

**GENERAL REPORT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
OF THE AFRICAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT NETWORK  
**APPN**

Theme

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**



**13 to 16 November 2023**  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

# Contents

<b>BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE CONTEXT OF THE THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>I. THE OPENING CEREMONY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>II. CONFERENCE ON THE THEME "SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT"</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>III. PANELS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>IV. SUB-REGIONAL NETWORKS ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>V. THE APPN MORAL AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>VI. ADOPTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR THE APPN</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>VII. FINAL COMMUNIQUE</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>VIII. CLOSING CEREMONY</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>IX. ANNEXES</b>	<b>40</b>

## BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE CONTEXT OF THE THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY



In the context of the development and integration of the public procurement sector, African countries have established a platform for exchange and experiences sharing regarding the functioning of their public procurement systems.

Following the Second General Assembly held in Mbabane, Eswatini, in November 2022, the Third General Assembly of this body, known as the African Public Procurement Network (APPN), took place from November 13 to 16, 2023, at the Sofitel Hôtel Ivoire in Abidjan under the

theme **"Public Procurement for Sustainable Development in Africa."**

This General Assembly was marked by four (4) key moments: the opening ceremony, presentations followed by panel discussions, discussions on the administration and functioning of APPN, the closing ceremony, and visits to tourist sites.

This report provides an account of the proceedings of this General Assembly.



# I. THE OPENING CEREMONY



Presided over by Mr. CISSE Abdourahmane, Minister, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, representing the Head of State, the opening ceremony was marked by six (6) speeches:

■ **Welcome speech by the President of the African Public Procurement Network**

Ms. BAMBA Massanfi, née DIOMANDE, President of the National Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ANRMP) of Côte d'Ivoire and the current Chair of the APPN, welcomed all participants. She expressed gratitude to the Minister, Secretary General of the Presidency, and the Minister of Finance and Budget for their sacrifices in organizing the 3rd General Assembly. The World Bank, the African Development

Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank were also acknowledged for their consistent support to the APPN.

Ms. President recalled that the APPN, as a platform for exchanges among public procurement systems in African countries, serves as a framework for strengthening the capacities of its members for efficient public procurement. She mentioned that the sub-themes to be addressed would provide participants with an opportunity to engage with Technical and Financial Partners on innovations introduced in



public procurement at the international level.

Ms. DIOMANDE concluded her remarks by stating that the key objective of the meeting is to consolidate achievements for efficient public procurement management, ultimately leading to the improvement of living conditions for the populations.

**■ Address by the Minister in Charge of Public Procurement in Côte d'Ivoire**

Mr. Adama COULIBALY, Minister of Finance and Budget, welcomed the establishment of the APPN, which is a significant body for improving the management of public procurement operations. The convening of the Third General Assembly provides an opportunity for member states to reflect on the ambitions of African countries in the field of public procurement.

The Minister noted that due to the importance of public procurement, measures have been taken by the Ivorian Government to strengthen the regulatory framework, facilitate access for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and digitize procurement procedures. He thanked the Technical and Financial Partners for their support to the APPN and indicated that the government remains attentive to the outcomes of this general assembly.

**■ Address by the Representative of the African Development Bank**

Ms. Swazi Bajabulile TSHABALALA, First Vice President, stated that the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the APPN is justified by the organization's commitment to working for the development of African countries. Ms. TSHABALALA praised the relevance of the theme of the General Assembly, aligning with the vision of the AfDB, which aims to bring innovations to public procurement for the development of SMEs. She assured the APPN of AfDB's willingness to continue supporting its activities.

**■ Address by the Representative of the World Bank**

The main points of the intervention by the representative of the World Bank, Mr. Kofi AWANYO, Head of Public Procurement Practices at the World Bank, focused on the importance of the APPN and the digitization of public procurement procedures.

He mentioned that the APPN, as a meeting platform for several key players in public procurement, contributes to bringing innovations focused on business competitiveness and creating an environment conducive to the



development of African countries. He applauded the ongoing achievement of the objectives set by the network since its inception, aligning with the vision of the World Bank.

Regarding the digitization of public procurement, he pointed out that the dematerialization of procedures will allow African countries to make significant savings and significantly reduce procurement lead times. While thanking Côte d'Ivoire for the quality of the welcome extended to the General Assembly participants, he expressed the hope that the results of the discussions during this important meeting would be utilized to improve the procurement systems of the various countries.

### ■ Address by the Representative of the Islamic Development Bank

Mr. Elhadj Malick SOUMARÉ, Senior Specialist in global public procurement, expressed gratitude to the Ivorian government for the warm welcome.

Mr. SOUMARÉ mentioned that the 3rd General Assembly is an added value as it provides an opportunity for sharing experiences in public procurement. He emphasized the importance of public procurement in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of African countries and revealed that the Islamic Development Bank is looking forward to the outcomes of this General Assembly.

### ■ Opening Remarks by the Representative of the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Abdourahmane CISSE, Minister, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, stated that Côte d'Ivoire is honored to host the Third General Assembly and expressed gratitude to the Technical and Financial Partners for their support to the APPN.

He emphasized the importance of public procurement systems, the performance of which is a guarantee for optimizing the management of resources in African states, especially in the context of financial challenges due to COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. The Minister, Secretary General, mentioned that, to this end, the Ivorian government has implemented measures to enhance the access of SMEs to public procurement and to create structures responsible for good governance of resources. With these words, he officially opened the proceedings of the APPN 3rd General Assembly.

### ■ Speech by the APPN Secretary General, Mr. Aftar Touré MOROU

Following the introductory remarks by Mr. Alassane BA, the APPN Executive Committee Coordinator, the Secretary General of the Network, Mr. Aftar Touré MOROU, expressed satisfaction with the holding of the 3rd General Assembly of the Network in Abidjan.



He then discussed the achievements and challenges of the APPN since the Second General Assembly in Mbabane in November 2022.

Regarding the accomplishments of the Network, he addressed various points, including:

Among the activities carried out, he mentioned:

- Capacity building for stakeholders
- Evaluation of the public procurement systems of member countries according to the MAPS
- Intensification of membership fee collection from Network member countries
- Revision of the statutes and internal regulations of the organization
- Recruitment of consultants to improve the functioning of the Executive Secretariat of the APPN, including strengthening communication and information systems management
- Organization of the 3rd General Assembly,

which, like the previous one, includes a forum for exchanges and networking among public procurement professionals from the continent, experts, and Technical and Financial Partners.

