
AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
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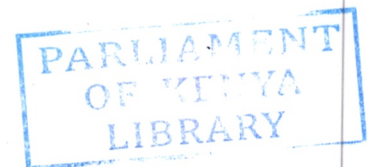
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66th SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
10 and 11 June, 2015

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



ABIDJAN 2015

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66th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 66th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held on 10 and 11 June 2015 in Abidjan (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire), at the National Assembly, under the Chairpersonship of Honourable Rachid Talbi El ALAMI, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairperson of the APU Executive Committee.

Delegates from the following countries took part in the meeting: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and Togo.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Wednesday, 10 June 2015, 10: 30 a.m.

At the opening ceremony of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee, the Chairperson of the APU Executive Committee was flanked at the high table by His Excellency Guillaume Kigbafory SORO, Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, Honourable Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh, member of the Djibouti National Assembly and Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, and Mr. Koffi N'Zi, Secretary-General of the African Parliamentary Union.

The African members of the Diplomatic corps accredited in Côte d'Ivoire attended this official opening ceremony.

During this official ceremony, two statements were made, the first one by the Speaker of Côte d'Ivoire National Assembly and the second by the Speaker of the Morocco House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire delivered the following statement:

*« Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco
Hon. Members of the Executive Committee,
Mr. Secretary General of APU,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is with much joy that I welcome you to the National Assembly for the 66th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union.

At a time when this great parliamentary body is once again expressing the cooperation and solidarity that exists among its members, how can we not express our deep compassion for the Ghanaian people, in the face of the events that have tragically plunged our sister country into mourning, following the explosion that occurred at a petrol station, barely a week ago.

Allow me, before going further, in the spirit of the solidarity that characterizes our Union, to present to the Ghanaian people, and their national representation, our heartfelt condolences.

Chair of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the choice of our country to host this important meeting, which is a celebration of fraternity, the outcome of the cooperation, which is gradually being consolidated among the parliaments of the African continent and the various institutions that we represent.

I therefore wish, on behalf of the Ivorian parliamentarians, and on my own behalf, to wish all delegations here present, a warm welcome to Côte d'Ivoire.

At this juncture, I wish to particularly acknowledge Mr. Rachid Talbi El Alami, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco and Chair of the Executive Committee of APU, and Mr. Asser Kuveri Kapere, Chairman of the National Council of Namibia, whose presence among us further enhances the importance of our meeting here in Abidjan.

To all our invited guests, I wish to say how grateful we are that you always honour us with your fraternal presence, which we consider as a clear testimony of your commitment to our parliamentary institution, which is the African Parliamentary Union.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You surely agree with me that our meeting, today, is being held at a time of immense agitation, where conflicts and acts of terrorism are raging on our continent.

Moreover, the economic performances of our countries are not enough to significantly curb the most serious problems faced by the continent, namely poverty, illiteracy, social inequality and internal conflicts.

These problems have led to insecurity on the continent, to our utter consternation.

The present Session of the Executive Committee, which has brought us together in Abidjan this morning, will select relevant topics to be considered by the 38th Conference of Speakers on national parliamentary assemblies, to be held in Guinea-Bissau.

This is an important phase in our work, as we should be able to capture the major problems facing our people, to help us to take pertinent decisions and adopt relevant laws, indeed, the outcome of the wealth of experience we have through our parliamentary mandates.

Your full attention to the points to be raised at these meetings will help us determine the main outlines of the ills besetting our continent.

It is quite good that these issues have caught the attention of APU at various meetings.

Should that surprise us? For our organization, the issue of sustainable development resembles a fortress whose pillars would be education, health, rational resource management, food security, youth employment, women's empowerment, environmental preservation, good political and economic governance, which are all major challenges to be overcome to achieve progress in our communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The African Parliamentary Union, without any doubt, is working to bring together African parliaments and parliamentarians.

For the regular holding of its sessions, it reaffirms its determination to realize its noble objectives for the establishment of sustainable peace through dialogue as part of inter-African cooperation and a policy of good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and African grouping.

Distinguished guests,

The African Parliamentary Union, which saw its inception at this national assembly in February 1976,

can position itself today as the oldest among parliamentary organizations on our continent, and therefore deserves the support of all the members, who have to provide it with the resources needed for its operations.

I wish to laud the efforts of its current leadership, who have been working relentlessly to consolidate the gains made to help our organization to cope with the challenges of the times.

In the collective work to build the African continent and the African people, the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire would spare no effort to play its rightful role.

All in all, ladies and gentlemen, in the light of the current climate on the continent and the world at large, and in an effort to lay out relevant areas for reflection on the future of our young nations, the present session of the Executive Committee being held in Abidjan could be a decisive step forward for our Union as well a significant contribution for realizing our noble goals.

Ho. Chairperson of the Executive Committee,

Hon. members of the Executive Committee,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I wish to renew to all delegations here present, our fraternal greetings and wish you success in your meetings.

Thank you very much."

Applause.

Following this Statement, **the Chairperson of the Executive Committee** delivered the following statement:

*“Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d’Ivoire,
Hon. Heads of delegations,
Hon. Members of the APU Executive Committee,
Hon. Members of National Parliaments
Mr. Secretary-General of APU
Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome you warmly to the opening ceremony of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union.

Indeed, at the time that we were bringing the meetings of the 65th Session to a close on 30 October 2014 in Rabat, no country had come forward to host the present session. The General Secretariat was therefore tasked with making the necessary contacts to ensure that the 66th session of the Executive Committee would take place around the month of May 2015.

Today, we have been given the opportunity to hold our first session of the year in Abidjan, the headquarters of our Union, in this country that is so dear to our hearts, at the kind invitation of the Ivorian parliament. I therefore would, on behalf of all of you, to warmly thank our Ivorian brothers, the National Assembly, the Government and people of Côte d’Ivoire, who made this event possible.

Allow me to express, on behalf of the members of the Executive Committee, and on my own behalf, my hearty thanks and profound gratitude to His Excellency Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d’Ivoire, the authorities and staff of the National Assembly, for the quality of the conditions of work generously afforded us.

Our thanks and gratitude also go to the authorities of this nation, and the Ivorian people for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded us and for the opportunity given us to appreciate their generous hospitality.

Allow me to acknowledge your presence, which shows your commitment to the parliamentary institutions and to democratic values.

I would also like to thank our friends of the press, who have provided coverage of our meetings, and who, by broadcasting our meetings, are helping to deepen democracy in our countries.

Thank you and congratulations to the members of our General Secretariat for all their efforts, enabling our Union to carry out its annual programme of work with perseverance, efficiency and brotherly solidarity.

