### Background

Since its accession to independence, Benin has known successive changes in its political regimes and governments. But the February 1990 conference of the Nation's active forces remains an original initiative that has allowed national reconciliation and facilitated the people's option for Democratic Renewal era. The democratic renewal reflects an aspiration to fight against any political system based on arbitrariness, dictatorship, injustice, corruption, concussion, nepotism, confiscation of power in order to the restoration of the rule of law and pluralist democracy, in which fundamental human rights, public freedoms, dignity of the human person and justice are guaranteed, protected and promoted.

The commitment the will to cooperate in peace and friendship with all peoples who share the same ideals of freedom, justice, human solidarity, on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual interest and respect, mutual benefit of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Member of the United Nations since 1960, the year of its independence, Benin has taken a part in the implementation of the MDGs and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Thus, and is active for its implementation. Indeed, since 2017, Benin has prioritized the SDGs. Under SDG 16, Benin has selected five targets that cover various themes including peace, justice, inclusion and transparent and accountable administration. The five priority targets for the State of Benin are:

- 16.2: Put an end to abuse, exploitation and trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children;
- 16.3: Promote the rule of law in the domestic and international order and guarantee equal access to justice for all;
- 16.5 Clearly reduce corruption and the practice of bribery in all its forms;
- 16.6 Establish effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels;
- 16.9: By 2030, guarantee to all a legal identity, in particular through the registration of births.

### 1. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?

- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UNESCO
- UNRCO

### 2. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?

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- Mediator of the Republic: Phone number: +229 20 21 49 09 / 62 61 10 88 e-mail: dossir2@yahoo.fr
- Social Watch Bénin: Phone number: +229 96 19 59 33; e-mail clarisseconsultant@yahoo.fr.
• National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANLC): Phone number: +229 95 42 58 05; E-mail: toginou@yahoo.fr.
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• Ministry of Planning and Development / General Direction of SDGs Coordinating and Monitoring. Phone number : +229 61 55 72 09; e-mail: ydorinali@gmail.com.
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3. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?

- Adapting SDG 16
- Implementing SDG 16
- Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
- National level
- Regional level
- Local level

B. Case Study

OPTION 1 (pre-structured)

4. Country context for the achievement of SDG 16

In Benin, there is a relatively normal functioning of the institutions of the Republic and their renewal at a good date, in spite of the divergences and contradictions of the political actors. This situation testifies to the vitality of Benin's democracy. With regard to the constitutional provisions, the clearly defined separation of powers does not seem to be effective and the effectiveness of the control mechanisms is not obvious, given the weakness of the organs of the other powers in the face of the influence of the executive power. However, the existence of Benin's governance charter, the National Integrity System, the consultation framework of the civil society extended to the State in certain sectors constitute good intentions, to be realized if appropriate solutions are not made. Identified bottlenecks such as: the weak synergy of actions between the actors, the limited access, especially of the vulnerable layers (disabled people) to the public services the ignorance or the ignorance of the texts, the high rate of illiteracy of the population, the weight of socio-cultural burdens, the persistence of pockets of resistance in the face of reforms in general and the dematerialization of the public administration in particular, the demotivation of the agents of the public administration which affects the quality of public services, the dysfunctions of the public and parapublic administration, the outdated civil status, the weak implementation of the laws of the Republic, impunity, the crisis of trust between the administration and the populations, the weak operational capacity of the financial justice for the accountability and the accountability within the public administration, the inadequacy of the control of the governmental action by the parliament, the weak implementation of the recommendations of the National System of Integrity, the weak capacity of assignment of the State by the Organizations of the Civil Society, the weak taking into account contributions from CSOs, poor access to public information, poor publication of sectoral performance reports by ministries and state institutions, the multiplicity of state agencies that reduce the trend of transfers of expertise at the level of local authorities, inadequacy of studies for the qualitative and quantitative assessment of progress in efforts to implementation of SDG16

5. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

In accordance with the requirements of the current budget reform in our country, the sectoral ministries prepare the quarterly implementation reports of the PTA and the annual performance reports, which are relevant tools for assessing the level of achievement of the performance indicators and accountability in relation to the main expected results. Some ministries organize sectoral reviews that provide frameworks for ongoing dialogue and accountability with Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) and civil society actors on the various advances and challenges, to build and strengthen a favorable climate, good management and better provision of basic social services.