Regarding the challenges, Mr. Aftar Touré MOROU mentioned that the APPN will need to reflect on strengthening the collection of membership fees from member countries to build the necessary resources for the smooth functioning of the organization.

He also praised the loyalty of Technical and Financial Partners who continue to support the APPN and expressed a desire to seek new partners to enable the organization to achieve its objectives. He concluded his remarks by inviting the highest authorities of member countries to greater involvement and wished fruitful exchanges to the participants of the General Assembly.



## II. CONFERENCE ON THE THEME "SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT"

The inaugural conference was presented by Mr. Alastair MERRILL, Director of Merrill Solutions Ltd, Scotland Q&A, moderated by Mr. Frank MVULA, Director of the Fiduciary and Inspection Department, AfDB.

Mr. MERRILL organized his presentation around the presentation of key elements of the Scottish model for socio-economic development through public procurement, namely:

- **Governance**, focusing on (i) creating a favorable environment emphasizing competitiveness, consideration of environmental and gender aspects, (ii) involvement of ministerial structures and legislation as well as regulations that take into account the challenges and expectations of SMEs, (iii) engagement and involvement of all stakeholders in

the system in defining policy directions to determine appropriate solutions to encountered obstacles.

- **Capacity**, which the speaker presented from the perspective of training stakeholders, standardization, and facilitation of access to procurement procedures, as well as the intensification of e-commerce and dematerialization.

- **Data** (monitoring and evaluation) in terms of availability, quality, and analysis of such data that contribute to reducing fraud and improving system monitoring (Red Flag).

- **Innovation**, the encouragement of which plays in favor of improving the system through, notably, the establishment of frameworks conducive to the involvement of SMEs.

The speaker presented a case study to illustrate his points.

## QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

**Q1 :** What measures should be taken in the face of insufficient resources to achieve socio-economic development through public procurement?

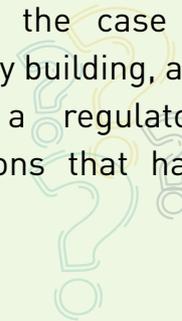
**A1 :** Mr. MERRILL pointed out that it will be necessary to draw the attention of decision-makers to the optimal management of available resources and also to identify the actors responsible for implementation and monitoring in this regard.

**Q2 :** How can socio-economic development be implemented through public procurement in the absence of policies?

**A2 :** In the absence of established policies, case studies are of paramount importance to identify and implement best practices from countries focused on this approach.

**Q3 :** How to address the issue of cybercrime in the context of innovation?

**R3 :** (Mr. MERRILL) In the case of Scotland, training, capacity building, and the establishment of a regulatory framework are the actions that have been taken in this regard.



### III. PANELS

**DAY 1**

**Panel 1**



**Sub-theme :**

« The Challenges of Sustainable Public Procurement for African Economic Development ».



**Moderator:**

**Mr Alassane BA** – Coordinator of the APPN Executive Committee

**Speaker:**

**Mr Farid YAKER** - Consultant, Sustainable Public Procurement

**Panelists:**

• **Mr Thomas OTIENO**

Director of Licenses and Standards **Kenya** ;

• **Mr Kofi AWANYO,**

Head of Public Procurement Practices, **World Bank**;

• **Ms Carey KLUTTZ,**

Partnerships Manager, **OCP** ;

• **Mr Jean Alexandre BLANCHARD,**

Infrastructure Specialist in PPP Sector



As an introduction, Mr. Farid YAKER drew attention to the fact that governments are the largest consumers in economies, and every purchase made has hidden impacts on human health, the environment, and society. He emphasized the need to limit the negative impacts of public procurement and use them to promote the production of sustainable goods, services, and works—those with low ecological impact and positive economic and social impacts.

Continuing, the speaker addressed various definitions of sustainable public procurement provided by international organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Union, and the World Bank. He noted that a specific target in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12) is dedicated to sustainable public procurement. He also focused on the role of sustainable public procurement as a policy instrument, highlighting that the perception that sustainable products and services are more expensive remains the main obstacle to embracing sustainable public procurement.

Mr. YAKER concluded his presentation by urging public authorities in countries to have a greater commitment to the concept of sustainability in public procurement. He encouraged them to draw inspiration from existing best practices,

such as the UNEP methodology and publications from the World Bank and the European Commission on the subject, to better define related objectives and action plans.

Mr. Kofi AWANYO, the first panelist to speak, shared his experience at the World Bank in supporting countries in Africa in the implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP).

In this regard, he mentioned the challenges related to limited resources in implementing SPP while emphasizing the importance of the judicious use of available resources for public acquisitions.

He noted that issues related to employability, gender-specific aspects, and climate change compel governments to delve deeper into the establishment of socio-economic development strategies. Therefore, he invited countries to address SPP in public procurement by linking it to procurement documents, identifying technical specifications related to SPP, defining measurement indicators, and placing particular emphasis on the qualification of dedicated personnel.

Mr. Francois BRAND from Namibia acknowledged that the recent adoption of a reform related to SPP did not lead to significant progress in his country. The

most notable aspect of the reform was the awarding of rewards to private actors who made efforts related to environmental protection in carrying out public procurement contracts.

Despite describing this progress as embryonic, Mr. BRAND emphasized Namibia's commitment to continuing efforts in this direction.

Ms. Carey KLUTTZ initially explained that public procurement is largely responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting the need to prioritize Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP).

To achieve this, her organization, OCP, is working on the implementation of sustainability strategies in public procurement. This includes the development and provision of a "toolbox" to define the framework and measurement indicators, aiming for a better use of available resources.

She also emphasized the importance of data availability, sharing experiences, considering aspects related to youth and women, and pooling efforts from all

stakeholders.

Concluding the interventions of this panel, Mr. Jean Alexandre BLANCHARD acknowledged the obligation for all actors in the public procurement system to engage in Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP). However, he emphasized that in the SPP approach, the existence of contradictory practices and additional costs for bidding companies complicates this practice, which is intended to be straightforward.

## QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

**Q1** : Is it really possible to integrate SPP for developing countries like most countries in the Network?

**A1** : (Mr. BLANCHARD) Yes, it is possible and has a positive impact on these countries. The example of Senegal in terms of real estate supplies is very telling, especially in terms of adapting the SPP approach to the country's context.

Panel 2

**Sub-theme :**

"Public-Private Partnership for the Development of Infrastructure in Africa."