Ladies and gentlemen members of the Executive Committee,

It is a real pleasure for me to meet you today, following our fruitful meetings in Rabat. Your presence at APU shows the interest you have in inter-parliamentary relations, and reflects your concern to improve, strengthen and deepen them in your different spheres of activity, in order to make our Union a true instrument of cooperation in Africa.

APU, for all parliamentarians representing national parliaments in Africa, is a forum for consultation and exchange of views on the major challenges, which our continent must overcome to ensure its sustainable development for the well being of our people.

While our continent has made remarkable strides in the past few years in the area of governance and economic growth, there are still many concerns, such as the need to strengthen democratic institutions and good governance, the fight against poverty, endemic diseases, youth unemployment, in particular among young tertiary education graduates, terrorism, migration and the adverse effects of climate change.

As parliamentarians, we are today, compelled to examine these critical issues, and to play our role in seeking solutions to the problems besetting the continent, by making pertinent recommendations leading to the adoption of legislation or economic and social policies which reflect principles of good political and economic governance, and through initiatives which contribute to redefining new rules of solidarity on our continent and at the international level.

This is the role of APU, which, since its inception in 1976, has always contributed to seeking solutions to Africa's problems. It is important for our organization to enhance its role, as a powerhouse of ideas, not only for our people, but also for our governments, which are responsible for driving the development and progress of our communities.

In this respect, I wish to take this opportunity to say that in our work programme for 2015 we plan to hold the second parliamentary conference on migration in Djibouti. Let me recall here that the phenomenon of migration leads to the issue of youth unemployment and growing poverty. This, in fact, calls into question, our governance systems as a whole.

The General Secretariat is actively preparing this important event, together with our partners and the host country. I invite you, therefore, to take all the necessary steps to participate in the discussion on the nagging issue of migration. According to certain sources, clandestine migration has cost the lives of over 6,000 young Africans, who have been drowning in the Mediterranean since 2013, and over 25,000 since 2000.

Yes, in the face of this silent disaster, we must act, and fast. We do hope that our conference, slated for the second half of the year, will gather many parliamentarians from countries of origin, transit and destination countries, and that we will be able to provide holistic solutions to this phenomenon, which has, for far too long, plunged our continent into mourning.

Dear parliamentarians,

As part of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee, we shall be dealing with issues that will place us right at the heart of the life of our organization, where members will be contributing to the development of our organization on the African political and international scene.

In considering the requests for admission and readmission, we deem it necessary to pursue our efforts to broaden the base of our union, by encouraging non-member parliaments to join, with the ultimate goal of having all national parliaments as members.

We shall also consider, during this session, the implementation of decisions and recommendations adopted at previous meetings.

As you know, at the end of the fruitful discussions at the 37th Conference held in Rabat, and quite apart from the statements made on Ebola, the current situation in Burkina Faso, we adopted resolutions on two major issues, namely:

- 1- Combating terrorism in all its forms by building national capacities and promoting international cooperation in this area;
- 2- Achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions, as a major objective for peace, security and social and economic progress in African countries.

These two issues are very important, in the light of the serious threats that terrorism poses world peace and security, on the one hand, and in terms of the efforts made toward sustainable development in our countries, on the other. Besides, the lack of sustainable development in our countries is causing problems such as poverty, epidemics, inequalities and social disparities, internal conflicts and other catastrophes, which are fomenting insecurity in Africa.

We are therefore carrying out useful work by informing people, through the activity report of each national group, activities undertaken at the national level to implement these recommendations. These reports will be used to assess the impact of our solutions and recommendations, as well as deepen our common knowledge about the activities and methods of parliamentary action.

With regard to the “action plan and institutional strengthening of APU”, as adopted in Rabat, we shall consider, at future meetings, the proposed amendments to the fundamental texts of APU, stemming from this plan, and prepared by the General Secretariat, as well as measures taken by various organs for its implementation.

The members of the Executive Committee are also called upon to review the finances of the Union, and adopt the audited management account for 2014, as well as the auditor’s report.

On this score, allow me to recall that 90% of the APU budget is funded by member annual contributions. We must therefore be concerned about the drop in recovery, which stands now at 49.47%, compared to 54.59% in 2013, and 64.29% in 2012.

While we do not deny the fact that our countries are facing financial difficulties, we still must provide our organization with the means to ensure its smooth functioning, if it is to achieve its goals. I therefore call on you to pay serious attention to settling the contributions of your respective parliaments to avoid falling into arrears.

This meeting should also propose the draft agendas for our next meetings, namely the 67th Session of the Executive Committee and the 38th Conference of Speakers of National Parliamentary Assemblies, slated for November in Guinea Bissau. We would then be able to select the topics to be discussed by the Conference, bearing in mind the priorities of our continent.

Also, the Committee of Women Parliamentarians of APU would also be able to identify the theme for their deliberations at the 38th Conference.

I wish to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of everyone, our thanks to the Guinea Bissau Parliament, for agreeing to host our upcoming meetings.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, allow me to raise, as part of our cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the issue of the ongoing campaign to mention the role of parliaments in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which should appear clearly in the statement to be published at the United Nations summit to inaugurate the MDGs in September 2015.

To this end, a proposed text was drafted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in line with the mandate it was given by the 132nd Assembly held in Hanoi from 28 March to 1 April 2015. The proposal is to have a specific paragraph inserted on the role of parliaments, in the last section on monitoring the draft agreement toward the 3rd International conference on development financing, slated for 13-16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa.

In my capacity as Chair of the APU Executive Committee, I wish to urge everyone to take rapid and efficient action with the ambassadors of your respective countries to ensure that the Addis Ababa Conference includes this important paragraph in the final text of the Agreement.

We must take up the opportunity offered by this Summit to project the role played by parliaments and to include in the text to enable the legislative organ to have an efficient control mechanism in terms of development commitments and its requirements. I therefore wish to propose that to the extent possible, we consider this text, which will be distributed to you at this very meeting in Abidjan.

Lastly, I wish to reiterate my thanks to the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, its Speaker and all officers.

I also wish to reiterate my greetings to you all, and wish you success in your deliberations, which undoubtedly, will be the bases for the next phases of our activities and commitments.

Thank you for your presence and kind attention.”

Applause.

Adjournment (11. 00 a.m.)

Resumption (11. 30 a.m.)

The Chairperson announced the resumption of the session and invited the Secretary General to read the draft agenda of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Secretary General submitted the following draft agenda:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Consideration of the audited management account for the 2014 financial year
4. Drafting of the agenda for the 38th Conference
5. Draft agenda of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee.

