

## The orientations of the President of APPO

## H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly for his mandate

### Dossier

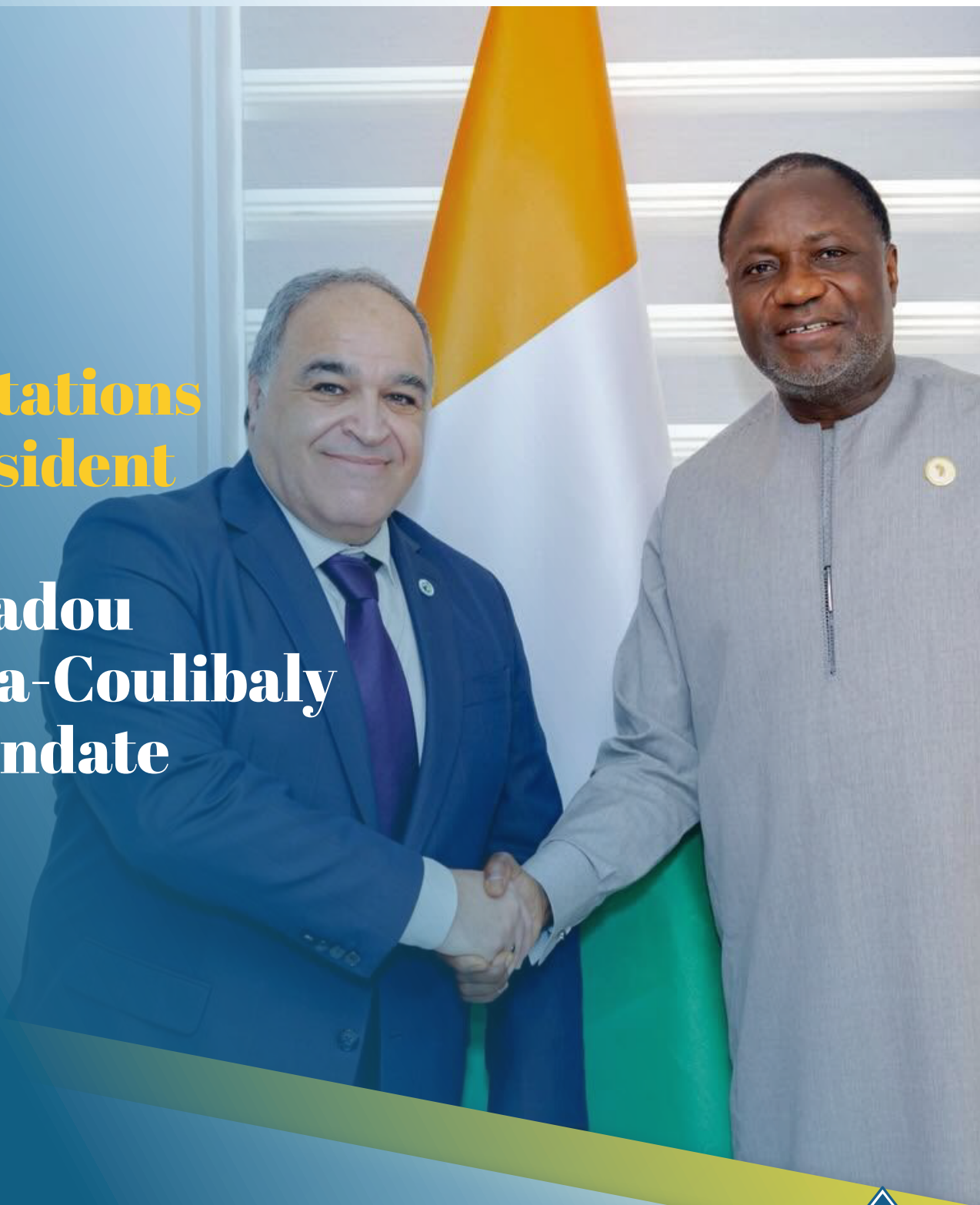
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# ÉDITORIAL

## The orientations of the President of APPO for the current financial year



H.E. Farid Ghezali  
SG of APPO

**A**fter taking office and as is customary at the beginning of the year, I carried out a mission to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on January 30 to present the 2026 Work Program of the Secretariat and to receive the guidance of the President of the Ministerial Council of APPO, H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The session resulted in a clear vision for

the Organization, broken down into five key points through a validated road-map.

### ► *Operationalization of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB)*

The President recalled that the effective launch of the Africa Energy Bank is an immediate strategic priority. He called for a coordinated mobilization of Member Countries, close monitoring of milestones, as well as a discipline of governance and traceability commensurate with the stakes. He stressed that the shared objective must be to remove, with method and diligence, the last institutional, technical and operational prerequisites for the effective operationalization of the Bank.

### ► *Restructuring of APPO*

The President stressed that, in an energy environment undergoing profound restructuring, APPO must equip itself with an institutional and operational architecture that is fully in line with the current geostrategic context, the transitions underway and the imperatives of efficiency. In this regard, he called for a lucid and responsible restructuring, in line with the times, aimed at strengthening the implementation capacity of the

Secretariat, clarifying decision-making mechanisms and increasing the agility of the Organization's cooperation instruments.

### ► ***Holding of the Summit of Heads of State and Government***

The President expressed the hope that the year 2026 will allow the AEB to be raised to the rank of a continental project at the highest level, through the organization of a Summit of Heads of State and Government concomitant with the launch of the Bank. He stressed that such a sequence would constitute a strong political signal, likely to strengthen support, consolidate the credibility of the initiative and increase its strategic scope.

### ► ***Increased presence in major energy events***

The President stressed that visibility conditions influence. In this regard, he called for the strengthening of the presence of APPO within the main events and platforms of the regional and international energy scene, in order to better carry the priorities of the Organization, consolidate strategic partnerships and position Africa as a fully sovereign player in its energy choices. He also expressed the wish to be personally associated, alongside the Secretariat, with the participation of APPO in these strategic events, and requested that a dedicated program be submitted to him for this purpose.

### ► ***Local Content: harmonization and enhanced monitoring of national frameworks***

I have indicated my intention to initiate, in 2026, structured work aimed at promoting, where relevant, the harmonization of petroleum frameworks and codes within the Member Countries. The President, for his part, recalled that Local Content is a major lever for value creation, transfer of skills and strengthening industrial sovereignty, and stressed that the coherent implementation of these guidelines requires close coordination, continuous consultation and reinforced execution discipline. In this regard, he called for close and constant work between the APPO Presidency and the Secretariat to ensure the continuity, responsiveness and effectiveness of joint actions.

I am delighted with this dynamic driven by the President of APPO and which has made it possible to reach essential milestones. Thus, I can already confirm that the implementation of this roadmap is well underway. As for the AEB, we are in the process of completing the mobilization of start-up capital and the operational phase should take place next September, after the President personally presided over the official reception of the headquarters building in Abuja (Nigeria) on 2 February. Also, as indicated in his priorities at the beginning of his mandate, H.E Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, President of APPO had requested an Extraordinary Session of the Ministerial Council to take the important steps for the launch of the AEB. To this end, the members of the APPO Ministerial Council met virtually on June 1 in Extraordinary Session to take the major decisions necessary to move the project forward. They unanimously decided that the Bank should be launched next September and they also gave the possibility to APPO Member Countries to invest individually and directly. The restructuring of the Secretariat is well advanced, at least in its technical phase. The validation of proposals for recommendation to the Ministerial Council is on the agenda of the APPO Mid-Year Meetings to be held from 1 to 3 July 2026 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. As for the upcoming Summit of Heads of State and Government, it is particularly close to the heart of the Congolese Minister of Hydrocarbons, H.E. Stev Simplicite Onanga, as he notified me during an audience that he was pleased to grant me on 15 May in Brazzaville (Congo) following his assumption of office. Also, APPO has confirmed, throughout the first six months of year, its position as the reference organization in the field of hydrocarbons in Africa, by actively taking part in African and international events of reference in the field of energy. Our Organization has also forged strong relations through the signing of memoranda of understanding with sister organizations that share its vision. Finally, as part of the strengthening of Local Content, we have initiated the establishment of various platforms to strengthen cooperation between Member Countries, and between African countries, in line with our mission.

All in all, it should be noted that the course indicated by the President is maintained, thanks to the constant support of the Ministerial Council and the Executive Board.



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### 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.

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### Cover

The cover of this issue shows the Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO H.E. Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly receiving in audience in Abidjan on January 30, 2026 the SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali (See Editorial).



# Libyan Energy and Economy Summit (LEES) 2026

*Positioning Libya at the heart of global energy*

On January 24, 2026, a delegation from the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) participated in the 4th edition of the Libyan Energy and Economy Summit (LEES), which was held in Tripoli (State of Libya). Led by His Excellency Mr. Farid Ghezali, Secretary General of APPO, the mission made it possible to establish important contacts that will affect the future of the Organization.



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

Opened on January 24, 2026, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the Libyan State, H.E. Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, the Libyan Energy and Economy Summit was attended by high-level and world-class delegations. The opening ceremony was marked by the address of Mr. Masoud Souleymane, Director General of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) of Libya who outlined the Libyan government's new agenda to take advantage of the huge oil and gas reserves to reposition the country as a global energy source. The Prime Minister of the Libyan State, His Excellency

Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, for his part, said that Libya is now back in the global energy landscape as it benefits from significant opportunities for investment and cooperation in oil, gas and renewable energy. According to him, the country has set long-term goals: to produce 2 million barrels per day, 8 million barrels of additional reserves, 400,000 barrels of refining under the direction of the Ministry of Oil and Gas and the NOC. He stressed that the country is open to international partnerships and is committed to strengthening its collaboration and partnership with its key partners.



Overview of a LEES 2026 Panel

### **AEB to unlock the immense potential for regional and cross-border infrastructure**

Three important agreements were signed during the ceremony. These are the First Amendment to the Agreement for the Return to the Al-Waha Concession Areas, a Memorandum of Understanding between Libyan National Oil and Chevron, and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Libyan Ministry of Oil and Gas and the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. The ministerial panel that followed focused on the theme «Strategic partnerships: positioning Libya at the heart of global energy». The SG took part alongside members of the APPO Ministerial Council, Their Excellencies Dr. Khalifa Abdulsadek, Minister of Oil and Gas of the State of Libya and Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Ms. Gaudentia Kröhne, Deputy Minister of Industrialization, Mines and Energy, Republic of Namibia. The SG, after outlining the Bank's history, said that AEB is a transformative tool designed to unlock immense potential as it can effectively structure regional risk-sharing mechanisms to stimulate private capital and ensure that projects such as the proposed electricity interconnectors between Libya and Algeria are commercially profitable.

*Their Excellencies Mr. Farid Ghezali and Dr. Philip Mshelbila, SG of APPO and GECF*



### **Towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between APPO and GECF**

On the sidelines of the opening ceremony, the SGs of APPO and GECF, Their Excellencies Mr. Farid Ghezali and Dr. Philip Mshelbila, held a formal meeting focused on strengthening collaboration and cooperation between the two Organizations on issues of common interest for the benefit of their respective Member Countries, as well as a draft signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Institutions. This agreement will mark the beginning of a new era of fruitful cooperation and collaboration between the two Organizations, which share five Member Countries and have the common objective of strengthening the African oil and gas sector through unified and coordinated actions for the benefit of their Member Countries, and by extension the African continent. The two parties agreed to hold the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding to this effect at the APPO Secretariat in Brazzaville.

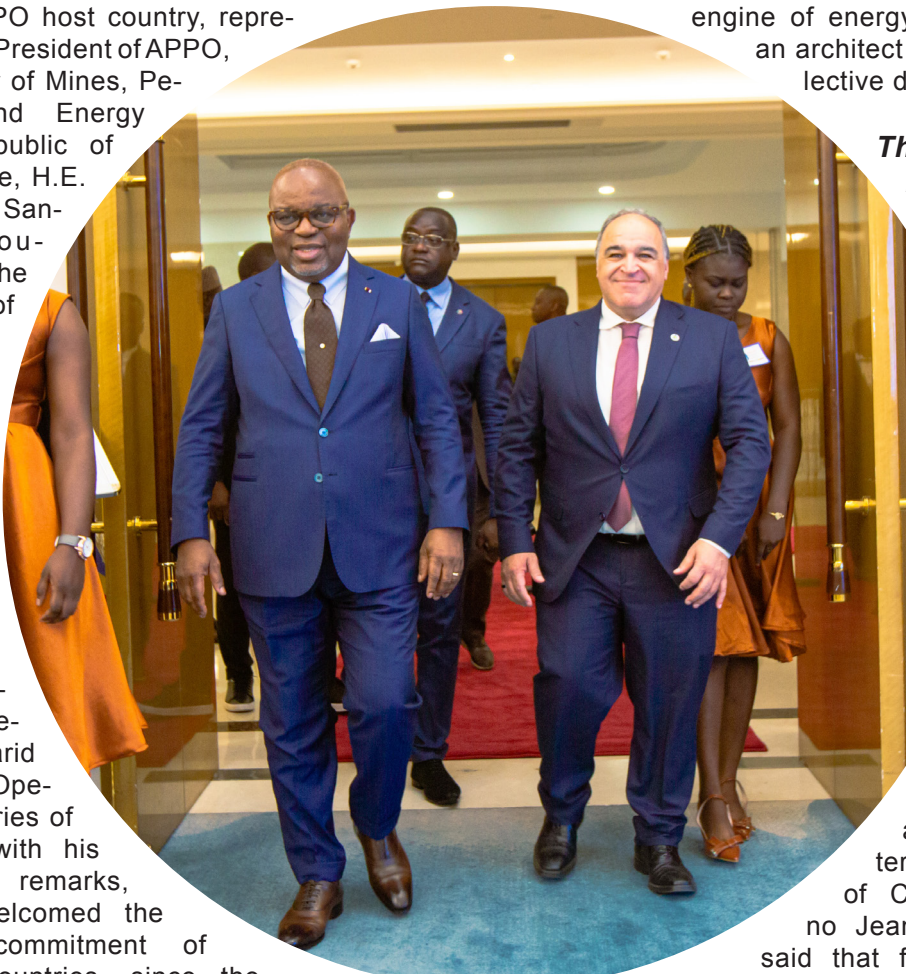
# Celebration of the 39th Anniversary of the Creation of APPO in Brazzaville

*Meeting the challenge of developing local content in oil and gas activities in Africa*

On January 27, 2026, APPO celebrated the 39th anniversary of its creation in Brazzaville (Congo). The celebration brought together the members of the Forum of Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of Member Countries for the holding of their 4th Meeting. Speeches, communication, birthday messages, gift exchange and symbolic cutting of the birthday cake were on the menu of a festivity rich in emotion.