**Moderator:**

**Mr Kofi AWANYO**, Head of Public Procurement Practices, **World Bank**

**Speaker: :**

**Mr Jean Alexandre BLANCHARD** - Specialist in Infrastructure in the PPP Sector.

**Panelists:**

- **Ms KOUADIO Larissa**,  
Legal Counsel, CNP PPP, **Côte d'Ivoire** ;
- **Mr Thomas OTIENO**  
Director of Licenses and Standards, **Kenya** ;
- **Mr Aliya Edogi ALIYU**  
Head of Public Procurement, **Nigeria** ;
- **Mr Tumelo NTLABA**  
Chief Director: SCM ICT, **South Africa**;
- **Mr SAMBE Ababacar**,  
Senior PPP Operations Officer, **AfDB**.



Mr. Jean Alexandre BLANCHARD began his presentation by outlining the characteristics defining a public-private partnership (PPP) contract and the reasons for resorting to it, including accelerating infrastructure development, increasing the efficiency and quality of public infrastructure provision, leveraging innovation and private sector efficiency, and stimulating the country's growth and development.

After drawing attention to the illusion of accounting flexibility and the temptation to engage in unaffordable projects, which he presented as pitfalls to avoid in PPP implementation, the speaker focused on the value factors of PPPs. These include better cost control by the private sector, management of project life cycle costs, risk transfer, innovation, and availability. Mr. BLANCHARD urged participants to pay special attention to adapting PPPs to the local environment and the tendering process, which aims to confirm the existence of potential benefits, protect them, and maximize them.

Ms. Larissa KOUADIO, through a video, shared with the audience the Ivorian experience in PPPs. Thus, she reviewed a summary of the history, major PPP projects undertaken, and the missions and responsibilities of the National Steering Committee for Public-Private Partnerships (CNP-PPP).

She concluded by stating that the transfer of skills and the mode of

remuneration of the private partner linked to performance criteria are points that support the choice of implementing projects through PPPs. She concluded by indicating that the periodic monitoring and evaluation of the PPP contract for adjustment, if necessary, through a Review Clause is a good practice to ensure the effectiveness of the PPP and to experiment with PPPs in new sectors.

Regarding the experience of Kenya, Mr. Thomas OTIENO first mentioned some projects completed in his country. He then presented the challenges related to PPPs, citing difficulties in forest acquisitions that negatively impact project completion times and conflicts of jurisdiction between the central government and county governments. In terms of prospects, he emphasized capacity building for decision-makers and the population, for a better understanding of PPPs.

In his intervention, Mr. Aliyu Edogi ALIYU explained that in Nigeria, major successes in PPPs are recorded in the communication sector, but the same cannot be said for infrastructure projects, which do not show significant progress. He indicated that the experience of Côte d'Ivoire could serve as a model to move things in the right direction.

Referring to the South African experience in the field of PPPs, Mr. Tumelo NTLABA



emphasized that the existence of a favorable institutional framework and a significant improvement in PPP management have enabled the completion of several infrastructure PPP projects (universities, buildings, etc.). Regarding prospects, he indicated that they should be directed towards a better involvement of all system stakeholders and the consideration of socio-economic aspects in project implementation.

The last speaker in this panel, Mr. Ababacar SAMBE from the African Development Bank (AfDB), focused on presenting the PPP management framework established by the AfDB, given its significant involvement in financing numerous PPP projects. To do this, he presented the three (3) main pillars of this framework, relating to (i) identifying deficiencies and supporting countries in improving identified points; (ii) assisting states in PPP procurement, and (iii) supporting countries in financing PPP projects.

In conclusion of the discussion, the moderator, Mr. Kofi AWANYO from the World Bank, urged all stakeholders to approach PPPs with a national contextualization approach to better benefit from the advantages of this procurement method.

## QUESTIONS – RÉPONSES

**Q1:** Do reverse auctions work in the context of PPPs?

**A1 :** (Mr. SAMBE) Reverse auctions only work when price is the sole criterion in the selection of the awardee. This is not the case when other criteria such as quality, duration, etc., come into play (as is the case in most PPP projects).

**Q2 :** Was the institutional framework for PPPs in Côte d'Ivoire established before the signing of the first PPP contract in 1959?

**A2 :** (Ms. KOUADIO) The establishment of the specific institutional and legal framework for PPPs in Côte d'Ivoire dates back to 2021. Since PPPs are part of public procurement, PPP contracts concluded from 1959 to 2012 were conducted under the overarching framework of public procurement, notably within the framework of dedicated project teams and contracts such as concessions, lease, BOT, etc.

**Panel 3**

**Sub-theme :**

"Enhancing the Role of Women-Owned Businesses and Small and Medium Enterprises through Public Procurement"



**Moderator:**

**Madame Sakinatou BALDE**

Senior Manager, AFAWA Environment, African Development Bank (AfDB)

**Speakers:**

• (1) **Ms Carey KLUTTZ**

Open Contracting Partnership,

• (2) **Mr Alastair MERRILL,**

Director Merrill Solutions Ltd

**Panelists:**

• **Madame Rebecca Senam KPODO**

Head of the Public Procurement Service, **Ghana** ;

• **Madame Fatoumata Djagoun TOURE**

Head of the Regulation and Legal Affairs Department, **Mali** ;

• **Mrs Albertina Carlos José Fruquia FURNANE**

National Director, **Mozambique** ;

• **Mr David Kagoro BAGUMA, Rwanda**

• **Ms Nazaneen ALI**

Head of Public Procurement Practice, **World Bank.**



Introducing this panel, the Moderator, Ms. Sakinatou BALDE, revealed that, according to studies on the subject, women, primarily concentrated at the micro-project level, are the least represented in the public procurement scene. One of the major concerns identified is women's access to financing. She added that this has guided the establishment of an initiative called Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), which aims to strengthen the capacities of women and facilitate their access to public procurement. Following that, Mr. Alastair MERRILL engaged the participants on the topic **"Enhancing the Role of SMEs and Women-Owned Businesses through Public Procurement."**

The second speaker, Ms. Carey KLUTZZ, delivered a presentation on **"Public Procurement: A Strategic Lever for Women's Inclusion."**

In her speech, she emphasized that to achieve the objective presented in this theme, it is necessary to address certain challenges, including the difficulty in identifying women-owned businesses, stereotypes, and other negative perceptions, as well as a lack of access to financing.

To address these challenges, she highlighted the need to find a clear definition of the concept of women-owned businesses and the consideration of gender breakdown in organizing market data. She added that the OCP directs actions to promote reforms

at the country level (as seen in Senegal and Uganda) and facilitate women's access to financing (as observed in Colombia).

