARDA Week in Cape Town. APPO Secretary General, Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim and a delegation from APPO were at ARDA 2025 where he spoke on the theme Africa First.

Mr. Kragha announced that ARDA is preparing to commemorate, in 2026, its twentieth anniversary, with a special program of ARDA Week that will take place from April 11 to 17, 2026. To conclude this visit, different areas of cooperation were considered between the two Organizations. These include the exchange of information on downstream oil as well as African Local Content as well as the creation of a common forum to discuss challenges, and allocate responsibilities, in order to optimize the use of the continent's scarce resources. On the study on the crude oil and petroleum products markets, the two organizations agreed to sign a MoU between for cooperation and realization of projects of common interest.

Courtesy visit on APPO Headquarters DRC announces its return to the international oil industry scene

The Minister of Hydrocarbons of the DR Congo, H.E. Mr. Aimé Sakombi Molendo paid a visit to the APPO Secretariat in Brazzaville on March 26, 2025, on the sidelines of the Congo Energy & Investment Forum. The DRC delegation was received by the APPO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim and Members of Management of the Secretariat.



Working session

This is the very first time that the Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), H.E. Mr. Aimé Sakombi Molendo has visited the APPO headquarters since his appointment last year. At the outset, H.E. Minister Sakombi Molendo expressed appreciation to the SG for the exceptional welcome he has always received from the Secretary General, noting their first meeting during Africa Energy Week held in Cape Town in November last year. He also thanked the SG for honouring his invitation to the 10th edition of the annual Makutano, held in Kinshasa late last year.

Speaking on the reforms underway in oil and gas industry in the DRC the Minister cited the reform of the hydrocarbons code, the objective of which is to simplify the text while aiming for a more motivating tax system for potential investors. He assured that work has advanced and that the revised text, better aligned with new modern practices, should then be presented to the Council of Ministers for validation. The Minister also announced the construction of a very secure data room. He did not fail to indicate the upcoming exploitation of several blocks with the aim of increasing and optimizing the DRC's oil supply.

DRC is back

The Minister Sakombi also indicated that arrangements were being made to boost his country's participation in APPO. He shared the new vision of the DRC, which is that APPO must be the cement that consolidates relations between all African countries. It is for this reason, he said, that the country has ratified the partnership agreement on oil fields with Uganda and Angola. A similar pro-

ject is being discussed with Congo Brazzaville, he said. The Minister stressed that the DR Congo is ready to make its return to the international oil industry.

This comeback, according to him, involves efforts to update



Handshake between Ministry Sakombi Molendo and Dr Ibrahim

the obligations to APPO, in order to work hand in hand to benefit from the technical support of APPO. H.E. Mr. Aimé Sakombi Molendo indicated that in the future, exchanges with APPO will be multiplied so that the DR Congo catches up, to transform its resources and become a real oil country in the very near future. «I feel at home. If some things don't work, I'm a baby who is only 9 months old,» the Minister concluded in a humorous note, once again congratulating APPO for the efforts made in setting up the Africa Energy Bank.

38 years of promoting cooperation and collaboration in the field of hydrocarbons in Africa

The anniversary of APPO celebrated in Brazzaville on January 27



Group picture

The African Petroleum Producers' Organization, APPO, is celebrating its 38th anniversary this year. The festivities were marked in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, the headquarters country, by the holding of the third edition of the APPO Ambassadors' Forum. In this mini-file, you will find the highlights of this celebration.



H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO delivering his speech



*H.E. Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim
APPO's SG delivering his speech*



Symbolic Birthday Cake Cutting

The Member Countries of APPO met in Brazzaville, through their Ambassadors, on January 27, 2025 to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the birth of the Organization. Chaired by H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO, this third meeting of the Ambassadors' Forum was a moment for reflections around the path taken by the Pan-African Organization, as well as the way forward. Thus, at the opening of the session, guests were shown a video recap of the milestones set, from the establishment of the African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA) in Lagos, Nigeria in 1987, to the latest news related in particular to the ongoing creation of the African Energy Bank, including the major reforms carried out between 2015 and 2020. Committed to playing their part in the common task, the Ambassadors did not fail to salute the vision of the founding fathers, as well as the concerted action of



Presentation of the Gift of the President of the APPO by the SG



Presentation of the Gift of Venezuela's Ambassador by the Dean

the States within the APPO. As experts in diplomacy, the APPO SG urged the

members of the APPO Ambassadors' Forum to help disseminate APPO's position in the various international fora that they attend. The APPO

Secretariat, he said, is ready at all times to provide the necessary information on the Organization's activities and positions, so that Ambassadors are well informed of what APPO is doing for the well-being of African people. He spoke about the global Energy Transition and APPO's position on it, noting that APPO is not anti-energy transition, but that our Member Countries cannot embark on the transition with the same speed as the developed countries are asking us to. Our circumstances are radically different, he argued.

Briefing on the Africa Energy Bank

In its 38 years of existence, APPO has been able to position itself as the platform par excellence for expertise and collaboration in the field of hydrocarbons in Africa. This was recalled in his speech by H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO.

He dwelt on the project to create the Africa Energy Bank, the objective of which is to compensate for the disappearance of traditional foreign investors in fossil fuels on the continent, by financing oil and gas projects. The APPO President also called for a consensus for the control of the oil market and the harmonization of policies

related to the Energy Transition. «APPO defends the interests of its countries and continues to do so in the negotiations we are conducting with the oil companies. It is very important to be united in the face of all the ultra-powerful oil companies that come to us,» he concluded.

Facing even more challenges

Taking the floor, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Mr. René Makongo, Ambassador of the Gabonese Republic to the Republic of Congo, welcomed the sustainability of the initiative. He urged his colleagues to provide the necessary support to APPO to achieve its objectives and hoped that the new year that is opening for the Organization will allow it to meet even more challenges, so that the oil and gas with which God has blessed the African subsoil, will benefit its populations. The toast of a happy birthday was then made by H.E. Mrs. Laura Evangelia Suarez, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Republic of Congo, the Honorary Member Country of APPO. The ceremony ended in a warm atmosphere, with the symbolic cutting of the cake of the 38th anniversary of APPO.



Presentation of the Gift of Algeria's Ambassador by the President of APPO

H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua

President of APPO

Excellence, passion and rigour at the service of an Organization in full change

As Vice-President of APPO, the current Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo had already demonstrated his unwavering commitment to conduct the affairs of the Organization with passion and conscience. Edified by this experience, it is with confidence that his peers have appointed him since January 2025, President of APPO. Such a consecration is only the logical culmination of a brilliant career as a technocrat and a seasoned politician.

‘The right man in the right place», this saying has never been more appropriate than to qualify the choice of H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua to preside over the destiny of APPO, as one could have thought that the slightest of the milestones set in the man’s career prepared him to assume such a function. A pure product of the Congolese education system, Mr. Itoua did brilliant university studies at the Marien Ngouabi University in Brazzaville, which allowed him to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics option. He then flew to France where he successively obtained his diplomas in Mechanics-Electricity Engineer at the Special School of Public Works and building (SPWP) in Paris, Engineer in Development and Exploitation of Deposits at EN-SPM (IFP) at Rueil Malmaison, then a DESS / MBA in Business Administration at IAE de Paris (University Panthéon-Sorbonne).

A promising start of career

Back in the country, Mr. Itoua began his professional career in 1984 in the General Electricity Control of the National Electricity Company (SNE) where he assumed the functions of Engineer and then Head of the Technical Control Department. He joined Elf Congo in 1985 and held several positions: from 1985 to

1987, Head of Statistical Production Methods, from 1987 to 1988, Assistant to Head of Production Sector, from 1988 to 1992, Deputy Head of Production Sector, from 1992 to 1993, Tchendo Project Manager (1990), from 1993 to 1995, Head of the Production Sector and from 1995 to 1997, Head of Methods Department at the Exploitation Subdivision.

Pioneer of the SNPC

Advisor in Hydrocarbons, Mines, Energy and Hydraulics to the President of the Republic, Head of State from 1999 to 2005, this excellent Manager, passionate about challenges and extremely picky, has an extraordinary professional background. He was pioneer Chief Executive Officer of the Société Nationale des Pétroles du Congo (SNPC) from its creation in 1998 to 2005. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA has, in addition to his function as CEO of what has become under his rule, the flagship of the Congolese economy, held the positions of Secretary General of the Deposit and Guarantee Fund, General Administrator of CORAF. He has also been Chairman of the Boards of Directors of SNE, SNDE, Intel’s Congo and several SNPC subsidiaries, as well as a member of several Boards of Directors (SOCOTRAM)...



H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua

Prestigious distinctions

Mr Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA has received several awards including that of Best African Manager of the Year 2000, awarded by the International Council of African Managers (CIMA), the WQC (World Quality Commitment) International Star Award in the Gold category, the African Management Award (AMA) trophy as Sponsor of the 3rd Edition Dakar 2005. Due to the many services rendered to the nation, Mr. Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA was elevated to the rank of Grand Officer in the Congolese Order of Merit. President of the Council of African Ministers of Water (AMCOW) from May 2007 to November 2009, he was elected by his peers at the end of his mandate, President of the Steering Committee of the African Water Facility (AWF), a position he held cumulatively with his functions of Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of CICOS (International Commission of the Congo-Ou-bangui-Sangha Basin) until 12 January 2012. Minister Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA was also elevated to the rank of Commander of the International Order of Academic Palms of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES), on November 10, 2020.