By examining the draft agenda, the Executive Committee decided, on proposal of the Chairperson, to add an item 7 on " Contribution of the IPU to the Addis Ababa draft agreement ", so that the APU supports the campaign of the Interparliamentary Union in favour of the insertion of a paragraph on the role of parliaments, in the Addis Ababa draft agreement on the Sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The draft agenda was unanimously adopted

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1: Admission(s) and readmission (s)

The General Secretary indicated that after the Rabat sessions, there was no request of admission or readmission in the UPA. However, he indicated that this point is always included in the agenda to remind the efforts to exert at bilateral level or on the occasion of international conferences.

He added that the implementation of the APU action plan would strengthen the diverse actions which are undertaken in view of new memberships.

Item 2: Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference

The Chairperson called on the Secretary-General to read his report on that item.

The Secretary-General read the following report.

**"IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE**

I. SESSIONS OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

1. Outcomes of the meetings of the 65th Session of the Executive Committee and the 37th Conference, Rabat, Morocco, 29 October to 2 November 2014

The General Secretariat transmitted the outcomes of the meetings of the 37th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) to all National Parliaments, members and non-members of the Union, and to all international and inter-parliamentary organizations. As a reminder, this was the resolution on "*African countries build national capacities and promote international cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms*", the resolution on "*Achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions, as a major goal for peace, security and social and economic progress in African countries*", the resolution of the Committee of women parliamentarians on "*Microfinance as a means of fighting poverty and promoting economic empowerment of women in Africa*" as well as the declaration on "*Ebola epidemic*" and the declaration on "*the situation in Burkina Faso*".

The report of the 65th Session of the Executive Committee, the report of proceedings of Rabat meetings and the "Plan of action and institutional strengthening of APU" were also sent to member parliaments.

2. Preparations of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee and 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference

Following the decision of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire to host the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference, and noting that no country had proposed to host the 66th Session of the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat of APU made arrangements with the authorities of the Ivorian parliament so that that session also takes place in Abidjan, the headquarters of our Union.

However, it was decided that the Afro-Arab parliamentary conference will not be held just after the session of the Executive committee, and to organize it at a later date with regard to its importance. We wish to reiterate our thanks to His Excellency Guillaume K. Soro, Speaker of the National Assembly, and the authorities of Cote d'Ivoire, for all the facilities which will be provided to ensure the best conditions for these meetings.

3. Implementation of the APU Plan of action

Further to the adoption by the 37th Conference of the action plan and institutional strengthening of APU, the General Secretariat proceeded to the modification of the Statutes and the Rules of procedure in order to put in conformity the provisions of these texts with the proposals contained in the Plan.

The General Secretariat will communicate to the member Parliaments, according to the statutory deadlines, the proposals of amendments which will be examined during the 67th Session of the Executive committee in Bissau.

II. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. 2nd World Human Rights Forum, Marrakesh, Morocco, 27-30 November 2014

At the invitation of the Presidents of the House of Councilors and the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, APU participated in the 2nd World Human Rights Forum (WHRF) from 27 to 30 November 2014 in Marrakesh). This major worldwide event was a platform for some 7,000 participants to hold discussions and exchange ideas on major topics on human rights. The women's rights, climate, migration and the Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda were some of the issues that caught the attention of participants. As this second edition of the WHRF coincided with the celebration of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, performances, film shows, photo exhibitions and concerts were organized to enable participants to make their voices heard and demand a fair and equitable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On 29 November 2014, on the occasion of the forum, in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Morocco organized a thematic forum on "The interaction of parliaments with United Nations human rights mechanisms". The theme was subdivided into two sub-topics:

Panel 1: "The contributions of parliaments to the United Nations mechanisms on human rights"

Panel 2: "The role of parliaments in implementing the recommendations emanating from United Nations mechanisms on human rights".

The Marrakesh meetings, which were an extension of the regional meeting held in Rabat on 29 and 30 September 2014, were intended to deepen debate on the most appropriate options for promoting the contribution of parliament to work on United Nations mechanisms on human rights, through the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

2. Conference for parliamentarians on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the World Trade Organization, Marrakech, 8-9 April 2015

At the invitation of the President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, APU participated in the African parliamentarians' conference, held 8 and 9 April 2015, in Marrakesh, at the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The aim of the conference was to help parliamentarians to better understand the WTO trade facilitation agreement, so as to facilitate its ratification by member countries. Concluded after decade-long negotiations, this agreement is designed to boost global trade by accelerating the movement, release and clearance of goods. The discussions dealt with:

- "Agreement on trade facilitation: why is it a plus for Africa? Prospects for enterprises and prospects for countries"
- "Trade facilitation agreement: fundamental obligations"
- "Implementation of the trade facilitation agreement: special provisions for member developing countries and less developed countries".

With regard to the expected benefits, the implementation of the trade facilitation agreement could reduce the cost of trade considerably, and thereby boost trade among countries and increase global revenue. Also, studies have shown that it is developing countries, which should record the most gains, because they are currently facing major procedural obstacles. Their trade costs should therefore drop to between 13.2% and 15.5%, while their exports should increase from 13.8% to 22.3%.

A wrap-up session was held on the next steps to be taken.

3. 132nd Assembly of IPU, Hanoi, 28 March to 1 April 2015

At the invitation of the President and Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, APU participated in the 132nd Assembly and side meetings of IPU, held 28 March to 1 April 2015, in Hanoi. The Agenda of the Assembly included the following:

1. General debate on "*The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning words into action*"
2. Cyber warfare - A serious threat to peace and global and security (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

3. Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
4. International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
5. Reports of the Standing Committees
6. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 134th Assembly, and appointment of the Rapporteurs
7. The role of parliaments in combating all terrorist acts perpetrated by organizations such as Daesh and Boko Haram against innocent civilians, in particular women and girls (emergency item)

At the end of the general debate, the parliamentarians from the world over adopted the “Hanoi Declaration”, which provides that despite global advances in technology, health and knowledge, and material wealth, longstanding economic and social disparities are increasing to the detriment of the whole planet, with progress continuing to elude many the world over. This situation, exacerbated by the urgent threat of climate change and growing waves of social unrest, political instability and conflicts within or between countries – is coming to a head. They therefore reaffirmed their vision for people-centred sustainable development based on the realization of all human rights, an end to poverty in all its forms, and eliminate inequalities, thus empowering individuals to exercise their full potential. Achieving this project requires conditions of peace and security in full observance of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

(The text of the declaration is available for delegates).

Items 2, 3, 4 and 7 led to resolutions, which were adopted by the Assembly.

