

APNAC



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' NETWORK AGAINST CORRUPTION Anticorruption Training for Francophone Chapters 28th November – 2nd December 2005

REPORT

Background and Objectives - The second anti-corruption course for African members of Parliament and members of Civil Society Organizations was organized on November 28th – December 2nd in Dakar, Senegal, following the success of the first of these sessions held five months earlier in Arusha, Tanzania. Over the past two years, APNAC has evolved from a weak and obscure parliamentary network to a fully recognized and consolidated anticorruption network reaching across an ever increasing number of African Parliaments. Training has consequently been identified as one of the better strategies, if not the best, to strengthen the network's individual national chapters. The training courses are designed and elaborated with a view to imparting best practices and knowledge on anticorruption to parliamentarians, as well as giving them the necessary skills to monitor and oversee a wide range of anticorruption policies in their own countries. This second training session was organized in joint collaboration between the Parliamentary Centre and Forum Civil, the leading partner of Transparency International in Senegal.

The program was designed to help participants to:

- Understand and appreciate the complexity of corruption and its causes;
- Understand anti-corruption reforms and tools, such as institutions, legislation and conventions;
- Develop pilot project ideas on anti-corruption reforms
- Acquire monitoring skills;
- Relate theory with practice through site visits.

Participation – The Dakar training was specifically targeted to all francophone national chapters of APNAC with the exclusion of Rwanda which has already previously participated in another training session. The countries, each of which sent 3 MPS and 1 member of Civil Society, included the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); Benin; Burkina Faso; Chad; Niger; Mali; and Senegal.

There were 13 women (40.6%) in attendance out of a total of about 32 participants, who included the 4 Senegalese MPs who attended from time to time due to the Budget process taking place in Parliament right now. This is yet another record high for the number of women taking part in an APNAC activity.

For the majority of participants, this was their first official APNAC activity outside of their national chapter meetings. This training program not only helped sensitize new MPs to the network but it also provided a chance for PC to meet new faces and to make contact with extremely dedicated MPs who will facilitate the work of the network at a national level. From observations made of the group, some relatively strong chapters exist in Benin, DRC, Mali and Burkina Faso. Indeed, APNAC-Burkina Faso managed to convince their parliament to fund two more participants at the training, making their delegation of six the largest one present.

Training Program and Proceedings – The Program was designed to focus on a number of themes and topics that touched on:

- Anticorruption institutional and judicial reforms
- Gender and anticorruption
- Role of Civil Society in the fight against corruption
- Good governance and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Elaboration of anticorruption pilot projects

Forum Civil developed an excellent program based on the topics above. The content was very substantial and had very capable and knowledgeable presenters to do the delivery of the material. But the presentations by the various experts turned out to be a little too centered on Senegal or too academic – a good strategy would have been good to include case studies from a variety of the countries present. In addition, a 5-day program without a break in-between proved to be too long for MPs and in the end the final training day was considerably shortened to enable participants to visit Dakar. This strategy is a good one to keep in mind for another long term training sessions (more than 3 days) and a break might be good to have in the middle of the program

One of the major successes of the program turned out to be the discussion groups and break out sessions, which helped not only to break the ice but allow the different countries to share experiences. However, the program could have benefited from more group work - the MPs seemed to thrive and excel during those breakout groups and the plenary reports. They had an easy time identifying rapporteurs and chairs and preparing statements for the group. The members of Civil Society related very well with the MPs during these group work sessions.

The field visit could have been better selected. Forum Civil's choice of legal institutions did not resonate with participants especially since the systems vary so widely among the various countries. A visit to a local community that has encountered corruption problems or that has a large procurement project in process may have been a better option

The session on pilot projects was handled very impressively and was done in close collaboration with the Civil Society participants present. Each chapter developed a tentative pilot proposal, indicating that once they returned to their respective countries, they would draft a formal proposal which could in turn be presented to donors for funding. The group work exceeded expectations in that the members were able to agree on a theme and activities and effectively moved forward the pilot project agenda.

As at all APNAC activities, an overview of the APNAC continental network was presented to the participants, to update them on regional-wide activities as well as give them an overall picture of the progress and vision of the network, including the new chapters that have come into formation recently. A brief account of the AGM proceedings and outcomes was also given.

