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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LAID

(Fifth Session)

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CLERK-AT
THE-TABLE:

VIVIAN WAMBUI

**REPORT OF THE KENYA DELEGATION TO THE SITTING OF THE
PERMANENT COMMITTEES AND RELATED MEETINGS OF THE PAN-
AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)**

Gallagher Convention Centre

Midrand, South Africa

17th September to 5th October, 2025

Clerks' Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

February, 2026

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ARR:	Annual Rate of Reduction in maternal mortality
ACERWC:	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Africa CDC:	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
AI:	Artificial Intelligence
AEC:	African Economic Community
APHRC:	The African Population and Health Research Center
ASGAP:	Association of Clerks and Secretaries-General of African Parliaments
AU:	African Union
CBO:	Community-Based Organisation
CSO:	Civil Society Organisation
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
IPU:	The Inter-Parliamentary Union
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
MMR:	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MP:	Member of Parliament
OAU:	Organisation of African Unity
OLC:	Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union
OOP:	Out-of-Pocket expenditure
PAP:	Pan-African Parliament
PHC:	Primary Health Care
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
UN:	United Nations
WHO:	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) convened a Sitting of its Permanent Committees in Midrand, South Africa from 17th September to 5th October, 2025.

The Kenya delegation to the Sitting comprised of the following –

- 1) Sen. Danson Mungatana, MGH, MP – Leader of the Delegation;
- 2) Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, EGH, MP;
- 3) Hon. Esther Muthoni Passaris, OGW, MP;
- 4) Hon. Joseph Kalasinga Majimbo, MP; and
- 5) Hon. Rahab Mukami Wachira, MP.

The delegation was supported by Ms. Miriam Modo, Clerk Assistant in the National Assembly, Ms. Purity Gitau, Clerk Assistant in the Senate and Mr. Faustine Rawlings, Clerk Assistant in the Senate.

Over the duration of the Sitting, Members actively participated in the deliberations of their respective Committees and a series of joint sessions. Deliberations majorly focused on strengthening continental financial governance, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, transition to sustainable energy systems, and peace and security across the continent.

Committees also deliberated on the development of model laws on, among other subjects, sustainable soil management, gender equality and cooperatives; maternal and neonatal health challenges; health financing; transport and infrastructure integration under Agenda 2063; climate change; food security; agrifood system transformation; the role of traditional medicine and the protection of children’s rights.

Several activities were held on the sidelines of the sitting, including a high-level Workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance, the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Association of Clerks and Secretaries-General of African Parliaments (ASGAP) and the Thirteenth Annual Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments, which was attended by the Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, EGH, MP, Speaker of the Senate.

Overall, the Sitting underscored the importance of enhanced parliamentary engagement, particularly in ensuring that national legislatures effectively champion the implementation of continental priorities and hold executive agencies accountable for commitments made at the African Union (AU) level.

Strengthened parliamentary oversight was emphasized as essential for improving transparency in public finance management, monitoring the delivery of continental programmes, and ensuring that AU policies translate into tangible benefits for African citizens.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Speakers of the two Houses for allowing the delegation to attend the Sitting and for providing logistical and technical support in liaison with the offices of the Clerks of Parliament.

Hon. Speaker, it is now my humble duty and pleasure to submit this report of the Sitting of the Permanent Committees and related meetings of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) held between 17th September and 5th October, 2025.



.....
Hon. Rahab Mukami Wachira, MP

Leader of the Delegation

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Establishment of the Pan-African Parliament

1. The Pan-African Parliament is established in the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament. Article 2 of the Protocol provides that –

“Member States hereby establish a Pan-African Parliament, the composition, functions, power and organization of which shall be governed by the present Protocol.”

2. The vision and purpose of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) can be traced to the Pan-African ideals of cooperation and unity among African States. These ideals inspired the signing of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty) on 3rd June, 1991 and the adoption of the Sirte Declaration of 1999. The Sirte declaration called for speedy implementation of the provisions of the Abuja Treaty to establish nine (9) institutions of the African Union which include –
 - a) The Assembly of the Union
 - b) The Executive Council
 - c) The Pan-African Parliament
 - d) The Court of Justice
 - e) The Commission
 - f) The Permanent Representatives Committee
 - g) The Specialized Technical Committees
 - h) The Economic, Social and Cultural Council
 - i) The Financial Institutions
3. The purpose of the PAP, as set out in Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), is to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent. Also known as the African Parliament, the PAP is the legislative body of the African Union. The PAP held its inaugural session in March 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The seat of the Pan-African Parliament is in Midrand, South Africa. The Parliament is intended as a platform for people from all African states to be involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

1.2 Objectives of the Pan-African Parliament

4. The objectives of the Pan African Parliament are set out in Article 3 of the PAP Protocol and include, to –
 - a) Facilitate effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the OAU/AEC and ultimately, of the AU.
 - b) Promote the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa.
 - c) Encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States.
 - d) Familiarise the peoples of Africa with the objectives and policies aimed at integrating the African continent within the framework of the establishment of the African Union.
 - e) Promote peace, security and stability.
 - f) Contribute to a more prosperous future for the people of Africa by promoting collective self-reliance and economic recovery.
 - g) Facilitate co-operation and development in Africa.
 - h) Strengthen continental solidarity and build a sense of common destiny among the peoples of Africa.
 - i) Facilitate co-operation among Regional Economic Communities and their Parliamentary fora.
5. Other objectives of the Pan-African Parliament include, to –
 - a) Give a voice to the African peoples and the Diaspora.
 - b) Encourage National and Regional Parliaments to ratify and integrate treaties adopted by the AU into their legal systems.
 - c) Cooperate with National and Regional Parliaments and similar bodies within and outside Africa as well as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and grassroots organisations.
 - d) Invite and encourage the full participation of the African diaspora as an important part of the African peoples in the building of the African Union in accordance with the modalities approved by the Assembly.

1.3 Members of the Pan-African Parliament

6. PAP is presently composed of 275 Members, with each of the 55 AU Member States that have ratified the PAP Protocol represented by five (5) Members. The representatives are elected by the legislatures of AU Member States, rather than being directly elected in their own capacity. The Protocol on the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan-African Parliament (the Malabo Protocol) has, however, proposed for election of PAP Members through universal suffrage. Once ratified, membership to the PAP will be through election in respective countries similar to the election of Members of Parliament (MPs) to the European Parliament. PAP MPs will also be barred from serving as MPs in their respective national legislatures as is the current situation. These are some of the changes, including the transformation of the PAP to a fully legislative organ once the protocol is ratified by the requisite membership. Kenya has signed but not ratified this protocol.
7. The protocol stipulates that the composition of a country's delegation reflects the diversity of political opinions of the member state's legislature, with at least one of the members being a woman.

1.4 Operations of the Pan-African Parliament

8. PAP is made up of three (3) main bodies, i.e. the Plenary, the Bureau and the Secretariat. There are also ten (10) Permanent Committees which deal with different sectors aligned to the agencies of the African Union (AU).

a) The Plenary

9. The Plenary is the main decision-making body of the PAP and passes resolutions which are then transmitted for implementation by relevant agencies of the AU and by Member States. It brings together all the elected Members, and is chaired by the President (Speaker), assisted by four (4) Vice Presidents.

b) The Bureau

10. The Bureau is the leadership organ of the PAP and comprises the President and the four (4) Vice Presidents. Each member of the Bureau represents a different region of Africa. The Bureau of the PAP is ultimately responsible for the organisation and operations of the Parliament as an institution. It is composed of the President and four Vice Presidents representing the five regions (North, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) of the African continent.

c) The Secretariat

11. The Secretariat provides technical support to and assists in the day-to-day running of the Parliament. The Secretariat is headed by a Clerk assisted by two Deputy Clerks.

d) Committees of the Pan-African Parliament

12. PAP has eleven Permanent Committees whose mandates and functions are set out in Rules 22 to 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament. The functions of the committees correspond to those of the African Union Specialised Technical Committees.
13. PAP Committees are –
- i) Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment.
 - ii) Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs.
 - iii) Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters.
 - iv) Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolutions.
 - v) Committee on Transport, Industry, Communications, Energy, Science and Technology.
 - vi) Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs.
 - vii) Committee on Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources.
 - viii) Committee on Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability.
 - ix) Committee on Justice and Human Rights.
 - x) Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline.
 - xi) Committee on Audit and Public Accounts

14. The general membership and composition of Committees of the PAP are regulated by the Rules of Procedure. Under Rule 22(5), a committee of the PAP comprises of up to thirty (30) Members.

e) Calendar of the Pan-African Parliament activities

15. The key annual activities of the PAP are as follows –
- i) Meetings of the Permanent Committees and Bureau – *held in March*;
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16. Additionally, the PAP from time to time organizes seminars and workshops on areas of interest to Members falling within the objectives of the PAP. The PAP also nominates Members to participate in AU election observation and fact-finding missions to Member States.
17. The President of PAP may also, upon receipt of a request submitted pursuant to Rule 29, call for an Extraordinary Session.

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16. Additionally, the PAP from time to time organizes seminars and workshops on areas of interest to Members falling within the objectives of the PAP. The PAP also nominates Members to participate in AU election observation and fact-finding missions to Member States.
17. The President of PAP may also, upon receipt of a request submitted pursuant to Rule 29, call for an Extraordinary Session.

2.0 RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SITTING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)

2.1 Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs

18. The Permanent Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs of the Pan-African Parliament convened for three (3) days between from 29th September to 2nd October 2025, at the Parliament's precincts in Midrand, Republic of South Africa.
19. The sittings were presided over by Hon. Thérèse Faye of Senegal, Chairperson of the Committee, who guided Members through a comprehensive agenda focused on fiscal oversight, medium-term budgeting, financial sustainability and legislative financial harmonization within the Committee's mandate.
20. The meetings were convened in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and formed part of the Committee's statutory oversight responsibilities.

2.1.1 Oversight of Budget Execution in the Financial Year 2025

21. A central component of the sittings was the consideration of the PAP Budget Execution Report as at August 2025. The Committee undertook a detailed review of:
 - i) Budget absorption rates across operational and programme lines;
 - ii) Variances between approved appropriations and actual expenditure;
 - iii) Compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;
 - iv) Operational and structural constraints affecting implementation.
22. Members noted that while operational expenditure showed relatively stable execution, programme implementation continued to face funding and timing constraints, particularly in respect of statutory sittings and mandated activities. The Committee emphasized the need for strengthened internal controls, improved planning alignment, and enhanced coordination between administrative and programme units to ensure timely implementation.
23. The Committee further examined the Financial Statements and Management Accounts, assessing the Parliament's financial position, cash flow projections, outstanding commitments, and exposure to fiscal risks. Concerns were raised regarding sustainability pressures arising from limited allocations relative to statutory obligations.

2.1.2 Consideration of the 2025 Supplementary Budget Request

24. The Committee received and deliberated on the update regarding the Supplementary Budget Request for the Financial Year 2025, submitted to address critical funding gaps.
25. The request sought additional allocations for:
 - i) Statutory Committee and Plenary Sessions;
 - ii) Interpretation and translation services for AU official languages;
 - iii) Official missions and high-level representational engagements;
 - iv) Administrative support for Bureau functions;
 - v) Essential IT equipment to support operational continuity and partial digitization.
26. Hon. Thérèse Faye underscored that adequate resourcing of statutory activities is not discretionary but essential to the Parliament's credibility and effectiveness. Members examined the request within the framework of the applicable AU Financial Rules and Executive Council decisions, reaffirming the importance of safeguarding the institutional continuity and oversight mandate of the Parliament.

2.1.3 Budget Planning and Medium-Term Financial Outlook for the Financial Year 2026–2027

27. The Committee conducted in-depth deliberations on the proposed PAP Budget for 2026, focusing on programme-based allocations aligned to the Parliament's strategic priorities:
 - i) Strengthening institutional capacity and operational efficiency;
 - ii) Enhancing financial sustainability;
 - iii) Promoting legislative harmonization and model law development across Member States.
28. Members reviewed allocations for committee sittings, oversight engagements, diplomatic outreach, legislative initiatives, and administrative strengthening. The Chairperson emphasized the need to prioritize high-impact interventions within constrained fiscal space.
29. The Committee further examined the Draft 2027 Budget Framework Paper, which articulates continental priorities within the broader African Union fiscal architecture. Discussions centred on -

- i) Revenue projections and financing assumptions;
 - ii) Continued reliance on external partners relative to Member State contributions;
 - iii) Fiscal risks, including inflation, debt sustainability, and currency volatility;
 - iv) Alignment of budgetary allocations with Agenda 2063 and the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan;
 - v) The imperative of domestic resource mobilization to enhance financial autonomy.
30. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that the Parliament's 2027 estimates are realistic, strategically aligned, and supportive of its oversight, legislative, and representative functions.

2.1.4 Consideration of Workplans for 2026 and 2027

31. The Committee reviewed and refined its Annual Workplans for 2026 and 2027, structured around quarterly outputs and measurable indicators.
32. The workplans prioritized:
- 1) AU Budget Oversight**
 - i) Engagement with the African Union Commission during the budget formulation process;
 - ii) Review of monitoring and reporting tools;
 - iii) Oversight hearings on programme performance and financial management.
 - 2) Sustainable Funding and Resource Mobilization**
 - i) Exploration of alternative funding mechanisms for PAP;
 - ii) Monitoring implementation of agreed financing models;
 - iii) Strengthening fiscal sustainability and institutional autonomy.
 - 3) Model Law Development**
 - i) Advancement of the proposed Model Law on Factoring;
 - ii) Regional consultations and stakeholder engagements;
 - iii) Promotion of domestication and harmonization across Member States.

4) Institutional Strengthening

- i) Oversight of recruitment processes to ensure adequate staffing;
- ii) Engagements aimed at enhancing coordination with AU organs;
- iii) Strengthening administrative efficiency and accountability systems.

33. Hon. Thérèse Faye emphasized that the workplans are intended to enhance the Committee's strategic focus, ensure measurable delivery, and reinforce accountability within the Parliament.

2.1.5 Legislative and Stakeholder Engagement

34. During the sittings, the Committee adopted the minutes of its February and July 2025 meetings and considered matters arising therefrom, ensuring continuity of decisions and follow-up actions.

35. Members received an update on the proposed Model Law on Factoring, recognizing its potential contribution to improving access to finance, strengthening financial markets, and supporting small and medium enterprises across the continent.

36. On the final day, the Committee engaged with the Open Society Institute of Southern Africa, exploring areas of mutual interest related to financial governance, transparency, and economic policy reform. The engagement was framed within the Committee's oversight mandate and commitment to structured partnerships that enhance institutional capacity while preserving independence.

2.1.6 Conclusion

37. The three-day sittings, under the leadership of Hon. Thérèse Faye (Senegal), enabled the Committee to comprehensively discharge its oversight responsibilities, strengthen medium-term financial planning, and reinforce fiscal discipline within the Pan-African Parliament.

38. Through its deliberations on budget execution, supplementary financing, strategic planning, and legislative initiatives, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to prudent financial management, institutional sustainability, and alignment of parliamentary activities with continental development priorities under Agenda 2063.

2.2 Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs

39. The Permanent Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs held three meetings during the Sitting of the Permanent Committees of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) held between 17th September and 5th October, 2025, as follows:

- i) An internal meeting of the Committee to adopt the agenda of the Committee for the sitting and to consider the workplan of the Committee for 2027.
- ii) Two joint meetings with the Permanent Committee on Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability to receive briefs on –
 - (a) status of children’s rights on the continent from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC);
 - (b) Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) health interventions in Africa;
 - (c) status of neo-natal and maternal mortality in Africa from the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC);
 - (d) financing health security through public healthcare from the World Health Organization (WHO); and
 - (e) the pandemic agreement and what it means for Africa from the World Health Organization (WHO).

40. The meetings were presided over by Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, EGH, MP, Chairperson of the Committee.

2.2.1 Status of Children’s Rights on the Continent

41. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) report focused on Member States’ compliance with children’s rights obligations, inclusive education for children with disabilities, harmful practices, and children’s rights within business contexts.

42. ACERWC reported that several states, including Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Libya and Mauritius, had not submitted their initial or any subsequent reports on national legislative, administrative and policy measures relating to children’s rights, as required under Article 43 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

43. On the other hand, the Committee of Experts lauded Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and South Africa for sustained engagement, noting that each had submitted an initial report and at least two periodic reports.
44. ACERWC further indicated that it had received 26 communications concerning alleged violations of children's rights Kenya, Uganda, Mali, South Sudan and Nigeria, among other states, and had undertaken independent investigative missions in Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria and South Sudan.
45. The Committee of Experts highlighted that more than 35 follow-up missions had been conducted, and urgent intervention letters issued in cases where children were at risk of irreparable harm.
46. With regard to children with disabilities, ACERWC observed that despite existing legislative frameworks supporting inclusive education, children with disabilities continue to face marginalization, inaccessible infrastructure, limited assistive technologies, inadequately trained teachers and persistent social stigma.
47. The report noted cross-cutting challenges, including the continued segregation of learners labelled as "special", shortages of teachers trained in inclusive pedagogies, insufficient inclusive curricula and parental reluctance to enrol children with intellectual disabilities due to prejudice.
48. In presenting country experiences, ACERWC cited Algeria's executive decree that provided for early detection and childhood education for children with disabilities aged 3 to 6 years, while noting implementation gaps and continued reliance on specialized institutions.
49. The Committee of Experts highlighted Ethiopia's establishment of 628 inclusive education resource centres, but noted prevailing accessibility barriers and limited vocational training tailored to learners with disabilities.
50. In Mauritania, the Centre for Training and Social Promotion of Children with Disabilities was commended for strengthening teacher capacity and integrated education, although limited access to formal education, lack of documentation and weak enforcement of the Mauritania 1998 Technical and Vocational Training Act was highlighted as outstanding challenges.
51. ACERWC reported that in Guinea, inclusive primary education remained limited, though initiatives such as the Inclusive Education Project and the National Orthopaedic Centre aimed to enhance teacher training and access to assistive technologies existed.

