The legislature plays a key role in promoting good governance and also curbing corruption and poor administration in all sectors of society. Citizens expect parliamentarians to maintain a high moral standard in their professional and private lives. They expect parliamentarians to serve out of conviction and a commitment to the public good, rather than for aspirations of personal power and the pursuit of private interests. In turn, they are conferred the legitimate authority to take decisions that determine the fortunes of both the state and its citizens.

Failure by parliamentarians to live up to these expectations can seriously undermine not only the trust citizens have in the ability of their elected leaders to act in the public interest, but also in the legitimacy of the state and its institutions. At best, this leads to cynicism and apathy on the part of citizens. At worst, it leads to a questioning of the entire political system. It is crucial, therefore, that elected representatives of the people act, and are seen to act, in an ethical manner. This is more so for members of parliament (MPs) who hold themselves out as anticorruption campaigners.

Since assuming office as the President of the African Parliamentarians’ Network Against Corruption (APNAC-Africa) and particularly during country visits to APNAC Chapters at the beginning of the year, Hon. Given Lubinda (MP, Zambia) has not missed any occasion to stress the need for APNAC members to live by example and demonstrate by their actions that they uphold the highest ethical standards even as they face various challenges in their political endeavors. This exhortation, from the highest leadership of the continental Network, is certainly commendable. A particularly difficult and contentious part of parliamentary ethics concerns the financing and conduct of elections. This is an area that APNAC Chapters need to be seen to be working on, especially before and during years when elections are being conducted in their countries.

Also commendable, is the fact that the APNAC-Zambia Chapter has chosen the theme Development of a Code of Ethics and Handbook on Corruption as the Chapter’s pilot project for this year. For, beyond the speeches made on platforms, mechanisms are needed that tell parliamentarians in clear terms what is expected of them and what constitutes a violation of public ethics. Such mechanisms as Codes of Conduct need to be properly developed, enforced and well publicised so that they serve to improve the accountability of Members of Parliament (MPs) to parliament and to the general public.

Once standards are set by a group of Parliamentarians (or APNAC members) in any given country, it is expected that such standards will not only be used to measure the performance and public standing of APNAC members but will eventually be adopted by their Parliaments or National Assemblies for all Parliamentarians.
What is APNAC?

African Parliamentarians Network against Corruption (APNAC) is an organization which aims to coordinate, involve and strengthen the capacities of African parliamentarians to fight corruption and promote good governance. Since its formation in 1999 in Kampala, Uganda during a regional workshop on parliaments and good governance, APNAC has promoted accountability, transparency, and public participation in the processes of government, as the best ways to control corruption. To progress these goals, the participants chose to prioritize the creation of a network to promote information sharing, by maintaining contacts with one another and reaching out to other parliamentarians and parliamentary organizations throughout Africa, and drawing attention to the issue of corruption.

As the elected representatives of the people, MPs play an essential leadership role in combating corruption. Throughout the legislative process, by taking on oversight and representative roles, MPs can create a legal framework necessary to prevent and curb corruption; oversee the implementation of laws and policies; and constitute an important bridge between the government, and the citizens they represent by embodying a governance culture where transparency, accessibility and accountability are promoted. APNAC’s mandate is promoted by its presence throughout the Eastern, Southern, and Western regions of Africa. National chapters in various parliaments exchange information and best practices not only between chapters but also with other anticorruption bodies in Africa and around the world.

The main objectives of APNAC are to:

- Build capacity of parliamentarians to exercise oversight roles, especially of financial matters
- Share information on best anti-corruption strategies and practices
- Promote projects to control corruption based on best practices
- Cooperate with other organizations and civil society members with shared objectives

APNAC and the Parliamentary Centre

APNAC is presently supported in its activities by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the auspices of the Parliamentary Centre (Africa Office).

Parliamentary Centre:
255 Albert St., Suite 802,
Ottawa Ontario K1P 6A9 CANADA
Tel: (613) 237-0143 Fax: (613) 235-8237

The APNAC Executive

Following the elections of the new APNAC Executive at the AGM in September 2009, the in-coming President Hon. Given Lubinda assured the GM that his executive council would not only work hard towards the achievement of APNAC’s many objectives, but that they would strive to do so with humility and integrity. Hon. Lubinda expressed his confidence that he would receive cooperation from all the national chapters as his executive sought to raise the cause of fighting corruption to new heights. Out-going president, Augustine Ruzindana, congratulated the in-coming executive and thanked the founding members of APNAC for their foresight of the importance of the network, and urged all the delegates to keep their vision alive through the maintenance and expansion of APNAC.

