AFRODAD

AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS GOVERNING SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACTION AND MANAGEMENT IN CHAD

Validation Webinar

4th November 2025, 1.00pm (GMT + 1)

Introduction

The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) is a Pan-African civil society organisation established in 1996 to advocate for debt cancellation and address debt-related issues in Africa. For over 25 years, AFRODAD has developed expertise in public debt management and its linkages with domestic resource mobilisation, international public and private finance, and the broader macroeconomic environment in Sub-Saharan Africa. We work with government officials, parliamentarians, the media, civil society organisations, and continental and global financial actors to promote accountable, transparent, and sustainable debt management policies.

In partnership with the International Lawyers Project (ILP), AFRODAD has been conducting in-depth legal studies analysing the legal and institutional frameworks governing sovereign debt contraction and management in select African countries including Ghana, Malawi, Ethiopia and Chad. These studies aim to provide evidence-based insights to influence reforms that strengthen debt governance, improve transparency, and promote citizen participation in debt-related decision-making.

This validation webinar is designed to present the views of AFRODAD and ILP's study on sovereign debt contraction and management in Chad. The study identifies key challenges within the country's debt contraction and management framework including overlapping institutional mandates, weak parliamentary and audit oversight, limited compliance with transparency provisions and inadequate enforcement of laws. The webinar aims to convene academia, civil society, government officials, legal professionals, and other stakeholders to critically examine the findings of the study, validate the claims, and ensure that the recommendations are contextually appropriate.

Background

Chad is at a critical juncture in its political and economic trajectory, following the country's transition from military to constitutional rule after the death of long-serving President Idriss Déby in April 2021,[1] the country transitioned under the leadership of the National Council of Transition until the adoption of a new Constitution in December 2023 and the subsequent presidential, legislative, and senatorial elections in 2024 and 2025. Ideally, under the Chad constitutional framework then in force, in case of the death of the President, the presidential powers were to be provisionally vested to the President of the National Assembly.[2] However, the military suspended both the government and the National Assembly, establishing the National Council of Transition under the leadership of Mahamat Déby, son of the late President. In December 2023, Chad adopted a new Constitution through a referendum,[3] marking the initial step toward ending military rule. This was followed by presidential elections on 6 May 2024, in which Mahamat Déby was elected.[4]

This political shift raised expectations for structural reforms, including in the area of public debt governance. Observers and commentators, including credit rating agencies, anticipate that the restoration of constitutional order and governance will enable the advancement of structural economic reforms.[5] Notably, Chad maintains a relatively low debt-to-GDP ratio at 33.8% as at December 2024 [6]counterparts, alongside a favorable government-[7], but faces challenges in transparency, institutional oversight, and compliance with legal frameworks. Chad's debt-to-GDP ratio has fluctuated over the past two decades, with a sharp decline from 2000 to 2008 due to debt relief initiatives and oil revenue growth, followed by a steady increase driven by infrastructure spending, external shocks, and security-related expenditures.

Against this context, the findings of the study delve into Chad's established written legal framework for the issuance and management of public debt, which bestows certain powers to the Minister of Finance, Budget, Economy, and Planning (*Ministère d'État, Ministre des Finances, du Budget, de l'Économie et du Plan*), as the person ultimately responsible for the contraction and management of public debt.[8] The legal framework governing sovereign debt contraction and management in the country is anchored in both national legislation and sub-regional CEMAC regulations, with the Ministry of Finance, Budget, Economy, and Planning as the central authority. Chadian national legislation relating to public debt is principally derived from the transposition of Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) directives relating to the harmonised public management framework or from national initiatives. The legal framework in this regard is derived both from sub-regional and national regulations and laws. The legal framework also provides for multiple levels of oversight, in particular from the National Debt Commission (*Commission Nationale d'Analyse de la Dette*) ("**CONAD**"), which is assisted by the Technical Team for Debt Sustainability Analysis ("**ETAVID**"). Key oversight bodies include the

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[1] 'Chad - Conflict, Civil War, Refugees | Britannica' <https://www.britannica.com/place/Chad/Continuing-conflict> accessed 22 September 2025.

[2] 'Chad 2018 Constitution - Constitute' <https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Chad_2018> accessed 22 September 2025.

[3] Chad, 2023 Constitution

[4] APA News, *Sénatoriales Au Tchad : Les Résultats Définitifs Connus*, 4 March 2025

[5] S&P Global, *Republic of Chad Assigned 'B-/B' Sovereign Ratings; Outlook Stable*, 28 October 2024

[6] Country List Government Debt to GDP | Africa

[7] S&P Global, *Republic of Chad Assigned 'B-/B' Sovereign Ratings; Outlook Stable*, 28 October 2024

[8] Articles 13, 16 and 48 of Decree № 37/PR/PMMFB/2024

National Debt Commission (CONAD), the Auditors, and the Parliament, although in practice, oversight remains limited. International actors such as the IMF and World Bank also play a significant role in shaping debt management policies. While legislative provisions require transparency, including the publication of debt sustainability reports and management data, there has been inconsistent compliance. Historical cases, such as the controversial Glencore oil-backed loan,[9] highlight weaknesses in governance and the potential for opaque debt arrangements.

In light of the above, the study's findings underscore both structural progress and enduring weaknesses in Chad's debt governance landscape. Therefore, this validation webinar seeks to confirm the accuracy and relevance of these findings, assess the evidence, and refine the conclusions through stakeholder input, to enhance governance, transparency, and accountability in sovereign debt management in Chad.

Objectives

1. Validate the findings of the abovementioned study on the legal and institutional frameworks governing sovereign debt contraction and management in Chad.
2. Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of Chad's existing legal and institutional frameworks on sovereign debt contraction and management.
3. Analyse domestic and external debt contraction and management procedures, with emphasis on compliance and gaps.
4. Evaluate Chad's current sovereign debt situation in relation to its governance framework.
5. Identify strategies to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in debt governance.
6. Recommend legal and institutional reforms to strengthen sovereign debt management in Chad.

Expected Outcomes

1. Identification of gaps in Chad's legal framework on sovereign debt contraction and management.
2. Enhanced awareness of debt contraction and management processes in Chad.
3. Improved understanding of Chad's current debt situation.
4. Enhanced transparency, accountability, and public participation on public debt management in Chad.
5. Proposals for legal and institutional reforms to improve debt governance.

[9] Ships & Ports, 'Glencore, Chad Reach Deal on $1bn Oil-Backed Loan' (*Ships & Ports*, 22 February 2018) <https://shipsandports.com.ng/glencore-chad-reach-deal-1bn-oil-backed-loan/> accessed 22 September 2025.

Format and Participants

The webinar will feature a keynote presentation on the findings of the Chad study, followed by panel discussions and interactive Q&A sessions. Participants will include representatives from civil society, academia, government ministries, parliament, legal professionals, and international partners.

Programme

Time (GMT+1)	Item	Person(s) Responsible
1.00 pm – 1.10 pm	Welcome, Context Setting, Introduction of Panellists	Harrison Okoth, AFRODAD
1.10 pm – 1.30 pm	Presentation of Study Findings	Mary Ongore, ILP
1.30 pm – 1.50 pm	Interventions by Panellists on the Study	Aristide Mabali, CROSET Junecynthia Okello, PALU
1.50 pm – 1.20 pm	Q and A Segment	ALL
2.20 pm – 2.30 pm	Closing Remarks	Panellists and Moderator

Contact Persons

In case of any questions or clarifications around this webinar, please reach out to the persons listed below.

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