



FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS IN BENIN

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- **Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs)** are funds that come mainly from active corruption and bribery of public officials, embezzlement, and illicit enrichment but also from several other illegal, illicit, or criminal activities such as tax evasion, tax avoidance, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal arms transactions, smuggling, ...
- These IFFs are detrimental to economic development and the flourishing of populations and pose a dangerous threat to the integrity of financial systems and expose our sub-region (sub-Saharan Africa) to numerous problems of insecurity.
- The Beninese government, through the clearly stated will of its leader, President Patrice TALON, has made good governance a priority and prejudicial issue through the fight against all forms of economic and financial crimes and consequently, the fight against FFI, whatever their sources.



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- Thus, the fight against corruption and mismanagement of public funds is a priority of the Government Action Programme (PAG), which has made good governance the central axis of all public policies.
- To effectively combat IFFs, Benin has initiated several reforms aimed at strengthening its legal and institutional arsenal to combat economic and financial offences and money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Thus, several reforms have been implemented to enable the state, on the one hand, to better mobilise and manage public resources in a transparent manner and, on the other hand, to detect, prosecute and convict all perpetrators of economic and financial crimes with the recovery and confiscation of criminal assets. Some of these include:



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- 1 The transformation of the National Authority for the Fight against Corruption (ANLC) into a High Commission for the Prevention of Corruption to strengthen preventive measures and promote integrity and good governance within public and private administrations;**
- 2 The strengthening of the powers and prerogatives of the National Financial Information Processing Unit (CENTIF) by modifying its composition to enable it to carry out more effectively its mission of collecting, analysing, and processing financial information to promote the detection of all IFFs and the prosecution of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and of all underlying crimes.**



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- 3 The creation of the Court for the Repression of Economic Crimes and Terrorism (CRIET) to prosecute, judge and sentence all perpetrators of economic and financial crimes and to confiscate all assets derived from the IFFs.
- 4 The strengthening of international cooperation through Benin's membership of the Egmont Group and the Global Forum on Fiscal Transparency to assist the exchange of information for the identification and recovery (freezing, seizure or confiscation) of criminal assets or other assets originating from IFFs and located in foreign jurisdictions.



CONCLUSION





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- **Convinced that the misappropriation of public resources penalises economic growth and prevents the provision of public services to the populations that need them most to fight poverty effectively, the Beninese Government is resolutely committed to the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows of any kind, with zero tolerance and zero impunity for economic and financial crimes, which are, moreover, rendered imprescriptible by the legislation in force.**
- **The political will clearly displayed in favour of good governance and the fight against corruption by the authorities at the highest level of our country, in particular by the President of the Republic Patrice TALON, has resulted in the implementation of several reforms to modernise the public administration through dematerialisation services in order to strengthen the integrity and security of the State's financial operations and its relations with economic agents, whether legal persons or individuals.**



**Thank you for your
attention!**

