

Editorial

Towards APPO's 40th anniversary

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The new face of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization Secretariat

History

The shale oil revolution

APPO Magazine

OCTOBER 2026



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Toward our 40 years...



◀ H.E. Farid Ghezali
SG of APPO

Editorial

2027, the year of the 40th anniversary of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization

celebrate this event as it should be, in order to do justice to the vision of the founding fathers, we have thought of the APPO 40 project as a ramp of visibility for the efforts of our Member Countries to strengthen energy sovereignty in Africa, as well as an opportunity to consolidate living together in our pan-African community.

To pay tribute to the pioneers, but also to interest young people in the various celebrations, in order to, at the end of the old rope, weave the new one, such is the objective of the Secretariat, as we prepare to mark with a special touch, the celebration of the 40th anniversary of APPO. In a few weeks, the African Petroleum Producers' Organization, established on January 27, 1987, will officially close (on January 27, 2027) four decades in the service of cooperation and harmonization of collaborative efforts, sharing knowledge and expertise between African oil-producing countries. To

APPO 40 therefore proposes to go beyond the simple one-off celebration, to transform 2027 into a year of commemoration of the 40th anniversary of APPO, and this, on various occasions, within the framework of a coherent and structured schedule, and in the presence of its leaders and stakeholders, but also its partners and industry captains. Several activities and highlights are planned, which will mark this anniversary with a remarkable seal, while projecting APPO for the next forty years.

This ambitious program will be officially launched in Brazzaville on January 27, 2027 during the APPO's 40th anniversary gala coupled with the traditional

meeting of the APPO Ambassadors and Heads of Mission Forum. On this occasion, the members of the Ministerial Council, the Executive Board as well as the Ambassadors and Heads of Delegation of the APPO Member Countries will meet to take stock of four decades of APPO's action and outline some perspectives. Beyond the symbolic cutting of the birthday cake, this celebration will mark the beginning of a battery of activities, designed in line with the vision and objectives of APPO.

To this end, APPO will adopt a new visual identity, which will be used in several media, in particular as part of a poster campaign in Member Countries in order to better promote the Organization, and especially its actions and objectives. Since its creation, APPO has grown from eight to eighteen Member Countries, with one Honorary Member Country, Venezuela. The poster campaign is planned to strengthen the Organization's brand image in all these countries.

The intellectual component of the celebration includes the setting up of special competitions, side events, exclusive interviews and open days. These events will be devoted to the reflection on the APPO that we want for the next 40 years. They will bring together young and experienced people in order to ensure the transmission of the ideal of APPO and the renewal of the thought and action of our Organization. All these opportunities will also be taken to highlight the milestones set since the birth of APPO, the challenges met, the structuring projects on which the Organization's teams are working, as well as the levers to be activated to go even further in order to better positively impact the African energy sector.

In addition, there are also team building activities, as well as CSR actions, including social and solidarity

actions as well as ecological outings. Indeed, APPO is concerned about the importance of anchoring its action in a social framework, valuing inclusiveness, support for the most vulnerable components of our societies and the preservation of the environment for sustainable development. These activities will therefore be the place to celebrate the human capital of the Organization and involve the local communities of the Member Countries in the festivities of the fortieth anniversary.

Finally, it should be noted that if 2027 will be the year of APPO, it will also undoubtedly be the year of the

Africa Energy Bank (AEB) designed in partnership with Afreximbank as the solution to the financing challenges of African energy projects. Because if history will remember 2026 as its launch year, 2027 will be the year of the consolidation of its governance structure and the operationalization of its concrete actions. APPO will continue, through its Member Countries contributing to social capital and active promoters of the AEB, to provide concrete support, with a view to making it the reference banking solution for African energy projects.

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40 YEARS.**

The philosophy of APPO 40 is to celebrate what has been accomplished while enthusiastically welcoming what remains to be accomplished. 40 years in the life of an Organization is 40 years of challenges, successes, sometimes doubts, milestones, which deserve to be celebrated. I invite you all to join us, to truly make 2027 the year of APPO. Because these 40 years symbolize good age, maturity, stability and increased confidence. Together, let's transform these prospects into tangible reality, for the happiness of the millions of Africans who currently live without access to electricity, in accordance with the philosophy of APPO 40, and without a midlife crisis, of course!

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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 SG of GECE, the Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo and the SG of APPO joining hands in Brazzaville on 20 July 2026 during the signing ceremony of the MoU between APPO and GECE (See full article on page 24).





NADOGCE 2026

African Oil and Gas in a New Dimension

The second edition of the International Conference and Exhibition: The New African Dimension of Oil and Gas 2026 (NADOGCE26) was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania on 25 and 26 July 2026. The SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali, who took part, delivered a speech on the theme of the bridge needed between the oil, gas and clean energy sectors for a harmonious future for Africa.

◀ The SG of APPO H.E. Mr. Farid Ghezali
at the opening of NADOGCE 2026 in Zanzibar
(Tanzania) on July 25, 2026

Established since 2025, the 2nd edition of NADOGCE 2026 brought together policymakers, energy experts, innovators and community leaders around the challenges related to oil, gas and renewable energy in Africa. The theme chosen this year is: Uniting the oil, gas and clean energy sectors for the future of Africa. Around this theme, the conference was divided into round tables, presentations and various speeches. Responding to the invitation of the organizers, the SG of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali presented a speech on the theme: "Bridging the Oil, Gas and Clean Energy Sectors for the Future of Africa", indicating the way forward and the methodology of APPO for a bright energy future in Africa.

Charting Africa's Energy Future

The key points of the discussions revolved over two days around the challenges and opportunities of the energy landscape in Africa, including ambitions in traditional and renewable energy, contractual models for African energy resources as well as financing the energy transition. On this specific point and taking part in one of the discussion panels, the SG highlighted the APPO's solutions to transform Africa's oil and gas resources into a driver of sustainable economic development. He indicated the APPO's strategic priorities for the next five years, citing in particular the imminent take-off of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB) as well as the various platforms and partnerships of APPO to accelerate the development of gas infrastructure in Africa. Many other topics, such as Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence and Innovation in Energy Systems, Decarbonization Technologies, Regulatory Frameworks and Policy Roadmaps for Integrated Energy Sectors, Public-Private

THE SG OUTLINED THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF APPO FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, CITING IN PARTICULAR THE IMMINENT TAKE-OFF OF THE AFRICA ENERGY BANK (AEB) AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS PLATFORMS AND PARTNERSHIPS OF APPO TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA.

Partnerships: Leveraging Collaboration for Energy Growth as well as the Mobilization of International Partners were at the heart of the discussions.

Expanding APPO to EAC

NADOGCE is an initiative of the Young Africans Petroleum Association (YAPA), in collaboration with the Tanzanian government and leaders in the energy industry. Located in East Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean, the United Republic of Tanzania presided over by Her Excellency Mrs. Samia Suluhu, is a member of the East African Community (EAC). The SG of APPO therefore took the opportunity to make a plea for the integration of APPO by the EAC Member Countries, and in particular, Tanzania, a country that is mainly a gas producer. The EAC brings together eight countries including, in addition to Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is already a member of APPO.



27th Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Board of APPO

*Significant milestones set for the reform of the
Secretariat and the launch of the Africa Energy Bank*



Family photo following the opening of the 27th Executive Board Meeting in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire)



From July 1 to 3, 2026, experts from the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO) met in Yamoussoukro, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, for the Organization's mid-year statutory meetings.

On July 1, the Organization's committees, dedicated to audit, finance and budget, as well as long-term strategy, met. The objective of these preliminary meetings was to examine the various reports and memos of the secretariat, in order to examine them and draw proposals for the plenary. This first day was closed by a tourist outing that allowed the delegations to visit the main points of attraction of the city of Yamoussoukro. Among other things, the participants went to the private home of the late Félix Houphouët-Boigny, the first president of Côte d'Ivoire and founder of the city. They also visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, the largest Christian religious building in the world, with its dome culminating at more than 158 m in height. The visit ended with a tour of the city passing by the major schools of the city of Yamoussoukro.

An opening ceremony under the sign of efficiency

The following day, 2 July, the solemn opening ceremony of the 27th Meeting was presided over by H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO, represented by his Chief of Staff Mr. Aka Kadjo Jean-Baptiste. In the series of speeches, it was first

the representative of the Mayor of the city of Yamoussoukro who addressed a welcome address in the political capital of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to all the delegations. He was followed by the Secretary General of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghazali, who expressed his gratitude to the President of APPO, H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly as well as to the Government and people of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for the warm welcome, hospitality and favorable conditions put in place for the meetings. He assured the members of the Executive Board of the Secretariat's commitment to driving a new era of efficiency and transparency at APPO.

THE SOLEMN OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 27TH MEETING WAS PRESIDED OVER BY H.E. MAMADOU SANGAFOWA-COULIBALY, MINISTER OF MINES, PETROLEUM AND ENERGY OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND PRESIDENT OF APPO, REPRESENTED BY HIS CHIEF OF STAFF MR. AKA KADJO JEAN-BAPTISTE.



New members on the Executive Board

In his speech, the Member of the Executive Board for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta, expressed his gratitude to the President of APPO, for his continued support and guidance to the Executive Board and the Secretariat. He then welcomed his colleagues, particularly the three new members of the Executive Board, Mr. Mourad Beldjehem of Algeria, Mr. Fernand Epigat of Gabon and Mr. Ishaq Saad of Egypt. The Chairperson of the Executive Board then indicated the objectives of the meeting, namely, to examine the mid-year reports of the Secretary General, which include the draft Programme of Work and the Budget of the Secretariat for the year 2027, with the aim of giving guidance to the Secretariat for its finalization and submission to the Ordinary Year-End Meeting for recommendation to the Ministerial Council. He also noted that the Executive Board will follow presentations on the legal status of AEICorp and the reports of the various Committees of the Executive Board as well as the APPO Long-Term Strategy Committee.

The message of the President of APPO

In his opening remarks on behalf of the President of APPO, Minister Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Mr. Aka Kadjo welcomed all the Members of the Executive Board to Yamoussoukro. He expressed the gratitude of the Ministerial Council to the Executive Board and the Secretariat of APPO



THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, MR. KARROL KADIATA LETA, WELCOMED THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, NAMELY MR. MOURAD BELDJEHEM OF ALGERIA, MR. FERNAND EPIGAT OF GABON AND MR. ISHAQ SAAD OF EGYPT.

Partial view of the participants at the 27th Executive Board Meeting in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire)

for the excellent work done, in particular for the significant progress made for the launch of the Africa Energy Bank (AEB). He then thanked the Executive Board for its support in the implementation of the initiatives that the President of APPO identified as essential for his presidency, namely the launch of the AEB, the restructuring of the Secretariat to strengthen its professionalism, the APPO membership campaign and the promotion of Local Content in oil and gas activities

**THE MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIVE
INVITED MEMBER COUNTRIES TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION OF EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES
AND ENERGY (SIREXE) 2026, WHICH WILL
OPEN ON NOVEMBER 18, 2026.**

in Africa. Following this Launch speech, the effective work of the 27th Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Board of APPO took place according to the directives of the President of

APPO and under the chairmanship of Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta. Important recommendations were made, which will be submitted, in addition to those of the second ordinary meeting

of the year of the Executive Board, to the next Ordinary Session of the APPO Ministerial Council. It should be noted that this is scheduled to be held on November 17, 2026 in Abidjan. The Minister's representative also invited Member Countries to participate in the International Exhibition of Extractive Resources and Energy (SIREXE) 2026, which will open on November 18, 2026.

At the end of the work, the participants expressed their satisfaction with the conduct of the meeting.



Partial view of the participants at the 27th Executive Board Meeting in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire)

Mr Karrol Kadiata Leta

Member of the Executive Board for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairman of the Executive Board



The outcome of this 27th Executive Board Meeting is very positive. We worked in the best conditions and we addressed all the items on the agenda, including the item relating to the launch of the Africa Energy Bank and the restructuring of the APPO Secretariat. We are very satisfied with this meeting, and we thank the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for the legendary welcome. For the follow-up, the recommendations that have been taken will be transmitted to the President of the Ministerial Council and the 28th Meeting of the Executive Board will be held in November 2026.

H.E. Farid Ghezali

SG of APPO

This meeting was my first Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Board as Secretary General of APPO. What should be remembered first of all is the excellent organization carried out by the host country, namely the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and I would

like to thank all those responsible and first and foremost the President of the Republic, H.E. Alassane Ouattara, as well as the Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, who put all the means to make this event a success.



What should be remembered is that all the important items on the agenda were discussed in a cordial, inclusive and professional understanding that allowed us to highlight all the actions carried out during the first six months of the year by the Organization. And we were therefore able to convince in an inclusive way of the need to restructure our Organization, which was approved and will therefore be recommended by the Ministerial Council, but also we took stock of the Africa Energy Bank, we were able to communicate on the minimum that has been reached to be able to start our Bank but also other points, namely the establishment of interactive platforms for the good of the APPO Member Countries, which shows that cooperation is only strengthened through this kind of events. For me, it is a total success, not only from the point of view of the organization but also from the point of view of the climate of the discussions, which were really very professional.

Mr Célestin Enanto

*Member of the Executive Board for Benin
and Chairman of the EBFBC Committee*



Today's meeting is a thematic and statutory meeting of our pan-African Organization. As a prelude to the statutory meetings, we held two meetings: the meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee and that of the Long-Term Strategy Committee. All the decisions and recommendations taken during these two meetings are transferred to the Statutory Meeting of the Executive Board, which has made recommendations to be ratified by the Ministerial Council. What should be remembered are fundamentally the recommendations related to the organization of the Conference of Heads of State of the 18 Member Countries of the Organization. In my opinion, this is a very strong decision. Also, there is a recommendation that touches on the restructuring of our Organization because the Ministers of the various countries expect a lot from us for this restructuring which has started and will end in 2027. We have also made recommendations in the direction of strengthening bilateral cooperation between Member Countries. All the meetings were a success for the Organization and for each of our countries because we had fruitful exchanges that will

consolidate the activities of each other. Regarding the new vision of H.E. the SG, I think that this personality has a vision that will consolidate our Organization. He has planned many charters for the Secretariat, which will reorganize the services and now, instead of two directors who were leading the activities, we will go up to four. I believe that this is a vision that will get our Organization off the ground.

Mr Zacharia Dosso

MD AEICorp



Côte d'Ivoire is chairing APPO this year and it is in this capacity that Côte d'Ivoire was kind enough to host this first meeting of the year. The purpose of this meeting is to take stock of the Organization's mid-term and especially to take stock of the progress of the Africa Energy Bank, which the Minister is following closely so that the launch can be done before the end of his mandate. We are off to a good start. It was announced that the minimum required to launch the Bank has been largely exceeded, so it is certainly with great pride that the Minister can launch the Bank in October. Also, we presented the activities of AEICorp and its new strategy. Overall, the Organization is doing well and is achieving its objectives under the chairmanship of H.E. Minister Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly.

Presentation of the Committees of the Executive Board of APPO

Composed of one representative per APPO Member Country, the Executive Board has three specialized Committees. These are the APPO Long-Term Strategy Committee (LTS), the Audit Committee of the Executive Board and the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Board. Each of these Committees deliberates on specific issues within their remit, and reports to the Executive Board. Currently chaired by the Executive Board Member of Algeria, the LTS Committee is composed of all members of the Executive

Board. The same is not true for the Audit Committee of the Executive Board, currently chaired by the Executive Board Member of South Africa, with the Executive Board Member of Algeria and the Executive Board Member of Nigeria as members. Also, the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Board is similarly made up of three members: the Executive Board Member of Benin (Chair), the Executive Board Member of Angola and the Executive Board Member of Senegal.