52. The Committee of Experts identified good practices in inclusive education, including strengthened collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities in several states and disability identification cards in Senegal and Mauritania facilitating access to basic services and family allowances.
53. On harmful practices, ACERWC reported continued monitoring of efforts to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage and related harmful traditional practices across the continent.
54. The Committee of Experts observed regional trends, including efforts to combat child marriage in Central Africa, address FGM and child marriage in East Africa, strengthen legal reform and enforcement in North Africa, enhance law implementation in Southern Africa and promote program alignment and good practices in West Africa.
55. Specific national recommendations included harmonizing child protection laws in Nigeria, strengthening mandatory reporting and penalties for FGM in Egypt, ensuring conflict-sensitive interventions in Sudan and Mali, improving data collection and cultural engagement strategies in Malawi, Ethiopia and Mali, expanding law enforcement training in Zimbabwe and aligning customary and religious laws with international standards in Somalia and Ethiopia.
56. The report noted positive developments such as strengthened judicial enforcement, child protection law reforms, youth and community advocacy initiatives, and adaptable service delivery approaches including mobile health and education services.
57. Regarding children's rights and business, ACERWC expressed concern over underdeveloped normative frameworks, weak corporate accountability mechanisms and persistent child exploitation in sectors such as extractives, agriculture, tourism, construction, energy, pharmaceuticals and digital platforms.
58. Citing data from the International Labour Organization, the Committee of Experts noted that approximately 92 million African children were engaged in child labour as of 2020, reflecting a significant increase since 2016, particularly within the informal economy.
59. The report identified emerging good practices, including child-sensitive corporate initiatives by companies in South Africa, Kenya and Rwanda, as well as the development of national action plans on business and human rights in Kenya and Uganda incorporating children's rights considerations.
60. ACERWC underscored persistent challenges, including implementation gaps due to limited resources and political will, continued violence and exploitation of children, the impact of conflict and displacement, inequitable

access to education and healthcare, weak data systems, and entrenched cultural norms undermining child rights.

61. The Committee of Experts also outlined additional focus areas, including children's rights in the digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) age, as well as youth participation in political and civic matters.
62. In its recommendations, ACERWC called for strengthened national implementation and reporting, enhanced investment in inclusive education and assistive technologies, improved enforcement mechanisms against harmful practices, stronger child-centred corporate accountability frameworks, improved data and monitoring systems, and expanded youth engagement in child rights advocacy platforms.
63. The report concluded that while notable progress has been made in advancing children's rights across Africa, sustained cooperation among Governments, civil society, regional institutions and youth remained essential to address implementation gaps and ensure that every child enjoyed their rights to protection, education, participation and development.

2.2.2 Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Health Interventions in Africa

64. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) presentation underscored the Centres' central mission to strengthen Africa's public health institutions, enhance outbreak preparedness, promote equitable access to health resources and lead coordinated continental responses to epidemics through evidence-based policies and partnerships.
65. Data presented revealed that Africa continued to experience a high incidence of public health emergencies, with over 150 events recorded in 2022 and projections indicating further increases by 2025 due to recurrent outbreaks of cholera, measles, dengue, mpox and diphtheria.
66. According to Africa CDC monitoring, as of 2024, cholera accounted for 204,115 suspected cases and 3,747 deaths; dengue fever 146,351 suspected cases and 131 deaths; measles 234,320 suspected cases and 3,220 deaths; mpox 77,888 suspected cases with 1,321 deaths; and diphtheria 11,182 confirmed cases and 579 deaths.
67. The Africa CDC observed that persistent challenges in disease control were exacerbated by weak health financing, dependence on donor funds, limited manufacturing capacity and insufficient healthcare workforce across the continent.

68. It noted that declines in foreign development investment, from USD 80 billion in 2021 to a projected USD 24 billion by 2025, combined with debt servicing obligations amounting to USD 81 billion between 2023 and 2025, had significantly constrained national health budgets.
69. The institution cautioned that the withdrawal of major global partners, including WHO and global health initiatives, would potentially reverse 25 years of progress, possibly resulting in an additional 2 to 4 million deaths annually and pushing an estimated 39 million more Africans into poverty by 2025.
70. To address these challenges, Africa CDC presented the New Public Health Order (NPHO), a continental framework built on five pillars, namely; strengthened public health institutions, expanded local manufacturing, increased domestic health financing, respectful action-oriented partnerships and strengthened research capacities.
71. The NPHO sought to ensure Africa's self-reliance by building a robust and coordinated public health architecture rooted in national ownership, long-term partnerships and sustainable financing mechanisms aligned with the Abuja and African Leadership Meeting (ALM) Declarations.
72. The Africa CDC outlined its Strategic Plan 2023–2027, which identified the following six strategic priorities:
 - (i) Strengthening integrated disease surveillance systems;
 - (ii) Building proactive community-level early warning networks;
 - (iii) Ensuring robust emergency preparedness;
 - (iv) Advancing national public health institutes;
 - (v) Expanding clinical and laboratory networks; and
 - (vi) Promoting innovation, technology and manufacturing.
73. The report further highlighted Africa CDC's efforts in leading continental campaigns against cholera through the Continental Cholera Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, which had been launched in 2023 jointly with WHO.
74. The Africa CDC reported ongoing implementation in identified hotspots, including Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, involving international expert deployment, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) equipment distribution and training of hundreds of health workers in surveillance, case management and infection prevention.

75. On the broader epidemiological landscape, Africa CDC indicated that the continent faces a continuous expansion of high-risk outbreaks, with 172 moderate and 121 high-risk events recorded in 2025.
76. The Africa CDC emphasized the success of collaborative initiatives with Member States, as seen in Botswana and South Africa, where the institution donated sequencing equipment and regulatory support to strengthen local vaccine manufacturing and viral variant detection capacities.
77. Acknowledging the importance of political leadership, Africa CDC referenced recent AU Heads of State meetings and the Committee of Heads of State on Health Financing as essential in mobilizing collective action and securing political buy-in for health sovereignty.
78. The presentation noted with concern Africa's continued dependence on imported medical commodities, despite the continent hosting approximately 574 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities compared with over 5,000 in China and 10,500 in India.
79. Nevertheless, the report noted that the continent's pharmaceutical market, then valued between USD 40 and USD 60 billion per year, was projected to reach USD 260 billion by 2024, offering substantial opportunities for local investment, job creation and health improvement.
80. The Africa CDC reiterated that strengthening local pharmaceutical production and widening access to diagnostics and therapeutics remained key drivers of sustainable health sovereignty and economic growth.
81. The institution reaffirmed its collaboration with National Governments, local universities and research centres to expand genomic sequencing and public health education, as part of the New Public Health Order implementation.
82. It called upon Member States to allocate at least 15% of their national budgets to healthcare, in accordance with the Abuja Declaration, to ensure financial resilience and reduce reliance on unpredictable external aid.
83. The Africa CDC underscored that achieving a resilient and sovereign African health system required sustained political will, regional solidarity and a unified approach to disease surveillance, manufacturing and financing under AU coordination.
84. The report concluded that Africa is at a decisive moment of transformation, moving from dependence to autonomy, and that through Africa CDC's leadership, the continent possessed the institutional capacity and framework to safeguard its people, advance its health agenda and meaningfully contribute to global health security.

2.2.3 Status of Neo-Natal and Maternal Mortality in Africa

85. The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) presentation addressed the state of maternal and child health outcomes across the continent and highlighted opportunities to accelerate progress toward the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
86. It highlighted the continent's continuing high burden of preventable deaths among mothers, newborns and children under five years of age, and sought to assess progress made since the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) period between 2000 and 2015.
87. The presentation covered mortality trends, multisectoral determinants influencing health outcomes, as well as actionable policy recommendations to improve survival and health equity.
88. Global estimates presented indicated that, in 2022, approximately 8.1 million deaths occurred among children under 20 years of age, with a slight reduction to 8.0 million in 2023. Further, maternal deaths was reported to have declined from 287,000 in 2020 to an estimated 260,000 in 2023 globally, with sub-Saharan Africa accounting for the majority of the deaths.
89. Data presented for 2022 revealed that West and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and South Asia exhibited the highest mortality rates globally, while Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia recorded the lowest. Sub-Saharan Africa was identified as bearing a disproportionate share of global maternal and neonatal deaths.
90. The presentation highlighted that mortality reduction across all age groups has slowed between 2016 and 2022, and that most African regions recorded either stalling or declining progress in mortality reduction, emphasizing the urgent need to re-energize concerted health and development efforts.
91. Comparative analysis of low-income and lower-middle-income countries demonstrated significant differences in performance. Both income groups showed a decrease in annual reduction rates across all mortality indicators, that is, stillbirths, neonatal, under-five and adolescent mortality, underlining persistent structural inequalities within and between countries.
92. Regionally, the slowdown was reported to have been most pronounced in Eastern and Southern Africa, although both regions had achieved strong reductions during the MDG years. Conversely, data from West and Central Africa showed the slowest declines over both periods, while in South Asia, progress remained steady, reflecting a more consistent pace of improvement.

93. The report indicated that Maternal Mortality Ratios (MMRs) remain alarmingly high across much of Africa. Data presented indicated that, in 2023, the average MMR was 678 deaths per 100,000 live births in West Africa, 398 in Central Africa, 263 in Eastern Africa and 193 in Southern Africa, and 60 in Small Island States, and that approximately 80 percent of all maternal deaths occurred in West, Central and Eastern Africa combined.
94. APHRC further presented that the Annual Rate of Reduction (ARR) in maternal mortality between 2015 and 2023 varied markedly, with Eastern Africa achieving 6.3 percent, Central Africa 3.9 percent, Southern Africa 2.9 percent, West Africa 2.6 percent and Small Island countries 2.0 percent. The report noted that, these rates, while positive, remained inadequate to meet the SDG target of reducing global MMR to below 70 by 2030.
95. The presentation highlighted prematurity, birth asphyxia and sepsis as the leading causes of neonatal deaths, while malaria, lower respiratory infections and diarrheal diseases continued to dominate among children aged 1 to 59 months.
96. APHRC emphasized that Primary Health Care (PHC) systems remained weak in many African countries, leading to uneven access to quality maternal and neonatal services. Although institutional deliveries had increased substantially, many births occurred in lower-level facilities that lack adequate staffing, surgical capacity and essential supplies.
97. The report noted that limited rural electrification, poor mobile connectivity and active conflicts further exacerbated disparities in health outcomes and contributed to the destruction or weakening of essential health systems.
98. The report observed persistent gender inequities across the continent. Presented data showed the lowest equity levels in Chad, Niger, Sierra Leone, DRC, Burundi, Madagascar and Liberia, and the highest in Mauritius, South Africa, Botswana, Ghana, Eswatini and Namibia.
99. On education, it was noted that while progress has been made in primary school completion, secondary education completion remained at 49 percent, with Central and Eastern Africa lagging. Poor education outcomes for girls were correlated with higher fertility rates and maternal mortality.
100. The presentation reiterated that climate change and environmental stressors had increased the vulnerability of communities to both disease outbreaks and natural disasters. Countries such as DRC, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa and Somalia were reported to have suffered the greatest drought-related humanitarian impacts in recent years, affecting millions.

101. Despite progress in urbanization, the benefits remained unevenly distributed. Eastern Africa was shown to have lower urbanization rates, correlating with slower access to sanitation, water and healthcare infrastructure.
102. The report recognized efforts by African Governments and regional bodies but emphasized that existing interventions were insufficient to achieve SDG 3 targets by 2030 without accelerated, coordinated action. It called for stronger health systems, enhanced domestic financing, improved data systems and targeted support for high-burden subregions.
103. The presentation concluded by emphasizing the need for a whole-of-Government and whole-of-society approach, combining health, education, gender, economic and environmental policies to address underlying causes of mortality.

2.2.4 Financing Health Security through Public Healthcare

104. The World Health Organization (WHO) presentation examined the challenges and strategies related to health financing in Africa. It emphasized the central role of political commitment, parliamentary engagement and domestic resource mobilization in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and resilient health systems.
105. The presentation recalled the 2001 Abuja Declaration and noted that, despite the commitment by AU Member States to allocate at least 15 per cent of national budgets to the health sector, average health allocation across the continent has remained stagnant at approximately 7 per cent, with only two countries meeting the target as of 2022.
106. WHO data indicated a persistent gap between regional and global averages. Health expenditure in Africa reportedly averaged 7.1 per cent of national budgets, compared to the global average of 10.8 per cent, reflecting continued low prioritization of health in fiscal policy frameworks.
107. Out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure remained a dominant feature of health financing in Africa, with the average share of OOP in total health expenditure standing at 34 per cent in 2022, a marginal decline from 39 per cent in 2010.
108. It was presented that in 31 countries, OOP accounted for more than 25 per cent of health spending, while in 10 countries the figure exceeded 50 per cent, demonstrating households' continued vulnerability to catastrophic health costs.

109. The presentation underscored the unsustainable dependence on external financing. WHO noted that on average, 24 per cent of health expenditure in Africa was funded by external sources. Five countries relied on external partners for between 45 and 65 per cent of total health expenditure; fourteen countries for 25 to 44 per cent; seventeen countries for 15 to 24 per cent; and only eight countries for less than 15 per cent.
110. WHO highlighted the need for alternative and innovative financing mechanisms to expand the fiscal space for health. Proposed mechanisms included blended finance, development impact bonds, debt-to-health swaps, public-private partnerships, earmarked health taxes and the use of equity and efficiency tools to ensure fair and effective allocation of resources.
111. The presentation also emphasized the importance of strengthening the interface between health policy and legislative action and outlined a strategic framework for parliamentary engagement aimed at positioning health at the centre of political agendas, strengthening domestic investment and integrating evidence-based policymaking.
112. The WHO Parliamentary Engagement Strategy was structured around four main objectives:
 - (i) positioning health within national parliamentary and policy debates;
 - (ii) increasing political and financial commitments to advance the health agenda;
 - (iii) bridging the gap between science, policy and legislation; and
 - (iv) strengthening WHO leadership in health diplomacy at regional and global levels.
113. WHO outlined eight key elements underpinning effective parliamentary engagement, namely; governance, process standardization, participation, evidence generation, internal capacity building, technical collaboration, advocacy and development of resource tools such as health policy databases.
114. A historical review demonstrated WHO's evolving engagement with parliaments since 2009, beginning with the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and advancing through the 2012–2015 resolutions on Women and Children's Health, the 2017 parliamentary briefing at the World Health Assembly and the 2018 and 2023 WHO-IPU Memoranda of Understanding formalizing collaboration.

115. For the 2025–2026 period, WHO outlined nine strategic deliverables:
- (i) development of a WHO Parliamentary Engagement Strategy;
 - (ii) integration of parliamentary processes within national health policy frameworks;
 - (iii) reinforcement of the three-tier coordination structure;
 - (iv) establishment of a Parliamentary Affairs Communication Platform;
 - (v) creation of a Global Network of Health Committee Chairs;
 - (vi) capacity-building programmes for WHO staff and parliamentarians;
 - (vii) joint resource mobilization and fundraising strategies;
 - (viii) inclusion of parliamentarians in sustainable financing and pandemic accord negotiations; and
 - (ix) institutionalization of an Annual World Health Assembly Dialogue with Parliamentarians.
116. The presentation showcased WHO’s three main thematic pillars, that is Global Health Security, Health Promotion and Well-being, and Universal Health Coverage, supported by cross-cutting themes of pandemic preparedness, sustainable financing and climate–health integration.
117. WHO noted that political engagement and parliamentary oversight remained critical levers for accelerating progress toward the Abuja targets and achieving equitable, sustainable health financing across the continent.
118. Member States were encouraged to enhance domestic resource mobilization, reduce dependence on external aid and implement legislation that strengthens health systems and improves health equity.
119. The report emphasized that effective collaboration between parliaments, ministries of finance and health and WHO was vital to ensuring accountability, transparency and sustained political will for health investment in Africa.
120. WHO concluded the presentation by emphasising that resilient, self-reliant health systems cannot be achieved without aligning governance, financing and political accountability mechanisms at all levels.

