

***International Association of Economic and Social Councils***

***and Similar Institutions***

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**SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Economic and Social Council (ESC) is by definition a “House of the National dialogue” between Social, Economic and Politic Partners.

The Economic and Social Councils are assemblies in which seek themselves and are obtained not easily realizable consensuses elsewhere.

It is in this logic that the ESC of the Republic of Guinea committed early to reconcile the Government and the civil society, who spoke little, the unions and employers whose Dialogue was as in terms of claims, the Government and the private sector, who distrusted the political parties of the presidential movement and those of the Opposition, who were not trusted, the Forces of defence and security and the population they are supposedly defending but with which they had come to dig a large pit, after multiple abuses of the military on the civilians.

In such an environment of dialogue deficit each and other frustrations were deep and had led to many conflicts, often deadly, particularly from 2006 to 2009.

To put each and the other of these social, economic, policy and administrative partners around a negotiating table, the ESC, supported by the Government and the system of the United Nations, involved a vast program of social consultations in Guinea, short PROCONSOGUI, which allowed us to browse continuously, the 33 Prefectures of the country and the 5 districts of the capital Conakry, from April to August 2008.

We hired this exercise to the taking into account of the fact that, as Victor HUGO said, the approximation is the beginning of the brotherhood.

This exercise of national dialogue was occasion to put together the representatives of the Government at the national and regional levels, local elected representatives, representatives of the political parties of the movement and opposition, officials of the organizations of civil society, including trade unions, youth and women, traders, religious Leaders, elders, traditional communicators and representatives of the Forces of defence and security.

These dynamic components of the Guinean nation discussed all the problems that hinder the development of Guinea, a country whose state of poverty of population contrast with vastness of the natural resources available.

All stakeholders to these national conferences across the country have recognized that Guinea is not a poor country, but rather a mismanaged country and good governance recommendations such issues sitting still are today more than yesterday.

These recommendations have put focus on the importance of dialogue as is the weapon the best to come at end of any conflict, however dramatic it may be.

Dialogue is the way to put an end to any conflict, any war, as long and killing it has been. The war of 100 years finished around a dialogue table for example.

Communities, national and international, should first and foremost through dialogue, consultation, negotiation, instead of starting by dramatic clashes, as the protagonists always finished around a table coming to terms with peace without which we cannot talk about development.

Dialogue, Peace and Development are therefore intimately linked to the happiness of the population especially in poor countries that are very unfortunately be conflict-prone sometimes because of severe deficits of dialogue between political leaders or between governors and governed.

1. **GENESIS OF THE DIALOGUE**

It is today accepted in the Republic of Guinea that the dialogue is a complex but fruitful exercise, so necessary in all human societies, as we can read in the foreword by the Final report of the National Dialogue Days held in Conakry from 12 to August 14, 2008, at the end of PROCONSOGUI.

In 2008, the United Nations, through the Peacebuilding Fund of (PBF), have been particularly involved in accompaniment of PROCONSOGUI as a vast and rich national exercise of dialogue aimed as a priority the restoration of trust between administrators and administered share, and the consolidation of peace and national unity on the other hand.

At the end 0f this dynamic and collective reflection on the challenges of the consolidation of the peace in Guinea, three days of Dialogue and Initiatives organised in Conakry, will remain memorable in the annals of the peace process with the United Nations in Guinea.

Indeed, we have seen before, during and after these three memorable days for more mobilization of 4,500 people, representing all populations, all regions and all ethnic groups combined, next to the representatives of administration central and devolved, the Republican Institutions, the Forces of defence and security.

It was given to note on this occasion extraordinary national interest reflecting the Guinean fervor to put everything in work to "exceed the internal contradictions" and build a nation United, peaceful and prosperous.

This national design common of the willingness of all stakeholders to consider the ways and means to preserve the tragedy in some countries of the subregion, Guinea particularly and positively challenged the international community and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

This allowed entering the Republic of Guinea to the rank of beneficiaries of actions supported by the United Nations in the prevention of conflicts and peace-building.

In terms of direct outcomes of this dialogue, a particular highlight is the presentation of the public apology of Army to the population of Guinea.