Under item 6, the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security will consider the theme on “**Terrorism: the need to strengthen global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights**”, while the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade will tackle the theme: “**Ensuring enhanced protection for the cultural heritage of humanity threatened with destruction or pillage**”, on the occasion of the 134th Assembly slated for 19 to 23 March 2016 in Lusaka.

On the occasion of its 132nd Assembly, in addition to the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the meeting of women parliamentarians, established in Lome, in 1985, and a field visit on the theme, nutrition and young children, and parallel meetings entitled:

- *Achieving the vision of Beijing: the views of men*
- *Improving the health of women, children and adolescents: consultation on the updated global strategy*
- *Eliminating risks of nuclear war by accident, cyber attack or conflict escalation*

Meeting of the African Group

Also at the 132nd Assembly, the General Secretariat of APU organized a meeting of the African Geopolitical Group on Friday, 27 March 2015, with Honourable Kacou Gnanbo, Member of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, in the Chair.

The African Group heard the report of the its representatives on the Executive Committee of IPU, which dealt mainly with the activity report of the President, the Secretary-General's annual report, changes in presidency and at the secretariat of IPU, the role of parliaments in setting the sustainable development goals, the status of some members, the financial situation of the Union, the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the meeting of women parliamentarians, the implementation of the IPU strategy and general consultation toward the next Global Parliamentary Report.

In considering requests for the inclusion of an emergency item on the agenda of the Assembly, the African Group stated its support to the request of Morocco entitled "*Ensuring enhanced protection for the cultural heritage of humanity threatened with destruction or pillage by terrorist groups in the Middle East and North Africa: The role of IPU and national parliaments*", and said that all terrorism-related issues should be considered together.

The Group also appointed its representatives to occupy vacant positions allocated to it in IPU organs, and on the drafting committee for emergency items.

During the discussions on this item, the Executive Committee members unanimously congratulated and thanked the Ivorian Parliament for its hospitality, as well as for all the efforts exerted so that the 66th Session of the Executive committee takes place in good conditions.

The Executive Committee members took note of the progress realized by Burkina Faso regarding the return to the constitutional order with the preparation of the next presidential and legislative elections planned in October, 2015. They also greeted the peace agreement of May 15th, 2015, stemming from the Algiers process between the Government of Mali and certain armed groups and took note of the commitment of the Malian Parliament to follow up the implementation of this agreement for a global and long-lasting peace in the North of Mali.

The Executive Committee members wondered about the execution of the recommendations adopted by the APU and the actions undertaken by parliaments in the legislative plan, particularly with regard to the fight against terrorism. On this point, they greeted the action carried out by Cameroon which adopted legislative texts in this field.

As regards the Union's financial resources, the Executive Committee members expressed their concern on the reduction of receipts, and consequently appealed to members to honor their commitments vis-à-vis the Union.

In his intervention, **the secretary General** insisted on the importance of the annual reports which Parliaments have to present to the APU by virtue of the Statutes provisions. These reports will allow evaluating the impact, in member countries, of the APU recommendations. Furthermore, he underlined, pursuant to the decisions and the recommendations of the Union, the running preparations of the conference on migrations scheduled to take place in Djibouti and the initiatives to set in view of the admission of new members.

The report submitted by the Secretary General was adopted.

Item 3: Consideration of the audited management account for the 2014 financial year

The Secretary General summarized the following management account:

The Annual Management Account for the financial year 2014 was drawn up in conformity with the provisions of articles 15 and 16 of the Financial Rules of the African Parliamentary Union. It was drawn up on 31 December 2014 and has three parts:

- I. Execution of the Budget of the financial year 2014
- II. Results of the financial year 2014
- III. Annexes

I. EXECUTION OF THE BUDGET OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014

A - RECEIPTS

1. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014

Over the 39 National Groups registered in the table of contributions for the financial year 2014, seventeen (17) of them have paid their contributions:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo.

The contributions settled for the year 2014 amount to **592 318 US dollars, which represents a recovery rate of 49.47%**

The unsettled contributions for 2014 total 604 952 US dollars (see annexe, table 1)

2. CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARREAS

The payments made for these outstanding contributions amount to **260 950 US dollars** and they breakdown as follows:

- ◆ 41 198 US dollars paid by Côte d'Ivoire in settlement of its contributions for 2013;
- ◆ 15 594 US dollars paid by Niger for its 2013 contribution;
- ◆ 43 812 US dollars paid by Rwanda for its 2009, 2010 and 2013 contributions;
- ◆ 94 101 US dollars paid by Chad for all its contributions in arrears previous to 2014;
- ◆ 15 042 US dollars paid by Togo for its 2013 contribution;
- ◆ 51 203 US dollars paid by Zimbabwe for its 2012 (balance) and 2013 contributions in arrears.

3. OTHER RECEIPTS

The APU has collected **25 000 US dollars** as donation from the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

To sum up, the Receipts for the financial year 2014 totalled 812 023 US dollars and are shared as follows:

• Contributions for the financial year 2014.....	592 318 US dollars
• Contributions in arrears.....	260 950 US dollars
• Other receipts.....	25 000 US dollars
Total	878 268 US dollars

B - EXPENSES

The expenses carried out to December 31st, 2014 amounted to **861 312 US dollars**, which equals **64.86 %** of the budget forecast. For the breakdown of the expenses, see Table 2 in annex.

1. Staff Expenses

Budget allocation	580 940 US dollars
Expenses	407 526 US dollars
Credit balance	173 414 US dollars

Considering the stagnation of the annual budget receipts which led to a reduction of the Union's financial means in the last years, the General Secretary pursued its efforts to brake expenses, in particular the staff ones, by using outside collaborations.

2. Travel allowances

Budget allocation	62 000 US dollars
Expenses	34 850 US dollars
Credit balance	27 150 US dollars

Budget allocation for travel allowances was used for the APU participation in interparliamentary and international conferences, as well as for the audit mission.

3. Equipment, Supplies, External Services

Budget allocation.....	158 500 US dollars
Expenses	64 528 US dollars
Credit balance	93 972 US dollars

Considering that the 2013 financial results led to a drop in the Working capital, the General Secretariat, during 2014, was rigorous in the management of expenditures both in this budget item and in others, in order to realize budgetary savings. The credit balance registered in this chapter is the result of efforts exerted at this end, that which certainly contributed to stabilize the Union's financial situation.

4. Transports

Budget allocation.....	64 000 US dollars
Expenses	31 463 US dollars
Credit balance	32 537 US dollars

Budget allocation in this chapter was particularly used for the usual international activities of the Union mentioned in the last annual activity report of the General Secretariat.