At the local level, the contribution of the population to the development of their locality obliges local and regional authorities to organize accountability sessions in all Benin communes. In addition, to strengthen local governance, a tool (local governance index) has been designed to annually assess the quality of governance in the 77 municipalities of Benin.
In addition, the evaluation report of the first year of implementation of the National Integrity System highlighted the efforts made to fight corruption in Benin and the related challenges. For this purpose, certain appointed or elected authorities are required to declare their assets in accordance with the provisions of the law.

In addition, the project of registration as a derogation to the civil status has been initiated and has made it possible to take into account more than 2500,000 people who do not yet have a birth certificate at the end of the Vocation Administrative Survey. Identification of Persons (RAVIP).

The process of the progressive dematerialization of public administration in progress is also an important step forward in Benin. This reform makes it possible to modernize the administration, to improve the quality of the public services by setting up platforms for digitization and putting online of the acts of career and payslips, the setting up of the e-visas, the dematerialization of tax payment operations and the processing of letters in certain institutions and ministries on a pilot basis, etc.

6. Results so far and Way Forward

Among the results for the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the institutions in Benin, we can mention: an improvement of the capacity of mobilization of the own resources of the local communities, thanks to the practice of the organization accountability sessions in the communes, better citizen monitoring of the implementation of the state budget through the establishment of the budget execution schedule drawn up by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and an effort of ownership by the population of their rights and duties as citizens resulting in an improvement of their participation in the management of public affairs at local and national level.

In addition, the rate of satisfaction of users / clients of the public administration is 68% in 2018, attributable to all dematerialization efforts underway in the sector. Among other things, there is a simplification of the procedure for issuing pension books to pensioners and consular acts. To ensure transparency and thus improve the quality of public services, fifteen (15) of the twenty-two (22) existing ministries in the country already have their procedures manuals. Finally, eight (08) ministries developed their Decentralization and Deconcentration (P2D) plans out of the twenty-two existing ones in order to facilitate the transfer of competence to the communes. Improving the quality of governance is ensured at the local level through the establishment of a climate of trust between local populations and elected officials and the adoption of a decree implementing the Chartered Accountability Charter. by the 77 mayors. However, it is worth remembering that the proliferation of agencies in the management of the country could inhibit this transfer of powers to municipalities.

Prospect

In terms of perspectives, we can note the need to increase the capacity building sessions of the actors and stakeholders, the new tools of modernization of the administration, as well as the awareness / popularization of the new mechanisms that result. It is therefore necessary to add the strengthening of social dialogue frameworks bringing together all the stakeholders at national, departmental and local level, as well as at sectoral level. Taking into account the accessibility of people with disabilities in the construction of socio-community infrastructures. The effective implementation of decentralization and deconcentration plans and the adoption of the remaining decrees for the application of the public procurement code would be major challenges to be met.

7. Lessons Learned

The dematerialization of the administration improves the quality and the speed of the public services and makes the public administration and the institutions of the State more modern and efficient. It helps to fight against the corruption.

The following recommendations can be formulated:

• Mobilize the resources needed to implement the SDGs in line with costing work;
• Capacity building of the statistics services of the public administration;
• involve civil society in public procurement processes according to the code;
• Review training curricula since kindergarten to have virtuous citizens;
• Strengthen the synergy of actions between civil society actors;
• Take a framework law on development planning;
• Capitalize good practices from one plan to another.
**BENIN (Country Case Study 2)**

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**Background**

8. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?
   - UNDP
   - UNICEF
   - UNESCO
   - UNRCO

9. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?
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   - Ministère de la Justice et de la Législation : SOSSOU Flavien, soflav@yahoo.fr, 97777462.
   - Organisations de la Société Civile : GANDAHO Ralmeg : ralmeg.gandaho@csbenin.org
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10. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?
    - ☒ Adapting SDG 16
    - ☒ Implementing SDG 16
    - ☒ Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
    - ☐ National level
    - ☐ Regional level
    - ☒ Local level

**C. Case Study**

**OPTION 1 (pre-structured)**

11. Country context for the achievement of SDG 16

The consecration of the rule of law since 1990 has allowed Benin to acquire legal instruments (the Constitution, the texts and laws) protecting and guaranteeing fundamental rights. Better this legal environment has founded the establishment of judicial institutions both ordinary (1st degree, 2nd degree) and special institutions whose mission is to guarantee the right to appeal.