An exemplary political career

Initially appointed Minister of Energy and Hydraulics from 2005 to 2011, Mr. Itoua was promoted to Minister of Higher Education in May 2016, with the objective on the one hand to raise the level of higher education in Congo and on the other hand to train an elite in line with the imperatives of the job market, while placing Congolese universities at the forefront of information and communication technologies, in accordance with the vision of the President of the Republic. In addition to his duties as Minister, Mr. Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA, was elected in November 2016, President of the Congolese Basketball Federation. Now at the Ministry of Hydrocarbons since the end of May 2021, Mr. Bruno Jean Richard ITOUA's objective is to increase the level of oil and gas production in the Republic of Congo, while demonstrating the existence of a favorable working environment. Minister Itoua served as President of OPEC from January 2022 to January 2023. Deputy of the 1st electoral district of the District of Ollombo since June 24, 2007, he is married and father of six children.

The Arab Republic of Egypt

A giant with Pharaonic assets



One of the earliest African oil and gas producing countries to join APPO in 1989, barely two years after the creation of the Organization, APPO Member Country the Arab Republic of Egypt is situated in North Africa with Cairo as its capital. With a centuries-old civilization, this oil-producing nation benefits from a climate and history that makes it a beacon for Africa. H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi is the President of the Republic.



Tourist site in Egypt

The pyramids, the Sphinx, the great Valley of the Kings, etc. are some of the world famous historic sites to visit while in Egypt. The heart of the Arab world, with its seven United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites, Egypt is considered the cradle of civilization. On the banks of the Nile Valley, the ancient Egyptians developed grain culture, a sophisticated system of political organization, religion, writing, record-keeping, and a foundation for artistic flourishing. Ancient

Egyptian civilization has radiated throughout the world through the millennia thanks to iconic historical figures, from Akhenaten to Queen Hatshepsut and from Tutankhamun to Ramses II. Egypt also played an important cultural and political role in the Greco-Roman world. The arrival of Alexander the Great in Egypt in 332 BC marks the beginning of the Greco-Roman period, during which Egypt was home to legendary figures such as Queen Cleopatra. Christianity was subsequently introduced to Egypt by the apostle St. Mark, in



the early first century, making the Egyptian Coptic Church one of the oldest churches in existence. The arrival of Islam in Egypt marked the beginning of this country's important role in the medieval world. During the Islamic period, dynasties such as the Umayyads, Abbasids, Fatimids, Ayyubids, and Mamluks left behind a rich medieval Islamic architecture, transforming Cairo into a «city of a thousand minarets.»

Modern Egypt

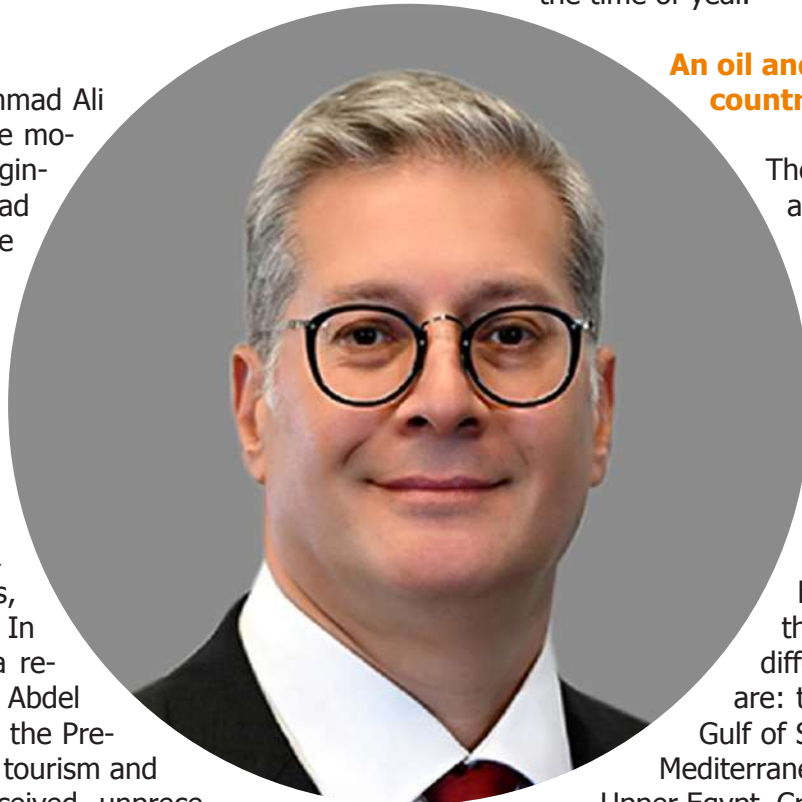
The dynasty of Muhammad Ali marked the birth of the modern state of Egypt. Beginning in 1805, Muhammad Ali presided over the construction of an impressive modern administrative system, including the world's first modern postal services, railway infrastructure, irrigation systems, conscription armies, manufacturing, educational services, and cultural affairs. In 1952, Egypt became a republic of which H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been the President since 2014. The tourism and antiquities sectors received unprecedented support from the President, allowing the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to inaugurate new museums and restore more than 100 archaeological sites, including mosques, churches and synagogues.

365 days of pleasant weather in natural landscapes

Located in the northeastern corner of Africa and the southwest corner of Asia, Egypt connects the two continents through the Sinai Peninsula, which acts as a land bridge. Beyond the stark contrast between the Nile bed and the desert expanse, picturesque oases, colorful mountain ranges, and a di-

verse coastline are revealed. Birdwatching on the Nile River in Aswan, stunning marine life in the Blue Lagoon in Dahab and swimming with dolphins in Marsa Alam, if you don't prefer to go on a desert safari to see the White Desert formations or hike in the Sinai Mountains. Egypt's climate is temperate, with short seasonal transitions. In Egypt, the sun shines almost every day, with an average amount of sunshine between 10 and 14 hours depending on the time of year.

An oil and gas producing country



HE Eng. Karim Ibrahim Ali Badawi
Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister - Egypt

The Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Egypt is H.E. Engr. Karim Ibrahim Ali Badawi. The country has an advanced energy sector based on oil, natural gas, and hydropower. The first oil discovery (Gemsa) was made there about 140 years ago and oil production has been carried out there since 1910. The different production sites are: the Western Desert, the Gulf of Suez, the Nile Delta, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Upper Egypt. Credited with 3300 million barrels of proven crude oil reserves, the country of the Pharaohs produces 453,000 b/d of crude oil (2023)¹. Also, Egypt has 2209 billion standard cubic metres of proven natural gas reserves, with a production of 59,328 million standard cubic meters (2023)².

Egypt: The essential information

Capital:	Cairo
National Day:	July 23
Population :	100,000,000
Official language:	Arabic
Religion:	Islam (State Religion)

The information published in this article, as well as the photos, are taken from the official website of the Presidency of the Republic of Egypt, the experienceegypt.eg website as well as the moc-egypt.com website.

1 Source: OPEC (Annual Statistical Bulletin 2024)

2 Ditto

The Gabonese Republic

A forest jewel in the heart of Africa



A jaguar in the Gabonese jungle

At the origin of the idea of creating the APPO, along with Algeria, Libya and Nigeria, Gabon is one of the founding members of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization in 1987. Located in the centre of Africa, this country, whose capital is Libreville, has a unique ecosystem that makes it a paradise for fauna and flora.

Historically, the first inhabitants of Gabon were Pygmies, foresters, hunters living in small family communities on the banks of rivers, to which other ethnic groups were gradually added. In the 15th century, following the arrival of Portuguese ships, then French, Danish and British sailors, the Westerners developed the trade in ivory, precious wood species and slaves with the natives. In 1849, the capital, Libreville, was founded by slaves freed by the French. After the country's independence on August 17, 1960, H.E. Mr. Léon Mba was

elected President of the Republic. He will be succeeded by the late H.E. Mr. Albert-Bernard Bongo, then H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, before the election in April 2025 of H.E. Mr. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema to the supreme office.

A rich and original cultural heritage

The Gabonese people are made up of about fifty ethnic groups from the various regions. Among the many tourist attractions, the National Museum of Arts and Traditions (MNAT) stands out,



a must-see for visitors passing through the country, but also for the Gabonese who rediscover the traditional objects that honor Gabonese culture through the temporary exhibitions. The dances of Gabon reflect the diversity of the different peoples and rites that animate Gabonese folklore. They are closely linked to the various rites, in particular the Bwiti. The music includes several pop and folk styles, carried by renowned stars such as Patience Dabany and Annie-Flore Batchiellilys. Gabon is also home to internationally renowned masks, such as the N'gol-tang (Fang) and the Kota mask. The basics of Gabonese cuisine are mainly found in the products of the land (such as plantain, cassava, cassava leaf, African eggplant, chili pepper, etc.), seafood, game and poultry.

Exceptional fauna and flora

Gabon's rainforest is its most valuable asset and contributes significantly to the balance of biodiversity on which our world depends. It is part of the Congo Basin, the second largest rainforest in the world after the Amazon. The country sits on the equator and about 88% of its land is covered by rainforest. The forest cover is the main ecosystem of the country, with a rich and varied fauna. Gabon's forest elephant herd is the largest in the world, with about 95,000 individuals of this critically endangered species. Gabon is also home to no less than 18,000 gorillas and chimpanzees. There are about 10,000 plant species recorded in Gabon. Gabon is also visited by the largest population of humpback whales in the southern hemisphere, which nurse their young there every year before migrating south. Overall, Gabon's marine waters are home to more than 20 species

1 Source: OPEC (Annual Statistical Bulletin 2024)

2 Ditto

3 Ditto

4 Ditto

of whales and dolphins, including the critically endangered Atlantic humpback whale. Every year, the world's largest populations of leatherback and olive ridley turtles come to nest in Gabon.