Various panelists subsequently discussed the specificities of their countries regarding women in public procurement:

For Ghana, Ms. Rebecca Senam KPODO emphasized the implementation of e-procurement, capacity building, and the introduction of reform in market share reservation as prospective actions to address the lack of encouragement and stereotypes limiting women's access to public procurement.

In addition to the points mentioned earlier, Mrs. Alberta CARLOS from Mozambique highlighted the provision of support mechanisms for subcontracting, communication and information sharing, as well as the establishment of a data collection platform on women-led businesses in the context of public procurement.

Ms. Fatoumata Djagoun TOURE noted that Mali has undertaken certain actions to improve women's access to public procurement. These actions include the development of a community charter to establish measures in favor of SMEs, particularly those led by women. Additionally, Mali has signed a partnership with UN Women for support and capacity-building and encouraged the formalization of women-led businesses.



Regarding Rwanda, according to Mr. David Kagoro BAGUMA, the theme is well-addressed, including the existence of a guarantee fund for financing women-owned businesses. This does not preclude considering future prospects for improving support for women and strengthening the existing legal framework.

## QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

**Q1 :** Are impact assessments conducted beforehand, before making decisions in favor of women in public procurement?

**A1 :** (Mali) Preliminary studies are carried out, but to date, no impact study has been conducted in this regard.

**Proposal:** Consider establishing a mechanism to address the issue of the prompt payment of contracts.



**DAY 2**

**Panel 4**

**Sub-theme :**

"Investing in Human Capital to Improve Public Procurement Performance"



**Moderator :**

**Mr Elhadj Malick SOUMARE**

Principal Specialist in Global Public Procurement, **IsDB**

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Bategeka Kabagambe LEVI,**

Head of the Procurement and Supply Chain Management Department,  
**Makerere University** Uganda.

**Panelists:**

- **Dr Rabiat OzigisYahaya – Nigeria ;**
- **Ms Poulméry Ba NIANG**  
Director of Training and Technical Support, **Sénégal ;**
- **Mr DJALOGUE Lamboam,**  
Representative of the Director/DNCCP, **Togo ;**
- **Ms Winifred ALOYCE,**  
– Manager of Procurement Guidelines, **Tanzanie ;**
- **Ms Kenza KHACHANI, – OCDE**

THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT NETWORK

As an introduction, the speaker in this exchange highlighted that considering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while the results achieved so far might not be dazzling, there are reasons for hope, and public procurement is undoubtedly the gateway to development for our countries. Hence, the importance of human capital in this field.

Continuing, he focused his presentation on identifying points of improvement and actions to take, through the presentation of some types of human capital to develop (knowledge and skills), the ways to achieve them (education and long-term training), and the qualities that professionals should possess (competence, commitment to quality, ethics, integrity, adherence to the social contract of the field, professional responsibility, and a service-oriented approach).

Dr. LEVI concluded with the following recommendations:

- Help countries to set up professional procurement organizations and give them the means to improve the professionalism of their members;
- Carry out an audit of public procurement skills to identify gaps;
- Support training in public procurement and chain management.

Five (5) panelists also addressed the theme based on the experiences of their countries or organizations, and a summary of their interventions is as follows:

After emphasizing that professionalism is not only about training, Ms. Kenza KHACHANI mentioned that the policy of professionalization is considered at the OECD through the provision of an implementation model and support for interested countries.

Ms. Winifrida Aloyce SAMBA shared Tanzania's model, characterized by the existence of a regulatory body that ensures legal and regulatory supervision of actions, training and information of stakeholders, equipment for bidders and civil society organizations, as well as the registration of public procurement professionals.

Training (qualifying and diploma), accreditation of professionals, the existence of a trainer training plan, and encouragement of networking were presented by Ms. Poulméry Ba NIANG as the specificities of Senegal. The practice in Nigeria (adoption of a law, identification of universities to implement the Master's program in public procurement, programming of e-regulation training) and Togo's approach (training of trainers, procurement actors including women and youth, establishment of a pool of trainers, integrity reinforcement) were respectively presented by Dr. Rabiat Ozigis Yahaya and Mr. Lamboam DJALOGUE.

## QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

**Q1** : How is the use of artificial intelligence perceived in managing human capital in the field of public procurement?

**A1** : (Dr. LEVI) It is necessary to reflect on this question and guide actions towards harmonizing continent-wide policies for skills tracking and career paths. In any case, it is important to keep in mind that despite the advantages of innovative techniques, humans must remain at the center of actions in public procurement.

**Panel 5**

**Sub-theme :**

Dispute Settlement Mechanisms: Dispute Settlement Commissions and AfDB support initiatives for African Arbitration Courts".



**Moderator:**

**Mr Ashraf Hussein AYAD,**  
Procurement Policy Manager, AfDB

**Speakers :**

- **Mr Augustin BARRIER,**  
LALIVE, Advisor
- **Mr Paul KAREKEZI,**  
Representative of Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (**DRBF**)

**Panelists:**

- **Ms Malak LOTFI,**  
Case Manager and Legal Researcher, Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration, (**CRCICA**), **Egypt;**
- **Mr Victor MUGABE,**  
Secretary-General, Kigali International Arbitration Centre, **Rwanda ;**
- **Mr Thomas OTIENO**  
Director of Licenses and Standards, **Kenya ;**
- **Me Poulméry Ba NIANG**  
Director of Training and Technical Support, **Sénégal.**

During his presentation, the first speaker, Mr. Paul KAREKEZI, listed the types of disputes covered in the manual before providing a historical overview of dispute resolution committees from 2010 to the present day.

He then defined the dispute resolution committee as a group of impartial professionals formed at the beginning of projects with the mission of producing recommendations, including a coercive aspect that he advised not to use excessively. This committee can be ad hoc or permanent.

Mr. KAREKEZI also highlighted the advantages of resorting to a dispute resolution committee, citing, among other things, better risk management and cost savings associated with it...

The second speaker, Mr. Augustin BARRIER, began his presentation by emphasizing that arbitration is essential in public procurement. He mentioned that the African Development Bank (AfDB) directs stakeholders to internationally recognized and recommended arbitration centers listed in the Bank's manual when needed. However, he continued to note that despite the existence of numerous arbitration centers in Africa, none of them are on the list of recognized centers. Therefore, the AfDB requests the identification and evaluation of these African centers that meet the Bank's criteria, including impartiality, public perception of the center, capacity to handle cases, quality of case handling,

financial independence, language, etc. This analysis, culminating in a report, is to be conducted through a preliminary study of the center's rules, interviews, and information gathering.

