

PRESENTATION DU CONGO

Données générales

Présentation du pays

- Neighboring countries: Central African Republic (North), Cameroon (North-West), Gabon (West), Democratic Republic of Congo (East), South (Angola-Cabinda).
- Official name: Republic of Congo
Nature of the scheme: Semi-presidential
Head of State: Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO

Geographical data

- Area: 342,000 km²
- Density: 15 people/Km²
- Population growth: 2.6%
- Population: 5.13 million in habitants
- Capital: Brazzaville
- Peoples: kongo, teke, mbochi, oubanguien etc ...
- Main cities: Pointe-Noire, Dolisie, Mossendjo, Nkayi, Ouesso, Owando, Oyo
- Official language (s): French (official), Lingala, Kituba
- Currency: CFA Franc (1 Euro = 655.96 XAF) (1 Dollar = 550 FCFA)
- National Holiday : August 15th

Religions: Christianity, Islam, Animism.

Economic data

- GDP (2016): USD 7.95 billion (WTO)
- GDP / capita (2014-2016): USD 2,336 (WTO)
- Growth rate (2016): - 2.7% (IMF)
- Inflation rate (2016): 2.5% (0.9% in 2015) (IMF)
- Trade balance (2016): -20 billion USD (WTO)
- Main suppliers (2016): China (20%), France (13.3%) (DGT)
- Oil production (July 2018): 300,000 barrels days (240,000 b/d in 2015)
- French exports to Congo: € 330.9 million in 2017 (€ 520 million in 2016) (DGT)
- French imports from Congo: € 39m in 2017 (€ 41.8m in 2016) (DGT)
- Portal of the General Directorate of the Treasury:
<http://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/pays/congo>
- "Doing Business 2019" ranking: 180th out of 190 (lost 1 place).

Development challenges

- Despite progress in economic growth, the Republic of Congo has failed to fully exploit the value of its natural resources to achieve meaningful socio-economic performance. Overall, the heavy dependence on hydrocarbons has blocked the development of other sectors of activity, such as agriculture and forestry.
- In its latest National Development Plan (2018-22), the government has new ambitions and plans to improve governance, strengthen human capital and diversify the economy.
- The plan expects rapid economic recovery coupled with sustainable and inclusive growth.
- The World Bank Group, China, the European Union, the French Development Agency and the African Development Bank are the main financial partners of the country. All are working to

promote economic diversification, improve the business environment, develop the health and education sectors and strengthen the social protection of the population. The United Nations and the Central African Development Bank are also active in the country. Finally, the International Monetary Fund is currently discussing with the authorities a program to support economic recovery.

Foreign politic

Congo chaired the African Union (2006) and ECCAS (2003-2007), and was a member of the United Nations Security Council (2006-2007) and the Human Rights Council (2011-2014). He chaired from October 2017 to October 2018 the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Congolese diplomacy is active in the regional environment. Angola is an important ally whose help was decisive during the civil wars. President Sassou Nguesso has been involved in the political process of ending the crisis in CAR (2015/2016), notably as chairman of the monitoring committee of the Libreville agreements. Congo has also been a troop contributor to the United Nations Mission in CAR. He is active in the resolution of the Great Lakes crisis and a signatory to the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region. Congo is also involved in the issue of maritime security in the continuity of the Yaoundé regional summit (June 2013): a regional center for maritime safety in Central Africa (CRESMAC) was inaugurated in Pointe-Noire in October 2014. In November 2016, the Congolese president was appointed head of the African Union High Level Committee on Libya. The relations are close with China, become one of the first economic partners of Congo (with France and the United States). In recent years, Brazzaville has also forged growing economic links with certain countries: Turkey, Russia, Brazil, India.

Organization of the digital ecosystem

The digital economy in the Republic of Congo is a sector in perpetual change. It offers users development opportunities through the creation of new products that meet the expectations of the general public.

Today, through the 4G networks of mobile operators Congolese habits increasingly involve the use of social networks, online information search, online purchase and sale, etc.

However, the digital economy has many issues that should be explored to appreciate the opportunities as well as the legal constraints that pose the problem of the necessary protection of personal freedoms, access to public information, the intellectual property against illicit uses...

It is in this context that the Congolese Government, through the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy, has developed the cyber legislation that is currently on the table of parliament. The cyber legislation is composed of the following texts:

- Bill on the fight against cybercrime;
- Cyber Security Bill;
- Electronic Transactions Bill;
- Bill on personal data.

In addition, a vitally important document for the digital economy sector entitled "National Strategy for the Development of the Digital Economy" responding to international recommendations has been approved by the Council of Ministers, which is structured around three pillars, to know:

- the e-citizen: services and digital contents for the general public
- e-government: digital services and content for the government and public administrations;

- e-business: services and content for companies;

This strategy takes into account current developments and sets a direction consistent with the evolution of the digital economy sector at national and international level and contributes to the diversification of the Congolese economy.

The Congolese Government is resolutely committed to a strategy of deployment of very high speed telecommunications infrastructure in the Republic of Congo, based on a project to build a national fiber optic backbone (National Coverage Project) and to its interconnection with neighboring countries (CAB-CIT CG project) and with the global fiber optic network (WACS submarine cable project).

The Internet exchange point for the interconnection of all Internet service providers has benefited from the support of the African Union to switch to a regional exchange point in order to have local internet traffic.

The leaders show a real willingness to prepare the country for new challenges, especially development opportunities by creating new products that meet the expectations of the general public.

The digital economy is a cross-cutting sector that supports the Government in its efforts to modernize and diversify the economy; implementing reforms to improve the business climate; and the strengthening of critical infrastructure for economic transformation, inclusive growth and job creation.