A historic African oil and gas producer

Gabon is an oil and gas producing country, a member of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO) and also of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Ministry of Oil and Gas is headed by H.E. Mr. Sosthène Nguema Nguema.

The country has 2 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves (2023)¹ and 26 billion standard cubic meters of proven natural gas reserves (2023)². Crude oil production is 223,000 b/d (2020)³, while marketed natural gas production is 463 million standard cubic metres (2023).⁴ Overall, the country is a world leader in the practice of sustainable forestry and the economy is based on the extraction and export of natural resources, especially manganese, oil and timber. Tourism and agriculture are becoming increasingly important in a country with a growing economy.



HEM Sosthène Nguema Nguema
Minister of Oil and Gas - Gabon

Gabon: The essential information

Capital:	Libreville
National Day:	August 17
Population :	2,341 millions (2021)
Official language:	French

Information on the history and culture of Gabon comes from the official website of the Presidency of the Gabonese Republic.

The illustrative photos as well as the information on the fauna and flora come from the website discovergabon.com

APPO's Ministerial Council



H.E. Mohamed Arkab
Minister of Mines, Energy and Renewable
Energies
 **ALGERIA**



H.E. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo
Minister of Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas
 **ANGOLA**



H.E. José Tonato
Minister of Energy, Water and Mines
 **BENIN**



H.E. Adolphe Moudiki
Plenipotentiary at the Ministerial Council
 **CAMEROON**



H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua
Minister of Hydrocarbons & APPO President
 **CONGO**



H.E. Aimé Molendo Sakombi
Minister of Hydrocarbons
 **D.R. CONGO**



H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly
Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy
 **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**



H.E. Eng. Karim Ibrahim Ali Badawi
Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources
 **EGYPT**



H.E. Sosthène Nguema Nguema
Minister of Petroleum and Gas
 **GABON**



H.E. Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor
Minister of Energy and Green Transition
 **GHANA**



H.E. Antonio Oburu Ondo
Minister of Hydrocarbons and Mining Development
 **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**



H.E. Dr. Khalifa R. Abdul Sadek
Minister of Petroleum and Gas
 **LIBYA**



H.E. Lucia Witbooi
Vice-President
 **NAMIBIA**



H.E. Dr. Sahabi Oumarou
Minister of Petroleum
 **NIGER**



H.E. Heineken Lokpobiri
Minister of State for Petroleum Resources
 **NIGERIA**



H.E. Birame Souleye Diop
Minister of Petroleum and Energy
 **SENEGAL**



H.E. Gwede Mantashe
Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy
 **SOUTH AFRICA**



H.E. Ndolenodji Alixe Naïmbaye
Minister of Petroleum, Mines and Geology
 **CHAD**



Mr. Remini Amine
Executive Board Member



ALGERIA



Mr. Estêvão Pedro
Executive Board Member



ANGOLA



Mr. Celestin Gbétognon Enanto
Executive Board Member



BENIN



Executive Board Member



CAMEROON



Mr. Stev Simplicie Onanga
Executive Board Member



CONGO



Mr. Fumbwe Katuku Wa Musampo Joel
Executive Board Member



D.R. CONGO



Mr. Esse Kouamé Bienvenu
Executive Board Member and Chairman of the EB



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Ing. Moataz Atef
Executive Board Member



EGYPT



Mr. Ferdinand Epigat
Executive Board Member



GABON



Hon. Richard Gyan-Mensah
Executive Board Member



GHANA



Mr. Agustin Mba Okomo
Executive Board Member



EQUATORIAL GUINEA



Mr. Bader Fadlalla Masoud Elseid
Executive Board Member



LIBYA



Executive Board Member



NAMIBIA



Mr. Salissou Moussa Diakité
Executive Board Member



NIGER



Mr. Felix Omatsola Ogbé
Executive Board Member



NIGERIA



Mr. Papa Samba Ba
Executive Board Member



SENEGAL



Mrs. Gosetseone Leketi Florence
Executive Board Member



SOUTH AFRICA



Mr. Boukar Moustapha
Executive Board Member



CHAD



The future of Energy in Africa is Female!

An opinion by Emelia Akumah, Founder & President, Africa Energy Technology Centre (AETC)

As Africa stands at a pivotal juncture in shaping its energy future, a fundamental truth must guide our vision: the ingenuity and leadership of women are not peripheral but central to achieving a sustainable and equitable energy landscape. For too long, the immense potential held by women across the continent has remained a largely untapped reservoir within this critical sector. Recognizing and actively cultivating the participation of women in local energy innovation, particularly within marginalized rural communities and vital educational ecosystems, transcends the imperative of gender equality; it emerges as a strategic imperative for fostering a resilient, inclusive, and ultimately self-determined African energy future.

Unlocking Grassroots Wisdom: Women as Catalysts of Local Energy Solutions

The energy challenges confronting Africa are deeply felt at the household and community levels, and it is here that women often possess the most profound and nuanced understanding. From the daily realities of fuel scarcity and the arduous task of biomass collection to the intricate management of limited energy resources, women in rural Africa are intimately acquainted with the practicalities of energy access. This lived experience positions them uniquely as keen observers and insightful problem-solvers, capable of identifying and implementing impactful, locally adapted energy solutions. By actively engaging women in the innovation process, we gain access to a wealth of grassroots knowledge, fostering the development of technologies that are not only effective but also culturally relevant and readily embraced. Empowering women transforms them into potent advocates and dynamic agents of change, driving the adoption of clean energy practices while simultaneously fostering improvements in community health, educational attainment, and economic empowerment. In urban centers, the burgeoning talent of women within universities, technical colleges, and emerging en-

ergy careers represents a critical lever for elevating Africa's standing on the global energy stage. Actively encouraging and supporting women to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields directly fuels a more robust and adaptive energy sector. Women often bring distinct perspectives, cultivate collaborative environments, and demonstrate a keen focus on long-term sustainability – qualities that are indispensable in navigating the complexities of Africa's energy crisis.

Dismantling Barriers, Cultivating Solutions: Empowering Women in Local Energy Initiatives

For women in rural communities, the journey toward energy innovation often begins with access to affordable and sustainable technologies that directly alleviate daily burdens and enhance quality of life. Initiatives promoting clean cooking solutions, for instance, not only mitigate the severe health consequences associated with traditional fuels but also liberate women's time, enabling greater participation in education, entrepreneurial ventures, and community leadership. Providing rural women with access to essential resources, targeted training, and meaningful incentives to embrace clean energy technologies can catalyze profound social and economic transformation within their communities. Strategically incentivizing rural women's engagement in local energy initiatives is paramount. Programs offering accessible financial support, such as micro-loans specifically designed for women-led energy enterprises, can be powerful drivers of change. Envision a woman in a remote village empowered by a grant or low-interest loan to establish a solar-powered kiosk. This simple intervention can create a ripple effect, providing essential services like mobile phone charging and lighting to households, and even enabling refrigeration for small-scale agriculture, generating income and enhancing local livelihoods. Such women-led ventures not only contribute directly to community well-being



but also lay a vital foundation for a more empowered and sustainable future. These incentives must extend beyond mere financial assistance to encompass comprehensive training and mentorship programs. Equipping women with the necessary knowledge and skills in renewable energy technologies and business management is crucial for their long-term success. Collaborative partnerships between local non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and international donors can facilitate the creation of tailored training programs that cultivate a cadre of empowered female entrepreneurs and local energy leaders.

Nurturing Female Leadership: Investing in Talent within Educational Institutions and Careers

True empowerment within the energy sector necessitates robust support systems within educational institutions. Inspiring girls and young women to pursue STEM fields and guiding them toward energy-related careers requires visible role models and dedicated mentors. The provision of scholarships, strategic internship opportunities, and robust university partnerships are essential for creating sustainable pipelines of female talent within the energy sector. Educational institutions can forge meaningful collaborations with companies and organizations like the Africa Energy Technology Centre (AETC) to develop impactful programs that offer young women invaluable hands-on experience in energy technology and policy formulation. Incentivizing female participation in higher education could include dedicated scholarships and financial aid for those pursuing degrees in energy and environmental studies, engineering disciplines, and related fields. Companies can play a crucial role by offering enriching internship programs that expose young women to real-world energy challenges, facilitate the development of vital professional networks, and equip them with industry-relevant skills. Furthermore, universities and technical institutions should actively host workshops, hackathons, and competitions specifically designed to encourage female students to engage with and develop innovative solutions for pressing energy-related issues. By making pathways to energy careers accessible and intellectually stimulating for young women, we can cultivate a generation of female leaders poised to revolutionize the sector.

Building a Resilient Future: The Imperative of Policy and Partnerships

To achieve enduring and systemic change, our efforts must be institutionalized through forward-thinking policy frameworks. Governments, working in close

collaboration with industry stakeholders and civil society organizations, must enact policies that actively champion women's meaningful participation in energy innovation. This can be realized through the establishment of clear gender inclusion targets within the energy sector, the provision of strategic tax incentives for companies demonstrably investing in female-focused initiatives, and the implementation of dedicated funding programs specifically earmarked for women-led energy projects. Strategic partnerships with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor agencies can further amplify the impact of these initiatives. Development banks and philanthropic foundations can provide crucial grant funding for impactful projects spearheaded by women in renewable energy and clean technology. Similarly, robust collaboration between government entities and key corporate players can facilitate the establishment of vibrant innovation hubs that provide critical support to women entrepreneurs and researchers dedicated to developing sustainable energy solutions tailored to the unique needs of African communities.