Starting the series of interventions from panelists on this sub-theme, Ms. Malak LOTFI and Mr. Victor MUGABE respectively briefed the participants on dispute management by CRCICA, a non-governmental organization based in Egypt, and CIAK, the center in Rwanda. Following them, Mr. Thomas OTIENO highlighted the existence of laws that regulate dispute resolution aspects in Kenya.

As for Ms. Poulméry Ba NIANG from Senegal, she presented the specificities of the functioning of the Public Procurement Regulation Agency (ARCOP) in her country, which has a Dispute Resolution Committee within it that issues administrative decisions.

Mr. Victor MUGABE, Secretary General of the Kigali International Arbitration Center in Rwanda, concluded the panelists' interventions by noting that the analysis of countries that have succeeded in the experience of arbitration reveals that these countries have an interesting level of development. Hence, it is important for African countries to genuinely focus on improving their arbitration committees, with a particular emphasis on transparency and impartiality.



## QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

**Q1** : What are the advantages of ad hoc dispute resolution committees?

**A1** : Ad hoc committees do not possess all the dispute management capabilities and have numerous limitations, as per the practices of funders, notably the World Bank.

**Q2** : How to establish a dispute resolution committee in the context of a PPP,

considering the specificity of this procurement method?

**A2** : In the context of a PPP, it is possible, for example, to limit the number of members to five (5), who will be replaced by new committee members at the end of a defined period.

**Panel 6**



**Sub-theme :**

"Introduction and Operationalization of Electronic Public Procurement in Africa for Increased Efficiency, Transparency, and Resource Optimization."



**Moderator / Speaker:**

**Monsieur Edwin MUHUMUZA** Head of Africa, **OCP**

**Panelists:**

• **Mr Osvaldo Tome Dos Santos NGOLOIMWE**

Deputy Director, **Angola** ;

• **Ms Tumelo MOTSUMI**

Acting Director-General, **PPRA, Botswana** ;

• **Ms Joyeuse UWINGENEYE**

Director-General, **RPPA, Rwanda** ;

• **Mr Benson TURAMYE**

Executive Director, Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets, **Uganda**



The speaker initially presented the current situation of public procurement dematerialization (e-procurement) in Africa, citing examples of both success stories and mistakes. He highlighted that there is no one-size-fits-all solution in this regard.

He then discussed the challenges faced by countries in implementing e-procurement, including the slow adoption by decision-makers, weak technological infrastructure, data transmission capacity issues, and problems interacting with other computer systems...

Drawing from successful dematerialization experiences, Mr. MUHUMUZA proposed some solutions to address the identified challenges. These include developing an e-procurement strategy involving government structures, the project team, and stakeholders; ensuring alignment of the defined policy with the legal framework; incorporating change management and capacity-building for stakeholders...

He concluded his presentation with points on innovations in electronic public procurement and encouraged stakeholders to be more involved for the effective dematerialization of public procurement in their respective countries.

Mr. Benson TURAMYE focused his intervention on the challenges faced by his country, Uganda, in the field of e-procurement, particularly those related to the administrative

entities responsible for the matter.

Presenting the case of Rwanda, Ms. Joyeuse UWINGENEYE emphasized the political will expressed through study visits and investment in fiber optics, with a focus on training stakeholders. She added that to date, 1026 entities are connected to the application with

an innovation related to artificial intelligence, and monitoring and evaluation are carried out to assess the real developments of the system.

In terms of challenges, the panelist mentioned the reluctance of stakeholders to connect, the negative perception of the system's capabilities, taxation, and difficulties in interacting with external partners. She concluded with perspectives, including the establishment of partnerships for data sharing, the integration of women into the process, and the transition to the project's phase 2.

Regarding Botswana, Ms. Tumelo MOTSUMI explained that the e-procurement transition process faced difficulties related to the lack of ownership by stakeholders, costs associated with acquiring infrastructure, long delays in implementation misaligned with rapid technological changes, and concerns about system security. Aware of all these challenges, the Botswana government decided to reinitiate the process to better understand the dematerialization of its public procurement system.

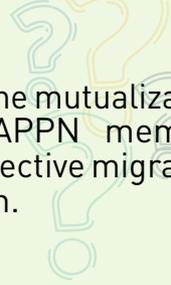
## QUESTIONS – ANSWERS

**Q1 :** Is it possible for Rwanda and other countries that have successfully transitioned to dematerialization of their procurement systems to develop terms of reference (TOR) for better implementation of their best practices by other countries in the Network?

**Q2 :** How can the implementation of the dematerialization system succeed while coexisting with existing financial systems, and how can the receiving of funds from suppliers be successfully managed?

**A:** (Mrs. UWINGENEYE) Rwanda is available to share its experience in this matter

**Q3: (Proposal)** Reflect on the mutualization of efforts among the APPN member countries, aiming for a collective migration towards dematerialization.



Panel 7

Sub-theme :

"Contributions of MAPS to Sustainable Economic Development in Africa – Case Studies of Countries"



**Moderator/Speaker:**

**Mr Nicolas, PENAGOS** - Head, **MAPS** Secretariat.

**Panelists:**

- **Mr Osvaldo Tome Dos Santos NGOLOIMWE**  
Deputy Director, NPPS, , **Angola** ;
- **Mr Bastide NGONGA**  
Permanent Secretary, ARMP, **Gabon** ;
- **Mr Glendo Haji IBSA**  
Director General, **Ethiopia** ;
- **Mr Bhagwansing DABEESING** Member, PPO, **Mauritius**;
- **Ms Etel BERESLAWSKI**  
Head of Public Procurement Practice, **World Bank**;
- **Mr William DAPKO**,  
Head of OCI Procurement Division, **AfDB**;
- **Mr Elhadj Malick SOUMARE**  
Senior Public Procurement Specialist, **IsDB**.

At the beginning of his presentation, Mr. Nicolas PENAGOS stated that the MAPS initiative provides support to countries to facilitate public procurement globally, aiming to professionalize procurement processes and combat corruption.

Regarding the complementary modules of MAPS, he mentioned that there are six (6) modules addressing the themes of sustainable public procurement, professionalization, e-procurement, PPPs, entity-level assessment, and sector assessment. These modules provide an analytical framework to assess the strengths and weaknesses of a specific dimension of the procurement system and to develop recommendations from economic, social, and environmental perspectives.

