



COUNTRY REPORT
PRESENTATION BY THE TOGOLESE DELEGATION

Abuja November 2019

Comprising:

- ✓ **Honourable TCHAO Padumhèkou Christophe**
- ✓ **Honourable APEKEY Asséwouwokan**
- ✓ **Honourable SENOU Komlan**
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- ✓ **Honourable HODIN Eké Ko**

INTRODUCTION

- **Rt. Hon. Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament,**
- **Honourable Members, Dear Colleagues,**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On the occasion of this Second Ordinary Session of 2019, the Togolese delegation would like to testify to the Speaker of Parliament and to all colleague Members of Parliament, its sincere gratitude for the confidence, observations and criticisms, irrespective of their nature, which allowed us to contribute to the achievement of the Parliament's objectives and towards social peace in Togo.

The report that we are honoured to present to you will be based on the Parliament's outline, namely:

- Political situation
- Security situation
- Human Rights situation
- State of implementation of Community texts
- State of Community programmes and projects
- Economic and social situation
- State of implementation of economic convergence criteria
- Environment and climate change
- Payment of Community Levy proceeds
- Sensitisation activities by MPs

I- SITUATION POLITICAL

After the 20 December 2018 legislative elections, which were held thanks to ECOWAS and the remarkable contribution of the Parliament, especially of its Speaker, Togo continued its march in the rooting of democracy with the organization of local elections on June 30, 2019.

Indeed, the municipal elections offered Togolese of the required age the opportunity to rub shoulders with democracy at the base. On the starting line, after the Supreme Court's review of the dockets, 568 lists from 18 political parties, 4 party groupings and independent groups seized the opportunity for the municipal councillors' seats. In all, 10,160 candidates contested including 1,479 women. Of the 1,527 elected councillors, there were 199 women as against 1,328 men. In summary, here are the most significant figures: UNIR, 923 counsellors; ANC, 136; Coalition C14, 131; UFC, 44; NET, 33; MPDD, 25; CAR, 20; PDR 9; EEC, 8; Independents, 23.

Constitutional Reforms

On May 8, 2019, the National Assembly amended certain articles of the Togolese constitution by limiting the number of presidential terms to two, and instituted the presidential election in two rounds. It was also stated that "no one can do more than 2 terms".

The National Assembly adopted a bill on November 5, 2019 to amend the electoral code to adapt to the new provisions of the constitution and allow Togolese in the Diaspora to vote.

2020 Presidential Election

The Constitutional Court set the date of the presidential election between February 19th and March 5th, 2020. The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), established last April, is composed of 17 members, distributed as follows: 5 members of the parliamentary majority, 5 members of the parliamentary opposition, 3 members of extra-parliamentary parties, 3 members of civil society and 1 representative of the administration which is in charge of organizing the 2020 presidential election and led by a member of civil society.

Preparations for the 2020 presidential election are on course with the training of data entry clerks, responsible for the issuance of biometric voter cards during the revision of the voters register scheduled from 29 November 2019.

A UN-ECOWAS mission visited Togo in November and met with Head of State Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, Leader of the opposition Gilchrist OLYMPIO, political parties and civil society.

The UN-ECOWAS delegation led by Ibn Chambas and Commissioner GBEHANZIN also had a long working session with the CENI.

II - SECURITY SITUATION

The security policy has two aspects: internal and regional.

Internally, the government ensures the security of all citizens, nationals and foreigners through the establishments of special units of police and gendarmerie, well trained and well equipped. The High Council of the Republic for Reconciliation and National Unity (HCRRUN) has initiated and implemented in all prefectures, the Local Peace Committees (CLP) responsible for preventing and promoting peace in their respective localities. Cybercrime is the subject of special attention and vigilance. Piracy on the high seas is a permanent concern of the highest Togolese authorities. Indeed, the Togolese coast, famous for its security, shelters many of the region's ships. Togo is assisted by ECOWAS, France and the United States.

Regionally, Togo is actively involved in security policies put in place by ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations. Togolese contingents participate in the maintenance of order in Darfur, Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, etc. Togo is currently participating fully in the regional struggle against jihadism and insecurity in all its forms.

III- HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TOGO

Togo is a Human Rights compliant State. All texts related thereto have been ratified by the National Assembly. The National Commission on Human Rights, which is classified as “A” status by Paris and ECOWAS, has seen its powers enhanced by the passing of a new law. The said tasks have now moved from promotion to protection. A new office has been set up and is headed by Mrs Nakpa POLO. The State plays a positive role in respect of fundamental rights and freedoms, just as the no less negligible action of civil society organizations.

a- People Living with Disabilities

Togo has signed international conventions and adopted legal and regulatory texts that guide its actions in favour of this vulnerable social group. They are reinforced by the constitutional provisions.

a- Women Empowerment

Remarkable progress has been made in this area. The political will was affirmed very early on by the setting up of structures and regulatory texts, based on the constitutional provisions.

