

## **PRESS RELEASE**

MAIN General Assembly – September 25, 2025, Cotonou, Benin

From September 22 to 25, 2025, the National Microfinance Week (SeNaMif) was held in Cotonou under the theme " **Inclusive finance in Africa in the context of climate and security challenges.**" This event brought together more than 300 participants from 20 mainly African countries and highlighted the key challenges facing the African financial sector, which is particularly exposed to climate and security risks that threaten both the stability of the sector and financial inclusion.

Microfinance institutions play a central role in financing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and strengthening the economic security of vulnerable populations. However, these institutions face significant challenges such as a lack of capacity to offer sustainable financial products and difficulties related to governance and security risks.

It is in this context that SeNaMif provided a privileged space for reflection and exchanges. Several thematic sessions were presented during that week, particularly on the prospects for climate financing in collaboration with technical and financial partners, governance and risk management in light of the new regulations, training dedicated to liquidity risk as well as feedback on innovation and resilience of MFIs. Co-organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance of Benin, MAIN and the Professional Association of microfinance of Benin, the event offered highlights such as thematic workshops, exhibition stands, and the MAIN General Assembly.



*Partial view of participants at SENAMIF*

During this week, the morning of September 24 was devoted to a guided tour of the historic city of Ouidah, a coastal city in Benin located 42 km west of Cotonou. Participants discovered emblematic sites such as the Gate of No Return, the Temple of Pythons and Tcha Tcha Square, they were able to immerse themselves in the cultural and memorial richness of this city steeped in history. This immersion helped strengthen ties between participants while offering them a moment of relaxation and conviviality alongside the work.

Enriched by this day full of discoveries and exchanges, participants celebrate the peak of the MAIN's 30th anniversary through the gala dinner on the evening of September 24th. The ceremony highlighted the network's exceptional journey, boosted by a convivial moment around a meal, rich exchanges, as well as artistic and cultural performances celebrating the songs and dances of the Beninese. The presence of numerous personalities, members and partners gave the event all its braininess. It was an opportunity to salute the successes achieved and to reaffirm, collectively, the commitment to definitely continue the work begun three decades ago.

### **MAIN General Assembly.**

The 12<sup>e</sup> MAIN's elective General Assembly was held on September 25th, attended by 99 members (including 15 observers) representing 20 countries. Activities during that day included, among other things: the signing of two partnership agreements (The first agreement was concluded between MAIN and Mohamed VI Center for Support to Solidarity Microfinance in Morocco, while the second links MAIN to the International Committee of African Solidarity based in Togo), a conference-debate on "Thirty Years of Microfinance in Africa: A Journey of Innovation and Impact," as well as the presentation and adoption of several reports. After the presentation of the various reports, the assembly proceeded to vote on the resolutions. All resolutions were passed unanimously by the members present.



*Members at the General Assembly*

The GA allowed for the renewal of the members of the board of directors. Following the elections, a new board was elected for a two-year term and is as follows:

1. **Mr. Kimanthi MUTUA**, chairman (K-Rep, Kenya),
2. **Mrs. Amina SAKIOUDI**, Vice- chair (CMS, Morocco),
3. **Mrs. Valentine Huguette ADOUKOUNOU**, Treasurer (AFRICA Finances, Benin),



4. **Mr. Aubert André TCHIKANTIO**, Deputy Treasurer (FIGEC SA, Cameroon),
5. **Mrs. Nadine MUTABARUKA**, Member (WISE, Burundi),
6. **Mr. Nicolas HEEREN**, Member (SIDI, France)
7. **Mr. Thierry RAJAONA**, Member (SIPEM, Madagascar).



*New Board members*

### **About MAIN**

The MAIN (Microfinance African Institutions Network) is an international non-profit association (founded in 1995 in Abidjan) based in Lomé, Togo. As of June 30, 2025, MAIN had 145 members in 25 countries in Africa and Europe.

MAIN brings together MFIs, national networks, NGOs working in microfinance, cooperatives, farmers' organizations, banks, and resource organizations (universities, social investors, etc.). MAIN member institutions reach more than 18 million beneficiaries through their financial and non-financial services.

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