2.2.5 The Pandemic Agreement and What it Means for Africa

121. The World Health Organization (WHO) presentation provided Member States with an overview of the newly adopted WHO Pandemic Agreement, outlined its substantive provisions, explained its legal and institutional framework, and discussed its implications for the African continent.
122. WHO noted that the Pandemic Agreement was adopted by 124 Member States, with 11 abstentions and no objections, under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, establishing it as a legally binding international instrument.
123. The Agreement stemmed from two WHO World Health Assembly mandates, being SSA2(5) of December 2021 titled “The World Together” and WHA77 of June 2024, mandating the formation of an intergovernmental negotiating body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
124. The intergovernmental negotiating body bureau was constituted to ensure equitable representation from all six WHO regions. Representation included South Africa (co-chair) for the African Region, Finland for Europe, Brazil for the Americas, Egypt for the Eastern Mediterranean, Thailand for South-East Asia and Australia for the Western Pacific Region.
125. WHO highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgent need for a new global governance instrument, having caused millions of infections and deaths, disrupted health systems, economies and education, and exacerbated poverty and inequality.
126. It was observed that major lessons from the pandemic included the need to overcome inequitable access to vaccines and other health products, strengthen health systems and mitigate socio-economic vulnerabilities among the most affected populations.
127. The WHO Pandemic Agreement was, therefore, guided by key principles emphasizing equity, solidarity, cooperation, scientific integrity and innovation. It sought to establish mechanisms for coordinated and accountable global pandemic governance.
128. According to the WHO, the principles guiding the negotiation text included equity as a priority, better cooperation and solidarity among Member States, future-proof and science-based approaches, and the promotion of synergy with the international health regulations and other existing instruments.
129. The Agreement also stressed the need for feasibility and efficiency, while recognising differences in national capacities and ensuring clear commitments from all Member States.

130. The purpose of establishing a legally binding instrument was explained as promoting political commitment at the highest level for an equitable, cooperative and interconnected global system that addresses pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
131. The Agreement sought to establish globally agreed principles, targets and priorities for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response; strengthen rule-based governance systems; and support inclusive constituencies of stakeholders at national, regional and global levels.
132. It also sought to enhance Africa's involvement and leadership in global public health architecture, ensuring that developing countries are fully engaged in setting standards and benefiting equitably from new frameworks on public health emergencies.
133. WHO explained that the Pandemic Agreement's substantive provisions were organized around multiple key articles covering prevention, preparedness, financing, cooperation, research and equitable access.
134. WHO noted that the Agreement would support equitable access to pandemic tools through strengthened pathogen-access and benefit-sharing systems, ensuring rapid data and sample sharing with fair distribution of medical countermeasures.
135. The Agreement further encouraged regional self-sufficiency by promoting local manufacturing of health products and transfer of technology to low- and middle-income countries, reducing dependency on external suppliers during health crises.
136. The presentation underlined the Agreement's call for health system strengthening through sustained investments in infrastructure, workforce and public health capacities, particularly in Africa where systemic gaps continue to impede effective pandemic management.
137. WHO also highlighted the importance of community engagement and multisectoral collaboration, encouraging a "whole-of-government and whole-of-society" approach to pandemic preparedness and public communication grounded in science and transparency.
138. Financing provisions were cited as critical to sustainability, calling on Member States to maintain or increase domestic financing and to mobilize additional international financial resources through a coordinating financial mechanism.
139. WHO reinforced that Africa stands to benefit significantly from the Agreement through mechanisms promoting equitable access, technology

sharing, regional coordination and stronger participation in global health governance.

140. It was observed that the implementation of the Agreement would enhance Africa's capacity to manage health emergencies through joint regional approaches underpinned by the African Union's Public Health Order and in alignment with International Health Regulations.
141. WHO called upon Member States to align their strategies and investments with the Pandemic Agreement to ensure stronger national and regional preparedness mechanisms ahead of future pandemics.

2.3 Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Transport, Communication, Science and Technology

142. The Permanent Committee on Transport, Communication, Science and Technology of the Pan-African Parliament sat twice on Monday, 29th September, 2025 and Wednesday, 1st October, 2025.
143. The Chairperson, Hon. Behdja Lammali, in her opening remarks welcomed all members of the committee and presenters and highlighted some of the roles of the committee which included among others the responsibility of reducing pollution and establishment of policies for Artificial Intelligence (AI), harnessing of policies between African countries to enable easy transport, enabling inter African trade, energy supervision and security and maintaining sustainable development for African people, developing policies on innovation and establishment of Model Laws.
144. Presentations were made at the meetings as follows -

2.3.1 Presentation on Role and Mandate of the African Energy Commission (AFREC)

145. The African Energy Commission, commonly known as AFREC, is the specialized technical institution of the African Union responsible for coordinating and promoting energy development across the continent.
146. It was established to address Africa's energy challenges, AFREC serves as a central hub for energy data collection, policy harmonization, and strategic planning. Its mandate includes providing guidance to member states on energy policy, fostering sustainable and diversified energy sources, and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.
147. AFREC also facilitates capacity-building, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing among African countries to support national and regional energy programs. By coordinating efforts across the continent, the commission aims to strengthen energy security, enhance access to electricity and clean fuels, and drive the transition toward sustainable, low-

carbon energy systems. AFREC's work aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063 vision for inclusive economic growth and industrialization, recognizing that energy is a critical enabler for socio-economic development, climate resilience, and regional integration.

2.3.2 Presentation on the African Energy System and Access to Energy in Africa

148. Africa's energy system is characterized by both vast potential and significant challenges. The continent is rich in renewable energy resources, including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass, as well as conventional fossil fuel reserves. However, energy access remains uneven: approximately 580 million Africans, representing nearly half the population, still lack reliable electricity, while rural areas are disproportionately affected.
149. Limited grid infrastructure, high costs of energy production and distribution, and insufficient investment in renewable technologies constrain the continent's energy development. These challenges contribute to persistent energy poverty, hinder industrial growth, and limit the provision of essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water.
150. Despite these gaps, there are promising developments. Expanding decentralized and off-grid solutions, particularly solar mini-grids, has improved electricity access in remote communities. Several countries are integrating renewable energy into their national grids, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and enhancing energy security.
151. Regional power pools, under the guidance of the African Union and institutions such as AFREC, aim to harmonize electricity trade, optimize resource use, and promote cross-border connectivity. Addressing Africa's energy deficit requires coordinated policy, strategic investment, technological innovation, and capacity building.
152. With the right frameworks and continental collaboration, Africa can leverage its energy resources to drive industrialization, improve livelihoods, and achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

2.3.3 Parliamentary Brief on the Analysis of the Malabo Convention

153. Mr. Henry Owoko, a Policy Evaluation Specialist from the African Population and Health Research Centre, took Members through a Parliamentary Brief on the Analysis of the Malabo Convention.
154. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Owoko stated the Malabo Convention, adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2014, is Africa's first comprehensive treaty on digital governance, covering electronic transactions, personal data

protection, and cybersecurity/cybercrime. Technological advancement often outpaced regulation, and African nations found themselves vulnerable to new forms of cybercrime and data abuse without adequate legal tools.

155. Additionally, Africa's digital transformation has outpaced legal frameworks, creating gaps that need urgent review and Cybercrime, data misuse, and network attacks do not respect national borders; fragmented laws weaken collective defence. Despite being adopted in 2014, the Convention only entered into force in 2023, with limited ratifications and uneven implementation.
156. He stated that the treaty was drafted before cloud computing, AI, and advanced ransomware became central issues, raising questions of relevance. A case in point was the Agenda 2063 and AfCFTA which depend on secure and trusted digital ecosystems, making effective governance a priority.
157. He informed the Committee that Global and African instruments (e.g., GDPR, Budapest Convention, SADC and ECOWAS model laws) provide benchmarks to test Malabo's adequacy and that Parliamentarians and AU policy organs need clear, evidence-based insights to strengthen or amend the Convention.
158. He further stated that cyber threats easily cross borders, making isolated national laws insufficient. Moreover, disparities in cyber legislation continue to emerge coupled with emerging trends in technological development that remained unaccounted for in law. It is within this context that the Pan African Parliament and national legislatures are examining the Malabo Convention not only as a security/legal matter, but as a strategic instrument for development and integration.
159. This evaluation uses the Policy Cube framework (Buse et al., 2020; Evagora, Kedia, Odero, et al., 2024) to assess the Malabo Convention across three dimensions namely: Comprehensiveness of substantive provisions, Policy saliency for implementation and enforcement architecture, and Equity and Human Rights Safeguards.
160. He averred that in each axis; the Convention's clauses are analysed relative to international good practice checklists derived from leading international instruments. We map each article or cluster of articles of the Malabo Convention to these good-practice themes, for example, comparing the Convention's data protection principles with GDPR principles, its cybercrime offenses with the Budapest Convention's definitions, its institutional requirements with those in European directives, and its rights provisions with international human rights norms. The goal is to identify

where the Convention aligns with, exceeds, or falls short of current international good practice.

161. On the aspect of Comprehensiveness, the Malabo Convention covers 42+ distinct substantive measures that consistently appear in high-quality cyber laws. It establishes a baseline at least on par with early 2020s international standards in most domains. Its broad inclusion of both preventive and punitive measures, from education to strict criminalization, and both privacy and security concerns in one instrument, is especially praiseworthy. The main areas where it diverges or could be enhanced are introducing explicit breach/incident reporting duties, extending data subject rights (portability), and including more granular requirements for critical sector security and transparency in enforcement. These gaps are largely attributable to the Convention's 2014 context; subsequent instruments, such as the GDPR (2016) and NIS2 (2022), have advanced the field.
162. Nonetheless, Malabo's drafters captured a wide spectrum of issues, making it a solid foundation for African states. As noted in research, the Convention's holistic scope, integrating data protection, cybersecurity, cybercrime, and e-commerce in a single treaty, provides a coherent resource for standardizing policy and practice across the continent.
163. On the aspect of Policy Saliency, Mr. Henry Odero stated that the Convention demonstrated a relatively high level of policy saliency, in that it does not merely outline aspirational principles but embedded clear institutional, procedural, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure practical implementation. It mandates the establishment of independent data protection authorities with extensive oversight and sanctioning powers, requires states to adopt national cybersecurity policies and strategies, and insists on the designation of competent authorities to handle incident response and coordination. Judicial authorization is built into its procedural powers, embedding due process into enforcement. The Convention also prescribes dissuasive penalties for cybercrimes and obliges cooperation across borders through mutual legal assistance and CERT networks, thereby strengthening enforceability.
164. He stated that Malabo Convention's saliency is undermined by two factors. First, the absence of a supranational enforcement mechanism within the AU framework means compliance rests on individual states' political will and capacity; second, the Convention lacks explicit requirements for dedicated resources or binding timelines, which can weaken institutional effectiveness in practice. As a result, while the legal and governance architecture is well-designed and aligned with global best practice, its impact depends heavily on robust national-level implementation and

sustained political commitment. The Malabo Convention scores strongly on policy saliency by embedding architecture enforcement and accountability mechanisms, but it remains vulnerable to uneven implementation due to reliance on state capacity and the absence of AU-level oversight.

165. Lastly on the spectrum of Equity and Human Rights: In this dimension, it takes a commendable step in embedding human rights safeguards within a cybersecurity and data protection treaty. Its dedicated data protection chapter establishes privacy as a core legal right, grants individuals' enforceable rights to information, access, rectification, erasure, objection, and requires independent authorities to protect these rights. It also includes explicit clauses that subject cybersecurity measures to constitutional and international human rights obligations, most notably the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Procedural safeguards, such as judicial authorization for intrusive investigative powers and evidentiary integrity requirements, further reinforce the protection of due process and fair trial rights.
166. He highlighted that the Convention also demonstrates an equity orientation by criminalizing online child exploitation, racist and xenophobic hate speech, and genocide denial, thereby seeking to protect vulnerable groups from disproportionate harms in cyberspace. However, its approach carries potential risks: provisions against cyber insults and biased threats, while well-intentioned, could be misapplied in ways that restrict legitimate expression if not carefully implemented. Moreover, the Convention is silent on gender, disability, and digital inclusion considerations, and lacks specific measures to address online gender-based violence or the digital divide. These omissions leave gaps in its equity dimension. The Malabo Convention scores positively on human rights integration, with robust privacy protections and explicit references to constitutional and international law safeguards. Yet, its equity dimension remains partial, limited mainly to vulnerable groups in the context of harmful online content, and would benefit from greater attention to inclusion, gender, and access in future reforms or complementary policies.
167. Highlighting on the key strengths, Mr. Henry stated that, the Malabo Convention had a good combination of cybercrime, cybersecurity strategy, e-commerce, and data protection, which would be instrumental in facilitating comprehensive national cyber legislation. Further, it incorporated global good practices, principles, and measures, ensuring its relevance and interoperability of policy in practice.

168. The Convention also requires creation of capable authorities and coordination structures, laying the groundwork for effective governance, empowers regulators and courts with sanctioning ability, providing avenues for compliance and redress, e.g., fines, suspension of processing, and criminal penalties, explicitly subjects cybersecurity measures to human rights law and provides for privacy and due process safeguards at every critical juncture, encourages harmonization and cooperation through MLA and CERT networks, recognizing that cyberthreats are transnational, innovates on issues like vendor liability for product security, emphasis on cyber culture/awareness, and addressing hate speech, which have become increasingly salient.
169. Mr. Owoko also highlighted notable gaps in the Malabo Convention which included insufficient ratifications where many AU states still lacked dedicated cyber security laws or relied on outdated ones, lack of clear obligations for timely breach notification to authorities/victims and for operators to report incidents, now standard in data protection and critical infrastructure protection, lack of detailed on the minimum-security controls or risk management steps for organizations, leaving it to national laws, which may vary in rigor, lack of mention on newer digital rights such as data portability, rights around AI/automated processing and/or considerations for cloud computing, cryptography policy, etc., which have grown in importance post-2014, criminalization of broad categories of harmful expression; without accompanying guidance, posing a risk to free expression if national laws overreach, distinguishing legitimate expression from criminal hate speech is left to implementation legislation hence excluding digital inclusion of marginalized populations, over reliance on uneven peer pressure and political commitment and finally lack of a central AU mechanism to enforce compliance or adjudicate disputes beyond political reporting, among others.
170. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Owoko stated that the Malabo Convention, through the Law Cube evaluation, stands out as a comprehensive and balanced framework that largely reflects international good practices adapted to the African context. It serves as both a benchmark and a roadmap that encapsulates what a strong national cyber law should cover and thus allows gap analysis for any draft law against it, and a roadmap for countries to develop their legislative and institutional capacity in cyberspace governance. Its strengths in combining security and privacy and embedding accountability offer a model for other regions. To fully realize its potential, increased ratification, coupled with diligent implementation that adheres to its human rights commitments, will be key. As the digital landscape evolves, with new threats and technologies, the Convention may need updates or auxiliary protocols to address issues like cyberterrorism financing, AI, or

cross-border data flow governance in more detail. But even as of 2025, it remains a high-water mark for regional normative instruments in this domain, embodying the principle that cybersecurity, development, and human rights must advance together for the benefit of African societies.

171. He recommended strengthening of the Convention's impact and support legislative uptake, which proposes several measures. In the short term, the AU should develop implementation guidelines and action plan to help states domesticate the Convention uniformly, addressing ambiguities and emerging issues like AI ethics and surveillance limits.
172. Further, Member states are urged to ratify and align national laws with Malabo's standards, while embedding judicial oversight and human-rights protections to prevent overreach. This could be achieved through the amendment or supplementation of the Convention to plug gaps, for instance, adding a protocol on cross-border cybercrime cooperation that defines jurisdiction, extradition, and mutual legal assistance, and revising any impractical provisions, such as the gambling ban, in consultation with stakeholders.
173. The AU and partners should bolster Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) and Computer Emergency Response Teams across Africa with training and resources and intensify awareness and advocacy campaigns to highlight Malabo's benefits for economic integration and citizen protection, countering misconceptions of it as externally imposed.
174. Lastly, in the long term, the AU may consider a successor convention to reflect new technology realities, but only alongside fully operationalizing the current Convention. By taking these steps, the Malabo Convention can evolve into a genuinely effective pan-African framework, fostering a secure and trusted digital environment in line with Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) vision.
175. In his closing remarks, Mr. Odera shared that the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) were developing Policy Lens AI Model for use by Parliaments or other institutions to analyse policies and other legislative tools by highlighting gaps and identifying areas of improvement, among others. The tool has specialised components like the Policy Research Assistant which is able to analyse the document through review of various data bases to improve and enrich legislative, representative and oversight role of parliamentarians across the continent.

