

## **Aide-Memoire**

### **“Workshop on ICT for Development and E-Government”**

**Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire  
20-21 July 2009**

#### **Background**

The political climate of Cote d'Ivoire is drastically improving, with efforts of the international community culminating in the holding of the Ivorian presidential elections on 29 November 2009. The United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), deployed to Cote d'Ivoire in 2005, has been active in the region since the breakout of the Ivorian Civil War in 2002.

The international community is supporting through diverse means the reconstruction of the nation beset by crises. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank allowed for the cancellation of the country's portion of debt under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. The Paris Club is supporting the development of the nation through an agreement to restructure its external public debt and defer its debt repayment to bilateral donors.

The Government of Cote d'Ivoire recognizes the need to close the gap of the 'digital divide' that the prolonged civil war has widened, and has set up a strategy to collaborate with the international community in preparing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) with special emphasis on information technology.

However, the Government of Cote d'Ivoire does not have yet a comprehensive strategy for establishing e-government and the development of information technology in the region. It is in urgent need of aid and cooperation and can benefit from the lessons and experiences of other countries, particularly from the Republic of Korea which has been a front-runner in e-government development and information technology.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of New Technology and Information of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire is organizing a workshop on “Strategies for Establishing e-Government in Cote d'Ivoire: Experiences of Korea” on 20 to 21 July 2009 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The activity is sponsored by the Embassy of Korea in Cote d'Ivoire and supported by the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG).

#### **Objectives and Themes**

The key objective of the Workshop is to assist Cote d'Ivoire in developing a national strategy for e-government through the transfer of knowledge and experience, including Korea's eGovernment experiences.

The workshop will provide participants with opportunities for in-depth discussion and a

wide exchange of views on promoting eGovernment development in Cote d'Ivoire. Participants are expected to engage best practices, lessons learned, ideas and knowledge, and in the sharing of initiatives regarding the subject. The goal is for participants to gain an understanding of how to use ICT tools to improve access and delivery of government service, thus sustaining the key sectors of Cote d'Ivoire's economy and society.

The workshop will focus on the following themes:

- ICT strategies as a way to a national development strategy;
- Korean experience on e-Government for national development;
- Lessons learned from the ICT business sector in Cote d'Ivoire;
- e/m-GKR as a tool for developing countries on electronic/mobile-Government experience of other countries

### **Expected Participants**

The workshop will be attended by around 100 participants, comprising of senior officials and other local stakeholders responsible for e-Government development in Cote d'Ivoire. Representatives from the private sector and civil society are also expected to attend the event.

### **Organization and Logistics**

The Workshop will be held at Chamber of Commerce of Cote d'Ivoire in Abidjan, the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire from 20 to 21 July 2009. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire will be responsible for venue, local logistics, and onsite assistance. The Embassy of Korea in Cote d'Ivoire is also sponsoring the event by hosting luncheons and dinner for participants.