



RÉPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

Ministère de l'Économie Numérique  
et de la Transformation Digitale

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## PRESS RELEASE

### *Togo authorises ratification of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection*

**Lomé (Togo), 1 July 2021** – In a move to ensure effective international cooperation on cybersecurity, the fight against cybercrime and the protection of personal data, the Togolese National Assembly, passed legislation on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 authorising the Togolese Government to ratify the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and the Protection of Personal Data—adopted by the bloc in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

As the government endeavours to make digital technology a vehicle for the country's growth and development, the risk of increase in cybercriminal activity is ever-present. The advantages of speed, simplicity, and efficiency granted by digitalisation may also facilitate the emergence of these criminal activities.

Moreover, cybercrime can be perpetrated regardless of geographical distance or state borders. Consequently, active cooperation between states is needed for any fight against cybercrime to be successful. The National Assembly has now authorised the Togolese Government to ratify the Malabo Convention, which fosters and enables this kind of cooperation.

Indeed, Togo has modernised its legislative and regulatory framework in terms of cybersecurity, the fight against cybercrime and the protection of personal data through the recent adoption of Law No. 2018-026 of 07 December 2018 on cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime and Law No. 2019-014 of 29 October 2019 on the protection of personal data.

The ratification of the Malabo Convention will enable Togo to benefit from cooperation with other African Union member states on the effective fight against cybercrime and in the protection of personal data. It crowns the Togolese Government's efforts to protect the country's cyberspace by establishing the National Cybersecurity Agency (*Agence Nationale de la Cybersécurité - ANCy*) and the creation of the Cyber Defense Africa (CDA) joint-venture.

Through these two entities, Togo has established and now operates a Security Operations Centre (SOC) and a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) - <https://cert.tg>. The institution of these structures is particularly vital to guarantee cybersecurity for the country's digital transformation programmes, which, among other things, aims to completely digitalise 75% of public and social services, and provide 100% of the eligible population with a new national biometric ID by 2025.

Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Digital Transformation, said: "While the constant evolution of ICTs towards more sophisticated services and applications facilitates transactions, it also creates avenues for cybercriminal activity targeted at computer systems that run these applications. The fact that these crimes often transcend state borders makes international cooperation essential to addressing them. For this reason, we applaud the adoption of the law authorising Togo's ratification of the Malabo Convention."

The move by the National Assembly makes Togo the ninth African State to ratify the Malabo Convention, following Angola, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, and Mauritius.

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