



PRESS RELEASE

Cotonou, May 25, 2010

21st Session of the Board of Directors meeting of MDP: Towards a new beginning for the institution.

The Municipal Development Partnership held its board meeting at the conference room of 'Hotel du Port' on May 25, 2010. The meeting brought together members of the Board of Directors, Presidents of the various National Associations of Local Authorities of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI), Mauritania (AM), Chad (ACT), and Niger (AMN). The members of the Technical and Orientation Committee of MDP were also present namely the Association of Municipalities of Senegal (AMS), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the French Ministry of the Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE). One could also notice the presence of the members of the staff of the institution.

This session of the Board of Directors meeting was special in many ways. In fact, as the African municipal movement is witnessing the birth of several African regional structures to support the implementation of decentralization, the Municipal Development Partnership is confronted with redefining its position. Moreover, the institution which underwent reforms in 2007 is at the point of revival in 2011, with the end of conventions with its main donors of which one has already engaged a process of disengagement. However, the board meeting took place at a time when the members of the associations were investing financially in their institution by paying their statutory and special contributions thus showing interest in this important tool for the support of the process of decentralization which has proven reliable for 19 years.

It is thus without surprise that the Administrators of MDP resolved to undertake actions that will run within the short and long term to ensure the sustainability of the institution. They took firm and immediate measures aimed at improving the relations with the donors, and at restoring the financial viability of the organization. Furthermore, the administrators decided to create a dialogue with the other institutions of the African municipal landscape in order to guarantee the synergy and the complementarities of their interventions thereby maximizing the services offered to the populations.

It is on an enthusiastic note that the 21st session of the Board of Directors meeting ended marking a turning point in the history of the Partnership for the Municipal Development.

Concerning MDP

The Municipal Development Partnership (PDM) is a regional association to support Associations of Local Authorities (APL) of West and Central Africa in implementing decentralisation. Its headquarters is based in the Republic of Benin. It is supported by financial and technical partners of which are the French Ministry of Foreign affairs (MAE), Canadian International Development Agency and Swiss Co-operation.

The association has two main aims:

- To reinforce the capacities of the Local Governments to enable them assume their responsibilities and meet the needs of the populations;
- To support actors in the implementation of the policies of decentralization.

Contact

PDM:

7th Floor Espace Dina, Boulevard St Michel

Tel.: 21 32 47 00/21 32 47 01/21 32 26 55

Email: pdm@pdm-net.org

Web site: <http://www.pdm-net.org>