In conclusion, the speaker emphasized the need to adapt the tool to the context and specific challenges of the user country. He also highlighted the existence of an online learning program on MAPS. Following Mr. PENAGOS, various speakers shared their experiences from their respective countries or organizations on the panel's topic:

★ Mr. Bhagwansing DABEESING, Case of Mauritius

The representative of Mauritius highlighted the improvement in the performance of the public procurement system in his country through the modernization of the legal framework and the public procurement framework, as well as the promotion of competition, thanks to the MAPS evaluation.

Other recommendations from the evaluation relate to enhancing transparency and the full implementation of dematerialization (e-procurement).

★ Mr. William DAPKO, AfDB

He emphasized the support provided by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to several countries in using MAPS to assess their systems. This support takes the form of advice, technical and financial assistance (grants and budget support), and guidance in implementing reforms based on the recommendations resulting from the assessment.

Addressing the challenges in supporting countries, he cited:

- ★ Obtaining statistical data;
- ★ The issue of common understanding;
- ★ Lack of ownership in certain countries;
- ★ Defensive attitude when diagnoses are made.

Mr. DAKPO stressed the importance of a real commitment from the State for the success of this evaluation.

★ Ms. Etel BERESLAWSKI, World Bank  
During her intervention, she highlighted the support actions provided by the World Bank to countries in the evaluation of their procurement systems through MAPS, including Lebanon, Djibouti, and Tunisia. She emphasized that the commitment of the state, the availability of qualified human resources, as well as professionalization and training, are of crucial importance for the success of the evaluation.



★ Mr. Bastide NGONGA : Case of Gabon  
The panelist from Gabon mentioned that this evaluation helped identify deficiencies and initiate reforms to clarify the roles of various actors in the public procurement system, along with their associated missions.

In this regard, he continued, the recommendations made at the end of the MAPS evaluation serve as roadmaps for system improvement. Gabon, being the only African country to have completed the entire evaluation, was accredited by MAPS in the year 2022.

★ Mr. Glendo Haji IBSA : Case of Ethiopia  
Sharing Ethiopia's experience in implementing the MAPS evaluation, Mr. IBSA highlighted that, following the evaluations, recommendations were issued and incorporated into a regulatory reform. Additionally, an electronic management system was established to meet transparency requirements, and sustainability criteria were integrated into project frameworks. Civil society is also involved in the evaluation activities and the implementation of recommendations through workshops.

★ Mr. Elhadj Malick SOUMARE, IsDB  
Mr. SOUMARE highlighted the contribution of the African Development Bank (AfDB) at the level of the evaluation working groups, including the design and translation of the map, support for actions

at the World Bank Secretariat, implementation of payment mechanisms through AfDB grants, capacity building, and the establishment of measures to combat corruption.

## QUESTIONS – RÉPONSES

**Q1 :** How will the evaluation be carried out with the new MAPS system, and what will be the role of the local actor?

**A1 :** There is a framework for the evaluation with the new MAPS system. Also, the evaluation must be conducted by an independent body. As for defining the roles of stakeholders, it is done after discussion with the supporting bank (TFP).

**Q2:** Are there tools for monitoring the implementation of action plans resulting from the MAPS evaluation?

**A2 :** (AfDB) Yes, if the evaluation is conducted for the purpose of developing an action plan. In such cases, prioritization of actions is done, and the AfDB ensures the follow-up of the action plan by supporting the concerned state in its implementation.

## IV. SUB-REGIONAL NETWORKS ACTIVITIES

### GROUP 1: EAST SUB-REGIONAL NETWORK

It is composed of delegates from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and a representative from the World Bank.

The discussions focused on **the actions to be taken by the APPN to promote electronic public procurement, sustainable public procurement, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and public procurement oversight.**

At the end of the discussions, the following recommendations were made:

#### 1. Actions Related to the Promotion of the Dematerialization of Public Procurement (e-Procurement)

- Study the status of dematerialization of public procurement in different countries and, based on the study, develop an implementation strategy for this approach.
- Work on capacity building, with the support of financing agencies, through knowledge sharing.
- Develop a program of meetings and exchanges.
- Ensure the mobilization of necessary resources for financing the implementation of dematerialization of public procurement (optional).

#### 2. Actions Related to the Promotion of Sustainable Procurement

Facilitate the implementation of the dematerialization of public procurement to ensure the effectiveness of sustainable procurement.

#### 3. Actions Related to the PPP Promotion

Regarding this point, most of the East African countries present at the meeting stated that in their respective countries, PPPs are implemented under a separate legislative framework, different from public procurement legislation.

Therefore, delegates from these countries felt that it was not possible to make recommendations on how to promote PPPs, as the mandate of the APPN is primarily focused on public procurement.

#### 4. Actions Related to Strengthening Public Procurement Oversight

- Advocate for the implementation of the project under all circumstances, in accordance with the provisions of the national public procurement law of the respective countries;
- Strengthen the dispute resolution mechanism;
- Advocate for the professionalization of procurement personnel.



## **GROUP 2: WEST SUB-REGIONAL NETWORK**

The group 2, composed of delegates from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, deliberated on the sub-theme: **"How the APPN Can Play a Role in the Sustainable Capacity Building of Public Procurement Actors."**

At the end of the discussions, group 2 formulated the following three (3) recommendations:

- Establish an ad hoc committee responsible for the sustainable capacity building of public procurement actors.
- Develop a Regional Capacity Building Strategy (RCBS) for public procurement actors.
- Work towards the professionalization of public procurement actors.

## **GROUPE 3 : RÉSEAU SOUS-RÉGIONAL SUD**

GROUP 3: SOUTHERN SU-REGIONAL NETWORK

The countries in Group 3, including South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, were tasked with making proposals on the sub-theme: **"Ways and Means of Establishing and Strengthening the APPN Governing and Executive Bodies"**.

As a reminder, according to the Articles

of Association, the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, and the Technical Secretariat currently constitute the APPN governing bodies.

The discussions in Group 3 led to the formulation of the following recommendations:

### **1. The Creation of Governing Bodies of the APPN**

- Formalize the existence of regional bodies;

### **2. Strengthening the Governing Bodies of the APPN**

Regarding the General Assembly:

- Raise awareness among member states to pay their contributions;
- Hold the General Assembly every year (Zimbabwe proposes to host if the presidency goes to the southern region);
- Recognize regional structures as official bodies;
- Recognize thematic working groups.