39 years at the service of the African energy industry, that's something to celebrate! Held in Brazzaville, the ceremony to commemorate the event was presided over by H.E. Bruno Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of Congo, APPO host country, representing the President of APPO, the Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, in the presence of the Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of the APPO Member Countries and strategic countries as well as the Secretary General H.E. Farid Ghezali. Opening the series of speeches with his welcoming remarks, the SG welcomed the common commitment of Member Countries, since the

creation of APPA in 1987, to transform the immense wealth of the African subsoil into sustainable and equitably shared prosperity for the people. 39 years later, he said, APPO can be proud of having become a true continental engine of energy sovereignty and an architect of the African collective destiny.



## **The birthday message of the President of APPO**

Speaking on behalf of the President of APPO, H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire, who could not attend, the Minister of Hydrocarbons of Congo, H.E. Bruno Jean-Richard ITOUA, said that from the creation of APPA to APPO, the Organiza-

*Welcome of H.E. Bruno Jean-Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of Congo representing the President of APPO*

tion has undergone profound changes in the direction of its improvement in the service of the hydrocarbon industry of its Member Countries. He then wished the Members of the Forum of Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of APPO Member Countries accredited to the Republic of Congo fruitful deliberations. Returning to the subject of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB), of which APPO is a major promoter, in partnership with Afreximbank, he praised the foresight of the Ministerial Council, whose successive deliberations and relevant resolutions have made it possible to lay essential milestones. «The very first days of February will see the inspection visit that the President of APPO will lead with several Members of the Ministerial Council to the headquarters of this Bank located



*Partial view of the participants*

*The APPO SG H.E. Farid Ghezali*



in Abuja, Nigeria,» added Minister Itoua.

***Creating a Platform for the development and promotion of Local Content in Africa***

The SG of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali set the scene for the technical session on the development and promotion of Local Content in the oil and gas industry in Africa. In his introductory statement, he indicated that, far from being a contractual clause or an isolated regulatory requirement, Local Content is the keystone of the African economic revolution and the real spearhead of its endogenous development. For Africa, it is therefore a question of moving away from the traditional model of extraction, to embrace that of



*H.E. Bruno Jean-Richard ITOUA, Minister of Hydrocarbons of Congo speaking on behalf of H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly*

value creation, industrialization and innovation. The objective here, he said, is to achieve an average of at least 50% Local Content in all African oil and gas sectors by 2030, in compliance with the Brazzaville Declaration. Citing the example of pioneering countries in the promotion of Local Content such as Nigeria, Angola and Congo, the SG said that these successes must be replicated on a continental scale. To achieve this, he announced, APPO will deploy, starting this year, a pan-African database of hundreds of certified companies, providing unprecedented visibility and credibility to local champions. The strategy also includes intensive training programs to be implemented with the APPO Training Institutes Forum as well as expert advice to Member Countries for the adoption of strategic Joint Ventures

with International Oil Companies. To this end, he concluded, the Africa Energy Bank (AEB) will be the financing tool for this vision, making it possible to capture a substantial part of the USD 15 billion in added value lost today with the export of raw resources.

***The Ambassadors' Forum's commitment to Local Content***

The Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions, through the voice of the representative designated by the Dean, H.E. Louis Marie Magloire Nkoum-Me-Ntseny, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to the Republic of Congo, congratulated APPO for the work undertaken in favor of Local Content in the activities of the oil and



*Partial view of the participants*

gas industry in Africa, marking their commitment to this dynamic. They once again warmly welcomed the new SG of APPO and welcomed the continuity observed in the dynamics of the Organization since the handover. The ceremony then continued with the symbolic cutting of the birthday cake. The anniversary toast was delivered by H.E. Laura Evangelia Suarez, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic

of Venezuela to the Republic of Congo. On behalf of all her fellow Ambassadors and Heads of Mission, she wished a happy birthday to APPO, in peace, concord and the promotion of unity and sovereignty in the world. The ceremony ended with the presentation of gifts, paving the way for the fortieth anniversary of APPO which will be commemorated on January 27, 2027.

*Partial view of the participants*



## Birthday Messages



*On this happy occasion offered to me, I would like to express to the SG of the APPO and to all his collaborators my warm congratulations on the 39th anniversary of the creation of our dear and prestigious Pan-African Organization. It has been 39 years now since African leaders with an enlightened vision decided to create this Organization to respond to the challenges and issues of the energy sector in Africa. This dream has been a reality of the African continent since then, day after day, with tangible and relevant progress.*

*My congratulations are also accompanied by my best wishes for success and full success to the SG and to the Organization in achieving the objectives set and in the conversion of this Organization into a real force for proposal, negotiation and action in the service of African countries in the defense of their higher interests, whose security and sovereignty are the primary concern, but also and above all in the promotion of sustainable development on our continent.*

*This is, of course, with the political support of the Member Countries.*

*With our support.*

*S.E. Riache Azeddine*

*Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of Congo*



*The Republic of Cameroon proudly displays and claims its membership in APPO, an organization whose rise to power clearly testifies to the will of African states and the Global South to conquer their energy sovereignty.*

*Happy 39th Birthday. Happy New Year 2026 to the Secretary General and his staff.*

*H.E. Louis-Marie Magloire Nkoum-Me-Ntseny*

*Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to the Republic of Congo*



*Happy 39th Birthday APPO. With my best wishes for development and success. I am confident that cooperation between our Member and brotherly Countries will yield sublime results. Good luck, Mr. Secretary General, and above all, keep up the good work.*

*H.E. Iman Yakout*

*Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Congo*





*Happy Birthday n° 39*

*At a time when the world is playing for the peace and sovereignty of the countries of the Global South, what we need is integration and, beyond unity, the unity of equals, the unity of Africa and the Global South. Congratulations to this great organization and best wishes for progress in the objectives set.*

*Many successes also for the new Secretary-General as well as for Africa and Venezuela.*

*H.E. Laura Evangelia Suarez*

*Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.*



*Happy 39th Anniversary APPO, on behalf of the Republic of South Africa and President H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa wishing you many successful years to come.*

*Success in leading Africa to be one of the top role players on energy in the world, we appreciate your efforts for development of Petroleum Industry in Africa.*

*H.E. Mr. Mziwamadoda Koloko*

*Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of Congo*



*A big congratulations on the 39th Anniversary of African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO).*

*The Organization has lived up to its expectations and has recorded great achievements.*

*Charles Sona*

*Chargé d' Affaires, Nigerian Embassy in Brazzaville – Republic of Congo*



*On the occasion of the celebration of the 39th anniversary of the APPO, I would like, on behalf of the Government of Senegal and on my own behalf, to extend our warm congratulations to APPO, its Secretary General and its governing bodies. This is an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Senegal to provide its full support to this organization to address current and future energy-related challenges in Africa.*

*H.E. Ousmane Diop*

*Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to the Republic of Congo*

## NIES 2026

### *Articulate a strategic roadmap for Africa's energy future*

Held from February 2 to 5, 2026, the Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES) provided a valuable opportunity for discussions on the future of Energy in Africa. APPO was represented by a delegation led by H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO.



*The APPO President H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly and the SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali*

The official opening of NIES 2026 took place at the Bola Ahmed Tinubu International Conference Center on February 2, 2026. Under the high patronage of H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria represented by his Prime Minister, H.E. Kashim Shettima, NIES has brought together the most important national and African players in the energy field. APPO was represented by a strong

delegation, led by the Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO, H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly. The opening ceremony was also attended by the SG of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali, as well as the President of The Gambia, H.E. Adama Barrow and the Deputy Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Domingo Mba Esono. The various interventions highlighted

the paradox of Africa, a continent with the highest proportion of its population without access to energy, which nevertheless exports 70% of the crude oil and 40% of the natural gas it produces. Among the many solutions proposed to put an end to this contradiction, the project to create the Africa Energy Bank, jointly led by Afreximbank and APPO, and whose headquarters are located in Abuja, Nigeria, is prominent.

### **A strategic pivot towards energy sovereignty**

In their interventions, the two Deputy Ministers of Petroleum Resources, Oil and Gas, Their Excellencies Heineken Lokpobiri and Ekperikpe Ekpo highlighted the solutions and measures taken by the Nigerian government with the aim of eventually transforming the country into a real energy hub in Africa. The discussion panels focused on several topics of interest, including control policies to strengthen com-

panies operating in the energy sector in Africa, gas transport infrastructure through corridors to share prosperity, the issue of regulation, not to mention cross-cutting issues such as the development of Local Content in oil and gas activities. Special sessions were also dedicated to Nigeria, including a forum called the Nigeria Gas Forum dedicated to the milestones set in the country over the past decade, as well as the way forward. The summit resulted in important resolutions, including on strategic cooperation, financial and infrastructure development, political, regulatory and fiscal reforms, and regional integration. The recommendations also include the need to optimize infrastructure and market governance, as well as energy security and regional leadership of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Overall, NIES 2026 has enabled enriching discussions with the objective of leading Nigeria, and more generally, Africa, towards true energy sovereignty, through industrial value creation and robust regional cooperation.

*Family picture*



# Handover to the APPO Secretariat

*Farouk leaves, Farid takes over*

The APPO Secretariat has changed its leadership. Last December, Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim handed over to Mr. Farid Ghezali in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The ceremony took place on December 17, 2025 under the chairmanship of H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO for the year 2025.



*Exchange of documents between the outgoing SG H.E. Omar Farouk Ibrahim and the incoming SG H.E. Farid Ghezali*

Appointed Secretary General of APPO for a three-year term by the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Ministerial Council of APPO held in Kintélé, Republic of Congo, on November 4, 2025, H.E. Farid Ghezali officially took office on December 17, 2025, from H.E. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, outgoing SG. In a speech reviewing his work at the helm of APPO over the past six years, he outlined the main positive results achieved by the Organization under his leadership between 2020 and 2025. He thanked the Ministerial Council, the Executive Board of APPO and his Secretariat staff for the support he received from each other during two successive terms at the APPO Secretariat.

In his speech, the incoming SG expressed his gratitude to the APPO Ministerial Council for the trust

placed in him to lead the APPO Secretariat for the next three years. Congratulating his predecessor for the results he achieved, he pledged to tirelessly continue the work started, calling on his staff to be part of the perspective of achieving the objectives he has set for himself.

H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO for the year 2025, for his part, congratulated the outgoing SG and welcomed the incoming SG, while congratulating him once again for receiving his mandate from the APPO Ministerial Council. He invited H.E. Farid Ghezali to continue the ongoing actions for the reform of the Secretariat and the launch of the Africa Energy Bank, to name but a few.

Family picture



# They led the APPO Secretariat



**HE Mr. Mohamed Souidi (Algeria)**  
Executive Secretary from 1989 to 1995

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**HE Mr. Gabriel Dansou Lokossou (Benin)**  
Executive Secretary from 2009 to 2015

---



**HE Mr. Maxime Obiang-Nze (Gabon)**  
Executive Secretary from 1995 to 2003

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**HE Mr. Mahaman Laouan Gaya (Niger)**  
Executive Secretary / Secretary General from 2015 to 2019

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**HE Mr. Dave A. Lafaji (Nigeria)**  
Executive Secretary from 2003 to 2007

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**HE Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim (Nigeria)**  
Secretary General from 2020 to 2025

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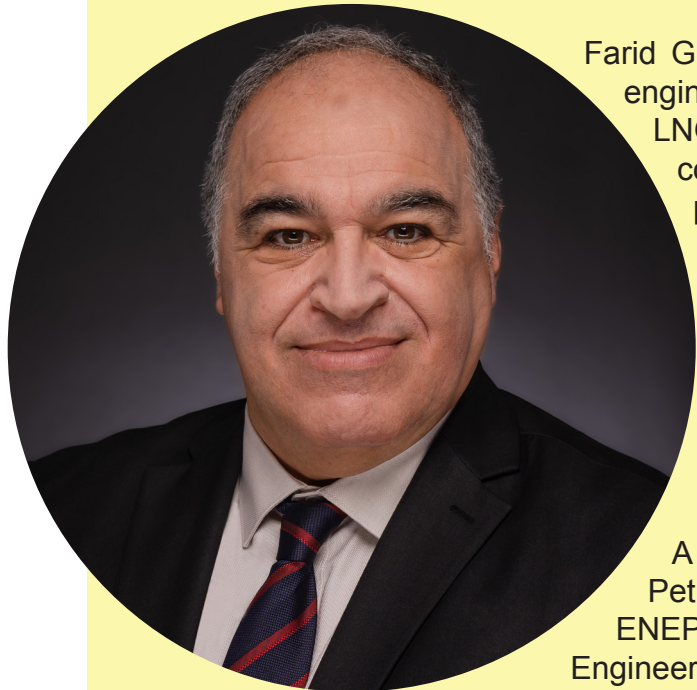


**HE Mr. David Ekoume (Cameroon)**  
Executive Secretary from 2007 to 2009



**HE Mr. Farid Ghezali (Algeria)**  
Secretary General since January 2026

## *Portrait of H.E. Farid Ghezali*



Farid Ghezali is a seasoned executive and chemical engineer with over 33 years of experience spanning LNG, engineering, corporate planning, strategy, commercial operations, resource management, project leadership, and process improvement. He is recognized for combining analytical rigor with strong execution capabilities, translating complex business needs into practical solutions, strengthening governance and performance frameworks, and steering organizations through evolving market and technology environments.