5. Meetings and Sessions of the Union

Budget allocation	266 000 US dollars
Expenses	139 603 US dollars
Credit balance	126 397 US dollars

The 64th Session of the Executive Committee of the APU in Luanda (Angola, May 2014), and the 65th Session of the Executive Committee and the 37th Conference of the APU in Rabat (Morocco, 29 October – 2 November 2014) were the statutory meetings held in 2014. The budget allocations were used to cover expenditures supported by the APU as interpreters and translators costs for four languages, transport costs and the secretariat travelling allowances.

6. Other Expenses

Budget allocation	196 500 US dollars
Expenses	183 843 US dollars
Debit balance	12 657 US dollars

The budget allocation in this heading was mainly used to cover financial costs, unforeseen expenses as well as exchange rate losses for expenses made in CFA Francs and when recovering contributions.

III. RESULTS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014

The results of the financial year 2014 are as follows:

Receipts for the Financial Year 2014	878 268 US dollars
Total expenses for the Financial Year 2014	861 312 US dollars

<i>Credit balance</i> ..	<i>16 956 US dollars</i>

The Working Capital at the end of the Financial Year 2014 is as follows:

Working Capital at the start of the financial year 2014.....	642 517 US dollars
Financial Result (positive)	16 956 US dollars
<i>Working Capital at the end of the financial year 2014</i>	<i>659 473 US dollars</i>

IV. ANNEXES

TABLE 1 : SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS 2014

(in US Dollars)

<i>COUNTRIES</i>	<i>CONTRIBUTIONS 2014</i>	<i>SETTLEMENT</i>	<i>AMOUNT DUE ON 12/31/2014</i>
1. Algeria	87 596	87 596	-
2. Angola	27 517	27 517	
3. Benin	15 042	15 042	-
4. Burkina Faso	15 042	15 042	-
5. Burundi	15 042	15 042	-
6. Cameroon	39 349		39 349
7. Central Africa	15 042	-	15 042
8. CHAD	15 042		15 042
9. Congo	17 905	-	17 905
10. Côte d'Ivoire	41 198	41 198	-
11. Djibouti	15 042	15 042	-
12. D.R.Congo	41 383	41 383	-
13. Egypt	87 596		87 596
14. Ethiopia	41 383	41 383	-
15. Gabon	21 695	-	21 695
16. Gambia	15 042	-	15 042
17. Ghana	48 037	48 037	-
18. Guinea-Bissau	15 042	-	15 042
19. Equatorial Guinea	15 042	15 042	-
20. Kenya	40 181	-	40 181
21. Liberia	15 042	-	15 042
22. Libya	82 697	-	82 697
23. Mali	16 889	16 889	
24. Morocco	70 773	70 773	-
25. Mauritania	15 042	-	15 042
26. Namibia	17 906	17 906	-
27. Niger	15 594		15 594
28. Nigeria	87 596	87 596	-
29. Uganda	21 788	21 788	-
30. Rwanda	15 042		15 042
31. Sao Tome & Principe	15 042	-	15 042
32. Senegal	18 553	-	18 553
33. Sierra Leone	15 042	-	15 042
34. Somalia	15 042	-	15 042
35. South Sudan	17 259		17 259
36. Sudan	41 752		41 752
37. Togo	15 042	15 042	-
38. Tunisia	39 072	-	39 072
39. Zimbabwe	32 879		32 879
TOTAL	1 197 270	592 318	604 952

TABLE 2 : BREAKDOWN OF THE EXPENSES IN 2012 (IN US DOLLARS)

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET ALLOCATION	EXPENSES
<u>1. Staff Expenses</u>		
<i>Salaries</i>		
The Secretary General	85 200	85 200
Staff	280 000	196 869
<i>Social Security Contributions</i>		
Health insurance	40 000	36 351
Family allowances	8 800	5 981
Housing allowance	38 000	26 335
School fees	30 000	4 000
Transport allowance	3 900	2 991
Travel expenses	15 000	-
Clothes	1 000	646
Retirement insurance	73 040	49 153
Entertainment expenses	6 000	-
<i>Sub-Total (1)</i>	580 940	407 526
<u>2. Travelling Allowances</u>		
<i>General Secretariat</i>		
Participation in international conferences	30 000	18 350
Preparation of meetings and sessions	10 000	6 500
	10 000	10 000
<i>Audit of accounts</i>		
	12 000	-
<i>Chairmanship of the Executive Committee</i>		
	62 000	34 850
<i>Sub-Total (2)</i>		
<i>Totals</i>		442 376

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET ALLOCATION	EXPENSES
Total carried over		442 376
3. Equipment, Supplies, External Services		
Office supplies	5 000	1 499
Documentation	1 000	453
Printing work	5 000	1 903
Supplies for the printing of Documents	8 000	478
Supplies for conferences	5 000	-
Mail	30 000	22 810
Water- Electricity-Telephone-Fax	24 000	9 192
Insurance on the administrative Building	3 000	1 644
Maintenance		
Equipment	5 000	597
Administrative offices	6 000	1 233
Equipment of administrative offices	28 000	10 045
Service cars		
Purchase	20 000	-
Maintenance and repairs	3 500	1 825
Insurance	4 000	1 580
Fuel	11 000	10 768
Total Equipment, Supplies, External Services Heading	158 500	64 027
Sub-Total (3)		506 403

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET ALLOCATION	EXPENSES
Total carried over		506 403
4. Transport		
General Secretariat		
Participation in international conferences	32 000	23 398
Preparation of meetings	8 000	4 614
Audit of Accounts	9 000	3 451
Chairman of the Executive Committee	15 000	-
Sub-Total (4)	64 000	31 463
5. Meetings and Sessions of the Union		
Interpreters and Translators		
Remunerations	72 000	43 165
Per diem	50 000	29 480
Transport charges	50 000	20 773
Secretariat		
Travelling allowances	50 000	21 570
Transport charges	42 000	24 275
	2 000	340
Gratuities		
Sub-Total (5)	266 000	139 603
7. General Expenses		
Exchange losses	120 000	114 303
Financial costs	1 500	629
Other general expenses	75 000	68 911
Sub-Total (6)	196 500	183 843
TOTAL (1)+(2)+(3)+(4)+(5)+(6)	1 327 940	861 312

TABLE 3 : STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARREARS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS
(on 31 December 2014 – Dollars US)

