THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF BENIN: responsibilities, organization, operations, activities and mechanisms of action

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Introduction: who we are?

• The Economic and Social Council (ESC) of Benin is instituted by the Constitution of 1958, two years before the accession of international sovereignty;

• The first experience of this institution started in 1969 unfortunately it was stopped after six months because of political instability;
Who we are?

• The second experience which continues was established in 1992 and had started in 1994. It is today in its fourth mandate

• The ESC is a consultative assembly of 30 members provided by authorities, socio-economic driving forces and Civil Society Organizations. It is consulted on any issue relating to the economic, social, cultural and technical field.

• 5 years four our mandate
WHAT WE DO IN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

• ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNSELLORS
  - The ordinary and extraordinary sessions: these meetings cannot exceed 160 days during a year with Ordinary sessions: one in February and March and the second in September to October;
  - The Standing commissions of the ESC: there are 3 (Economic and Finance, Rural Development and Environment, and Social Affairs and Education)
WHAT WE DO IN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

-The Board meetings and the conference of the Presidents which is a regular consultation process between the Presidents of the Standing commissions and the Board of the ESC

- The audiences when the President and its board and some Consellors received a lot of partners actors who wanted to know more about the council and also come to ask the advice of the council for them projects;
HOW WE DO IT

• President and his board
• President Cabinet
• General Secretary
• 3 Technical directions

• ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

New department and unit are created:
- The Human Resources Management Department;
- The Analysis and Prospective Reflexions Unit (CARP)
- The Communication Unit
OTHER ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL DIALOGUE MANAGEMENT FIELD

• The role of the ESC in the management and prevention of national crises
  - State Institutions Presidents dialogue framework;
  - The lead of ESC’s President to defuse social crisis which paralysed all the Beninese administration because of strikes.
• The ESC showed its solidarity by giving financial aid and good advice to the people affected by floods.

• The ESC and the High Commission for Concerted Governance with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, acted in concert to design and implement a “public awareness campaign for a peaceful elections in Benin in 2011”
• Organization of a conference and a seminar in Cotonou
- The symposium on “Fifty years of independence and the problems of prosperity in Benin”;
- The seminar on: “The Economic and Social Councils as promoters and actors of the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact” jointly organized by the AICESIS, ILO and the ESC of Benin.
• Consolidation of National and international co-operation

Partnership with a lot of Agencies of UN.
MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES

• Inclusive social dialogue;
• Negotiation;
• Management and social marketing;
• Advocacy and lobbying;
• Partnership.

Two steps make it possible to summarize the mechanisms of implementation of the activities of Benin ESC: participative approach and prospective approach.
DIFFICULTIES

• Consultative role of the ESC;
• Effective representation of all the socio-professional categories and the territorial collectivity;
• Implementation of the recommendations of the council;
• Visibility of the council.
PROPOSALS OF SOLUTIONS

• revise the legal and statutory framework of the Council;
• innovate a mechanism which will let the members of the Council to exchange with their professional group and all the citizens;
• elaborate strategic plan of capacity building based on equity and gender;
• promote the mechanism of fundraising, monitoring and evaluation in order to implement the main projects;
• implement communication plan in order to show what the council do for the well being of the people.
CONCLUSION

• The ESC of Benin plays its advisory role to the President of the Republic and the Board of the Parliament through its inputs in the economic, social, scientific and technical fields;

• To promote sustainable development in this country, it is useful to engage additional resources to support the new vision of the authorities of this institution.

• Partnership between the councils is necessary.
Thank you for your attention