A chemical engineer specialized in LNG (Algerian Petroleum Institute, 1991), he began his career at ENEP (SONATRACH affiliate) in 1991 as a Process Engineer, before becoming Project Manager in 1994. He later rejoined SONATRACH's corporate center, serving from 1997 to 2003 within the Executive Directorate for Strategic Corporate Planning and Economic Studies (SPE) as an Economic and Research Engineer. In 2003, he assumed corporate planning responsibilities within the Commercialization Activity.

In 2005, he was appointed Operations Director of the commercialization joint venture In Salah Gaz Marketing (SONATRACH / BP / Equinor), based in The Hague until 2010, supporting gas marketing operations, notably toward the Italian market. Upon returning to Algiers, he served (from 2012 to January 2017) as Director of Studies and Corporate Planning for SONATRACH's Hydrocarbons Transportation by Pipeline Activity.

From 2017 to 2020, he led the Executive Directorate for Strategy, Planning and Economics as Vice President. He also held the position of Secretary General of SONATRACH until June 2019, and since 2020 has served as Advisory Director to the Chairman and CEO.

Since 5 January 2026, he has been serving as Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO). In this capacity, he oversees the Secretariat's strategic direction and coordination with Member Countries and partners, with a focus on timely implementation of ministerial decisions and the consolidation of priority continental initiatives, including the operationalization of the Africa Energy Bank.

# 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the APPO Ministerial Council

*Important decisions for the future  
of the Organization*

The Ministerial Council of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) held its 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session on November 4, 2025 in Kintélé, Republic of Congo. Organized under the High Patronage of His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic and Head of State, the Session was held on the sidelines of the Local Content Conference and Exhibition (CECLA).



Overview of the Ministerial Council

The Commune of Kintélé hosted, on November 4, 2026, the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Ministerial Council of APPO. The Session brought together Ministers, Heads of Delegation and representatives of the Organization's Member Countries, as well as the Secretary General of APPO, the Director General of the African Energy Investment Corporation (AEICorp) and members of their respective teams. Chaired by H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and President of APPO, the Meeting reaffirmed the determination of its Member Countries to commit to the effective launch of the Africa Energy Bank. Thus, in his message delivered by the Prime Minister His Excellency Anatole Colinet Makosso, President Denis Sassou Nguesso expressed his satisfaction with the progress made by APPO since its foundation about 38 years ago, congratulating the Organization for the creation of the Africa Energy Bank. He assured that as a founding member of APPO and a country of headquarters, Congo will continue to support the Organization. He invited the Members of the Ministerial Council to reassure their respective Presidents that Congo is working on the organization next year of the 1st Summit of Heads of State of APPO. The Meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the major projects of the Organization. Thus, the Minister of State in charge of Hydrocarbons and Mines of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria H.E. Mohamed Arkab has been mandated to lead a ministerial working group with a view to completing the process of creating the Bank. The Council also decided to set up a Ministerial Working Group on AEICorp,

chaired by H.E. Birame Soulèye Diop, Minister of Energy, Petroleum and Mines of the Republic of Senegal. Finally, the Ministerial Council expressed its gratitude to His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic and Head of State and to the good Congolese people for the hospitality granted to the delegations that came for the 2025 Statutory Meetings. The next Ordinary Session of the Ministerial Council will be held in Côte d'Ivoire in the last quarter of 2026.

### **Key decisions taken**

The Ministerial Council appointed Mr. Farid Ghezali as the new Secretary General of APPO from 2026 to 2028. It adopted a motion of congratulations and thanks to Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim for the important services he has rendered to Africa during six years at the head of the APPO General Secretariat. The Board elected the Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire H.E. Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly and the Minister of State in charge of Hydrocarbons of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E. Acacia Bandubola Mbongo as President and Vice-President of APPO respectively for the year 2026.

The Ministerial Council appointed Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta, Member of the Executive Board for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Eng. Ehab RAGAE, Member of the Executive Board for the Arab Republic of Egypt as President and Vice-President of the Executive Board respectively for 2026.



## *A remarkable participation of Venezuela*

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela joined APPO in 2021 as an Honorary Member Country, becoming the first and only non-African country to be a member of the Organization. On the occasion of the Year-End Statutory Meetings of APPO, Venezuela reaffirmed its commitment to the Organization by marking its presence with a high-level delegation of three people, led by H.E. Mrs. Paula Kristina Henao Vera, Vice-Minister of Petroleum of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The latter participated, with her delegation, in the various activities of the Ministerial Council, alongside her counterparts from APPO

Member Countries, and she also took part in a CECLA panel entitled: "Legal, Regulatory and Local Content Strategies of the Member Countries".

# Brazzaville Declaration

## *on the Development of Local Content*

Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo, hosted on November 4, 2025 the historic ceremony of the signing by the Members of the Ministerial Council of APPO, of the Brazzaville Declaration on Local Content. The session was held on the sidelines of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Conference and Exhibitions on Local Content in Africa (CECLA), organized jointly with the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the APPO Ministerial Council.



*Family picture*

The overall objective of the Africa Local Content Conference and Exhibitions (CECLA) 2025 was to exchange views, share experiences and showcase national capacities to improve the local supply of quality goods and services along the oil and gas industry value chain. This 4<sup>th</sup> Edition debated around the central theme «Improving the indigenous supply of quality goods and services: a strategic lever to maximize African participation in the oil and gas industry». Bringing together Local Content Regulators, Chief Executive Officers of National Oil Companies (NOCs)

and their subsidiaries, suppliers of local goods and services, service providers, the private sector, national and international experts, heads of financial institutions in the oil and gas industry, as well as civil society active in the field, the work lasted four days. At the end of intense debates and exhibitions, the participants, including members of the APPO Ministerial Council, NOC CEOs, IOCs, national private investors, managers of R&D and innovation centers and training institutions and other stakeholders, formulated 10 recommendations that form the basis of the Brazzaville Declaration.

These are:

- (1) Develop a mechanism for measuring local content achievements in member countries.
- (2) To promote the development and implementation of effective Local Content policies and strategies in the oil and gas industry in Africa, and in APPO Member Countries, in particular.
- (3) To strengthen the capacity of African suppliers to provide quality goods and services to the oil and gas industry, thereby ensuring their competitiveness and sustainability.
- (4) Facilitate access to financing, technology and expertise for local businesses, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.
- (5) Create opportunities for skills development and technology and knowledge transfer, building a skilled African workforce and companies for the oil and gas sector.
- (6) Encourage collaboration between international and local companies, fostering joint ventures and win-win partnerships.

(7) Support the harmonization of Local Content requirements and regulations across the African continent.

(8) Foster collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives that address the specific needs and challenges facing the African oil and gas industry.

(9) Encourage public/private partnerships between entrepreneurs to strengthen the capacity and quality of goods and services provided to industry.

(10) Monitor progress and share best practices in the development and management of Local Content, ensuring efficiency, transparency and Social and Environmental Responsibility.

In line with the new APPO guidelines that place Local Content at the heart of every strategic decision, these recommendations of the Brazzaville Declaration will serve as guidelines for Member Countries to make significant progress in the development and promotion of Local Content.

*Partial view of the Members of the Ministerial Council of APPO*



# Signing of an MoU between two APPO NOC

*GNPC and Sonatrach join forces  
to meet the challenges of the industry*

The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) and the Société Nationale pour la Recherche, la Production, le Transport, la Transformation et la Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures (Sonatrach) of Algeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding on January 6, 2026 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). Developed under the aegis of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) in the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, this agreement formalizes the strategic and technical partnership between the National Oil Companies of Ghana and Algeria.



*Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Mr. Mustapha Benamara (Central Director of Research and Development at Sonatrach), representing Sonatrach and Dr. Krasie Eyiah Kwesi, General Manager, Research and Data at Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, representing GNPC*

It was in the conference room of the APPO Secretariat in Brazzaville that the signing ceremony of this strategic agreement between the National Oil Companies of Ghana and Algeria took place. Concluded under the leadership of the APPO Research & Development and Innovation Centers Directors Forum, the MoU aims to foster cooperation, share expertise and support the advancement of Africa's energy capabilities. It is therefore an agreement that establishes guidelines for cooperation in research, development and technological innovation, as well as the joint development of activities on oil and gas laboratory fields and the exchange of best practices in different advanced techniques.

### **Accelerating cooperation to achieve energy sovereignty**

In his welcome address, the Secretary General of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali praised the visionary leadership of the two parties which made it possible to achieve this agreement. He said that this signing proves, if proof were still needed, the ambition of APPO to accelerate cooperation for Africa's energy sovereignty. He also welcomed the fact that this agreement represents a clear and structured framework for joint operations in the sphere of Research & Development and Innovation between the two countries, embodying in the best possible way the principles of fairness, transparency and data protection dear to APPO.

### **Pooling technology for common solutions**

The GNPC, represented by Dr. Kراسي Eyiah Kwe-si, Managing Director, Research and Data at Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, welcomed the successful conclusion of the discussions initiated with Sonatrach since the 2nd Forum of Directors of Research & Development and Innovation, held from April 20 to 23, 2025 in Algiers, Algeria. He did not fail to reiterate the commitment of his country Ghana for all the initiatives taken within APPO in general, and in particular for the projects of the R&D and Innovation Forum. This commitment was welcomed by Mr. Mustapha Benamara (Central Director of Research and Development at Sonatrach), representing Sonatrach for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. The latter did not fail to present the genesis of the agreement between the GNPC and Sonatrach, noting that it is the result of the discussions and work carried out by the APPO R&D and Innovation Forum. Recalling the fruitful results achieved by the Directors within the Forum, he informed the audience that in addition to the agreement with GNPC, Sonatrach also plans to enter into partnership with the NNPC as well as Sonangol. The signing ceremony of the agreement between the GNPC and Sonatrach took place in the presence of H.E. Farid Ghezali, SG of APPO, as well as H.E. Azeddine Riache, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of Congo.

*Family picture*



# Signing of a MoU between APPO and ARDA

*Joining hands to strengthen Africa's hydrocarbon sector*



*Exchange of initials between H.E. Farid Ghezali, SG of APPO & Mrs. Marie Joséphine Sidibé, President of ARDA*

**A**PPO and ARDA concretize their partnership thanks to the signing of a memorandum of understanding. The solemn ceremony took place on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in Cape Town (South Africa). The document, signed by H.E. Farid Ghezali, SG, on behalf of APPO and Ms. Marie Joséphine Sidibé, Chairperson, on behalf of ARDA, establishes a general framework for collaboration and cooperation between the parties on

objectives and issues of common interest in the field of hydrocarbons and related activities. Thus, the agreement affirms the interest of APPO and ARDA to cooperate and contribute to the effective achievement of their objectives in the areas of exchange of information and documentation on projects, studies and events carried out by the two institutions, promotion of the development of regional infrastructure for the processing, trans-

port, storage, distribution and control of petroleum products, the promotion of adequate access to petroleum products, LPG and natural gas for all populations. Other areas of focus include supporting the security of hydrocarbon supply in all its forms across the continent, working together to harmonize regulatory frameworks in the petroleum sector, harmonizing the quality and specifications of petroleum products, promoting local content along the oil value chain, and capacity building and human resource development in the oil sector.

### **Priority areas for collaboration**

Within the framework of this agreement, the parties have chosen to place greater emphasis on some specific areas of cooperation such as the regulation and development of infrastructure, through the harmonization of contractual, fiscal and regulatory frameworks as well as policies of the oil sector, the development of common strategies to secure the supply of hydrocarbons, the promotion of policies and strategies for the development of modern and efficient regional infrastructure for the supply, transport, distribution and control of petroleum products through regional integration projects (storage facilities, oil and gas pipelines, refineries, etc.), the promotion and support for the creation of regional hydrocarbon markets as well as the development of

a concerted and harmonized framework for the promotion of the local content, including capacity building in the oil sector. In terms of technical and financial assistance, APPO and ARDA will collaborate in the implementation of projects of common interest, including joint studies and projects identified jointly in accordance with each Party's programmes of activities. As such, ARDA shows its determination to participate in the financing and implementation of the African Crude Oil and Petroleum Products Market Study initiated by APPO, which, in turn, expresses its interest in participating in the study aimed at developing a harmonized regional framework on fuel specifications and limits in the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs). These joint actions will be the subject of special agreements. Therefore, the two organizations are committed to collaboration in the field of training and human capacity building in the hydrocarbon sectors, including the development of models based on best practices.

Established on 23 March 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa, the African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA) is a pan-African organisation set up to represent the downstream petroleum sector, including the refining, storage, distribution and marketing of petroleum products across the African continent. Its headquarters are based in Geneva, Switzerland.



