

AFRICAN UNION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

PRESS RELEASE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, Thursday 23 July 2020

On Thursday 23 July 2020, an Executive Board Meeting of the African Union of Judicial Officers was held via the Zoom virtual platform from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. GMT. The meeting was attended by six (6) Executive Board member countries, and by Chairs and Heads of Delegation from ten (10) member countries. (*Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea, Senegal, Rwanda, Niger, Uganda*).

Three items were on the Agenda: 1- Impact of the pandemic on the profession 2- Review of the 2020/2021 plan of action and 3- Any other business.

Participants, in a country-by-country approach, took stock of the impact of Covid-19 on the profession at human, social, judicial, legislative, economic and financial levels. It was thus observed that the magnitude and ramifications of the health crisis differ from place to place, but that, all over the continent, they have had serious effects on public service enforcement, weighing strongly on the cash flow of Firms. Unfortunately, some colleagues have been tragically carried away by the pandemic although a vast majority of enforcement professionals has been spared owing to the observance of the barrier and quarantine measures put in place by the relevant governing professional bodies.

The 2020/2021 plan of action has been reviewed. The colloquium which was expected to hold in Guinea in May 2020 has been cancelled altogether due to the health crisis. On similar grounds, the colloquium slated for October 2020 in Niamey, Niger, has been postponed until 2021 whereas the January 2021 Congress in Algiers has been rescheduled for June 2021. The deadlines stated to gather contributions from National Chambers and Orders in view of both the Revision of the Uniform Act on enforcement and the release of the Journal of the African Union of Judicial Officers have been extended.

Under “Any other business”, the Board of Directors congratulated the Executive Board on the partnership agreements now being finalized between the Advanced Regional School of Magistracy (ERSUMA), on the one hand, and the Federal Service of Judicial Officers of the Russian Federation, on the other hand.

The Chairperson, Alain NGONGANG, announced that an AUJO training session on the theme: “The Judicial Officer in the face of digitalization challenges” was to be held via the Zoom platform during the first part of the month of August 2020 at a date to be decided and communicated by the Executive Board.