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

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

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



GUIDANCE NOTE FOR THE THEMATIC SESSIONS OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN POLITICAL ALLIANCE (APA)

Lomé, 2 June 2025, Hôtel 2 Février

The Third Ministerial Conference of the African Political Alliance (APA) will be held in Lomé, Republic of Togo, on 2 June 2025, under the theme **“Africa's Place in a Changing World: Challenges of Strategic and Diplomatic Repositioning”**.

This high-level meeting is being organised in response to the need to bring together African States to reflect and exchange strategic views on the issues and challenges facing the continent in terms of geopolitical, political and diplomatic repositioning in the current international context, which is undergoing changes and is characterised by new developments and unprecedented upheavals since the beginning of the 21st century.

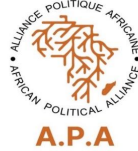
Africa's increasingly clear desire to be at the centre of its own choices, to determine its own destiny, to speak for itself and to make its voice heard freely, independently and unapologetically on the international stage, combined with the factors and challenges of recent global developments and the opportunities they offer, should lead Africans to re-engage in a strategic reflection on the continent's place in the historical future of the world.

This reflection, which must be holistic and rooted in the current dynamics of global change, should take into account political, diplomatic and geopolitical aspects, as well as geo-economic and geo-strategic considerations. In order to provide an appropriate framework for this reflection and strategic exchange of views, the work of the Third APA Ministerial Conference is organised around two main thematic sessions.

The first thematic plenary session, which will be opened by two keynote speeches, will focus on a sub-theme that is both topical and crucial for Africa in today's world: **“Africa's Strategic Autonomy in Defence and Security in an Uncertain World”**.

The second thematic plenary session, which will also be opened by a keynote speech, will focus on the sub-theme **“Africa and the BRICS: what strategies and diplomatic repositioning are needed to increase their influence in global governance?”**.

This guidance note provides specific information on the issues and objectives of each thematic session, as well as the ideas and questions that will guide the discussions in each session. Technical sheets for each of the two (2) thematic sessions are attached:



FIRST PLENARY SESSION :

Africa's Strategic Autonomy in Defence and Security in the Context of an Uncertain World

TIME : 09:45 am– 12:00 am
VENUE : Lomé, **Hôtel 2 Février, Salle Evala**
E-MAIL : contact@apa.africa

Background In an international environment characterised by profound upheavals and the intensification of hegemonic tendencies, Africa faces a major challenge: how to ensure its own security, protection and defence, relying on autonomous means and strategies. Faced with the resurgence of crises and the recurrence of international conflicts, in a context where the effectiveness of multilateralism is clearly being questioned, where the United Nations Security Council appears to operate in favor of major powers, and where traditional alliances are heavily shaken, Africa should strive to autonomously ensure its security and defense. While other continents are rethinking their collective defence independently of their traditional allies, Africa is faced with the strategic imperative of adopting a bold and resolute vision to build its autonomy in defence and security. This first plenary session of the Third Ministerial Conference of the African Political Alliance will therefore provide an opportunity for the continent's senior political leaders to exchange views on the issue of Africa's strategic autonomy in the field of defence and security.

Objective To enable the ministers meeting in Lomé to reflect on the issues, ways and prospects for building Africa's strategic autonomy in terms of defence, security and protection in a world that has been turned upside down and is characterised by new forms of international conflict and expansionist tendencies.

Key questions The following questions, which are not exhaustive, will guide the discussions and presentations during this plenary session: What do we mean by Africa's strategic autonomy in defence and security? What are the challenges? How are the current geopolitical upheavals forcing Africa to take charge of its own defence and security? What are the dangers of African defence and security dependency? Is the gradual withdrawal of foreign armies an opportunity or a challenge for Africa? What are the risks if Africa does not equip itself with its own strategies and means of defence and collective security? What internal and external obstacles must Africa overcome in order to build its strategic autonomy in defence and security? Does Africa have the adequate means to protect itself against the return of external expansionist tendencies? What should Africa do today for its self-defence and collective security? Should Africa consider the creation of a multinational military alliance? What would be its strategic contours and bases? How can we capitalise on the achievements of the African Union's African Peace and Security Architecture to move towards genuine collective security in Africa? How can African security and defence be financed? How is autonomy in security and defence inextricably linked to the question of African sovereignty? Is the desire for a strong Africa dependent on the autonomy of Africa in the field of security and defence? What is the reality of the military industry in Africa and what potential does it have to support the continent's strategic autonomy in terms of security and defence? What challenges do artificial intelligence and drones pose for Africa's defence and security?

Speaker **H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali

- Interventions by the States

Role of the President The President opens the thematic session, explains the flow of the discussions and introduces the speaker. He leads the speaker's presentation, then invites State Representatives to make their remarks, stimulates an interactive discussion and concludes the discussions.



SECOND PLENARY SESSION :

Africa and the BRICS: which strategies and diplomatic repositioning for greater influence in global governance?

TIME : 02:00 – 04:00 pm
VENUE : Lomé, **Hôtel 2 Février, Salle Evala**
E-MAIL : contact@apa.africa

Background Recent developments in the world and the changes underway should lead Africa to seriously consider the types of alliances, strategies and repositioning that will allow it to emerge as a major player on the international stage (Agenda 2063). Africa, a continent comprising 54 United Nations member states, is endowed with numerous potentials, particularly in strategic natural and mineral resources. The BRICS countries, whose share of the world economy is constantly growing, have a combined GDP that exceeds that of the G7 countries. Africa's initiatives to improve its position on the international stage and to be able to influence global governance are in line with the dynamics of the BRICS, which are influencing the course of world trade, the international monetary system and the governance of the global economy. This point of intersection and convergence between the two entities, as well as the presence of African countries in the BRICS, are points on which Africa and the BRICS can build strategies to consolidate their joint power and define the type of diplomatic repositioning that is appropriate and favourable to their interests in global governance. This second plenary session of the Third Ministerial Conference of the African Political Alliance will provide an opportunity for high-level political leaders from the continent to openly exchange their views on the appropriate strategic and diplomatic stance to be adopted by Africa and the BRICS in a global context where questions of power are highly topical.

Objective To enable African ministers meeting in Lomé to discuss Africa and the BRICS, explore innovative strategic avenues and define the type of diplomatic repositioning that could enable the two entities to increase their influence and become key players in global governance.

Key questions The following questions, which are not exhaustive, will guide the discussions and presentations during this plenary session: What is the real weight of Africa and the BRICS on the international stage? What are the current issues facing the BRICS in an international environment of geopolitical upheaval and in the global economy? What does Africa gain from an alliance with the BRICS? What do the BRICS gain by making common cause with Africa? What common struggles can Africa and the BRICS wage together? In which areas are the stakes really high? What strategies can the two entities adopt to better influence the world stage? How can we harness the potential and capacity for impact of each of the two entities to influence global governance? What cooperation exists between Africa and the BRICS? What diplomatic repositioning in decision-making bodies and global governance? How can Africa and the BRICS contribute to the emergence of a more just and equitable global governance?

Speaker **H.E. Mr. Ronald LAMOLA**, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa

- **Interventions by the States**

Role of the President The President opens the thematic session, explains the flow of the discussions and introduces the speaker. He leads the speaker's presentation, then invites State Representatives to make their remarks, stimulates an interactive discussion and concludes the discussions.