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	YEARS													Total by Parliament
	99 to 02	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
1. CAMEROON												39349		
2. CHAD													39 349	78 698
3. CONGO													15 042	15 042
4. COTE D'IVOIRE													17 905	85 489
5. DJIBOUTI													15042	82 396
6. GABON														30 084
7. GAMBIA				13420	13002	13429	13704	14137	14633	15042	15042	15042	21 695	21 695
8. GUINEA Bissau	50779	13982	13943	13420	13002	13429	13704	14137	14633	15042	15042	15042	15 042	142 493
9. KENYA									38494		40181	40181	40 181	221 197
10. LIBERIA	39774	13982	13943	13420	13002	13429	13704	14137	14633	15042	15042	15042	15 042	159 037
11. LIBYA			69559	67622	63502	67515	70299	74180	78848	82697	82697	82697	82 697	210 192
12. MAURITANIA									14633	15042	15042	15042	15 042	822 313
13. NIGER													15 594	74 801
14. RWANDA													15 042	15 594
15. SAO TOME & P.											15042	15042	15 042	15 042
16. SENEGAL										18553	18553	18553	18 553	45 126
17. SIERRA LEONE				13420	13002	13429	13704	14137	14633	15042	15042		15 042	74 212
18. SOMALIA			13943	13420	13002	13429	13704	14137	14633	15042	15042	15042	15 042	127 451
19. SOUTH SUDAN													17 259	156 436
20. SUDAN													41 752	17 259
21. TUNISIA													39 072	41 752
22. ZIMBABWE													32 879	39 072
TOTAL	US \$ 2 508 260													32 879

TABLE 3 : RESULT OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014

In US dollars

ASSETS		LIABILITES	
Bank	711 168	Available funds on 01/01/2014	642 517
Cash in hand	12 364	Expenses to pay	2 893
Receiving contributions	77 734	Retirement insurance	138 900
Contributions in arrears		Contributions of National Groups	2 508 260
▪ 2014 unpaid contributions	604 952		
▪ Contributions previous to 2014	1 903 308	Financial result	16 956
TOTAL	3 309 526		3 309 526

**STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
(FINANCIAL YEAR 2014)**

NOM ET PRENOMS	FONCTION
APU staff	
1. N'ZI Koffi	Secretary General
2. CHEROUATI Samir	Administrator
3. EL MITWALLI M. Adel	Translator
4. KOUAME Véronique	Secretary
5. ANDOH Charles Willison	Office employee
6. AHOUISSI Guy Venance	Office employee
7. LASME GNAGNE Emile	Driver
8. ILBOUDO Saybou	Driver
9. ILBOUDO Tinfissi Vincent	Caretaker
10. KAKUY Louba Georges	Caretaker
11. ILBOUDO Yabyoure Paul	Maintenance man
External collaborators	
1. DOS SANTOS Marie José	Translator
2. BAYEBEC Jeanne Christine	Secretary of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY
(as of 31/12/2014)

I. Three flats on sale

II. Photocopiers :

- Canon IR 5020 (2005)

III. Computer equipment :

- 3 laptops computers (2007,2012)
- 4 HP desktop computers HP (2005, 2006,2007) ;
- 1 DELL desktop (2002) ;
- 5 HP printers (2007,2010) ;

IV. Two Canon and HP fax machines (2003, 2010).

V. Conference equipment (flags, table name plates)

VI. Cars:

- One 406 Peugeot car (2001) ;
- One 308 Peugeot car (2009).

VII. Office equipment (8 desks, meeting room, reception desk, waiting room)

The Chairperson called on the Auditors to submit their report.

The Auditors submitted the following report:

1. Under the provisions of article 17 of the Financial Regulations, the Auditors of the African Parliamentary Union examined the Annual Management Account for the 2014 financial year.
2. The audit for 2014 Financial year took place at the APU headquarters in Abidjan. It focused on the examination of the documents and vouchers relating to receipts and expenditures, on the one hand, and on the conformity of the management with the statutory and budgetary provisions, on the other hand.

I. RECEIPTS

3. The total receipts for the financial year 2014 amounted to 878 268 US dollars which equals a rate of 24 % increase compared to the year 2013.

The breakdown of these receipts is as follows:

- 592 318 US dollars representing the contributions for the year 2014, which is a recovery rate of 49.47 % ;
- 260 950 US dollars for the contributions in arrears ;
- 25 000 US dollars for other receipts.

II. EXPENDITURES

4. The total expenses incurred during the financial year 2014 amounted to 861 312 US dollars compared to a budget forecast of 1 327 940 US dollars. Expenses were carried out within the limits of the budget allocations for all the items.

5. For the whole of the headings, it is noted an under-utilization of the budget allocations as it appears in the Management Account. As usual, the General Secretariat executed expenditure by taking into account the level of receipts in order to ensure the Union's activities.

6. We so observed that, thanks to the good financial management and the vigilance of our General Secretariat regarding expenditures, the funding of the APU activities continued by permanently seeing the proper utilization of available limited budget resources.

7. In summary, the volume of expenses was relatively stable compared with 2013. This shows efforts undertaken by the General Secretariat with a view to balance receipts and expenses of the Union as mentioned in the financial results of the year.

III. RESULTS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014

8. The financial year 2014 closed with a positive balance of 16 956 US dollars. This result is due to the improvement in the collection of receipts. More precisely, it is the collection of the contributions in arrears that helped achieve this result. The Working Capital therefore increased, from US\$ 642 517 to US\$ 659 473 at the closure of the 2014 financial year.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

9. The collection rate of the 2014 contributions which is 49.47% has decreased compared to 2013 (54.59%). In other words, the amount of settled contributions has fallen from 653 639 US dollars to 592 318 US dollars. Sixteen Parliaments have paid their contributions for 2014 when the other members made no payments, namely: Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Chad and Tunisia. It is possible that some of these Parliaments make payments after the close of the financial year. However, it is important to indicate that the payment of the contributions remains a statutory obligation which must be honored by Parliaments to allow our organization carry out its activities and reach its goals.
10. Regarding the contributions in arrears previous to 2014, six countries have made payments and the amount recovered stands at 260 950 US dollars. We noted that there were efforts exerted by certain Parliaments worried of normalizing their financial situation towards the Union, as it is the case for Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Togo and Zimbabwe which settled all their contributions in arrears previous to 2014. So, we renew our recommendation consisting in asking the member Parliaments to always proceed to the payment of the annual current contribution to stop increasing the volume of contributions in arrears, and look for a solution in dialogue with the governing bodies of the Union.
11. The volume of contributions in arrears increased 2 216 891 US dollars in 2013 to 2 508 260 US dollars by the end of 2014. With regard to this situation, the Auditors stresses the necessity of funding the annual budget according to the annual table of contributions adopted by the Executive Committee. As for the question of contributions in arrears of which the payment is not insured, we propose that a moratorium of two or three years be granted to the concerned parliaments. The Executive committee would later revise their situation.
12. The Auditors consider that in doing so, the statutory provisions would be preserved, the Union would be able to fund its budget and the concerned countries could proceed to the payment of their annual contributions in due time, on the other hand.
13. The Auditors remind that it is important for each National Group to settle its annual contribution to avoid the risk of accumulating outstanding payments. In so doing, we shall give to the Union the means to implement its annual budget and to carry out its activities according to its objectives.
14. As for the heading « Other Receipts », we noted the constant payment of the contribution of 25 000 US dollars made by the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.
15. As regards Expenditure, the Auditors noted that the management of the Union's resources continues to be rigorous with receipts which represent 66.13 % of the budget

estimates. This rigor in the budget management allowed improving the financial situation of the Union.