# Towards an imminent launch of the Africa Energy Bank

## *Afreximbank and APPO officially receive the keys to the headquarters*

APPO and Afreximbank, the two promoting institutions of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB), officially received the keys to the Bank's headquarters from the Nigerian Government on 2 February 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria. The ceremony took place during a joint high-level meeting of the APPO Ministerial Committees on Resolutions 357 and 360 relating to the preparatory activities for the launch of the AEB: Finance Commission chaired by Senegal and Launch Preparation Commission chaired by Algeria.



*Their Excellencies Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Deputy Minister for Petroleum Resources (Petroleum) of Nigeria & Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO*

The meeting was hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and was held at the office of the Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri. The work was chaired by H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of

Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO.

Also present were the Director General of AEICorp, Mr. Zakaria Dosso, as well as high-level delegations from APPO Member Countries, including Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana and Senegal. Discussions focused on critical and pending is-

sues related to the commissioning and imminent launch of the Africa Energy Bank, a flagship continental initiative designed to mobilize financing for African energy projects and strengthen energy security on the continent. The meeting provided a platform for the alignment of key stakeholders on the Bank's governance, institutional readiness and strategic priorities.

Following the closed session, participants were given a guided tour of the Bank's headquarters, located at the Africa Trade Center in Abuja, where they were briefed on the readiness of the facility

and the Bank's operational framework.

The SG of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali, reaffirmed in his speech the Organization's recognition to the Nigerian government for its leadership and continued commitment to the successful establishment of the Africa Energy Bank, stating that he «respectfully commends the vision of the Nigerian authorities and their continued commitment to African solutions. By agreeing to host the headquarters of this strategic institution, Nigeria reaffirms its leading role in building a more integrated, resilient, and action-oriented African energy architecture. »

*Working session*



# Courtesy visits to the Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions of APPO Member Countries in Congo

## *APPO SG presents his roadmap to Diplomats of Member Countries*

The Secretary General of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali, undertook, as soon as he took office, a contact tour that took him to almost all the diplomatic representations of the APPO Member Countries in Brazzaville (Congo). Initiated in January – February 2026, this tour gave rise to fruitful discussions, auguring an increased contribution of the diplomats met to the future success of the Organization.



*The Ambassador of Angola and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps  
H.E. Vicente Muanda receiving the SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali on 13 February 2026 in Brazzaville*

It is above all to officially introduce himself that His Excellency Farid Ghezali initiated this series of official meetings with the Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions of the APPO Member Countries in Congo. And to do this, the APPO Secretary-General first paid a visit on January 9, 2026, to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cameroon

to the Republic of Congo, H.E. Louis Marie Magloire Nkoum-Me-Ntseny. Subsequently, during the same month of January, he was successively received by H.E. Azeddine Riache, Ambassador of Algeria to Congo, Mr. Mamadou O. Yonoussa, Consul of Benin in Congo, Mr. Mubasa Wangomo Jean, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Congo,

H.E. Imane Sami Yakout, Ambassador of Egypt to Congo, Mr. Elsenussi Abdusalam, Chargé d’Affaires of the State of Libya in Congo, H.E. Hopelong Uushona Ipinge, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Congo, Mr. Moussa Tahirou, Consul of Niger in Congo, H.E. Laura Evangelia Suarez, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Congo, Mr. Daniel Darlington Aheto, Consul of Ghana to Congo a.i., H.E. Mziwamada Uppington Kalako Ambassador of South Africa to Congo and Mr. Charles Abiye Sona, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Congo. The SG also formally introduced the Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Host Country, the Republic of Congo, H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua. The visits continued last February to the Ambassador of Angola H.E. Vicente Muanda, the Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Gabon Mr. Kenny Lenaïc Andjoua Ngouoni, and to the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to Congo H.E. Abdelkerim Ahmadye.

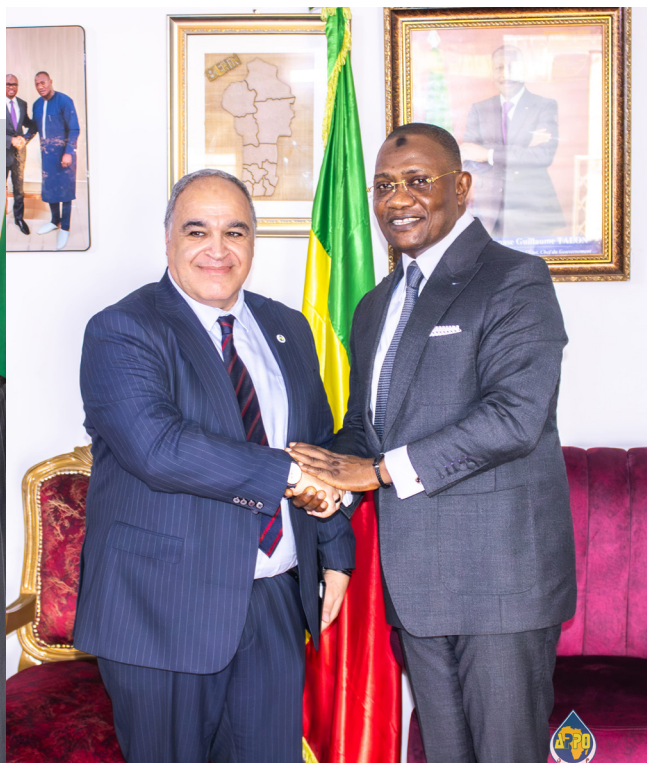
### **The SG’s roadmap**

In an atmosphere of cordiality, the discussions focused on the measures taken by the APPO Secretariat, under the aegis of the SG, to respond to the various challenges faced by APPO Member Coun-

tries in the oil and gas industry. In pole position of these provisions are the various initiatives of APPO for the promotion of Local Content, which includes not only the signing of the Brazzaville Agreement last November by the Members of the Ministerial Council, but also the establishment of various integrated platforms, with a view to allowing increased collaboration between countries for the circulation of human resources and endogenous technologies. The SG also did not fail to give a progress brief on the Africa Energy Bank project, which aims to finance structuring projects in Member Countries. In response, the Ambassadors and Heads of Missions recognized the relevance of APPO as an exclusively African Organization, bringing together Africans committed to preserving the interests of Africans in the oil and gas industry, like the OPEC Member Countries. If for them, it remains obvious that Africa’s hydrocarbons and fruits must fully benefit Africans, the role of APPO in this sense is essential. To conclude, the diplomats warmly welcomed the SG, assuring him of their support for the success of his mandate, which they want to be very active.

The Diplomats also expressed the wish that APPO organize technical working Session for them on the Organization and its activities.

*The Ambassador of Namibia H.E. Hopelong Uushona Ipinge receiving the SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali on 15 January 2026 in Brazzaville*



*The Consul of Benin in the Republic of Congo, Mr. Mamadou O. Yonoussa receiving the SG of the APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali on January 14, 2026 in Brazzaville*

# Audience of the APPO SG with the Minister of Hydrocarbons of Congo

## *H.E. Simplicie Onanga's orientations after taking office at the head of the Ministry*

The new Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Stev Simplicie Onanga granted on Friday, May 15, 2026, an audience to the SG of APPO in Brazzaville (Congo) to his Cabinet. Accompanied by a strong delegation from the Secretariat, SG H.E. Farid Ghezali took the opportunity to present his congratulations to His Excellency the Minister and receive his guidance on the activities of APPO in his capacity as a Member of the Ministerial Council of APPO.

**H**E Simplicie Onanga takes office as Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo. A few days after taking office, the Secretary-General of APPO visited his Office in Brazzaville for a working meeting. Marked by cordiality, the discussions focused in particular on the Africa Energy Bank (AEB). In his presentation, the SG indicated that the minimum capital required from APPO

Member Countries is almost reached, which allows the Organization and its partner in this project, Afreximbank, to consider triggering the rest of the procedure for an imminent launch of the Bank at the end of this semester. Countries that have already made capital payments are Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria. The Minister welcomed this, just as he welcomed the intention shown by Algeria

*Working session*



and Egypt through formal letters for the payment of their shares. He noted that he was closely following the process, the next steps of which included the recruitment of the President of the Bank as well as the appointment of the Executive Directors.

Regarding cooperation between the National Oil Companies, H.E. Simplicé Onanga reiterated the commitment of his country, the Republic of Congo, to continue to support the work and initiatives of the NOC CEOs Forum, in which the SNPC, the National Oil Company of Congo, plays a very active role. He welcomed the upcoming meeting of this Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2026, on the sidelines of the African Energy Week (AEW). He congratulated the Secretariat for the latest initiatives being implemented, concerning the establishment

of platforms to boost cooperation in the various areas of interest: promotion of Local Content, training, research and development, noting that these platforms are important tools to help visibility and cooperation between Member Countries. He also invited the Secretariat to take a closer look at the National Private Oil Companies in order to create a framework for consultation among them like the NOC.

The Minister also expressed his commitment to do everything possible for the finalization and official handover of the keys to the APPO headquarters as soon as possible. The meeting ended on a positive note, with discussions on preparations for the next summit of APPO Heads of State to be held in Brazzaville before the end of this year.

*H.E. Farid Ghezali, SG of APPO  
and H.E. Stev Simplicé Onanga, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo*





**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. Édouard Dahome**  
Minister of Energy, Water and Mines



**BENIN**



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



**CAMEROON**



**H.E. Stev Simplicie Onanga**  
Minister of Hydrocarbon & APPO President



**CONGO**



**H.E. Acacia Bandubola Mbongo**  
Minister of Hydrocarbon



**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. Clotaire Kondja**  
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. Kornelia Shilunga**  
Special Advisor Upstream



**NAMIBIA**



**H.E. Hamadou TINI**  
Minister of Petroleum



**NIGER**



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



**NIGERIA**



**H.E. Dr Abdourahmane Diouf**  
Minister of Energy and Petroleum



**SENEGAL**



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



**SOUTH AFRICA**



**H.E. Fatimé Haram Acyl**  
Minister of Petroleum, Mines and Geology



**CHAD**



Mr. Mourad Beldjeham  
Executive Board Member



ALGERIA



Mr. Estêvão Pedro  
Executive Board Member



ANGOLA



Mr. Celestin Gbétognon Enanto  
Executive Board Member



BENIN



Mr. Jean Paul Hervé Akono  
Executive Board Member



CAMEROON



Mr. Didier Claver Ngankama  
Executive Board Member



CONGO



Mr. Karrol Leta  
Executive Board Member and Chairman of the EB



D.R. CONGO



Mr. Esse Kouamé Bienvenu  
Executive Board Member



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Eng. Ishaq Saad  
Executive Board Member



EGYPT



Mr. Fernand 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 Diakitè  
Executive Board Member



NIGER



Mr. Felix Omatsola Ogbè  
Executive Board Member



NIGERIA



Mr. Thierno Seydou Ly  
Executive Board Member



SENEGAL



Mrs. Gosetseone Leketi Florence  
Executive Board Member



SOUTH AFRICA



Mr. Boukar Moustapha  
Executive Board Member



CHAD

## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

# The APPO Training Institutes Forum

### *Supporting the development of Local Content through cooperation*

**APPO strives to strengthen all actors in the industry's supply chain through cooperation, collaboration and exchange of experiences among Member Countries. It is in this context that it has set up its Forum of Directors of Training Institutes.**

**T**he APPO Oil & Gas Training Institute Directors Forum was launched on June 21, 2023. The meeting was hosted by Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company, at the premises of the Algerian Petroleum Institute (IAP) in the wilaya of Skikda. It is an initiative that is part of APPO's core mission, which is to use hydrocarbons as a catalyst for energy security, sustainable development and economic diversity in Africa. The Forum is designed to enable Member

Countries to share programmes for the exchange of information and experiences, including human resource capacity-building.

#### ***Background to the Forum***

The creation of the Forum is not a coincidence. It follows a study conducted by APPO on the future of the oil and gas industry in Africa in the light of the Energy Transition. The study highlighted four

*Family photo of the 1<sup>st</sup> APPO Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutes, June 21, 2023, in Algeria*





## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

looming challenges for the industry, namely project financing, technology and expertise development, and oil and gas infrastructure and market development. Following this study, the APPO developed its Long-Term Strategic Plan which was approved by the Council of Ministers at its 43rd session held on November 4, 2022 in Luanda, Angola. To implement the plan for the development of oil and gas workforce expertise in Member Countries, the Secretariat carried out evaluation visits to existing training and capacity-building institutes and research and development centres in Member Countries. One of the outcomes of these evaluation visits was the recommendation to create a Forum where directors and managers of training institutes in the oil and gas sectors of Member Countries could come together to discuss common objectives, programmes, synergies and challenges in order to develop a collaborative platform to address identified issues and achieve common goals.

### **Supporting cooperation and collaboration among Member Countries**

The creation of the Forum aims to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between Member

Countries in the field of training. More specifically, the Forum is intended to be the framework for periodic meetings dedicated to discussions around current challenges in terms of the development of expertise and the exchange of experiences. Its areas of action include the harmonization of training programmes and the launch of new ones, the improvement of certification training, as well as the establishment of synergies and collaborative modalities to take advantage of the available unused capacity. Other areas of intervention related to the role of higher education in improving research and development capacities, school levels and admission requirements to training institutions, the application of best practices in the development of expertise and training, as well as the integration of internship programmes into technical and vocational education and the harmonization of languages of instruction are examined. The Forum is composed of the Directors of the Oil and Gas Vocational Training Institutes, the Institutes of Higher Education and the Directors of the Training and Manpower Departments of the APPO National Oil and Gas Companies. In accordance with the commitments made since its creation, its members will meet in Tripoli (State of Libya) on 14 June 2026 to continue the work started.