2.3.4 Report of International Dialogue on Africa and the Energy Transitions

176. Africa is at a critical stage in its energy development, facing the dual challenge of ensuring universal access to energy while transitioning to sustainable, low-carbon systems. The Report of the International Dialogue on Africa and the Energy Transition highlights both the opportunities and constraints inherent in this process. Africa is endowed with abundant energy resources, including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and fossil fuels. Yet, nearly half of the continent's population still lacks access to reliable and affordable electricity, with rural areas being the most affected.
177. The dialogue emphasized that achieving a just and inclusive energy transition requires coordinated policy frameworks, strategic investments, technological innovation, and capacity building across all levels of government and industry. It underscored the importance of leveraging Africa's renewable energy potential to accelerate industrialization, create jobs, and improve socio-economic outcomes while simultaneously reducing dependency on imported fuels and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.
178. Key recommendations from the report include the need for strengthening regional collaboration through power pools and cross-border energy infrastructure, promoting policies that encourage private sector investment in renewable energy, and integrating climate resilience into energy planning. The report also highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing and innovation to adapt global energy transition strategies to Africa's unique context.
179. In conclusion, the International Dialogue report provides a roadmap for Africa to harness its energy resources effectively, ensuring that the continent can achieve sustainable development, energy security, and inclusive growth while contributing meaningfully to global climate objectives.

2.3.5 Presentation on the Exploration and Value Addition of Critical Energy Minerals in Africa

180. Africa possesses significant deposits of critical energy minerals, which are essential for the global transition to renewable energy and clean technologies. Minerals such as cobalt, lithium, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements are key inputs for batteries, electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines, and other low-carbon technologies.
181. Despite the continent's abundance of these resources, much of Africa currently exports them in raw form, limiting economic gains, reducing opportunities for industrialization, and leaving value addition largely in the hands of other regions.

182. The presentation emphasizes that strategic exploration, sustainable mining, and local processing are crucial for transforming these minerals into high-value products. Developing downstream industries for refining, battery production, and other value-added activities can significantly increase revenues, create skilled jobs, and foster technology transfer within the continent. Achieving this requires robust regulatory frameworks, responsible environmental management, and investments in infrastructure and human capital to support industrial activities.
183. Regional and continental cooperation is also essential. Harmonized policies across African countries can attract investment, ensure sustainable practices, and reduce barriers to cross-border trade of processed minerals. Partnerships between governments, the private sector, and research institutions can drive innovation and ensure that Africa moves beyond raw material export to become a key player in global energy supply chains.
184. In summary, by focusing on the exploration and value addition of critical energy minerals, Africa has the potential to leverage its natural resources to accelerate industrialization, enhance energy security, increase local employment, and position itself as a strategic contributor to the global clean energy transition.

2.3.6 Proposal on PAP and SARW Cooperation on Energy Transition in Africa.

185. The proposal on cooperation between the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the Southern African Regional Workshop (SARW) highlights the importance of regional collaboration in advancing Africa's energy transition. Recognizing that energy security, sustainable development, and industrialization are continental priorities, the initiative seeks to strengthen legislative and policy coordination among member states. By harmonizing energy regulations, sharing technical expertise, and facilitating cross-border investments, PAP and SARW can ensure that renewable energy deployment, grid integration, and critical mineral utilization are aligned with Africa's development goals.
186. The cooperation framework emphasizes joint initiatives in policy development, capacity building, and oversight of energy transition projects. It also advocates for the establishment of regional platforms to monitor progress, exchange best practices, and mobilize financing for clean energy infrastructure. By integrating national energy strategies with regional planning, African countries can optimize resource utilization, improve access to affordable and reliable electricity, and foster inclusive economic growth.

187. Furthermore, the proposal underscores the importance of engaging private sector actors, research institutions, and civil society to drive innovation, technology transfer, and sustainable practices across the energy value chain. Through this collaborative approach, the PAP-SARW partnership aims to accelerate Africa's transition to low-carbon energy systems, strengthen regional energy security, and position the continent as a proactive player in the global energy transition while ensuring that the benefits of clean energy reach all communities.

2.4 Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution

188. The meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution was held on Tuesday, 30th September, 2025. One presentation was made as follows -

2.4.1 Presentation on the State of threats to Peace in Africa

189. The Chairperson, Hon. Dr. Eng. Scherif El Gabaly called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Andrews Atta-Asamoah (Phd), Senior Advisor, AU Support, International Idea, Addis Ababa to do a presentation on the State of Threats to Peace in Africa.

190. Mr. Andrews introduced his presentation by stating that Africa's peace and security situation remained precarious and subject to worsening and it's marked by persistent armed conflicts, the spread and intensification of terrorism, democratic decline, and growing humanitarian crises. The trends are not improving the with the net effect being that despite sustained efforts, Africa is in one of its most difficult times in its recent history.

191. Mr. Atta-Asamoah highlighted three main aspects that defined conflicts in Africa namely; Terrorism, Conflicts and Democratic decline as per the data acquired from the AU Centre for Terrorism. On Terrorism, he stated that between 2015 to 2024, Africa has witnessed 20, 000 attacks that resulted to 80,000 deaths and an average of 5 attacks were experienced daily. Further, he cited that an average of 23 people were killed by terrorists everyday translating to a lethality rate of 4 deaths per attack.

192. He cited that from January to December, 2024, the most affected countries accounted for 93% of attacks occurred in eight countries with 96% of deaths occurring in these countries. They include, countries in West Africa for instance Burkina Faso, East Africa for instance Somalia magnifying the intensity of violence in Africa and massive deaths.

193. With regard to regional trends, the number of deaths in Somalia, Mali, Niger and other countries from 2020 to 2024 had increased. Further, in the first half of 2025 has increased by 1% and 33% respectively compared to 2024

194. Mr. Andrews further shared statistics on attacks vs deaths from January to June, 2025 (in First Half 2025) in light of if the situation had improved or not. He stated that attacks and deaths increased by 1% and 33% respectively when compared to the same period of 2024. In 2025, each day there is an average of 10 attacks. There were at least 48 deaths each day in Africa as a result of terrorism. For each successful attack that takes place on the continent, an average of 5 people is killed. From 2024 to 2025, parts of Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso are major hot spots for terrorism attacks. A case in point is that deaths in the Sahel accounted for 51% of global total of terrorism deaths in 2024, compared with just 1% in 2007 and 65% in Africa.
195. He cited challenge to response which whirled around three aspects namely, systemic nature of causes, violent nature of terrorism groups and; lack of robust regional response.
196. On the aspect of conflicts in Africa, Mr. Andrew stated that the continent's conflict burden in 2025 was shaped by three primary theatres: Sudan, eastern DRC, and the Sahel corridor, all characterized by high civilian casualties, displacement, and limited prospects for negotiated settlements.
197. The single largest driver of conflict deaths on the continent accounted for 24% of all sub-Saharan conflict fatalities in 2024 (SIPRI) and according to ACLED, civilian fatalities exceeded 12,000 in the first nine months of 2025 there was large scale displacements in Khartoum, El Fasher, and Omdurman. The difficult areas to address were the South Sudan, DRC and Sahel corridor which were primarily theatres of conflicts occasioned by high or large-scale displacements, high deaths, casualties, unconjured negotiations.
198. He was concerned that if nothing was done, over 10 million people would be displaced by end of 2025 and famine like conditions in Darfur. The biggest challenge to Sudan issue was fragmentation of actors on the ground and fragmented response from international, regional efforts lack of consolidation for actual efforts.
199. Conflicts in the Eastern part of the DRC were occasioned by the M23 Crisis and Proliferation of armed groups specifically in Ituri and South Kivu which compound insecurity, with CODECO, ADF, and Mai-Mai militias engaging in attacks on civilians, schools, and health facilities. He cited that there were three (3) combined deadly issues that fueled conflicts in the Eastern part of the DRC which included natural resource, armed groups and regional and external interests which had diffused the whole aspects occasioning massive surge displacements and it was estimated that there

would be an increase by end of 2025 to 7 million by late 2025, the highest figure ever recorded for the country.

200. Libya on the other hand continues to experience episodic violence between rival armed factions despite international mediation. Somalia faces sustained attacks by al-Shabaab, including high casualty bombings in Mogadishu. Mozambique's Cabo Delgado insurgency, though reduced in intensity compared to 2021–22, persists with IS-linked militants launching sporadic attacks. Cameroon's Anglophone crisis grinds on with continuing civilian displacement and sporadic clashes.
201. On the aspect of Political Stability or democratic decline, Africa accounts for 33% of all global democratic declines while other continents have dismal percentages and 23 countries registered decline in a number of variables e.g. elections, effective parliaments, 20 of these countries are affected by armed conflicts coup-de-tats or others forms of political instability.
202. The presenter cited the following as major drivers of conflicts; thawing relations between the state and citizens, Leadership dynamics (dictatorial tendencies), Low democratic dividends, Inadequate response frameworks and Weak Response Frameworks.
203. On the challenges related to response, the presenter stated that fragmented response, external influences, governance challenges, finance & budget and complexity of issues specifically on new dimensions.
204. In conclusion, Mr. Andrew stated that the rise in threats implied that all responses have not been enough to tilt the weight in the direction of progress, restructuring the response tools to fit the changed nature of threats, state strengthening and addressing the role of regional actors for instance how can ECOWAS be revamped, among others.

2.5 Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

205. The Permanent Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment held three meetings during the sitting.
206. The Vice-Chairperson, Committee in his opening remarks welcomed members to the meeting and took them through the agenda of the meeting which was later adopted to constitute business of the meeting.
207. He informed the meeting that during the summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where several recommendations were made with regard to climate change mitigating measures including planting of trees in all African countries. A case in point is Ethiopia which has planted over 48 million trees.

208. Members were also informed of the upcoming CORP 30 Summit on Climate Change which will take place in Brazil in November, 2025. It was agreed that PAP meetings for November be exempted to allow members of the committee to attend the said summit to drum support for financing Africa to realize Corp 29 and to enhance visibility and inclusion. The committee was apprised of AU's commitment and support it normally offers to PAP in terms of slots for attendance and financing attendees. This opportunity should be utilized as it provides PAP a pavilion for its representation in such foras. Timely coordination would be key.
209. Members further deliberated on the matter and agreed that CORP Summits should not be held as annual rituals but should have far reaching benefits for its people citing the benefits of the previous CORP 29 Conference held in Dubai, UAE.
210. Members further expressed concerns that CORP Summits should be platforms for compensation for countries hit hard by climate change effects especially Africa as implementation requires Africa to have sufficient resources to realize the same. This is achievable through collaboration with the relevant stakeholder like the IMF, World Environmental Fund among other key institutions.
211. In preparation for CORP 30, the Committee requested to be apprised on the position of Kigali's paper on the upcoming summit to enable the delegation understand their mandate and expectations in the Brazil summit. It was agreed that a common stance on attendance would be spelt in a meeting to be held on Wednesday, October, 1, 2025 including logistics.
212. In conclusion, the Vice Chairperson also reiterated the fact that Africa needs to be sensitized on the aspect of carbon credits.
213. The following presentations were made to the Committee during at its meetings:

2.5.1 Presentation on the Regional Consultations (Eastern and Southern Regions) on the Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa

214. The Chairperson of the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Hon. Sakata, welcomed all participants and informed the meeting that the Pan African Parliament (PAP) adopted the Draft Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management in Africa in its First Reading on 30th July, 2025 during its Fifth Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament, the Second Reading is scheduled for the next ordinary session of the PAP at the end of November, 2025.
215. The meeting was informed that meanwhile, the PAP has mandated the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and

Environment to undertake regional consultations for Southern and Eastern Africa and the said consultations were scheduled to take place on 2nd to 3rd October, 2025 while the regional consultations for Northern, Western and Central Africa are scheduled to take place on 6th and 7th October, 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

216. It was noted that the Model Law process was funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and drafted by a team of African experts under the joint leadership of Prof. Olive C. Ruppel of the Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP) and Stellenbosch University of South Africa and Dr. Harald Ginzky of the German Environment Agency (UBA), Germany. The Model Law is based on eleven country studies on the existing soil legislation and governance analyzing strengths and weaknesses of the current legal provisions and organizational settings. The countries investigated were the Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia and the results are thereafter published.
217. The Draft Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management I Africa entails 42 Articles and provides framework to facilitate African Union (AU) Member states to develop and enhance their domestic legislation and policies related to soil management. It is also accompanied by commentaries I to facilitate the transportation of the Model Law cross various sectoral topics including soil management which is inherently cross-sectoral and multifaceted.
218. He informed the Committee that regional consultations are intended to involve all relevant stakeholders including national authorities, international organizations, science, civil society organizations, economic actors, farmers, traditional leaders, religious groups and trade unions to ensure that all the relevant stakeholders' interests, perspectives and expertise, are presented and taken into account thereby strengthening and refining the Draft.
219. Moreover, consultations would be undertaken in structured manner by determining specific topics for each session. Thereafter, the result of the consultations will be documented taking into consideration comments by members and experts. The revised version will then be submitted to the PAP followed by interpretation to various languages.

2.5.2 Presentation on the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan-African Parliamentary Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment and the African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN).

220. Upon invitation by the Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Garry Tawab Sakata, Hon. Godfred Seidu Jasaw, the Chairperson of the African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN) took the committee through this session.
221. In his opening remarks, Hon. Seidu introduced the context under which the Memorandum of Understanding between the Committee of the Pan African Parliamentary Committee on rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment and the African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN) was premised.
222. He stated that AFSPaN was formed in 2023 as a voluntary coalition of parliamentary champions, international organizations and non-state actors, with a mission to enhance collective efforts at national, regional and continental levels in realization of Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and CAADP processes.
223. Hon. Seidu explained that AFSPaN's mission focused on six key areas namely, enhancing collaboration, advocating for policy, legislative and budgetary reforms, engaging diverse stakeholders, mobilizing resources and fostering partnerships all geared towards achieving agrifood systems that are more sustainable, inclusive, productive, safe, resilient and nutritious across the continent.
224. He stated that this proposed collaboration has enabled AFSPaN to actively seek to nurture ties with the foremost entities in Africa and around the world that led to both matters related to agrifood systems transformation and those related to enhancing parliamentary engagement. The ambition as to ensure that actions pertaining to these efforts build coherence, produce synergies and avoid duplication in an environment where silo mentalities often lead to inefficiencies and insufficient impact.
225. He commended the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment for its immense contributions towards agrifood systems transformation through its recent move to formulate a Model Law on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa which anchored establishment of formal partnerships between the Committee and AFSPaN as an opportunity to bolster parliamentary engagement in favour of CAADP across the continent through complementary and mutually reinforcing efforts.

226. Hon. Seidu highlighted that the scope and objectives of the Memorandum was for the parties to collaborate in the following domains, knowledge sharing and capacity development for parliamentarians, supporting the work of committee through amplification of the Model Laws and deliberations on matters relating to agrifood, co-organizing or jointly participating in activities and events on agrifood systems and related topics of mutual interests, and implementing any other consequentially agreed initiative in support of common interests and objectives.
227. He further stated that the Memorandum highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the parties i.e. AFSPaN and the Committee. Firstly, AFSPaN, was to periodically share information and creation of learning opportunities related to reinforcing parliamentary capacity for the transformation of agrifood systems, supporting the committee's activities through mobilization of AFSPaN partners, regional coordinators, regional coordinators and national chapters, applying committee work products at national and regional levels.
228. The Committee was mandated to nominate one member of the committee to join AFSPaN Executive Committee as an ex-officio representative, propose any topic of interest to be discussed during meetings of AFSPaN and permit it to suggest agenda items for consideration in committee meetings, regularly inform AFSPaN of Committee and PAP activities on matter of mutual interest and propose any other activity and areas of collaboration the two parties may engage in in pursuit of mutual interests and objectives.
229. In his concluding remarks, Hon, Seidu urged the Committee to fastrack signing of the Memorandum to kickstart the process of agrifood transformation in Africa.

2.5.3 Presentation on Turning a Demographic Challenge into an Economic Opportunity (Empowerment of Women and Youth through support and improvement on entrepreneurship and treatment of cassava leaves)

230. The Chairperson invited the second presenter, Prof. Marie-Hortense Madika, University of Lubumbashi, DRC to make her presentation.
231. In her opening remarks, Prof. Madika began by stating that she works for the Centre d'Information et de Promotion des Projets Agricoles, (CIPPAGRI) is an NGO under Congolese law enacted in 2010 whose headquarters are in Kinshasa and a base in Lubumbashi. The NGO was established to encourage and support agricultural initiatives that respect the environment in the DRC and to contribute to the well-being of local populations by promoting healthy and profitable agriculture that respects the environment alongside the field of combating global warming and responsible management of natural resources.