A Sustainable Horizon: Placing Women at the Helm of Progress

The potential for transformative change across the African continent is immense when women are equipped with the necessary tools, resources, and unwavering support to engage fully and meaningfully within the energy sector. We must move beyond superficial gestures and cultivate substantive incentives that empower women to not only participate but to lead in the innovation, investment, and implementation of sustainable energy solutions. At the Africa Energy Technology Centre, our commitment is unwavering in fostering a new generation of visionary female leaders and groundbreaking innovators who will champion Africa's just and equitable energy transition. By strategically supporting women across the spectrum, from the grassroots of rural communities to the forefront of urban universities, we aim to build a robust foundation that not only meets Africa's growing energy demands but does so in a manner that profoundly uplifts and empowers the entire continent. In conclusion, Africa's energy future shines brightest when we unequivocally ensure that women are not merely participants but are positioned as influential leaders in this transformative journey. Let us unite – governments, the private sector, educational institutions, and civil society – to cultivate a landscape where women are afforded every opportunity to leave an indelible mark on the trajectory of energy technology. For when African women thrive, the entire continent flourishes. The future of Energy in Africa is Female!

COP 29

Settlement or Compromise ?

Azerbaijan, a country with a long oil history hosted from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku the 29th edition of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP). The great cradle of oil extraction, the capital Baku was indeed the site of the drilling of the very first oil well in 1846, even before the United States. Even today, Azerbaijan derives most of its income from oil exploitation and promotes gas as a transition energy in order to continue to benefit from the windfall of hydrocarbons, and was the place where the Baku Unity Climate Pact was concluded. Settlement or compromise?

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge, since the institution in Berlin of the annual United Nations conference called the Conference of the Parties or COP in 1995. While the overall objective of these periodic meetings is to limit carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and reduce global warming to 1.5 degrees, COP 29 was supposed to focus in particular on raising funds for adaptation in developing countries. The annual figure of \$100 billion was chosen in Copenhagen to be mobilized by developed countries for this purpose for the benefit of developing countries. One of the challenges of COP 29 was the renegotiation of this amount, which was considered derisory by developing countries who wanted to increase it to an amount of between 1100 and 1300 billion dollars. After ten days of debate and an extension of the negotiations by nearly 36 hours, the COP reached an agreement on a set of decisions on Sunday 24 November at 5:30 am. In the end, there was very little progress, and a lot of recriminations on both sides.

A minimal agreement

Consensus was reached on the amount of \$300 billion to be disbursed by developed countries for the benefit of developing countries for adaptation. While the beneficiaries found this sum ridiculous, the rich countries, for their part, considered that they

had made a considerable effort through this agreement, having tripled the amount of the current contribution. The idea of this fund was to finance the reduction of emissions from the poor world, from which it is estimated that 75% of the growth in emissions over the last decade comes from. Held in a climate of tension, the COP was marked by the statements of the President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, who said that oil and gas were gifts from God and who also attacked the media, NGOs and politicians, accusing them of disclosing false information. The shadow of H.E. Donald Trump, the newly elected President of the United States and a well-known climate sceptic, also hung over the conference. Faced with the envisaged erasure of the USA in these negotiations, China, the largest carbon emitter on the planet, has remained rather erased. At most, it has agreed to contribute to the climate finance pot of developing countries, while it is still itself, defined as a developing country by the United Nations.

Call for a Just Energy Transition

In the absence of a compromise on the framework of the UAE Dialogue (UAEd), a subsequent decision was postponed to COP30. In the end, the Baku agreement does not present sufficiently strong political signals in relation to mitigation and the En-

ergy Transition. On the other hand, as far as the carbon market is concerned, COP 29 has made progress on the implementation of its mechanism. From this year 2025, States and companies will be able to buy or sell carbon credits certified by the UN. COP29 also led to decisive progress in the implementation of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). On gender and indigenous peoples' issues, progress has been made. Moreover, in the context of the work programme on the just transition, developing countries have called for a Just Transition, which for them, beyond a mechanism to combat climate change, is a tool for reducing inequalities between coun-

tries. Due to resistance and recriminations from the LMDC (Group of Like-Minded Developing Countries) and the AGN (African Group of Negotiators), the decision on the Just Transition was postponed to COP 30. Finally, Baku was the place where the «Baku to Belém Roadmap to USD 1.3 trillion» was launched. Between now and COP30, this timetable aims to mobilize all stakeholders to achieve the goal of \$1300 billion in financing for adaptation in developing countries. Scheduled for November 2025 in Belém, Brazil, will this 30th Conference of the Parties on climate (COP30) lead to further progress towards a fairer world? Wait and see.



Family picture at COP 29

The fascinating history of the oil industry shows how the West has relied on oil-exporting countries to ensure its meteoric growth. It also demonstrates the process by which these exploited countries courageously tried to take their destiny back into their own hands, in order to reshuffle the cards to create a new world order led by the United States.

A world map showing the five major oceans: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Southern. The map is color-coded with blue for water and light green for land. Major countries are labeled in black text. A compass rose is located in the bottom right corner.

Carbon and hydrogen are the two elements that make up petroleum, this natural brown liquid, known since ancient times as a source of energy and medication. However, it was in 1842 that kerosene was invented. The oil industry was born in 1859 in Pennsylvania, where Edwin Drake drilled the first oil-producing well. At that time, oil was mainly used for lighting with the help of lamps. From the beginning, the Americans took the lead in the market. The Standard Oil Co., which produces kerosene as a lighting source, controls nearly 95% of the world oil market. However, the development of the internal combustion engine, the invention of the automobile and then the diesel engine, as well as the progress of petrochemicals, gave the industry a boost.

Europe enters the scene

The beginning of the 20th century coincided with the moment when the European powers began to become passionate about oil. In Russia, Southeast Asia and the Far East, the English and the Swedes compete with the Americans. Before the Great War, the United States' market share rose to two-thirds of world pro-

duction. The American giant is followed by Russia, Mexico, Venezuela, Romania and Indonesia. The outbreak of the First World War led to a strong demand for petroleum products essential for the mobility of land, sea and air weapons. Oil is becoming a strategic issue. The return to peace was accompanied by a boom in the automotive, aeronautics and petrochemical sectors. New deposits are discovered in Venezuela, Iraq, the Soviet Union, Texas, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The outbreak of the Second World War increased the demand for oil, but prices were not affected because the world supply

tries to derive significant tax revenues from the oil windfall, at the same time as ensuring considerable economic growth. However, the decision of the industry majors to reduce the posted price of crude oil led to the creation of OPEC, which in the 1970s brought together more than 85% of the world's oil exports. Thus united, the producers were able to control the exploitation of the deposits, stabilize the prices posted and modify the royalty and tax rates. These measures will be followed by a wave of nationalization of industrial resources, companies and equipment. The oil crisis of 1973² comple-



An oil field

was abundant. Black gold weighs considerably on the outcome of the conflict. After the war, a new world order emerged, in which the oil-producing countries began to nationalize their assets, which until then had been controlled by the great powers, even if the latter continued to maneuver to keep their turf.

Exporters, the masters of the game

The industrialized countries, which import oil, owe their growth to the low prices imposed on oil-producing countries – a barrel of crude oil (159 liters) still cost less than two dollars in the early 1960s¹. Indeed, this policy has enabled industrialized coun-

ted the reversal of the balance of power between exporting and importing countries. Nowadays, the United States has ensured, thanks to the wars waged in Kuwait and then in Iraq, a solid presence in the Middle East, a region that concentrates more than half of the world's oil reserves, while Uncle Sam's own reserves continue to decrease. With other strategies such as the paradigm shift called «Energy Transition», the Western world is trying, as best it can, to limit the hegemony of oil in the world economic order. However, demand is still growing, and so oil, and with it, the exporting countries, are far from having said their last word in an economic war that began a century and a half ago, and which is in full swing more than ever.

¹ The current price of Brent oil is around \$67.

² See our article on the subject in APPO Magazine October 2024.

Study for the Development of a Regional Framework to Harmonise the Fuel Grade and Vehicle Emission Limits in the ECOWAS Region

In the spirit of togetherness, APPO collaborated with the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS and African Refiners and Distributors' Association, ARDA, to conduct a Study to develop a regional framework to harmonize fuel quality and vehicle emission limits in the ECOWAS region. The Study is in line with the APPO's Strategic Objective No. 3 on environmental protection and aims to improve air quality and living conditions of the population, as well as to reduce greenhouse gases and global warming. Furthermore, it seeks to enhance cross-border energy trade through the harmonization of fuel quality across the sub-region.

A clean air leading to fewer premature deaths, some healthy population and a significant intra-regional economic impact are some of the benefits that would result from a harmonized regional framework for fuel specifications and control of exhaust emission limits. It is these obvious advantages that attracted APPO to join the initiative of this pilot study to develop a regional framework aimed at harmonizing fuel quality and vehicle emissions limits in the ECOWAS area. The objective was to develop a regional framework and implementation modalities that will be extended to other geographical areas covered by APPO and eventually to the whole of Africa in liaison with other regional organizations. To carry out this study, a tripartite partnership agreement was signed between the APPO, ARA and ECOWAS on 14 August 2017. Executed by CITAC Africa Ltd and ICCT, the analysis was carried out based on proprietary data analysed and verified in partnership with ECOWAS Member States. The data includes the baseline of current specifications, the supply and demand of petrol and diesel, the existing refining environment, supply routes, the regional vehicle fleet and existing emission standards and regulations.