Work of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Board on July 1, 2026 in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire)



Portrait of Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta, Member of the Executive Board for the Democratic Republic of Congo and President of the Executive Board



Assuming the duties of Chairman of the Executive Board for the year 2026, Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta is a professional in the hydrocarbon sector; holder of a Graduate Diploma in Science, Geology Group and a Bachelor's degree in Geological Sciences with an option in Applied Geology and a Fundamental Geology option from the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While serving at the Ministry of Hydrocarbons of his country, he holds the position of Head of Division for the Protection of the Hydrocarbons Environment, Directorate of Non-Associated Gases, Biofuels, Natural Hydrogen at the General Secretariat for Hydrocarbons. He is, in this capacity, a member of the joint working group for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Algeria in the field of hydrocarbons, Member of the Ad hoc Interministerial Anti-pollution Commission relating to mining, oil and industrial extraction activities, and

their impact on the riparian populations, Member of the Technical Secretariat of the Commission of Experts in charge of carrying out the preparatory work for the revision of Law No. 15/012 of 1 August 2015 on the General Hydrocarbons Regime and Member of the Commission of Experts in charge of conducting the preparatory work for the preparation of the draft law on Liquefied Petroleum Gas "LPG".

Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta has held the positions of International Cooperation, Marketing and Communication Officer at the National Representation of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization "APPO-DRC" and Head of the Specific Equipment Office at the Geophysics Division, Exploration, Production and Refining Directorate of the General Secretariat for Hydrocarbons. He has also been Deputy National Representative of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO), Expert in charge of the promotion of the "Local Content" concept in the hydrocarbon sector of the DR Congo, Expert at the Commission in charge of Tenders on the allocation of hydrocarbon rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the three oil and gas blocks of Lake Kivu and 27 oil blocks and 2nd Class Office Attaché at the Programming Office, Geological and Geochemical Exploration Division, Exploration, Production and Refining Directorate, General Secretariat for Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Hydrocarbons.

Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta has participated in several works, notably as Vice-President of the Secretariat Commission in charge of the organization of the Fourth African Petroleum Congress and Exhibition (CAPE IV). Author of several scientific works and publications in his field, he is the President of the Geosciences Club, Student Club of the Department of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, University of Kinshasa and Member of the Order of Geologists of the Democratic Republic of Congo (OGRDC).

Mr. Karrol Kadiata Leta is married and has five children.



Regulations of methane emissions in the African oil and gas sector

*Towards the establishment
of a policy document by AFREC*

The African Union Energy Commission (AFREC) organized a validation workshop on its methane emission regulations in the African oil and gas sector document from 29 to 30 July 2026 in Algiers, Algeria. APPO was represented at this important meeting by Dr. Adamou Arzika Aouta, Upstream Industry Analyst at the Secretariat.

The African Union Energy Commission (AFREC) intends to put in place a policy and regulatory document on methane emissions for Africa. Prior to the development of this document, it conducted a comparative analysis of methane emission regulations in the African oil and gas sector. This study highlighted the efforts made by National Hydrocarbon Companies, including most of the largest producers (Sonatrach and NNPC), to significantly reduce emissions, mainly from gas flaring. The benchmarking also established that routine zero gas flaring can be achieved with the establishment of major gas infrastructure such as pipelines in Africa. For the validation of the drafted policy document, APPO, Africa's main voice for any oil and gas issue, as well as organisations and agencies such as GECF, ARH of Algeria, PAU of Uganda, ACEP of Ghana, EPRA of Kenya, Sonatrach and the Ministry of Hydrocarbons of Algeria, were invited to review and validate the policy document. In addition to these continental stakeholders, independent agencies such as Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and Africa Practice also took part in the work.

Ensuring a Just Energy Transition

The proposed AU Methane Policy and Regulation Document have been widely discussed and amended to guarantee appropriate emissions while ensuring progressive energy development across the continent. The African Methane Regulatory Readiness Index (AMRRI), used to assess the methane awareness of African producing countries, has also been assessed and updated with the most recent data from major producers. The amended policy document has established a landscape that ensures a just and equitable energy transition as well as continued access to electricity and cleaner cooking energy

for Africa's growing population. The selected priority actions are: the promotion and transformation of natural gas; the development of gas infrastructure; the decarbonisation of oil operations by reducing venting, blowouts and the regular induction of renewable energy. Although additional production is expected from countries such as Senegal, Mozambique, Uganda and Tanzania, a well-structured and adapted reduction of methane emissions will not be a constraint to the continent's development. It should be noted that this workshop reaffirmed that Africa's transition fuel remains natural gas, in line with APPO's ambition through its LTS, which is leading several initiatives aimed at developing the production and consumption of natural gas across the continent.

Meeting the GHG challenge

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions remain a global challenge for the entire humanity. According to AFREC, the total methane emissions released by the African oil and gas industry are estimated at around 2.4 million tons of methane per year. Although Africa contributes only 2-4% to the global GHG emissions, APPO Member Countries are fully committed to promoting low-emission initiatives. Thus, the Organization's Long-Term Strategy (LTS) has provided many initiatives dedicated to significantly reducing emissions across the entire value chain. This means that Africa's major oil-producing countries under the umbrella of APPO remain fully committed to building an environmentally clean continent, through the production of sustainable and affordable energy to eradicate energy poverty across Africa. An important milestone has been reached in this regard with the establishment by APPO of a Nigeria-based R&D Centre of Excellence for Decarbonization and Environmental Protection Solutions led by RTI-NNPC, all of which demonstrate the convergence of views between APPO and AFREC.



LEICA 2026

APPO's advocacy for the harmonization of the legislative and regulatory framework for the oil and gas sector in Africa

APPO actively participated in the work of the "Lawyers in Energy International Conference and Awards" (LEICA) 2026, held from 13 to 15 July in Lagos (Federal Republic of Nigeria). The Organization was physically represented by a delegation led by the Head of Office of the Secretary General of APPO, while the latter, unable to attend, spoke virtually at the opening ceremony.

Net Zero, Energy Law and Regulatory Reform: Managing Risks and Seizing Opportunities in a Carbon Energy Market" was the theme of LEICA 2026, which brought together leading lawyers, policymakers, regulators and stakeholders for three days to discuss crucial issues related to the regulation of the energy sector in Africa. Organized by the Lawyers in Energy Network

in partnership with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, the conference focused on strategic issues affecting the Nigerian and African oil industry, including sector reforms, regulatory implementation, energy security, the investment climate and the transition to a sustainable energy future. The APPO delegation that visited the event was composed of, in addition to Eng. Bakary Traoré, Chief of Staff

* L'Ingénieur Bakary Traoré, Chef de Cabinet du SG au LEICA à Lagos (République Fédérale du Nigéria) le 13 juillet 2026

of the Secretary General of APPO, Mr. Bakamba Loguelko, Legal Advisor at the Secretariat.

From fragmentation to collective strength

Bound by the Organization's statutory obligations, the Secretary General of APPO nevertheless spoke by videoconference, in a speech on the need for the harmonization of laws and regulations applicable to the African oil and gas sector in the new global energy era. Indicating that the harmonization of petroleum codes and the convergence of African regulatory frameworks represent one of the most important workhorses of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali first returned to the current global energy situation, with geopolitical shocks and tensions that are reorganizing investment flows and the issue of zero carbon. He then highlighted the fragmentation of the African legislative and regulatory framework, which has a negative cost, not only for investors, but also for African cooperation and bargaining power.

Harmonizing, not standardizing

Responding to the fears of those who believe that harmonization would erase national specificities, the Secretary General noted that while such fear may be understandable, it cannot be justified, as sovereignty remains non-negotiable. "Harmonization does not remove sovereignty; it multiplies it, it transforms individual efforts into continental strength." The Secretary General said. H.E.

Farid Ghezali went on to emphasize that the positive effects that can be expected from a harmonized African framework, including the recognition of natural gas as a transition fuel, the setting of expectations for emissions monitoring, flaring reduction and methane management on a continental scale, are conducive to the implementation of large-scale integrated projects. According to him, convergence must be based on the principles of transparency and disclosure, comparable safety and environmental standards, approaches to local

content and community benefits, systems for licensing and competitive bidding, and predictable mechanisms for dispute resolution and investor protection. "Africa is not asking for permission to develop. It is asking for partnerships to develop better. Harmonized, modern and inclusive regulation is the language of these partnerships" he concluded.

« AFRICA IS NOT ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO DEVELOP. IT IS ASKING FOR PARTNERSHIPS TO DEVELOP BETTER. HARMONIZED, MODERN AND INCLUSIVE REGULATION IS THE LANGUAGE OF THESE PARTNERSHIPS. »

**H.E. FARID GHEZALI
SG OF APPO**

LEICA, the standard-bearer of regulation in Africa

LEICA is a leading gathering, a flagship annual conference that over the years has served as a credible platform for constructive dialogue in support of government reforms and sectoral growth. This 2026 conference provided a critical platform to question how carbon neutrality is transforming energy sector licensing, regulation and reform, the evolving role of regulators in carbon-constrained markets, the legal risks related to climate transition, divestment and litigation, opportunities for legal innovation in carbon markets, the gas transition and clean energy financing as well as the link between law, policy, regulation and business reality.



↑ At the top, H.E. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, Minister of Mineral Resources and Petroleum of Angola and at the bottom, a partial view of the attendance at the opening of AOG 2026 on 09 September 2026 in Luanda (Angola)

Angola Oil and Gas 2026

Investing in Angola's future

The SG of APPO, H.E. Farid Ghezali led an APPO delegation to Angola Oil and Gas 2026. The official opening ceremony was presided over on September 09, 2026 in Luanda by H.E. João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola in the presence of H.E. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, Minister of Mineral Resources and Petroleum of Angola.

Investing in Angola's future is the official theme of Angola Oil and Gas (AOG) 2026. Leading a delegation from the Secretariat, the APPO SG participated in the event, delivering an opening speech. In this speech focused on the need to strengthen cooperation between African countries through concrete projects, he insisted on the need for local development of energy resources and the development of local capacities for energy security and sustainable development. The SG also indicated that the Africa Energy Bank (AEB) is ready and that soon, it will play a major role in the financing of energy projects on the continent. "how do we turn our resources into energy security, industrial capacity and sustainable development for our people?" he asked, indicating in response that financing is at the heart of such a challenge. "The success of our energy sector cannot be measured only by the number of barrels produced or exported. It must also be measured by the electricity generated, the jobs created and the value retained in our economies. Luanda is a fitting place for this conversation" he said.

Audience at Minister Azevedo's

On the sidelines of the event, the Secretary General of APPO and his delegation were received in audience on September 10, 2026, in Luanda by H.E. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, Minister

of Mineral Resources and Petroleum of Angola. The discussions focused on the preparations for the launch of the AEB, the 2026 end-of-year statutory meetings of APPO in Abidjan (from 14 to 17 November 2026) and the 8th meeting of the APPO National Oil Companies (NOC) CEOs Forum, scheduled for October 12, 2026 in Cape Town and organized by the SANPC. The Secretary General took this opportunity to inform the Minister of the digital platforms launched by the Secretariat, in particular the one dedicated to Local Content, inaugurated last August.

A platform for exchange and dialogue

The Angola Oil & Gas (AOG) Conference & Exhibition is Angola's premier oil and gas investment platform, bringing together government leaders, investors, operators, service companies and industry stakeholders to explore opportunities, build partnerships and drive investment across the country's energy sector. AOG provides a platform for high-level dialogue and business engagement around Angola's oil and gas industry, covering upstream developments, exploration, investment, gas, infrastructure, technology, local content and the country's evolving energy landscape. The event connects international and local stakeholders with the opportunities shaping Angola's position as a leading African energy hub, while creating a space for dealmaking, strategic networking and meaningful industry dialogue.



From left to right: H.E. Dr. Philip Mshelbila, SG GECF, H.E. Mr. Farid Ghezali, SG APPO & H.E. Stev Simplicé Onanga, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo at the signing of the MoU on 20 July 2026 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

Signing of MoU between Organizations *APPO and GECF with one voice on gas issues*

On July 20, 2026, the SG of APPO and GECF signed a Memorandum of Understanding between their organizations. The aim is to strengthen the cooperation framework of the GECF-APPO energy dialogue. The Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo was the guest of honor at the ceremony.

Last January, the two SGs of APPO and GECF took up their duties at the head of the Secretariat of their respective Organizations. However, long before this connivance of destinies, the two men knew each other, and exchanged views on the energy future of Africa. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Petroleum Producers' Organization and the Gas Exporting Countries Forum is therefore only the culmination of many months of exchanges of views. Held on July 20 at the headquarters of the APPO Secretariat in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), this solemn ceremony marks a new, more concrete and official stage in the cooperation between the two Organizations. By signing the Agreement, Their Excellencies Farid Ghezali, Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization and Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum formally establish a lasting dialogue for the benefit of Member Countries. The signing ceremony

was anointed by H.E. Stev Simplicé Onanga, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo.

An ambitious but realistic agreement

The APPO-GECF Memorandum of Understanding, concluded for a renewable period of five years, aims to carry out activities and share experiences, convergences of views, information, data and best practices in areas of common interest through various means. During the ceremony, the Secretary General of APPO praised the leading role played by GECF as a platform for the exchange of experiences and information between the main gas-producing countries in the world, stressing the concrete aspect of this protocol which will make it possible to go beyond speeches to aim for a real impact for the benefit of the African continent. In the same vein, the Secretary General of GECF, for his part, recognized the great role played by APPO in the promotion of hydrocarbons in Africa. He did not fail to assure the full



commitment of the Organization he heads, with a view to transforming this Memorandum of Understanding into studies and cross-publications, bilateral meetings and joint conferences, with a view to achieving the set milestone. Guest of honor at the ceremony, the Minister of Hydrocarbons

of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Stev Simplicie Onanga welcomed the pooling of the efforts of APPO and GECF by this historic signing. He did not fail to invite everyone to persevere in this logic of coordination and cooperation which, according to him, is the ideal solution to move forward on the various projects related to the energy empowerment of Africa.

Two Organizations with Similar Visions

Based in Doha, Qatar, the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) represents the world's leading gas exporting nations, and its action aims to foster a constructive dialogue between producers and consumers in order to improve the stability and security of global gas supply and demand. It is composed

THE MINISTER OF HYDROCARBONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO INVITED EVERYONE TO PERSEVERE IN THIS LOGIC OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION FOR THE ENERGY AUTONOMY OF AFRICA.

of 20 Member Countries, five of which also belong to the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO). While GECF members account for 70% of the world's proven gas reserves and 42% of exports, the 18 APPO Member Countries account for almost all of

Africa's oil and gas reserves (7.5% of the world's reserves). Both organizations hold in high esteem the role of gas as a pivotal resource for sustainable development, in Africa and around the world, as part of a Just Energy Transition. The Memorandum of Understanding will be the framework for the realization of this common vision, focused on the promotion of energy security on the continent and beyond, with the ultimate objective of transforming Africa's rich gas resources into opportunities for value creation, in the context of a difficult international situation, but which can constitute an opportunity for African gas. To achieve these objectives, the Memorandum of Understanding will be broken down into an action plan, with measurable objectives and a roadmap adopted by agreement.

Portrait of the Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)

His Excellency Dr Philip Mshelbila



HE Dr Philip Mshelbila assumed office on 1 January 2026 as the fifth Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

Dr Mshelbila is a senior energy executive with over 30 years of experience, most of which covered the global natural gas / liquefied natural gas (LNG), and power sectors.

His career spans executive management, board-level governance, strategic communications and stakeholder management, healthcare, sustainability, and large-scale project development.

Prior to joining the GECF, he spent more than two decades with Shell, most recently serving as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria LNG and previously as Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic LNG in Trinidad and Tobago.

