

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

(THIRD SESSION)

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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 50TH CPA AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE

ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

30TH AUGUST – 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

Theme "E-Parliament: Seamless platform for facilitating Democracy"

Clerks Chambers, Parliament Buildings, **NAIROBI.**

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID November 2019 DATE: 2 NOV 2019 DAY TAURSDA TABLED Har Markali Mul BY: Leader DDele CLERK-AT THE-TABLE: emine More

PREFACE

Honourable Speaker,

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- The 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 30th August to 5th September 2019. The Conference was hosted by Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and CPA Zanzibar Branch President, who welcomed Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Members of Parliament from 18 CPA Branches across the Africa Continent.
- 2. Speeches at the opening ceremony were delivered by the Rt. Hon. Justin. B.N. Muturi, EGH, MP, the Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Kenya; the Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, the Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee and Deputy Speaker of the of the National Assembly of Cameroon; the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and President of CPA International; the Rt. Hon. Job Yustino Ndugai, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania MP; the Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives; and Mr. Stephen Kagaiga, the Regional Secretary of CPA Africa Region and Clerk of the National Assembly of Tanzania; whilst goodwill messages were delivered by the Rt. Hon. Martin Karoli Ngoga, the Speaker of the East Africa Legislative Assembly; Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Pakistan Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce; and Hon. Mariam Jack-Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Gambia.
- 3. The meeting was officially opened by the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein. In his opening remarks the President underscored the need to promote the use and application of ICT by developing e-Parliaments in respective countries which he identified as a vital step towards enhancing

the three core functions of Parliaments, namely legislation, representation as well as the power to monitor and oversee various government organs trough oversight. The President further called upon Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to invest in the promotion and use of ICT in local communities to assist in promoting democracy at the grassroots.

- 4. In his opening remarks, the Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, EGH, MP, Chairperson of CPA Africa Region Executive Committee and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Kenya thanked H.E. the President of Zanzibar for finding time to officially open the Conference. He acknowledged the tremendous advancement that had been made in digital technology as exemplified by the pace of social media growth and in governments' continued embrace of paperless forms of operations. The Hon. Chair further observed that the Conference presented a valuable platform for Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to share ideas and deliberate on how various Legislatures can adopt best practices with regard to information sharing and dissemination through the latest forms of technology. The Honourable Chair also communicated the appreciation of the Association to the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives for hosting the Conference.
- 5. In his remarks, the Rt. Hon. Ngoga Karoli Martin, Speaker of EALA thanked the hosts and the CPA leadership for extending an invitation to EALA, which by itself signified the growing warm and cordial relations between the two institutions. He observed that a healthy and credible legislation is indispensable for democratic governance. Hon, Ngoga noted that representation involves keeping citizens informed. However, he observed, many Legislatures lack the effectiveness to inform and to with constituents which interact results in citizens-legislators' disengagements. He thus pointed out that leveraging on the exponential growth of ICTs and particularly on e-Parliament stood a great chance of making democracy more inclusive, pragmatic and transparent. In conclusion, he urged Parliaments to take the responsibility of embracing e-

voting, e-democracy and e-campaigning, among others, which reflect on the new thinking, understanding and practices of how Parliaments must operate in the ICT dispensation.

б. Hon. Job Yustino Ndugai, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, welcomed all delegates to the United Republic of Tanzania. Hon. Ndugai noted that the Conference was simultaneously taking place with significant changes in Tanzania which has impacted positively in various sectors including internal review of government structures, foreign policy and economic drivers. He further noted that the resolution to host the Secretariat in Tanzania had been a welcome move amidst change in government priorities, and in addition hoped that robust ways of fundraising for CPA regional activities would be put in place as the Association embarked into investment in the hospitality industry. Hon. Ngugai affirmed that his office was at the disposal to assist the CPA leadership under the able stewardship of Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya and Executive Committee Chairperson to ensure that the Association goals are achieved as planned. In conclusion, Hon. Ndugai thanked the Secretariat for their admirable organizational competence that had culminated in the successful coordination of the Conference..

Honourable Speaker,

- 7. During the Regional Conference, the Hon. Zainab Gimba of the Nigeria Federal Parliament was elected as the new Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Forum of the CPA Africa Region.
- The CPA International President Designate, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda also attended the CPA Africa Regional Conference and highlighted the preparedness of the Uganda Parliament to host the forthcoming 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in September 2019.

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Honourable Speaker,

- 9. At its conclusion, the Conference committed itself to the ideals of the African Union and the Commonwealth and resolved to use ICT in strengthening public involvement in the legislative process; to enhance ICT use in providing life changing solutions in rural communities, to utilize social media in enhancing Parliamentarians Constituency Engagements, to acknowledged the role of technology in developing democratic practices, to empower women and enable them participate in decision making, and to implement youth policies as a tool to combat migration.
- 10. The Annual General Meeting further adopted a Special Resolution on the situation in South Africa pertaining to citizens from other nations, as well as other General and Special Resolutions.

Honourable Speaker,

- 11. The Delegation from the Parliament of Kenya comprised the following
 - a) Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, EGH, MP Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Kenya, Joint President of CPA Kenya Branch, and Chairperson of CPA Africa ExCO
 - b) Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, MP - Regional Representative c) Hon. Muriuki Njagagua, MP - Branch Representative d) Hon. Janet Sitienei, M.P - CWP Kenya Chairperson e) Hon. (CPA) John Mbadi, EGH, MP -Minority Leader and ExCO Member – ExCO Member f) Hon. Dennitah Ghati, HSC, MP g) Hon. Wangari Mwaniki, OGW, MP - ExCO Member h) Sen. Enoch Wambua, MP - Delegate/Sub-Committee Member i) Sen. Abshiro Halake, MP - Delegate/Sub-Committee Member j) Sen. Issa Juma Boy, MP -Observer k) Mr. Michael Sialai, EBS - Clerk of the National Assembly and

- Vice-Chairperson, SoCATT Africa 1) Mrs. Serah Kioko -SoCATT and Deputy Clerk, NA m) Mr. Njenga Ruge -SoCCATT/ Director L&P, Senate n) Mrs. Marya Adjibodou -Principal Clerk Assistant/ Senate Delegation Secretary o) Mr. Finlay Muriuki - Second Clerk Assistant/ NA Delegation Secretary p) Mr. David Angwenyi -Second Clerk Assistant, Senate q) Mr. Osman Said -Research Officer
- 12. The Kenyan Delegation participated actively in the deliberations and ably presented the nation's position during the various sessions which were a roadmap for final resolutions adopted at the end of the Conference.

