



Cooperation agreement

between

the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa

&

The Venice Commission

Cotonou 2013

Cooperation agreement between
The Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa
and the Venice Commission

Noting that, since its foundation, the Venice Commission has established cooperation with Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Bodies in order to enhance its capacity to strengthen constitutionalism.

Considering that through the CODICES database the Commission enables regular exchanges of information between Courts, which are conducive to mutual inspiration and “cross-fertilisation” between the Courts with a view to promoting democracy, the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

Considering that on 7 and 8 May 2011 in Algiers the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (hereinafter “the Conference”) was established in order to enhance constitutional justice;

In view of this shared interest and in order to initiate a productive exchange on the subject of constitutional justice, the Conference and the Venice Commission enter into the following co-operation agreement:

Article 1 – Contributions to CODICES

The Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Bodies (hereinafter “the Courts”), which are members of the Conference are invited to contribute to the CODICES database of the Venice Commission. For this purpose, they can appoint liaison officers, who shall submit their institutions’ leading constitutional case-law as full texts in the original language and as



summaries (précis) in English or French for inclusion in the CODICES database three times a year.

Each Court shall ensure that these contributions are consistent in form and indexed in accordance with the Commission's Systematic Thesaurus so they can be added to the database without further processing.

The valuable contribution of the Conference shall be acknowledged in the database. . The reference "in co-operation with the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa» and the logo of the Conference will appear in the database.

Article 2 – Exchange of publications

The Jurisdictions members of the Conference shall, if they so wish, receive free of charge publications of the Venice Commission (in the Science and Technique of Democracy series), together with the Commission's Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law and the CODICES database on CD-ROM.

Jurisdictions members of the Conference are invited to send their publications to the Venice Commission's multilingual Documentation Centre on Constitutional Justice in Strasbourg.

Article 3 – Venice Forum Newsgroup

The Venice Commission provides access to its Venice Forum Newsgroup to the liaison officers appointed by the Courts. The liaison officers are invited to inform other courts of important decisions, of conferences and of the appointment of Presidents of Courts via the Venice Forum.



Article 4 - Participation in meetings

A representative of the Conference shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice of the Commission.

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Article 5 – Length and termination of the agreement

The present agreement shall apply for an indefinite period. It shall enter into force once it has been approved by the appropriate bodies of the two parties and signed by representatives of the Conference and the Commission.

The agreement may be terminated by any of the parties, by written notification.

Done in English

On Cotonou, in May 8th 2013

The President of CCJA



M. Robert S.M. DOSSOU

The President of Venice Commission



M. Gianni BUQUICCHIO