APNAC’S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

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<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAST AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Musikari Kombo, MP</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>Hon. Dr Zainab Amir Gama, MP</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>CENTRAL AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Ouchar Tourgoudi, MP</td>
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<td>Hon. Dr Bouzabo Patchili, MP</td>
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<td>WEST AFRICA</td>
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<td>Hon. Ndeye Gaye Cissé, MP</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>SOUTHERN AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Eduardo Namburete, MP</td>
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<td>Hon. Jabulani Mangena, MP</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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PRESIDENT
Hon. Given Lubinda, Zambia

VICE-PRESIDENT
Hon. Dieudonné Maurice Bonanet Burkina Faso
APNAC News

APNAC-Ghana holds Capacity Building Seminar

As part of efforts to revitalize inactive APNAC national chapters, the APNAC Secretariat held a two-day capacity building seminar from 18th to 20th June 2010, at the Elmina Beach Resort near Ghana’s Central regional capital, Cape Coast. The objective of this seminar was to introduce both new and old members of the Chapter to the aims, vision and mission of the continental Network (APNAC) as well as assist members to reaffirm their commitment to APNAC’s ideals, and develop a work plan for the Chapter’s in-country pilot project and activities.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Osei Kyei Mensah-Bonsu, Chairman of APNAC-Ghana, enumerated the negative effects of corruption on national development and reiterated the need for legislators to institute effective policy reforms and to help build a vibrant civil society towards ensuring political accountability. The guest Speaker for the occasion, Hon. Given Lubinda (MP, Zambia), President of APNAC-Africa, called on his fellow APNAC members to commit themselves as champions in the fight against corruption in order to gain public respect and confidence in Parliament as an accountability institution, and to help alleviate poverty among their citizenry. He also stated that the fight against corruption was a difficult one and called on the membership of APNAC to strategize properly and develop good networks with other anti-corruption bodies, including civil society and the media, to effectively combat corruption.

Key highlights of the seminar include: i) presentations and discussions on the objectives, aims, vision, mission, structure and activities of APNAC; ii) an introduction to the phenomenon of corruption; and iii) parliamentary oversight of the budget process. The speakers were: Hon. Given Lubinda (APNAC President), Mr. Daniel Batidam (APNAC Executive Director) and Dr. Anthony Tsekpo (Budget Expert at the Parliamentary Centre) respectively.

At the end of the 2-day workshop, the APNAC-Ghana Chapter identified a theme for their in-country pilot project: “Towards ensuring a Corruption-free Public Procurement System in Ghana.” They also set up a sub-committee to draw the Chapter’s work plan for 2010–2011. In addition, the Ghana chapter constituted groups among its broad membership towards the replication of Global Task Forces (GTFs) along the lines of GOPAC at the national level.

APNAC President is Vice Chair of GOPAC

The President of APNAC-Africa, Hon. Given Lubinda (MP, Zambia), has been elected as a Vice Chairperson of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). At its Executive Committee Plus meeting held in Ottawa, Canada, in June, the GOPAC Executive Board unanimously elected Hon. Lubinda as one of the (2) Vice Chairpersons to the leadership of the Global Network of Parliamentarians committed to tackling corruption through their roles as lawmakers. Although Hon. Lubinda could not personally attend the Ottawa meeting due to visa acquisition problems, he was symbolically represented at the meeting by the Executive Director of APNAC, Daniel Batidam, and the Leader of the GOPAC Global Task Force on Society, Hon. Musikari Kombo (MP) of Kenya.

In another development, the APNAC-Africa President was officially conferred with his new position as GOPAC Vice Chairman at a brief but impressive press ceremony in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, in August 2010. This was on the occasion of an “Executive Committee Meeting” of the APNAC-Zambia Chapter (13th to 16th August 2010) which was also attended by the APNAC Executive Director, Daniel Batidam. Presenting the APNAC-Africa President with the official signed letter announcing his new position from Dr. Nasser J. Al-Sane, GOPAC Chairperson, Mr. Batidam extended congratulatory messages from both the APNAC-Africa Secretariat and also the PC-Africa Program Director in Ghana, Dr. Rasheed Draman. Mr. Batidam further noted that the new role conferred on Hon. Lubinda “is a unique opportunity of Africa being represented in the high accolades of decision-making of the global institution, especially by the APNAC President who also in this case comes from Zambia.”

The entire APNAC family wishes Hon. Given Lubinda success in his new role as Vice Chair of GOPAC!
APNAC-Senegal: Towards a truly reenergized chapter?

Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between APNAC-Senegal and Forum Civil: A Step Forward, A New Era?