Honourable Speaker,

- 13. The members of the Delegation are grateful to the Speakers of the two Houses for facilitating their participation in the Conference as well as support through provision of travel logistics and technical support in liaison with the offices of the Clerks of both Houses.
- 14. It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the Delegation, to present and commend this Report to the House for noting.

HON. (DR.) MAKALI MULU, M.P. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, CPA AFRICA

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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 50^{TH} CPA AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA 30^{TH} AUGUST – 5^{TH} SEPTEMBER, 2019

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, of which the Parliament of Kenya is a member, is an association of Parliamentarians from the Commonwealth countries.
- 2. The CPA was formed to promote Parliamentary democracy, and enhance governance, respect for individual rights and rule of law. It also facilitates cooperation between the Parliaments and Legislatures represented in it.
- 3. The Association's supreme authority is the General Assembly, constituted by delegates to the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The business and activities of the CPA are managed by an Executive Committee, which reports to the General Assembly. The CPA's funds are derived from membership fees paid by its branches, as well as from two trust funds and benefactors.
- 4. The official publication of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is *The Parliamentarian*, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments which was first published in 1919. The organization administers the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), which is a network across the Commonwealth which promotes greater representation for women in Parliament, the CPA Small Branches network, representing Parliaments and Legislatures with populations below 500,000 people, and the Commonwealth Youth Parliament which is an annual gathering of young people hosted by a Commonwealth Parliament.
- 5. CPA currently has approximately 180 branches and is divided into nine regions Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands and Mediterranean; Canada;

Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic; India; Pacific, and South-East Asia. The CPA Headquarters Secretariat is based in London.

- 6. In 1948, CPA adopted its present name and changed its rules to enable all member Branches to participate in the Association's management. It also established a separate Headquarters Secretariat to manage its affairs.
- 7. In 1989 the CPA created the constitutional posts of Patron and Vice-Patron. HM Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of the Commonwealth consented to become Patron. The Vice-Patron is normally the Head of State or Government of the Branch hosting the coming plenary conference.

CPA Structure

- 8. Today, the CPA is governed by an International Executive Committee which controls the management of activities and business of the Association. The Committee consists of 35 Members, namely, the Officers of the Association, the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and three Regional Representatives from each Region except Africa which, as a large Region, has six Representatives.
- 9. The Committee meets just prior to the General Assembly, to which it reports, and holds a second meeting in another Commonwealth country midway between General Assemblies.

Recent Development

10. Like the Commonwealth, the CPA continues to evolve, and in the last decade more than 50 new Parliaments and Legislatures joined or rejoined the CPA. Its newest Member is the Rwandan Parliament, which joined the CPA in 2010, bringing the total number of CPA branches to 175. In 2019, the Gambia forwarded its application to rejoin the Association.

B. CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Workshop I: The Use of Social Media in Enhancing Parliamentarians' Constituency Engagements

- 11. Whilst appreciating social media as a new and effective way for Parliamentarians to connect with the public, particularly with young people, the Conference noted that social media is an easier and costeffective way of conducting public participation.
- 12. The Conference provided Parliamentarians with an opportunity to exchange with peers on how they can utilize social media to interact with citizens. It was observed that although social media cannot meet all stages or requirements of public engagement, it does embody some of its key components. It was acknowledged that Parliaments are generally conservative in adopting new technologies. However, there has been an increase in adopting new technologies across the continent as exemplified by uptake in the use of smartphones.
- 13. The Delegates noted that despite the critical role of social media in Parliamentary activities, it has it unique constraints in the Parliamentary context. This involve the need to ensure that Parliament's reputation is not lowered or harmed by the use of social media. This comes with the need to protect vulnerable participants from the negative consequences involved with Parliamentary inquiry and the uncertainty surrounding the application of Parliamentary privilege in online communication.

In summary, new technologies can better connect Parliament with the people it represents in a variety of ways including:

- ✓ The use of ICT in the administration and adoption of social media to develop citizens engagement platforms;
- ✓ The high usage rate of smartphones and internet can enable Members to use these kinds of means for constituency outreach and citizen's participation in the legislative process; and

 ✓ A "legislation app" can allow Members to obtain feedback on the opinion of citizens on different legislative initiatives.

Workshop II: The use of ICT in strengthening Public Involvement in the Legislative process: Presentation by CPA Tanzania Branch

- 14. CPA Tanzania Branch informed Delegates that technology plays a significant role in disseminating information which was, until a few years back, the prerogative of governments. As the people in developing countries struggle to achieve high standards of living and at the same time demand more political rights, the fight for democracy is certainly aided by technology.
- 15. The information revolution, it was noted, has given teeth to the people's fight against any kind of oppression. Blogs and social media networks such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, give people a chance to share their views and in the process form pressure groups. Due to the presence of various media and technologies, people are able to get information on different matters concerning their countries as well as making more difficult for those governments to violate person's rights without going unnoticed.
- 16. Further, technologies can connect persons with other local actors, resulting in greater local capacity for civic participation. The internet can spur greater contention by promoting contentious conversations among people, connecting various organizational bases and actors, and allowing them to be more responsive to instances of injustice When governing bodies are not judged to be fulfilling their duties, technologies provide the means for networking, organizing and fomenting resistance.
- 17. Technology can support transnationalism as it can facilitate the activism because of several features; it expands the scope of some issues and invites wider audiences which can involve transnational strategies and can involve targets and actors situated in different geographic spaces Also local abuses to human rights can be reported to networked human rights groups who can apply external pressure to resolve a situation.