Key findings

The Study assessed the size and composition of

vehicle fleets in the Member States and the age of the vehicles in service. The available data suggests that the average age of vehicles is high, meaning that no modern emission controls are in place for a large number of the vehicle fleet. Also, imported used vehicles constitute a vast majority of new vehicle registrations in the ECOWAS region and variable controls are in place on this transaction. However, annual vehicle inspections are mandatory everywhere in ECOWAS, even if emissions testing is not included. As for the demand for transport fuel, it has continued to increase throughout the region. This growth is expected to continue, and Nigeria is the dominant market. The Study also showed that the ECOWAS region has suffered from chronically low refinery utilization rates. As a result, total capacity utilization has been less than 25% since 2014. While diesel production exceeds gasoline production, Nigeria has 72% of the region's refining capacity. Also, the poor performance of Nigerian refineries masks the improvement in the performance of refineries in other states such as Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, it was noted that all ECOWAS refineries will have to be modified to cope with future gasoline and diesel specifications.

Recommendations

The findings of the Study indicate that in order



to achieve a realistic and feasible clean fuel and vehicle programme across ECOWAS, the full support of Community members is required. Also, financial support from governments may be needed to help with the necessary investments in refineries, for testing new vehicles, infrastructure and training of personnel. For vehicles in general, the study recommends the establishment of a harmonised vehicle database at regional level, the creation of a common scrapping system to dispose of the oldest vehicles with insufficient emission controls and the introduction – with 5 years' notice – of a maintenance and inspection programme focused on

EURO3 exhaust gases for vehicles in service. Special specifications have also been established for light duty vehicles, heavy duty vehicles and motorcycles. About fuel, it is stated that a common specification will encourage intra-African trade, particularly from local refineries, reduce supply costs, improve security of supply and regulatory control, and promote the harmonization of tax rules as well as the reduction of the risk of illegal smuggling. Ultimately, the success of this endeavour will make it possible to clean the air in West Africa and improve the medical and financial health of the populations of the 15 ECOWAS countries.

The recommendations of the Study were approved in 2020 by ECOWAS Directive C/DIR.1/9/2020 on harmonized specifications for automotive fuels (gasoline and diesel) in the ECOWAS region with a timeline for ECOWAS Member States to comply with the harmonized specifications.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Study

In the framework of the implementation of the ECOWAS Directive C/DIR.1/9/2020, a regional workshop was organized from 28 to 30 April 2025 to assess the level of implementation.

Presentations by various countries on the implementation of the Directive, showed that most countries face challenges meeting the timelines set for compliance, both at the regulatory and at the refinery/technical levels, with the directives. The Workshop therefore recommended some amendments to the Directive to be submitted to the ECOWAS Decisions making Bodies. These are:

1- To ECOWAS Member States

- a- To immediately take all necessary measures to speed up the Directive's implementation regarding imports of automotive fuels (petrol and diesel) from non-ECOWAS countries;
- b- Take necessary measures to ensure that any plans to build new refineries on their territory meet the requirement of a maximum sulfur content of 10ppm for gasoline and diesel, as a precondition to their approval;
- c- Take the necessary measures to enhance national laboratories with modern equipment for fuel

quality control in accordance with the Directive;

- d- For Member States with refineries, consider, where appropriate, financing mechanisms built into the structure of fuel prices at the pump to support the mobilization of the financing needed to upgrade their refineries.

2- To ECOWAS Commission

- a- Initiate the process of revising Directive C/DIR.1/9/20, considering the following points:
 - i. Grant a new waiver to existing refineries until 31 December 2030 for their upgrade while targeting a maximum Sulphur content of 10 ppm;
 - ii. Maintain the Motor Octane Number (MON) and Research Octane Number (ROM) parameters in the harmonized gasoline specification table by adding asterisks to introduce a footnote. The footnote should indicate that countries may measure either of the two parameters;
 - iii. Maintain the Cetane Number and Cetane Index parameters in the harmonized Diesel specification table by adding asterisks to introduce a footnote. The footnote should indicate that countries may measure either of the two parameters;
 - iv. Replace the test method for the «Iron» parameter with IP589 and EN16136;
 - v. Set the manganese content at 2 mg/l.
- b- Initiate the process of harmonizing specifications for other petroleum products

APPO will continue to support such initiatives at Regional levels, key factors for the development of regional and African hydrocarbons markets.

Petroleum geological engineer

The job title of petroleum geological engineer is one of the specialties of the hydrocarbon sector. It is essential and allows for understanding the geology of the subsurface, identifying geological rocks, layers and traps which may contain hydrocarbons and providing essential data for the planning and execution of operations.

By Carmen Fifamè Toudonou



Both a person of science and a person on the field, the petroleum geological engineer plays a pivotal role in everything related to the exploration, evaluation and exploitation of oil deposits. Their role is to determine the oil interest of sedimentary basins. To do this, they must analyze the composition of the geological formation in which the oil is trapped in order to determine its structure and physical properties. They then have to theorize their observations and to analyze the data collected in order to make interpretation. The results of their work is essential

for decision-making. They are also taken into account for the forecasting of oil reserves, because it is up to the geological engineer, using reservoir models, to estimate the oil reserves present in a field. To do this, they are required to create 3D models of tanks, analyze production data and use simulation techniques to predict the behavior of the tank over time.

Beyond Planning

The work of the petroleum geological engineer



makes it possible to determine the existence of potential deposits, the quantity of hydrocarbons that could be found there, as well as the probabilities of successful exploration. If the work undertaken results in an exploration permit, the petroleum geologist intervenes once again to determine the optimal location of the drilling wells. Based on science and observations, they identify areas with high productivity potential and indicate access points for optimal oil recovery. However, their role does not stop at planning. During the actual drilling operations, the geological engineer is called upon to monitor production activities, ensuring that geological formations are pro-

in geosciences. He also has the opportunity to join an engineering school to prepare an engineering degree specializing in geology or mining engineering. Petroleum geologists work for oil companies as well as service companies. They work in collaboration with other professionals in the oil industry: production engineers, geophysicists, technicians, etc. The work can also take place in a research institute, in collaboration with other researchers. Apart from the strictly scientific training, it is a profession that requires qualities such as the ability to work in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams. In addition to in-depth knowledge of petroleum geology



perly sampled and that data are collected accurately. It also provides support for the interpretation of the data with a view to a possible adjustment of the drilling parameters.

Training and skills required

The petroleum geologist is an accomplished scientist. After obtaining a scientific baccalaureate, students wishing to pursue this career can pursue a master's degree in geology or applied geology, or

(stratigraphy, sedimentology, plate tectonics and geochemistry), the job requires skills in interpreting geological data, including the analysis of drill core, seismic data and well records. This specialist must also be proficient in specialized software and tools for the analysis and modelling of petroleum reservoirs and have project management skills, communication skills to effectively present and communicate the results of geological analysis. Finally, they must master the regulations and standards of the oil industry in terms of safety and the environment.

How and why APPA became APPO?

Three questions to the Head of the Secretary General's Office, Eng. Bakary Traoré



Hydrocarbons including oil and gas continued to be the dominant fuel of choice. And the economies of many African countries came to be dominated by oil and gas. We were contented producing oil and gas for export. We were contented depending on others for the exploration, production and marketing of our oil and gas. For as long as the dollars kept flowing into our national treasuries, we did not ask ourselves some difficult questions. 2. The formal acceptance of a global paradigm shift away from fossil to renewable energies, euphemistically called the energy transition, which took place at the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 marked the beginning of the change in APPA. Because our countries have become heavily dependent on oil and gas revenue we began to ask how ending fossil fuel use will affect our national economies. It was at that time we came to the realization that we all have common challenges. It was at that time that we began to ask ourselves if APPA, as then constituted, could provide the solutions to our collective challenges.

What informed the transition from APPA to APPO?

1. The African Petroleum Producers' Association, APPA was established in 1987 as a platform for cooperation among oil and gas producing countries on the African continent. For nearly thirty years after its creation, the global energy industry did not change much.

3. The Ministerial Council directed that the Organization be reformed and positioned to address the challenges of the industry in the new era. That was how APPA became APPO, modelling the Secretariat along what had become a success story among inter-governmental energy organizations, namely the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting



Countries, OPEC, with a Secretariat comprising a Research Division and a Support Services Division. The mission and vision statements of the Organization were redefined to address the new focus of the Organization.

4. At the same time, the APPA Fund for Technical Cooperation was restructured and renamed the Africa Energy Investment Corporation, AEICorp.

What is the fundamental difference between APPA and APPO?

One of the fundamental differences between APPA and APPO is in the policy and decision making processes of the Organization. During the APPA era the focus was essentially on cooperation in hydrocarbon matters among Member Countries' policy makers. The actual oil and gas operators did not play much role in the affairs of APPA. In APPO on the other hand, our focus is as much on cooperation in policy making as in cooperation and collaboration among the industry operators. That explains, for example, the creation of the Forum of CEOs of APPO NOCs, the Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutions of APPO Member Countries as well as the Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Research, Development and Innovation Centers of APPO Member Countries.

What are the concrete benefits of this reform for APPO Member Countries?

The reform has equipped the Organization to address the emerging challenges of the industry especially on the African continent. In the last five years since the reform, we have learnt quite some lessons and in line with the recommendations of the consultants that worked on the reform from APPA to APPO, we are working on evaluating the appropriateness of the existing structure in addressing the identified challenges for the Organization.