232. She stated that the Sub-Saharan Africa's youth population will grow by nearly one billion by 2050 and to harness this potential, Africa must create 23 million new jobs each year. The demographic wave can be the greatest economic dividend, but only with the creation of massive and sustainable employment posing the question of where these jobs will come from.
233. She affirmed that the answer lied in Agribusiness which is the main catalyst for mass job creation in Africa for instance, replacement of imports. Africa imports \$43 billion of food annually hence local production would lead to creation of massive job opportunities for Africans. Also, processing of these goods locally would enhance and promote local processing industries. Thirdly, Africa must embrace Commodity-Based Industrialization that empowers Smallholders farmers through productivity boost, provision of credit facilities, capacity building and mechanization.
234. Citing an example of the DRC, Prof. Marie shared that due to the population explosion in large cities such as Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, there have been high levels of poverty and precariousness, especially for women and young people. Urban and peri-urban agriculture, particularly market gardening, has become a survival activity as it provided food and generates employment. Women in search of income have started to cultivate a type of cassava, *Manihot glaziovii*, called "Pondu caoutchouc", for the production of leaves consumed as vegetables because it produces leaves all year round and since its roots are not consumed, the plant remains in the ground for many years.
235. She stated that cassava leaves "Pondu in lingala", are the main vegetable consumed in Congolese households, especially in Kinshasa where 11 million people consume \pm 4kg/week per household of 8 people. The leaves are the cheapest and richest source of protein (14 à 40% of DM), vitamins (B1, B2, C), carotene, fibers and minerals and the large amounts of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) they produce are considerably reduced by various processing methods such as sun-drying, pounding followed by boiling in water, etc. Further the cassava leaves have immense benefits including its ability to survive both in dry and wet conditions, nutritious, limits soil poverty and degradation among, creation of jobs for women and youths in DRC, among others.
236. Prof. Madika highlighted the objectives of project which is to structure and professionalize the *Manihot Glaziovii* value chain in Kinshasa, empowering women and youth through training of Women Producers to enable them create women-led cooperatives and training them in agroecological practices to boost yield and sustainability, empowering young transformers through establishment of Collective Processing Workshops (ATCs) for youth by equipping them with sustainable technology like solar dryers and train them

in hygiene, safety, and circular economy (waste recycling). Lastly, facilitating access to Finance & Markets through training the direct beneficiaries in entrepreneurship and financial management, facilitating access to micro-credit via microfinance institutions and developing short supply chains and a collective brand.

237. In her concluding remarks, she called for partnership and resource mobilization with development and strategic partners to facilitate access to Finance & Markets, training of direct beneficiaries in entrepreneurship and financial management, facilitating access to micro-credit via microfinance institutions and developing short supply chains and a collective brand.

2.5.4 Presentation on Agro-Ecology by Mr. Million Belay Ali (PhD), General Coordinator, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

238. The Chairperson then invited the last presenter to make his presentation on Agro-Ecology.
239. Mr. Million Belay in his opening remarks stated that Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa is a network of various organizations working in 55 African countries. He began by stating that the 19th Century Economist Mr. Thomas Malthus believed that because population grows geometrically and food production arithmetically, famine was inevitable.
240. He stated that the Green Revolution was the solution to so many problems faced in Africa and the world in the realm of food production and sustainability which puts emphasis on adoption of new and improved varieties of seeds, application of new agricultural technologies, irrigation, mechanization, use of biotechnology and focus on few and market value crops.
241. He however stated that inspite the above proposals, the Green Revolution has the following drawbacks for instance, it favoured farmers who could afford HYVs, agrochemicals, machines and irrigation facilities, indebted farmers lost their property and migrated to cities, new monocrops faced resistance to pests and weeds, resulted in ecological disasters, it was oriented to cash crops and not food for domestic consumption and it also resulted in nutrition and health crisis and cultural erosion.
242. Drawing from what is happening in other countries on the aspects associated with famine like India, Mr. Million shared that India's malnutrition crisis was severed with over a third of children stunted who were underweight. This had profound implications for public health, economic development and food policy priorities.

243. Mr. Bellay gave a highlight on the narrative of the Green Revolution in Africa which constituted over reliance on the role of business, land being given to those who can use it and these are mostly the large-scale producers, production of enough calories in an economically efficient way to achieve food security and therefore it must use primarily the highest potential crops, innovation and useful knowledge came from science-driven by experts hence resulting to the neglect of traditional ecological knowledge, technology would always come up with the solution to fix any emergent problems thereby looking at it as a GOD (impact of the Western Image) and the possibility of developing standardized one-size-fits-all solutions applied or replicated widely.
244. He gave a background on the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) stating that it was founded in 2006, with initial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation with its headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya was established to transform African agriculture from a subsistence model to a sustainable, commercially viable system that ensures food security by supporting smallholder farmers with improved seeds and fertilizers, building better access to markets for farm produce, strengthening agricultural policies and institutions and promoting climate-smart agriculture to address food security and resilience.
245. Mr. Ali stated that since its establishment, AGRA supported various African countries in the area of Agricultural production and it was projected that by the year 2020, AGRA led initiatives would lead to double productivity, double incomes and halved food insecurity. However, in assessing the current progress, it was found that there was no evidence of 100% in productivity, no income doubling as poverty levels were still high, no evidence of improved food security and generally, it resulted in erosion of local varieties. Overall, independent evaluations have suggested that AGRA has not significantly reduced pr hunger in Africa as earlier intended. Further, heavy focus on chemical fertilizers and hybrid seeds raised concerns about farmer debt, soil health and sustainability.
246. Mr. Million also informed the Committee that AGRA continues to operate, re-branding itself in 2021 as just AGRA (dropping “Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa”) to signal a shift toward resilience, climate-smart agriculture, and farmer-led approaches with these reforms needed to align programs to African-led, sustainable, and inclusive food systems.
247. The presenter explained Agroecology as both a science and a practice that applies ecological principles to agriculture. Instead of relying heavily on external chemical inputs (like synthetic fertilizers and pesticides), agroecology focuses on working with nature to build resilient, sustainable, and farmer-led food systems. It involves the study and management of

sustainable food systems, integration of diverse knowledge systems generated by food system practitioners and the involvement of the social movements that are promoting the transition to fair, just and sovereign food systems.

248. Mr. Million stated that Agroecology puts emphasis on the reuse of resources within the farming system for instance recycling nutrients, biomass and energy to reduce need for external inputs like synthetic fertilizers, use of manure from livestock to fertilize crops and use of crop residues to feed livestock and use of organic matter to enhance microbial life and improve plant health.
249. It has the following benefits including which include improving soil fertility and biodiversity, deduction costs for farmers (less reliance on external inputs), enhances resilience to climate shocks, protects ecosystems and water resources and strengthens farmer autonomy and food sovereignty.
250. In his closing remarks, he explained that Agroecology was becoming the new norm because it is embraced by high learning or educational institutions with more governments endorsing it, scientific institutions and donors increasingly engaging with it, with philanthropy increasingly supporting it, with the UN and other NGOs engaging with it.

2.5.5 Presentation on Africa's Future: A Pan-African Vision for Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environmental Stewardship"

251. Mr. Orlando Simba, Director, Center for Pan African Affairs, Kenya, began his presentation by giving a brief on wholesome growth of agriculture, rural development and environmental stewardship towards fostering our shared vision, which is rooted in the Pan-African ideals of unity, self-reliance, and prosperity, as per the African Union's Agenda 2063. The potentials of the continent, milestones being met as well as the impeding circumstances towards attaining the ever-elusive food and environmental security. I am Orlando Simba, a proud Pan-Africanist and currently I am Executive Director of the Center for Pan African Affairs Kenya, a dynamic platform dedicated to translating the Pan Africans aspirations of Agenda 2063 into tangible realities for local African communities. Through robust legislative diplomacy, offering solutions that can contribute in enhancing sustainable development as well as engaging the younger generation of Africans in positive youth renaissance aimed at driving inclusive growth.
252. He stated that the Pan African vision, articulated through the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), envisions a prosperous, integrated, and sustainable continent where agriculture drives inclusive growth, eradicates hunger, and fosters environmental resilience. Agenda

2063's Aspiration 1 calls for "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development," while Aspiration 6 emphasizes "An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people." CAADP's 2026–2035 Strategy, adopted in January 2025, targets agriculture-led development by firmly asserting the committing of at least 10% of national budgets to the sector, aiming to lift 100 million Africans out of poverty by 2030 through resilient farming systems. *Fostering Unity, Inspiring Action, Building Prosperity*.

253. Africa's agricultural sector holds immense potential, aligning closely with SDG 2 on Zero Hunger and SDG 13 on Climate Action. With 1.5 billion people, 65% of the world's uncultivated arable land, favorable rainfall, and rich farming knowledge, the continent has the resources to feed itself and generate sustainable rural prosperity. Yet, this potential remains largely untapped due to structural challenges such as limited access to finance, high rural illiteracy, environmental degradation, poor infrastructure, and policy gaps. Agriculture employs 62% of Africa's workforce, supports 70% of rural livelihoods, and supplies 90% of locally consumed food. Still, only 5% of smallholders access formal loans, yields are 50–70% below global averages, and post-harvest losses reach 25–40%. Africa imports \$80–100 billion worth of food annually, consuming 5–7% of its GDP, funds that, if invested locally, could transform rural infrastructure, irrigation, and agricultural productivity.
254. Poor infrastructure is a major barrier. In Madagascar, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, and Nigeria, dilapidated roads and limited transport options force farmers to sell crops at distress prices or watch them spoil. These conditions trap farmers in subsistence cycles, limit market access, and perpetuate rural poverty. Policy gaps and external pressures, including subsidized imports and monocrop promotion, have displaced millions of smallholders, degraded soils, and reduced local production. Conflicts in regions such as Tigray, DRC, Sudan, and the Sahel have further destroyed crops and infrastructure, displaced farmers, and intensified environmental degradation, increasing vulnerabilities to climate change and food insecurity.
255. Despite these challenges, Africa has achieved remarkable successes through community-led and government-supported initiatives. Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Agency boosted wheat yields by 20% and reduced post-harvest losses. Rwanda's Girinka program increased dairy production by 50% for 350,000 households while improving soil fertility. Kenya's conservation agriculture restored degraded lands and raised maize yields by up to 50%. Uganda's women-led agroecology cooperatives and South Africa's drought-tolerant maize programs have increased yields,

improved incomes, and strengthened resilience. Senegal's local rice value chains, supported by solar-powered irrigation, have revitalized farmland, increased production, and created rural jobs.

256. He emphasized that, to fully harness Africa's agricultural potential, six strategies are essential. First, investment in rural infrastructure, roads, storage, and cold chains can reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access. Second, expanding access to finance, technology, and training will empower smallholders to adopt high-yield and climate-smart practices. Third, sustainable farming systems including agroecology, crop rotation, intercropping, and expanded irrigation will restore soils, preserve biodiversity, and enhance resilience. Fourth, strengthening food sovereignty and local value addition through agro-processing will reduce import dependency and generate rural employment. Fifth, integrating conflict resolution, land tenure security, and environmental protection measures will safeguard rural livelihoods. Finally, Pan-African collaboration and policy alignment under the AU and regional economic communities will harmonize agricultural strategies, ensure accountability, and promote inclusive development.
257. He concluded by stating that, Africa's agricultural sector can no longer be seen as subsistence-focused; it is the foundation of rural prosperity, food security, and economic growth. By addressing structural barriers, investing in farmers, improving infrastructure, and fostering sustainable and collaborative development, Africa can eliminate its cereal deficit, reduce reliance on imports, and transform agriculture into a modern, resilient, and value-driven sector. The path forward is clear: with unity, strategic action, and inclusive policies, Africa can achieve food security, environmental sustainability, and shared prosperity for its 1.5 billion people. Fostering Unity. Inspiring Action. Building Prosperity.

2.6 Joint Meeting of the Permanent Committees on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution Committees; and Justice and Human Rights

258. The Joint Sitting of the Committee Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources took place on Monday, 29th September, 2025. Two presentations were made during this sitting as follows -

2.6.1 Presentation on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism-EU

259. The Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Sakata, invited Mr. Vicente Hurtado Roa, Head of the Unit for CBAM Energy and Green Taxation at the European Commission's Directorate General for Taxation and Customs

Union took the committee through a presentation on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

260. Mr. Vicente, began by stating that CBAM was a key instrument to support decarbonisation in Africa and the whole world. CBAM focused on five major aspects namely, mirroring EU carbon pricing through new mechanism for imports into the EU, it was addressed to companies not countries based on the actual carbon content of imported goods, aligning with EU policies and legal frameworks e.g. World Trade Organisation's compatibility to commitments, focusing on carbon intensive sectors and taking into account carbon price effectively paid by third country operators.
261. He also highlighted the sectors in scope which included iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizer, electricity, fertilizer and hydrogen which are selected on the basis of three (3) criteria. Firstly, those that have a high risk of carbon leakage (high carbon emissions; high level of trade), secondly, those that cover large share of greenhouse gas emissions of EU ETS sectors and lastly, practical feasibility. Exclusions include those that are under 50 tonnes cumulative annual imports (new) and countries linked with the EU ETS).
262. He also stated that in future, scope may be extended to a limited list of ETS sectors at risk of carbon leakage, provided that such an extension is justified based on selected criteria.
263. On the aspect of the main work-streams for the CBAM implementation, Mr. Vicente informed the committee that the transitional period was from October 2023 - December 2025 that led to CBAM Simplification agreement in June 2025, review and further adjustments and later to be followed by adoption of implementing legislation.
264. He further emphasized that implementation of CBAM was being informed by feedback from third countries and operators, feedback from EU importers and EU National authorities, learning from processing and analyzing data from transitional registry and dedicated studies.
265. With regard to agreed simplifications to the CBAM Regulation, he shared that Simplifications agreed based on proposal part of Omnibus Simplification Package included;
- (i) Introducing a new mass-based de minimis threshold of 50 tons per importer for cumulative annual imports;
 - (ii) Excluding the manufacturing processes of downstream goods (such as fasteners) from the boundaries of the calculation of emissions;

- (iii) Exclusively for 2026, removing the obligation to buy CBAM certificates on a quarterly basis, which will start in February 2027 instead;
 - (iv) Postponing the deadline to submit annual CBAM declarations from 31 May to 30 September, giving more time for operators to undertake the verifications of their emissions;
 - (v) Giving more flexibility in the CBAM certificate management (purchase and sale); and
 - (vi) The Commission may determine default carbon prices to facilitate the claim of a reduction for an effective carbon price paid in a third country (as alternative to evidencing and certifying an actual payment).
266. Further on the aspect of CBAM review & further adjustment proposals, Mr. Vicente stated that a communication on delivering on Clean Industrial Deal including announcement of way forward to address carbon leakage risks of exported CBAM goods was done on 2nd July, 2025.
267. He decried the fact that while CBAM addressed the risk of carbon leakage for the production of CBAM goods for the EU, the risk of carbon leakage for the production of CBAM goods for export markets might increase with the phase-out of free allocation. As a result, the Commission was preparing a comprehensive proposal to be presented by December 2025 to support the production at risk of carbon leakage.
268. All design choices will be made to ensure that the measure does not discriminate and is compatible with WTO rules, equal treatment will be ensured for CBAM goods, whether produced and sold in the EU, produced in the EU and exported, or imported into the EU, the exact scope will be defined before the end of the year, based on the assessment of the risk of carbon leakage, is strictly limited in scope and time, with a built-in review mechanism by 2027, is conditional on tangible efforts by EU industries to decarbonize their production and is proportionate to the phase-out of free allowances under the ETS for CBAM-goods.
269. Mr. Vicente informed the committee that the review report would be concluded by the end of 2025 and it will assess the possibility of scope extension to additional EU ETS sectors at risk of carbon leakage, extending scope for indirect emissions (for Iron & steel, Aluminum and Hydrogen sectors currently not in scope), assess the impact on developing countries, and Least Developed Countries and progress made in international discussions regarding climate action.

270. Lastly, the Legislative proposal to extend CBAM to certain downstream goods and to strengthen its anti-circumvention effectiveness is expected to have concluded by the end of 2025 with the call for evidence having commenced from 01 July and 26 August. The proposal will be based on impact assessment and thereafter formulating a work-plan for secondary legislation. Mr. Vicente responded to concerns raised by members of the committee at the plenary.

2.6.2 Presentation on Mobilizing Africa's Bargaining Power in Critical Minerals Supply Chains-UNDP, OSISA

271. The Presenter gave an overview of the topic by stating that Africa was central to the global energy transition and digital economy due to its vast reserves of critical minerals such as cobalt, lithium, manganese, graphite, platinum group metals, and rare earth elements. These minerals are essential for electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy systems, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing. Despite this strategic advantage, African countries capture minimal value from global supply chains. Most minerals are exported in raw form, with processing, refining, and manufacturing occurring outside the continent. This perpetuates dependency, limits industrialization, and weakens Africa's negotiating position in global markets.

272. The policy brief outlined key constraints to Africa's bargaining power and proposes strategic actions to enhance value capture, strengthen regional coordination, improve governance, and promote sustainable development.

273. He stated that the global shift toward decarbonization and clean energy technologies had intensified demand for critical minerals. Projections indicate exponential growth in demand for Lithium (for batteries), Cobalt (for EVs and electronics), Rare earths (for wind turbines and defense technologies) and Graphite and manganese (battery technologies). Africa holds over 60% of global cobalt reserves (primarily in DRC), significant platinum group metals (South Africa), major manganese reserves (South Africa, Gabon) and emerging lithium production (Zimbabwe, Namibia). However, the continent remains largely confined to the extraction phase of the value chain.