However, these institutions and instruments mentioned above remain inaccessible to economically vulnerable citizens on the one hand and limited by access to information on the other. This state of affairs is due to a failure to implement article 40 of the constitution, making the national scope of human rights education fundamental. In addition to these factors that hinder the promotion of access for all to quality justice, human rights sensitive on the one hand and access to institutions on the other hand, the low quality due to the actors and the instruments of justice, the non-adaptation of certain legal instruments and institutions to socio-cultural realities.
12. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

In order to achieve the SDG16 justice component, there is a public awareness of the situation of vulnerable groups, as evidenced by the ongoing and projected reforms in the child protection chain and their management. Thanks to the efforts made by stakeholders in terms of advocacy and lobbying.

It is in this perspective that certain actions led by different ministries and CSOs are included:
- periodic organization by the OCPM of awareness campaigns against trafficking, economic and sexual exploitation of children and violence in all its forms;
- the approximation of the justice of the litigants by the creation of the jurisdictions in administrative matter, commercial and justice for minors;
- the permanent citizen watch of CSOs active on the national territory;
- capacity building for human rights officers and members of the monitoring committee for international instruments ratified by Benin.

13. Results so far and Way Forward

The actions listed above have resulted in some results:
- the mobilization of government actors and CSOs around the issue of trafficking and the economic and sexual exploitation of children;
- partial decongestion of the supreme court and the substantive courts;
- improvement of juvenile justice practices;
- the availability of 11 country reports on the implementation of human rights treaties over the period 2015 to 2018;
- the availability of the SDG monitoring report;
- effective access to legal information through the setting up of the site http://legis.cdij.bj, and the creation of a database for monitoring country reports to the treaty bodies on human rights humans;
- the optimization of citizen watch at all levels for human rights education;
- the establishment and operation of the National Financial Information Processing Unit and the Court of Repression of Economic Offenses and Terrorism.

However, efforts still need to be improved through the strengthening of the capacities of human rights protection mechanisms and actors, the operationalization of commercial courts and the establishment of Child Friendly Tribunals in other jurisdictions, the extension of activities of the Central Office for the Protection of Minors (OCPM), the fight against corruption in the judicial environment through the strengthening of control mechanisms, the establishment of effective accountability mechanism, the popularization of texts and laws in the framework for human rights education.

14. Lessons Learned

The Efforts provided by the Government, TFPs and CSOs have resulted in enhancement of capacities of national frameworks facilitating the submission of reports to human rights treaty bodies and the participatory approach used by the Government for the definition of human rights treaty bodies. Priority targets of the SDGs allowed the appropriation of these objectives by all the actors involved.
BENIN (Country Case Study 3)

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D. Background

15. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?
   • UNDP
   • UNICEF
   • UNESCO

16. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?
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   • Coalition Nationale pour la Paix: ZOSSOU BATOKO Fatoumatou: batoko_zossou@hotmail.com; +229 95 48 47 49/97 82 50 23
   • Organisations de la Société Civile : GANDAHO Ralmeg: ralmeg.gandaho@csbenin.org
   • Social Watch Bénin: +229 96 19 59 33; e-mail: clarisseconsultant@yahoo.fr
   • Ministère de la Justice et de la Législation: GAYET AHLINVI Armelle; armeleg2001@yahoo.fr; +229 96 29 02 12
   • Médiateur de la République: Tel: +229 20 21 49 09 / 62 61 10 88 e-mail: dossiro2@yahoo.fr
   • Autorité Nationale de Lutte Contre la Corruption (ANLC) : Tél: +229 95 42 58 05; e-mail: togninou@yahoo.fr
   • Ministère du Plan et du Développement / Direction Générale de Coordination et de Suivi des ODD Tél: +229 61 55 72 09; e-mail: ydorinali@gmail.com

17. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?
   ☒ Adapting SDG 16
   ☒ Implementing SDG 16
   ☒ Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
   ☐ National level
   ☐ Regional level
   ☒ Local level

E. Case Study

OPTION 1 (pre-structured)

18. Country context for the achievement of SDG 16

Benin’s socio-political stability is the foundation of its peace. It draws on pluralist and participatory democracy since the historic Conference of the National Forces held in February 1990. There is a relative peace characterized by a few isolated acts of banditry and cybercrime but also a strong ability to concert for the regular establishment of a consensus favorable enough to the establishment of social and interreligious dialogue. Thus, Benin has been working to strengthen its democratic system since 1990. Citizen control of public action is provided by civil society organizations, which ensure the application of the texts and carry out information and information activities. advocacy for conflict prevention and management.

19. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

Efforts to achieve peace as an SDG are:
- The organization of national governance days since 2016 to discuss issues related to good governance in general;
- The organization by civil society the International Day of Peace commemoration, followed by an inventory of good practices peace preservation and the seeds of conflict;
- The establishment of the national framework for social dialogue;
- The reinforcement of the security system with the advent of the Republican police, which conducts dissuasive actions and ensures operational defense of the territory;
- The organization by the civil society of the election of Peace Lady since 2016 so as to promote peace;
- A proposal in 2017 to strengthen the management of pastoral transhumance and to prevent conflicting it.

20. Results so far and Way Forward

These efforts have contributed to the reduction of banditry and robberies and the optimization of the visibility of the country internationally. All things that have allowed Benin to be ranked 4th country of peace in the ECOWAS area according to the 2019 Millennium Challenge Corporation report and 13th most secure country in Africa according to the Institute for Economics and Peace (2018). The achievements are also materialized by the organization since 1990, regular elections with a peaceful alternation at the top of the state.

These results are attributable, inter alia, to the regular functioning of State institutions, as well as to the interventions of the National Coalition for Peace and the CSO Platform for transparent and peaceful elections set up with the support of the UNDP, community mediators trained and available for the prevention and management of conflicts and other infrastructures of peace installed in all the communes and who are very active in the management of the conflicts of all kinds including those related to the transhumance in particular. The support of UNDP and other TFPs in the electoral process also contributes to the appeasement of the political and social climate.

However, these assets are weakened by the gradual withdrawal of Beninese troops from various theaters of sub-regional operation which could have a negative influence on the defense agreements with other countries, the high cost of elections, the weak application of the texts relating to the protection and the promotion of human rights and the weak control of the Government's action by Parliament.

The gains need to be strengthened, consolidated and sustained through the implementation of strategies to improve the control of government action, the strengthening of structures for the promotion of peace and the fight against corruption and the fight against corruption. Impunity in Benin, facilitating access to justice and a fair trial for litigants, promoting accountability at all levels for greater transparency in the management of public affairs and good governance. In addition, the adoption by Benin of the National Action Plan of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations on the theme Woman Peace and Security will allow a real involvement of women in peace processes.

Prospect:
The gains need to be strengthened, consolidated and sustained through the implementation of strategies to improve the control of government action, the strengthening of structures for peace promotion and the fight against corruption and impunity in Benin, the facilitation of access to justice and a fair trial for litigants, the promotion of accountability at all levels for greater transparency in the management of public affairs and good governance. In addition, the adoption by Benin of the National Action Plan of United Nations Resolution 1325 on the theme Peace and Security Woman will allow a real involvement of women in peace processes.

21. Lessons Learned

- The effective implementation of the SDGs, in this case SDG 16, depends on the effective involvement of all actors (government, civil society organizations, private sector, technical and financial partners, etc.).
- The adoption and enforcement of non-consensual laws hampers efforts for peace.