One big plus of being in APPO is the various platforms it provides for networking among industry players on the continent. The Ministerial Sessions, the Forum of CEOs of APPO NOCs, the Forum of Directors of Training Institutions, The Forum of Directors of Research, Development and Innovation Centers of APPO Member Countries. The Secretariat conducts studies on topics of

interest to most Member Countries. That way our Member Countries optimize their meagre resources. For example, Even, sometimes, our African Ministers, they do not know each other. Because Ministers have a very tight agenda. They cannot flight across the 54 capitals of Africa every year because of their internal program with the government. So our Ministerial Council is a platform where Ministers can meet, create relationship, discuss partnership, see their experience with international partners, and advise each other on where to go and where to not go. Also we conducted major studies on energy related issues both legal, economic, technical, etc..., in all the value chain and related activities. In 2020, we have done a comparative study on the legal and contractual framework with leaders to establish a kind of model of production sharing contract that our Member Countries are using when negotiating their contracts with IOCs. We have also done a guide for Local Content promotion and enhancement. This is used by Member Countries to develop their Local Content monitoring and implementation framework. Recently, we have done a major study on the Future of the Oil and Gas Industry, which have led to major conclusions from which we had the idea of establishment of the Africa Energy Bank which is today a reality. We are working on major projects of infrastructures with CABEF, to establish the Central Africa Pipeline System (CAPS). Also, we are encouraging the trans saharian gaz pipeline and also focussing with the West African states on the West Africa Gaz Pipeline for an extension to Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Morocco. Currently, we are working to restructure the Secretariat to be more fit to tackle all these challenges that have just raise. Because the current structure was designed at a time where these challenges were not really our focus. But today, with the trend of Energy Transition, we need to really restructure to better fit in addressing these challenges, that are the funding, markets and market infrastructures and expertise and technology. Currently, the work is ongoing. We have the bidding of our Ministerial Council. In the next coming month, we will be able to conclude this restructuring with new divisions, new units, which are better fit to tackle on a daily, monthly basis, all these challenges.

Tips and tricks for using LPG as domestic cooking fuel

LPG cylinders are now everyday objects, present in most of our kitchens. They contain Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the form of butane or propane in various percentages depending on the regulation of the country. Discover in this article some tips to limit the risks associated with using LPG for cooking as well as to reduce your gas bill.

The gas cylinder is a metal container (generally made of sheet steel) containing LPG at very high pressure. Used in a domestic setting, it allows, thanks to a gas stove, a professional piano or a plancha to cook food. While these bottles have become almost indispensable to us, there are several risks associated with their use. There is thus a risk of fire in contact with a heat source. Explosions occur when the concentration of gas in the air is between 5 and 15%; they occur in enclosed spaces. Other risks concern asphyxiation when the concentration of gas reaches 25% in an enclosed space, poisoning, projections and cold burns. Fortunately, there are tricks to minimize these risks.

Prevention rather than cure

Prevention starts with the purchase of equipment. It is therefore important to make sure that you acquire equipment that is certified to standards, and to check the date of validation of the connection pipe to your bottle. It is also important to ensure that the gas supply is systematically closed after each use. Burner maintenance is also a factor in safety measures. Finally, you can always think about equipping your home with a gas detector. If, despite all these precautions, you suspect a gas leak, it is important to

automatically ventilate the room and turn off the gas supply. Then you should avoid turning on the light or cigarettes, making phone calls, in short handling objects that could cause a spark and therefore an explosion. If you observe a flaming gas leak, it can be spectacular, but rest assured, it is a sign that there is no longer a risk of explosion. Simply turn off the gas supply valve, wet the surfaces around the leak and evacuate the home. Don't forget to warn the neighbours.

Gas saving measures

Apart from the measures you can implement to limit the risks associated with its use, there are others that will reduce your gas bill. When cooking, for example, make sure to systematically cover the pans. This simple precaution allows heat to be stored and therefore to save gas. To avoid wasting energy, you will also have to adapt the size of the cooking containers to that of the burners, use the pressure cooker as often as possible, heat the water in the kettle rather than on the gas stove, etc. Also, limit the preheating of the oven, turn it off a few minutes before the end of cooking and remember to take the food out of the freezer a few hours before cooking it. One last piece of advice for the road, always compare energy offers and buy your gas from the lowest bidder.



An Honour Well-Deserved



Member of the APPO Ministerial Council and Minister of Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas of the Republic of Angola, Dr. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, has received both national and international recognitions for his role in the oil and gas industry nationally and across the African continent.

The National Honour, which was given by the President of the Republic, João Lourenço, as part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Angola from Portuguese colonial rule, was in recognition of the major structural and institutional reforms that Minister Azevedo has introduced in the Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas Ministry since he assumed office in 2017.

In the citation for the honour, President Lourenço commended Minister Azevedo for turning around the fortunes of the oil and gas industry in Angola since 2017, noting that Minister Azevedo has remained focused throughout these years, thwarting all distractions, which were many.

This national honour is coming after winning, early in the year, the African Government Minister of the Year Award 2025, organized by the Africa Leadership Magazine in Casablanca, Morocco.

In the citation, the organizers of the Africa Leadership Award noted a life time dedicated to the cause of developing and advancing the Angolan, and indeed the African Oil and Gas industry.

It will be recalled that it was during the APPO Ministerial Council Presidency of Minister Azevedo that President João Lourenço hosted APPO in 2022 in Luanda where APPO and Afreximbank signed the Memorandum of Understanding that gave birth to the Africa Energy Bank (AEB).

We join millions in congratulating Dr. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo for honour well-deserved.



APPO ANTHEM

(Cotonou, May 1996)

Refrain

Hello! African promoters
Of the noble and splendid design
To take together in your hands
The oil destiny
From our common Fatherland.
For sure, you are liberators.

1st Verse

Fostering a channel of cooperation
Between the very children of Africa
To enhance the value of our countries
The richness of hydrocarbons
Isn't this a noble adventure?
Authentic autonomy and growth?

2nd Verse

Members of the APPO, your project honors you;
It is on the list of glory
Of the true builders of the great Africa
In this you serve our continent,
Opening it to great human relations;
You raise it among the countries to the top.

3rd Verse

O gushing spring in gold flakes
O Oil fountain of wealth!
You also bathe in our continent
The sovereigns gleaming with the future.
We can therefore only welcome
Those who unite to generate you.



November 2025, Brazzaville

4th Conference and Exhibition on Local Content in Africa (CECLA)

Enhancing indigenous Supply of Quality Goods and
Services : a strategic lever for maximizing African
Participation in the oil and gaz Industry





Africa Energy Bank (AEB)

"Availing funds to sustain
the oil and gas industry in Africa."

CULTURAL PIPELINE

Year 0 // No. 00002 // Juil 2025

APPO MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT - CO-PRODUCED WITH VENEZUELA

Editors : Carmen Fifamè Toudonou / Aníbal Márquez Muñoz



Editorial

It has already been six months since we launched, with passion and determination, the adventure of our Cultural Pipeline, a humanist and visionary bridge between the valiant people of Venezuela and that of our mother Africa. This vision concerns the rational use of the oil windfall with which the APPO countries and Venezuela are endowed.

Today, we can rejoice that this idea, which dates back to 2009, is becoming a reality and is taking root in the publishing practices of Venezuela and the African continent. This initiative, which adds to the classic formula of oil, that of Culture, intends to circulate in our conventional pipelines, not only black gold, but also Culture, the invigorating essence that makes the originality and the sustenance of the children of Africa, beyond the seas.

This second issue, faithful to the APPO's vocation of promoting cooperation from a South-South perspective, is intended to be a means through which, finally reunited by their oil and culture, the peoples of our territories come together to build a world of peace, environmental well-being, fraternity, union and sovereignty in a bicontinental dimension.

In this issue

- **GUAGUANCÓ DE COLORES in activism for joy and beauty / San Agustín: a neighborhood aesthetic**
- **The National Parks of the Republic of Congo**
- **20th World Africa Week in Venezuela**
- **Miriam Makeba, a voice for Africa and all oppressed of the world**

CULTURAL PIPELINE TEAM / ÉQUIPE OLÉODUC CULTUREL / EQUIPO DE OLEODUCTO CULTURAL

CARACAS / BRAZZAVILLE / DAKAR

Irama Díaz Barrios
Yrama Díaz-Silva
Noel B. Márquez
Abraxas Iribarren

Reinaldo Mijares R.
Edward Aref Márquez
Gabriel Mbaedzou
Babacar DIENG

GUAGUANCÓ DE COLORES in the Militancy for Joy and Beauty San Agustín´s town: An Aesthetic of the Neighborhood

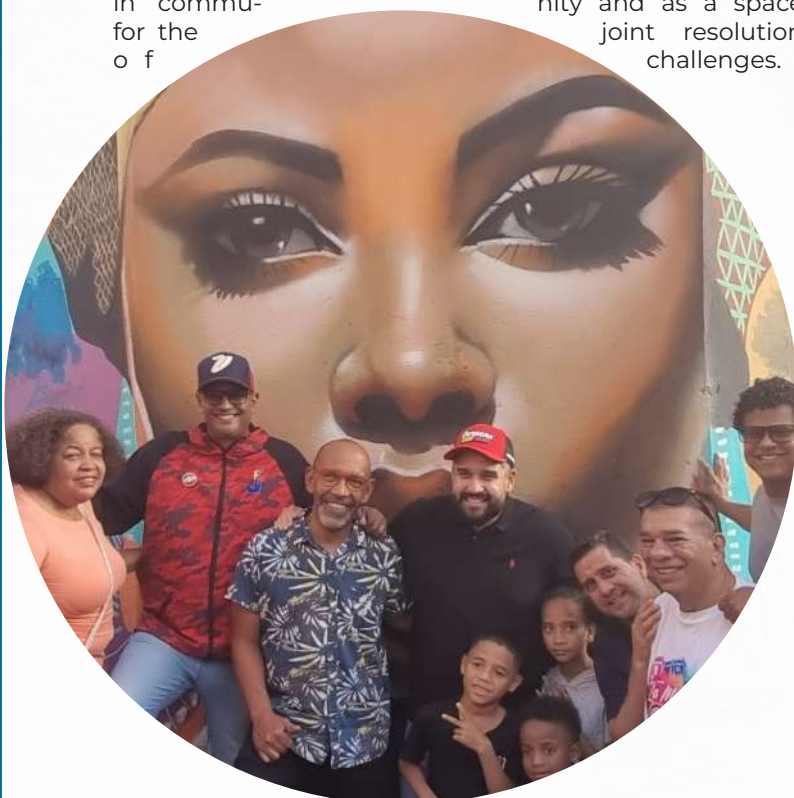
Reinaldo Mijares R.