274. The demand for critical minerals is projected to increase dramatically over the coming decades due to decarbonization commitments under the Paris Agreement, rapid expansion of electric vehicle markets, growth in renewable energy installations and intensifying digitalization and artificial intelligence technologies. Major global powers including the United States, China, and the European Union have adopted strategic mineral policies to secure supply chains. China currently dominates refining and processing capacity

for many critical minerals, even where extraction occurs elsewhere. This concentration of processing power underscores a key lesson: control over value addition, not merely extraction, determines bargaining strength. Africa therefore finds itself at the intersection of global competition for resource security. This moment presents both opportunity and risk. Without strategic coordination, African countries may continue competing individually for foreign investment, thereby weakening collective leverage.

275. Several structural challenges undermine Africa's ability to maximize benefits from critical mineral supply chains namely, Limited Value Addition where most African mineral exports remain unprocessed. Refining and battery component manufacturing are largely concentrated in Asia and parts of Europe. This deprives African economies of higher-value activities, skilled employment, and technology transfer, Asymmetric Negotiation Dynamics; multinational corporations possess extensive technical expertise, financial resources, and legal support. In contrast, some African governments face capacity constraints in negotiating complex mineral development agreements, stabilisation clauses, and tax regimes. Further, Policy Fragmentation leads to the absence of harmonized regulatory standards. African states may engage in competitive undercutting offering lower taxes or regulatory concessions to attract foreign investors. This "race to the bottom" diminishes collective bargaining strength. Lastly, Governance and Transparency Gaps like weak oversight mechanisms, corruption risks, and insufficient parliamentary scrutiny can result in suboptimal contracts and revenue leakages. Where communities are excluded from benefit-sharing frameworks, social unrest may further undermine stability. Also, infrastructure and Energy Deficits due to unreliable electricity and water.
276. The intensifying geopolitical competition between major powers over supply chain security creates both risks and opportunities for Africa. Strategic competition increases demand for African minerals, but it also risks reinforcing dependency if partnerships are not structured equitably. Mobilizing bargaining power enables Africa to secure improved fiscal returns and revenue stability, demand technology transfer and skills development, negotiate local content and beneficiation commitments, enhance environmental and social safeguards and position itself as a strategic partner rather than a raw material supplier. The global shift toward ethical sourcing and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards further strengthens Africa's potential leverage. Responsible mining practices can become a competitive advantage if institutional frameworks are strengthened.

277. Africa should use Strategic Pathways for Mobilizing Bargaining Power for instance regional coordination and collective strategy, Industrial Policy and Value Addition, strengthening Negotiation and Technical Capacity, Governance and Transparency Reforms, sustainable and responsible mining, collaboration with development Partners and Civil Society and mitigating risks.
278. He concluded by stating that, Africa’s critical mineral endowment positions the continent at the center of the global energy transition. However, mineral wealth alone does not guarantee development outcomes. Bargaining power is shaped by coordination, capacity, governance, and strategic vision. The current geopolitical moment offers Africa a rare opportunity to redefine its role in global supply chains. By acting collectively, investing in value addition, strengthening institutional frameworks, and promoting sustainable mining practices, Africa can transition from being a passive supplier of raw materials to an active architect of the global green economy. The question is no longer whether Africa possesses leverage—it does. The imperative is whether it will mobilize that leverage strategically and collectively for transformative development.

2.7 Joint Sitting of the Permanent Committees on Justice and Human Rights and Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution

279. The Joint Meetings of the Permanent Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution took place on Wednesday, 1st October, 2025 and the following presentations were made -

2.7.1 Presentation on the AU Business & Human Rights Framework-CHR

280. The African Union (AU) Business and Human Rights Framework represents a continental commitment to ensuring that economic development, investment, and business operations respect human rights across Africa. As extractive industries, infrastructure projects, agribusiness, and digital platforms expand across the continent, concerns about land rights, labor exploitation, environmental degradation, and community displacement have intensified. The AU framework seeks to align economic growth with human rights protection.
281. The framework is grounded in the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and Africa’s Agenda 2063 vision for inclusive and sustainable development. The Core Pillars are State Duty to Protect where Governments must prevent, investigate, and remedy human rights abuses by businesses, Corporate Responsibility to Respect; companies must conduct human rights due

diligence and avoid causing harm and Access to Remedy where victims of corporate human rights violations must have access to judicial and non-judicial remedies.

282. The key objectives were to harmonize business and human rights standards across AU member states, strengthen regulatory frameworks, promote corporate accountability and ensure communities benefit equitably from development. The role of the Commission on Human Rights is to promote implementation at national level, monitor compliance, support capacity building and facilitate dialogue between governments, private sector, and civil society.
283. In conclusion the AU Business and Human Rights Framework is not anti-business; rather, it ensures that Africa's development is rights-based, sustainable, and inclusive. Strong implementation will enhance investor confidence, social stability, and long-term economic growth.

2.7.2 Presentation on the International Litigation Fund OSJI; CHR

284. The International Litigation Fund (ILF), supported by organizations such as the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), is designed to strengthen access to justice for victims of serious human rights violations. Across Africa, many victims of corporate abuse, environmental destruction, corruption, and state violations face barriers to justice, including high legal costs, limited legal expertise, and political interference.
285. The International Litigation Fund seeks to address these challenges by providing financial support for strategic litigation, supporting landmark cases before regional and international courts, strengthening legal representation for marginalized communities and promoting accountability for cross-border corporate misconduct.
286. Strategic Importance of the International Litigation Fund is to support cases that establish legal precedents, reduces financial barriers for victims, encourages governments and corporations to comply with human rights obligations (deterrence effect), strengthen African human rights jurisprudence through cases before African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and International tribunals
287. In conclusion, the International Litigation Fund is a tool for systemic change. By enabling strategic litigation, it strengthens rule of law, reinforces corporate accountability, and empowers victims to seek justice beyond national constraints.

2.7.3 Presentation on the Reparations & Multilateralism- Gov. Ghana (AU Champion); OSF; Amani Africa

288. The issue of reparations has re-emerged as a central pillar of Africa's engagement in global justice and historical accountability. Reparations refer to redress for the harms caused by slavery, colonialism, exploitation, and systemic racial injustice. The Government of Ghana, serving as an AU Champion on Reparations, has positioned Africa at the forefront of advancing reparative justice within multilateral platforms.
289. Reparations in the African Context are not limited to financial compensation. They include, economic redress, institutional reform, Debt justice, Cultural restitution (return of artifacts) and development partnerships based on equity. Reparations require collective diplomatic engagement through the African Union, the United Nations system, Global South alliances and CARICOM and diaspora partnerships. These multilateral platforms provide legitimacy, coordination, and negotiating strength.
290. The role of OSF and Amani Africa include Research and policy advocacy, amplifying African voices in global governance debates, supporting diplomatic engagement and coalition-building and promoting reform of international financial institutions.
291. The Strategic Goals include building continental consensus on reparations framework, linking reparations discourse to development justice, reframing global economic governance to address structural inequalities and strengthening Africa's bargaining power in international negotiations.
292. In conclusion, reparations are not merely about the past—they are about restructuring global systems to correct historical injustices and promote equitable development. Through coordinated multilateral engagement, Africa can transform moral claims into concrete policy outcomes.

2.8 Joint Meetings of the Permanent Committees on Justice and Human Rights and Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution

293. The Joint Meetings of the Permanent Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Cooperation, International Relations and Conflicts Resolution took place on Thursday, 2nd October, 2025 and the following presentation was made –

2.8.1 Presentation on the AU-EU Summit, Luanda Angola and interface with the MEPs- OSF; European Think Tanks Group (ETTG) Coordinator; ECOSOCC; CHR

294. Dr. Benedikt Erforth, the Project Director, Megatrends Africa, in setting pace for his presentation, informed Members that he worked for an organisation called “European Think Tanks Group (ETTG)” which is a network of European independent think tanks working on EU international cooperation for global sustainable development whose membership constituted the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), the Elcano Royal Institute/Real Instituto Elcano, the International Affairs Institute/Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations/Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).
295. He began his presentation by giving a historical background between the AU and EU partnership, institutional setups of the AU and EU, Policy issues that enjoyed salience among the constituents and governments and perspectives and interests. The AU–EU relationship has evolved from donor–recipient to a more strategic partnership, though not without challenges. It continues to be shaped by global trends—geopolitics, climate change, digitalization, and migration and will likely become more important in addressing shared global challenges.
296. He informed the participants of the upcoming event scheduled to take place from 24-25 November 2025 where the leaders of the European Union (EU) member states and the countries of the African Union (AU) will meet in Luanda, Angola for the seventh EU-African Union summit. This multilateral summit will be co-chaired by the President of Angola, João Lourenço, and the President of the European Council, António Costa. The EU will also be represented by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.
297. He further stated that the summit is a commemoration to mark 25 years of EU-AU partnership which was pivotal at a time when Angola holds the rotating African Union presidency. Leaders will focus on strengthening cooperation in key areas such as peace and security, economic integration, trade, multilateralism, green development, digitalisation, migration, mobility and human development.
298. The summit is meant to build on the outcomes of the recent EU-AU Ministerial held in Brussels in May 2025, where ministers reaffirmed their commitment to closer ties between the two continents guided by shared

values, mutual interests, and a joint vision for sustainable growth and stability specifically on matters peace and Security, Economic Integration & Trade, Multilateralism & Global Governance, Green Development/Climate Action, Digitalisation & Innovation Migration & Mobility and Human Development, among others.

299. The presenter posed a challenge on the preparedness of Africa to strategically advance its agenda in the said summit putting into consideration the above stated aspects or agenda and the strained ties experienced in the past relating to Imbalances of power, Conditionalities Migration tensions especially over returns and detention of migrants, Geopolitical shifts – Africa engaging more with China, Russia, Turkey and Internal crises – Coups, conflicts, and instability in parts of Africa which may complicate cooperation among other pertinent issues.
300. The African Union enters this summit with a unified voice, calling for a strategic reset that shifts from a donor-recipient model to a mutually respectful, co-owned partnership based on Africa’s strategic priorities, as articulated in Agenda 2063, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the African Youth Charter, the African Green Stimulus Programme and the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Therefore, the EU, through its Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package (€150 billion), seeks to deepen cooperation in digitalisation, climate, security, and human development. This moment then should present a critical opportunity to align these initiatives with African-led frameworks, ensuring Africa is not merely a recipient of external agendas, but a co-architect of the partnership.
301. In his closing remarks, he asserted that Africa should enter the summit as a strategic actor, not a passive beneficiary and that the AU should stand united to ensure that partnership with Europe supports Africa’s sovereignty, self-determined development, and shared global leadership.

2.9 Joint Meeting of the Permanent Committees on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters; Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability; Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources; Transport, Communication, Energy, Science and Technology; and Rules, Privileges and Discipline

302. The Joint Meeting of the Permanent Committees on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters; Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability; Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources;

Transport, Communication, Energy, Science and Technology; and Rules, Privileges and Discipline was held on Thursday, 2nd October, 2025.

303. The Chairperson invited Ms. Linda Ben & GN Tebo, founders of the Alkebulan Immigrants Impact Awards (AIIA) to make a presentation regarding Alkebulan Immigrants Impact Awards Organization.

2.9.1 Presentation on Immigrants Impact Awards (AIIA) - Harnessing Immigrant Potential in G20 and Immigrant-Receiving Nations

304. In her opening remarks, Ms. Linda informed the Committee that Alkebulan (mother of all kinds) is a non-profit organization based in Johannesburg, Gauteng founded in 2023. Its mission and vision are to celebrate the contributions and achievements of immigrants and refugees in South Africa, to promote social cohesion, inclusion and respect for diversity and to see a South Africa where immigrants/refugees are valued and fully integrated. Growing tension between local community and immigrants informed the establishment of this organization.
305. Ms. Linda further explained that, they observed a growing tension between local populations and immigrant communities in South Africa and across the globe which was often mislabelled and misunderstood and a critical piece of information was missing from the conversation which was public acknowledgement of their contributions/celebrations of their achievements. While governments, including South Africa's, have had programs to attract skilled immigrants, there was lack of concerted effort to showcase their positive contributions to the local public. If you asked an average person to name an immigrant who was making a difference, the answers were often limited. The narrative was not being shaped by the incredible stories of African doctors, engineers, teachers, and entrepreneurs living next door.
306. AIIA's core mandate is to run annual Awards through recognition of immigrants/refugees in different categories such as entrepreneurship, business, community service, arts & culture, leadership and hosting Global Heritage Festival to celebrate cultural diversity, immigrant cultures, traditional music/dance, production of other activities: business roundtables, podcasts. These awards are varied and include Caregiver Social Impact Award for someone making an impact as a caregiver (formal or informal) in households or community settings, Sports, Arts and Culture Awards, Community Service Awards, Entrepreneurship & Business Awards and Leadership Awards. Such events bring together immigrants, locals, stakeholders, diplomats etc. as part of networking, partnerships, awareness raising.

307. Ms. Linda further stated that the organization identifies different immigrants in south Africa and take an account of the positive impacts they contribute to the country. Migration of people to other countries should be acknowledged as the same is inevitable and there has been a gap or lack of concerted effort or initiative to showcase the importance of migrants to the local communities.
308. To actualize this dream, AIIA has been organizing events and upcoming one being I-20 Summit scheduled to take place this year in Johannesburg, South Africa that is expected to bring to together migrants in South Africa. The summit is geared towards creating platforms, look for opportunities for collaboration with like-minded organizations to support activities of the organization, encourage skills transfer, providing a platform for policy makers or governments to create a framework for integration of migrants' continental integration and multi-stakeholder engagements among others.
309. Specifically, the I-20 Summit is meant to strengthen diaspora, break the shackle of hostility towards migrants, create migrant friendly policies to attract them, opportunities for new markets for greater economic stability, enhance gender equity and a platform where migrants are heard.
310. The presenters urged the Pan African Parliament to partner and collaborate with the organization to realize their vision and mission including their involvement participation in panel discussions of the Pan African Parliament.

3.0 RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HELD ON THE SIDELINES OF THE SITTING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)

3.1 Workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance

311. The Workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance was convened by the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) between 27th and 28th September 2025.
312. The high-level session brought together Members of the Pan-African Parliament, policy experts and strategic partners to deliberate on Africa's preparedness to govern Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a rapidly evolving global environment.
313. The workshop was organized within the framework of the African Union (AU) digital transformation agenda and aimed to strengthen parliamentary leadership in shaping coherent, forward-looking AI governance frameworks that balance innovation, economic growth and the protection of fundamental rights.
314. The session built upon continental instruments, including the Lusaka Declaration (2022), Agenda 2063 and the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030), which collectively emphasize technological sovereignty, inclusive development, regional integration and Africa's strategic positioning within the global digital economy.
315. The primary objective of the workshop was to position AI governance as a strategic political priority for African parliaments and to validate the Pan-African Parliamentary Toolkit on AI Governance as a practical instrument to guide legislation, oversight and citizen representation in the AI domain.
316. Speakers at the workshop underscored the central role of national legislatures in shaping responsive legal frameworks, ensuring executive accountability, allocating adequate resources and safeguarding citizens against emerging technological risks, while simultaneously enabling responsible innovation.
317. The deliberations emphasized the importance of harmonized legislative approaches to AI regulation, data protection, cybersecurity and ethical standards across Member States to avoid fragmented regulatory regimes that could hinder continental integration and digital trade.
318. Under the theme "AI for Development and Innovation Ecosystems," the workshop highlighted AI's transformative potential to accelerate industrialization, modernize public services and enhance productivity across key economic sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, logistics and financial services.

319. Speakers noted the importance of leveraging AI to advance sustainable development objectives in line with Agenda 2063, particularly through digital infrastructure expansion, skills development, research and development investment, and the strengthening of innovation ecosystems that support startups and MSMEs.
320. Under the theme “AI, Democracy and Governance,” the workshop examined the growing risks posed by disinformation campaigns, deepfakes, algorithmic manipulation and automated propaganda to electoral integrity, public trust and social cohesion.
321. Speakers emphasized the need for risk-based regulation of high-risk AI systems, transparent procurement standards for public-sector AI tools, strengthened parliamentary oversight committees and enhanced cybersecurity safeguards to protect national institutions and democratic processes.
322. The session further proposed the establishment of a Parliamentary Peer Review Mechanism on e-Governance, to be co-led by PAP and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), aimed at promoting accountability, peer learning and best-practice sharing among national legislatures in digital governance.
323. Under the theme “AI, Rights and Public Interest,” the workshop underscored the necessity of safeguarding human rights, preventing algorithmic discrimination, mitigating bias in automated systems and ensuring that AI deployment does not exacerbate inequalities or marginalize vulnerable communities.
324. Speakers highlighted concrete accountability measures, including the establishment of AI registers within Government institutions, mandatory impact assessments, independent audits, explainability standards and grievance redress mechanisms to strengthen transparency and public trust.
325. The workshop included specialized training modules beginning with an introductory session on AI concepts, machine learning systems, data governance, cybersecurity risks and data sovereignty, emphasizing that data constitutes the foundational resource upon which AI systems operate.
326. In the health and wellbeing session, participants examined AI applications in disease surveillance, epidemic forecasting, diagnostic support systems and telemedicine, while stressing ethical safeguards relating to patient confidentiality, informed consent, equitable access and cross-border data governance.