For the Executive Committee:

- Extend the term of office for the President and the Executive Committee to two (2) years;
- Organize regional zone meetings halfway through the year and invite them to submit a report to the Technical Secretariat;
- Adopt the formula of rotating the presidency and hosting the General Assembly among the five (5) regions.

### Regarding the Technical Secretariat:

- Establish an advisory technical secretariat;
- Define the structure of the secretariat;
- Prepare and distribute the operating budget of the APPN;
- Prepare financial statements;
- Provide tools for the Technical Secretariat;
- Prepare proposals for Technical and Financial Partners to ensure their support for the sustainability of the APPN;
- Develop a strategic plan for the APPN;
- Conduct reviews of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Technical Secretariat;
- Create additional sources of income to gradually ensure the endogenous financing of the APPN and its financial autonomy.

### **GROUP 4: CENTRAL SUB-REGIONAL NETWORK**

The group 4, consisting of Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome & Principe, and Chad, reflected on the sub-theme: **"Establishment and Strengthening of APPN's Relations with African Regional Economic Cooperation Organizations Involved in Public Procurement."**

The workshop recalled the following:

The APPN's main mission is to promote the development and integration of public procurement through the active cooperation of its members. Regional economic cooperation organizations, on the other hand, aim to facilitate regional economic integration among their member states and within the larger African Economic Community (AEC), with the ambition of creating a common African market, using regional economic communities (RECs) as building blocks. This implies the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital, as well as harmonization and alignment of national legislation.

While public procurement in most African countries still struggles to fully fulfill its development leverage mission, due to disparities in legislation, regulations, and practices that vary from one country to another, the establishment and strengthening of the APPN's relations with these organizations have significant advantages. The standards and policies they define encourage member countries to align themselves with them.

Therefore, the working group formulated **the following recommendations:**

#### **1. Establish Contacts with RECs**

- Identification of regional organizations;
- Designation of focal points for the APPN within these regional organizations

#### **2. Identify Pilot Projects and Joint Initiatives**

Identification of pilot projects or joint initiatives on which the APPN and regional organizations can collaborate.

This may include (i) the creation of regional supplier databases, (ii) the development of joint training for public procurement professionals, and (iii) the implementation of joint monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

### 3. Ensure the Facilitation of Information Exchange

- Facilitate the exchange of relevant information on public procurement between the APPN and regional organizations, through the establishment of online platforms, working groups, or regular meetings to share data, best practices, and information on challenges faced.
- Launch innovative programs aimed at promoting the strengthening and improvement of public procurement systems, integrating corruption prevention and any other threats to development.
- Regularly communicate on collaborative activities with regional economic cooperation organizations to stakeholders, including governments, procurement agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

- Raise awareness of the importance of regional cooperation for improving public procurement in Africa.

- Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the impact of collaboration with regional organizations. This will allow for adjustments to activities based on needs and outcomes.

- Develop policies and guidelines related to public procurement that align with international standards and promote transparency, fair competition, and efficiency. This may involve participation in joint working groups to develop recommendations and reforms to:
  - ★ Promote good governance.
  - ★ Harmonize the legislative and regulatory frameworks of public procurement.
  - ★ Strengthen ethics, integrity, and accountability in the public procurement sector by promoting its fundamental principles.
  - ★ Develop joint programs to clean up public procurement systems in countries.
  - ★ Intensify cooperation for development to improve the living conditions of African populations.

## V. THE APPN MORAL AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

The presentation of the moral and financial report was conducted by Mr. Aftar Touré MOROU, Secretary General of the Network. After recalling the main recommendations of the second General Assembly held in Mbabane in November 2022, he focused on the following aspects:

**1. The Development and Implementation of an Action Plan** based on the eight (8) recommendations from the second General Assembly, with the key points being:

- The handover ceremony held on March 2 and 3, 2023, in Abidjan, between Mr. Vusi MATSEBULA, the outgoing President (Eswatini), and the new President, Mrs. BAMBA Massanfi spouse DIOMANDE (Côte d'Ivoire);
- Out of the eighteen (18) action plan points, nine (9) have been accomplished, one (1) is in progress, and eight (8) have not been realized, including the amendment of the Articles of Association and internal regulations of the Network

discussed during the Abidjan meeting.

**2. The Development of the Technical and Financial Procedures Manual of the Network**

On this point, Mr. MOROU noted that a project manual, to be submitted for validation by the members, has been prepared with the support of the World Bank through the recruitment of a consultant for this purpose.

**3. The Presentation of the Financial Balance Point,** which reveals a balance

of 186,331,417 CFA francs for the collection of membership fees and a low collection rate for the annual contributions of member countries (few members are up to date with their contributions). The Secretary General urged member states to make efforts regarding this situation and called on public procurement regulatory bodies to enhance the collection of regulatory fees to ensure the vitality of the APPN.



## VI. ADOPTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR THE APPN

The presentation of this axis, dedicated to proposals for amending the statutes and a draft internal regulation of the APPN, was carried out by Dr. Vincent BILE, Deputy Secretary General in charge of Appeals and Sanctions of ANRMP - Ivory Coast, on behalf of the Reflection Committee set up for this purpose.

These proposals were discussed, and decisions were made on the following points:

### Concerning the Articles of Association

1. It was proposed to exclude the procurement and control bodies from benefiting from the membership status of the APPN. Another proposal was made to keep the original version that does not limit the APPN to regulatory bodies. These proposals were put to a vote, and the new formulation was adopted by the majority of votes.
2. It was decided that contributions should be borne by the States and not solely the responsibility of regulatory bodies.
3. Concerning Article 15 dedicated to the Technical Secretariat, it was decided to determine the recruitment mode of the Network's Technical Secretary in the Articles of Association to address the fact that the texts were silent on the matter.
4. It was decided to establish a procedure for the recruitment of the accounts certifier, whose evaluation report must be submitted to the Executive Committee.

5. It was decided to create the position of Auditor.

6. Form observations were made and taken into account.

### On the Internal Regulation:

#### Proposals:

1. Limit the mandate of the Executive Committee to two years, with no possibility of renewal.
2. Provide for the addition of an honorary distinction for legal entities.
3. Form observations were made and taken into account.
4. It was proposed to review the frequency of the General Assemblies to give the elected President sufficient time for the proper preparation of the next General Assembly. According to some participants, holding the General Assembly every 2 years would dampen the enthusiasm of the members, so it was necessary to maintain the annual nature of the General Assembly and possibly consider a second annual meeting between two General Assemblies. Following the vote on this issue, the General Assembly opted to maintain an annual General Assembly.
5. **Proposal:** That the presentation of the agenda of the General Assembly be made by the APPN Technical Secretariat.