*Culture is, in the first place, an expression of a nation,
of their preferences, taboos, and their models.*

Frantz Fanon

In San Agustín, an emblematic popular community with a deep-rooted African ancestral heritage in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, we decided to cultivate community Cultural Management as a kind of apostolate, of work that assumes the right to beauty and joy that as a «creative neighborhood» we say we have and decide to have; a right that we assume as our own, leveraged on our own dynamics and work methodologies, but above all confident in the experience of community management lived and accumulated during decades of our work and that of our predecessors. This is how we created in San Agustín´s town the collective idea that we are «Militancy of Beauty and Joy».

We discuss and act on beauty as a human right and as a duty in the future and development of the community cultural work to be carried out. From that creative force we set out to advance in the recovery, revitalization and resignification of the open spaces of our community, understanding our work as a political commitment to Afro identities and the values of the San Agustín neighborhood, always assuming that arts and cultures are tools for social transformation, participation and inclusion. Conceiving the street as the space for socialization, Good Living in community and as a space for the joint resolution of challenges.



We understood that the physical recovery would give us the opportunity to attend and understand the symbolic recovery of the spaces that have built and build our Afro identities as a popular community that provides an important cultural imprint for the entire city of Caracas, Venezuela.

So, we want to understand and practice the militancy for beauty and its conjugation with living well, as the deepening of an «Aesthetics of the neighborhood» that responds to the idea that we are and make a city by moving away from the vision of exclusion «Center/Periphery» of those who have guided the urban development of the city. An aesthetic, based on the values of the neighborhood, an aesthetic of solidarity, joint and collective work, an aesthetic of Afro identities... aesthetics of joy.

Following the idea of «Militancy for beauty and joy» that is nourished by «Living Well» as a concept of vindication of social life, coexistence in community and the impulse of social participation given by the Bolivarian Revolution, we began in 2015 the Urban Revitalization Program called «GUAGUANCÓ DE COLORES» a proposal for action-reflection on the community we have, we dream and work to have, promoting social transformation and inclusion.

The «GUAGUANCÓ DE COLORES» Program has allowed us to have dignified spaces for meeting and transforming our daily life and our social life into community. To build spaces from our aesthetics that raise the sense of belonging and the «Collective Self-Esteem» of everyone in our community.

The physical and symbolic transformations of our environments, our streets and corners have allowed that San Agustín´s town as an organized community to be the 1st. Venezuelan neighborhood to create a Cultural Tourism Route called «SAN AGUSTÍN´S CUMBE-TOURS», alluding to the Afro-Venezuelan concept of «Cumbe» as a space for Creation, Peace and Freedom.

This Cultural Tourism route «CUMBE-TOURS» - which for three years has also been receiving international tourists from countries such as Russia and Poland among other nationalities - together with the mural program of revitalization of spaces «GUAGUANCÓ DE COLORES» and our also historic and emblematic «Alameda Theater», have promoted a successful and sustainable «Cultural Management Model» in the economic fields, social, cultural and of a new spirituality, always at the service of the higher interests of our country Venezuela and of friendship and fraternity among the peoples of the world.

These projects and programs created in our community have allowed us to continue dreaming and working for a better world. They are proposals for popular organization developed in our communal territories so that the «Militancy for Beauty and Joy» continue to light the hot and liberating fire that is illuminating the way, igniting the struggle and reviving the crazy and loving love for our beloved «Barrio San Agustín» in our also beloved and beautiful capital city, Caracas.

The National Parks of the Republic of Congo

Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

The Republic of Congo, a distinguished Member Country of APPO, is rich in remarkable biodiversity, many of whose potential can be observed in the country's four national parks, not to mention the natural wildlife reserves and other sanctuaries dedicated to specific species of animals. Thus, straddling the departments of Cuvette Ouest and Sangha, 800km from Brazzaville, stands the Odzala Koukoua National Park (PNOK), where you can observe the lion, the hyena, the buffalo, the bushbuck, the panther, the bongo, the elephant, the hylochera, the gorilla as well as many other monkeys. There are also crocodiles, sitatunga, python, hippopotamus and lots of waterbirds in and around the rivers.

Another national park is the Nouabalé Ndoki National Park (PNNN) located in the departments of Sangha and Likouala, about 900 km from Brazzaville. This park features a mosaic of savannah forest. There are panthers, bongos, elephants, buffaloes, gorillas, chimpanzee, giant pangolins, forest duikers and small monkeys in the forest and bays, not to mention crocodiles, pythons and sitatunga in and on the banks of rivers.

Many of these animals can also be observed in the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD) located in the department of Kouilou straddling the districts of Nzambi and Madingo Kayes. Here you can visit rehabilitated chimpanzees, practice sport fishing in the lagoon-lake complex and see species such as tarpon, captain and trevally at sea. You can also observe sea turtles on the beach, as well as whales and dolphins in the ocean.

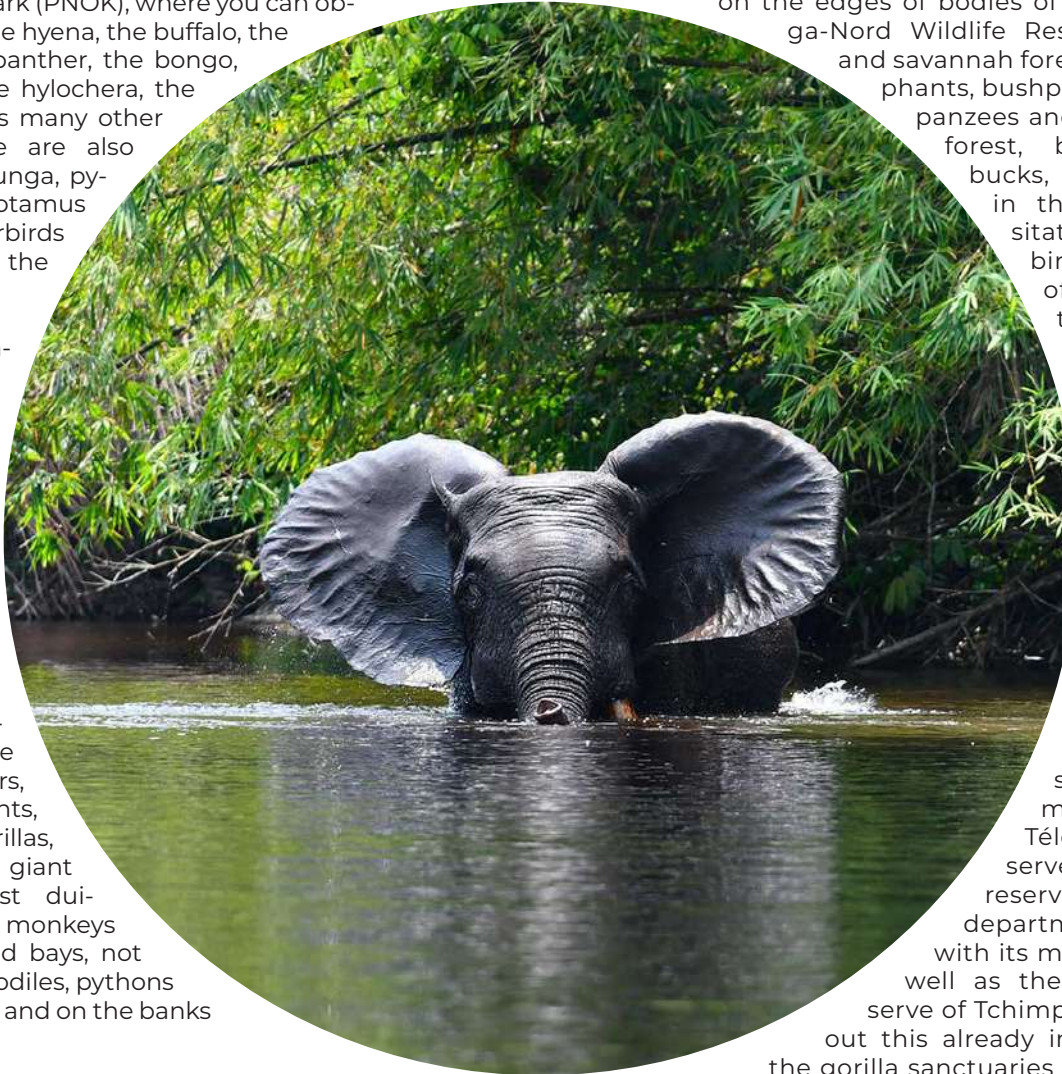
Finally, it is worth mentioning the Ntokou Pikounda National Park which, although not developed, has significant potential. This park is located in the departments of Sangha and