327. The governance and elections module addressed regulatory frameworks for high-risk AI systems, the implications of biometric technologies and facial recognition systems, the dangers of AI-enabled surveillance and the need to counter synthetic media and misinformation during electoral cycles.
328. The agriculture and food security session highlighted AI-driven climate modelling tools, smart irrigation systems, early warning mechanisms and digital value chain management solutions aimed at enhancing productivity, resilience and smallholder farmers' access to markets.
329. The education and skills module focused on promoting digital literacy, developing reskilling and upskilling pipelines to prepare the workforce for AI-driven economies, and responsibly integrating AI-enabled learning tools in classrooms and higher education institutions to promote inclusion and accessibility.
330. The industry and manufacturing session examined AI applications in predictive maintenance, supply chain optimization, trade facilitation and industrial automation, as well as the establishment of regulatory sandboxes to test innovative technologies within controlled and supervised environments.
331. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) presented comparative perspectives on how other regional and national parliaments are addressing AI governance through legislative reforms, ethics frameworks and oversight mechanisms.
332. The workshop culminated in the formal endorsement of the Pan-African Parliamentary Toolkit on AI Governance and a collective commitment by participating Members to champion its domestication and implementation within their respective national legislatures.
333. PAP Members further agreed to institutionalize an Annual Parliamentary Digital Summit as a standing platform for continuous dialogue, peer exchange, monitoring of progress and coordination of parliamentary responses to emerging digital governance challenges.

3.2 Sixth Meeting of the Association of Clerks and Secretaries-General of African Parliaments (ASGAP)

334. The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Association of Clerks and Secretaries-General of African Parliaments (ASGAP) was convened on 27th September, 2025 at the precincts of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) in Midrand, South Africa.

335. The Meeting brought together Clerks and Secretaries-General of National and Regional Parliaments across the continent to deliberate on strengthening parliamentary cooperation for the effective implementation of African Union (AU) treaties and continental priorities.
336. The Conference was jointly presided over by Mr. Najib El Khadi, Vice Chairperson of ASGAP, and Ms. Lindiwe Khumalo, Clerk of the Pan-African Parliament.
337. In their opening remarks, the presiding officers underscored the central role of parliamentary administrators as custodians of institutional memory and drivers of legislative effectiveness, particularly in advancing ratification and domestication of AU legal instruments within national jurisdictions.
338. The Meeting deliberated on key thematic areas and made the following recommendations:
- a) Legislative Collaboration**
339. Clerks and Secretaries-General reaffirmed the need to accelerate the integration of Agenda 2063 into national legislative and policy frameworks and to expedite the ratification of the Malabo Protocol and other outstanding AU legal instruments.
- b) Information Sharing and Coordination**
340. Clerks and Secretaries-General noted that, while progress had been made in the regular transmission of AU Summit documents to national parliaments, delays existed in the development of a standardized reporting template. It was therefore agreed that the PAP Secretariat fast-tracks finalization of the standardized reporting template.
- c) Capacity-Building Initiatives**
341. Clerks and Secretaries-General noted with appreciation the commencement of staff exchange programmes between national parliaments and PAP, including the deployment of personnel from Kenya to PAP, and encouraged wider participation by Member States.
- d) Media Visibility and Outreach**
342. Parliaments were encouraged to designate media focal point persons to coordinate communication efforts with the PAP Secretariat in order to enhance visibility of continental parliamentary activities.

e) Institutionalisation of ASGAP

343. The Meeting reiterated the need to formalize and register ASGAP within the AU framework and to explore a sustainable subscription-based funding model to support its operations.

f) Strengthening Parliamentary Coordination for AU Treaties and Continental Priorities

344. Clerks and Secretaries-General were encouraged to enhance collaboration with relevant ministries and executive agencies to streamline ratification procedures of AU treaties.
345. The Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) of the African Union was called upon to develop a harmonised ratification roadmap tailored to Member States' constitutional frameworks.
346. The OLC was requested to circulate legal memoranda and explanatory notes to relevant parliamentary committees to facilitate informed consideration of AU legal instruments.
347. The AU Commission, working with PAP, was encouraged to establish a verification portal to provide transparent and updated data on the status of ratifications.
348. Secretariats of National and Regional Parliaments were encouraged to strengthen parliamentary early warning systems in addressing governance, peace and security challenges, particularly in conflict-prone regions such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

g) Institutional Governance and Review of ASGAP Frameworks

349. Clerks and Secretaries-General considered the review of the ASGAP Constitution and Rules of Procedure and resolved that:
- (i) The Constitution and Rules of Procedure be reviewed and aligned with the evolving mandate of the Association.
 - (ii) Institutional governance structures be strengthened to ensure accountability, gender balance and equitable regional representation.
 - (iii) Annual meetings of ASGAP be institutionalized with structured agendas and formal reporting mechanisms.

h) Election of the ASGAP Bureau

350. Clerks and Secretaries-General conducted elections for a new ASGAP Bureau in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.
351. Delegates approved a new team of Bureau members, guided by the principles of regional representation, gender equity, and institutional continuity.
352. The newly elected Bureau was mandated to:
- (i) Spearhead the formalization and legal recognition of ASGAP within the AU framework.
 - (ii) Develop a sustainable financing mechanism for the Association.
 - (iii) Strengthen collaboration between ASGAP, PAP and other continental organs.

i) Africa's Engagement in Global Parliamentary Diplomacy

353. Clerks and Secretaries-General deliberated on Africa's participation in the forthcoming G20 Parliamentary Forum in Cape Town and underscored the importance of coordinated parliamentary diplomacy in advancing Africa's development agenda.
354. Clerks and Secretaries-General were encouraged to support their respective parliamentary delegations through strengthened technical preparation, coordinated messaging and effective follow-up on outcomes.

j) Commitment to Inter-Parliamentary Solidarity and Visibility

355. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of institutional solidarity among African parliamentary secretariats and recommended that:
- (i) National Parliaments consider hosting consultative ASGAP engagements on a rotational basis to enhance ownership and visibility.
 - (ii) Parliaments strengthen legislative diplomacy and peer learning initiatives across regions.
 - (iii) Joint statements and solidarity initiatives be issued on matters of continental significance where appropriate.
356. The Sixth ASGAP Annual Meeting reaffirmed the critical role of Clerks and Secretaries-General as the institutional engine of Africa's legislative effectiveness.

357. The Meeting underscored the urgency of accelerating the ratification and domestication of AU treaties, strengthening institutional frameworks of ASGAP, and enhancing parliamentary capacity and visibility at both continental and global levels.
358. Clerks and Secretaries-General reaffirmed their commitment to advancing inter-parliamentary cooperation and urged PAP and AU leadership to support the operationalization of the Meeting's outcomes.

3.3 Thirteenth Annual Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments

359. The Thirteenth Annual Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments was convened from 28th to 29th September, 2025 at the precincts of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) in Midrand, South Africa.
360. The Conference was held under the theme *“Transforming Parliaments for Citizen-Driven Continental Integration, Sustainable Development, Prosperity and Peace, and Enhancing Africa’s Dynamic Role on the Global Stage.”*
361. The Conference provided a high-level platform for Speakers, Presiding Officers and Heads of Delegations of National and Regional Parliaments to deliberate on strategic continental priorities, including legislative harmonization, democratic governance, sustainable development and Africa’s engagement in global governance.
362. Participants also explored pathways for parliamentary leadership in advancing implementation of AU decisions and in supporting continental peace, security, and economic integration efforts.

3.3.1 Opening Ceremony

363. The Opening Ceremony was presided over by the leadership of the Pan-African Parliament and attended by distinguished Speakers and Presiding Officers from throughout the continent, senior representatives of Regional Parliaments and representatives of AU Member States and institutions.
364. Delegates were welcomed to Midrand and urged to uphold the central role of legislative leadership in Africa’s development trajectory.
365. In the keynote addresses, Speakers reaffirmed the indispensable role of parliaments in strengthening democratic governance, advancing ratification and domestication of AU legal instruments, and ensuring that continental and national priorities are translated into law and policy within their respective jurisdictions.

366. Speakers further highlighted the imperative of placing citizens at the centre of parliamentary action to ensure that legislative processes are responsive to the needs of African peoples, particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

3.3.2 Presentation on the Theme of the Conference

367. A thematic presentation was delivered by resource persons outlining the key dimensions of *“Transforming Parliaments for Citizen-Driven Continental Integration, Sustainable Development, Prosperity and Peace, and Enhancing Africa’s Dynamic Role on the Global Stage.”*
368. The presentations underscored the role of parliaments in enhancing continental integration through accelerated ratification and domestication of AU treaties and policies, strengthening legislative oversight and harmonizing national legislative frameworks with continental commitments.
369. Delegates discussed the critical contribution of parliaments in supporting implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), promoting sustainable development and digital transformation, and harnessing parliamentary diplomacy as a key instrument for peace, conflict prevention, and consensus building.
370. Participants engaged in plenary discussions and shared best practices on effective legislative approaches to current challenges, including trade facilitation, climate resilience, governance reforms and inclusive policy-making.

3.3.3 Closing Ceremony

371. At the closing ceremony, Speakers reaffirmed their collective to transform parliaments into dynamic institutions capable of advancing Africa’s continental integration, sustainable development and global influence.
372. In their concluding remarks, Speakers called for enhanced collaboration between national, regional and continental legislative bodies, stronger oversight mechanisms and sustained engagement with citizens to ensure inclusive, accountable and impactful governance.
373. The conference concluded with a pledge by the Speakers to foster unity of purpose among parliaments, promote legislative innovation and strengthen parliamentary diplomacy as a core instrument for continental and global engagement.

---END---

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY








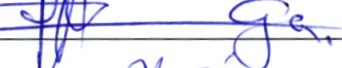
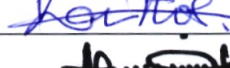
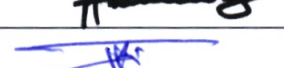





13TH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION (2026)

PUBLIC INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE & EDUCATION

ADOPTION REGISTER

DATE

AGENDA: _____

	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Wanami Wamboka, CBS, MP- Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Mark Muriithi Mwenje, CBS, MP	
3.	Hon. (Dr.) Shadrack Mwiti Ithinji, OGW, MP	
4.	Hon. Moses Kirima Nguchine, MP	
5.	Hon. Wamacukuru Githua Kamau, CBS, MP	
6.	Hon. Alfa Ondieki Miruka, CBS, MP	
7.	Hon. Bonaya Mumina Gollo, MP	
8.	Hon. Chiforomodo Mangale Munga, MP	
9.	Hon. Daniel Karitho Kiili, M.P	
10.	Hon. Francis Sigei Kipyegon, EBS, MP	
11.	Hon. Joseph Tonui Kipkosgei, MP	
12.	Hon. Maurice Kakai, Bisau, MP	
13.	Hon. Rebecca Tonkei Noonaiishi, MP	
14.	Hon. Thuddeus Nzambia Kithua, MP	
15.	Hon. Ong'ondo, Boyd Were, MP	

MINUTES OF THE 10TH SITTING OF THE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE & EDUCATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH, FEBRUARY 2026 COMMITTEE ROOM 26 5TH FLOOR BUNGE TOWER AT 10:00 AM

PRESENT

1. **Hon. Wanami Wamboka, CBS, MP** - **Chairperson**
2. Hon. Alfa Ondieki Miruka, CBS, MP
3. Hon. (Amb.) Sigei Francis Kipyegon, EBS, MP
4. Hon. Moses Kirima Nguchine, MP
5. Hon. Daniel Karitho Kiili, MP
6. Hon. Rebecca Tonkei Noonaiishi, MP
7. Hon. Joseph Tonui Kipkosgei, MP
8. Hon. Chiforomodo Mangale Munga, MP
9. Hon. Thuddeus Nzambia Kithua, MP

APOLOGIES.

1. Hon. Mark Muriithi Mwenje, CBS, MP
2. Hon. (Dr.) Shadrack Mwiti Ithinji, OGW, MP
3. Hon. Bonaya Mumina Gollo, MP
4. Hon. Maurice Kakai Bisau, MP
5. Hon. Wamacukuru Githua Kamau, CBS, MP

IN ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

1. Ms. Ruth Mwhaki - Clerk Assistant I
2. Ms. Winny Awino - Clerk Assistant III
3. Mr. Enock Manwa - Clerk Assistant III
4. Ms. Noel Amutabi - Legal Counsel II
5. Mr. Stephen Otieno - Sergeant at Arms
6. Mr. Derrick Kathurima - Media Relations Officer
7. Mr. Peter Muthethia - Audio Recording Officer
8. Ms. Mary Kamande - Protocol

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

1. Mr. Felix Itonge - Principal Auditor/Liaison Officer

MIN.NO.NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G&E/2026/034: PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:20am followed by a word of prayer from the Chairperson ; thereafter a round of introduction. The agenda was confirmed as listed hereunder on the proposal of Hon. Daniel Kari Kiili, MP and seconded by Hon. Thuddeus Nzambia Kithua, MP.

AGENDA:

1. Prayers;
2. Preliminaries/Introduction
 1. Adoption of the Agenda;
 2. Confirmation of minutes of previous sittings and matters Arising
3. **Consideration of the Committee report on the examination of the reports of the Auditor General on financial statements of state corporation on (Western, Rift Valley Regions, State Corpora and Egerton University Financial Year 2016/2017-2022/2023.)**

4. Any Other Business; and
5. Adjournment.

MIN.NO. NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G& E/2026/035: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting was deferred to the next sitting.

MIN.NO. NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G&E/2026/036: CONSIDERATION OF THE FIFTH REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF STATE CORPORATIONS (WESTERN REGION)

The Committee considered and adopted the fifth Report, having been proposed by the Hon. (Amb.) Sigei Frar Kipyegon, EBS, MP and Seconded by Hon. Rebecca Tonkei Noonaihi, MP

The secretariat took the Committee through a draft report on the examination by the Auditor General for FY 2018/2020/21 for the following agencies from Western Region.

1. Kibabii university
2. Kitale National Polytechnic
3. Musakasa Technical Training Institute
4. Wanga Technical and Vocational College
5. St. Augustine Teachers Training College
6. Alupe University College
7. Bunyala Technical and Vocational College
8. Sirisia Technical and Vocational College
9. Sigalagala National Polytechnic
10. St. Paul's Kibabii Diploma Teachers' Training College
11. Kiminini Technical and Vocational College
12. Chanzeywe Technical and Vocational College
13. Webuye West Technical and Vocational College
14. Ebukanga Technical and Vocational College
15. Sabatia Technical and Vocational College
16. Okame Technical and Vocational College
17. Bungoma North Technical and Vocational College
18. Bungoma National Polytechnic
19. Kisiwa Technical Training Institute
20. Bumbe Technical Training Institute
21. Navakholo Technical and Vocational College
22. Mumias West Technical and Vocational College
23. Matili Technical Training Institute
24. Shamberere Technical Training Institute
25. Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology
26. Bushiangala Technical Training Institute

The Committee made the following recommendations on the report;

In consideration of reports of various state agencies, the Committee encountered cross-cutting and at times, persistent matters that informed the general observations and recommendations. Specific observations and recommendations are, however, made in relation to the respective agency.

1. Understaffing in the TVET institutions

The Committee observed that the majority of institutions in the region are TVETs and are significantly understaffed. Many of the issues in the financial statements stem from the fact that these institutions lack essential personnel in critical departments such as finance. In some cases, the situation is so severe that institutions rely on interns to prepare their financial statements, which is contrary to the **Accountants Act, Cap.531**. This Act establishes the **Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK)** as the regulatory body overseeing the profession. According to ICPAK regulations and guidelines, financial statements, particularly those that are audited, must be signed by a **Certified Public Accountant (CPA)** who is a member in good standing with the Institute.

The Committee recommended Government should allocate adequate resources to enable TVET institutions to recruit and retain qualified personnel. Furthermore, institutions must adhere to the Accountants Act, Cap.531, by hiring Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) to oversee financial reporting. To enhance financial reporting standards, the Ministry of Education and ICPAK should establish capacity-building programs and financial management training for existing staff.

2. Poor accounting standards and the general incapacity of some accounting officers

The Committee observed that, due to a lack of prior exposure to the audit process and subsequent parliamentary review, some accounting officers were either unaware of or failed to comply with various provisions of the **Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, Cap.412A** and the **Public Audit Act, Cap.412B**. Audit queries dating back to **FY 2018/19** remained unaddressed by certain agencies, which only took action after being summoned by the Committee.

To address these issues, the **National Treasury** and the **Office of the Auditor-General** should continue conducting annual sensitization and capacity-building programs for all accounting officers and finance staff in **State Corporations**, to ensure compliance with audit requirements and adherence to **International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)**.