*Family photo of the 3<sup>rd</sup> APPO Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutes, May 12, 2025, in Côte d'Ivoire*



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

# 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum of Training Institutes in Tripoli

### *Towards the implementation of an APPO training catalogue*

APPO organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum of Training Institutes in Tripoli, Libya, from June 16 to 18. The meeting was attended by almost all APPO Member Countries, demonstrating a growing interest in this major melting pot.

«African Skills Development: Towards a New Dynamic» was the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the APPO Training Institutes Forum in Tripoli, Libya. For three days, from 16 to 18 June, Member Countries exchanged good practices, lessons learned, and took major decisions to improve the oil and gas training ecosystem in Africa. The first day of this meeting was devoted to the visit of the facilities, in particular those of the Institute of Petroleum Training and Qualification (PTQI) and the Petroleum Research Center (RPC), both located in Tripoli. The opening ceremony, which took place on Wednesday, June 17, saw

the handover of office between Mr. Mohamed Bashr, incoming President of the Forum and Mr. Kanté Fodé Kadialy, outgoing President.

#### ***Reconfirming Libya's place in the common space of APPO***

In his speech, the Secretary General of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali said that APPO, by choosing Libya to host this Meeting, wanted to send a message of confidence in this country which has its place in the African dynamic of cooperation, integration and

*Family photo of the 4<sup>th</sup> APPO Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutes, June 17, 2026 in Libya*





## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes



H.E. Farid Ghezali, SG of APPO

shared progress. Paying tribute to the Libyan authorities for the quality of the welcome given to the various delegations, he said that the Forum comes at a critical time for the African energy sector, due to the international situation. Unfortunately, «our training ecosystem is still too fragmented, sometimes insufficiently visible, weakly interconnected and often poorly coordinated at the continental level,» the SG noted, inviting the members of the Forum to make more than ever the option of action, method, digital coordination and results. To this end, he indicated four priorities that should guide the work of the Forum, namely, the development of a common training catalogue, the conclusion of a framework agreement between the training institutes and centers of the APPO Member Countries, certification, APPO recognition and the establishment of preferential conditions of access to training and finally, the digitalization and deployment of the APPO platform dedicated to training. «Africa's energy future will depend on our ability to train, qualify, certify, recognize and connect our continent's talent,» he concluded.

### **Concrete results expected by the end of the year**

During the work, a presentation was made on the Forum's digital platform, a platform that brings

together all the training institutes of the APPO Member Countries, and whose vocation is to give greater visibility to these institutions while promoting increased collaboration between them. This platform should make it possible to centralise information on training institutes and centres, to make available programmes visible, to facilitate access to the common catalogue, to monitor the needs expressed by Member Countries, to identify critical specialties and to create a space for exchange between institutions, trainers, learners and partners in the sector. A session was also devoted to the evaluation and monitoring of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Training Institutes. Various other items on the agenda were also discussed. These include the draft APPO training catalogue and the draft Framework Agreement between Training Institutes of Member Countries. At the end of the discussions, the Meeting formalized the decision to develop an APPO catalogue for the training of executives and experts from Member Countries. The other important decision taken relates to the signing of a framework agreement for more intensive collaboration between the different Institutes. To this end, two working groups have been set up to work, each as far as it is concerned, on the completion of these two decisions by the end of the year.

## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

*Focus on some training institutes in APPO Member Countries*

# The Nigerian Petroleum Training Institute (PTI)



The Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) is a training centre of the Federal Government of Nigeria, specializing in the training and capacity building of professionals in the oil and gas industry. Established in 1972, PTI is recognized nationally and internationally for its rigorous academic program and the quality and excellence of its training in key areas of the oil and gas industry and related fields.

The programs offered at the PTI are:

- Certification programs.
- Higher National Diploma (HND) programs in the field of Hydrocarbons.
- Short-term, specialized oil and gas industry training programs.
- Post HND Programs.



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

# The Algerian Petroleum Institute (IAP)



The Algerian Petroleum Institute (IAP) is a training center of the Algerian State of the SONATRACH Group, specialized in the fields of the oil and hydrocarbon industry. Since its creation in November 1965, the IAP has established itself as a prestigious centre of excellence at the national and international levels in the training of professionals in the energy sector in general and hydrocarbons, in particular.

Capitalizing on more than sixty years of experience in training, the IAP offers several training programs including:

- Engineering Tank
- Oil Drilling
- Hydrocarbon Production
- Hydrocarbon Exploitation
- Refining
- Petrochemicals
- Hydrocarbon Chemistry and Analysis
- Petroleum Instrumentation
- Industrial Maintenance
- Industrial Safety and Environment
- Energy Saving
- New & Renewable Energy

## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

# The Tarkwa University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) of Ghana



The University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, is a university in Ghana, specializing in mining, petroleum, technology, and related disciplines. Internationally renowned for its research excellence and innovation, UMaT has excelled in training public administration and private sector professionals in the fields of sustainable mining, petroleum, technology and related disciplines.

Since its creation in 2004 (Tarkwa Act 2004 (Act 677)), UMaT has had the faculties and schools covering its areas of competence, in particular:

- Faculty of Mines and Mineral Technologies.
- Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematical Sciences.
- Faculty of Integrated Management Sciences.
- Faculty of Engineering.
- Faculty of Geosciences and Environmental Studies.
- School of Petroleum Studies.
- School of Railways and Infrastructure Development.



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

# The National Institute of Oil and Gas (INPG) of Senegal



The National Institute of Oil and Gas (INPG) is a Senegalese government training center specializing in training and capacity building for national executives in the oil and gas industry. Leader in its market since 2017, the INPG has acquired a national and regional reputation based on the expertise of its experienced trainers, the quality of its training adapted to the current requirements of the oil and gas industry, as well as a sense of hospitality appreciated by participants from several African countries.

The INPG offers innovative programs that perfectly meet the standards and requirements of the African oil and gas industry in order to support African countries in exploiting their oil and gas resources autonomously within a framework that respects environmental and social requirements.

The INPG offers the following programs:

- Specialized Master's Degree in Oil and Gas Engineering.
- MBA in Oil and Gas Economics and Management.
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) training.
- Capacity building for public and private sector professionals
- Certification of offshore installation technicians and operators.

## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes



«Africa has significant energy resources, but its real wealth remains its human capital.»

**Interview with Mr. Kanté Kadialy, Director of the École Supérieure de Chimie, du Pétrole et de l'Énergie (ESCPE) of the Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) and Outgoing President of the Forum of APPO Training Institutes**

**APPO Mag :** Mr. Kanté Kadialy, you are the Director of the École Supérieure de Chimie, du Pétrole et de l'Énergie (ESCPE) of the Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) and Outgoing President of the APPO Training Institutes Forum. Thank you for agreeing to answer questions from APPO Magazine. First of all, tell us, how is training for oil professions in Côte d'Ivoire?

*Mr. Kanté Kadialy :* Training in oil and gas professions in Côte d'Ivoire is currently experiencing a particularly encouraging dynamic. Recent major discoveries, in particular the Whale and Hornbill fields, have greatly strengthened young people's interest in professions related to energy, oil and gas. At the same time, the growing needs of the industry in technical, technological and managerial skills are pushing training institutions, including the ESCPE of the INP-HB, to continuously adapt their programs to international standards and the expectations of operators in the sector. We are also seeing an increased willingness of public authorities and businesses to promote local content, which creates more training and employability opportunities for young Ivorians and Africans. This dynamic is supported by the strengthening of strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy as well as with several companies in the sector. These collaborations contribute to improving the quality

*of training, apprenticeship conditions and young people's access to hydrocarbon and energy professions.*

**The École Supérieure de Chimie, du Pétrole et de l'Énergie (ESCPE) that you direct is one of the 11 schools of excellence in higher education and scientific research of the INP-HB. Could you give us an overview of the history of the creation of this school?**

*ESCPE is now one of the 11 schools of excellence of the INP-HB. Its creation is the result of the Ivorian authorities' desire to provide Côte d'Ivoire with a reference centre dedicated to the oil, gas, energy, chemical and industrial processes professions. The school is the result of the transformation of the former École Supérieure du Pétrole et de l'Énergie (ESPE), launched in 2019, before being officially restructured in 2023 by decree on the organization of the INP-HB. Our academic activities began in 2020 with specialized master's degrees developed in partnership with IFP School in France, then gradually expanded to renewable energies, as well as to the training of engineers and senior technicians. More recently, the integration of the Chemistry and Process Engineering courses has strengthened ESCPE's positioning as a versatile and strategic training center for the energy and hydrocarbon industries in Africa. Today, ESCPE aims to become a regional hub of excellence for training, research*



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes



and innovation in the African energy sector.

**What are the different profiles you train for the benefit of the hydrocarbon industry? Please submit your training offer to us.**

At ESCPE we mainly offer two main types of training: diploma courses and qualifying courses. As part of the diploma courses, the ESCPE of the INP-HB trains senior technicians, engineers in Petroleum and Energy as well as in Chemistry and Process Engineering. The school also trains specialized executives through professional Bachelor's degree programs in Energy, Oil and Gas, specialized Master's degrees (in Development and Production of Hydrocarbon Deposits, in Refining and Distribution of Petroleum Products, and in Renewable Energies, Technologies and Entrepreneurship). Regarding qualifying training, ESCPE offers à la carte training adapted to the specific needs of companies in the sector.

Our training courses therefore extend to the entire value chain of the oil, gas and energy industry, from exploration and production and jobs related to the management of the oil sector to the refining and distribution of petroleum products and renewable energies, while taking into account issues of Quality, Health, Safety and the Environment. We also offer training courses leading to qualifications and à la carte training adapted to the specific needs of companies in the sector. All our programs give an important place to industrial internships, simulations and applied projects, in order to guarantee practical training that meets international standards and the real needs of the African energy industry.

**What are the profiles of the students you welcome at your school at the beginning of the cycle?**

The profiles of students we recruit are quite diverse and vary according to the training offers that students wish to join. As a reminder, we

mainly train Senior Technicians, Engineers and professionals through Bachelor's and Specialized Master's programs. Access to our training courses is through the centralized competitive examinations of the INP-HB. For the Higher Technician cycles, we mainly recruit scientific and technical baccalaureate holders. The Engineering cycles mainly welcome students from scientific preparatory classes, but also graduates of the technician cycle and some holders of scientific bachelor's degrees, particularly in geology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, petroleum, and related fields. The vocational bachelor's degree is reserved for non-nationals with a BAC +2 or +3 level diploma. As for the Specialized Masters, they are intended for graduates at the BAC+5 level or professionals with at least three years' professional experience in the oil, gas, energy or related disciplines. Beyond the academic level, we are mainly looking for profiles with a solid scientific background, an interest in industrial technologies and a greater ability to adapt to a demanding, innovative and constantly changing environment.

**You welcome students of several nationalities. Which countries, apart from Côte d'Ivoire, are the most attracted by your training offer?**

The ESCPE of the INP-HB welcomes students from several African countries, which reflects the regional influence of our institution.

In addition to Côte d'Ivoire, we regularly receive learners from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Senegal. These students are attracted by the quality of our training, the expertise of our teachers, our partnerships with industry as well as the reputation of INP-HB as a center of excellence in Africa. This cultural diversity is a real asset for our school and promotes a dynamic of exchanges and African integration that is particularly enriching for students.

**What can we define today as the added value that ESCPE brings as a training center for oil and gas professions?**

Today, the main added value of the INP-HB ESCPE lies in its ability to train highly qualified human resources, immediately operational and adapted to the realities of the African oil and gas sector. Our school combines a high-level acade-

## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes



*The Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire)*

*mic training with a strong practical orientation, thanks to partnerships with companies in the sector, professional internships, applied work and the intervention of experts from the industry. ESCPE also stands out for its multidisciplinary approach, integrating the technical, economic, environmental and managerial dimensions of the oil and gas professions. This allows our graduates to evolve effectively in a rapidly changing energy environment. In addition, in a context of energy transition and the sovereignty of African resources, our mission is also to prepare a new generation of executives capable of innovating, promoting responsible practices and sustainably supporting the continent's energy development. Finally, as a component of the INP-HB, a reference institution in Africa, ESCPE benefits from an academic environment of excellence and recognition that strengthens the employability and credibility of its graduates on the national and international market.*

**Côte d'Ivoire has been a historical oil producer since 1970. What impact have the recent major discoveries of Whale and Hornbill had on the interest of young Ivorians in the hydro-**

**carbon professions? Can we say that these jobs continue to make young Ivorians dream?**

*The major discoveries of the Whale and Hornbill deposits have undeniably strengthened the interest of young Ivorians in the hydrocarbon professions. They highlighted Côte d'Ivoire's strategic potential in the energy sector and opened up new career opportunities for young people.*

*At the ESCPE of the INP-HB, we see a real enthusiasm for training related to oil, gas and energy professions. The large number of applications we receive during our various calls for applications clearly confirms this growing interest of young Ivorians. Yes, these jobs continue to make young people dream, but with a vision that is now more modern, more oriented towards innovation, new technologies and the challenges of the energy transition. Our responsibility is therefore to train high-level skills capable of sustainably supporting the energy development of Côte d'Ivoire and the African continent.*

**The issue of the representation of women in the oil and gas professions is acute around**



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

**the world. What is the ratio of female students you welcome in your institution? Do you have a positive discrimination strategy to this end?**

*The representation of women in the oil and gas professions is an important issue for the ESCPE of the INP-HB. We are also recording an encouraging development, with a rate of young girls rising from 20% to nearly 30% in our training in recent years. In collaboration with companies in the sector, we carry out awareness-raising actions to encourage more young girls to go into these professions. More than positive discrimination, our approach is to create an environment of excellence, equal opportunities and encouragement, so that skills and merit remain the main criteria for success.*