16. We furthermore observed that the foreign-exchange losses resulting from the collection of contributions and from foreign-exchange transactions in CFA francs, represented important charges in the implementation of the budget. These charges should be reduced with the adoption of the Euro as currency of APU Budget.

17. At the closure of the year 2014 , the financial results showed a positive balance of US\$ 16 956 allocated to the Working capital. In this regard, the Parliaments should honour their commitments in order to preserve the Union's financial stability.

18. In conclusion, the Auditors of the African Parliamentary Union noted that the operations of receipts and expenditure for the year 2014 have been properly reported in the Annual Management Account and were carried out in conformity with the statutory and budgetary provisions.

19. Considering that the financial results appearing in the Annual Management Account for the year 2014 reflect correctly the real financial situation of the APU, the Auditors request final discharge for the Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union for the management of the financial year 2014.

The Auditors



Ali Osman TURKEY



Bouzid BEDAIDA

Abidjan, 28 April 2015

Following the presentation of the management account for the 2014 financial year by the Secretary General, and after hearing the report on the audited accounts, the members of the Executive Committee expressed their satisfaction for the good quality of the financial documents presented for the sound management of the finances of the Union,

The Executive Committee members observed that the payment of contributions was still a source of concern for APU, given the decline in the recovery rate of contributions. He therefore made an urgent appeal to member parliaments to pay up their contributions.

The furthermore commended Cameroon for the payment it made following the closing of the management accounts. They also commended the arrangements made by some parliaments to totally or partially pay up their arrears, and the commitments made by Gabon and Guinea Bissau to pay their contributions.

On the issue of contributions in arrears, the Executive Committee members preferred to approach the concerned instead to recourse to sanctions provided in the statutes. They, therefore, adopted the proposals contained in the auditors' report.

Finally, the Executive committee members congratulated the General secretariat and encourage it to continue its efforts so that the APU realize its goals despite financial difficulties, while requesting Parliaments to honor their commitments vis-à-vis their organization.

After these remarks, the Executive Committee adopted the audited management account for the 2014 financial year, as well as the report of the audited accounts.

The Executive Committee finally gives discharge to the APU Secretary General for the 2014 financial management.

Item 4: Elaboration of the draft agenda for the 38th Conference

The Secretary General submitted the following draft agenda:

1. Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee
2. Secretary-General's activity report
3. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
4. Proposals to amend the statutes and rules of procedure
5. *Promoting democracy and the rule of law to ensure peace and development in African countries* (Commission I)
6. *African countries face the negative effects of climate change: measures to be taken and role of African parliaments* (Commission II)
7. Date and venue of the 39th Conference.

The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda for the 38th Conference.

Item 5: Draft agenda of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary General submitted the following draft agenda:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Consideration of the proposed amendments to the statutes and rules of procedure
4. Consideration and adoption of the annual programme of work for 2016
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for the 2016 financial year
6. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 38th Conference
7. Draft agenda of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee
8. Date and venue of the 68 Session of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda for the 67th Session of the Executive Committee.

Item 6: Date and venue of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary General reminded that that session would take place in Bissau, Guinea Bissau toward the month of November 2015. The exact date will be set by mutual agreement between the Parliament of Guinea Bissau and the General Secretariat of APU.

Item 7: Contribution of IPU to the Addis Ababa Memorandum of Understanding

The Chairperson proposed that APU supports the inclusion of a paragraph, initiated by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Addis Ababa memorandum of understanding on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after 2015.

The text was communicated by the parliamentarians so that, on the one hand, actions could be taken among governments, and on the other, that the role of parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs, is considered favourably in interactions among the Speakers of parliaments and Ambassadors and ministers of their respective countries.

After the examination of all the items on the agenda, the Chairperson of the Executive committee thanked once again, the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, the Secretary General and his collaborators as well as all the staff involved in the organization of this session of the Executive committee.

Adjournment of the sitting (02:15 p.m.)

*Resumption of the sitting
Thursday 11 June, 20105 (11:15 a.m.)*

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 66th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Chairperson asked the members of the Executive Committee to nominate the Rapporteurs for the Committees I and II in conformity with the provisions of article 10 of the Statutes.

The Executive Committee designated Honourable Aminata Diallo (**Senegal**) as Rapporteur of Committee I, and Honourable Mohamed Yousif Abdalla (**Sudan**) as Rapporteur of Committee II.

The Executive Committee finally took note of the following theme which will be considered by the meeting of the Committee of women parliamentarians on the occasion of the 38th APU Conference: "***Parliamentary action to fight efficiently violence against women on children***".

The Chairperson called on the Rapporteur of the Executive Committee to submit the Report of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee.

The Report of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee was unanimously adopted after some remarks. (See annex I)

CLOSING SESSION

At the end of the proceedings of this 66th Session of the Executive committee, the Chairperson expressed his thanks to Honorable Guillaume Kigbafori SORO, Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as to the authorities of the country, for all the facilities granted to the MPs and for the perfect organization of the session.

He declared closed the 66th Session of the Executive committee.

Applause

End of the session (1:00 p.m.)

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

Report of the 66th Session of the Executive Committee

The 66th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union was held on 10 and 11 June 2015 in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, at the National Assembly, with Honourable Rahchid Talbi El Alami, Speaker of the of House of Representatives of Morocco, Chairman of the Executive Committee of APU in the chair.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee was flanked by Honourable Kigbafori Guillaume Soro, Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, Honourable Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh, Member of the National Assembly of Djibouti, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee and Mr. Koffi N'Zi, Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union.

The delegates of the parliaments of the following countries also participated in the meeting: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo.

Mr. Nourredine Bouchkouj, Secretary-General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union attended the meeting as an observer.

I – OPENING SESSION

Two statements were read at the opening session – the first by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire and the second by Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Taking the floor, **Honourable SORO Kigbafori Guillaume, Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire** expressed his joy at hosting, at the National Assembly, the delegates attending the 66th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary, a meeting to celebrate brotherliness, the outcome of cooperation, which is gradually consolidating among parliamentarians of the African continent and among their institutions, and welcomed them warmly.