At the end of the discussions, the amended Articles of Association and Internal Regulations were adopted by the Delegates, representing the member countries present (by acclamation).



## VII. FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The 3rd General Assembly of the African Public Procurement Network (RACOP) took place from November 13 to 16, 2023, at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire in Abidjan under the theme "**Public Procurement for Sustainable Development in Africa**". This General Assembly, held simultaneously in French, English, and Portuguese with online streaming, saw the participation of 167 in-person attendees over the three days of activities. Four key moments marked this meeting:

### • The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony began with welcoming remarks from the President of the National Authority for Public Procurement Regulation (ANRMP) of Côte d'Ivoire, who is also the current President of the APPN, speeches were delivered by Mr. Adama COULIBALY, Minister of Finance and Budget of Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Swazi Bajabulile TSHABALALA, First Vice-President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Ms. Marie-Chantal UWANYILIGIRA, Country Director of the World Bank, Mr. Elhadj Malick SOUMARÉ, Principal Specialist in Global Public Procurement at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the opening speech by Mr. Abdourahmane CISSE, Minister, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

### • Presentations and Panel Discussions

After Mr. Aftar Touré MOROU, Secretary General of the Network, provided insights into the achievements and challenges of the APPN since the Second General Assembly in Mbabane in November 2022, various speakers, including professionals from member countries, representatives of Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs), and international experts, took turns delivering presentations and participating in panel discussions on topics related to sustainable public procurement, public-private partnerships (PPPs), women-owned businesses, SMEs, dematerialization, and the OECD's MAPS evaluation...in the context of public procurement.

### • Sub-Regional Group Workshop Sessions

The outcomes of the workshop sessions conducted by sub-regional groups, organized into four reflection groups, as well as discussions on administration and functioning, and the moral and financial report of the Network since the Second General Assembly of RACOP, will be the basis for an action plan developed by the Executive Committee.

### • The Closing Ceremony

Details to be continued in the following point.

## VIII. CLOSING CEREMONY

The main points of the closing ceremony are as follows:

### • Election of the New President of the APPN

No country up to date with its contributions expressed candidacy. The candidacies of Namibia and Rwanda were registered for the position of the new President of the Network.

At the end of the vote, with a total of 44 voters, Rwanda received thirty-seven (37) votes against seven (7) votes for Namibia. Ms. Joyeuse UWINGENEYE from Rwanda was thus elected as the President of the APPN for the upcoming term.

### • Reading of Recommendations from Sub-Regional Groups

After reading the recommendations from the working groups, Mr. Aftar Touré MOROU emphasized that they would form the basis of an action plan to be implemented with the participation of all members.

### • Words of Thanks:

★ Mr. Alassane BA, Coordinator of the APPN Executive Committee  
Mr. BA expressed sincere thanks to the host country for the warm welcome and excellent organization of the 3rd General Assembly. He gave special mention to the reception of the APPN delegation by Mr. Tiémoko Meyliet KONE, Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, who, on behalf of the President, encouraged the Network's initiative and reiterated the country's commitment to support APPN's actions, contributing to the improvement of public procurement systems in our states. Mr. BA also congratulated Rwanda,

which, following its recent election to lead the Network, will host the next General Assembly.

### ★ Mr. MVULA Franck from AfDB

After respectively greeting Côte d'Ivoire, the participants, other Technical and Financial Partners, Rwanda, and Namibia, the representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) expressed the desire to see the results of the discussions in the form of an action plan for the sustainability of the APPN. He also urged member countries to ensure the payment of their contributions for the effective empowerment of the Network.

### ★ Ms. Boutheina GUERMAZI, Director, World Bank

In her remarks, Ms. GUERMAZI encouraged all participants to maintain the Network and implement the outcomes of this meeting in their respective countries. She congratulated the delegates for their commitment to achieving the goals of improving public procurement in Africa and commended Côte d'Ivoire for all the efforts made for the success of this General Assembly. She concluded by inviting everyone to pool their efforts to achieve the set objectives.

### ★ Mr. Elhadj SOUMARE from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The representative of the BID expressed gratitude to the participants and to Côte d'Ivoire for the successful organization of this meeting. He emphasized that the sharing of experiences and discussions on the defined themes will inevitably contribute to improving the public procurement systems of member countries



for the socio-economic development of Africa. Mr. SOUMARE reiterated the commitment of the IsDB to continue supporting the implementation of the APPN action plan.

• **Speech by the New President of the APPN**

Ms. Joyeuse UWINGENEYE, the new President of the APPN, expressed her immense honor at being elected to lead the Network. She highlighted the commitment of the President of Rwanda through his constant support for actions in favor of public procurement. She announced that her mandate's program will focus on strengthening the human capacities of actors, sharing knowledge, and maintaining sustainable development actions. The now President of the APPN concluded her speech by thanking Côte d'Ivoire, technical and financial partners, Namibia, and all participants.

• **Closing Speech by the Host**

Ms. BAMBA Massanfi spouse DIOMANDE, the outgoing President of the APPN, thanked the delegates, national participants, and technical and financial partners for their hard work during these three (3) days of work, which led to recommendations for improving the public procurement system. She encouraged Namibia for presenting its candidacy and congratulated Rwanda for its brilliant election as the President of the APPN.

Ms. BAMBA Massanfi spouse DIOMANDE reiterated her gratitude to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for their unwavering support for the Network's radiance. She extended heartfelt congratulations to the APPN Executive Committee, the national organizing committee composed of ANRMP, CNP-PPP, and DGMP for all their efforts that contributed to the success of this event.

With the hope that Côte d'Ivoire has met the expectations related to its mandate at the head of the APPN, the outgoing President, on behalf of the Minister, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, declared the 3rd General Assembly of the APPN closed.

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, November 16, 2023

The Third General Assembly of the African Public Procurement Network (APPN)

## IX. ANNEXES

### Opening Ceremony Pictures



### Visit to the Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire





### ■ Closing Ceremony



### ■ Gala Dinner





the Lagoon Tour





[www.anrmp.ci](http://www.anrmp.ci)

NUMÉRO  
VERT 800 00 100

Bld Usher ASSOUAN, Rue du Lycée Français - Cocody-Rivière 3  
25 BP 589 Abidjan 25 - info@anrmp.ci - Tel : 27 22 40 00 40 - 0555 000 322 - Fax : 27 22 40 00 44