He has lived and worked across Africa, America, Europe and the Caribbean, and is now based in the Middle East.

He holds an MB,BS from Ahmadu Bello University, a postgraduate qualification from the University of Aberdeen, and an Executive MBA from IESE Business School, Spain.





★ GECF Headquarters at Doha (Qatar).

Presentation of GECF

Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) is an international intergovernmental organization that provides a platform for the exchange of experience and information among its Member Countries. Representing the world's leading gas-exporting nations, the GECF aims to foster constructive dialogue between gas producers and consumers to enhance the stability and security of global gas supply and demand.

Members

Algeria¹, Bolivia, **Egypt**, **Equatorial Guinea**, Iran, **Libya**, **Nigeria**, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates and **Venezuela**.

Observer Members

Angola, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, and **Senegal**.

Collectively, the GECF Member Countries hold 70% of the world's proven natural gas reserves, account for 38% of marketed production, contribute 42% of global gas exports, and represent 47%

of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.

GECF remains open to welcoming new members who share its principles and objectives, as outlined in the GECF Agreement and Statute.

Long-Term Strategy

The GECF Long-Term Strategy (LTS) serves as a comprehensive blueprint for a unified course of action among GECF Member Countries. It reflects their shared interests, defines vision and mission, and outlines strategic goals and priority objectives of the GECF.

This LTS acknowledges the vital role of natural gas in the global economy, addresses the dynamic changes affecting the global gas market, and identifies both the challenges and opportunities associated with the growing demand for natural gas.

The second edition of the LTS was approved at the 24th GECF Ministerial Meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, on 25 October 2022. The first edition was approved at the 19th GECF Ministerial Meeting in

Moscow, Russia, on 4 October 2017.

Vision

To make natural gas the pivotal resource for inclusive and sustainable development.

Mission

To shape the energy future as a global advocate of natural gas and a platform for cooperation and dialogue, with the view to support the sovereign rights of Member Countries over their natural gas resources and to contribute to global sustainable development and energy security.

Strategic Goals

- Promote the role of natural gas in achieving sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
- Ensure a fair and equitable valuation of natural gas.
- Encourage the adoption and advancement of modern technologies within the natural gas industry.
- Enhance the international standing of GECF as a global platform for energy dialogue.

¹ In bold, GECF Member Countries that are also Members of APPO



THE NEW FACE OF THE APPO SECRETARIAT



8 months after H.E. Farid Ghezali took office at its head, the APPO Secretariat is changing dimension, under the good leadership of the august members of the Ministerial Council. Between restructuring, certification project and new digital platforms, APPO has never carried out its mission of promoting cooperation in the fields of hydrocarbons in Africa so well.



Restructuring project

Making the Secretariat an African Energy Intelligence Platform

The APPO Secretariat has begun a restructuring process, which was approved at the mid-year meetings of the Executive Board. This reorganization, which pursues several institutional objectives, has already begun to be deployed, according to the schedule chosen, which is spread over one year.

◀ Mr. Richard Sahgui, current Director of Research and Development at the APPO Secretariat

Building a tighter, coherent and performance-oriented institutional architecture is the objective of the restructuring underway at the APPO Secretariat. This process includes the creation and redesign of directorates, with, for each of them, a perimeter, a justification and a very precise institutional message. This reconfiguration is therefore based on a logic based on strategic missions, combining on the one hand, steering, control and security functions placed as close as possible to the Secretary General and, on the other hand, clearly identified business departments around the production of energy intelligence, institutional cooperation, digital transformation, and support services. The logic adopted makes it possible to avoid the inflation of directorates by grouping activities according to coherent value chains, while strengthening the Secretariat's legibility to Member Countries.

5 strategic institutional pillars

In addition to strengthening the legibility of the Secretariat's action, the restructuring aims to clarify the chains of responsibility and the interfaces between Strategic Functions, Business

Lines and Support, to better articulate partnerships, programs, forums and capacity building, to highlight the place of data, platforms, information governance and digital transformation and finally, to consolidate the administrative, financial and logistical functions around a reliable and efficient corporate base. In concrete terms, a department such as the Research and Development Department, which currently covers a wide scope, will see a clarification of its institutional vocations as well as a reconfiguration of its architecture into two distinct di-

THROUGH THIS RESTRUCTURING, APPO REAFFIRMS ITS VOCATION TO SERVE AS AN AFRICAN PLATFORM FOR COORDINATION, ENERGY INTELLIGENCE, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES.

rectorates. All this will make it possible to better distribute responsibilities, reduce dependence on a single structure, streamline decision-making and strengthen accountability for results.

A gradual ramp-up

The creation of a department dedicated to Information Systems responds to a logic of using digital technology as a lever for institutional integration and governance, in order to complete the digital modernization of the

Secretariat. In addition, an organizational overhaul should lead to the creation of a common services department to constitute the basis of administrative, budgetary, human and logistical support for the Secretariat. Finally, in order to preserve overall coherence and secure internal governance, certain functions remain directly attached to the Secretary General. These functions are intended to steer, arbitrate, control, legally supervise and measure the overall performance of the Secretariat. These include the Cabinet, Internal Audit, Legal Affairs as well as

Planning and Performance. Through this restructuring, APPO reaffirms its vocation to serve as an African platform for coordination, energy intelligence, strategic cooperation and operational deployment for the benefit of its Member Countries. It intends to strengthen its capacity

to produce sovereign energy knowledge, to carry out structuring continental initiatives, to support the development of African resources, to modernize its internal functioning and to consolidate its contribution to energy security, integration and sustainable development of the continent. The new architecture of the APPO Secretariat is part of a gradual ramp-up, calibrated according to the resources available and the priorities for the transformation of the secretariat.

Launch of the Pan-African Local Content Platform

*APPO aims to set up an African
call for tenders*

On August 26, 2026, the APPO Secretariat launched the first pan-African platform dedicated to Local Content at its headquarters in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). The session took place in hybrid mode (face-to-face and online), in front of an audience of prestigious guests.



Ms. Georgia Andely, on behalf of the Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo H.E. Stev Simplicie Onanga, launched the APPO Local Content Platform on August 26, 2026 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo)

The concrete meaning of the creation by APPO of a pan-African platform dedicated to Local Content is the establishment, in the long term, of an African call for tenders. This objective, the SG of APPO, H.E.

Farid Ghezali made it clear at the beginning of the launching ceremony of this cooperation tool. Organized in the premises of the Secretariat in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), the session was attended by the main executives of the APPO Member Countries specializing in Local Content, some of whom were by videoconference. Welcoming this happy outcome, the SG insisted on the need for each of the Member Countries to take advantage of the platform to feed it regularly, so that it can allow everyone to achieve the various objectives assigned. "This tool is not set up to just be a figurative, but to allow everyone to work together because our objective is to break down barriers," he said, adding that the long-term goal for APPO is to set up an African call for tenders.

Stimulating public-private partnerships

The Brazzaville Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Trades is an organization dedicated to the promotion of trade and exports, the promotion of a favorable business environment as well as sectoral development. This means that this chamber's core business is the promotion of Local Content, which explains the presence of its Director General Mr. Paul Obambi at the ceremony. Very satisfied with the platform, he welcomed the fact that it will allow companies to have more opportunities and a better opening to the African market, thus joining the vision of African Heads of State concretized by the establishment of an economic exchange zone. Also, the advantages of the platform, as noted by Mr. Obambi, also extend to the reduction, through public-private partnership, of one of the major handicaps of African economies, namely, debt.

Not a completion but the beginning of the path

Unable to attend, the Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo H.E. Stev Simplicie Onanga was represented by Mrs. Georgia Andely who, on his

behalf, proceeded to the official launch of the platform. In her launch speech, Ms. Andely praised the work accomplished by the Secretariat teams to give substance to the first pan-African platform dedicated to Local Content. Stressing that, under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou N'Guesso, Local Content is a national priority in the Republic of Congo, she noted that the value of the platform will depend on the use that will be made of it by Member Countries. "This requires reliable and regularly updated information, but also effective ownership of the platform by States and all actors in the sector. Its success will therefore not only be measured by the number of actors that will be registered there, but by the concrete opportunities it has created and the national capacities it has helped to strengthen. It is on this condition that the platform will be able to become a real tool for the Local Content policies of our States. »

Demonstration and practical cases

The Director of Research at the Secretariat, Mr. Richard Sagui presented the platform as well as its functionalities. He said that the main objective of the Local Content platform is to maximize the participation of local companies, the supply of goods and services as well as the prioritization of African experts in the oil and gas value chain. This digital platform will therefore make it possible, in essence, to publish calls for tenders from national companies in the extractive industries sector, to share good practices and develop knowledge in Local Content, as well as to develop and concretize fruitful strategic partnerships between national hydrocarbon companies of Member Countries, he added. Following him, Mr. Walter Kessi, IT specialist, rolled out the user guide of the platform, as well as its main features. The presentation of the platform's security and privacy policy followed. It was provided by Mr. Djibril Gueye, IT specialist. Mr. Amadou Boubacar, Economic Analyst and Local Content Specialist, returning to the roles and designations of users, said that it was mainly up to the APPO Member Countries, through their various focal points, to ensure the data supply of the platform. The session ended with a session of practical cases and questions and answers from the participants, who did not fail to congratulate the entire Secretariat team for this feat.

Secretariat Certification Project

*Interview with Mrs. Zerfa Belkassem,
Executive Assistant to the SG*

« On the operational level, the work plan is complete: the eight-month roadmap has been established, with the steps, the managers and the deliverables expected at each milestone, from the diagnosis to the certification audit. »



The APPO Secretariat is engaged in a certification process. Can you tell us about the genesis of this project? Where did the idea of certifying the Secretariat come from?

target architecture of the Secretariat, we made a simple

The genesis of this project is directly linked to the institutional restructuring of the Secretariat initiated through Resolution 361. In redefining the tar-

observation: the Secretariat operated without formalized procedures, without described processes, without harmonized rules between the Directorates. Each entity worked in its own way, which made the operation difficult to read and difficult to make reliable.

It was from this observation that the idea of ISO 9001:2015 certification was born. It was not enough to redesign the organizational chart; it was also necessary to structure the way the Secretariat produces its de-

liverables, documents its decisions and harmonizes its practices across Directorates. Certification was chosen as the most suitable framework to carry out this work, because it imposes a method: to describe each activity as a process, with inputs, outputs, a manager and indicators.

And this project is a direct continuation of the restructuring: it is based on the Secretariat's target architecture without creating parallel governance. The Strategy & Performance Executive Office, already provided for in the new architecture, is responsible for steering the Quality Management System.

So to sum up: the idea started from a very concrete need to fill the lack of formalized procedures and processes within the Secretariat and certification was chosen as the lever that makes it possible to structure this in the long term, rather than through one-off corrections.

What are the advantages for a structure like the APPO Secretariat to be certified?

For a structure like the APPO Secretariat, certification brings several concrete advantages.

The first is tangible proof of institutional modernization.

Certification is not just a label: it attests, according to a recognized international standard, that the Secretariat has structured and documented processes, in line with the transformation trajectory initiated by the restructuring.

The second advantage is a more readable governance. With certification, every process, every responsibility and every decision becomes tracked and demonstrable, which reduces dependence on individuals.

The third is enhanced credibility. With regard to our Member Countries, our statutory bodies (Council of Ministers, Executive Council) and our partners, certification objectifies our institutional seriousness. It shows that the Secretariat is not content to announce a reform, but that it submits to an external and independent control that validates it.

Finally, the fourth advantage is that it establishes a culture of sustainable performance. The ISO

9001 logic is based on continuous improvement; we are not looking for one-off compliance for the audit, but for a base that improves over time, with indicators monitored monthly and a regular management review.

This project is based on the axes of our roadmap, on an eight-month trajectory starting in August 2026.

Tell us about the axes Essentials of this project certification.

The first axis is the institutional decision, the scoping and the diagnosis.

This is the formal launch of the project: scoping note and arbitration by the Secretary General on the scope, appointment of the Quality Management Manager and the Pilots/Co-Pilots in each Department, and an initial ISO diagnosis with the support of the consultant.

The second axis is the mapping of processes, risks and quality policy. We conduct mapping workshops by Directorate, we identify risks and opportunities, and we draft the Secretariat's quality policy and objectives.

The third axis is quality documentation and document control. This is a central axis for us, because the Secretariat has been operating without formalized procedures until now. We draw up priority procedures and process sheets for each Directorate, and we set up a single rule for the validation, distribution and archiving of documents.

The fourth area is training, deployment and management. We train and raise awareness among all staff, we apply procedures in the day-to-day business, and we set up a quality dashboard to monitor progress.

The fifth axis is internal audit and corrective actions. We carry out internal audits according to a defined plan, we identify non-conformities, and we develop corrective action plans.

Finally, the sixth axis is the management review, the mock audit and the certification audit. The Secretary General chairs a management review on the overall performance of the QMS, a mock audit is conducted by the consultant to ensure compliance, then the ISO 9001:2015 certification audit is carried out by the selected certifying body.

What initiatives have already been undertaken to implement the roadmap?

ring Phase 1 of the Quality Management System, in direct coherence with the restructuring resulting from Resolution 361.

Then, the institutional decision was taken and recorded. The Secretary General signed the decision to launch the project, which reflects his personal commitment and gives the project all its legitimacy vis-à-vis the Directorates.

We have also appointed the Quality Management Manager and the project team.

On the operational level, the work plan is complete: the eight-month roadmap has been established, with the steps, the managers and the deliverables expected at each milestone, from the diagnosis to the certification audit.

Finally, the draft specifications are currently being revised, in particular with a view to the selection of external support (the ISO consultant) and, later, the certifying body.

We are therefore at the very beginning of the trajectory, but with solid institutional foundations: a decision taken at the highest level, a team identified, and a work plan ready to be deployed.

What are the next steps expected from this process? To what date can we reasonably expect that APPO Secretariat is actually certified?

signed by the Secretary General. Then will come the procedures and process sheets validated by each Department, and the operational implementation of the document control system. Then, staff training, the collection of proof of compliance in the field, and an initial quality dashboard.

First, the scope of the project has been defined. We have decided on the seven entities of the Secretariat's target architecture that are entering

The next steps directly follow our roadmap, over the next eight months.

Initially, in the short term, we are waiting: the validated process mapping, the project risk register, as well as the quality policy and objectives

In a second phase, we will initiate internal audits, with an internal audit report and a register of non-conformities and corrective actions. This step will be followed by a management review chaired by the Secretary General, then a mock audit conducted by our consultant, which will give rise to a complete certification file. This entire trajectory must lead us to the certification audit itself, conducted by the certification body we have selected. If the schedule is respected, we can reasonably aim to obtain the ISO 9001:2015 certificate around March 2027.

I would like to point out that this timetable remains under control but demanding: it presupposes a sustained commitment from the Directorates, a real appropriation of the procedures not only on paper and a rigorous treatment of non-conformities that could be detected along the way.

Do you have a word to conclude this interview?

To conclude, I would say that this project is particularly close to my heart. This is not just one technical file among others: it is proof that the restructuring we have undertaken has not remained on paper. We wanted the change to be seen in the concrete way we work in our processes, in our documents, in the way each department reports on its activity. This project is also that of a whole team. I am thinking of the Pilots and Co-Pilots in each Department, of the staff who will have to learn new ways of doing things, and who will do so with commitment. It is this collective that gives me confidence.

I am confident in our ability to maintain this trajectory, because the foundations are laid: a clear institutional decision, a governance that builds on the existing architecture without unnecessary complexity, and a realistic work plan. We have an appointment around March 2027 for certification and I believe that this will be an important step in the modernization of the APPO Secretariat, at the service of our Member Countries.

Thank you.

