APNODE Webinar

Topic: Tools and methods (good practices) of evaluation for effective decision-making by parliamentarians.

Parliamentarians are stakeholders who should receive sound information, data and evidence that will inform their decisions on several issues brought to their attention such as government budget, policy, development program and others. For this reason, the use of evaluation in parliaments has been growing across the globe. It is useful for the decision-making process and the oversight role of parliamentarians. Evaluation is an objective assessment of a policy or a given program, the extent to which it has met its objectives and why. The assessment synthesizes and provides information intended to increase the level of clarity for stakeholders on for example the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and/or sustainability of the program or policy, which will contribute to informed decisions.

Central to the roles and responsibilities of Parliament is the need to ensure transparency and accountability in the application of public funds as well as monitoring the implementation of Government programmes, policies and projects. Parliamentary oversight further helps to support sustainable development and respect for human rights. However, Parliaments usually have modest evaluation resources and evaluation staff at their disposal making it difficult for them to conduct evaluation themselves. They sometimes rely on experts or partner institutions to provide them with the relevant information.

The work of parliamentarians can be improved if given access to, and training in, the specific evaluation tools and support structures essential for achieving meaningful results and effective oversight. Among the different tools and structures are functional parliamentary committees, well-trained staffers, evaluation capacity development for parliamentarians, nuanced debate and parliamentary questions.

Parliamentary Committees often are required to conduct investigations, interrogate reports from the Executive, and/or commission studies in reaction to complaints, criticisms, opposition, or abuses surrounding a program, project, agency, or official in exercise of their oversight function. Enhancing the capabilities of such committees such that they demand for, and utilize evaluation, in their oversight roles is critical for meaningful development results and outcomes.
Mindful of the critical role that evaluation plays in the work of parliaments, the APNODE National Chapter Cameroon, in collaboration with the APNODE Secretariat, is organizing this webinar to share the lessons and experiences of Cameroonian MPs regarding the use of and benefits of evaluation, and the associated challenges faced in this regard.

**Venue:** Virtual

**Date:** 16 November 2020

**Time:** 10:00 AM (Abidjan time)

**Questions for discussion**

- What are the different tools and methods of evaluation the National Assembly and Senate use for effective decision-making?
- To what extent has the use of tools and methods of evaluation improved the decision-making process of deputies and senators?
- What are the issues deputies and senators face in applying evaluation for effective decision-making?
- How have APNODE members advocated for, and sensitized colleagues to, the need for and use of evaluation in policy or program development in the National Assembly or Senate?
- How do APNODE members cooperate with the National Assembly or Senate to push the evaluation agenda? What have been the key challenges in this regard?

**Moderator:** Sen. Etamé Massoma, Member of the Board of APNODE Cameroon

**Presenters:**

1. Mr. Roger Mbassa Ndine, Mayor of Douala and former Chairperson of APNODE
2. Hon. Njingum Musa, Member of the Board of APNODE Cameroon
3. Hon. Élise Pokossy Doumbé, Chairperson of APNODE Cameroon