This emblematic expression had object of a "standing ovation" accentuated and the picture has toured the world.

A consensus statement adopted by the political parties, the Republican Institutions, the civil society and Administration, declaration, of which the findings and recommendations summarize the priority interventions in the areas of governance, of Economy, Education, health, defence and security, Economic and political integration and permanent dialogue.

The seizure of power by the military in December 2008, brought set of socio-political and economic actors at the conclusion of the need to identify a shared vision of Guinea for next years.

The State of the Nation which was established as part of the consultations, corrective actions, as well as the vision that emerges from exercise, make of this report of the PROCONSOGUI a rich and dense material which the return to Guinean, men and women, will help to feed the current reflections on the future of our Nation.

We look forward in July 2008, the Secretary General of the United Nations has granted Guinea exceptional access to the financing of the Fund of peace-building, in direct support of the strong recommendations of this process of dialogue which argued during a year.

In Guinea as elsewhere in the world, it is not more a secret that conflict prevention can be expensive, but it is equally clear that manage and turn off a conflict are still more expensive, as much so avoiding the conflict through dialogue.

1. **Future of the DIALOGUE in Guinea**

In Guinea, Social Dialogue as we have just presented it briefly, has a promising future that will compete with the setting in of the main transversal and specific recommendations made during close consultations organized within the framework of the PROCONSOGUI, namely:

1. The revision of the Basic Law (Constitution), for in particular to reduce the number of political parties today to 150;
2. improving the dissemination of normative acts (laws, decrees, Codes, etc..);
3. enforcement to end with impunity;
4. improving governance economic, social, policy and local and the staffing of the country a National Plan of IDE;
5. the capacity-building of human resources at all levels: (Administration, civil society, private sector and Forces of defence and security, the latter on their rights and Republican duties);
6. the promotion of citizenship and the defence of common values;
7. the promotion of job-young and women entrepreneurs;
8. the creation at central and decentralized levels (Nation, Prefectures, sub-prefectures and Commons), Permanent Frames of Consultations and Exchanges, among others, better to involve people in decision-making affecting them directly, to prevent and manage conflicts, in short to back a National unit.

The Guinean Republican Institutions : National Assembly, the Supreme Court and the Economic and Social Council have always asked improvement of national dialogue through the establishment of these permanent dialogue frameworks.

**Michel KAMANO**

 **President of ESC of Guinea**

**Acting President of UCESA**

**ADDITIONAL**

**PRESENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

The Economic and Social Council (ESC) of the Republic of Guinea is a Republican constitutional, non-political Institution and consultative nature, legally representing organised civil society, in accordance with the organic law N ° 91/04/CTRN dated December 21, 1991.

The Mission of the ESC of Guinea is to advise the President of the Republic and National Assembly on questions essentially economic and social order submitted. The ESC may also, on its own initiative, to deal with these issues as it be actual and/or national interest.

The ESC of Guinea has been operational since July 1997 currently has 45 members representing the producers of the sectors of agriculture, Industry and transport (20), trade unions (12), charismatic organizations (3) and personalities designated by the President of the Republic (10), based on their competence and experience, including at least a personality from universities or Research Centres.

The ESC count four working committees and is held every year in ordinary sessions (2) up to two months each and extraordinary sessions (2) not exceed a month each.

The function of Member of the ESC does not give right to a salary, except the President of the Institution. The other members of the ESC are as well as premium session for the reimbursement of expenses incurred during the sessions.

As part of the synergy between the ESC and the Government the ESC receives the Prime Minister, head of Government, and Ministers, that expose their programs Activities, development strategies in work, the results achieved and the difficulties encountered.

This exercise is done in the context of obligation that is made to the Government by law to submit to the any program or plan of developing economic and social of the country.

The ESC, on this occasion made observations and recommendations to improve impact of public policies on recipient populations constituting civil society than Institution is constitutionally.

The ESC shall also impact policies private on the same populations, while promoting public policy makers and private sector to promote participatory governance through inclusive dialogue to avoid any exclusions in the decisions directly affecting the populations.

The ESC standby as well to improve the dialogue at the national level between all dynamic parts of the country.