



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

*Thirty-second meeting of the Committee of Experts*

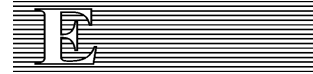
Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
21-24 March 2013



**AFRICAN UNION  
COMMISSION**

*Eighth meeting of the Committee of Experts*



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## **INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS**



Dear participants,

Welcome to Côte d'Ivoire and to the 2013 Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Please find below some general information on meeting arrangements which you may find useful.

## **1. GENERAL INFORMATION ON COTE D'IVOIRE**

Côte d'Ivoire is a country of western sub-Saharan Africa and a former French colony bordered by Liberia and Guinea in the west, Mali and Burkina Faso in the north, Ghana in the east and the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean in the south. The country lies between latitudes 4° and 11°N, and longitudes 2° and 9°W. Abidjan is the chief port, largest city, commercial centre and capital of Côte d'Ivoire. Abidjan is located on Ébrié Lagoon on the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean). The city has a population of about 4 to 5 million inhabitants. The official language is French, although many local languages are widely spoken.

Through production of coffee and cocoa, the country was an economic powerhouse in West Africa during the 1960s and 1970s. However, Côte d'Ivoire went through an economic crisis in the 1980s, leading to a period of political and social turmoil. The twenty-first century Ivorian economy is largely market-based and relies heavily on agriculture, with smallholder cash crop production being dominant.

The climate of Côte d'Ivoire is generally warm and humid, ranging from equatorial in the southern coasts to tropical in the middle and semi-arid in the far north. There are three seasons: warm and dry (November to March), hot and dry (March to May) and hot and wet (June to October). Temperatures average between 25 and 32 °C (77 and 89.6 °F) and range from 10 to 40 °C (50 to 104 °F).

## **2. CONFERENCE VENUE**

The Conference of Ministers will be held at the Hotel Ivoire, Boulevard de la Corniche, Abidjan.

- Telephone (+225) 2240 8000;
- website: <http://www.sofitel.com>;
- email: H8844-SL2@sofitel.com.

## **3. REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

The registration desk at the Hotel Ivoire will open from 19 March 2013, daily from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 to 8 p.m. All delegates and participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible upon arrival in Abidjan. Each delegate or participant will be given a badge for the purpose of identification during the period of the meetings. To expedite procedures, participants are requested to register online using the registration form on the Conference website, [www.uneca.orgcfm](http://www.uneca.orgcfm), or report to the registration desk with their passports or other means of photographic identification.

#### **4. VISA AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS**

In order to enter Côte d'Ivoire, every participant/traveller must obtain an entry visa from a Côte d'Ivoire diplomatic mission and have a full valid passport with at least six months to expiry on entry. In addition to visa and passport requirements, an international health certificate showing current yellow fever immunization is required for entry into Côte d'Ivoire. Without it, the traveller may be required to submit to vaccination at entry before clearing immigration at a fee. Participants coming from countries where there is no Côte d'Ivoire diplomatic mission may obtain an entry visa at the Abidjan International Airport upon arrival, upon presentation of their official letter of invitation to the Conference. In such cases, participants should inform the conference coordinators well in advance, at least two weeks before their arrival in Abidjan, providing their full passport details.

#### **5. CUSTOMS AND TAXES**

All those attending international meetings in Côte d'Ivoire will be exempted from the payment of customs duties and taxes relating to certain items of equipment, as well as other items intended for direct use during the conference.

Security and protection equipment must be declared at the earliest opportunity by informing the focal point of the conference organizers, so that the equipment can be granted advance approval.

Visitors may enter Côte d'Ivoire with:

- 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 100 cigarillos or 250 grams of tobacco
- 1 bottle of wine and 1 bottle of spirits
- 250ml of perfume
- A reasonable quantity of non-prohibited goods.

An unlimited amount of local currency can be imported into the country by locals and visitors alike. Likewise, unlimited amounts of other currencies may be imported but will need to be declared when entering and leaving the country.

#### **6. FLIGHTS AVAILABLE TO AND FROM ABIDJAN**

The international airlines operating in Côte d'Ivoire and currently flying to and from Abidjan International Airport are as follows: Brussels Airlines, Corsair, Emirates, Air France, Royal Air Maroc, Tunisair and Turkish Airlines. Please take your ticket with you when you go to a travel agent for confirmation.

#### **7. INFORMATION AND PROTOCOL DESK**

The host country, in collaboration with the AUC/ECA Conference Coordination Team, will provide any information required by the participants. A protocol desk will be available at Abidjan International Airport to facilitate entry and departure formalities for delegates, and another at the main entrance of the Hotel Ivoire.

#### **8. LOCAL TRANSPORT**

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire will provide transport for delegates from the airport to the hotels and between the hotels and the conference venue.

## **9. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

Participants must pay for their hotel accommodation, and will be responsible for making their own booking with the hotel of their choice. You may also make an online booking with the hotel concerned through its website, or by directly contacting the hotel.

Payment can be made in CFA francs, or in any convertible currency, including United States dollars, and preferably in cash, even though some hotels accept Visa credit cards. (A list of selected hotels, room types and rates appears below.) Preferential rates obtained by the National Organizing Committee in all selected hotels will be posted on the Conference website shortly.

## **10. CURRENCY**

Côte d'Ivoire's currency is the CFA franc (*franc CFA* or *FCFA*). Visitors can exchange currency in banks, at the airport, in exchange bureaux and in major hotels in Abidjan. At the time of writing, 1 United States dollar is equivalent to 491.761 FCFA, 1 euro is equivalent to 655.957 FCFA, 1 pound sterling is equivalent to 761.217 FCFA, 1 South African rand is equivalent to 55.0314 FCFA and 1 Canadian dollar is equivalent to 486.311 FCFA.

