



**3rd Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice
'Constitutional Justice and Social Integration'
28 September – 1 October 2014
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

Address by :

Mr Robert DOSSOU
Special Guest, Former President of the Constitutional Court of Benin
Honorary President of the Association of Constitutional Courts Sharing the
French Language (ACCPUF)
Former President of the CCJA
Former member of the Bureau
of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice

- Mister President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea
- Mister President of the Venice Commission
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Presidents of Constitutional Jurisdictions
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

It is a great honour for me to be here this evening as a Special Guest of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea and the Venice Commission.

I thank the Presidents Park HAN-CHUL and Gianni BUQUICCHIO for their joint invitation.

I also thank President Park HAN-CHUL for having invited me to deliver a few words tonight.

Please allow me first of all to discharge a personal duty: I express my compassion to the Korean people for the SEWOL Ferry tragedy that occurred on last 16 April.

I would also like to share with SEOUL the pride of being for three times at least this year, the capital of the world:

- For having hosted in last August the 27th international quadrennial congress of mathematics during which, on 13th August, for the first time since 1936 the FIELDS medal was awarded to a woman, Mrs. Maryam MIRZAKHANI.
- For having been, during the same period, the capital of the Asian catholic youth with the presence of the Pope.

- And from today, SEOUL is for a few days, the world's capital of Constitutional Justice as it is hosting the 3rd Congress of the World Conference of Constitutional Justice.

It falls due in this place and at this moment to congratulate and thank all those who, in the past years, have striven for the existence of this major organization which is the World Conference of Constitutional Justice. I commend here the action of the Venice Commission and the devotion of its two main stakeholders on the front of Constitutional Justice, namely: its President Gianni BUQUICCHIO and the Head of its Constitutional Justice Division, Mister Schnutz Rudolf DÜRR. I commend them not only for what they have done for the world conference, but also for what they did in favour of the regional and linguistic organizations of Constitutional Justice.

As regards the missions of constitutional justice associations, it seems to me that there are two main missions: sharing and solidarity.

Sharing is largely practiced through the exchange of experience and case law.

Solidarity is still encountering a few difficulties due to the over cautiousness of some constitutional jurisdictions concerning the constitutional judge's obligation of reserve.

It is a support to be granted to judges and constitutional jurisdictions in distress. I recall, regarding the new and restored Democracies, that the threats also exist; and to quote only a few African examples: in Senegal in 1999, the President of the Bar, Babacar SEYE, at the time Vice-President of the Constitutional Council was shot down as he was leaving the council during the election period; in 2003, in an election period once again, the bedroom of Professor Maurice Ahanhanzo GLELE, member of the Constitutional Court of Benin, was machine gunned at 02:00 a.m.; fortunately he was still attending a meeting in the Court's premises.

In last May, the corpse of the constitutional judge Salifou NEBIE was found on the road to his village in Burkina-Faso, the investigation is on progress. As you may remember, in 2009, the Constitutional Court of Niger was put under pressure, then dissolved and replaced by a new Court in total disrespect of every constitutional rule.

The world conference, the regional and linguistic associations should necessarily find in such cases the appropriate, proportionate, moderate but relevant form of providing their support.

The ACCPUF, on the occasion of its last congress in Marrakech in 2012, adopted a decision to that end.

I offer this issue to you not as a dish to eat but as a brainstorming dish while hoping that actions shall be taken up to the values you have always carried in the interest of the rule of law and peace.

I thank you
and wish youa nice evening.