- 18. Generally, these are simple steps as making information available online to dispensing essential government services online and increase access to state information. Increased access to information has aided the development of e-government initiatives; in short greater governmental accountability and transparency. This new form of governing has transformed the relationship between state and citizens, state and business, and has enabled direct communication between these parties.
- 19. Citizens' assistance call centers in developing countries help citizens navigate and access public service systems, resulting in more responsive democratic governments.
- 20. New technologies create new ways of engaging subject-specific groups in discussion. Through this, new political communities are able to arise free of state intervention in discussions, hence results a horizontal hierarchical political system. Accordingly, citizens have more voice in creating agendas for their governments to be able to respond more directly to citizens.
- 21. Electronic voting in General Elections and Parliaments introduced to control uninfluenced voting and counting therefore get rid of subjectivity and intimidation. In Tanzania for instance, the use of modern technology during General Elections provide a benchmark to ensure free and fair polls has been one among the technology practices in a developing democracy.
- 22. Tanzania started using Biometric Voters Registration (BVR) during 2015 general elections which increased efficiency during registration and identifying voters during elections. The use of BVR increased transparency and accountability to various players during the election time. In this regard therefore, BVR is considered as an efficient, accurate, cost-effective, time efficient and proven solution for Registering Voters, issuing ID cards and in preparing clean voter lists.
- 23. The emergence of social media has changed the way in which political communication takes place in the United Republic of Tanzania. Political Institutions such as Politicians, Political Parties, Foundations and

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Political Think Tanks, are all using social media platforms, like Facebook and Twitter, to communicate with and engage voters. Ordinary citizens and Politicians are able to voice their opinions, engage with a wide network, and connect with other likeminded individuals.

- 24. The active participation of social media users has been an increasingly important element in political communication especially in the 2015's General Elections in Tanzania.
- 25. Text-to-give technology allows donors to give nonprofits and other organizations of their choice directly through the text messaging app on their mobile devices. This way of mobile fundraising gives the opportunity to raise money in a short time and strengthen parties' ability during elections. This technological strategy has been used in Tanzania because of it being cheaper and accessible through the most common App of M-PESA, Tigopesa, Airtel Money, Halopesa and the T-Pesa.
- 26. Politicians have been getting the ability to raise large amounts of money in relatively short periods of time through social media campaigns and mobile money The technological capabilities for the adoption of e-Democracy exist and operationalized in many advanced rich countries.
- 27. These countries are not only rich and highly industrialized; they also have had a long experience in democracy and good governance. In this view, it's quite difficult and expensive to initiate and develop new technological democracy in a complex setting that accords with people's ways of thinking and acting coupled with low incomes and development levels Impact of new technologies on democratic processes and institutions is relevant in the context of the so-called 'post-truth society', where objective facts seem to be less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief. This is not only a challenge for scientists, experts and the media, but also for policy-makers and society as a whole.
- 28. Challenges, however, have not gone unnoticed in harnessing technology. Dependent on the computer and the associated software, only those with the ability to buy the necessary hard and soft wares and are well-versed with ICTs are likely to participate in e-Democracy.

- 29. Given the level of poverty, illiteracy, deficient scientific culture and poor connectivity in African countries, the vast majority of the people will be excluded from e-Democracy.
- 30. Exclusively dependency on ICT technology and with the cyber space as its working environment, the viability and continued performance of e-Democracy in Africa is likely to be dependent on those who own and control the ICT industry. There is, as well, the likelihood of it being infiltrated by foreign business or groups with their own interests or agendas, using e-Democracy to influence the outcome of certain decision-making processes.
- 31. Accordingly, attempts to manipulate public opinions in their favor on specific business issues are some of the risks that have to be addressed. For instance attaching the trending issues of allowing abortions and LGBTIS as human rights and democratic benchmarks.
- 32. In conclusion, CPA Tanzania Branch noted that technology has given a new dimension to democracy as it helps to resolve long-standing problems of representative democracy, such as the territorial base of constituencies. Not with standing, Democracy is both an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government to be applied according to modalities, which reflect the diversity of experiences, and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognized principles, norms and standards.
- 33. In this regard therefore, the survival and vitality of technology, systems of democracy and governance need continuous vigilance and the nurturing of the environment within which it can operate effectively and efficiently. Technology plays a significant role in disseminating information which was, until a few years back, the prerogative of the governments.

Workshop III: Empowerment Of Women: Strategies to Enable Women's Participation in Decision –Making. Presented By Hon. Dorcas Makgato, MP on behalf of CPA Botswana Branch

- 34. CPA Botswana Branch observed that gender equality and women's empowerment in particular, remain fundamental tenets for the development progress of the African continent and realization of Agenda 2063.
- 35. Further, it was noted that women's equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that is also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development.
- 36. In almost every society, CPA Botswana asserted, women assume unequal positions and status; making it necessary to empower them by providing equal opportunities. The issue of 'women empowerment' is now a global phenomenon. Women's empowerment has attracted the attention from scholars worldwide and international organizations such as the United Nations, allowing for the concept to become part of the political agenda of most countries.
- 37. According to the 2018 Global Gender Gap report, across the four subindexes of Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment, on average, the largest gender disparity is on Political Empowerment, which today maintains a gap of 77.1%. The Economic Participation and Opportunity gap is the second largest at 41.9%, while the Educational Attainment and Health and Survival gaps are significantly lower at 4.4% and 4.6%, respectively.
- 38. Across the 149 countries that have been assessed, only 17 have women as heads of state, while, on average, 18% of women are ministers and 24% are parliamentarians. Similarly, women hold just 34% of managerial positions across countries where data is available.
- 39. Botswana is one of the countries that have ratified to the international and regional gender declarations. These are the Beijing Declaration-platform for action, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination

Against Women (CEDAW), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), International Conference on Population and Development(ICPD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC) declaration on gender and development.

- 40. These declarations address human rights and components of gender equality and empowerment of women. Notwithstanding the low progress in some areas, the African Development Bank, through its Gender Equality Index Report of 2015 suggests that there have been many recent advances on women's empowerment on the continent, including many changes in laws to promote equal rights for women.
- 41. While it is true that governments such as that of Botswana have put in place policies to regulate women preferment, research has shown that the equation is still relatively in favour of males. Some of the reasons are attributable to biological determinates, while the majority can be attributed to social misconception about women.
- 42. Notwithstanding this scenario, CPA Botswana Branch observed that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. The involvement of women in decision-making positions will ensure that they also have great influence in national decisions. Their well-being will be enhanced and development efficiencies improved.