Gender equality and the empowerment of Togolese women are affirmed in the various texts revised, ratified or prepared by Togo. Thus, two female heads of two institutions of the Republic: the National Assembly and the CNDH.

c- Protection of the Child

The Togolese Government, in the context of protection of the child, has taken measures, inter alia: strengthening of the legal and institutional framework, preparation of strategic documents and implementation of projects / programmes for the well-being of children with the support of technical and financial partners and civil society. The main areas of intervention are: education, maternal and newborn health, reducing the vulnerability of children living in poor families, juvenile justice, and social practices.

d- Protection of the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons

Refugees in Togo are estimated at about 13,000 people made up of 14 nationalities. Togo is party to the international legal instruments relating to refugees. The Government provides them with all the guarantees under these agreements.

IV-STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY TEXTS

1- State of Ratification of Community Texts

The ratification of Community texts is a concern for Members of Parliament.

Togo remains a country firmly committed to building an ECOWAS of peoples. To this end, significant efforts are currently being made by Togolese MPs in the ECOWAS Parliament and the Government for the ratification of the eleven (11) remaining Community texts out of the fifty-four (54) adopted by the Authority of Heads of State.

2- Specific Situation / Measures Relating to:

a) Implementation of the Community Levy

In respect of the community levy, our country, Togo is fully in good standing and has no arrears to settle.

b) Free Movement of Persons and Goods

On free movement of persons and goods, several efforts have been made by Togo in recent years. Thus, regulatory measures are taken to eliminate red tape and harassments at the borders.

It should also be put on record that Togo has been applying Regulation 14 on axle load in its entirety for several years.

V- STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

As part of the implementation of the national transport policy, the Togolese Government, through the National Development Plan (PND) is working to establish a logistics hub of excellence and a first class business centre in the sub region. This will strengthen the infrastructure, equipment and services of the Lome Autonomous Port (PAL) and the GNASSINGBE Eyadema International Airport, complete the dual carriage of the National N° 1 from Lomé to Cinkassé, install a dry port in Cinkassé, construct the railway from Lomé to Cinkassé and continue the construction of national roads and rural roads to attain an emerging Togo by the year 2030. The main objective is to improve the living conditions of the populations, enhance economic integration and sub regional cooperation among ECOWAS member countries and open up the Member States.

V- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

1. Economic Growth

The 2020 State Budget took into account the macroeconomic aggregates as defined by the ECOWAS programme.

Thus, the real GDP growth rate of 5.1% in 2019 would be 5.3% in 2020.

2. Fight against Poverty

Given the abject poverty affecting a relatively large part of the country's population, the government has developed a new paradigm that consists of ensuring lasting universal access by all Togo's basic communities and organizations by 2032 to a common vital minimum, through the grassroots development approach and the inclusion of vulnerable groups.

To this end, the Government has initiated a new national development strategy called the "**National Development Plan (PND)**" for the 2018-2022 period of an amount of FCFA 4,622.2 billion officially launched on March 4, 2019 by the Head of State. Highly ambitious, the PND aims to structurally transform the economy, for strong, sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth, creating decent jobs and leading to improved social well-being. The medium-term orientation of the PND is divided into three strategic areas which are:

- **Strategic Area 1:** Establish a logistics hub of excellence and a world-class business centre in the sub region;
- **Strategic Area 2:** Develop agricultural processing, manufacturing and extractive industries poles; and
- **Strategic Area 3:** Consolidate social development and strengthen mechanisms for inclusion.

Very realistic and promising, the PND enjoys strong support from national and international actors and partners who are resolutely committed to supporting Togo in its implementation.

In addition, an important place is given to the Community Development Emergency Programme (PUDC), the Support Programme for Vulnerable Populations (PAPV) and the agro polis in our country's (Togo) development policy.

➤ **Inclusive Finance Promotion**

For the inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups (women, the youth, farmers and artisans), the government has since 2014, launched the National Fund

for Inclusive Finance (FNFI) with three products, namely: Access by the Poor to Financial Services (APSEF), Access by Farmers to Financial Services (AGRIFEF) and Access by the Youth to Financial Services (AJSEF). Following the spectacular success of the first three products and at the request of the beneficiaries, the FNFI launched on 23 March 2019 in Kara, under the chairmanship of the Head of State Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, two new products:

- The Direct Beneficiary Refinancing (PRB) product with financial partners to enhance their production capacities;
- The Product Support Formalization (PAF) for craft and processing equipment and increasing the working capital of artisans.