Friday, May 28th, 2010 was a special day in the life and operations of APNAC-Senegal. In an effort to re-energize the Chapter, an information-dissemination session on APNAC’s current objectives and policy areas at the continental level was held in cooperation with APNAC-Senegal’s leaderships and APNAC Secretariat. The session gave an opportunity to fourteen (14) Members of Parliament, including four female MPs, to learn about the new dynamic approaches developed by the Parliamentary Centre (with funding from CIDA), to interact and to understand the need for institutional, structural as well as operational reorganization.

To this end, a General Assembly was convened to re-establish the Chapter’s Executive, provide the Chapter with a strategic plan and an action plan extending to March 2011, etc.

To better respond to the various demands from their constituents, the participating MPs unanimously agreed to cooperate with civil society organizations, who are at the heart of a promising dialogue in the fight against corruption. Like Kenya and other APNAC National Chapters, Forum Civil – which is simply TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL’s local office in Senegal – was identified to play this role. The criteria that led to this decision were simple: given its extensive experience in the areas of governance and the fight against corruption, Forum Civil stands out in the greater arena of Civil Society Organizations. In addition, Forum Civil had worked closely with APNAC-Senegal on issues such as capacity building in previous years.

To flesh out the spirit of this new cooperation initiative, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two organizations, with the delegation from APNAC Secretariat facilitating the discussions.

Encouraging follow-through on commitments

Efforts to re-energize APNAC-Senegal succeeded faster than anyone could have imagined! Indeed, only a few weeks after the May 2010 meetings at Novotel-Dakar, Senegalese Senators and MPs were together again in a general assembly (Thursday, July 29th, 2010) to amend and adopt APNAC Senegal’s Internal Regulations, to elect the Executive Board and to propose agenda items for APNAC Africa’s 2010 Annual General Assembly to be held in Dakar, in December 2010.

A fifteen (15) member Executive Committee was elected, including four women and two auditors.

Other achievements of APNAC-Senegal include the Saly seminar on “fighting corruption and promoting good governance” held from August 18-21, 2010. The seminar brought together some thirty (30) Senegalese Senators and MPs, members of the Chapter, with a view to better understand the complex nature of corruption and its causes; to better understand good governance and the tools to bring about anticorruption reforms; to fully grasp international conventions to which Senegal is a signatory; to better appreciate the legal and institutional framework; to comprehend the economic implications of good governance, and, finally, to develop a Chapter-specific action plan to fight corruption and promote good governance in Senegal.

The commitments made at the end of the three-day Saly seminar hold the promise of better days ahead for APNAC-Senegal. These commitments include the clear willingness to host APNAC-Africa’s next General Assembly as well as undertake public awareness campaigns (messaging through posters and billboards, media, etc.).

APNAC-Mali

The President of the National Chapter of the African Parliamentarians’ Network Against Corruption (APNAC Mali), the Hon. Amadou BOUARE, was invited by UNDP-Congo to take part in a training workshop for Congolese women leaders on the budget process and corruption-related issues held in Brazzaville in July 2010.

In conjunction with that, the Hon. BOUARE was asked to compare and contrast, over a debate-dinner, the experiences of APNAC-Mali versus APNAC and GOPAC in the fight against corruption. The event took place on Thursday July 22nd, 2010, between 8:30 pm and 11:00 pm, local time, and was moderated by the Resident Representative of the World Bank in the Congo (Mr. Midou Ibrahima).

The goal of the UNDP is to set up an APNAC-Congo National Chapter (through Congolese parliamentarians), further to the discussions and experience-sharing exercise on APNAC, GOPAC and the UNCAC.

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The APNAC-Kenya Chapter in partnership with TI-Kenya and the Public Procurement Oversight Authority organized a 2 day training workshop on Public Procurement and Disposal Framework in Kenya from 19th–22nd Aug. 2010 in Mombasa. The workshop targeted members of APNAC-kenya, representatives of the Public Accounts committee, the Public Investment Committee, the Budget Committee, the Finance committee and the Local Authorities & Funds Committee.

The aim of the workshop was to: identify strengths of the public procurement framework vis a vis other jurisdictions; sensitize members of parliament on corruption and how it manifests in the procurement process and identify strategies to curb corruption in the procurement process.

In attendance as the Guest Speaker, was Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of The National Assembly of Kenya. In his address for the official opening of the workshop, Hon. Marende said, with the passing of the proposed new constitution and the recent referendum, “there is every reason to be optimistic and renew our energy towards fighting against corruption.” He therefore urged parliamentarians to commit themselves unreservedly to their tripartite role of oversight, legislation and representation and a demonstration of their love for the country begin to drive out corruption and construct institutional structures that will safeguard a strong country that will realize Kenya’s Vision 2030.