Workshop IV: The Role Of Technology In Developing Democratic Practices. Presented by CPA Zambia Branch

- 43. CPA Zambia Branch informed Delegates that advances in technology have helped improve and revolutionize lives and the way things are being done and the increased use of computers, tablets, smart phones and other devices have become indispensable in the day-to-day routines of many people.
- 44. Further, CPA Zambia observed, the increasing use of digital technologies has transformed the ways in which people interact, relate to others, access and consume information. Not only do digital technologies provide a way to connect with others across the globe, innovation in this space also

offers newly enhanced and expanded opportunities for citizens to directly participate in civil society action and in democratic practices more broadly.

- 45. In addition, innovations such as blogs, petition platforms, e-voting and other online forums and tools offer new means for individuals to contribute to shaping political debate and drive real-world change. These also strengthen citizen-to-citizen and citizen-to-state relationships.
- 46. Digital technologies have the potential to reinvigorate a more citizenpowered democracy, and such a democracy might see citizens having a more direct determining influence on democratic practices, underpinned by closer and more responsive citizen-state interactions, and broader public representation in these processes.
- 47. E-democracy is the use of technical tools particularly the internet to allow citizens access information; in order to take part in petitions, consultations, deliberation, referenda and elections; and communicate with each other to form e-communities and movements, and take part in e-campaigning and e-activism.
- 48. The essential element of democracy is the right of citizens to have a say in how they are governed, and by whom. Citizens play an active role in political and civic life, by expressing their will through regular free and fair elections. Therefore, for democracy to flourish and deliver its promises, including political participation, human rights, access to justice, a good education an improved quality of life, a health environment, and personal security, its citizens must be informed, engaged, empowered and assertive.
- 49. Similarly, institutions of governance in democracies must be inclusive, transparent accountable and responsive. The roles of technology in improving democratic practices can be summarized as follows:
 - a) the internet minimizes transaction in e-government, for example, an ecitizen may participate in democratic decisions with better knowledge and less cost which makes it more likely that good decisions maybe made;
 - b) digital technologies facilitates the generation and communication of data, often in real time, helping to build knowledge and inform timely decision making and action both by citizens and policymakers.

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ľ Information share online may also support political accountability, for example, citizens can easily see how a local political candidate has voted on certain issues, and whistle blowers can connect with global audiences;

- c) digital technologies have brought new ways for individuals to get their voices heard in the public sphere, by allowing internet users to share their views and connect with others across the globe; For example, the Arab Spring is an example where technology played a part in political change. In this regard, Twitter, Facebook and other social media, played a key role in popular uprisings against regimes in Iran in 2009, in the Arab world in 2011, and Ukraine in 2013. These tools helped to bring young people into the political debate, after years of growing apathy;
- d) digital tools empower citizens to take a more active role in shaping political processes, policymaking and public services. For example, greater state-to public communication may result in more demand-led, user-driven public services, such as improvements to the passport application process or voter registration services.
- e) technology has made democracy more accessible and has eased the process of participating in government programmes. For example, in developed and developing countries, every government department has its own website and the same is true for political parties. Social media channels such as Facebook, YouTube and MySpace have allowed governments and political parties to interact with citizens and voters in a way never seen before.
- f) technology makes democracy more affordable and accessible for anyone, regardless of income or social status, and further allows government and parties to use technology as a tool of democracy;
- g) technology offers an interface for facilitating better services to citizens by offering information through government web pages and facilitating access to government services such as online tax submissions and online passport application forms which help reduce risk for corrupt activities. It is also important to note that, technology plays an

important role in enhancing the promotion of freedom, as it enables citizens to participate in decision making process in their respective countries through platforms such as e-mails, short message service (sms), weblogs, websites, online meetings, online posting, and online petitions. These platforms are important as they provide an opportunity to citizens to influence decision making processes and thus exercise their democratic rights;

- h) technology gives political parties better ways to target and reach voters.
 Websites have been used as a tool giving parties the ability to become their own news reporters and better inform their target audience.
 Further, Political parties use technological gadgets such as electrical billboards, online news platforms such as social media, radio or television and internet as communication channels to send out political advertisement on voting, and other decision-making processes.
- i) electronic devices reduce the disparity of distance and geography by minimizing the rural-urban divide and empowering citizens to participate more directly in their political system.2 Furthermore, the use of digital technologies by grassroots political campaigns has had a critical impact on the rapid rise of political figures to prominence or positions of power.
- j) with regards to civil groups, digital technologies have the potential to lower barriers for civic engagement and action. This is being achieved through, for example, making the exchange and provision of information easier and more effective, strengthening the voice of citizens in the public sphere, and facilitating community support and cohesion.
- 50. The use of technology in developing democracy is increasingly becoming important in achieving development goals and promoting citizen participation in Zambia. Technology through the use of ICTs has received growing attention from development practitioners, policy makers, Government and civil society organizations (CSOs), as it contributes indirectly to national development through its impact on social and economic sectors thereby promoting democracy.

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- 51. Several initiatives have been instituted by the Zambian Government to promote technology as a means to spar democracy among others. The following are some of the initiatives:
 - a) Establishment of SMART Zambia Institute whose mandate is to promote electronic Government services and processes in order to improve service delivery. The Institute is involved in the promotion and management of e-government policies and programmes, development of strategies and standards that enhance usage and application of information and communication technology innovations in the public sector.
 - b) Creation of the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority to regulate the ICT Sector in Zambia, facilitate access to ICTs, protect the rights and interests of service providers and consumers, regulate tariffs in the ICT, and carry out research and development.
- 52. Examples of the usage of technology in promoting democracy in Zambia include:

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- a) Technology in the Judicial System where Judiciary's computerized system facilitates real-time digital court recording and case management systems. The digital technology enhances transparency in the Judiciary especially on corruption allegations because of little human contact;
- b) Technology in the Election Management where it is vital for strengthening the credibility, integrity and transparency of electoral processes in any society. The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has a computerized voter system which form part of new security measures aimed at boosting voter confidence. The electronic system put in place has voter details loaded onto a database making it less prone to manipulation in the verification of voters' identification. The system uses "biometrics", that is, fingerprints, palm prints or iris scans to provide an accurate identification and verification of a voter. Further, the ECZ has a computerized system used for transmission of results

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from various totaling centres to the main hub where tallying of results takes place.