Logistical Organization – While most of the logistical arrangements had been arranged from Ottawa, such as flight bookings and communication with Forum Civil over the program, it is important to highlight the important role played by the Dakar office in terms of taking care of participants once they arrived in Senegal and troubleshooting at various stages of the training period. Usual problems that have to do with visas, ticket changes, hotel bookings, flight cancellations, etc were experienced and dealt with effectively. And the later flight problems with Air Senegal notwithstanding, Dakar remains a good city to hold regional activities since flight options are relatively abundant and flexible and accommodation/facilities are ample.

Unexpected Results – As with each APNAC activity that is organized, the goal of the training went beyond just delivering an anticorruption program to MPs. Due to the length of time spent with the participants, the training sessions, as opposed to conferences, provide an opportunity to interact more closely with the APNAC members so as to gauge the progress as well as needs of each different chapter or region.

In this respect, the Dakar training gave rise to the development of a new and fifth pilot project proposition directed to the Burkina Faso chapter and which they readily embraced. APNAC has over the past one year embarked on a relatively successful pilot project program aimed at encouraging chapters to design their own anticorruption tools and activities. So far, the countries involved have been Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Benin and the themes they are working on include the African Union anticorruption convention for the first three and electoral laws for Benin, respectively. APNAC-Burkina Faso will undertake a fifth pilot project and is in the process of preparing a proposal in collaboration with the national anticorruption network (REN-LAC) in the country.

It is equally worth noting the strong participation of several women MPs as well as civil society women at the APNAC training. All of the women in attendance were very strong advocates not only on anti corruption issues but also on gender and women's issues in governance. An opportunity was taken to inform them of the existence of the PC gender network and to discuss ways to include them in this network, as well as to bridge the APNAC and Gender networks through joint activities. The women representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger were especially keen to be involved in both networks. They have proved themselves as dynamic women parliamentarians who could be relied on to promote the networks at a national, regional and continental level.

Lessons Learned – With each APNAC training organized, some lessons are being learned both with respect of organization as well as the program.

For the Dakar training, very few of the participants had ever been at an APNAC activity before. Past trends have revealed that the same people, usually the Chairs, keep attending the meetings at the cost of alienating the other members of their group. This time around, the

organizers' strategy of insisting on APNAC chairs identifying new/different participants from those attending the AGM in Accra was a sound decision and enabled APNAC to widen its reach in francophone Africa. This strategy (rotation of participants) should continue within APNAC and other PC networks in an effort to seek balance to ensure continuity and sustainability.

The timing of APNAC activities should be approached with great consideration in the future. While it was easier to identify participants from the other countries and obtain their presence at the training, in the case of Senegal it was very hard to bring participants to an activity less than a Kilometre away from their National Assembly. This is because the training happened just at the time when the Senegal parliament was in the middle of their budget process. In the future, APNAC activities should be planned keeping well in mind the different processes taking place in various parliaments.

Members of Parliament Participants

Benin: Mme. Lamatou Alaza; Mr. Razack Amouda; Mr. Rene Valery Mongbe

Burkina Faso: Mr. Salifu Ouedraogo; Mr. Jean-Baptiste Yameogo; Mme. Madeleine Bonzi; Mme. Marlene Zebango; Mme. Josephine Drabo

Mali: Pr. Kaourou Doucoure; Mr. Moussa dit Sadio Traore ; Mr. Arboncana Boubeye Maiga

Niger : Mr. Maman Dada Magagi ; Mme. Aminatou Habibou Zakari ; Mr. Adamou Salifou

DRC : Mme. Angelique Muyabo ; Mme. Shenila Mwanza ; Mr. Addallah Pene Mbaka

Senegal: Mr. Doudou Wade ; Mr. Lamine Thiam; Mme. Aminata Mbaye; Mme. Haoua Thiam

Chad: Mr. Abdoulaye Affadine; Mme. Marie Ngadala ; Mr. Michel Adansa

Civil Society Participants:

Benin: Mme. Leontine Idohou

Burkina Faso: Mr. Yemdaogo Maxime Nikiema

Mali: Mme. Astan Diakite Sidibe

Niger: Mme. Aissata Fall

DRC: Mr. Raoul Munzwele Osoken

Senegal: Mr. Jacques Habib Sy

Chad: Mr. Oulatar Begoto Yaldet

*Parliamentary Centre
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