Cuvette in the districts of Pikounda, Ntokou and Makoua. It is a dense forest populated by panthers, bongos, elephants, buffaloes, gorillas, chimpanzees, giant pangolins, forest duikers and small monkeys in the forest and bays. Crocodiles, pythons and sitatunga can also be found in and along the rivers

Reserve and sanctuaries

Congo has several wildlife reserves, including Mount Mfouari, which contains elephants, bushpigs, gorillas, chimpanzees and mandrills in the forest, buffaloes, waterbucks, Grimm's duikers in the savannah and sitatungas on the edges of bodies of water. The Nyan-ga-Nord Wildlife Reserve has gallery and savannah forests. There are elephants, bushpigs, gorillas, chimpanzees and mandrills in the forest, buffaloes, waterbucks, Grimm's duikers in the savannah and sitatunga, as well as birds on the shores of bodies of water. This list of the Congo's wildlife reserves would be incomplete if it did not mention wildlife reserves such as the Tsoulou reserve, the Lefini reserve, the Dimoneka biosphere reserve more focused on botanical and zoological observations, not to mention the Lac Télé community reserve, the crow's foot reserve located in the department of Brazzaville with its managed forest, as well as the chimpanzee reserve of Tchimpounga. Rounding out this already impressive list are the gorilla sanctuaries of Lossi and Lesio Louna. A few hunting estates complete this national identity card of the Congo's parks and reserves.

Undoubtedly, the great biodiversity and variety of African wildlife found in the vast territory of the Congolese jungle – which includes the national parks – give the Republic of Congo an important role in the shared commitment – with the countries of Asia and Latin America that possess vast jungle basins – to preserve such important areas of our beautiful planet Earth for the enjoyment of present and future generations of people. humanity.



XXTH WORLD AFRICA WEEK IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela and Africa united in
a common struggle

Aníbal José Márquez Muñoz

The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela establishes that Venezuela is a Multiethnic and Multicultural nation. This constitutional precept underpins the foundations that support the idiosyncrasies of the Venezuelan people and favors the recognition of Africa's contribution to the formation of our nationality through its legacy of ancestral knowledge, notion of social equity and vocation for freedom.

History testifies to the relationship of brotherhood that links Venezuela with Mother Africa, from the holocaust of thousands of African families torn from their ancestral territory and transferred in conditions of slavery to our soil, where they take root and rebel against European colonialism to promote Independence and construction of the New World together with Simón Bolívar The Liberator of South America.

Our 21st century also exhibits extraordinary links between Venezuela and Africa. The defense of the common interests of our peoples and governments unites political, economic, scientific, educational and cultural ties.

The agreement of joint policies in organizations of global projection such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC+ stands out. Deepening of diplomatic relations through the accreditation of nineteen Venezuelan embassies on the African continent. Venezuela became the first Observer Member of the African Union (AU) in 2005. Promotion of the III Africa-South America Social Summit (ASA) in 2009, as well as the recent incorporation of Venezuela into the African Organization of Oil Producers / APPO, constituting the only Non-African Member Country of such a strategic oil production organization.

Along with these contemporary initiatives inscribed in the promotion of a Multipolar World Order of social balance and shared future, the «World Africa Week in Venezuela» also stands out, an annual event proposed twenty years ago by Commander Hugo Chávez to - in accordance with the celebration of World Africa Day - to

make visible the brotherhood, the common history of struggles and the cultural exchange of Venezuela with Mother Africa.

This 2025, the 20th World Africa Week in Venezuela - under the guidance of President Nicolás Maduro and under the auspices of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry - took place in academic settings of Venezuelan universities. The conference was held from May 19th to 27th, with the active participation of Heads of Mission and representatives of the African Diplomatic Corps accredited in Venezuela who, through Master Classes, shared with Venezuelan university youth important information about the history, economy and culture of their respective countries, as well as their contributions to the construction of a world of balances with a South-South geopolitical vision.

The Academic Program began at the National Experimental Polytechnic University of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, with a Master Class by the Vice Minister for Africa, Yuri Pimentel. In the following days, the presentations of African diplomats attracted great attention, highlighting those of the Ambassador of Algeria Farouk BENMOKHTAR, at the Venezuelan University of Hydrocarbons; the Chargé d'Affaires of Egypt Mohammad ABDELWAHAB, at the Latin American School of Medicine; the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea Marcos NDONG EDU NCHAMA, at the National Experimental University of the Arts; the Consul General of Angola, Mario DOMINGOS SIMAO, at the Bolivarian University of Venezuela; the Ambassador of the Sahrawi Arab Republic, Mohamed SALEM ALI ERGUEIBI, at the International University of Communications; the Ambassador of South Africa, Lindiwe MICHELLE MASECO, at the National University of Tourism; and the Chargé d'Affaires of Nigeria, Akena PATIENCE MNGUSUGHUM, at the Latin American and Caribbean University.

The XX WORLD AFRICA WEEK IN VENEZUELA culminated with the Tribute to the Liberator Simón Bolívar, in the National Pantheon, by the African Diplomatic Corps accredited in Venezuela and an emotional Speech of Order by its Dean, Ambassador of South Africa, Lindiwe MICHELLE MASECO, in which she stressed that «in the XX World Africa Week we were able to observe the potential that Venezuela has in the fields of education and culture», and urged African representatives to explore Venezuela «which is a world in one country.»

The solemn activity was also attended by the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Minister Iván Gil Pinto, who, inspired by the historical tradition of brotherhood and fraternity among our peoples, highlighted «the significant successes of the Day of Integration and Tribute to Mother Africa.» Next, the authorities of Venezuela and Africa inaugurated at the headquarters of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, the photographic exhibition entitled «Venezuela and Africa twinned in the same struggle» that takes a tour of the most important moments of our relations with Mother Africa during the present 21st century.



Miriam Makeba

A voice for Africa and all oppressed of the world

Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

From a township in South Africa, almost a century ago, a pure, crystalline and imposing voice was born. This voice has not ceased to be raised all over the world, to sing of tolerance, love and acceptance of people by one another. This unique voice, which later became a symbol of African unity, is that of Miriam Makeba, born Zenzile Makeba Qgwashu Nguvama.

The daughter of a domestic worker mother and a teacher father, Miriam Makeba was born in 1932 in a township in Johannesburg. Less than a month old, she had to follow her mother, a poor woman imprisoned for brewing beer, to prison for six months. A little later, and still a child, she began to sing in different choirs. She has a lot to look forward to: her mother plays several traditional instruments, her father is a pianist and singer and her grandfather is a collector of jazz records. However, after the death of her father when she was only six years old, Makeba left school and began to do a series of small jobs before being caught up by her passion for music. In 1952, she joined the musical group «Manhattan Brothers», while four years earlier, in 1948, the racist system of apartheid had been put in place in South Africa, with the accession to power of the Afrikaner nationalists.

Exile, my freedom

The appearance in 1959 of the young Makeba in the anti-apartheid film «Come back Africa» by American director Lionel Rogosin earned her the wrath of the South African government, which stripped her of her nationality and forced her into exile for 31 years. The singer then moved to the United States where she used her artistic talents to participate in the fight for racial equality. For her, this struggle of the blacks of the United States, and the one waged in South Africa against the Afrikaners was one and the same struggle: «there was not much difference in America: it was a country that had abolished slavery but it was a kind of apartheid in its own way,» she said, adding: «Africans who live everywhere should fight everywhere. The struggle is no different in South Africa, on the streets of Chicago, Trinidad or Canada. Black people are victims of capitalism, racism and oppression, period.» Politically engaged, Makeba has had a string of artistic successes. She was the first artist from Africa to win a Grammy Award in 1966 for her album with singer Harry Belafonte. The following year she recorded «Pata Pata» which became a worldwide success. Makeba sang on all the stages of the world, while her country banned her songs and prevented her from returning home, to visit her daughter back home or even for the funeral of her mother who died in 1960. For her part, the singer has given a series of testimonies and speeches at the United Nations to denounce the iniquitous

policy of apartheid and call for sanctions against the South African government. But she will still have to go into exile in Guinea with her husband Stokely Carmichael. She lived in this country for 15 years, warmly welcomed by President Sékou Touré.

Return to grace

Miriam Makeba has received about ten citizenships from around the world, including those of Guinea, Tanzania and France. In 1990, she finally returned to South Africa, at the invitation of the most famous newly released prisoner Nelson Mandela. She is welcomed as a heroine. Apartheid was over, but vast social projects remained, to which Mama Africa was committed with the enthusiasm for which she is known: the fight against the phenomenon of child soldiers, against AIDS, aid to orphans and child victims of anti-personnel mines, etc. The singer set up an orphanage called



«Makeba Center for Girls». In 2000, she released another album, then announced in 2005 the end of her career. She died in Italy on November 8, 2008, in the backstage of a concert against racism and organized crime, following a heart attack, after performing the mythical song «Pata pata». Her image remains today, in the popular imagination, as that of a talented, committed and strong African woman, an icon of the «Black is beautiful» movement that she promoted by wearing African jewelry, keeping her skin authentic and her frizzy hair, in short, by offering an alternative to the hegemony of the Western beauty standard. Miriam Makeba has, throughout her life, released more than 30 albums, and introduced the music of her country as well as the pains of its people to the whole world.