3. Late submission of supporting documentation

Some accounting officers failed to submit supporting documentation to the Auditor-General on time (during the audit cycle) as required under section 68 of the PFM Act. This invariably led to the Committee discussing matters that should ordinarily not feature in the final report, some as mundane as accounts not balancing.

The Committee recommends that Accounting Officers henceforth comply with Section 68(2)(k) of the PFM Act 2012, by providing supporting documentation on time. The

Committee in subsequent audits will prescribe punitive measures to those accounting officers who fail to adhere to the requirements of the law in this regard.

Moreover, the Committee exercised a degree of leniency towards certain institutions by affording them an opportunity to submit supporting documentation that remained in their possession but had not been presented to the Office of the Auditor General, even after the conclusion of the audit cycle. However, these institutions failed to comply with the committee's directive.

4. Unsecured/ untitled land holdings

The Committee noted several instances where land owned by various institutions remained unsecured and lacked proper title documentation. The absence of legal ownership records exposes these institutions to risks, including land disputes, encroachment, and potential loss of property. In some cases, institutions were occupying land without formal titles, making it difficult to undertake development projects.

The Ministry of Lands, and the relevant government agencies, should fast-track the titling and registration of all institutional land holdings to ensure legal ownership and security. Institutions should conduct land audits and maintain an updated asset register of their land to facilitate accountability and protection against encroachment.

The Government should allocate resources for surveying, demarcation, and documentation of institutional land to prevent disputes and legal challenges. Institutions facing land disputes should seek legal intervention promptly and engage with relevant authorities to resolve ownership issues efficiently.

5. Failure to adhere to gender, ethnicity and regional balance

Some institutions had skewed ethnic diversity within their staff complement especially at the senior management level. This was especially manifested in those agencies domiciled in areas predominantly inhabited by a particular ethnic community. These reports highlight concerns about the underrepresentation of certain ethnic groups, unfair employment practices, and potential discrimination in recruitment, promotion, and other employment-related processes. Despite explanations from Accounting Officers that the lack of diversity was prevalent in the lower cadres, the Committee is of the view that with the rife unemployment countrywide, attracting an ethnically diverse pool of applicants for advertised jobs was tenable.

The Committee recommends that all public agencies must comply with the constitutional provision on equity and inclusiveness buttressed by the National Cohesion and Integration Act, Cap, 7N. in two (2) years Further, The National Cohesion and Integration Commission together with the Inspectorate of State Corporations conduct bi-annual examination of ethnic composition in these state-owned enterprises, to confirm incremental address of the matter.

MIN.NO. NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G&E/2026/037: CONSIDERATION OF THE SEVENTH REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF STATE CORPORATION IN NAIROBI REGION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2018/19, 2019/20, & 2020/21.

The Committee considered and adopted the Tenth Report, having been proposed by the Hon. Thuddeus Nzambia Kithua, MP and Seconded by Hon. Joseph Tonui Kipkosgei, MP.

The secretariat took the Committee through a draft report on the examination by the Auditor General for FY 2018/2019-2020/21 for the following agencies Kenya

1. Law Reforms Commission (KLRC)
2. Kenya Copyright Board
3. National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)
4. Business Registration Service
5. Nairobi Centre For International Arbitration (NCIA)
6. Kenya Accreditation Service
7. National Transport and Safety Authority

The Committee made the following recommendations on the Report.

In consideration of reports of various state agencies, the Committee encountered cross-cutting and at times, persistent matters that informed the general observations and recommendations. Specific observations and recommendations are, however, made in relation to the respective agency

1. Understaffing

The Committee observed that most institutions across the country are significantly understaffed. For instance, the Kenya Law Reform Commission has only 65 employees against an approved staff establishment of 240, resulting in a shortfall of 175 personnel. Similarly, the Kenya Copyright Board operates with 45 employees out of an approved 119, leaving a gap of 74 staff members. These staffing deficits severely hinder the institutions' capacity to deliver services effectively.

To address the significant staffing gaps undermining institutional performance, the government should implement a phased and well-coordinated strategy that prioritizes accelerated recruitment for critical roles, establishes medium-term workforce plans aligned with evolving mandates, and provides adequate budgetary allocations to support sustained hiring and retention. This should be complemented by targeted capacity-building initiatives, including training and digital modernization, to enhance operational efficiency, alongside the creation of a clear monitoring framework to track progress and ensure accountability in restoring institutions to optimal staffing levels.

2. Failure to adhere to gender, ethnicity and regional balance

The Committee observed that some institutions exhibited a skewed ethnic diversity within their staff complement, particularly at the senior management level. These reports raise concerns regarding the underrepresentation of certain ethnic groups, potential discriminatory practices in recruitment and promotion, and broader issues related to fairness in employment processes. Notably, the composition of the Kenya Copyright Board reflects gender imbalance, with only one female among its nine members.

The Committee recommends that all public agencies must comply with the constitutional provision on equity and inclusiveness buttressed by the National Cohesion and Integration Act, Cap, 7N. Further, The National Cohesion and Integration Commission together with the Inspectorate of State Corporations conduct bi-annual examination of ethnic composition in

these state-owned enterprises, to confirm incremental address of the matter. The Committee further recommends that institutions take deliberate and proactive measures to include Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in their workforce, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

3. Late Submission of supporting documentation

Some accounting officers failed to submit supporting documentation to the Auditor-General on time (during the audit cycle) as required under section 68 of the PFM Act. This invariably led to the Committee discussing matters that should ordinarily not feature in the final report, some as mundane as accounts not balancing.

The Committee recommends that Accounting Officers henceforth comply with Section 68(2)(k) of the PFM Act 2012, by providing supporting documentation on time. The Committee in subsequent audits will prescribe punitive measures to those accounting officers who fail to adhere to the requirements of the law in this regard.

4. Unsecured/untitled land holdings

The Committee noted several instances where land owned by various institutions remained unsecured and lacked proper title documentation. The absence of legal ownership records exposes these institutions to risks, including land disputes, encroachment, and potential loss of property. In some cases, institutions were occupying land without formal titles, making it difficult to undertake development projects.

The Committee recommends that the Accounting Officers for the affected institutions make deliberate efforts to obtain ownership documents for untitled land holdings in consultation with the relevant Parent Ministry and Ministry of Lands and ensure that the land holding which they have ownership documents are secured.

MIN.NO. NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G&E/2026/038: CONSIDERATION OF THE NINTH REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF STATE CORPORATION ON RIFTVALLEY REGION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 &2023/2024.

The Committee considered and adopted the seventh Report, having been proposed by the Hon. Chiforomodo Mangale Munga, MP and Seconded by Hon. Daniel Karitho Kiili, MP

The secretariat took the Committee through a draft report on the examination by the Auditor General for FY 2018/2019-2020/21 for the following agencies from Rift Valley region

Aldai Technical Training Institute

1. Turbo Technical and Vocational College
2. Baringo National Polytechnic
3. Narok West Technical Training Institute
4. Naivasha Technical and Vocational College
5. University of Eldoret
6. Ol'lessos Technical Training Institute.
7. Kajiado West Technical and Vocational College

8. Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology
9. Eldoret National Polytechnic
10. Bomet University College
11. University of Kabianga
12. Moiben Technical and Vocational College
13. Bureti National Polytechnic Rift Valley Technical Training Institute.

The Committee made the following recommendations on the Report.

In consideration of reports of various state agencies, the Committee encountered cross-cutting and at times, persistent matters that informed the general observations and recommendations. Specific observations and recommendations are, however, made in relation to the respective agency.

1. Understaffing in the TVET institutions

The committee observed that the majority of institutions in the region are TVETs and are significantly understaffed. Many of the issues in the financial statements stem from the fact that these institutions lack essential personnel in critical departments such as finance. In some cases, the situation is so severe that institutions rely on interns to prepare their financial statements, which is contrary to the **Accountants Act, Cap. 531**. This Act establishes the **Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK)** as the regulatory body overseeing the profession. According to ICPAK regulations and guidelines, financial statements, particularly those that are audited, must be signed by a **Certified Public Accountant (CPA)** who is a member in good standing with the Institute.

The government should allocate adequate resources to enable TVET institutions to recruit and retain qualified personnel. Furthermore, institutions must adhere to the Accountants Act, Cap. 531, by hiring Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) to oversee financial reporting. To enhance financial reporting standards, the Ministry of Education and ICPAK should establish capacity-building programs and financial management training for existing staff.

2. Poor accounting standards and the general incapacity of some accounting officers

The Committee observed that, due to a lack of prior exposure to the audit process and subsequent parliamentary review, some accounting officers were either unaware of or failed to comply with various provisions of the **Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, Cap. 412A** and the **Public Audit Act, Cap.412**. Audit queries dating back to **FY 2018/19** remained unaddressed by certain agencies, which only took action after being summoned by the Committee.

To address these issues, the **National Treasury** and the **Office of the Auditor-General** should continue conducting annual sensitization and capacity-building programs for all accounting officers and finance staff in **State Corporations**, to ensure compliance with audit requirements and adherence to **International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)**.

3. Late submission of supporting documentation

- i. Some accounting officers failed to submit supporting documentation to the Auditor-General on time (during the audit cycle) as required under section 68 of the PFM Act. This invariably led to the Committee discussing matters that should ordinarily not feature in the final report, some as mundane as accounts not balancing.

The Committee recommends that Accounting Officers henceforth comply with Section 68(2)(k) of the PFM Act, Cap. 412A by providing supporting documentation on time. The

Committee in subsequent audits will prescribe punitive measures to those accounting officers who fail to adhere to the requirements of the law in this regard.

- ii. Moreover, the Committee exercised a degree of leniency towards certain institutions by affording them an opportunity to submit supporting documentation that remained in their possession but had not been presented to the Office of the Auditor General, even after the conclusion of the audit cycle. However, these institutions failed to comply with the committee's directive.

4. Unsecured/ untitled land holdings

The Committee noted several instances where land owned by various institutions remained unsecured and lacked proper title documentation. The absence of legal ownership records exposes these institutions to risks, including land disputes, encroachment, and potential loss of property. In some cases, institutions were occupying land without formal titles, making it difficult to undertake development projects.

The Ministry of Lands, and the relevant government agencies, should fast-track the titling and registration of all institutional land holdings to ensure legal ownership and security. Institutions should conduct land audits and maintain an updated asset register of their land to facilitate accountability and protection against encroachment.

The government should allocate resources for surveying, demarcation, and documentation of institutional land to prevent disputes and legal challenges. Institutions facing land disputes should seek legal intervention promptly and engage with relevant authorities to resolve ownership issues efficiently.

5. Failure to adhere to gender, ethnicity and regional balance

Some institutions had skewed ethnic diversity within their staff complement especially at the senior management level. This was especially manifested in those agencies domiciled in areas predominantly inhabited by a particular ethnic community. These reports highlight concerns about the underrepresentation of certain ethnic groups, unfair employment practices, and potential discrimination in recruitment, promotion, and other employment-related processes. Despite explanations from Accounting Officers that the lack of diversity was prevalent in the lower cadres, the Committee is of the view that with the rife unemployment countrywide, attracting an ethnically diverse pool of applicants for advertised jobs was tenable.

The Committee recommends that all public agencies must comply with the constitutional provision on equity and inclusiveness buttressed by the National Cohesion and Integration Act, Cap. 7N. Further, The National Cohesion and Integration Commission together with the Inspectorate of State Corporations conduct bi-annual examination of ethnic composition in these state-owned enterprises, to confirm incremental address of the matter.

MIN.NO. NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G&E/2026/039: CONSIDERATION OF THE TENTH REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF EGERTON UNIVERSITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 &2023/2024.

The Committee considered and adopted the ninth Report, having been proposed by the Hon. Joseph Tonui Kipkosgei, MP and Seconded by the Hon. (Amb.) Sigei Francis Kipyegon, EBS, MP.

The secretariat took the Committee through a draft report on the examination by the Auditor General for FY 2018/2019-2020/21 for Egerton University. In its examination of the financial and audit reports of Egerton University covering the six (6) financial years up to and including the 2023/2024 Financial Year, the Committee reviewed a total of ninety-five (95) audit queries raised by the Auditor General. Of these, seventeen (17) had been fully resolved, forty-eight (48) were recurring, and thirty (30) remained unresolved. The Committee did not issue additional recommendations with respect to matters already resolved. For the recurring issues, the Committee reiterates the observations and recommendations made in previous financial years. Regarding the unresolved queries, the Committee has set out detailed observations and recommendations within the relevant sections of this report.

In relation to the cross-cutting and persistent audit concerns identified, the Committee highlights the following six (6) issues on which it makes general observations and recommendations:

a) Going Concern and Financial Deficits

In all the 6 FYs covered, the University has faced persistent going concern challenges and recurring deficits. These trends raise significant doubts about the entity's ability to sustain operations and meet its obligations. The lack of disclosure of material uncertainty related to going concern further compounds the risk, as stakeholders may not have a clear picture of the financial health of the institution.

The Committee recommends that Management should, within 60 days, prepare and submit a formal Going-Concern Recovery Plan that includes specific cost-cutting measures, revenue enhancement strategies, debt restructuring actions, and clear implementation timelines. In addition, Management must consistently disclose any material going concern uncertainties in the notes to the financial statements in compliance with IPSAS 1. To ensure sustainability, the Ministry of Education and National Treasury should jointly conduct a financial sustainability assessment and provide policy guidance to support the University's recovery.

b) Receivables Management

Receivables, including student debtors and imprests, have remained unresolved across multiple FYs. This persistent issue points to weaknesses in debt recovery processes and ineffective cash flow management. Failure to invoice students promptly after registration and inadequate follow-up mechanisms exacerbate the problem, leading to liquidity constraints and increased financial strain.

The Committee recommends that Egerton University Management should implement stringent credit control policies and leveraging technology for automated billing and collection. Moreover, the Council should approve the write-off of irrecoverable student debts.

c) Late Submission of supporting documentation

Some accounting officers failed to submit supporting documentation to the Auditor-General on time (during the audit cycle) as required under section 68 of the PFM Act. This invariably led to the Committee discussing matters that should ordinarily not feature in the final report, some as mundane as accounts not balancing.

The Committee recommends that Accounting Officers henceforth comply with Section 68(2)(k) of the PFM Act 2012, by providing supporting documentation on time. The Committee in subsequent audits will prescribe punitive measures to those accounting officers who fail to adhere to the requirements of the law in this regard.

d) Unremitted Statutory Deductions and Payables

The recurring failure to remit statutory deductions and settle payables, observed in multiple FYs exposes the University to significant compliance risks and potential penalties. Non-remittance of statutory obligations not only attracts legal consequences but also damages the entity's reputation and credibility with regulators and employees. This issue reflects poor financial discipline and inadequate internal controls, necessitating immediate corrective measures to ensure timely compliance and avoid litigation.

The Committee recommends that: -

- (i) The University to develop and implement a phased plan to remit all outstanding statutory deductions to relevant authorities.
- (ii) Ensure all future deductions are remitted promptly and supported by detailed schedules and adhere strictly to Income Tax Act Section 37(1) and other statutory requirements.
- (iii) Hold responsible officers accountable for non-compliance.

e) Stalled Projects

Stalled projects have been a recurring concern from across the 6 FYs, signaling inefficiencies in project planning, execution, and monitoring. These delays not only result in cost overruns but also hinder the achievement of strategic objectives and service delivery. The lack of timely decision-making and inadequate resource allocation appear to be key contributing factors.

The Committee recommends that: -

- (i) Special audit taking stock of their values, completion status and the legality to be done for the stalled projects in three months upon adoption of this report by the House and submit a report to the committee.
- (ii) Management to develop and implement a comprehensive project completion strategy that prioritizes stalled projects based on criticality and available resources. This can be achieved through a formal request of supplementary capital development funding from the National Treasury through the Ministry of Education, accompanied by audit findings and a prioritized project completion plan.
- (iii) Clear with the pending projects before undertaking any new project.

f) Irregular Use of University Land by Undisclosed Private Investors

The Committee notes that the process surrounding the allocation and use of a substantial portion of Egerton University land (2,000 acres) for purposes related to the Presidential Directive on National Food Security was marked by significant procedural, governance, and

compliance shortcomings that disadvantaged the University and exposed it to a risk of losing their land to illegal parties.

The Committee recommends that management immediately regularize the use of the land by obtaining requisite approvals from the National Land Commission and the National Treasury and ensure that any engagement with private entities is formalized through legally binding lease agreements. Otherwise, the Accounting Officer should have full proper and full control of the land pursuant to Regulation 139 of the PFM (NG) Regulations, 2015 by implementing strict access controls and monitoring mechanisms, including CCTV surveillance and periodic audits, to prevent unauthorized occupation. A comprehensive compliance report should be submitted to the Committee within 3 months upon the adoption of this report by the House.

MIN.NO. NA/DAAGPC/PIC-G & E/2026/040: ADJOURNMENT/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 13:25hrs. The next meeting will be on notice.

SIGNED:  DATE: 25TH FEB 2026

Hon. Wanami Wamboka, CBS. MP (CHAIRPERSON)