The Chairman of APNAC-Kenya Chapter, Hon. Musikari Kombo in his opening remarks to officially launch the APNAC-Kenya in-country pilot project, defined the purpose of the workshop, stating that it is the first of a series of capacity building initiatives that APNAC-Kenya in collaboration with the APNAC secretariat and the Parliamentary Centre with financial support from CIDA will be conducting to equip MPs with knowledge and tools to effectively play their oversight, legislation and representation roles. He urged his fellow MPs to actively and constantly participate in future workshop.

Key recommendations that arose from the 2 day workshop include:

1. The need to review the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005 to address some of its challenges. APNAC will work closely with the PPOA to close the gaps in procurement that encourage or create opportunity for corruption.

2. The need for collaboration between APNAC, relevant parliamentary committees and CSOs to ensure that the new constitution is implemented to the letter and spirit from the date of promulgation.

3. The need to carefully think about what should happen to those who have committed economic crimes against Kenyans and plundered the Kenyan economy.

4. The need to concentrate on changing cultures, behaviours and attitudes as a strategy in addressing corruption in Kenya.
5. There is need to create strong institutions to enhance oversight, accountability, uphold rule of law and fight impunity.

6. There is need to urgently review our laws on corruption and crime to keep pace with the dynamic nature of the vices in light of globalisation and advancement in information technology.

7. There is need for strong political will, commitment and leadership in the fight against and prevention of corruption.

8. There is need to enlist, the private sector, civil society organisations and citizens to effectively enhance the fight against corruption. Parliament should come up with a structured engagement with civil society organizations (CSO’s) to provide oversight over the 97.5% of resources allocated to the central government, besides the 2.5% allocated to CDF.

9. There is need to employ new and innovative tools in the fight against corruption, such as making public businesses, people and organisations that have been blacklisted for the last three years in the public procurement process.

APNAC members and representatives of oversight committees present issued the above recommendations in a press statement, calling upon the President and the Prime Minister to lead the fight against corruption.

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Pilot Project Launch: APNAC-Ghana

The APNAC-Ghana Chapter launched its in-country pilot project on 19th July 2010, on the theme “Towards ensuring a corrupt-free public procurement system.” The event, which took place at the Speaker’s conference room at Parliament House, was attended by Members of APNAC-Ghana chapter, a representative from Ghana Integrity Initiative (local Chapter of Transparency International in Ghana), the Executive Director and staff of the APNAC Secretariat, staff of Parliament, and a cross section of media personnel. Also in attendance as a special guest was Ghana’s Minister of Health, Dr. Benjamin Kumbour.

In his remarks, Dr. Kumbour cited various gaps in the budget cycle, adding that procurement is an area which is very weak when it comes to structures and procedures for the implementation of the Public Procurement Law (Act 663). He, however, noted that it is an area which is strong in facilitating emergency needs relating to legislative processes. It is therefore in the right direction that, APNAC-Ghana offers a platform for advocacy in Ghana’s procurement process and reform of its system.

To launch the pilot project was Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, Chairman of APNAC-Ghana. Hon. Kyei Mensah-Bonsu reiterated the negative effects of corruption on the development of a nation and how it eventually leads to economic decay and threatens the global economy and security. He said, the fight against corruption “demands a global response, one that knows no limit to collaboration,” and called for concerted efforts towards the fight against corruption.

The Executive Director of the APNAC-Africa Secretariat, Mr. Daniel Batidam, congratulated the Ghana Chapter for being the first national Chapter of APNAC among the (7) countries supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the African Parliamentary Strengthening Program (APSP) to embark on its pilot project. He took the opportunity to explain that the pilot projects present APNAC chapters with a unique opportunity to make indepth research into a particular governance or corruption-related matter of interest in their countries, and to advocate for reforms by providing best practice scenarios which can be emulated by others Chapters in future.
APNAC-Tanzania is 10 years old!!!!!

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of APNAC–Tanzania Chapter. The Chapter was formed soon after the regional workshop which gave birth to APNAC-Africa in Kampala, Uganda, in 1999. A founding member of the Network, APNAC-Tanzania upholds the overarching goal of APNAC to strengthen the commitment and capacity of African Parliamentarians to fight corruption. The Chapter now has a growing membership of up to 170 MPs.

