



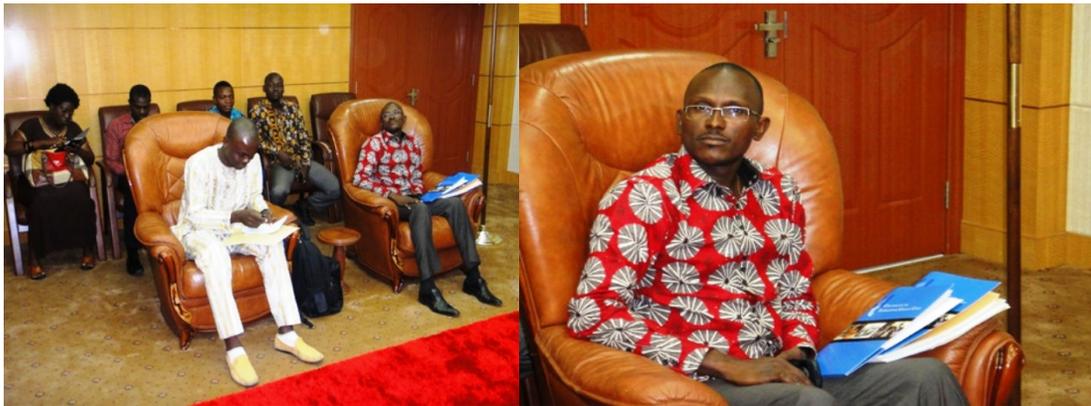
## COALITION BENINOISE POUR LA COUR PENALE INTERNATIONALE

**Cotonou, 6th March 2013**

The Benin coalition for the international criminal Court (CB/CPI) was granted upon request, an audience by the Beninese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese living abroad.

The audience came as a follow up to the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Professor Nassirou Bako Arifari, to the International Criminal Court on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The aims of the audience were the cooperation of Benin with the ICC and mainly the support of the Government of Benin in view of the Rome Statute implementation law. And the delegation of the coalition was lead by Clement CAPO-CHICHI, Chair of the Benin Coalition for the ICC.



***Members of the Board***

***M. Clément Capo-Chichi, Chair Benin Coalition for ICC***

### POINTS OF DISCUSSION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs received the visit of the members of the Board of the Benin Coalition for the ICC; the team was also extended to some resources persons.

The audience gave the opportunity to lobby on the following points:



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- a- To obtain the support of the Minister in view of the adoption of the implementation law of the Rome Statute. This was ratified by Benin on 2nd January 2002.
- b- To obtain the support of the Minister in view of the ratification of the amendments of Kampala of June 2010 relating to the exercise of the jurisdiction of the ICC over crimes of aggression.
- c- To request, in respect of the process of selection and nomination of candidates representing Benin for the election of the ICC judges, the involvement of the Benin coalition for the ICC. The period of nomination of candidates running from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014, and the election of judges being scheduled for 8-17 December 2014.



***M. Clement Capo-chichi, Chair Benin Coalition for ICC and H.E Prof. Nassirou Bako Arifari  
Benin Minister of Foreign Affairs***





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*M. Capo-chichi Chair, and the H.E. Prof. Nassirou Bako Arifari*



***M. Clément Capo-chichi, Chair , H.E Prof Nassirou Bako Arifari Benin Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Eric F.Saizonou, Director of Legal Affairs***

The Chair of the Benin Coalition for the ICC, Clément Capo-Chichi insisted on the possibilities to put an end to impunity that have been availed since the existence of the new system of international justice which was encouraged and supported by Benin: reference is here made to the creation of the International Criminal Court as «a permanent institution which can exercise its jurisdiction over persons for most serious crimes with international scope, in the sense of the Rome Statute» which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.

The Republic of Benin is the forty-ninth State to ratify the Rome Statute on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2002. Benin demonstrated by doing so its commitment to the respect of human dignity and also to the functioning of the ICC.

The Chair also underlined however that the mere ratification by Benin is no longer enough; this is to say that Benin must harmonise the domestic legislation and adopt an implementation law that will enable the country to be in conformity with the international law and also to be granted with supremacy of judgments and affairs, affirming by this way its judicial sovereignty. The ICC would then just be playing its role of complementarity, which is being complementary to domestic penal jurisdiction.



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M. Clément Capo Chichi recalled the constant efforts of the Government of Benin in view of an efficient cooperation with the ICC through the passing of a new Code Criminal Procedure which came into force early 2013 and which dedicates a full chapter (Title 14, art 771-789) to « Cooperation with the international Criminal Court». He underlined however that the issue of complementary is still not taken into account.

Also, a draft implementing law of the Statute of the International Criminal Court in Benin was initiated by the Government and was forwarded to the Supreme Court by the President Thomas Boni Yayi on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006 for reasoned opinion by the Court. The draft is still at the Court to-date.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs who was very attentive to the points of discussion reiterated the support of the Government of Benin to the International Criminal Court. He also expressed the need of more collaboration between the Benin Coalition for the ICC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We remain confident, that the meticulous work done by the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese living abroad, the General Secretariat of the Government and the Ministry of Justice, Legislation and human rights will very soon lead to the passing of the bill of implementation Law of the Rome Statute by the National Assembly.