- c) Information Technology platforms in various Government Ministries. Almost all Government Ministries have operational websites that are used for communication with the citizens. The websites provide an interactive forum where the Government is able to communicate and share its policies. Citizens are able to access important information and thus allowing them to participate in decision making, which is one of the tenets of democracy.
- 53. In addition to passing supportive legislation, the National Assembly of Zambia has been an active player in promoting democracy and development through the use of technology by instituting various initiatives that include the following:
 - a) Chamber recording and voting systems. In the quest to ensure that the National Assembly of Zambia captures accurate and timely parliamentary proceedings, the public address system was installed in the Chamber. The public address system is also used by MPs who request to speak on the Floor of the House and it is used for Members' attendance registration and electronic voting among others. Furthermore, the Chamber has WIFI facilities that enable Members with tablets and mobile phones to have easy access to the internet for the purpose of offering effective oversight.
 - b) Broadcasting Infrastructure. The National Assembly of Zambia has established Parliament Radio and Television as vehicles for disseminating information on particular debates, bills or policies to enhance democratic governance in the country. Through these platforms, citizens are able to follow what their elected representatives are discussing in Parliament;
 - c) Provision of various hardware infrastructure. The National Assembly of Zambia, through the ICT Department has a deliberate policy to ensure that all offices are equipped with computers, printers, scanners with internet and email provision. Further, the National Assembly of

Zambia has a parliamentary website containing a rich source of parliamentary information and documents such as debates, Order Papers, bills and Acts among others. The public is therefore, able to follow closely what activities are being implemented by the Executive through bills under considerations and policy pronouncements as posted on the website;

- d) Installation of recording equipment in Committee Rooms In order to reach out to the public, Committee Rooms are fully equipped with recording equipment, computers and display screens for presentations. These technology platforms allow the general public to follow live Committee proceedings on Parliamentary television and radio, thus, allowing them greater participation in national matters.
- e) Construction of Constituency Offices equipped with ICT facilities. The National Assembly of Zambia embarked on a robust programme of constructing constituency offices throughout the country. The offices are equipped with computers, printers and other ICT equipment and are in the process of being installed with internet connectivity. This technological platform will enable constituents to fully engage with their Members of Parliament and to be abreast with the proceedings of the National Assembly, thereby, enabling them to contribute positively in the democratic affairs of the country. Currently, in the absence of internet connectivity, the public is engaged through public hearings, open days and by use of mobile phones on various issues pertaining to the constituencies.
- 54. CPA Zambia Branch also enumerated some of the challenges it has faced in attempting to embrace ICT in its general governance. To start with, technology such as social media allows the viral spread of "fake news", which sometimes fuel fear and rage. The is compounded by the difficulty in distinguishing legitimately expressed opinions from those generated falsely.
- 55. Further, the internet has become the home of all kinds of hate speech, terrorist appeals, and racial and sexual harassment, which in some cases can lead to violent actions in the real world. These developments are

undermining trust in information and institutions, and ultimately democracy itself.

- 56. There are low levels of trust in digitalized political processes, security concerns, as well as cynicism among citizens that their participation in online political processes will not influence policy outcomes, this may undermine the uptake of digital services and democratic tools, thus limiting their potential impacts.
- 57. Technology does not address all the needs without further enhancement, therefore, does not fulfill what they ought to do. The networked information that is accessed can be hacked and used for manipulation or other illegal means without the appropriate cyber security measures in place. While they do have their uses, they should be handled with prudence. For example, private information and even election results can be hacked to unduly influence electoral outcomes. Voting machines can facilitate voting, as well as canvassing but security measures have to be put in place to safeguard their integrity. If this is not ensured, rather than easing the disconnect between citizens and politicians and ultimately building confidence in a functioning democracy, technology such as ICTs can be used to foment doubt and mistrust in democratic institutions and processes.
- 58. Technological platforms on the internet such as social media have become an easy tool for political manipulation. Politicians exploit technology by ensuring that citizens only hear or listen to the things which conform to their existing beliefs. This therefore, leads to people failing to question information which is available on social media which is not good for any democracy.
- 59. The growing use of technology in societies has lead to unequal participation of citizens in democratic processes. Technology use comes with a cost hence, some people in societies are unable to participate because they are unable to afford technological gadgets and platforms such as computers, phones among others. It is for this reason that policy makers or politicians mistake the views of a few who are able to afford and use technology with

those of the majority who are unable to. Therefore, vulnerable populations could end up being ignored in the decision making process..

- 60. In conclusion, CPA Zambia Branch noted that in any democratic system, technology is a necessary tool, as citizens need objective, factual and timely information to enable them make informed decisions and ensure that the Executive is held accountable for its decisions.
- 61. The internet is increasingly being used to improve citizen engagement with their elected leaders in providing checks and balances. Therefore, technology has a great role in developing democracy. This is evidenced by the positive impact that digital technology has on all individuals, political parties, non-governmental institutions and grass roots movements who are utilizing the platforms that are being provided by technology

C. SUMMARY OF CONCURRENT MEETINGS

The East Africa Caucus

Chaired by the Regional Representative Hon.(Dr.) Makali Mulu, MP

- 62. The Chairperson congratulated Speakers and Clerks of all respective Houses for being up-to-date in payment of subscriptions.
- 63. The CPA International President Designate, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, who is also the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, highlighted the preparedness of CPA Uganda Branch in hosting the forthcoming 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in September 2019.
- 64. Members were informed that elections were due for the following positions during the Conference in Kampala, the first three of which, are of interest to the region:
 - Treasurer New Zealand, Guernsey and Malaysia had expressed interest in the positions. The meeting resolved to support Malaysia;
 - ii. Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Chairperson Thus far,
 Pakistan was the only Branch who had expressed interest, and on the
 basis of Pakistan being an ally of the region, the meeting resolved to

support Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Pakistan Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce;