## **11. SHOPPING FACILITIES**

Shopping in Abidjan is all about exploring its lively local markets, locally known as marchés. These markets are excellent places to shop if one wants to buy the popular local crafts of the country. The products you can buy from these markets include renowned Ivorian handicrafts like wax prints, Ghanaian kente cloth, indigo fabric and woven cloth, wooden statuettes, bead necklaces, pottery and basketware.

For a more westernized shopping experience, one can head to some large western-style shopping centres. Some of the markets in Abidjan where you can shop for everything ranging from textiles to jewellery, masks, pottery, wood carvings and musical instruments are Adjamé Market, Plateau Market, Cocody Market and the popular Flea Market.

Shopping centres in Abidjan

SOCOCE; PRIMA; LEADER PRICE; CAP SUD; CAP NORD; KING CASH; CASH IVOIRE; SUPER HAYAT; TRADE CENTER; FROID INDUSTRIEL.

## **12. CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

To confirm your participation, and for any request for information pertaining to logistics coordination, please contact:

**Focal point of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire:**

- **Monsieur Marius Bessy;**  
**Special adviser**  
**Ministry of Finance:**  
**Tel; (225) 20 20 08 39**  
**Fax: (225) 20 30 94 15**

- **Mrs. Viviana Dodo**
- **Ministry of Finance**
- **Tel: (225) 20 30 94 12**
- **Fax: (225) 20 30 94 15**

**Focal points in the secretariat**

- **(African Union Commission)**
- **Mr René Nguetta Kouassi**
- **Tel: (251)115 44 36 68**
- **(251) 923 70 54 03**
  
- **(Economic Commission for Africa)**
- **Mr Joseph Atta – Mensah**
- **Coordinator**
- **Tel: (251) 115 44 53 79**
- **(251) 911 20 18 07**
  
- **Mr. Etienne Kabou**
- **Tel : (251) 115 44 36 44**
- **(251) 911 81 43 41**

**SELECTED HOTELS, IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE**

N°	Hotel	Contact information	Journey time from hotel to conference	Room types	Room rates	Location
1	Sofitel Hôtel Ivoire	Tel: +(225) 22 48 26 26	0 minutes	Standard Supérieur Suite prestige	182 000 192 000 247 500	Cocody, Blvd Mitterrand
2	Golf Hôtel	Tel : +(225) 22 43 10 44 + (225) 22 43 10 45	8 minutes	Suite junior Exécutive Supérieure	160 000 90 000 80 000	Riviera Golf
3	Pullman (Accor)	Tel : +(225) 20 30 20 20 Fax : +(225) 20 21 20 28 Email : h1146@accor.com	10 minutes	Single Double	120 000 135 000	Plateau, Avenue Abdoulaye Fadiga
4	Novotel (Accor)	Tel : +(225) 20 31 80 00 Fax : +(225) 20 31 80 20 Email : h0481@accor.com	15 minutes	Single Double	103 000 115 000	10, Avenue du Général De Gaulle
5	Ibis Plateau (Accor)	Tel : +(225) 20 30 16 00 Fax : +(225) 20 21 78 75 Email : h0732@accor.com	15 minutes	Single Double	64 000 71 000	7, Blvd ROUM
6	Tiama	Fax : +(225)20 31 80 20	10 minutes		To be confirmed	Plateau, Face au Stade F. Houphouët Boigny
7	Ivotel	Tel : +(225) 20 25 66 66 Email: ivotel@ivotel.com Website: www.ivotel.com	10 minutes	All types	56 000 / 72 000 (twin)	Plateau, Angle Rue Gourgas Avenue Terrasson de Fourgère
8	Grand Hôtel	Tel : +(225) 20 33 21 09 Email : abidjangrandhotel@yahoo.fr Website : www.grandhotel-ci.com	12 minutes	Standard Suite junior Suite appart	28 000 (twin 40 000) 50 000 (twin 60 000) 70 000 (twin 75 000)	Plateau, Rue Montigny
9	Horizon	Tel : +(225) 22 44 88 89 Email : hotelhorizon@hotmail.com Website : hotels.ci	5 minutes	Standard Supérieur Suite	50 000 70 000 90 000	Cocody, Blvd de France
10	Résidence O'Hinéne	Tel : + (225) 22 441 52 53	15 minutes	Suite luxe junior Suite capitonnée Junior Suite luxe senior Suite capitonnée Senior	45 000 55 000 55 000 65 000 80 000 80 000	Cocody, Vallon

				Appart prestige 2 p GF	120 000	
				Appart prestige 2 p (1FL)	135 000	
				Appart prestige 3 p (GF)		
				Appart prestige 3 p (1FL)		
11	Siet Hôtel le CALAO	Tel : 22 42 51 29 Email : siethotel.com	20 minutes	Single Double	27 500 30 000	Cocody, Angré 22ème Arrondt
12	Ibis Marcory		30 to 60 minutes	Single Double	64 000 71 000	Marcory, VGE

Payment in full must be made at the time of check-in.

- Twin: Rate for room occupied by two persons.
- Note: Because of the many traffic jams caused by the construction of the city's third bridge, the hotels in the Marcory area cannot be recommended. Journeys between this area and the city centre are difficult during the rush hour.
- The Hotel Ibis Marcory is located in this area.

### Basic health information for travellers to Ivory Coast

#### Mandatory vaccinations:

Yellow fever

#### Recommended vaccinations:

Meningitis  
 Influenza  
 Hepatitis B.