

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

TRAVAIL-LIBERTE-PATRIE

**MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES,
DE L'INTÉGRATION RÉGIONALE ET DES
TOGOLAIS DE L'EXTÉRIEUR**

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

WORK-FREEDOM-HOMELAND

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND
TOGOLESE ABROAD**



CONCEPT NOTE

**THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN
POLITICAL ALLIANCE (APA)**

Lomé, 2 June 2025, Hôtel 2 Février

Theme:

**“Africa's place in a changing world: the challenges
of strategic and diplomatic
repositioning”**

I. Background

The African Political Alliance (APA), an initiative led by Togo, was launched in 2023 as an informal framework for political consultation and cooperation to enable African nations determined to work for a politically strong, independent and unapologetic Africa to meet regularly and freely exchange views on major continental and international issues affecting Africa's interests or requiring concerted and common positions.

The APA is committed to achieving a united, strong, sovereign, peaceful and assertive Africa on the international scene, guaranteeing the well-being of its peoples and supporting the work of traditional institutions such as the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In a world undergoing profound geopolitical changes and reconfigurations, the launch of the APA responds to the urgent need for Africa to strategically reposition itself in order to assert itself as a key player in international affairs.

The APA also aims to promote an Africa that writes its own history after having being robbed of it for the last four centuries, to contribute to making the 21st century Africa's century and to defend Africa's strategic autonomy, to promote dialogue and cooperation between States and between regional and continental integration organisations in the service of unity of action in the face of the common challenges facing the continent.

The First Ministerial Conference, which took place in Lomé on 3 May 2023, brought together a number of countries from across the continent and provided with an opportunity to discuss the current issues and challenges facing Africa in a rapidly changing and reshaping world, in which Africa intends to assert itself as a pole of power and a major player on the international stage.

More specifically, the First APA Ministerial Conference provided an opportunity for States to discuss the challenges and prospects of Africa's strategic positioning on the international scene, sovereignty and the expression of common African positions on the international scene, Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance, and the strengthening of cooperation and endogenous capacities of African States in the fight against terrorism.

At the Second Ministerial Conference, held on 15 March 2024 in Bamako, Mali, on the sidelines of the Preparatory Conference for the Ninth Pan-African Congress of the West Africa region, the States renewed their commitment to an uninhibited and sovereign Africa, better represented on the international scene and fully assuming its responsibilities, in a context of profound upheaval and decentring unprecedented in the modern history of mankind.

Since the two Conferences, the world has seen new developments; the crisis of confidence and mistrust between nations has deepened; conflicts have continued to escalate; and hopes for an end to a number of international disputes and crises are fading. In the Middle East, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has become regionalised; attempts to end hostilities in Sudan have so far failed; the terrorist threat in the Sahel is growing and spreading to West Africa; and there is a clear risk of new flashpoints erupting.

In the same historical timeframe, the BRICS have expanded, integrating two new African members (Ethiopia and Egypt) and offering prospects for multipolar global governance. The revival of Pan-Africanism has galvanised the peoples of Africa, the Diasporas and Afrodescendants, and strengthened demands for reparations for the crimes of slavery and colonisation. On the initiative of Togo, on 16 February 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted the historic decision to classify "slavery, deportation and colonisation as crimes against humanity and genocide against the peoples of Africa".

From the Berlin Conference (1884-1885), through the period of colonial occupation, the years of independence and the end of apartheid in South Africa, to the present day, Africa has moved from being an "objectified" and "subordinated" continent to a continent that, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, intends to act "as a strong, united and influential actor and partner on the world stage".

Africa's increasingly clear desire to be at the centre of its own decisions, to determine its own destiny, to speak for itself and to make its voice heard freely, independently and unapologetically on the international stage, combined with the factors and challenges involved in recent global developments and the prospects that these open up, should lead Africans to re-engage in strategic thinking about the continent's place in the historical future of the world.

This process of reflection, which must be holistic and rooted in the dynamics of the world's current evolution of the world, should take into account the political, diplomatic, security, geopolitical, geo-economic and geo-strategic aspects, as well as the important issue of reparation for the crimes of slavery and colonisation. In order to provide an appropriate framework for this need for reflection and strategic exchange of views, Togo proposes that a third APA Ministerial Conference be held in Lomé on the theme “**Africa's place in a changing world: the challenges of strategic and diplomatic repositioning**”.

II. Objectives

The objective of the Ministerial Conference is to bring together African States to discuss and exchange strategic views on the issues and challenges facing the continent in terms of its geopolitical, political, diplomatic and security positioning in a changing international context characterised by new developments since the beginning of the 21st century.

In particular, the Ministerial Conference will enable African States, among other things, to:

- Discuss Africa's place in contemporary world affairs, currently undergoing profound change ;
- Discuss relations between Africa and other continents in the light of recent developments in the world and in the conduct of international affairs ;
- Discuss Africa's strategic autonomy in defence and security and the contours of Africa's diplomatic repositioning in a favourable but complex international context ;
- Discuss foreign interference in Africa in an international context where there is a risk of conflicts from other regions, such as Europe and the Middle East, spilling over to the continent ;
- Engage in an in-depth strategic reflection on Africa's place within the BRICS and what Africa can do together with this entity to advance its cause in global governance;

III. Expected results

At the end of the Ministerial Conference, the following results are expected:

- The ministers discussed Africa's place in today's rapidly changing world ;
- African States held a strategic and constructive exchange on Africa's relations with other continents in the light of recent developments in the world, and adopted relevant resolutions;
- The States discussed the issue of Africa's strategic autonomy in defence and security and outlined a diplomatic repositioning of the continent on the international stage ;
- States discussed external interference in Africa and assessed the challenges in an international context where there is a risk of conflicts from other regions, such as Europe and the Middle East, spilling over to the continent ;
- States held in-depth strategic discussions on Africa's place within the BRICS and what Africa can do together with the BRICS to advance its cause in global governance;

IV. Conference proceedings

The Ministerial Conference will begin with an opening session with addresses by senior political leaders from the host country and selected special guests. The opening session will conclude with a group photo.

Following the opening ceremony, Ministers will participate in thematic sessions. An annexed document outlining the various thematic sessions will be made available to States and other participants.

The thematic sessions will conclude with a feedback session summarising the conclusions of the discussions. Restitutions will be made by designated officials.

The closing session of the ministerial conference will be marked by the speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad.

V. Participation

The African foreign ministers present in Lomé for the occasion will take part in the Third Ministerial Conference. Naturally, they come from different regions of the continent, in keeping with the pan-African orientation of the APA. Representatives of international organisations and other special guests will also take part in the proceedings.

The participation of States will be based on a 1+2 format, and the practical arrangements and specific logistical details have already been communicated to participants.

VI. Date and venue

The Ministerial Conference will be held in Lomé, Togo, at **the Hôtel 2 Février, on 2 June 2025.**