

Guinea



Directory

Country Profile

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Conseil Économique et Social

Year Established	1991
Year Operational	1997
Legislation/Executive Orders	Organic Law (Loi OrganiqueN°91/04/CTRN) http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan027549.pdf Constitution, Article 87 (Loie Fondamentale) (1990) Presidential decree 1997
Frequency of meetings	-
Membership structure	Members are comprised of 45 civil society experts, 10 of which are chosen by the President. Includes representatives of rural development and environment, infrastructure and local development, social, cultural and scientific affairs, economic, good governance, and regional integration.
ESC Focus	Consultative body on economic, social, cultural, and scientific affairs to the President and National Assembly. ‘
Executive Director(s)	Mr Michel KAMANO, President Mr Mamadou Bobo CAMARA, Secretary General
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Website	None
Affiliation	International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (IAESCSI) Francophone Union of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (UCESIF) Union of Economic and Social Councils of Africa (UCESA)

¹ Information obtained from publicly available and internal UN sources.

Country Profile

Economic and Social Council (CES)²

BACKGROUND

The Economic and Social Council of Guinea is enshrined in the Constitution³. It was established by organic law⁴ in 1991 but did not start its activities until 1997. The Council ranks fourth in Guinea Institutions, after the three branches of the State.

In the aftermath of independence from France under Touré's leadership, Guinea's first constitution took effect on 12 November 1958 and was substantially amended in 1963 and 1974. Under the Touré regime there was no separation of powers. The Legislature, the Cabinet, and the National Administration were all subordinate to the Guinea Democratic Party (PDG), the only legal political party. After the 1984 political change, a new constitution was approved in 1990, which provides for a multi-party system and the establishment of the Economic and Social Council.

Mission and Objectives

The main mission of the ESC is to provide Opinions on economic and social questions referred to it by the President or the National Assembly. Its scope of competence includes examining bills and draft decrees of economic and social nature, with the exception of the Budget law. The ESC is also responsible for organizing workshops, seminars, and Forums on economic and social issues⁵. The organic law which created the ESC in Guinea stated in its Article 1 that the ESC is a consultative body in charge of issuing Opinions and recommendations on issues submitted to it by the President of the Republic or by the Parliament. The law also stipulates that it is mandatory to consult the ESC on bills related to Economic and Social planning and programming.

The ESC can also, by its own initiative, decide to examine any question related to economic, social or financial issues, and can undertake studies and surveys in order to issue Opinions and suggestions for reforms fostering economic and social development.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

The Council is comprised of 45 members, called Advisers. 35 of them come from various economic and social institutions⁶, whereas 10 are nominated directly by the President of the Republic.

² Conseil économique et social. Information has been sent to ESC for verification.

³ Title IX, Article 87 of the Constitution or *Loi fondamentale* of 23 December 1990.

⁴ Organic Law Number 91/04/CTRN.

⁵ Meeting organized to date by the ESC include: Conflict Management and Resolution; Relations between the Government and the Private sector; Partnership between the Government and Civil Society.

⁶ Out of the 35, 20 come from various branches of activity (Farmers, Fishermen, Craftsmen, Trade, Liberal Professions, Banks, Insurance Companies, Mines, Industrial Sector, Construction Industries, and Public Enterprises), 3 are representatives of associations, and 12 are representatives of workers in the public and private sectors.

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The Plenary Assembly is the highest authority of the ESC. It meets twice a year, in ordinary sessions, under the chairmanship of the President of the ESC. Each session can last up to 45 days, with 60 days being the maximum. Ordinary sessions are convened by presidential decree. The ESC can also have extraordinary sessions (limited to a maximum of one month) and special sessions. The General Secretary of the ESC is the General Rapporteur of the Assembly.

The ESC is managed by a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries of the Management, and a Financial Officer. The President of the ESC is elected by the Plenary Assembly for a term of 5 years. The other members are also elected by the Plenary Assembly, but for terms of 2 years and a half.

The Council is composed of four Commissions:

- Commission for the Promotion of Rural Activities and the Environment;
- Commission for Infrastructure, Decentralization, Local Development and Regional Planning;
- Commission for Employment, Social, Cultural and Scientific Affairs;
- Commission for Business Cycle, Governance and Regional Integration.

Each Commission is comprised of 10 regular members and several temporary members. The Commissions meet at the request of the Plenary Assembly or the management. The studies undertaken by the ESC are usually complemented by reports or memoranda, with Opinions. Ad hoc Commissions or working groups can be established by instructions from the Plenary Assembly or the management.

The General Secretariat is an administrative structure composed of five Divisions, created to mainly support the work of the Plenary Assembly. It is headed by a General Secretary, nominated by Presidential Decree, who works under the authority of the President of the ESC. He is responsible for preparing draft agendas of the Plenary Assembly meetings.

The Guinean ESC is funded mainly through the State budget.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/OUTCOMES

In early 2000, at the request of the President of the Republic, the Guinean ESC was asked to support the then emerging civil society. After intensive consultations with major stakeholders (social, economic, administrative, and political actors) throughout Guinea, the initial step was taken to agree upon a common definition of “civil society”. Following this step, representatives of civil society organized themselves by electing a National Council of Civil Society Organizations. This initiative helped the civil society strengthen its negotiating capacity as well as helped to improve dialogue between civil society and the government. This example was soon followed by other civil societies in the region.

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As part of its achievements, the ESC has produced major publications related to economic and social issues. During the first five years period (1997 to 2002) the CES has published:

- Development of sea fishing in Guinea
- Development of Urban Transportation in the capital city Conakry
- Contribution to the National Employment Policy
- Qualification of Civil Service
- Reintroduction of Positive Cultural Value in the youth Education
- Development of Sports in Guinea
- Guinea Facing Globalization Challenge and International Trade
- Guinea for Dynamic Monetary Integration in West Africa

Its most recent publications include:

- Globalization to the Benefit of All: What Role for Civil Society?
- Economic and Social Situation in Guinea
- Social Mediation and Development states: what rule of consultative Assemblies?
- Towns planning and Habitat problematics in Guinea
- Local resources mobilization to struggle against poverty
- Resolution of Industrial Disputes
- National Employment Policy;
- Qualification of Civil Service;
- Economic and Social Situation in Guinea

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The ESC of Guinea is a member of the following institutions:

- The Union of Africa's Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions;
- The Union of Francophone's Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions;
- The Association of International Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.

CHALLENGES

According to the ESC of Guinea, the mandate and mission of the Adviser of the Republic remains low profile, thus contributing to the fact that the Council is not well known in Guinea. Its Opinions and recommendations are not always made public, as they are intended solely to provide recommendations to the Head of State and the Parliament. Therefore, the future challenge facing the ESC of Guinea is how to become a full fledged Economic and Social Observatory capable of issuing regular reports on Economic and Social issues and providing analysis and evaluations of public and private policies.