

EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

AFZO Workshop
Lomé, TOGO | December 19th, 2019



The Africa Free Zone Organization (AFZO) in collaboration with Togo Invest Corporation and The Free Zone Administration Company (SAZOF) organized a training workshop in Lomé, Togo, on December 19th, 2019, under the theme: “Economic Zones development in Africa: General Framework and Strategic orientations”.

The event was marked by the opening speech of H.E. Kodjo ADEDZE, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Private Sector Development and Promotion of Local Consumption, Togo, and gathered more than 150 participants.

The workshop brought together senior executives, CEOs and Managing directors from the investment and EZ community in Togo, as well as representatives of AFZO members and other African Economic zones to discuss relevant topics related to the Economic Zones Implementation and Development in Africa.

It aimed to create a unique opportunity for participants to explore and obtain crucial information on fiscal, legal and institutional framework for the development of Economic Zones, major highlights for the development strategy and how to attract FDI, and finally financing issues, presenting different Models of Financing and Public Policy Support.

OPENING CEREMONY

The AFZO Workshop Started with Opening speech by H.E. Kodjo ADEDZE, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Private Sector Development and Promotion of Local Consumption, Togo.

His Excellency commanded the initiative of Africa Free Zones Organization to set up a training program and to hold this edition in Togo and stated that it fits perfectly into the dynamic that Togo is currently experiencing, being closely linked to the PND.

Mr Ahmed Bennis, General Secretary of Africa Free Zones Organisation, reminded the objective of the workshop, stressing its role to raise awareness of the various actors involved in the implementation of the PND on the concept of SEZ, being an important lever for the economic development of the African countries.

Mr Ahmed Bennis also enumerated the four fundamental pillars to develop an Economic Zone in Africa nowadays.

Mr Ekue Mivedor, General Director at Togo Invest Corporation, highlighted the importance of the Training Program organized by AFZO to support its members in promoting good governance and deploy best practices in the development of African Economic Zones, and stated that it is intended to be a framework for exchanges and sharing between public and private actors around the issue of SEZs.



H.E. Kodjo ADEDZE
Minister of Commerce, Industry, Private Sector
Development and Promotion of Local
Consumption, Togo



Mr Ahmed Bennis,
General Secretary, Africa Free Zones Organization



Mr Ekue Mivedor,
General Director, Togo Invest Corporation

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

General Theme

ECONOMIC ZONES DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: GENERAL
FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS



Session 1 | Economic Zones Implementation and Development in Africa

Major topics

- Economic Zones: Definition of the concept & EZ types
- Legal, Fiscal & Institutional framework: Best Practices
- Fiscal & Development strategy: How to attract FDI

Session 2 | Economic Zones in Africa and the Financing Issues

Major topics

- Different Models of Financing EZ
- Public Policy Support
- Business Models and main stakeholders of EZ

Workshop Session

10 rule for the success of Economic Zones

EXPERTISE INSIGHTS

EXPERTS SPEECHES MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

CRAIG R. GIESZE, ESQ.

**SENIOR PRIVATE SECTOR SPECIALIST, MACROECONOMICS, TRADE & INVESTMENT
IFC, WORLD BANK GROUP**

Togo's SEZ Bills include various innovations and still offer an opportunity to reform the legal and institutional framework, in order to comply with international best practices, including those of ECOWAS. This would demonstrate that Togo is undertaking a new policy aimed at establishing a new generation of Economic Zones. This strategy could help to attract more FDI and better fight poverty in Togo.

DORSAF ZANGAR LABIDI

**MANAGER, INDUSTRIAL & TRADE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

The AfDB's approach to support SEZs is based on four prioritization criteria. These are the economic and social impact, the macroeconomic and regulatory environment, the business model and financial viability, as well as the value proposition.

FRANÇOIS SERRES

**SENIOR INTERNATIONAL EXPERT
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)**

SEZ funding models must be structured around an economic development project; hence the importance of strategic thinking. Project economics must dominate project finance, it is the necessary condition for an economic and financial balance of future transactions; from where the importance of regulating SEZs separately from their administration / management.

MOUBARACK LO

**CHIEF ECONOMIST AND CEO
PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC OFFICE OF SENEGAL**

The success of SEZs in Africa will not come from chance or luck. It would result from intense efforts, harmoniously coordinated and methodically implemented, with a spirit steeped in voluntarism and transformational leadership.