Orabank Bank and the FNFI partner institutions are committed to ensuring the success of these new products.

➤ **Agriculture**

Determined to make agriculture a professional, profitable and therefore attractive activity to boost the creation of decent, sustainable and rewarding jobs, the Head of State, initiated and launched on April 25, 2018, at Hotel 2 Février, the MIFA (Incentive Mechanism for Agricultural Financing) project based on risk sharing. Driven by this mechanism, the Government aims to increase agricultural loans, which currently stand at 0.3% of bank loans, to 5% and to reduce the risks that make agricultural loan interest rates soar. This is to enable over one million agricultural producers to access funding without constraint by 2021. Its cost is FCFA 65 billion.

Furthermore, the Government has implemented the agro pole development policy with funding estimated at nearly FCFA 64 billion and covering the period from 2016 to 2030 to give a new impetus to the agricultural sector by contributing to the development of processing agricultural, fishery and livestock products. The project aims, in the next five years, to reduce poverty by more than 15% in rural areas and create 25,000 jobs, nearly 40% of which for women.

The first pilot agro pole in the Kara Basin with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB) is already in its start-up phase. It is based on the South Korean model and will reduce Togo's trade deficit by at least 6 points.

The second pilot agro pole is being implemented in the Vo-Zio valley.

Alongside these new agricultural promotion initiatives, other agricultural sector development projects continue to be implemented in the field.

The new land code adopted by the National Assembly in 2018 supports the many agricultural development projects in Togo.

➤ **Rural Electrification**

The Togolese State's new energy policy is to increase the current national territory's electrification rate from 40% to 50%, 75% and 100% respectively in 2020, 2025 and 2030.

➤ **Health**

In implementing President Faure's social programme, an innovative contracting project has been set up in the health sector. Launched in 2017, the project currently covers 7 teaching hospitals, namely: CHR of Atakpamé, Dapaong and Sokodé, CHP of Blitta, CMS of Siou, CHU of Kara and Sylvanus Olympio of Lome.

Based on the contractual approach, this project is a miraculous solution to get public hospitals out of the abyss in which they were abandoned for several years. After a little more than a year of implementation, the excellent outcome in the 7 health facilities eloquently testify to the significant impact of the project to sanitise the financial management of hospitals and on the rates of patronage, consultation, the maternity aspect, care aspect, etc.

The construction of the gigantic referral hospital called "Saint Pérégrin Hospital" covering an area of 60,000 m², at a total construction cost of FCFA 17 billion, expandable to 40 billion upon the total completion of the work and the

first block of which was laid in April 2019 by the President of the Republic in Agoè, in the northern part of Lome, is progressing steadily. It will include hospital facilities, a modern hotel and a heliport track to provide on-the-spot quality care to the local populations. It will be equipped with magnetic resonance engineering services in cardiology, neurology, trauma, childbirth and gynaecology.

Building on the successes of SCOOOL ASSUR and the National Institute of Health Insurance (INAM), our country, Togo has truly committed to universal insurance coverage to all Togolese.

➤ **Education**

The "**School Assur**" project set in motion at the start of the 2017-2018 academic year, which is a health insurance programme whose technical and financial implementation was entrusted to the OGAR and NSIA companies, aims to cover nearly 2 million pupils and students in public schools throughout Togo. This project, which concerned only pupils, will be extended to all students in primary schools, colleges and public secondary schools throughout the national territory.

3. Fight against Youth Unemployment

The fight against unemployment and youth underemployment constitutes priorities announced by the government in accordance with the guidelines contained in the National Development Plan (PND).

The Togolese Government has undertaken inter alia, several initiatives:

- The National Strategic Plan for Youth Employment (PSNEJ)
- The Youth Employment Programme (PEJ)
- The Support Fund for Youth Economic Initiatives (FAIEJ)
- The Basic Development Support Programme (PRADEB)
- The National Volunteer Promotion Programme (PROVONAT)

- The decision by the Head of State to increase the public procurement quota to 25% for the youth and women entrepreneurs.
- The launch in October 2019 of operation TELEFOOD MAPAH TOGO 2019 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal and Fisheries Production to support 1,000 young people and women to start their businesses in the agricultural sector for a healthy diet and "**A zero hunger world**".

a) Other Efforts to Fight Unemployment

In addition to all the above, the Togolese Government occasionally organizes direct recruitment competitions in the civil service in several sectors and supports the initiatives of the Togolese private sector in terms of job creation and the fight against unemployment. The improvement of the index value to civil servants from January 2020 announced by the President of the Republic, at his address to the nation on April 26, 2019 is captured in the 2020 State budget.