Development of an African refining model by APPO and ARDA

Moving from domestic refineries to regional hubs

By signing a Memorandum of Understanding on April 14, 2026, on the sidelines of ARDA Week, and then by setting up a Joint Technical Committee at the end of June, APPO and ARDA have begun to develop a program for the development of an African refining model. Behind the technical title is a change in doctrine: stop thinking in terms of national refineries and think in terms of regional basins.



The figures are known, almost worn out by dint of being quoted: about 125

▲ ARDA's SG H.E. Anibor Kragha at a meeting of the APPO/ARDA Joint Technical Committee in Abidjan (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire) on 29 June 2026

billion barrels of proven crude reserves, nearly 700 tcf (Trillion Cubic Feet) of natu-

ral gas, some 7 million barrels per day of oil produced. And yet, Africa still imports

nearly 70% of its refined product needs, for an annual bill of between 80 and 100 billion dollars. While this deficit has long been explained by a simple lack of refineries, this diagnosis is not exhaustive. Indeed, Africa set up many refineries in the 1970s and 1980s, according to a national logic: one unit per country, sized on the domestic market alone, not very complex, rarely integrated into petrochemicals and systematically deprived of the means to maintain it. Forty years later, the result is a fleet whose Nelson complexity index remains below 6 when international standards are between 9 and 12, and whose effective utilization rates remain far below installed capacity. The problem is therefore not the absence of industrial tools. This tool is just badly sized, designed against the economic geography of the continent rather than with it.

The hub, a break in doctrine

The hub-based approach intends to reverse this observation, with three main breakthroughs recommended. Firstly, this approach requires a break in scale since a regional hub is not based on a national market, but on a pooled consumption basin, the only way to reach the critical size that makes deep conversion economically sustainable, the one that maximises the production of white goods where simple configurations condemn the production of fuel oils, which Africa has no use for. Secondly, the hub-based approach advocates a break in

integration, especially since it is no longer a question of juxtaposing a refinery, a depot and a distribution network, but of articulating within the same ecosystem the supply of crude, processing, petrochemical recovery of naphthas and gases, storage and provision of products. Finally, the third break, institutional, is undoubtedly the most demanding. A regional hub only makes sense if product specifications are harmonized, corridors are opened, and customs and tax regimes are legible from one country to another. In other words, the hub is as much a public policy project as it is an engineering project. As such, it is part of the dynamics of the AfCFTA and the regional economic communities. It also meets a more prosaic objective: to reduce dependence on extra-continental hubs, such as Rotterdam, Fujairah or Singapore, which increases the final price of products by 15 to 20%.

Method rather than promise

What distinguishes the project to develop an African Refining Model initiated by APPO and ARDA from past declarations of intent is less due to the ambition displayed than to the team chosen. APPO provides access to data from eighteen (18) producing countries, a strategic vision on the local development of crude oil and the direct link with ministries and national companies. ARDA provides detailed knowledge of the refineries in operation, their real performance, distri-

bution operators and arrangements involving public and private actors. Moreover, seven of the eighteen APPO Member Countries also sit on ARDA. Thus, these two organizations, one focused upstream, the other downstream, are now examining a common file. The implementation of the project has been entrusted to a Joint Technical Committee, set up at the end of June 2026 and equipped with a formalised governance framework: executive sponsors, thematic working groups with precise definitions of the roadmap and periodic progress reports. And while the project's concept note has already been validated since August 2026, the terms of reference for the study are now being developed. The study itself, which will cover the mapping of supply and demand, the typology of configurations adapted to the African context, the identification of hubs based on objective criteria, master plans, economic and financial analysis and the continental roadmap, is expected to deliver its conclusions in 2027. Then there will be the essential, which does not belong to experts: the ability of States to transform a technical consensus into investment decisions. In any case, the ambition of APPO and ARDA is not to produce an additional report, but a strategic and operational roadmap on which Member Countries, national companies, regulators and investors can align. If forty years of failures call for caution, the method chosen, this time, nevertheless allows attention and hope.

APPO R&D Award

Rewarding African innovation

Among the initiatives as part of its upcoming 40th anniversary, an action as major as it is unprecedented stands out: the APPO R&D prize, the purpose of which is to identify and promote the best innovators in research and development in the hydrocarbon sector in Africa. The prizes are divided into several categories with in-kind and cash prizes to be taken into account.

On the occasion of the celebration of its fortieth anniversary, APPO aims to celebrate African excellence. This is the whole meaning of this prize dedicated to Research and Development. The competition is open to African actors in research, engineering and innovation, as well as to projects developed in Africa or for direct application in APPO Member Countries. Thus, researchers, teacher-researchers, doctoral students and laboratories, as well as engineers, inventors, start-ups, innovative SMEs and incubators, are interested in this prize. Research centers and institutes, universities, joint university-industry teams as well as National Societies, public or parapublic institutions, African R&D consortia are also targeted by the initiative.

Several categories selected

The APPO R&D Award covers five main categories. First of all, there is the Gas, Emissions and Environment Prize, which will reward the best solutions related to gas, flaring,

reward the cream of solutions that strengthen local added value, value chains and skills. Also, a Young Researcher / Start-up Special Mention will recognize an emerging talent or a young innovative company. Finally, the best for last, the APPO R&D Grand Prix will crown the best global innovation, with high impact and continental deployment potential. Overall, the prize aims to create a continental dynamic of recognition of African energy innovation, build a portfolio of R&D projects that can fuel future cooperations and strengthen APPO's credibility

THE APPO R&D AWARD IS OPEN TO AFRICAN RESEARCH, ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION STAKEHOLDERS, AS WELL AS PROJECTS DEVELOPED IN AFRICA OR FOR DIRECT APPLICATION IN APPO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

methane, CCUS or carbon footprint. The Digitalization and Operational Efficiency Award concerns innovations in the field of AI, automation, data, optimization and maintenance. The Local Content and Industrialization Prize will

as a catalyst for African energy solutions. The competition will be launched soon and applications will be evaluated on a traceable technical basis, by an independent jury, while APPO will ensure the credibility of the final decision.



APPO's Long-Term Strategy

*Moving from coordinator
to architect of African energy sovereignty*

In order to ensure that its actions are forward-looking, the African Petroleum Producers' Organization has adopted a Long-Term Strategy for 2050. The document is based on six strategic pillars designed to make APPO the main linchpin of energy independence in Africa.



Mr. Mourad Beldjeham, Member of the Executive Board of APPO for Algeria and Chairman of the Long-Term Strategy Committee of the APPO Executive Board

Enabling Member Countries to transform their resources into prosperity for all Africans is the leitmotif of the APPO's Long-Term Strategy (LTS) document presented by the LTS Committee and endorsed by the 27th Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Board held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire on July 3, 2026. In a volatile global context, characterized by fragile energy security, climate pressure reflected in divestment in hydrocarbons and major technological advances, the LTS responds to the APPO's ambition to put an end to the African paradox of exporting crude oil and importing refined products. The stated ambition is to move from coordinator to prime contractor of energy sovereignty. This strategy is underpinned by the vision of transforming energy resources into a lever for socio-economic development, with a just and equitable transition. It is based on six strategic pillars.

Pillar 1 - Sovereignty & Added Value: Anchoring Energy Sovereignty

The key objectives are:

Local content: 75% by 2050 (common framework, digital platform)

African Champions: Mobilizing the African Energy Bank to finance local SMEs

Midstream & Downstream: 5 regional refining and storage hubs, creation of a Regional Guarantee Fund backed by the Africa Energy Bank to secure investments

Intra-African Market: Harmonization of Technical Specifications of Petroleum Products and Study of a Regional Energy Trade Dispute Settlement Mechanism

Deadlines: 2025-2050 | Responsible for: APPO Secretariat, Ministries, NOCs

Pillar 2 – Innovation & Technology: Catalyzing African Innovation

The key objectives are:

R&D Centers of Excellence: 75% of African-sourced technologies by 2050

R& digital platform operational in 2026

Charter of Inter-Centers of Excellence Cooperation adopted in 2027 to define specializations and ensure complementarity

Digitalization & AI: 10% of investments allocated to digital technology (2045)

Local AI solutions: 100% local by 2045

Cybersecurity: Common Protocol Including Sovereign Hosting of E&P Data on the Conti-

nent (2030)

Intellectual Property: Dedicated Working Group for a Harmonized Framework adopted by 100% of countries (2030).

Pillar 3 – Human Capital & Excellence: Developing Skills and Inclusion

The key objectives are:

Training: 90% of training provided by African institutes (2040)

Digital training platform (2026)

Talent mobility: 90% of needs met by African talent (2050)

Inclusion:

45% of women in energy professions (2050)

30% of young graduates (2040)

Governance: APPO Code of Compliance (2026), Ethical Charters (2028)

APPO passport with diplomatic status (2029) with establishment of the calendar and list of beneficiaries from 2026.

Pillar 4 – Exploration & Production (E&P): Strengthening upstream cooperation

The key objectives are:

Shared database (African Exploration Data Hub)

Joint exploration programs in transboundary basins

Harmonization of contractual regimes: a single model for sedimentary basins (2030)

Legal, financial and operational mechanisms to allow NOCs to take equity stakes in exploration projects between member countries

Target: 25% of upstream in-

vestments in Africa from NOCs (2050).

Pillar 5 – Global Influence & Partnerships: Amplifying Africa's Energy Influence

The key objectives are:

South-South cooperation: 5 strategic partnerships by 2028 (e.g. OLACDE)

Regional Alliances: AFREC, ARDA – 3 MoUs by 2028

International Dialogue : OPEC, OPEC, IEF, IEA, GECF – 5 active dialogues

Dialogue with emerging economies: structured dialogues with India, China and the Gulf countries

Climate finance: 3 partnerships with climate finance institutions (2030).

Pillar 6 – Just & Fair Transition: A Clean Energy Transition for Africa

The key objectives are:

Natural gas: 75% of the electricity mix (2040) – Transition fuel

Gas infrastructure: Extension of the GAO, Trans-Saharan and CAPS gas pipelines

Decarbonization: Regional flaring reduction program with costed targets per country

Renewable energies: 25% penetration in oil operations (2050)

Green hydrogen: 4 regional energy diversification hubs (2045)

Advocacy: Unified APPO position in the COPs, accession of all African producing countries to the APPO (2035).





Audience granted to the President of CABEF by the APPO SG

A new breath of fresh air for the CAPS project

* The President of CABEF Nathalie Lum received by the SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali on August 04, 2026 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo).

The President of the Central African Business and Energy Forum (CABEF), Mrs. Nathalie Lum was received in audience by the SG of APPO H.E. Farid Ghezali, on August 4 at the headquarters of APPO in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). This meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the cooperation between APPO, CABEF and CEMAC for the realization of the CAPS, a distribution network for natural gas and refined hydrocarbon products covering the Central African sub-region.

It was in September 2022 that APPO and CABEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the implementation of the Central Africa Pipeline System (CAPS). Four years later, after the two organizations had succeeded in putting this structuring project on the CEMAC agenda, their two leaders met to draft a progress report on their diligence. This institutional contact also made it possible to reaffirm the support of APPO, which will be materialized by the signing of a framework contract, the previous Memorandum of Understanding expiring. The President of CABEF took the opportunity to take stock of the due diligence undertaken to move the project forward. The APPO SG, for his part, indicated

that CAPS will be on the agenda of the first summit of APPO Heads of State scheduled to be held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The President of CABEF finally indicated that a roadshow to present the project to donors is planned for next year. Born out of the CABEF conference held in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) in 2021, CAPS is a joint project of ECCAS countries to build a pipeline, the first cross-border network of oil and gas pipelines in Central Africa, which promises to boost the region's energy supply. The network will include a wide variety of infrastructure, including gas pipelines, oil pipelines, pumping stations, LNG terminals, power plants, oil refineries and storage depots, which will unlock Central Africa's energy and economic potential.

Words of the President of CABEF at the end of the audience

"I would like to thank His Excellency Farid Ghezali for receiving my delegation here at the APPO headquarters. I came to make an institutional contact and congratulate the Secretary General on his appointment as head of the APPO Secretariat. I also came to discuss the roadmap to be put in place for the CAPS project. APPO has been our partner since 2022, and we intend to work together so that the project we have at heart, the Central Africa Pipeline System project, can see the light of day. This audience allowed us to lay some groundwork to implement this project that is close to our hearts. The CAPS is an infrastructure project allowing landlocked countries and Central African countries to have energy. There is already talk of natural gas that could go through pipelines for countries that may have energy problems. Also, downstream, we plan that the same pipeline adjacent to this project could serve landlocked countries with petroleum products. For the next steps, and as discussed during the hearing, it is a question of putting in place the framework agreement that should be signed in the coming days. Also, we will continue to mobilize the States so that we can work together to find funding for the CAPS project. »

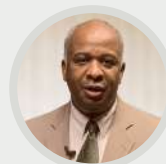
APPO Ministerial Council



H.E. Mohamed Arkab
Minister of Hydrocarbons



H.E. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo
Minister of Mineral Resources and Petroleum



H.E. Édouard Dahome
Minister of Energy, Water and Mines



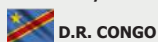
H.E. Adolphe Moudiki
Plenipotentiary at the Ministerial Council



H.E. Stev Simplicie Onanga
Minister of Hydrocarbons



H.E. Acacia Bandubola Mbongo
Minister of Hydrocarbons



H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly
Minister of Mines, Oil and Energy
& President of APPO
CÔTE D'IVOIRE



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



H.E. Clotaire Kondja
Minister of Petroleum and Gas



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



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



H.E. Kornelia Shilunga
Special Advisor Umpstream



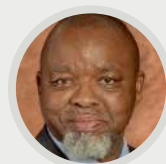
H.E. Hamadou Tini
Ministre of Petroleum



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



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



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



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





Mr Mourad Beldjeham
Executive Board Member



ALGERIA



Mr Estêvão Pedro
Executive Board Member



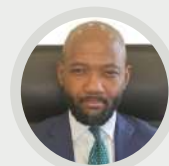
ANGOLA



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 & Chairman of the EB



D.R. CONGO



Mr Esse Kouamé Bienvenu
Executive Board Member



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Ing. 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 Diakité
Executive Board Member



NIGER



Mr Felix Omatsola Ogbe
Executive Board Member



NIGERIA



Mr Ibrahima Noba
Executive Board Member



SENEGAL



Ms. Gosetseone Leketi Florence
Executive Board Member



SOUTH AFRICA



Mr Boukar Moustapha
Executive Board Member



CHAD

SANPC Hosts APPO NOC CEOs Forum Meeting



Mr. Godfrey Mogi, CEO of SANPC and Mr. Kwame Ntow Amoah, CEO of GNPC, respectively Incoming and outgoing Presidents of the APPO Forum of NOC CEOs

After Accra, Ghana last year, the city of Cape Town in South Africa is hosting the eighth edition of the APPO NOC CEOs Forum this year on October 12, 2026. This is a major event to advance the Forum's agenda and concretize the partnerships initiated or envisaged.

