

CAPES Support Proposal

(Center for Economic and Social Analysis and Forecasting at the AXID agency)

with WAICO

(World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization)

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capes.axid.org - October 2026

Background Note – Executive Summary

1

WAICO

An organization of states founded in Shanghai on July 16, 2026. 37 member states

2

Target Market

13 African signatory states, a priority for the AXID agency

3

Access

Access is through the member states; no public call for proposals to date

4

Role of CAPES

CAPES - BU AXID Corporation is responsible for managing relations and program development for WAICO with member states

4 priority countries for AXID in 2026–2027

Congo

Contact CAPES regarding the country-specific proposal

Cameroon

Work with CAPES on the country-specific proposal

Kenya

Contact CAPES for the country-specific proposal

Senegal

Contact CAPES for the country-specific proposal

Congo = Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville).

CAPEX , supported by from the AXID agency to serve in an advisory capacity to WAICO



1

AXID's business priority

WAICO is an international organization dedicated to supporting local AI initiatives and projects in Africa.

2

Access through governments

Members are governments: we must understand their priorities, country by country.

3

A new topic, rarely covered in French

Founded on July 16, 2026; the secretariat, budget, and rules have yet to be defined. The AXID agency has an interest in playing an advisory role within WAICO as a development actor.

37

Member states (29
founding members
+ 8)

13

African signatory
states

5,000

training slots over 5
years

0

public call for
projects identified

13 African member states – AXID agency perspective



African signatories to the WAICO agreement (July 2026)

7

Southern and Eastern Africa

- South Africa
- Lesotho
- Mozambique
- Zambia
- Kenya
- Ethiopia
- Tanzania †

4

Central and West Africa

- Cameroon
- Congo (Brazzaville)
- Senegal
- Togo †

2

North and Northeast

- Algeria
- Sudan †

† Accession on July 31, 2026 (excluding signatories of July 16).

Congo = Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), confirmed by the Congolese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Sources: Wikipedia (WAICO page), African press, accessed October 22, 2026.



Focus on CAPES and the
AXID Agency in 2026 and
2027

Our role: to support the AXID agency in its initiatives



CAPES Publications

- Strategy for supporting WAICO as an advisory agency (AXID)
- Up-to-date country profiles on member states
- Monitoring of future calls for proposals

Methodology and lobbying

- A methodology for engaging with WAICO as an advisory partner
- CAPES serves as the moral and ethical guarantor for the AXID agency in its dealings with WAICO
- CAPES facilitates connections between private sector actors and WAICO

Signs to watch for

- Appointment of AXID's principal representative to WAICO
- Composition of the AXID Representative's Office
- First Call for Proposals and AXID Proposal Prepared by CAPES

Documentation: Country fact sheets and AXID's country-specific approach methodology are available

Country Profile – Congo (Brazzaville)

WAICO Position

- Founder: agreement signed on July 16, 2026
- Minister Frédéric Nzé (Postal Services, Telecommunications, Digital)
- Attended the WAIC in Shanghai (July 17–20)

AI and Digital Context

- National Data Center in Brazzaville (Tier III)
- Pointe-Noire center, connected to the 2Africa cable
- Congo Digital public program

Areas of Focus (to be validated)

- Support Congo Digital
- Monitor the sovereign cloud project
- Leverage the Francophone network

Caution: Data centers and sovereign cloud operated by Chinese companies: local compliance requirements must be examined

Country Profile – Cameroon

WAICO Position

- Founder: agreement signed on July 16, 2026
- Minister Minette Libom Li Likeng (Posts and Telecommunications)
- China reaffirmed AI cooperation on August 11

AI and Digital Context

- National AI Strategy unveiled in July 2025
- AI authority and presidential council planned
- UNESCO Report on AI Ethics (Feb. 2026)

Areas of Focus (to be validated)

- Support the implementation of the strategy
- Monitor the future National AI Authority
- Support the ecosystem for young AI talent

Caution: The key challenge remains the effective implementation of the strategy, not its adoption

Country Profile – Kenya

WAICO Position

- Founder: agreement signed on July 16, 2026
- Minister William Kabogo (ICT and Digital Economy)
- No break with Western partners

AI and Digital Context

- AI Strategy 2025–2030 launched on March 27, 2025
- Three pillars: infrastructure, data, research
- No dedicated AI law yet

Areas of Focus (to be validated)

- Gateway to East Africa
- Monitor future AI regulations
- Support training initiatives

Caution: Dual affiliation (WAICO and Western partners): compliance must be assessed on a case-by-case basis

Country Profile – Senegal

WAICO Position

- Founder: agreement signed on July 16, 2026
- Minister Samba Diouf (Telecommunications and Digital)
- Advocates for digital sovereignty and African languages

AI and Digital Context

- Technology New Deal: West African digital hub
- Pillars: infrastructure, cybersecurity, data
- AI Strategy Developed with the Europe Team

Areas of Focus (to be validated)

- African Languages and AI
- Talent Development and Funding
- West African Digital Hub

Caution: Parallel European AI partnerships: balance between blocs to be documented



axid.org

**As a development partner in Africa,
we support digitalization and the use of AI at
scale.**

**We support the financing of high-impact
project initiatives
in vital sectors: health and medicine,
education, mining and energy, housing and
land use, environment and forest cover,
sanitation, and information systems.**