2. Other Major Economic Facts

In the Doing Business 2020 report, our country is ranked 1st reforming country in Africa and 3rd in the world.

The first edition of the private sector week from 4 to 8 November 2019 and the first edition of the International Market of Togolese Crafts (MIATO) from 29 October to 04 November 2019 are also captured.

The extension of the money transfer mechanism totalling FCFA 7.32 billion throughout the Togolese territory to 61,000 households from 585 villages at a rate of FCFA 15,000 per quarter and household for the period 2018-2022 is also worth noting.

VI- STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE CRITERIA

1- Primary Criteria

Regarding the convergence criteria, the efforts made allowed our country, Togo, to meet all the six (6) ECOWAS convergence criteria.

- **Basic fiscal balance over GDP (including grants):** This ratio rose from -2.5% in 2018 to -2.6% in 2019, compared to a Community standard greater than or equal to 3%.
- **Annual average inflation rate** stands at 2.1% in 2018 and 1.6% in 2019. The Community standard is less than or equal to 3%.
- **Gross foreign exchange reserves** stand at 3.8 in 2018 and 4.1 in 2019 for a standard greater than or equal to 3.
- **Outstanding domestic and foreign debt to GDP:** from 72% in 2018 to 67.5% in 2019 for a Community standard of less than or equal to 70.00%. The Government took significant steps at the time to return to the community standard.

2- Secondary Criteria

- **Wage Bill over Tax Revenue:** This ratio went from 31.4% in 2017 to 31.9% in 2019 for a Community threshold of 35%.
- **Tax pressure rate:** This ratio went from 22.3% in 2017 to 20.5% in 2019 for a minimum community standard of 17%.

Summary Table of Togo's Convergence Criteria for 2019

Convergence Criteria	ECOWA S standard	Year 2019	Observation
Primary Criteria			
Basic budget balance over GDP	$\geq -3\%$	-2.6	Met
Average annual inflation rate	$\leq 3\%$	1.6	Met
Outstanding domestic and foreign debt over GDP	$\leq 70\%$	67.5	Met
Gross exchange rate reserves	≥ 3	4.1	Met
Secondary Criteria			
Wage bill over tax revenue	$\leq 35\%$	31.9	Met
Tax pressure rate	$\geq 17\%$	20.5	Met

In sum, Togo met all the six (06) convergence criteria in 2019.

VI- ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. It constitutes indeed a real threat to all the countries of the globe but especially for the least developed countries including Togo, and the small island States that are the most vulnerable.

Climate change in Togo is manifested by disruptions in seasonal cycles with recurrent floods that contrast with longer and more pronounced drought periods.

The erosion of the Togolese coast is experiencing an upsurge due to sea level rise and is advancing at a speed of 5 to 12 meters per year, indeed 15 in some sectors, engulfing thousands of hectares of land as well as road infrastructure and other human settlements.

Togo's commitment to combat climate change has also resulted in the integration of the environment and particularly climate change into its national legal framework, particularly in the National Development Plan (PND).

VII- PAYMENT OF PROCEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY LEVY

Thanks to the measures taken, our country, Togo, has fully honoured its commitment to the community levy and has no arrears to settle to date.

VIII- SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES BY MPs

The five Togolese Members at the ECOWAS Parliament capitalised on the reopening of schools to organize a sensitisation and information campaign across the 5 major regions of the country from 20 to 30 September 2019 on the theme "**Clandestine immigration - the scourge that affects ECOWAS youth at the moment**".

To this end, the Community Parliament has organized important meetings on the subject, in order to contribute alongside the regional institution, governments and NGOs, to the fight against clandestine immigration which is likely to destroy the West African youth and to mortgage the future of our children.

It honoured all the promises in the places it visited, because of its importance and its devastating effects on the youth.

Many localities and traditional and religious authorities hoped for a large-scale organization in their localities.

The people and in particular the youth thanked the MPs and especially the ECOWAS Parliament for this wake up call on the dangers of clandestine immigration.

CONCLUSION

Togo, with H.E. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE at the helm of affairs, will spare no effort to realise an ECOWAS of peoples.

The Togolese delegation in its current composition has just delivered its last country report of the 4th legislature. It expresses its gratitude and friendship to all Members of this Parliament and wishes them resounding success.

I thank you for your kind attention.