It is the South African National Petroleum Company (SANPC) that welcomes its sister National Oil Companies (NOCs) for this eighth meeting of the APPO Forum of NOC CEOs. Organized on the sidelines of the African Energy Week, this important meeting will see the consolidation of the CEOs' Forum's place on the African energy scene. Several highlights are planned to furnish this meeting. First, the speeches on the menu of the ceremony, in particular the opening of H.E. Gwede Mantashe, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy of the Republic of South Africa, will clarify the objectives of the Forum and the high expectations of its significant benefits for the millions of Africans living without access to energy. It should also be noted that the agenda of the discussions includes important points, relating to the regional refining and petrochemical poles. The discussions will also focus on the regional gas corridors and LNG. In this regard,

multi-country programs will be considered and discussed. Regarding the specific issue of financing these integrative projects, an item on the agenda is devoted to the Africa Energy Bank. Also, the traditional issues of cooperation between NOCs will be addressed with a focus on the implementation of strategies to strengthen cooperation through concrete actions and initiatives.

of the other complementary platforms being implemented: local content platform, R&D and innovation platform, and training platform dedicated to the APPO Oil & Gas Training Institutes. It should be noted that the mission of the APPO National Oil Companies CEOs Forum is to ensure commercial, technical and technological collaboration in the field of hydrocarbon resources among

Member Countries, to support the sharing of research and development studies to improve hydrocarbon production and to support a wide range of capacity building activities in the oil industry for nationals of member countries. This forum also serves to share market developments and the

impact of global and regional energy regulations as well as their implications on hydrocarbon production. The Cape Town meeting will see the handover between Mr. Moagi Godfrey, CEO of SANPC and incoming President and Mr. Kwame Ntow Amoah, CEO of GNPC and outgoing Chair of the Forum.

**THE AGENDA OF THE DISCUSSIONS
INCLUDES IMPORTANT POINTS
RELATING TO REGIONAL REFINING
AND PETROCHEMICAL HUBS.
THE DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO
FOCUS ON THE REGIONAL GAS
CORRIDORS AND LNG.**

**Important missions for a
leading Forum**

One of the flagship initiatives of APPO to strengthen the impact of the NOC CEOs Forum is the establishment of a digital platform dedicated to this Forum. The meeting will see the presentation and demonstration of this platform, as well as that



Twenty companies, twenty dates of birth

Family portrait of the National Oil Companies of APPO

It is enough to align the acts of creation of the National Oil Companies (NOCs) of the APPO Member Countries to read, implicitly, the continent's oil history. The first, EGPC, SONATRACH, the Libyan NOC, SONANGOL, NNPC, are the daughters of independence and nationalization: between 1956 and 1977, some of the African states took back control of an income that had until then been administered from abroad. A second wave of the birth of National Oil Companies, in the 1980s, accompanied the opening of new basins. A third, much more recent, responds to major discoveries or fundamental institutional reforms. Six decades separate the oldest of the APPO's NOC from the youngest.

Algeria — SONATRACH

Created on 31 December 1963, the Société Nationale pour la recherche, la production, le transport, la transformation et la commercialisation des hydrocarbures is an integrated petrochemical exploration group, operator of transport networks and gas exports to Europe.

Angola — SONANGOL

Established by Decree 52/76 of 9 June 1976, after the nationalisation of ANGOL, the Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola E.P. has refocused on the operational side since 2019, with regulation being transferred to the ANPG.



Cameroon — SNH

Created on March 12, 1980, it was transformed into a company with public capital in 2019. It manages the interests of the State and markets its share of the crude oil.

Congo — SNPC

The Société Nationale des Pétroles du Congo was created by the law of 23 April 1998, replacing Hydro-Congo. This group is present from exploration to refining, with CORAF, to distribution and trading.

DR Congo — SONAHYDROC

Created in 1999 under the name COHYDRO, this company was renamed the National Oil Company in 2016, in application of the 2015 general hydrocarbons regime. It manages the supply and development of the estate.

Bénin — SNH-Bénin

Heir to SOBEH (2013), the National Hydrocarbons Company of Benin took its current name by the decree of October 2020. It is the national operator within the meaning of the 2019 petroleum code.

Côte d'Ivoire — PETROCI

Created on October 21, 1975, the National Company of Petroleum Operations of Côte d'Ivoire celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2025. It manages the promotion of the Ivorian sedimentary basin, participates in the blocks and ensures the distribution of butane.

Egypt — EGPC

The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation was founded in 1956 as the General Petroleum Authority, before being renamed in 1962. It is a holding company overseeing dozens of public companies and joint ventures.

Egypt — EGAS

The Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company was established in August 2001 by decree of the Prime Minister. It organizes all of the country's gas activities, from exploration to distribution and export of LNG, through a network of subsidiaries and joint ventures. It also issues gas exploration licenses.

Gabon — GOC

The Gabon Oil Company was created by decree on August 24, 2011. It is the second national company after Petrogab. It manages state shareholdings and the rise of the company.

Ghana — GNPC

The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation was established in 1983 by PNDC Law 64, operational in 1985. It is a stakeholder in all the country's oil contracts and a national gas aggregator.

Equatorial Guinea — GEPetrol

Created by presidential decree in February 2001, GEPetrol has been operational since 2002. It administers the State's shares in production-sharing contracts.

Equatorial Guinea — SONAGAS GE

The Sociedad Nacional de Gas de Guinea Ecuatorial was created in January 2005. It carries the State's participation in all the country's gas projects, alongside GEPetrol. The valorization of gas that is currently flared, methanol, LPG and LNG constitute its core activity, with the ambition of a gas hub in the Gulf of Guinea.

Libya — NOC

The National Oil Corporation was established on 12 November 1970, replacing LIPETCO. It oversees all the operational subsidiaries in the Libyan sector.

Namibia — NAMCOR

Heir to SWAKOR, the National Petroleum Corporation is structured in its current form after independence. It is the custodian of the E&P database and a partner in the campaigns of the Orange Basin.

Niger — SONIDEP

The Nigerien Petroleum Products Company was created on January 20, 1977 to secure the supply of petroleum products. It became the Nigerien Petroleum Company in 2020, then an upstream operator in 2024.

Nigeria — NNPC

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation was born in 1977 from the merger of the NNOC

and the Ministry of Petroleum Resources. It was transformed into a trading company, NNPC Limited, in 2022.

Senegal — PETROSEN

The National Petroleum Company of Senegal was created in May 1981 and restructured as a group in 2019. In just a few years, Sangomar and Grand Tortue transformed it from a promoter to a producer.

South Africa — SANPC

The South African National Oil Company was officially launched on 23 May 2025. It was born from the merger of PetroSA, iGas and the Strategic Fuel Fund. Its mandate includes security of supply and the revival of refining capacity.

Chad — SHT

The Société des hydrocarbures du Tchad was created by the law of 23 August 2006. Its fields of activity are: exploration, production, transport, refining and distribution.

What SONATRACH or SONANGOL have learned in half a century, SANPC, SNH-Benin or SONIDEP do not have the time to relearn on their own. This is the whole logic of the Forum: to convert an industrial memory accumulated over sixty years into transmissible methods. The Directors General meet in Cape Town, South Africa, for the eighth meeting of the Forum: twenty dates of creation, a single calendar from now on.





From Luanda to Cape Town *NOC CEOs Forum changes scale*

**Seven meetings, a founding
protocol, signed
agreements and a work
architecture: a review
before the eighth meeting
of the APPO NOC CEOs
Forum.**

Luanda, 16 May 2022. On the sidelines of the Eighth African Petroleum Congress (CAPE), the Directors General of the National Oil Companies (NOC) of APPO Member Countries hold their inaugural meeting. Accra, 15 September 2025: the seventh meeting closes with an unambiguous conclusion, one that reaffirms the Forum as the privileged platform for cooperation and collective action between the continent's NOCs. Between these two dates, an institution has been built. Two months after the inaugural meeting held in Luanda on the sidelines of the CAPE, the Directors General of the National Oil Companies (NOC) of APPO met in Abuja (Nigeria) on July 19, 2022, at the invitation of the NNPC. They then met in Luanda (Angola) on 10 October 2023, under the chairmanship of SONANGOL, then Brazzaville (Congo) on 16 November 2023, under the leadership of SNPC, in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) on 24 September 2024, with GEPetrol and then in Accra on 15 September 2025, under the aegis of the GNPC. Initially biannual in its beginnings, the meeting is now annual and the presidency of the forum changes at each session: NNPC, SONANGOL, SONATRACH, SNPC, GEPetrol, GNPC. No company is permanently installed at its head; all of them carry the charge in turn.

◀ Partial view of APPO NOC CEOs at the opening of the 7th APPO NOC CEOs Forum in Accra, Ghana on 15 September 2025.

Contractualization, a tangible achievement

At the third meeting, in Luanda in October 2022, the Secretariat submitted a Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership between the NOCs of APPO. The document was adopted and signed immediately by the Directors General present. Backed by the Framework Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance binding the Member Countries, it becomes the foundation on which each company can build its own bilateral agreements. And this tool has not remained theoretical. In Brazzaville, on November 16, 2023, five collaboration agreements were signed at the end of the opening ceremony of the Forum: four training agreements between SONATRACH and, respectively, SNPC, S N H - B E N I N , GNPC and SONA-HYDROC; a cooperation, exchange of expertise and capacity building agreement between SNPC and SONIDEP. Since then, a sequence of bilateral and multilateral agreements has been on the opening agenda of each of the Forum's meetings.

Accra 2025: consolidation

The seventh meeting of the Forum created less than it consolidated, which is a sign of a maturing institution. It recognized the role of the APPO Committee of Technical Experts in the implementation of the Forum's recommendations. It underlined the importance of the Africa Energy Bank as a continental financing vehicle. It welcomed the selection of four priority research areas, entrusted to centers of excellence in Member Countries, and urged the Forum of Training Institutions to establish the APPO Certification Framework. Finally, it invited CEOs and their subsidiaries to participate in the fourth APPO

Conference on Local Content, held in Brazzaville in November 2025.

Heading for Cape Town

At the end of the Accra meeting, SANPC was entrusted with the organization of the eighth edition, scheduled for October 12, 2026 in Cape Town. Of the eleven items on the agenda, two deserve special attention, because they involve cooperation on concrete issues. The first concerns regional refining and petrochemical clusters. The Forum will examine a proposal for an African refining model: a shortlist of clusters with a capacity of at least 400,000 barrels per day, accompanied by integrated schemes combining deep conversion, reforming and pe-

trochemical production. The challenge goes beyond technology. The continent exports its crude oil and reimports its refined products, at the cost of a vulnerability that each logistical tension reminds us. Reasoning in terms of regional hubs rather than isolated national projects means looking for critical size where national markets do

not provide it. The second point is the demonstration of the APPO's digital platforms. The Forum of CEO is the centrepiece: a secure coordination centre bringing together a documentary library, a directory of experts from each company, a market observatory and monitoring of the implementation of decisions. Three other platforms accompany it, dedicated to local content, research and innovation, and training institutions. Completion is expected by mid-August 2026. Two files, two scales. One involves considerable industrial investments, the other a few servers. Both answer the same question, asked from Luanda: how to get twenty companies to work together that everything, until now, has encouraged them to move forward separately.

**THE CONTINENT EXPORTS ITS CRUDE OIL
AND REIMPORTS ITS REFINED PRODUCTS,
AT THE COST OF A VULNERABILITY THAT
EACH LOGISTICAL TENSION REMINDS US.
REASONING IN TERMS OF REGIONAL HUBS
RATHER THAN ISOLATED NATIONAL PRO-
JECTS MEANS LOOKING FOR CRITICAL SIZE
WHERE NATIONAL MARKETS DO NOT
PROVIDE IT.**



African Energy Week

Review of 5 years of participation by APPO

In line with its strategic objective to strengthen its visibility and notoriety as a leading and reference institution in the oil sector in Africa and beyond, APPO has established itself as the first international institution as an official partner of the African Energy Chamber (AEC) for the organization of the African Energy Week.

The African Energy Week is an annual event that now brings together more than seven hundred thousand (7,000) participants from the African continent and around the world including members of African governments, CEOs of National Oil Companies (NOCs), CEOs of international

oil companies, African and foreign investors from the public and private sectors, experts, as well as civil society to debate and discuss the future of the African oil and gas industry. Since the launch of its first edition in 2021 in Cape Town, South Africa, APPO has been and continues to be a key player in the organization of this annual conference and exhibition of the African oil and gas industry.

✶ NJ Ayuk, Promoter of the African Energy Week, in Cape Town (South Africa) during the 2023 edition held from 16 to 20 October 2023

A platform for pooling expertise

AEW served as a privileged and strategic framework for the strengthening of cooperation and collaboration between APPO and several international organizations in the field of energy, including the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA), the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the African Energy Commission (AFREC), etc. on issues of common interest. Through the AEW, APPO has broadened its scope of action, not only by forging several partnerships with its peers and other related institutions (Afreximbank, CABEF, NCDMB, etc.), but also by using this event as a platform par excellence to inform on the many achievements recorded and above all to make known its position, at the regional and international levels, in favor of sustainable African energy sovereignty.

Presenting the major reforms of APPO

By way of illustration, in 2024, as a partner and brand sponsor of AEW, the SG of APPO, during his opening speech, took this opportunity to reaffirm the will and availability of the organization to expand the list of Member Countries (currently to 18) by the accession of other African countries. He also explained the profound changes that the institution has undergone since its creation in 1987: from the African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA), it has moved to the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO). This major reform is part of the adaptation of APPO to the contemporary challenges facing the African oil and gas industry for the benefit of the populations of Member Countries. Also, APPO's efforts to meet the challenges of the energy transition through the creation of the various forums (the forum of the General Directors of National Oil Companies, the forum of

the Directors of Research and Development and Innovation, and the forum of the Directors of Training Centers and Institutes) were presented at AEW 2024. This has earned APPO greater credibility and increased trust from its Member Countries.

Active participation between side events and panel facilitation

During AEW 2025, a special session jointly led by APPO and Afreximbank presented the Africa Energy Bank (AEB). This new financial institution on the African continent created by APPO in collaboration with Afreximbank, with a view to ensuring sustainable financing of African structuring energy programs and projects, was exhibited to a wider audience beyond the borders of the African continent, demonstrating APPO's determination to work for the development of the oil industry in Africa. Beyond the presentation of its actions and perspectives, APPO remains a key player in AEW in terms of moderation of session panels and in booth exhibition. For example, in 2025, the Director of the Research Division and the Head of the Energy Studies Unit of APPO successfully delivered session panels on topics of critical importance, focusing on the transition from oil and gas to renewable energy and the promotion of clean cooking in Africa. Through these sessions, APPO presented the results of its search for sustainable solutions to the current challenges of the African oil and gas industry. The 2026 edition of the African Energy Week in October 2026 will be an opportunity for APPO to raise its position as a leading institution in the field of hydrocarbons in Africa and beyond the African continent. It will be a privileged way to share the latest developments on AEB and recent innovations within APPO, namely the creation of digital platforms, the meeting of the Heads of State of the APPO Member Countries, the official reception of the new headquarters of APPO as well as the signing of several Partnership Agreements, including ARDA and GECF.

APPO's message at AEW 2026

Interview with the APPO Secretary General

H.E. Farid Ghezali

« Africa must have appointments that allow it to speak to the world with a strong, structured voice based on its own priorities. »



APPO is participating for the sixth consecutive year in the African Energy Week. What is the key message carried by APPO at this edition?

Our continent can no longer limit itself to exporting raw resources while importing refined pro-

The APPO's message is clear: Africa must transform its energy potential into concrete development, jobs and prosperity for its people.

ducts, equipment and energy services. We need to finance our projects more, develop our refining capacities, strengthen local content and accelerate the integration of African markets.

At this 2026 edition, APPO will therefore carry a message of action: we must move from declarations to projects, from projects to investments and from investments to measurable results.

Energy security, universal access to energy and the energy transition must be linked to African

industrialization. Africa must be able to use all its resources — oil, gas, hydropower, solar, wind and other sources — to meet its immediate needs while preparing for its future.

Our priority is to build an Africa that produces its own energy, transforms it more at home and retains more of its value.

How is the partnership between APPO and the African Energy Chamber doing today?

The partnership between APPO and the African Energy Chamber is strong, dynamic and results-oriented.

APPO is an intergovernmental organization, while the African Energy Chamber represents an important non-governmental platform bringing together companies, investors, experts and private sector actors. This complementarity is essential.