- iii. Vice Chairperson Delegates who will attend the Conference in Kampala were advised to ensure that they remain until all voting has been conducted; and
- iv. Small branch President.
- 65. The 18 CPA Branches across Africa Region in attendance expressed their concern on the proposal by CPA Canada Branch to host the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference scheduled for 2020 in January 2021 in Nova Scotia, yet Ghana had offered to host the 2020 CPC in Accra.
- 66. Members were informed that the Secretary General had written a letter through solicitors who had been appointed by the former Chair, Mr. Chaudry requesting a renewal of his contract, despite having a fixed term contract of four years. Members expressed concern on the renewal of the post of the Secretary General whose post had come to an end stating that the position should be rotational amongst regions. They felt that the CPA African Region was being hoodwinked since the renewal could give the Secretary General CPA International the status of a permanent and pensionable employee up to the age of seventy (70) as per the UK Labour Laws.
- 67. To address this situation, CPA Uganda Branch would present a proposed amendment to Article 69 of the CPA Constitution, appealing to the region and the Executive Committee to uphold the stipulated laws that define the position and tenure of the Secretary General which, if passed, will ensure that the position of the Secretary General will be rotational.
- 68. Delegates from Mauritius expressed concerns regarding the proposed investment, including the use of funds in reserve for a project that did not appear to have an independent feasibility study focusing on the revenue that would be generated by the project. The meeting was informed that the initial location for the 5-star hotel and conference facility investment had been Dar es Salaam. However the Government of Tanzania had acquired 4.3 hectares in Dodoma for the facility which has been projected to cost 12.5 million dollars and deliver 45% returns from the pre-feasibility study.

- 69. On the Commonwealth Parliamentary Forum, it was communicated that Heads of Government meeting in June 2020 will be hosted by Rwanda. The meeting was informed that previously the United Kingdom hosted the CPF in order to discuss the themes of the Heads of States Meetings and give recommendations. It was proposed that the Africa region set up the same type of meeting to address matters specific to the region.
- 70. On the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region Elections 2019 – 2022, delegates were informed that the according to the roster West Africa is due to occupy the Chair next, and the Vice Chair position is due to go to East Africa as the previous Vice Chair from Nigeria had lost local elections. The meeting unanimously proposed Hon. Jalia Bintu, MP from Uganda to be the Vice Chair.

Annual General Meeting of the Society of Clerks at-the-Table African Region (SoCATT)

71. The Chairperson Mrs. Cecilia N. Mbewe, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia informed the meeting of the results of elections to establish the SoCATT Steering Committee during the SoCATT Africa Region Annual General Meeting held on 18th August 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana, which were as follows:

CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. Cecilia N. Mbewe, Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament of Zambia

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Michael Sialai, Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament of Kenya

CENTRAL AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Barbara Dithapo, Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament of Botswana

EAST AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Jeanine Kambanda, Clerk of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Rwanda

SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Emilia Mkusa, Clerk of the National Council, Parliament of Namibia

WEST AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Mohammed Ataba Sani-Omolori (Barr.), Clerk of the Nigeria National Assembly

72. Minutes held on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th August, 2018 at the Gaborone International Conference, Gaborone, Botswana were confirmed as a true record of the deliberations by the meeting.

73. The meeting considered the following matters in the agenda:

- a) Overview of progress in the Implementation of the SoCATT Strategic Plan (2015-2020);
- b) Report of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table Central Africa Region (presented by Ms. Barbara N. Dithapo, Representative of SoCATT Central Africa Region);
- c) Report of Southern Africa Sub-Region (presented by Ms. Mapolisa, South Africa Representative), and
- d) SoCATT Africa Report for the period November, 2018 to August 2019 on the implementation of the Society's Strategic Plan (201-2020) (presented by Mrs. Cecilia Mbewe, Chairperson of SoCATT Africa and Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia).
- 74. The meeting also obtained submissions and sharing of experiences in managing Constituency Development Funds, and a follow-up workshop on the same was agreed upon and was scheduled to take place before the next CPA Africa Region Conference.

Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans

- 75. The Conference noted that in a bid to continuously improve their representation and oversight roles, Parliaments should collaborate with civil society actors and other stakeholders in order to undergo a continuous Parliamentary strengthening.
- 76. Open Parliament Action Plans, co-created by Parliament and civil society, have been an important mechanism that many Parliaments have used towards this end.
- 77. These Parliamentary strengthening initiatives have contributed to a larger objective to create more open States and transform government culture to promote innovation and continuously improve policies and service delivery to meet public needs.
- 78. They provide an opportunity for Parliamentarians to exchange with peers, civil society actors and other stakeholders on participative and inclusive practices to identify sustainable solutions to problems that impact citizens' daily lives.

Annual General Meeting

- 79. The Chairperson of CPA Africa Region Executive Committee and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Kenya, Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, EGH, MP, chaired the CPA Africa Region Annual General Meeting on 4th September 2019.
- 80. The meeting adopted the agenda of the Annual General Meeting and Minutes of the 49th CPA Africa Region Annual General meeting (AGM) held from 19th -21st August, 2018, at Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) –Grand Palm Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana were considered and confirmed as a true record of the deliberations by the delegates present.
- 81. The meeting deliberated on a number of issues on the agenda, and finally adopted the Conference Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 50TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE HELD IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA FROM 30TH AUGUST TO 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

82. The 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference, comprising of Parliamentarians from National and Sub-National Branches, committed to the ideals of the African Union and the Commonwealth, examined the theme "*E-Parliament: Seamless Platform for Facilitating Democracy*" and resolved to:

- a) Use ICT in Strengthening Public involvement in the Legislative Process;
- b) Enhance ICT use in providing life changing solutions in rural communities;
- c) Utilize social media in enhancing Parliamentarians Constituency Engagements;
- d) Acknowledged the role of technology in developing democratic practices;
- e) Empower women and enable them participate in decision making; and
- f) Implement Youth policies as a tool to combat migration.

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- 83. The Annual General Meeting further adopted a Special Resolution on the situation in South Africa pertaining to citizens from other nations.
- 84. The General and Special Resolutions of the 50th CPA Africa Region Conference are annexed herein.