**What are the values of your institution?**

*The values of INP-HB are based on academic excellence, innovation, professionalism and inter-*

*national openness. Our institution is working to train high-level executives capable of meeting the needs of Africa's development. We also attach great importance to partnership with the industrial world, solidarity within our community, as well as respect for the environment and the principles of sustainable development.*

**What are the most important challenges facing your training center and how do you manage to solve them?**

*The main challenges of our school mainly concern the continuous adaptation of programs to the rapid developments in the hydrocarbon industry, the strengthening and financing of technical equipment and the training of skills that meet international standards. In addition, there are the challenges related to the energy transition, the digitalization of professions and the need to strengthen the participation of young people, especially women, in scientific and technical fields.*



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

*To meet these challenges, the INP-HB ESCPE relies on close partnerships with companies in the sector, the gradual modernization of its infrastructure, the involvement of professionals in training and a regular update of its programs in order to maintain training in line with the needs of the industry.*

**What are the prospects of ESCPE in a globalized world where the debate is increasingly dominated by issues related to the energy transition or the fight against fossil fuels?**

*In a context marked by the energy transition, the ESCPE of the INP-HB considers this evolution not as a constraint, but as an opportunity for adaptation and innovation. Our ambition is to train executives capable of evolving in a diversified energy environment, where hydrocarbons will continue to play an important role, while gradually integrating the challenges related to renewable energies, energy efficiency and sustainable development. The prospects of the ESCPE are therefore based on a balanced approach, combining excellence in the oil and gas professions, openness to new energy technologies and strengthening research and innovation to support the changes in the African energy sector.*

**Launched in Algeria in 2023, the APPO's Forum of Directors of Training Institutes in the Oil and Gas Sector held its 3rd meeting in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) in May 2025. On this occasion, you took over the chairmanship of this forum, the objective of which is to provide a framework for discussing common objectives, programmes, synergies and challenges in order to develop a platform for collaboration to solve the problems identified and achieve common objectives. What are the milestones that have been achieved by this forum under your mandate?**

*The Forum is now in its third year, and I have the honour to serve as its third chairman. After this structuring phase, marked by several recommendations and the identification of common perspectives or actions with all member countries, we are now entering a more operational stage, oriented towards the implementation of concrete actions. Under our mandate, several important advances have been made, including the stren-*

*gthening of the cooperation network between member institutions, the intensification of exchanges of experience and the development of a joint reflection on the harmonization of training programmes. We have also encouraged collaborative projects in training, research and skills development. In addition, we have worked to strengthen the visibility of the Forum as a strategic framework for African academic and technical cooperation in the energy sector. Our ambition is now to transform this collective dynamic into concrete results for the development of African skills in oil, gas and renewable energy.*

**What can you say about the importance of this forum for the APPO countries in particular and more generally, for Africa?**



*Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> APPO Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutes, June 2023, Algeria*

*This forum is of major strategic importance for the APPO Member Countries and for Africa in general. It constitutes a privileged framework for cooperation allowing African institutions to pool their skills, share their experiences and develop solutions adapted to the realities of the continent. For APPO countries, it promotes the development of local content, the mobility of experts and the strengthening of human capacities in the oil and gas sector. More broadly, it contributes to strengthening African sovereignty in technical and technological skills, while reducing dependence on external expertise and encouraging technology transfer.*



## Discovering the APPO Training Institutes

*t is also an African force for the preservation of Africa's interests in the field of training and development of the oil sector in a context where*



Group photo of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APPO Forum of Directors of Oil and Gas Training Institutes, 15 May 2024, Abuja, Nigeria

*international pressure is palpable from lobbies against the use of fossil fuels such as oil. Beyond the exchanges, this forum participates in the construction of a common African vision of energy development and the training of talents for the future of the continent.*

**How can training help to meet the challenge of hydrocarbons that really serve the development of the African continent?**

*Training and education are generally undeniable foundations for any development. Training is an essential lever to make hydrocarbons a real driver of development for Africa. Human capital remains the key to the continent's sustainable development. Qualified human resources allow for better mastery of technologies, a strengthening of local content, increased value of resources and a more efficient governance of the energy sector.*

*Through training, African countries can develop local skills capable of filling high value-added jobs, reducing dependence on external expertise and*

*promoting technology transfer. The aim is for hydrocarbon revenues to contribute more to industrialisation, job creation and diversification of African economies, so that energy resources can sustainably benefit the continent's people. In addition, our youth is also endowed with the capacity for innovation, but it needs quality training that can enable it to deploy its potential without complexes for the benefit of our economies.*

**What are the prospects of the APPO Training Institute Directors Forum, as you prepare to hand over the baton at the next meeting scheduled for June in Libya?**

*The prospects for the Forum are very promising. After three years devoted to structuring the framework of cooperation between Member Countries, we are now entering a more operational phase, oriented towards the implementation of concrete actions and joint projects. Priorities will include the harmonization of training programs, the development of an African certification framework, the strengthening of partnerships between institutes and industries, as well as the integration of new challenges related to the energy transition, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. The Forum also aims to strengthen the mobility of African experts and students, promote collaborative research and consolidate African sovereignty in terms of skills in the energy sector. As we approach the next meeting in June in Libya, I am confident that the Forum will continue to grow stronger and play a strategic role in training the talents to drive the energy future of the African continent.*

**Do you have a word to conclude this interview?**

*First of all, I would like to thank APPO Magazine for this opportunity to exchange on the challenges of training and skills development in the African energy sector. Africa has significant energy resources, but its real wealth remains its human capital. Our collective responsibility is therefore to train a competent, innovative youth capable of sustainably supporting the continent's development. At the ESCPE of the INP-HB, we remain fully committed to contributing to this ambition, by strengthening African cooperation, the excellence of training and the adaptation of our skills to the energy challenges of tomorrow.*

# Nigeria



## *The African giant with undeniable assets*

**A historically populated territory, whose first traces of human occupation date back more than 9,000 years, Nigeria is the country with the highest human population in Africa. This giant of Africa, which also plays a pivotal role within APPO, at the forefront of the Organization’s initiatives, has many tourism and cultural assets.**

**H**istorically, Nigeria has known great kingdoms and empires, long before European colonization, among which we can mention the kingdom of Kanem-Bornou, the Hausa city-states, the kingdoms of Oyo and Benin. During the colonial period, Nigeria was unified under British administration. The country gained independence on 1 October 1960 and adopted a federal system

while H.E. Nnamdi Azikiwe became its first president. Following the Biafran War (1967-1970), Nigeria experienced an alternation of military and civilian regimes. Since the return to democracy, with the election in 1999 of Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria has entered a phase of economic growth, supported by the oil sector. The current President is H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu.



Lagos

### ***The megalopolis and the capital***

While Nigeria stands out as the most populous country in Africa (more than 242 million inhabitants in 2026),<sup>1</sup> its former capital Lagos frequently ranks in the top 3 of Africa's most populous cities. Having served as the capital of Nigeria until 1991, this city concentrated the country's economic and political activity, but thanks to a relocation project inspired by other countries such as Brazil with Brasilia, the capital Abuja was designed on the basis of a thoughtful urban organization. Today, Lagos remains the country's economic engine, and one of Africa's biggest cultural melting pots along with Nollywood, the Nigerian film industry. Abuja, for its part, is the administrative and diplomatic heart of the African giant.



Abuja

### ***Enormous tourism potential***

Nigeria has a rich wildlife reserve that can be visited at Yankari National Park, located in Bauchi State, for example. Many animals such as buffaloes, antelopes and elephants can be seen here as well as the Wikki hot springs, while the rare drill monkey can be seen in the Calabar Museum. This museum, in addition, tells the story of the slave trade while the annual Calabar Festival features a colorful carnival. In addition, the city of Lagos is home to several renowned tourist centers such as the Lagos National Museum which

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/>

<sup>2</sup> Production of 1,566,000 barrels/day in 2023 - Source: ENI (World Energy Review 2024)

presents ancient objects from the kingdom of Ife, the Nike art center and the Freedom Park. Also, Abuja, the modern capital, is touristically famous for the Aso Rock, an emblematic natural formation. In addition, Nigeria is rich in an anthology of dances and rhythms of Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo origin... and a large number of culinary specialties, including the famous Jollof Rice.

### ***An oil-driven economy***

Nigeria's economy is based on various sectors, including hydrocarbons, but also agriculture, services and industry. The continent's largest economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the continent's largest oil producer<sup>2</sup>. Nigeria exploits its oil and gas, thanks to the presence in the country of giant IOCs, alongside which the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) also operates. The Dangote Refinery, located in Lekki and inaugurated in 2023, is the world's largest single-train refinery, with a processing capacity of about 650,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Within APPO, Nigeria plays a key role. It was in that country, and precisely in the city of Lagos, that the Organization was founded on 27 January 1987, almost 40 years ago. This country, which is very active in the various Forums and Meetings of APPO, is also home to the headquarters of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB), created by APPO in partnership with Afreximbank, in its capital Abuja.



H.E. Heineken Lokpobiri  
Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil) of Nigeria

# Angola



## *The mining jewel of Southern Africa*

Located in the West of Southern Africa, Angola is one of the largest countries in Africa by area. It is a country with high mining potential, which ranks among the world's leading producers of oil and diamonds. A true treasure of nature still preserved from mass tourism, Angola seduces with several aspects, including historical, cultural and economic.

**T**he first known settlements of present-day Angola date back to the 14th century with the emergence of the two great kingdoms of Kongo in the north and Ndongo in the west and centre. The country was then colonized by

Portugal following the resistance of Queen Njinga and despite a continuous struggle of the Angolans against this European occupation. On November 11, 1975, the country's independence was proclaimed. After a civil war, Angola is now pacified and



Luanda



*Giraffes in Angola's Kisama National Park*

the country has been led since September 2017 by H.E. João Lourenço, President of the Republic.

### **Many natural assets**

Angola is a country rich in decades-old traditions, including the carnival at the beginning of February which mixes dances and festivals of ancient masks with Portuguese influence. A national emblematic figure, the «pensador» or thinker represents an authentic sculpture from northeastern Angola. In terms of wildlife, hump-back whales pass off Luanda from July to October, while sea turtles frequently come to lay their eggs on the coast of Angola. Many other species: elephant, lion, hippopotamus, black rhinoceros, gorilla, chimpanzee and Angolan wild dog are present on Angolan territory. Finally, the palanca negra, the emblematic animal that gives its name to the national football team, is a giant antelope that only lives in the northern part of the country. It is a species specific to the country, just like the impala or black-footed gazelle. As for the flora, the country is mostly covered by forests,



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

while the baobab tree is the emblem of Angolan culture. The gastronomy offers several culinary specialties, including «bacalhau» (cod), funge, a dish made from cassava, rice or corn flour or feijoada, red bean cassoulet. In Luanda, you can stroll along the Marginal, which is a modern promenade on the city's bay. In the interior of the country, several tourist sites can be visited: the Kalendula Falls (2nd largest waterfall in Africa after Victoria Falls), the Pedras Negras (giant monolithic blocks of stone with rounded shapes) where you can observe the footprints of Queen Ginga, the Waku Kungo plateau and its hippopotamus river or the Namibe desert in the Southwest.

### **An oil giant in Africa**

The Angolan economic model is essentially based on the exploitation of oil and diamonds. As for the hydrocarbon sector, exploration dates back to 1953. Sonangol, EP – Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola, was created following the nationalization of the sector. With around 7,000 employees today, Angolan SNH relies on the capabilities of its business units as well as the strength of its national and international partnerships, which allows it to transform Angola's greatest natural wealth into opportunities for fulfilment, pride and social well-being for Angolans. Sonangol, which has a global presence in Africa, Brazil, Venezuela, the United States, Asia and Europe, is chaired by Mr. Sebastiao Gaspar Martins, while the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Petroleum is headed by H.E. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo. As a founding member of APPO, Angola plays a leading role in the various initiatives of the Organization. It is the 2nd largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria. In addition to APPO, Angola has been a member of OPEC since 2007.

# Environmental Enablers in the Oil and Gas Supply Chain

*Guidelines for integrating environmental performance into every link, from exploration to finished product*

Faced with the combined pressure of climate regulations, investors committed to ESG strategies, and increasingly vigilant local communities, the oil and gas industry can no longer treat environmental performance as a peripheral constraint. It must make it a structuring lever, integrated from the design stage into each of the segments of its supply chain. This is precisely what the guidelines on environmental facilitators are all about.

An environmental facilitator refers to any mechanism (technological, organizational, contractual or regulatory) that makes it possible to reduce the ecological footprint of an industrial activity without compromising its economic viability. Applied to the oil and gas supply chain, these enablers cover a wide spectrum, from methane sensors installed on wellheads to environmental clauses imposed on subcontractors, including carbon emission traceability systems.

## ***Upstream: controlling emissions at source***

The upstream segment concentrates the most critical issues. Exploration and production generate fugitive emissions of methane — a greenhouse gas whose warming power is more than eighty times greater than CO<sub>2</sub> over twenty years. The first guideline here requires the systematic detection and quantification of leaks using infrared technologies embedded on drones or satellites. International oil companies such as BP and TotalEnergies have already adopted continuous monitoring protocols on their facilities. In addition, the management of produced water is a second major challenge. Each barrel of oil extracted is accompanied by an average of three to ten barrels of hydrocarbon-laden salt water. The guidelines recommend the implementation

of closed treatment circuits, strictly limiting any discharge into the natural environment, and the integration of recycling systems from the design phase of the facilities.

«An effective environmental enabler doesn't slow down production: it makes the entire system more resilient to regulatory and reputational risks.»