Africa needs dialogue between governments, national companies, the private sector, financial institutions and centres of expertise. None of these actors can, on their own, address all of the continent's energy challenges.

Our cooperation includes the promotion of energy investments, capital mobilization, the development of local content, the promotion of national companies, the promotion of refining, regional cooperation and the visibility of African energy opportunities.

The holding of AEW in Cape Town from 12 to 16 October 2026 offers a new opportunity to strengthen this partnership and turn the conversation into commitments and concrete projects.

The partnership between APPO and the African Energy Chamber is based on a simple idea: to bring together the institutional vision, the needs of States and the capacity for action of the private sector.

How do you intend to use this meeting to move forward in the recruitment of new APPO Member Countries?

AEW brings together ministers, national companies, investors, financial institutions, experts and repre-

sentatives of many African countries. It is therefore a privileged setting to explain the new dynamics of APPO and to exchange with countries that wish to strengthen their energy cooperation with the continent.

Our approach is not to make membership a mere administrative matter. We wish to present interested countries with a clear vision of what APPO can bring to them and to the Organization.

We will focus on several elements:

- access to a platform for cooperation between producing countries and energy players;
- participation in discussions on African energy security;
- opportunities for technical and institutional cooperation;
- participation in local content initiatives;
- exchanges between national airlines;
- access to funding and partnership opportunities;
- gas, refining and infrastructure development;
- and the opportunity to contribute to the development of a common African position in global energy debates.

We want to engage in a special dialogue with producing countries, countries with significant energy potential and countries that want to develop their infrastructure, industrial capacities and markets.

Membership in APPO should be understood as an investment in African energy cooperation and in the continent's collective capacity to defend its interests.

The dates of AEW 2026 coincide with those of another global energy event. Why did you choose Cape Town?

The choice of Cape Town is above all linked to the strategic value of AEW and the place that this event occupies in

the African energy agenda.

African Energy Week has become an important platform for dialogue, investment promotion and networking between public and private actors. The 2026 edition is expected to bring together the different components of the energy value chain and offer several axes dedicated to finan-

cing, oil, gas, renewable energy, industrialization and infrastructure.

Cape Town also offers a strategic position to engage with Southern Africa, international markets, investors, financial institutions and technology companies.

Our participation should not be seen as an exclusive choice between two international events. Rather, it is about making AEW a strong African platform, capable of carrying the continent's priorities in a rapidly changing global energy environment.

APPO's presence in Cape Town reflects our desire to be present where the investments, partnerships and decisions that will shape Africa's energy future are discussed.

Africa must have appointments that allow it to speak to the world with a strong, structured voice based on its own priorities.

While some speeches call for the abandonment of non-renewable energies, what can still be the use of meetings like AEW in 2026?

Meetings like AEW are needed more than ever.

The energy debate cannot be reduced to an opposition between renewable and non-renewable energies. The African reality is much more complex.

Hundreds of millions of Africans still need reliable access to electricity. Our continent must also industrialize, create jobs, develop its infrastructure and improve the living conditions of its people.

In this context, Africa must be able to mobilize all its energy resources. Oil and gas will continue to play an important role in several African economies, including transport, power generation, industrialization, petrochemicals and fertilizers.

At the same time, investments in solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, storage and energy efficiency must be accelerated.

AEW allows for debate on these issues without oversimplification. It creates a space where Africa can explain that its energy transition must be:

- just;
- progressive;
- realistic;

- adapted to his needs;
- compatible with industrialization;
- and supported by accessible financing.

For APPO, AEW is also a place to raise capital, promote African projects and bring governments closer to investors.

Africa does not reject the energy transition. It is asking for a transition that does not sacrifice its development, its industrialization or its right to energy.

This year, APPO is organising its NOC CEOs Forum meeting on the sidelines of AEW. What are your ambitions for this Forum?

The NOC CEOs Forum is a strategic initiative. National companies are at the heart of Africa's energy future. They have the experience, resources, infrastructure and

operational capacity to drive the transformation of the sector.

The eighth meeting of the APPO NOC CEOs Forum will be held in Cape Town on 12 October, in conjunction with AEW.

Our ambition is to make this Forum a space for decision-making and not just a framework for exchanges.

In particular, we want to make progress on:

- cooperation between national companies;
- the development of African refining;
- regional trade in oil, gas and refined products;
- the pooling of certain infrastructures;
- mobilizing African capital;
- LNG partnerships;
- local processing of resources;
- local content;
- training and skills mobility;
- and the development of joint projects.

We also want CEOs to look at ways to make more efficient use of existing capabilities. Some infrastructure can be shared, some purchases can be pooled, and some projects can be developed jointly.

The Forum should contribute to the emergence of stronger, more competitive, more transparent and more oriented national companies focused on continental cooperation.

The final objective is to create a network of national companies capable of building together African solutions for African challenges.

Our national companies must not only be operators in their own countries; they must become drivers of African energy integration.

A word to conclude this interview?

I would first like to thank the African Energy Chamber for its partnership and for its commitment to the visibility and development of the African energy sector.

I would also like to invite governments, national companies, investors, financial institutions, private companies and young professionals to ac-

tively participate in this edition of AEW.

Africa has the resources, talent and opportunities to build a stronger energy future. What is now expected is a collective capacity to turn these assets into projects, infrastructure, jobs and value added.

APPO stands ready to play its full role in this transformation, strengthening cooperation among its member states, welcoming new countries and developing partnerships with African and international institutions.

Africa's energy future must not be endured. It must be designed, financed and built by Africans, with all partners who share this ambition. I look forward to seeing you in Cape Town for a week of dialogue, partnerships and action in the service of a more integrated, industrialized and energy-sovereign Africa.

APPO's booth at African Energy Week 2026

True to its mission to promote cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons between its Member Countries and other global institutions, APPO has been taking part in the African Energy Week since 2021, the year of its creation. Its stand, a privileged place for meetings and exchanges, reflects, once again this year, the challenges and commitments of a leading pan-African Organization. It is placed under two key themes of the Organization: on the one hand, the promotion of the Africa Energy Bank and, on the other hand, the symbolic launch of the activities to prepare for the 40th anniversary of APPO. As far as the Bank is concerned, the preparatory work for its launch is almost completed, and APPO is preparing, together with its partner for this project, Afreximbank, to officially launch this banking institution dedicated to revolutionizing the financing of energy projects in Africa. The APPO Member Countries having chosen Abuja (Federal Republic of Nigeria) as the headquarters of this Bank, it is in this city that its launch will take place, in the presence of prestigious distinguished guests from the two founding Organizations. The stand will therefore serve as a showcase for this innovative project which has been, for several years, one of the most mentioned areas of interest by visitors to the APPO stand. Similarly, since APPO is celebrating, only three months after the Week, its 40th anniversary, the stand is declined in the colors of this upcoming event. Its visitors will be amply informed about the flagship activities planned for this anniversary, which will culminate on January 27, 2027, but whose commemoration is planned to cover the entire year 2027. And of course, the stand will serve as a showcase for the important projects currently underway at the APPO Secretariat, with the possibility of following demonstrations of the different platforms and the interactive map being implemented: R&D platforms, Local Content, NOC, Database and Training.

Opinion

African youth and energy professions

"Africa's youth are already at the heart of the continent's energy future. The question is no longer whether they will have a role to play, but whether we give them the means to play it fully, commensurate with the challenges."

*By H.E. Farid Ghezali, SG of APPO
(Editorial signed on August 12, 2026 during African Youth Day)*

Young Africans are growing up in a paradoxical context: a continent rich in energy resources – oil, gas, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal – but where hundreds of millions of people still do not have access to reliable, modern and affordable electricity. At the same time, they see the world talking about energy transition, carbon neutrality, new technologies... often without their daily realities being fully integrated. For them, energy is not an abstract concept: it is the light in a classroom, the connection of a digital incubator, the functioning of a hospital, the possibility of creating a business.

Rapidly changing energy professions

One of the major changes in recent years is that energy professions are no longer limited to petroleum engineers or power plant tech-

nicians. The sector is transforming and with it, the skills map:

- classic professions, still essential: oil and gas engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, industrial maintenance;
- new energy professions: renewable energy engineers, specialists in storage, energy efficiency, smart grid management;
- Data and digital professions: data analysis, modelling, infrastructure cybersecurity, control systems;
- regulatory and public policy professions: lawyers, economists, regulators, experts in governance, taxation, energy markets;
- Sustainability professions: Specialists in the environment, climate, social responsibility, community relations.

In other words, energy has become an ecosystem of skills. This opens up immense opportuni-



Departure of 4 Congolese students with SNPC scholarships in oil and gas professions, from Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) to the Algerian Petroleum Institute (Boumerdès, Algeria) on January 21, 2026.

ties for African youth, provided that access to these professions is organized.

Without sovereignty of competences, there is no energy sovereignty

There is a lot of talk about energy sovereignty, independence, control of our resources and our decisions. But none of these ambitions is possible if our countries continue to depend mainly on external expertise.

True sovereignty comes through:

- universities and schools capable of training engineers, technicians and regulators at the highest level;
- continuing education programs that enable young professionals to keep up with rapidly changing technologies and standards;
- structured partnerships between States, national companies, private operators and training centres to align skills with the real needs of the projects.

It is precisely with this in mind that APPO has set up its Forum of Directors of Training Institutes in the Oil and Gas Sector. Launched to strengthen cooperation among member countries in training and skills development, the Forum aims to bring institutions closer together, share experiences and harmonize programmes. It is a concrete response to a major challenge: to equip Africa with the skills necessary to control its own energy destiny.

Investing in young people is not only about financing scholarships; it means giving them access to projects, responsibilities and career paths in the energy sector. It means accepting that it is a force for proposal, not just a force for execution.

Towards a unique African training catalogue

The ambition of APPO goes further: it is to gradually build a single African training catalogue in the field of energy. This is not a simple administrative exercise. It's a strategic vision.

Such a catalogue would make it possible to:

- identify the training courses available in the different member countries;
- to make the paths more readable for young Africans;
- to harmonise standards and certifications;
- promote the mobility of students, technicians and young professionals;
- and, ultimately, to create a truly African brand of energy competence recognized at the international level.

This is an essential step towards an Africa that does not only exploit its resources, but also trains the women and men capable of developing them sustainably.

Giving youth a seat at the table

The debate on Africa's energy future is still too often held without the presence of young people: technical meetings, international negotiations, conferences, decision-making bodies. They are invited for photos, and rarely for decisions.

However, the choices we make today – on oil, gas, infrastructure, renewables – are choices that structure their horizon, not ours. It is therefore legitimate for them to be:

- associated with the reflection:

consultations, panels, forums of young energy professionals;

- present in the bodies: youth advisory committees to ministries and regional organisations;
- highlighted in the projects: “young talent” programmes, access to responsibilities on innovative projects.

Talking about “African youth and energy professions” must not be limited to celebrating an abstract potential, but to organizing a real co-construction of the energy future with it.

An editorial to express our responsibility

In this month of August, traditionally dedicated to youth, the message we can carry is clear:

- African youth are not a supplement to our energy policies; it is the pillar of it.
- Energy professions are no longer a closed field, but a huge field of opportunities, which must be opened up to our young people, our women and our entrepreneurs.
- Our collective responsibility – states, institutions, companies – is to invest massively in skills, training, professional integration and to give this generation the means to be actors, not spectators, in the continent's energy transformation.

If Africa manages to align its natural resources with the talents of its youth, then it will not only be a player in the global energy transition: it can become one of its architects.

“The day Africa itself trains the women and men who control its energy, on that day, it will no longer negotiate its place in the world: it will define it.”



APPO

Ministerial Council 2026

*Abidjan, the Ivorian metropolis
hosts the event*

The members of the ministerial Council of APPO will meet in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) on November 17, 2026 for their annual Ordinary Session. This meeting will mark a pivotal stage in the evolution of the Organization, with several crucial points on the agenda.

Africa Energy Bank, restructuring and certification of the Secretariat, African refining model..., the members of the APPO Ministerial Council have their work cut out for the statutory directory meeting of their Organization. Scheduled to be held as a prelude to the International Exhibition of Extractive Resources and Energy (Sirexe) 2026, the meeting is chaired by H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire and President of APPO. The latter, from the beginning of his mandate, in early 2026, had already defined the priorities of APPO under his leadership. The Abidjan meeting will serve as a springboard to measure the successes achieved,

as well as the rest of the road ahead.

The Africa Energy Bank: a tangible success

History will remember that it was under the presidency of H.E. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly that the project to set up the Africa Energy Bank (AEB) had its decisive milestones, in particular with the closing of the minimum capital expected of the APPO Member Countries for its effective take-off. The satisfaction of this prerequisite made it possible to give a boost to the project, conducted jointly with Afreximbank. This triggered the launch of a number of internal due diligences, including the creation of a joint working group for the recruitment of the President of the Bank. The Abidjan meeting

will be the place for the members of the Ministerial Council to take stock of the progress made in the creation of this revolutionary bank, while giving themselves the means to go even further, for the AEB and for Africa.

Reforming the Secretariat to bring it up to international standards

The other important item on the agenda of the November Ministerial Council is the restructuring of the Secretariat. To this end, the Secretariat, under the leadership of the Executive Board, has been working on the draft that will be presented to the APPO Ministers, who will be responsible for studying and adopting it. The project provides for a major redeployment of staff, new recruitments and capacity



H.E. Mr. Mamadou SAN-GAFOWA-COULIBALY, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire & President of APPO, during the work of the 48th Session of the APPO Ministerial Council on November 4, 2025 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo)

building of staff. The objective here is to make the Secretariat more modern and efficient, for a better service to the Organization. Pending the implementation of this reform, the Secretariat, in deference to the instructions of the President of APPO, has already embarked on an ambitious project to set up various platforms to support APPO's commit-

ments in favor of Local Content, Africa's control of its data, its Research & Development as well as its training courses. All these platforms will be presented to the Ministerial Council for advice and guidance. Other important items on the agenda concern the Organization's certification project as well as the African refining model project that

APPO is developing in partnership with ARDA.

The Organisation's supreme decision-making body

Composed of the ministers responsible for the hydrocarbon sector of the Member Countries or the Plenipotentiaries of the said countries, the Ministerial Council is the supreme policy and decision-making body of APPO. It is responsible, *inter alia*, for approving the general policies, orientation and programmes of the Organization, approving the establishment within the Organization of any body it deems appropriate for the achievement of its objectives, and confirming the appointment of members of the Executive Board. It is also responsible for approving the budget and financial statements of the Secretariat, deciding on the candidacy of new members and observers, and examining and deciding on any other matter it deems relevant, including matters not provided for by law. Finally, it should be noted that the Executive Board of APPO, which had already met in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) in July of the year for its mid-term meeting, will meet again in November as a prelude to the Ministerial Council, to study and amend its report to be presented to the Ministerial Council for adoption.



In the center, H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire at the opening of the 1st edition of SIREXE on November 27, 2024 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

SIREXE 2026

The Crossroads of Africa's Extractive and Energy Future

The International Exhibition of Extractive Resources and Energy (SIREXE) is establishing itself as the reference platform in Africa for the mining, oil and energy sectors. Placed under the High Patronage of H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the second edition of 2026 marks a decisive turning point by putting infrastructure at the heart of the continent's economic transformation dynamics.



After the resounding success of its first edition, SIREXE returns in 2026 with a clearly stated ambition: to change scale. Larger, more structuring, more international, the International Exhibition of Extractive Resources and Energy is now a reference platform in Africa, at the heart of strategic issues related to mining, oil and energy. Under the high patronage of President Alassane Ouattara, this second edition will mark a new stage, with increased participation from states, majors, investors and ex-

perts from around the world. Between the imperative of energy sovereignty, the development of natural resources and the requirement for sustainability, the challenges are numerous — but so are the opportunities. SIREXE 2026 is positioned as a concrete response to these challenges by bringing together all the players in the value chain: states, international majors, investors, local SMEs and innovative startups.