Over the years, the Chapter has collaborated with various government, donor agencies and other partners to create awareness and build capacity of its members to engage on pertinent issues of national and global interest. Some of the major achievements of the Chapter include:

• A Collaboration with the Parliament of Tanzania, GOPAC and APNAC-Africa to host the 2nd Global Conference of Parliamentarians’ Against Corruption in Arusha from September 18th to 23rd 2006.

• With support from the UNDP and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tanzania, the Chapter organized a stakeholders’ workshop on “Preventing and Combating Corruption Bill” from 20th to 21st March 2007 at the Dar Es Salaam International Conference Centre.

• On 27th June 2009, APNAC-Tanzania conducted a one-day seminar for members on “Promoting Financial Integrity, Accountability and Transparency in the use of resources allocated to the Tanzanian Social Action Fund (TASAF)”

Worthy of mention is the fact that APNAC-Tanzania is highly recognized and fully supported by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Office of the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly. The Prime Minister of Tanzania, Hon. Mizengo Kayanza Pinda (MP) is the Patron of the Chapter. During a “Chapter Visitation” in February this year by the APNAC-Africa President, Hon. Given Lubinda, in the company of the APNAC Executive Director, Mr. Daniel Batidam, the APNAC-TZ Chairperson, Dr. Zainab Gama (MP) reaffirmed the Chapter’s commitment to uphold the noble principles of the Network and to work tirelessly to promote good governance in their country and on the continent as a whole.

In a brief address, Hon. Lubinda congratulated the Chapter for its achievements over the past 10 years and urged the members to continue to be steadfast and to bear in mind that corruption will always fight back. He stressed the need for APNAC members to uphold high principles of integrity and accountability, noting that without these virtues, public trust in politicians and public officers will continue to diminish, thereby undermining APNAC’s effort to contribute to the fight against corruption.

Though constrained by lack of resources, the Chapter looks into the future with great optimism. Projected activities of the Chapter this year include the Launch and implementation of an in-country pilot project on “Political Financing” and a Seminar on the proposed government bill on “Politics and Business.”

Executives of APNAC-Tanzania

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hon. Dr. Zainab Gama</td>
<td>MP/Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Habib Mnyaa</td>
<td>MP/Vice Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Dr. Lukas Siyame</td>
<td>MP/Secretary General</td>
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<td>Hon. Dr. Rapheal Chegeni</td>
<td>MP/Treasurer</td>
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APNAC-Mali continued from page 4

During his speech, Hon. BOUARE briefly touched on the life and operations of APNAC-Mali through its organizational structures, its objectives and activities, particularly as they relate to governance and fighting corruption in Mali. He gave examples of success stories in the areas of good governance and the fight against corruption in Mali following the ratification of UNCAC, and of unsuccessful results in terms of the socio-political environment.

In conclusion, bearing in mind the objectives set by UNDP in initiating this meeting, Hon. BOUARE made a strong appeal to Congolese parliamentarians to create their own Chapter, in order to be an equal participant in African and world parliamentarians’ efforts to improve governance and the fight against corruption.

For this event, 64 eminent guests graced an appropriately-selected room, including Congolese MPs and Senators, the IMF representative in the Congo, the World Bank Representative as well as the UNDP Representative in the Congo. The intensity of the discussions and the level of the ensuing debate were a testimony to the interest shown by the guests.

Fully satisfied and committed, in an atmosphere of joy and appreciation, the participants parted ways in the hope that their efforts will come to fruition!

In another development, at the end of August 2010, APNAC-Mali signed a funding agreement with UNDP-New York to carry out a study on political corruption in the electoral process in Mali. A Malian law firm was put in charge of the study, and its findings will serve as the basis for APNAC-Mali to propose ways to improve the electoral code in Mali as well as fuel the upcoming political debates on the institutional reforms put forth by the President of the Republic of Mali.

Note:
APNAC: African Parliamentarians’ Network Against Corruption
IMF: International Monetary Fund
GOPAC: Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNCAC: United Nations Convention Against Corruption

APNAC’s upcoming activities include:

APNAC-Africa Secretariat

2. 14th IACC: The registration process is finished and the APNAC-Africa/PC 4 representatives are: Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana MP, Chairperson of APNAC-Ghana); Hon. Ngone Ndoyé (Senegal MP, Vice-chair of APNAC-Senegal); Mr. Daniel Batidam (Executive Director, APNAC-Africa Secretariat); Mrs. Charity Wakaba (Program Advisor, Parliamentary Centre & APNAC).

3. APNAC-Africa AGM (Senegal 2010): The preparations are well underway with the APNAC-Senegal and the APNAC Executives including recently the establishment of the Organizational Committee in Senegal.

APNAC-Zambia

APNAC-Uganda

APNAC-Ghana