CONCLUSION

The Kenya Delegation participated actively in the 50th CPA Africa Region Conference plenary, workshops, sessions and Annual General Meetings, and has committed to continuously serve as an effective contributor to the work of the CPA. Delegates present at the Conference agreed to focus on the application of new technologies in deepening public participation and inclusiveness that will provide life changing solutions in rural communities and enhance constituency engagements.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE KENYAN DELEGATION

The Kenya Parliamentary Delegation to the 50th CPA Africa Region Conference held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 30th August to 5th September 2019 urges the two Houses to -

- i) Note this Report;
- ii) Recommends that Members of Parliament be sensitized on *"E-Parliament"* and on the adoption of ICT tools.

Report of the proceedings of the 50th CPA Africa Region Conference Zanzibar, Tanzania 30th August – 5th September, 2019

Special Resolution of the 50th CPA Africa Region

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region at its 50th CPA Africa Region Meeting in Zanzibar between 30th August to 5th September, 2019 deliberated on the acts of violence on African migrants in South Africa that have been spreading around a number of provinces in South Africa.

The Region joins His Excellency, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and the leadership of South African Parliament in condemning with strongest terms acts of lawlessness that have resulted in loss of lives and properties.

The Region calls upon the authorities in South Africa to enhance efforts aimed at stopping the lawlessness and criminality which are impacting negatively on fellow Africans.

The Region strongly urges the South African Government to hasten the steps and widen the efforts to deal decisively with the criminality involved and bring the perpetrators to book and to urge restraint and circumspection on the part of other African States whose citizens have come under siege in order to preserve the unity and integrity of Africa in accordance with the objectives of CPA Africa Region which as mentioned in Article 5(e) of the CPA Constitution; seek to "promote peace, unity, democracy, good governance and stability in all member states".

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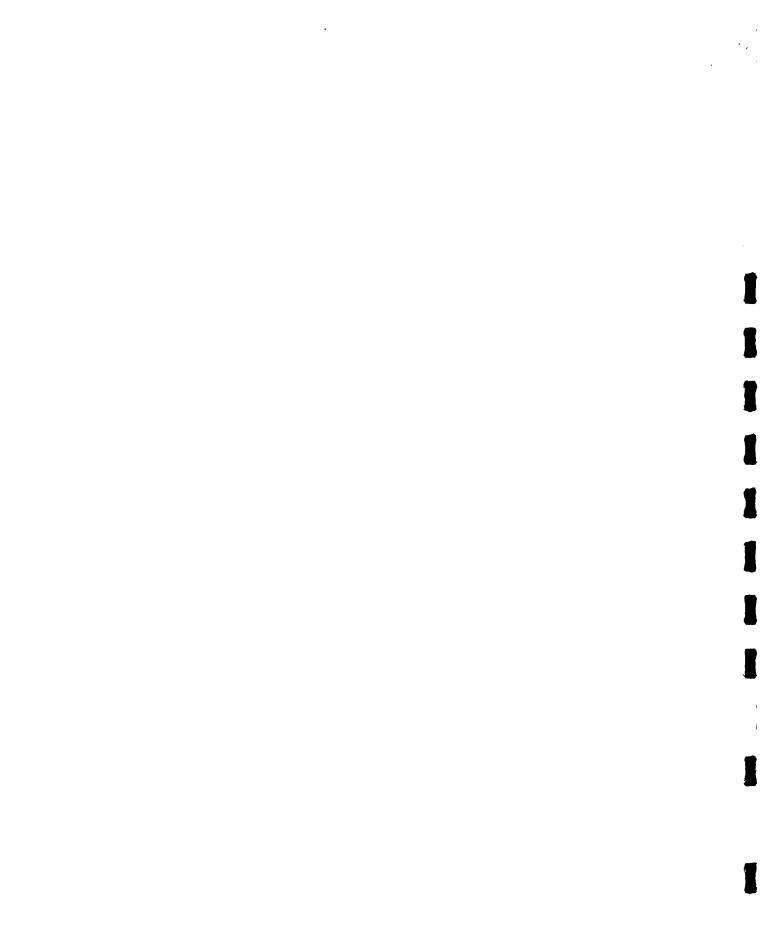
The Region further conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and victims of these events.



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RESOLUTIONS OF THE 50TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE HELD IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA FROM 30TH AUGUST TO 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

SEPTEMBER, 2019



RESOLUTIONS OF THE 50TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE HELD IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA FROM 30TH AUGUST TO 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

The 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference, comprising of Parliamentarians from National Cod Sub-National branches, committed to the ideals of the African Union and the Commonwealth, held at Madinat Al Bahr Hotel, Zanzibar, Tanzania from 30th August to 5th September, 2019, having examined the Theme "E-Parliament: Seamless Platform for facilitating Democracy";

acknowledged that the application of new technologies has deepened public participation and inclusiveness, provided life changing solutions in rural communities and enhanced constituency engagements;

further acknowledged that the growing adoption and application of ICT tools has promoted political engagement by ensuring that Parliamentarians directly connect with constituents/citizens, unhindered by political party's influence, prohibitive costs and other barriers;

by lack of power in rural areas, poor digital infrastructure, cultural

apprehension of new technologies, poverty, illiteracy and generational gaps in access to and use of ICT tools;

further that some African Governments or individuals taking advantage of Government Institutions tend to monitor, regulate or even block social media access in a way that threatens the democratic principle of freedom of expression;

further that social media has increasingly become a channel for different forms of cyber crimes such as cyber bulling, stalking, sexual harassment, defamation, fake news, misinformation, identity theft, hate messages and deployment of malware by hackers;

further that social media has increased the trend of information overload, which makes it harder to filter out relevant and useful information, thereby leading to social fragmentation and digital isolation;

further that the scourge of illicit migration by African Youths fleeing from poverty on the continent has reached unacceptable levels and constitute brain drain;

further that illicit migration of young Africans to Europe, America and Asia is often characterized by dehumanizing conditions, including drowning and deaths in the Mediterranean sea and the desert;