High-level speakers

The opening ceremony, the inaugural moment of SIREXE 2026, will bring together the highest authorities of the State, international delegations as well as leaders from the extractive and energy industries. This highlight will mark the official launch of the show and will set the tone for this second edition, through high-level speeches, strategic announcements and a shared vision of the future of the sector. Throughout SIREXE itself, many side events will be organized by exhibitors, partners and institutions. Cocktails, private parties, informal meetings... these freer formats promote direct exchanges in a friendly setting conducive to the development of lasting relationships. SIREXE 2026 will also offer a rich program of conferences, panels and strategic sessions, bringing together experts, public decision-makers, industrialists, researchers and investors from all over the world. This scientific and strategic component makes SIREXE a platform for reflection, exchange and projection on the future of the extractive and energy industries in Africa.

Several unmissable events

Among the other most eagerly awaited events are the explosive Abidjan Mining Drinks, which have become a must for professionals in the sector. An emblematic event of the show, the SIREXE golf tournament brings together decision-makers, managers and partners in an exceptional setting. Beyond the competition, this event offers a privileged space for networking, where exchanges take place in a relaxed environment, promoting quality discussions and the creation of lasting links. SIREXE also honors innovation through its Hackathon, a highlight dedicated to talent, startups and creative minds. Finally, the true backbone of SIREXE, the exhibition area brings together all the players in the mining, oil and energy industries in an environment designed to promote meetings, promote expertise and accelerate business opportunities. Designed as a fluid and immersive journey, it allows professional visitors to explore the entire value chain, discover innovations in the sector and get in direct contact with key decision-makers. At the end of several days of exhibition, exchanges and networking, the closing ceremony will consecrate the highlights of SIREXE 2026, highlighting the progress, commitments and prospects opened up during the event. It will also be a privileged moment to highlight the significant initiatives and strengthen the cooperation dynamics initiated throughout the show.

Source : www.sirexe.ci





10 km Brazza

*APPO supported
and participated*

On July 19, 2026, the Maison Colibri group organized the second edition of the race called "10 km Brazza" in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo).

Among the athletes who came from various backgrounds to participate in the race were several members of the APPO Secretariat's staff, especially since the Secretariat sponsored the event.

Together, everything becomes possible". It is under this leitmotif that the second edition of the "10 km Brazza" was held in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo on Sunday, July 19, 2026. APPO supports the "10 km Brazza" which will take place next Sunday, July 19, 2026 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). Starting from the Corniche of Brazzaville, the race visited various strategic and emblematic points of the Congolese capital, including the elephant stele, the Brazzaville University Hospital and the Nabemba Tower. The event aims to promote the values of sportsmanship, solidarity, citizenship, influence and sustainable deve-



lopment. This is what the Director of the Race, Mr. Derrick Kadza, Director of Maison Colibri went to explain to H.E. Farid Ghezali during an audience granted to him a few days before the event, on July 15, 2026 in the premises of the Secretariat in Brazzaville. Several members of the Secretariat staff actually participated in the Brazza 10 km race. Dressed in the colors of APPO, they ran on the 10 km course, proudly carrying the values of the Organization. At the end of the race, the Director of Research & Development, Mr. Sahgui Tiatti Tchananti, on behalf of the SG of APPO, reiterated the Organization's support for this race and specified the reasons that motivated this support: "Sport is health and this activity allowed us to stretch

the stress accumulated during the week and to keep the muscles in shape. The event therefore came at the right time and I hope that it will be repeated frequently. The course of the race was very well thought out. I timed it myself: it is indeed 10 km. I did the whole tour without hesitation and everything went very well. The route was marked out by police officers and guides to guide the runners. Such events must be supported and that is why APPO is a sponsor of the 10 km de Brazza. I will report faithfully to H.E. the Secretary General, who is also very pleased with the mobilization of the staff of the Secretariat, because a fit staff will necessarily contribute better to the development of the activities of APPO."

The APPO team at the "10 km Brazza" on July 19, 2026 in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo)

Shale oil revolution in the 2010s

In the 2010s, shale oil and gas brought unconventional petroleum into another dimension. What started as experiment in the US, quickly changed the global oil and gas framework geopolitical settings. Then, the US's oil production was consequently declining, the evolution of the shale oil industry lifted the US as one of the world's most influential energy player changing the global energy structure for ever.

The key to the success of the emergence of this unconventional petroleum sector is technological achievements of hydraulic fracking and horizontal drilling. The evolution of the fracking technology allowed the release of trapped hydrocarbons in tight formations while the directional or horizontal drilling allowed operators to drill laterally through large reservoir sections. The combination of these two technological achievements and the prevailing oil price unlocked extensive tight reservoir rocks in the US. Since then, the United States' oil production experienced a spectacular increase, from 5 million barrels per day in 2008 to 9 million bpd in 2015 then 13 million bpd in 2019, becoming the largest oil producer in the world.





The response of traditional producers

The higher cost of production is a critical element of economic feasibility of shale oil. As the unconventional oil driven by the US created an oversupply, the OPEC countries moved into a strategic plan of keeping production steady rather than cutting production. In 2014, the strategy brought about the dramatic collapse of oil price from USD100/barrel to less than USD 50/barrel. Indeed, the OPEC's strategy succeeded in sending hundreds of shale oil companies out of business. It is a fact that shale oil and gas revolution fundamentally reshaped the global geopolitical framework. It reduced considerably the United States' dependence over Middle eastern oil causing the OPEC's price control to significantly become eroded. It then propel the US as one of the major crude oil and LNG exporters of the World forcing economic

diversification mainly in Russia and Asia.

Environmental risks

However, despite its dazzling success, shale oil and gas could be extremely disastrous to the environment. Indeed, technologies used, require large quantity of water, GHG emission and can create tremors due to subsurface fracking activities. Despite criticisms over shale oil cost of production, environmental and social impacts, it is still marking its footprints in the global energy market. This unconventional petroleum revolution will definitely leave its marks in the history of global energy for decades to come for succeeding in challenging traditionally established producers through accelerated technology and innovation. This is a lesson to Africa and demonstrates that APPO's commitments and initiatives to move from technological and financial dependence over imported technologies and funds could unlock much more petroleum resources across the continent. Although for now Africa has giving priority to conventional petroleum resources, very large potentials have been identified across the continent and should considered in APPO's stand for energy transition.

Taking care of your digital footprint

A capital to be protected

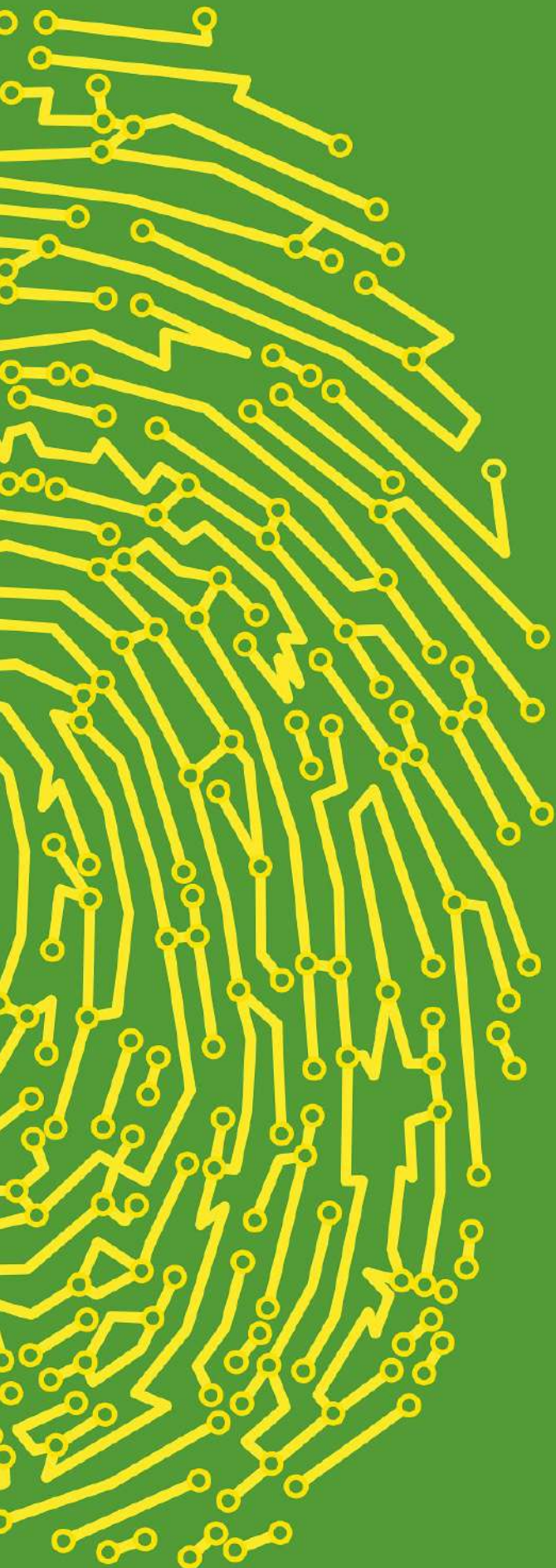
A click, an inscription, a published photo: each gesture leaves a trace. End to end, these traces make up our digital footprint, a kind of electronic double that speaks of us — sometimes accurately, sometimes more than we would like. Reputation, security, career: everything is now played out behind a screen. Taking care of it is no longer a luxury, it is a real skill.

Our digital footprint has two faces. First of all, there is what we choose to show: profiles on social networks, publications, online opinions, opinion pieces. And then there is the rest, what escapes our vigilance: cookies, geolocation, browsing history, data sucked up by applications, mentions made by others. A simple name typed into a search engine already reveals a good part of it. The result is often surprising: obsolete information, distorted facts, elements that we thought had been forgotten. In a world where everything is verified online, this image now precedes us everywhere, even in the meeting room.

E-reputation: consistency rather than volume

E-reputation is what others perceive of us through our online tracks. Having become an intangible asset in its own right, it is often reduced to a counter: number of subscribers, engagement rate, algorithmic visibility. The race for followers, long held up as a symbol of success, remains a misleading indicator. Buying fake subscribers exposes you to brutal discredit the day the fraud breaks out. Publishing at will, without guidelines, dilutes the message. Exposing yourself without measure opens the door wide to identity theft, harassment, and social engineering. Basically,





true e-reputation is not weighed by the weight of the audience but by consistency: a sober profile, kept up to date, faithful to a path is better than a crowd of subscribers without substance.

Gestures that make a difference

It all starts with a small audit. Get into the habit, every quarter, of typing your name into several search engines. What are they saying about you? Is the information up to date? Does it still correspond to your background? Then comes a more discreet work: reviewing the privacy settings of each social network, cutting the default geolocation, sorting out the third-party applications that access your accounts. On the security side, the golden rule does not change: a unique password per service, a dedicated manager, two-factor authentication to lock access. And before each publication, a very simple question: if this content appeared on the front page of a newspaper tomorrow, would you be comfortable?

The right to be forgotten: a lever to be aware of

Enshrined in 2014 by a founding judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the right to be forgotten allows us to request the de-referencing

of content concerning us when it is inaccurate, outdated, excessive or harmful. In concrete terms, the search engine is asked to remove the link that leads to the information, without necessarily deleting the original page. However, the right is not absolute: it must deal with freedom of expression, the right to information and the public interest. In Africa, the legal framework is gradually taking shape. The African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Data Protection, known as the Malabo Convention, adopted in 2014, entered into force on June 8, 2023, after a fifteenth ratification. It recognizes four essential rights: access, rectification, opposition, erasure. Several African countries, including APPO member countries — Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal — have their own data protection authorities, where anyone can file a complaint. Knowing these remedies means giving yourself a chance to act the day online information ends up harming. All in all, our digital footprint is a capital, just like a professional reputation. It can be cultivated, protected and, when necessary, corrected. At a time when the boundary between private and professional life is sometimes based on a simple screen, taking care of it means protecting your reputation, your security, and that of the institutions you represent.



Tune in to our various platforms every two weeks for our new show, « The minute of APPO," to stay up to date with our latest news and developments.



www.apposecretariat.org

CULTURAL PIPELINE



Year 1 // No. 00003 // Oct 2026

APPO MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT - COPRODUCE WITH VENEZUELA

Culture is Energy... Move it!

Editorial

This issue of the "Cultural Pipeline" is published in an African context marked by the organization of the African Energy Week, a meeting of African peoples and the global South producers of oil but also of culture. Because yes, we think it at the Cultural Pipeline, culture is an energy, and an essential energy to irrigate our pipelines at the same time as oil, so that this strategic resource does not remain a vain vector of destabilization and impoverishment of our peoples.

Such an approach is in line with the APPO's broader vision of the rational exploitation of oil resources — from a South-South perspective and in the service of sustainable development based on the general social interest of peoples. This provides a better understanding of the reception of the "Cultural Pipeline" supplement in the APPO magazine, as well as its timely publication during this Africa Energy Week 2026. This major event, which is currently taking place, brings together economic, cultural, technical and specialized actors — from Africa as well as from other regions — within the strategic and crucial universe of energy and hydrocarbons.

So let's continue to promote our essential oil resources, but also our plural cultures, so that our pipelines never run out of this love that we share, from Africa to Venezuela, and to the Global South.

In this issue



Mural City

Where the walls tell and sing stories



Wall of Port

Cotonou, one of the world's capitals of mural art



Amazon

Environment, geopolitics and the culture of peace



Congo Basin

Global guarantor of biodiversity

Cultural Pipeline Team (Caracas - Brazzaville - Dakar)

Founder: Aníbal Márquez / General Coordinator: Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

Members : Irama Díaz - Noel Márquez - Gabriel Mbaedzou - Abraxas Iribarren - Reinaldo Mijares R. - Mariela Colina - Babacar Dieng



Mural city

Where walls tell and sing stories

By the Mural City Coordination Team

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MURALISM "MURAL CITY" IS A TRAVELING URBAN ART PROJECT IN VENEZUELA, INSPIRED BY A DEEP POPULAR SPIRIT THAT TRANSFORMS PUBLIC SPACES INTO OPEN-AIR GALLERIES.

The "Mural City" Festival, as it is commonly known, brings together hundreds of national and international artists who, in direct and caring interaction with local communities, put their precious creativity at the service of a common goal: to revitalize the local identity through mural design and creation workshops, musical events, street theater, community fairs and innovative collective creation activities. These initiatives have made this festival a dynamic movement of public art and community revitalization, transforming urban facades into open canvases that tell the identity, history and resilience of its in-

habitants. More than 400 local and foreign creators, including from Mexico, Colombia, Panama, France and Spain, participated in interventions on the facades, training workshops, open-air film screenings, dance performances, poetry performances and cooking demonstrations.

SEVERAL EDITIONS AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The International Festival of Muralism "Mural City" was born in 2023. Its first edition was held in Clarines, a magical and historic city in eastern

Venezuela, in the state of Anzoátegui, which literally opened its doors to us, sharing its history and stories to have them reflected on its walls. From there began a journey that led us to the 25th edition, leaving an indelible mark in thirteen states and twenty-three cities across the country. It is important to note that the "Mural City" Festival includes a community educational component, offering workshops in various cultural fields. Each day, each event combines muralism and educational workshops, symposiums, music, dance and presentations of the local identity of each community.



