THE FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE WEST AFRICAN POLICE INFORMATION SYSTEM
PROGRAMME
UNDER THE 11th EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (11 EDF)

ABIDJAN, CÔTE D’IVOIRE
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REPORT

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V – RECOMMENDATIONS
The Steering Committee Meeting on the WAPIS Programme made the following observations and recommendations:

A. To the participating countries that joined the Programme in 2012
   a. Benin: the committee took note of the challenges faced by the country. It urged the national authorities to:
      i. Fully implement the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with INTERPOL, including increasing the involvement of senior police management in the implementation of the Programme,
      ii. Reform the Centre de Documentation de Sécurité Publique (CDSP) for it to be at an operational level;
      iii. Sign the agreement on INTERPOL I-24/7 system extension to the national WAPIS System by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020.

   b. Ghana: the committee took note that the country has requested more time to have the MOU signed. It commended the progress made in the country, especially for the provision of a vehicle for the functioning of the Data Collection and Registration Center (DACORE) and the signing of the agreement for the extension of the I-24/7 system to the national WAPIS System. It encouraged national authorities to:
      i. Sign the MOU by end December of 2019 at the latest;
      ii. Involve all law enforcement agencies including in the implementation of the WAPIS Programme;
      iii. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

   c. Mali: the committee took note of the recent progress made, especially the appointment of an IT administrator at the DACORE, the signing of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of WAPIS Programme and the signing of the agreement for the extension of the I-24/7 system to the national WAPIS System. It urged the national authorities to:
      i. Adopt the legal framework creating the DACORE before the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
      ii. Assign additional staff to the DACORE, including qualified ITs and law enforcement officers, in order to support the implementation of the Programme;
      iii. Provide a reliable Internet service for the interconnection of the WAPIS System and its access to the I-24/7 system by end of 2020 at the latest;
      iv. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest;
      v. Declare the WAPIS System to the national data protection authority by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020.

   d. Niger: the committee commended the national authorities for their level of commitment and the significant progress made in the implementation of the
Programme, including the extension of the national WAPIS System to the greater capital area and its connection to the I-24/7 system. It encouraged them to allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the national WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

B. To the participating countries that joined the Programme in 2016

e. Burkina Faso: the committee took note of the choice made by national authorities to retain IRAPOL as their national police information system. It urged national authorities to:
   i. Formally designate an IRAPOL IT specialist to liaise as a contact person with the Programme by end of December 2019 at the latest;
   ii. Sign the agreement on INTERPOL I-24/7 system extension to IRAPOL by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020.

f. Chad: the committee commended the national authorities for the progress made recently. It encouraged them to:
   i. Undertake the necessary steps for the adoption of the DACORE legal framework;
   ii. Make a decision on the data validation process before February 2020;
   iii. Declare the national System to the national data protection authority before February 2020.

g. Côte d’Ivoire: the committee took note of the recent progress made, including the signature of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Programme and the recent provision of premises to host the DACORE. It urged the national authorities to:
   i. Ensure the availability of the national Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to carry out his duties, considering his current heavy workload;
   ii. Adopt the legal framework for the WAPIS System including the WAPIS National Committee (WANACO) and the DACORE before the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System, in particular the DACORE;
   iv. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest;
   v. Declare the WAPIS System to the national data protection authority after the adoption of the legal framework for the WAPIS System.

h. Mauritania: the committee took note of the recent progress made in the implementation, including the signature of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Programme, the adoption of the legal texts creating the WANACO and the national WAPIS System, and the recent provision of premises to host the DACORE. It encouraged the country to:
   i. Appoint the qualified IT and legal expert before the end of 2019;
ii. Finalize the adoption of the legal framework for the WAPIS System, including the DACORE before the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;

iii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System;

iv. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest;

v. Declare the WAPIS System to the national data protection authority by end of 2020 at the latest.