ļ 1 ł) , *further that* imperative of mainstreaming gender issues in public policy formulation and implementation as well as enhancing Women empowerment and participation in decision-making processes, is critical in enhancing our democracy;

and accordingly RESOLVED to:-

The use of ICT in Strengthening Public involvement in the Legislative Process:-

- (i) encourage African Parliamentarians to create Twitter, Facebook, Skype, WhatsApp, Blogs and YouTube accounts and acquire requisite technical skills on proper and effective utilization of digital tools and gadgets to ensure maximum participation of constituents/citizens;
- (ii) urge African Parliaments to adopt social media platforms to solicit feedback on government policies, projects and programmes as well as provide opportunity for citizen mobilization and sensitization;
- (iii) further urge African Parliaments to integrate sign language interpreters in the broadcasting of proceedings to facilitate the participation of those with hearing disabilities;

- (iv) **advise** African Parliaments to enact laws and adopt rules that protect persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups among others from the negative consequences and the uncertainties surrounding the application of Parliamentary privilege in online communication;
- (v) **encourage** African Parliaments to enact legislations to regulate all electronic communications systems thereby curbing the menace of cyber crimes and abuse of digital tools in the spirit of protecting the constituents/citizens and promoting democratic values.

(b) Enhancing ICT use in providing life changing solutions in rural communities

- (i) urge African Parliaments and Governments to facilitate telemedicine through remote consultation, diagnosis and treatment of rural patients in locations lacking qualified medical personnel and services;
- (ii) also urge African Parliaments and Governments to establish smart classrooms and online educational resources centres to deliver mass literacy in rural communities;
- (iii) **advise** African Parliaments and Governments to explore ICT tools in communicating useful information to rural

farmers in terms of pest control, seed sourcing, fertilizer and feed stock inputs, animal husbandry and market prices;

- (iv) **further advise** African Parliaments and Governments to enhance access of rural communities to employment and development opportunities by breaking the physical and digital divides that presently exist between rural and urban dwellers.
- (v) encourage African Parliaments and Governments to intervene through increased budgetary allocations to the ICT Sector by funding STEM education and enhancement of broadband penetration;
- (vi) urge African Parliaments and Governments to encourage the creation of local software, ICT innovation, development of applications that are peculiar to the needs of Africa;

(C) The use of social media in enhancing Parliamentarians Constituency Engagements:-

(i) **encourage** African Parliamentarians to their Constituents;

- (ii) also encourage African Parliaments to establish robust
 and interactive Websites and to webcast and live stream
 the proceedings of Parliament in Plenary and
 Committees;
- (iii) advise African Parliaments to periodically hold "Virtual town hall meetings" and Video conferencing in order to engage their constituents/citizens on a regular basis;
- (iv) advise African Parliaments to maintain user-friendly electronic databases of bills, motions, laws and all legislative processes in formats that ensure easy storage, retrieval, processing and access.

(d) The role of technology in developing democratic practices:-

- (i) urge African Parliaments and Governments to embrace e-governance as an effective tool of administration that is capable of cutting costs, increasing accessibility, promoting transparency, reducing corruption and fostering cross-fertilization of ideas;
- (ii) encourage Electoral Bodies in Africa to adopt e-voting systems in terms of biometric registration of voters, electronic tallying, collation and broadcast of election

results, thereby enhancing free, fair, transparent and credible elections;

- (iii) **further encourage** African Parliaments and Government in Africa to deepen the concept of e-democracy encouraging such precepts as e-petitions, e-voting, ecampaigns, etc.
- (iv) further encourage African Parliaments and Governments to deploy e-tools in order to enhance social inclusion by bringing new sections of society under the sphere of governance, especially the Youth, poor, the illiterate, persons with disabilities, migrants and displaced people.

(e) Empowerment of Women: Strategies to enable Women's participation in decision – making:-

- (i) urge African Parliaments, Governments and political parties in Africa to adopt quota/affirmative action systems for allocating seats to Women in Parliaments and Governments to reflect gender parity and equity;
- (ii) encourage gender based Organisations to step up advocacy and Sensitization programmes as well as develop cross Country coalitions and networks to promote the empowerment of women;

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- (iii) further enourage Governments and Non-Government
 actors to deepen capacity building programmes for
 Women through Workshops, Seminars, Skills acquisition
 programmes and publications;
- (iv) encourage African Parliaments that are yet to ratify International Protocols and Conventions against gender discrimination and malevolent cultural practices, to immediately do so and ensure compliance;
- (v) advise Women holding high political offices and Management positions in business and industry to mentor younger women starting political careers and businesses.

(f) Implementation of Youth policies as a tool to combat migration

- (i) urge African Parliaments and Governments to adopt, ratify and implement international strategies and frame works such as the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, the Education 2030 Framework for Action as well as the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030);
- (ii) **encourage** African Parliaments and Governments to promote good governance initiatives and develop robust schemes and programmes that address such rising

challenges as drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, hunger and poverty, armed conflicts, etc. which constitute push, pull and other contributory factors for illegal and illicit migration;

- (iii) **advise** African Parliaments and Governments to ensure the inclusion and full participation of the Youth in decision making processes of their various countries;
- (iv) **further advise** African Parliaments and Governments to benchmark the success stories of Lesotho and Rwanda in tackling Youth unemployment, skills building, as well as mainstreaming Youth matters in public policy.

Adopted on Wednesday, 4th September, 2019 in Zanzibar, Tanzania

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEEE

	Hon. Sarah Adwoa Safo, MP., Deputy Majority Leader and Minister for Procurement (Ghana)	-	Chairperson
2.	Hon. Nontembeko Nothemba Boyce Speaker, Kwazulu Natal (South Africa)	-	Vice Chairperson
3.	Ho. Peter M. W. Daka, MP. (Zambia) CPA Vice President II, Zambia Branch	-	Member
4.	Hon. Simai Mohammed Said (Zanzibar, Tanzania)	-	Member
5.	Hon. Olumuyiwa Jimoh Wahab (Lagos, Nigeria) Deputy Majority Leader	-	Member
	Christopher Ashiekaa, PhD	-	Secretary
7.	Jeffrey J. Mumbi	-	Secretary
8.	Nesta Kawamala	-	Secretary.

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