Thus, since this initiative stems from the need of cities and communities to recognize themselves in the public space, "Mural City", beyond a simple aesthetic intervention, pays a deep tribute to the inhabitants of each territory, honoring their collective memory and transforming the public space into a source of pride. In terms of organization, the International Festival of Muralism "Mural City" has been an immediate success from its beginnings and has maintained a sustained and itinerant rhythm thanks to the essential meeting of the various organizations and social and cultural movements that today make up its platform. The Festival is led by a coordination team, with the participation and interaction of several organizations and social and cultural movements active in Venezuelan community life, among which we can mention: the Francisco de Miranda Front, 100% San Agustín, Horno Colectivo, La Belleza de Vivir and Modo Cultura. Regarding the philosophy of the "Mural City" Festival, its approach moves away from the traditional gallery format, favoring the street as a multidisciplinary meeting place. "Mural City" functions as a dynamic platform that promotes the circulation of muralists, mu-

sicians, artisans, circus artists, dancers, poets and chefs, both national and international. This cross-fertilization of disciplines not only enriches the audience's experience, but also generates a valuable creative exchange that promotes and develops the artistic careers and creative experiences of the participating artists, while revitalizing the entire neighborhood.

IMPACT AND OVERALL REVITALIZATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The influence of the International Mural Festival "Mural City" embraces multiple dimensions of community and cultural life. It is both a tribute and a sense of belonging: each work is born from a direct dialogue with the community; the inhabitants share their stories and memories with the creators, thus ensuring that each mural faithfully reflects the identity of the place. "Mural City" offers an artistic platform where muralists, musicians, poets, high-end gastronomy and dreamers meet, creating a dynamic cultural flow that highlights local and international talents. At the same time, the festival promotes social and tourist animation through

investment in public space. It contributes to cultural tourism, boosts the local economy and leaves an artistic legacy accessible to all. The Festival operates as a team effort, with a participatory approach. The success of each edition is based on rigorous production management on the ground and a strong social commitment. From pre-event logistics to closing, the festival's coordination team guarantees a participatory, proactive process based on shared responsibility, respectful of the specificities of the territory. It reaffirms that public art is a fundamental tool for democratizing culture and forging community ties through color and memory. Considering that love, friendship and fraternity among peoples, solidarity, equity and social justice, spiritual beauty and material well-being are fundamental values and guiding principles for the countries of the South, the International Festival of Muralism "Mural City" and the Muralism Movement of Venezuela raise their brushes at dawn, their petroleum oils and acrylic textures, their chromatic tropics and their hands of fraternity, to build with everyone, the universal mural of supreme honor to our Human Species: Peace.

Wall of Port

Cotonou, one of the world's capitals of mural art

By Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

THE CITY OF COTONOU (REPUBLIC OF BENIN) IS HOME TO ONE OF THE LONGEST GRAFFITI WALLS IN THE WORLD. LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE ECONOMIC CAPITAL, THIS FRESCO WITH A THOUSAND COLORS TELLS THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THIS HISTORICALLY AND CULTURALLY RICH COUNTRY IN WEST AFRICA.



Cotonou was already home to the longest graffiti wall in Africa, with its heritage wall. The city is changing scale with the construction of the wall of the Port of Cotonou, currently 1800 meters long, and which will even-

tually be 2000 meters in total, thus approaching the dimensions of the longest graffiti walls in the world. It all started with the creation of the heritage wall by the Effet Graff festival, initiated by graffiti artists Seencelor Labombe, Dr Mario and

Stone. Supported by the Claudine Talon Foundation, the participants in the festival set themselves, as part of a first phase of the project, to provide Cotonou with a monumental mural. The project was then supported by the Ministry of

Culture, with the aim of bringing urban art to the heart of the city because not all the public has the leisure to go to the galleries to consume art.

TALENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

mention, in addition to the initiators of the festival, Lionel Attere, Tipam, Julien Sinzogan, Dominique Zinkpè, Gratien Zossou, Docteur Mario and Fatiou Akindé. As far as international artists are concerned, there were Sitou, a Togolese artist based in France, Edmun a Brazilian artist, Bakeroner a German artist,

BRIGHT AND PRECIOUS COLOURS

The themes addressed relate to the culture of Benin. Thus, for the first phase, the theme common to all was "New Benin". It was therefore a question of telling the history of Benin, the past, the daily



The creation of the wall brought together the talents of some thirty graffiti and mural artists from Benin and other African and international countries such as Germany, Brazil, Senegal, Ghana, Belgium, France and Morocco. Among the big names in Beninese urban art who contributed to it, we can

Madzoo and Chimère from Senegal, Mohawudu from Ghana, Eduardo Cobra from Brazil and Kalouf Kes-sadi from France. It should also be noted that several women artists worked on the wall. Among these women artists are Paola Delfin from Mexico and Afi Kodjobi and Drusille Fagnibo from Benin.

life with a projection on the future of the country. Subsequently, the artists were able to address other personal themes that are always related to Benin, but not addressed by other artists: the attributes of kings, the cheetah (emblematic animal of Benin's national teams), the female faces

of Benin in culture, intercultural dialogue, vodoun art, the return of brains as well as scenes of ordinary life. The philosophy of the wall is simple: to bring art back to the population and to invite the general public to discover the work of artists from here and elsewhere and to question

involves significant and rigorous logistics. For example, the artists had to use containers to store their equipment, projectors to be able to continue working at night and scaffolding, as the wall is five metres high, or even a little higher in places.

limited to galleries and museums, that it can be brought to the very heart of the city, democratizing it at the same time. Thus, circulating in the city of Cotonou, it is not uncommon to meet tourists and even Cotonois admiring the graffiti, having their picture taken in their magnificent setting. And the wall, with its bright and impres-



the themes addressed by the artists. To do this, they made sure to use quality materials, namely acrylic paint and Montana spray cans. Thanks to this precaution, the colours of the wall have retained their very striking vibrancy over the years. But the realisation of such a gigantic project also

BRINGING ART TO THE HEART OF THE CITY

The project, which began in 2022, is still ongoing since some parts of the wall remain to be painted. Through their prowess, all these graffiti artists and muralists have demonstrated their talent and proven that art is not

sive touches of color, brings a note of cheerfulness and life to the city, silently paying tribute to these men and women artists who once thought that it was possible to offer their talent and imagination to the world.

*Acknowledgements:
Mr. Lionel Attéré, mural artist.*

The Venezuelan Amazon

Environmental, Geopolitical and Cultural Dimension of Peace

By Franklin Leal and Aníbal Márquez

IT IS NOT BY CHANCE, BUT BECAUSE OF A EUPHEMISM TO DESCRIBE THE MAJESTY AND BEAUTY OF THE RAINFOREST OF OUR SOUTH AMERICA, THAT HER NAME WAS CHOSEN; AMAZON (FROM LAT. AND GR. BEAUTIFUL COMBATIVE WOMAN).

The Amazon is understood as a continuous unit of basin and biome, but also as a geopolitical space of great importance for South America and for the global climate balance. It is also considered - rightly! - as the lungs of the planet. Its importance is not limited to territorial extent. The Amazon watershed covers about 7 million km² and almost 40% of South America, which spans eight countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, integrating a network of more than 50 interconnected aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, while the Amazon Biome includes rainforests, floodplains, savannahs, marshes and other transitional environments that support a unique and irreplaceable biodiversity. Together, the Amazon is home to more than 10% of the world's known biodiversity, concentrates between 90 and 140 billion metric tons of carbon, and plays a decisive role in rainfall

formation and atmospheric circulation on regional and global scales.

SUPPORTING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

Its ecological functioning depends on the interaction between forest, water, and atmosphere. The Amazon provides moisture to all of South America, influences rainfall in the region, and contributes to the stabilization of the global climate. Amazon forests recycle water through evapotranspiration and feed "flying rivers" that carry steam to other parts of the continent, while rivers, wetlands, and alluvial plains support ecological connectivity, fisheries, and biological productivity. The basin provides about 16% to 22% of the total flow of rivers to the oceans, an extraordinary proportion that shows its role in the planetary hydrological system. Therefore, understanding the Amazon only

as a forest would be insufficient. It must be considered a critical natural infrastructure whose integrity depends on the continuity of water, carbon, and biodiversity cycles.

AN ECOSYSTEM UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

The current state of the Amazon is under high pressure. Deforestation, fires, illegal mining, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure are fragmenting the landscape, reducing connectivity, and weakening the system's ability to regulate the climate. The "Tri-Watershed Summit," held in Brazzaville in 2023, highlighted that the Amazon, Congo, and Borneo-Mekong concentrate a large portion of the planet's tropical forests and terrestrial biodiversity, and that their disappearance threatens global climate stability. Several assessments warn that the region could reach critical thresholds



if degradation continues, especially in areas with more severe droughts and a prolonged dry season.

A GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL ASSET

The geopolitical dimension is central. The Amazon cannot be read only as a natural space, but as a territory where sovereignty, indigenous rights, cultural approach, territorial control and criteria on development models

intersect. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) plays a key role as a mechanism for cooperation between Amazonian countries to strengthen regional governance, monitoring and protection of forests. At the same time, the alliance between the Amazon, Congo and Borneo-Mekong basins aims to build a common voice of the Global South to promote conservation and climate justice. In this context, the Amazon is a geopolitical asset on a global scale: its conservation not only protects

ecosystems, but also strengthens the capacity of Amazonian countries to influence the international agenda.

MORE THAN HALF OF VENEZUELA'S TERRITORY

The Venezuelan Amazon occupies a singular place in this panorama. In the broad sense, it mainly includes the states of Amazonas, Bolívar, the Amacuro Delta and Esequiba Guiana and represents about 55% of the national territory. Its

more specifically Amazonian core is concentrated in the south of the state of Amazonas, where the population is dispersed and highly dependent on rivers, with localities such as Puerto Ayacucho, San Fernando de Atabapo, La Esmeralda and San Carlos de Río Negro. The region is also a transition corridor between the Orinoco and Amazon basins, making it a valuable ecological and geographical connection space.

CONNECTING CONTINENTAL BASINS

The most important hydrological axis is the Orinoco-Casiquiare-Río Negro system. The Orinoco has its source in southern Venezuela and its upper course is connected to the Casiquiare, a unique river arm in the world that diverts part of its waters to the Río Negro and, through it, to the Amazon basin. The Casiquiare is the only proven natural connection between two major continental basins and functions as an ecological corridor for the exchange of species, nutrients and hydrological processes. Its value is not only hydrographic, it also expresses the condition of the biogeographical hinge of southern Venezuela between the Orinoco and the Amazon.

A WIDE DIVERSITY OF IN- DIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Venezuelan Amazon is also one of the regions with the greatest in-

digenuous diversity in the country. In the state of Amazonas, the indigenous population represents about 45% of the inhabitants and at least 21 indigenous peoples live together in the state, making it the multiethnic and multicultural region of Venezuela, including the Yanomami, Ye'kwana, Jivi, Uwöttuja, Curripaco, Warekena, Baniva, Baré, Piapoco, Sanema, Hoti, Eñepa and other communities. In the Venezuelan Amazon as a whole, there are also villages such as Warao and Pemón, among others. This diversity is not only demographic, but reflects an ancestral territoriality that has supported the forest through ecological knowledge, river mobility and territory defense. The exotic flora and fauna are also noteworthy, among them: toucan birds and guacamaye; the danta or tapir, the jaguar, the largest feline in America, the pink dolphin, giant reptiles such as the anaconda, the black caiman, among others.

A UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM

The presence of the State in the Amazon region of Venezuela is expressed in the resolute recognition of the ancestral, spiritual, cultural and economic rights of indigenous peoples, whose primordial postulates are given constitutional status and, Appropriate frameworks for social, legislative, political,

electoral, educational and cultural participation are put in place, managed directly by the Amazonian communities in correspondence with their own traditions and cultural values. It is also expressed through protected natural areas, administrative posts, military units and the implementation of social programs. Protected areas, such as the Canaima, Yapacana, Parima-Tapirapecó, Duida-Marahuaca and other national parks, are essential for conserving biodiversity and curbing degradation, which is the result of pressures and changes derived from human activity. In this context, the Caura National Park is of strategic importance as an ecological corridor of the Amazon biome, being the largest in Venezuela and the second in the world for the protection of forests. The Amazon is therefore a natural and political infrastructure that is essential for climate stability, global biodiversity and cultural diversity. The Venezuelan Amazon, through its hydrological uniqueness, its indigenous diversity and its position as a hinge between the Orinoco River and the Amazon River, calls for enhanced protection based on effective governance, territorial control, strengthening of protected areas and recognition of indigenous peoples as central actors in conservation. In other words, Amazonian culture for peace.

Congo Basin Equatorial Forest

Global Guarantor of Biodiversity

By Carmen Fifamè Toudonou

THE SECOND LARGEST FOREST IN THE WORLD AFTER THE AMAZON, THE EQUATORIAL FOREST COVERS SIX COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FIVE MEMBERS OF APPO, NAMELY CAMEROON, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GABON AND THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO. THIS SECOND GREEN LUNG OF OUR PLANET IS HOME TO AN INCREDIBLE WEALTH OF FAUNA, FLORA AND BIODIVERSITY, WITH EXCEPTIONAL POPULATIONS OF THE RAREST SPECIES IN THE WORLD.

More than two-thirds of the forest cover of the African continent and 26% of the surface of the planet's tropical forests is concentrated in the Congolese equatorial forest, with a fifth of all species living on planet earth and a production of 20% of the world's oxygen. With 286 million hectares¹, it is centered on the Congo River basin, the second largest river in the world by flow, and includes several forest ecosystems including dense humid forests, swamp forests and secondary forests. The region has an equatorial climate with a low temperature range and annual rainfall of more than 1500 mm. It is in these ecosystems that a very diverse flora evolves as well as a fascinating wildlife.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CARBON SINK

The forest has a vegetation structure with vertical stratification: emergent, canopy, undergrowth and herbaceous stratum. The dominant trees are moabi and sapele and their height can exceed 60 meters. Overall, the flora is composed of fleshy fruit-producing trees, nutrient-fixing species, epiphytic plants and vines contributing to vertical connectivity. All this vegetation cover plays a leading role in the biogeochemical cycle of carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus. For the specific case of carbon, according to the Global Environment Facility, even better than all the tropical forests of the Amazon and Asia combined, the Congo Basin

sequesters more than 60 billion tons of carbon², which corresponds to 10 years of global CO₂ emissions³. The Congo forest stores carbon both in above- and below-ground biomass and in peatlands. Its influence on the climate is thus involved in the absorption of CO₂ from the atmosphere, regional thermal regulation and evapotranspiration, which is essential for the formation of rainfall. This makes the Congo Basin an excellent agent in the fight against climate change, which must be preserved.

THE GUARDIANS OF BIODIVERSITY

The Congo forest covers a fauna composed of large mammals, essen-

1 www.developpement-durable.gouv.cg accessed on August 25, 2026 at 10:22 am

2 www.unep.org, accessed on August 24, 2026 at 5:04 p.m.

3 www.developpement-durable.gouv.cg accessed on August 25, 2026 at 10:29 am



tial for maintaining ecological balances. Among them are forest elephants as well as great apes such as gorillas and chimpanzees. There are also large carnivores such as leopards, panthers as well as a wide range of birds, amphibians and insects. The waters of the Congo River are full of extraordinary fish, including the Goliath tiger fish (Mbenga). In total, there are more than 400 species of mammals, 1,000

species of birds and 700 species of fish. The indigenous peoples living in this forest are the guardians of this biodiversity, because they have developed, over the millennia, a way of life in line with the forest, and orally transmitted from generation to generation. They practice selective hunting, seasonal gathering, traditional fishing and low-impact shifting agriculture. While the forest is currently populated by 185

million inhabitants, its population is expected to double by 2050. This is why the pressures today linked to logging, agricultural expansion and the construction of infrastructure make the conservation of the Congo forest a major issue, because preserving this forest massif means guaranteeing biodiversity and global climate stability.

Source photo : expeditions-ducret.com