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# **Maximizing Opportunities in the GoG**

## **The Role of the Gulf of Guinea Commission**

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# INTRODUCTION

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- **The main objective of this presentation is to give an overview of the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea in order to assess the role the Commission may play in the development of the region (Gulf of Guinea);**
  
- **The Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (CGG) is an international organization created, through a Treaty, established by the Heads of State and Government of eight (8) countries, namely: Angola, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and S. Tome and Principe;**

# INTRODUCTION

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- **The Treaty was signed in Libreville on July 3rd, 2001 and was made effective by the Heads of State and Governments in a Summit held in Libreville in August 25th, 2006;**
- **The headquarters of the Commission is in Luanda/Angola**

# PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GGC

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- **Reinforcement and consolidation of fraternal relations amongst peoples of Member States;**
- **Create and Mantain conditions of peace and security among Member States;**
- **Guarantee harmonious, rational and peacefull exploitation of resources of Member States;**
- **Harmonize economic policies among Member States;**

## **PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GGC**

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- **Firm commitment to the principles and objectives of the Charters of the United Nations, the African Union, Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;**
- **The Gulf of Guinea is replete with natural resources which could contribute to the economic development of Member States and ensure the well-being of their respectable populations;**
- **Sovereign equality of all Member States;**

# **PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GGC (cont.)**

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- **To put in place appropriate dialogue and consultation mechanism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts connected to the delimitation of borders, economic and commercial exploitation of the natural resources within the territories of Member States;**
- **Non-Interference in the internal affairs of Member States;**
- **Peacefull settlement of disputes;**

# PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GGC (cont.)

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- **Inviolability of borders inherited from colonialism;**
- **Non-aggression;**
- **Non-utilization of the territory of one State for activities directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another Member State.**

# **AN OVERVIEW OF THE “TREATY” ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION OF THE GULF OF GUINEA**

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- **The Treaty was signed in Libreville on July 3rd, 2001, by Heads of States and Governments of: Republic of Angola,, Republic of Congo, Republic of Gabon, Republic of Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;**
  
- **The Commission was established as a framework of consultation among Member States for cooperation and development, as well as for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts that may arise from the delimitation of borders and economic and commercial exploitation of natural resources within territorial boundaries of Member States, particularly in the overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones**

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE “TREATY” ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION OF THE GULF OF GUINEA (cont.)

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- **The objectives of the Commission are:**
  - ❖ **Strengthen ties of cooperation and solidarity among Member States;**
  - ❖ **Harmonize policies of Member States regarding matters of common interest, particularly concerning the exploitation of natural resources;**
  - ❖ **Protect, preserve and improve the natural environment of the Gulf of Guinea and cooperate in the event of natural disaster;**
  - ❖ **Formulate a concerted immigration policy;**
  - ❖ **Develop a wide communication network**

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE “TREATY” ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION OF THE GULF OF GUINEA (cont.)

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- **The Organs of the Commission are:**
  - ❖ The Assembly of Heads of States and Government;
  - ❖ The Council of Ministers;
  - ❖ The Secretariat; and
  - ❖ The Ad Hoc Arbitration Mechanism.
  
- **Any State bordering the Gulf of Guinea which has not signed the Treaty at the time of its entry into force may at any time notify the Executive Secretary of its intention to accede to the Treaty.**

# STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY

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- At the Summit held in Libreville on August 25th, 2006, the Heads of State and Government of GGC decided:
  - The Headquarter of GGC to be in Luanda-Angola;
  - The Executive Secretary to be a national of Sao Tome and Principe;
  - Create two Deputy Executive Secretaries to be appointed by Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea; and
  - Two Directors: i) Admin from Gabon and ii) Finance to Congo.
  
- Angola is to provide provisional installation and first year of running expenses;

# STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY

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- Angola is to provide provisional installation and first year of running expenses;
- The work of the Secretariat was launched in March 2007;
- Following documents were already drafted and submitted to the Council:
  - Rules & Procedures;
  - Conditions of Service;
  - 2008 Budget;
  - Mechanism for contribution of Member States;
  - Organigram, etc
- Once approved by the Heads of State and Government, the Commission will be fully functional.

# CONCLUSIONS

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- **Harmonious development of natural resources in GoG can only exist if there is a climate of peace, security and reciprocal confidence among States in the Region;**
  
- **The principles of dialogue, negotiation and mutual consultation guiding the GGC are the best way of resolving permanently any dispute that may arise among States in the region and, therefore, of ensuring maximum economic and commercial exploitation of natural resources;**

# CONCLUSIONS

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- **To be sustainable, exploitation of natural resources must be carried out under a sound and safe environment;**
- **The harmonization of policies, rules and procedures among States of the region may certainly have positive effects to that end;**
- **We strongly believe that the Commission's work will certainly help in achieving those objectives.**

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**I THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

**END**

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**Abuja, 5-6 February 2008**