## ***Midstream: Infrastructure Integrity and Accident Prevention***

The transport and storage of hydrocarbons is the link most exposed to accidents with a high environmental impact. Pipeline spills — whether due to corrosion, mechanical failure, or sabotage — can permanently contaminate soils and groundwater. The guidelines for this segment are based on three axes: regular inspection by instrumented pigging tools (intelligent pigging), reduction of flaring by integrating associated gas recovery systems, and installation of automatic shut-off valves to limit the volumes spilled in the event of a rupture.

## ***Downstream and responsible purchasing: extending the requirements to suppliers***

One of the most significant developments in recent guidelines concerns the extension of environmen-



Pipeline

tal requirements to all suppliers and subcontractors. An oil company can no longer simply measure its own carbon footprint: it is now required — by the updated ISO 14001 standards, by the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) reporting frameworks and by the expectations of the financial markets — to map and reduce scope 3 emissions, i.e. those generated throughout the extended supply chain. This is reflected in concrete terms in the integration of binding environmental clauses in purchasing contracts, compliance audits of strategic suppliers, and the pre-

ference given to service providers with recognised environmental certifications. Downstream refining is subject to guidelines on energy efficiency of processes, recovery of residues and reduction of volatile organic compound emissions. The consistent integration of these environmental enablers across the entire supply chain is not only a response to regulatory requirements: it is a sustainable competitive advantage. Companies that anticipate these standards gain easier access to capital, reduce their exposure to operational risks and strengthen their social license to operate.

## Oil is essential to modern agriculture



*Farmer in his tractor*

**P**etroleum products are perceived as essential in many fields such as transport or in industry and services. However, one sector in which they intervene in a vital but less visible way is agriculture. Today, modern agriculture uses oil on a larger scale than might be thought at first glance. According to politis.fr, the consumption of

fossil fuels by agriculture represents 15% of global consumption, all categories combined.

### **Chemical Inputs**

It is thanks to chemical inputs that modern agriculture can function. Indeed, petrochemical



*Fertilizer application*

plants produce, from petroleum and natural gas derivatives, synthetic fertilizers, which are used to fertilize the soil. These include fertilizers produced from nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK). The factories also produce the pesticides used to control pests and ensure an acceptable yield.

### ***Mechanization***

The large areas of soil are sown using different agricultural machines covering all stages of production, from soil preparation to harvesting, sowing, weeding, etc. This category includes tractors, ploughs, harrows, stubble cultivators, combines, mowers, drip systems, etc. Oil is essential for the manufacture of these devices, and it is also used in the composition of many of their parts. Secondly, their operation requires the use of different fuels and lubricants, without which the machines cannot function.

### ***Logistics***

What would agriculture be without transport? The food produced usually has to travel some distance to reach consumers. Even in relatively short circuits, the products leave the farm or the village to reach the markets and consumers, by motorbike or car. For longer tours, other more important modes of transport such as planes or boats are used. In all cases, these different machines consume oil to operate and circulate on roads paved with bitumen from the distillation of oil. We must also not forget the cold chains, which are sometimes essential for preserving certain foodstuffs, and which work thanks to fuel. For all these reasons, it can be said that oil is essential to modern agriculture. It is therefore important to preserve this essential resource, while making it sustainable and responsible for its exploitation, as advocated by APPO.

# The Achnacarry Agreement

## *The Secret Pact that Gave Birth to the Seven Sisters and Shaped the World Oil Order for Half a Century*

In September 1928, in an isolated castle in the Scottish Highlands, three men meet under the pretext of a hunting trip. Their names: Sir John Cadman, president of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (future BP), Walter Teagle, boss of Standard Oil of New Jersey (ancestor of Exxon), and Henri Deterding, Director of Royal Dutch Shell. Behind the tweeds and guns, they are about to give a new definition to the global energy scene.



*Achnacarry Castle in Scotland*

**T**his was decided at Achnacarry Castle at that time, which had long been unknown to the public. The agreement, dubbed the Pool Association or simply «As Is Agreement», sets the following rule: each company retains its existing market share, none seeks to conquer

that of the others. Competition, the engine of any capitalist system, is neutralized with the stroke of a pen. The context explains the urgency of this agreement. In the 1920s, oil flowed freely: the fields of Mosul, Texas and Baku flooded the markets. Prices collapse, profits with them. The



*Henri Deterding, Director of Royal Dutch Shell  
nicknamed «The Napoleon of oil, and instigator of the Achnacarry Agreement*

majors, which had invested colossal fortunes in exploration and infrastructure, see their business model threatened by their own abundance. They therefore logically believe that a new order is needed.

### ***The terms of a historic agreement***

The agreement is based on a simple and radical principle: to freeze the global status quo of oil in the year 1928. In concrete terms, the signatories undertake to stabilise their respective market shares, set production quotas according to demand, pool infrastructure (refining, transport) and refrain from any savage competition that could lower oil prices. As a result, existing facilities are shared among signatories according to their current capabilities, avoiding costly duplication of refineries and pipelines. Also, a reference

price system based on the cost of extraction from the Gulf of Mexico, called the «FOB Gulf price», is imposed everywhere in the world, even for oil produced in the Middle East, transported at a much lower cost. This mechanism, known as basing-point pricing, allowed companies to charge their customers fictitious transportation costs. An Iranian refiner bought his crude as if it came from Texas. The additional profit, ironically nicknamed «phantom freight», silently enriched the majors.

### ***The consolidation of the Achnacarry oligarchy***

During the 1930s and 1940s, other companies (Standard Oil of New York, Gulf Oil, Texaco, Standard Oil of California) joined the agreement informally. The cartel grew without ever being formally institutionalized, an obvious legal precaution in countries where antitrust laws were beginning to take hold. In 1952, this group of seven Anglo-American companies received a name that has gone down in history: the Seven Sisters, an expression coined by the Italian politician Enrico Mattei, who saw them as an inaccessible oligarchy blocking the access of independent nations to black gold. The seven sisters are: Standard Oil of New Jersey (Exxon), Royal Dutch Shell, Anglo-Persian Oil (BP), Standard Oil of New York (Mobil), Gulf Oil, Texaco and Standard Oil of California (Chevron). These seven companies controlled, at the height of their power, more than 85% of the world's oil production.

### ***The end of a hegemony***

The supremacy of the Seven Sisters lasted until the early 1970s. The nationalization of Iranian oil by Mossadegh in 1951, that of the Suez Canal in 1956, and the creation of OPEC in 1960 signaled the first cracks in this discreet empire. The oil crisis of 1973 (when the Arab countries decided to use crude oil as a political weapon) definitively buried the Achnacarry order. The producing states are regaining control of their resources, and the Seven Sisters are losing direct control of the taps. However, the 1928 agreement left a lasting imprint. It shaped industrial structures, habits of cooperation between majors, and above all the idea, never totally abandoned, that oil is too important to be left to market forces alone. Between the cartels of producers and the strategies of large companies, black gold remains, even today, a geopolitical and commercial good.

## The benefits of regular sports practice

While the 2026 World Cup, which is being held from June 11 to July 19 in the United States, Canada and Mexico, makes Africa vibrate to the rhythm of football, seven APPO Member Countries proudly wear the colors of the African continent: Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and South Africa. Beyond the sporting spectacle, this global event reminds us of an obvious fact that is too often neglected: sport is an essential pillar of health.



**T**he World Health Organization (WHO) is categorical: regular physical activity — between 150 and 300 minutes per week of moderate intensity, or 75 to 150 minutes of vigorous intensity — significantly reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension and certain cancers. In African

countries, where non-communicable diseases are progressing rapidly as a result of urbanization and changes in lifestyles, this observation takes on particular resonance. Walking, running, swimming, cycling or kicking a ball: every gesture counts. The human body is designed for movement, and a sedentary lifestyle remains one of



the leading drivers of preventable mortality worldwide.

### ***An ally for the mind***

The benefits of sport do not stop at the figure or the heart. Physical exertion releases endorphins, these feel-good hormones that reduce stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms. In a demanding work environment, where responsibilities, travel and busy schedules often take a toll on personal balance, thirty minutes of daily activity is enough to improve sleep quality, strengthen concentration and stimulate creativity. Sport is, in short, a natural medicine, without prescription and without side effects.

### ***A vector of cohesion***

Sport is also a great link. In the field as well as in professional life, he teaches discipline, respect for the rules, surpassing oneself and team spirit, all values that irrigate cooperation between peoples. The World Cup will demonstrate it once again: when the Fenecs

of Algeria, the Ivorian Elephants, the Egyptian Pharaohs, the Ghanaian Black Stars, the Congolese Leopards, the Lions of Teranga or the Bafana Bafana enter the pitch, it is entire nations that will vibrate in unison. And in our institutions as well as in our communities, organizing an internal tournament, a collective walk or a weekly sports session is about forging links and cultivating shared values.

### ***Taking action***

You don't have to be a high-level athlete to enjoy these benefits. A few simple rules are enough: use the stairs instead of the elevator, walk during breaks, devote two to three weekly sessions to an endurance or strengthening activity, listen to your body and progress gradually. A prior medical consultation is recommended after the age of forty or in the event of a special history. So, while waiting to support our seven qualified nations on the North American lawns, let's take an example from these high-level athletes: the best match starts with a first step, a pair of sneakers, and the decision to move. On your marks!



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# CULTURAL PIPELINE



Year 1 // No. 00002 // July 2026

**APPO MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT - CO-PRODUCED WITH VENEZUELA**

## Editorial

In July 2025, a year ago, we launched the first issue of the Cultural Pipeline between the APPO and Venezuela, like a bridge between a continent and a country carrying the same flag, the same torch, the same struggles, with the sharing of this oil that we also claimed as a vector of our sister cultures.

A year later, as we release a new issue of our publication, we can see how far we've come. We wanted this publication to be trilingual – Spanish, French and English. It is. We had dreamed of it addressing cultural issues of interest to our peoples, we had envisaged it as a real cultural link, a real pipeline of fluids and various cultural products, addressing information touching on the very essence of our Africanness. It is clear that our objectives have been achieved.

Let us therefore continue together, to write the most beautiful pages of our fraternity, while the issue of hydrocarbons is more than ever in the global limelight, all together, united under the loving banner of our dear mother Africa.

### In this issue:

- **The story of an ancestral definition**
- **Madera Group Visit to Congo**
- **Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela: more than just Spanish in common**

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# The story of an ancestral definition

By Aníbal Márquez Muñoz

It turned out that their boats ran aground in distant lands across the sea. They stumbled upon a new world in which the mountains were made of iron, gold, and



silver. The people lived in a harmonious community that they had built over the centuries in their image, likeness, and needs. The inhabitants of the world we know today as America, were hard-working farmers, advanced sages, astronomers, artists, and worshippers of all things natural, who loved the sun, the stars, the rivers, and the planets. So it was, even when foreign men who got off the boats on the other side of the sea, landed with them the black powder that has several times burned the flesh of the people. They came down repeating behind them, a strange language and culture. They sent down their false gods in the form of men and remained nailed to the crosses. The invaders arrived in America: Spanish, Portuguese, Germans... and all that cohort of European mercenaries and adventurers whom we already knew with sorrow in Africa. Our mother Africa.

And... When avarice and whipping, ambition for lands, servants, and titles had broken the muscles, they had not broken the soul of those first American peoples, our people. For centuries too, the lands and coasts of Afri-

ca have been devastated by these seekers of people and animals for forced labor. The night of greatest sadness was the most propitious to the ambush and assault of the sleeping family. The panic that preceded the cunning rape, conscription, and slave ship that pulled us off the ground terrified the dream from generation to generation. The plague in ocean travel, the insult of the public auction, the heart-rending whiplash and servile obligation, were the form while the exploitation of man by man found to overwhelm us.

However... Our mind and muscle resisted. Since then, our sweat has paid for and watered these lands of the New World, which, now with more force than ever, is striving to finish opening its petals of fraternity, solidarity and justice, before the eyes of the rest of humanity.

So... Today, our history, the commitment to the dreams and hopes of our ancestors, our revolutionary arms and blood, our pace, our rhythm and our human heritage are still at the service of the current struggles of our - a thousand times dear! - and newly liberated, Venezuela: his



belt blackened to the sound of the tamtam and the pan, pan, pan, on the mine.

# Presence of the Madera Group in Congo

*By Madera group*



*A*t the end of 2025, the Madera Folk and Experimental Group, originally from Venezuela, realized its long-held dream: to travel to Africa, the mother continent.

The deep desire of this emblematic socio-cultural organization – founded more than 45 years ago, recognized as Cultural Heritage of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and dedicated to the promotion of artistic and social activities rooted in Afro-Venezuelan and Afro-Caribbean traditions, as well as to the research and dissemination of ancestral African culture – was fulfilled by an invitation from Lydie Pongault, Minister of Cultural Industries, Tourism, Arts and Leisure of the Republic of Congo, to participate in the Pan-African Music Festival (FESPAM 2025), created and organized for twenty-six years in Brazzaville, under the aegis of the African Union.

The invitation to Grupo Madera – whose journey has taken it

to more than 50 international tours in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe – has also received timely support in Venezuela from the Ministry of People's Power for Culture and the Vice-Ministry for Africa of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, inspired by the principle of peace diplomacy.

Noel Márquez, President of the Madera Group Foundation / Member of the National Assembly, and musicians Juan José Conde and Naifer Hernández, experienced cultural figures, emphasize that the participation of the Venezuelan cultural delegation in Brazzaville at FESPAM 2025 «... in addition to fostering important exchanges in the production, research and dissemination of music and culture of African origin, reaffirmed and highlighted the ancestral roots of Venezuela, as well as the presence of Africa – and in particular the Congo – in the construc-



tion of our national identity.»