C. To the participating countries that joined the Programme in November 2017

i. Cabo Verde: the committee took note of the fact that the country needs more time to have the MOU signed as it has to be approved by the parliament. It urged the national authorities to sign the MOU with INTERPOL before the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020 and to further build a legal framework for the WAPIS System by the end of 2020.

j. The Gambia: the committee took note of the progress made by the country, including the signature of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Programme. It encouraged the authorities to:
   i. Adopt the legal framework for the WAPIS System, including the WANACO and the DACORE before the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   ii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System before the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iii. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

l. Guinea Bissau: the committee took note of the internal challenges and congratulated the authorities for the signing of the MOU and formal appointment of the Single Point of Contact. It encouraged them to:
   i. Adopt the legal framework, including the WANACO and the DACORE by end of 2020;
ii. Provide official notice of the allocation of premises to host the DACORE by the end of 2019;

iii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;

iv. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

m. Liberia: the committee took note of the progress made, including the signature of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Programme and the recent provision of premises to host the DACORE. It encouraged the authorities to:
   i. Adopt the legal framework of the WAPIS System, including the WANACO and DACORE by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   ii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iii. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

n. Nigeria: the committee noted the progress made, including the signature of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Programme and the recent provision of premises to host the DACORE. It encouraged the authorities to:
   i. Adopt the legal framework of the WAPIS System, including for the WANACO and DACORE by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   ii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iii. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

o. Senegal: the committee urged the authorities to:
   i. Officially appoint the new single point of contact before end of 2019;
   ii. Provide the premises for the DACORE before end of 2019;
   iii. Adopt the legal framework of the WAPIS System, including the WANACO and DACORE by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iv. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   v. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

p. Sierra Leone: the committee noted the choice made by the national authorities to retain CrimeSync as their national police information system. It urged national
authorities to sign the agreement on INTERPOL I-24/7 system extension to CrimeSync.

q. Togo: the committee took note of the progress made, including the signature of the MOU with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Programme and the recent provision of premises to host the DACORE. It encouraged the authorities to:
   i. Adopt the legal framework of the WAPIS System, including the WANACO and DACORE by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   ii. Provide premises to host the DACORE by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iii. Assign the necessary qualified staff for the operationalization of the WAPIS System by the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by the end of June 2020;
   iv. Allocate a budget line for the running of the DACORE and the WAPIS System from 2021 onwards, at the latest.

D. To all the actors involved in the implementation of the Programme

r. The committee recommended that:
   i. The WAPIS participating countries abide by the WAPIS Best Practice Guide on Personal Data Protection and take the necessary measures to ensure a practical compliance by their law enforcement agencies with the Guide;
   ii. The WAPIS participating countries, with the technical support of INTERPOL, complete the transposition matrix template of their national legislation by April 2020;
   iii. The WAPIS participating countries implement the WAPIS data quality best practices, with the assistance of INTERPOL;
   iv. INTERPOL drafts a specialized data protection-training module based on the WAPIS Best Practice Guide on Personal Data Protection and a training action plan, with trainings to start for the targeted law enforcement agencies by April 2020;
   v. INTERPOL updates the list of offences of the WAPIS System to include the new categories of offences recommended by the ECOWAS Governmental Experts Committee Meeting on the WAPIS Programme of October 2019;
   vi. INTERPOL takes the necessary measures to proceed with the integration of the new scope of data in the WAPIS System starting in January 2020;
   vii. INTERPOL assist the WAPIS participating countries to develop a national communication plan;
   viii. INTERPOL launches a feasibility study for AFIS for Sierra Leone with the results to be presented at the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by June 2020;
   ix. INTERPOL develops a budget model for the running costs of the DACORE for the participating countries to be presented at the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled at the latest by June 2020;
   x. ECOWAS Commission continues to engage the Member States for an effective implementation of the WAPIS Programme;
xi. ECOWAS present the recommendations and conclusions of this Fourth Steering Committee Meeting on the WAPIS Programme to the next Mediation and Security Committee Meeting;

xii. EU continues to support the implementation of the WAPIS Programme by actively engaging the respective EU Delegations in the participating countries.

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European Union               ECOWAS Commission