Given the demanding work programme, the Madera Group's participation in FESPAM 2025 has enabled the implementation of unprecedented initiatives in the production of cultural content. These were born from the interaction between musical actors from various countries on the African continent and artists from Latin America and the Caribbean who, inspired by the historical and cultural heritage of Africa, inscribe their daily work in a geocultural sphere that they also consider to be the Sixth African Region.

The renowned Venezuelan musical delegation in Brazzaville has developed an extensive program of cultural exchanges through rehearsals and musical ensembles, forums, radio broadcasts, interviews and visits to institutions active in the Congolese capital. Among the most significant initiatives is the one, carried out jointly with the Venezuelan ambassador to Congo, Laura Suarez, and the Congolese musical groups Tam-Tam Sans Frontières and Rumba Congolese (KongoSalsa), which resulted in the creation of a «Congo-Venezuela Binational Ensemble», bringing together nearly thirty Congolese and Venezuelan artists. This ensemble triumphed at the opening musical programme of FESPAM 2025, held at the Palais du Congrès of the Republic of Congo, as well as at concerts held in the municipalities of Mayanga and Kintélé, in the Congolese capital.

It should be noted that with the Congolese musical groups Tam-Tam Sans Frontières and Rumba Congolese (KongoSalsa), two original songs were also recorded in a professional studio and premiered simultaneously in Congo, Venezuela and Cuba. The Madera Group's delegation in Congo also held important meetings with personalities from the cultural world and the oil industry residing in Brazzaville. These meetings included an exchange of views with the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Congo, Lidie Pongault; an exchange of views with the Commissioner General of FESPAM, Hugues Ondaie; and an important interview with the Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers Organi-

zation (APPO) and an interview with Congolese filmmaker Sébastien Kamba, the Republic of Congo's first audiovisual director and founder of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival.

During a visit to the orphanage «Cardinal Emilie Biayenda Children's Village», an important cultural exchange took place. In this context, Afro-Venezuelan percussion instruments, called «PetroTambores», were donated to the humanitarian institution, and the group shared its know-how with the Apostolic Nuncio in Congo and members of the socio-cultural community.

Finally, as a highlight of their historic participation in FESPAM 2025, the Madera Folk and Experimental Group donated the musical instruments used during its tour to the «Permanent Collection of the Pan-African Music Festival», thus testifying to the Congolese cultural heritage present in Afro-Venezuelan culture. Instruments have also been donated to Congolese cultural organizations.

In summary, this fruitful cultural exchange between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the African continent was based on the experience gained in the Republic of Congo. The positive results of this exchange allow for the development and expansion of joint cultural action programmes already underway. To this end, we propose to activate the Drum Route program and to deepen the Bicontinental Cultural Oil Pipeline program, initiatives that provide ideal spaces for the exchange, creation and dissemination of cultural content for present and future generations in Africa and America. In this perspective, we expressly recognize Africa as a source of inspiration and continuous creation of spiritual and cultural content, both ancestral and contemporary. Therefore, we aspire to establish generative scenarios to deepen and broaden the scope of this productive exchange of knowledge and shared futures through a specific cultural exchange program in the short and medium term that will continue to foster the spiritual and fraternal relationship between Africa and Venezuela.



# Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela

## *More than just Spanish in sharing*

By Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

Equatorial Guinea and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are two member countries of the APPO that share the Spanish language as an official language. Equatorial Guinea is indeed the only African country with Spanish as an official language. As for Venezuela, it has this official language in common with all the countries of South America, except Brazil. Beyond this similarity, attention to the tourism and cultural potential of the two countries reveals many common features.



*Above, the city of Bata in Equatorial Guinea, below, the city of Coro in Venezuela*

Located in the north of South America, Venezuela with its long Caribbean coastline, shares maritime borders with Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Puerto Rico, Martinique, Guadeloupe, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago; and land borders with Colombia, Brazil and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Its capital is Caracas. Equatorial Guinea is a country in Central Africa, made up of a continental part bordered by Cameroon and Gabon, and an insular part with the islands of

Bioko and Annobon. Its capital has been, since January 3, 2026, Ciudad de la Paz, replacing Malabo. The first similarity between these two countries concerns Spanish colonization, and above all, the struggles of these two peoples to free themselves from it. It must be said that the territory of present-day Venezuela has historically been occupied by indigenous peoples such as the Caribs, the Arawak and the Cumanagotos. The area was invaded by a Spanish expedition at the end of the 15th

century, paving the way for the colonization of the country. The country declared itself independent on July 5, 1811 following a great liberation movement, and at this level, we must remember one name, that of Simón Bolívar – El Libertador whom the country honors through its official name, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Bolívar also played a decisive role in the independence of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. As for Equatorial Guinea, its region, initially occupied by Pygmies and then Fangs, was first reached by Portuguese explorers in the 15th century. Spanish rule came later, in the 19th century following a treaty signed between Portugal and Spain. After a bitter

whose capital is San Antonio de Palea, has a rich culture and incredible traditions. At more than 3000 meters above sea level, Pico Basile is the highest point in the country. Its ascent offers beautiful panoramas. It is also a sacred mountain, which houses the traditional gods of the Bubi people at its summit. The former capital, Malabo, located on the island of Bioko is all in contrast, with a traditional part, and a part in full development, as well as Bata, the main city on the mainland of the country, a city surrounded by mangroves and marshes with a magnificent seafront. Venezuela also has many tourist attractions. To visit a beautiful colonial-style city, you can go to Coro, a city listed as a UNESCO



*Los Roques in Venezuela*

struggle for independence led by leaders such as Atanasio Ndong Miyone and Bonifacio Ondó Edu, the country gained independence from Spain on October 12, 1968.

### **Stunning natural landscapes**

Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea both swim in marine and oceanic waters. If Venezuela is bordered by the Caribbean Sea, Equatorial Guinea bathes, for its insular part, in the Atlantic Ocean. This characteristic trait implies that both countries have islands and archipelagos and are very rich in biodiversity and stunning landscapes. Thus, Equatorial Guinea offers a preserved ecosystem. Annobon Island,

World Heritage Site. The Los Médanos National Park is located very close to the cille, with its small desert of dunes. Also, Los Roques is a wild archipelago located 160km off the coast of the country. It is made up of more than fifty islands, the main one being Gran Roque. Its national park offers scuba diving and water walks along a huge coral reef. It contains many species of fish and birds as well as a white sand beach a bit like the one you can enjoy in Mbini in Equatorial Guinea. Also, in this same country, the small town of Luba not far from Malabo is a city at the heart of the Bubi culture. Here, you can experience the breathtaking spectacle of turtles laying their eggs, the same animals that have made the fame and even the name of Turt-

le Island in Venezuela, a land populated by many turtles and where you can swim with reptiles.

### **Exceptional fauna and flora**

The territories of Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela are rich in impressive local fauna and flora. In Equatorial Guinea, you can discover these riches in the Monte Alen National Park. Animals such as antelopes, panthers, leopards, elephants and gorillas can be observed here. Similarly, in Venezuela, the Mochima National Park is made up of islands and a mountain range that plunges into the sea. The seabed is splendid and you can observe dolphins, while in the Santos Luzardo National Park you can observe the puma and the jaguar. The Orinoco, a Venezuelan river, is the 3rd river with the highest flow after the Amazon and the Congo. It crosses the

Equatorial Guinean cuisine, including pescado a la brasa - braised fish (sea bass, captain, mackerel...) that can be served with plantain, cassava, or rice as well as a spicy sauce. Another Venezuelan speciality is arepa, a round and flat bread made from corn flour. Hallaca is a combination of a stew of several meats with olives, capers with a corn paste, wrapped in banana leaves, while tequeño is a stick of cottage cheese wrapped in a fried or baked wheat flour dough. A typical Equatorial Guinean dish is peanut salsa – peanut sauce with meat or chicken, prepared with crushed peanuts or peanut paste. There is also sweet potato, a tuber that can be boiled, roasted, or cut into pieces and served in sauce. Many dishes are accompanied by cassava in all its forms, boiled, in sticks, paste, flour and leaves in sauce, cassava which is also the basis of the diet of the Ye’Kuanas Indians of the Caura River in Venezuela.



*Annobón Island in Equatorial Guinea*

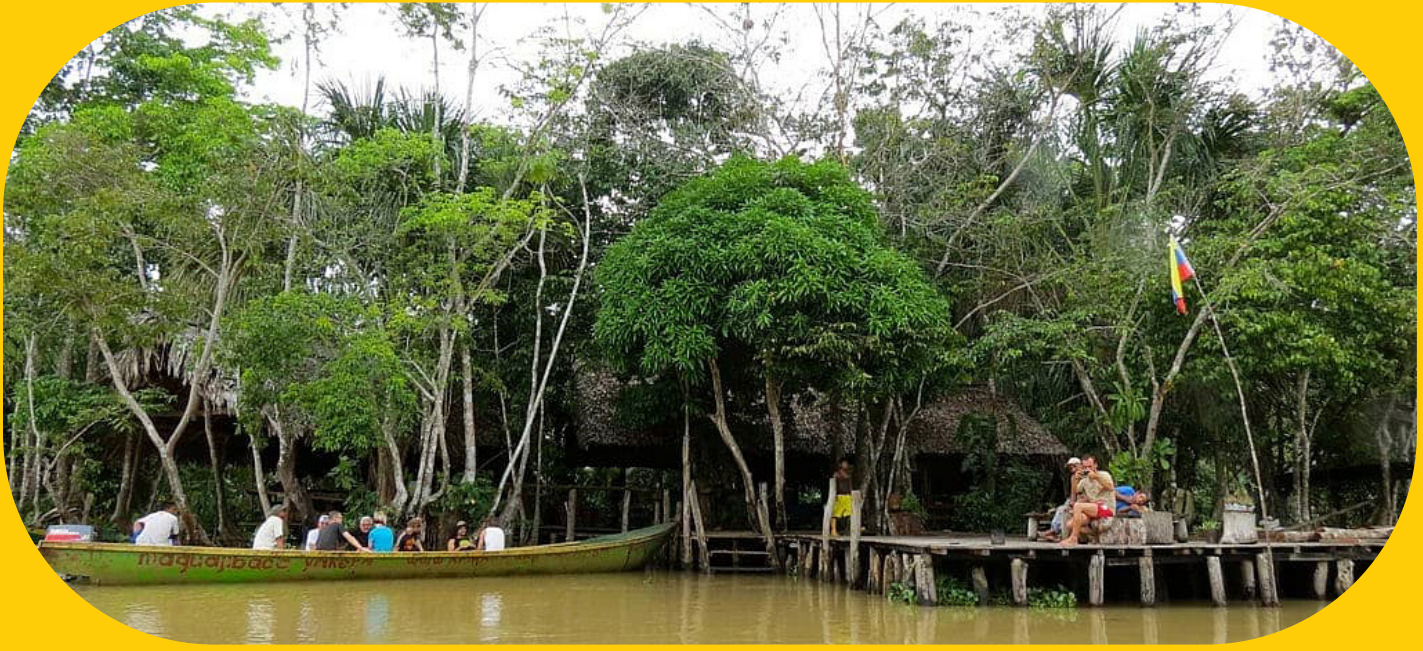
country from west to east and empties into the Atlantic Ocean through the Orinoco Delta, the 2nd largest delta in the world. In this delta, howler monkeys, parrots and freshwater dolphins can be observed. Indigenous peoples, the Warao Indians or people of the pirogues also live there, in lakeside villages built on stilts, just as the Pygmies live in the Equatorial Guinean forest.

### **Exceptional gastronomy based on seafood and water**

Countries of land and water, Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela have very diverse culinary specialties. Pabellón criollo is the emblematic dish of Venezuela. It is made with white rice, shredded meat or carne mechada, a spicy sauce and caraotas – black beans. It is often served with fried plantains, an accompaniment found in

### **Rhythms and dances**

Venezuelans and Equatorial Guineans are known for having rhythm in their blood. In Equatorial Guinea, the most popular traditional dances are the balélé and the ibanga, whose rhythms are played, accompanied by the sanza, the xylophone, the drums, the zithers and the jew’s harps. Venezuela is also rich in traditional dances including the joropo, to the rhythm of the harp, violin and maracas. The festivities on Carnival Monday and Tuesday are an opportunity to discover other dances such as the Burriquita, the Calypso and the San Benito, dances of African heritage performed to the rhythm of the drum. These dances, as well as the festivities of St. John’s Day – an African-American saint born of syncretism



*Orinoco Delta in Venezuela*

with the Yoruba religion – celebrated in June, constitute one of the most emblematic celebrations of Afro-Venezuelan culture, linked to the cultural and ancestral heritage of anti-colonial struggles. In total, from the forest to the sea and the ocean, and across the neighboring continents, Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea are united by a common language, authentic landscapes and traditions as well as by the past of slavery, many populations of Equatorial Guinea having long been exploited by the Spanish colonists as part of the slave trade and Venezuela, like many South American countries that have welcomed millions of enslaved Africans for centuries. Finally, these two countries, in addition to sharing a common goal and a humanist

vision within the African Union (AU), of which Venezuela is an observer member, are also among the twelve members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Venezuela since its creation in 1960 and Equatorial Guinea since 2017. They are also part of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), a strategic organization of which Venezuela has been the only non-African member since 2021. All these examples of common presence and participation bear concrete witness to the deep historical, ancestral, spiritual and geographical ties, cultural richness, friendship and shared future that unite Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela, two sister nations.

*Pico Basile in Equatorial Guinea*