In line with the solidarity which characterizes APU, he used the occasion to send express his condolences to the people of Ghana and to its national Representation, following the explosion that occurred at a filling station, which tragically plunged the country into mourning, just a week ago.

He then expressed his thanks to all the delegates, whose fraternal presence was a clear sign of their commitment to the parliamentary institution, and to APU, in particular. II

He said that the meeting was being held against a backdrop of unrests, conflicts, and terrorist acts on the continent. Indeed, the economic performances achieved in many African countries, were still not enough to significantly reduce major issues such as poverty, illiteracy, social inequalities and internal conflicts, which have been causing insecurity on the continent.

The 66th Session of the Executive Committee, which he should be selecting relevant topics, to be considered by the 38th Conference of Speakers of national parliamentary assemblies, was an important stage of our meetings, as it would deal with deep issues affecting our people, and help in decision-making by adopting pertinent legislation, stemming from the mutual enrichment of our parliamentary mandates.

He welcomed the fact that those issues had been at the heart of the concerns of APU, at various conferences. He said that the issue of sustainable development, for APU, was just like building a fortress whose pillars would be education, health, rational resource management, women's empowerment, environmental preservation, good political and economic governance, which were all major challenges to be overcome to achieve progress in our communities.

He recalled that the African Parliamentary Union had been working to bring together parliaments and African parliamentarians, by regularly holding meetings. That reaffirmed its determination to achieve noble goals for the establishment of lasting peace, through dialogue, as part of inter-African cooperation and a policy of good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and forging of strong links among Africans.

Mr. SORO added that the African Parliamentary Union, which saw its inception at the National Assembly in February 1976, could position itself today as the oldest among parliamentary organizations on our continent, and therefore deserved the support of all the members, by providing it with the resources needed for its operations.

He therefore lauded the efforts of its current leadership, who had been working relentlessly to consolidate the gains made to help our organization to cope with the challenges of the times, and reaffirmed that in the collective work to build the African continent and the African people, the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire would spare no effort to play its rightful role.

All in all, in the light of the current climate on the continent and the world at large, and in an effort to lay out relevant areas for reflection on the future of our young nations, the present session of the Executive Committee being held in Abidjan could be a decision step forward in for our Union as well a significant contribution for realizing our noble goals.

Lastly, he reiterated to all the delegations present, his fraternal greetings and wished them a successful 66th Session of the Executive Committee of APU.

In his message, **Honourable Rachid Talbi El Alami, Chairman of the Executive Committee**, first, expressed, on behalf of all the delegates, his thanks to the authorities and the people of Cote d'Ivoire for their warm welcome at the 66th session of the Executive Committee, which was being held in Abidjan, the headquarters of the Union.

He also, on behalf of the members of the Executive Committee, expressed his sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the Chairman of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, and the entire Ivorian parliament for organizing such a good session.

To the delegates, the Chairman said that their presence was a sign of their keen interest in the relations between parliamentarians and their concern to strengthen these relations to make APU a true instrument of parliamentary cooperation in Africa.

In that regard, he said that the African Parliamentary Union was a forum for exchanging views on the major challenges that our continent was facing in its development and the well being of its people.

While our continent had made remarkable strides in the past few years, in terms of governance and economic growth, many issues required our attention. Among them were the strengthening of democratic institutions, good governance, combatting poverty, endemic diseases, unemployment, in particular among the youth, terrorism, migration and the negative effects of climate change.

By the recommendations made in UPA, the parliamentarians were contributing to the search for solutions to the continent's problems and the adoption of economic and social policies, with their underlying principles of good political and economic governance.

That was why APU should enhance its role as a force to reckon with, not only for our people, but also for our governments, which were responsible for driving development and progress in our communities.

Raising the issue of migration, which would be the subject of the parliamentary conference to be held in Djibouti, the Chairman said that the phenomenon raised the issue of youth unemployment and growing poverty, and ultimately our global governance systems. With the growing loss of lives, it was urgent to make proposals at the conference slated for 2015.

The Chairman recalled the importance of the issues addressed at the 37th conference held in Rabat, especially terrorism and sustainable development issues. Indeed, the lack of development was the source of several problems such as poverty, disease, social inequalities, internal conflicts and other scourges, which fomented insecurity in Africa.

With regard to the "Plan of action and institutional reform of UPA", the Chairman said that the future sessions would consider the proposed amendments to the fundamental texts of APU, stemming from the plan and prepared by the General Secretariat, as well as measures taken by the various organs to implement it.

Tackling financial issues to be discussed at the session, the Chairman, observing the decline in the recovery of 2014 contributions, underlined the need to provide the Union with the

means needed to function and carry out its goals. He therefore called on the members of the Executive Committee to accord the greatest attention to paying their contributions by their respective parliaments and avoiding accumulating arrears.

Raising the issue of the cooperation of APU with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Chairman said that efforts were ongoing toward a mention of the role of parliaments in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); a role which should appear clearly in the Statement to be published at the United Nations summit to be held in September 2015 on the MDGs.

To that end, he asked the members of APU to support the proposed text formulated by IPU, to insert it in the draft agreement to be signed at the end of the 3rd international conference on development financing, slated for 13-16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa. He thus encouraged the parliamentarians to make contacts, as soon as possible, with ambassadors and the leaders of their respective countries to ensure that the final agreement of Addis Ababa, expected for late June and the declaration of the United Nations Summit mentioned the role of parliaments.

Lastly, the Chairman thanked parliamentarians once again for their presence and the authorities of the parliament and the Ivorian people for all the facilities accorded them.

Wishing them a successful meeting, he declared the 66th Session of the Executive Committee of APU open.

The meeting was suspended. The meeting resumed with the adoption and consideration of the agenda.

II – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman of the Executive Committee invited the Secretary General to read the items on the agenda.

The Secretary-General presented the agenda as follows:

1. Admission (s) and readmission(s).
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference.
3. Consideration of the audited management accounts for the 2014 financial year.
4. Preparation of the draft agenda of the 38th Conference.
5. Draft agenda of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee.
6. Date and venue of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee.

In the examination of this draft agenda, the Executive Committee, on the proposal of its Chairperson, decided to add an item 7 “*Contribution of IPU to the 'Addis Ababa memorandum of understanding'*” in order to consider the support of APU to the campaign initiated by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for the inclusion of a paragraph on the role of Parliaments , in the Addis Ababa memorandum of agreement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The draft agenda was adopted unanimously.

III – CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA ITEMS

A – Admission (s) and readmission (s)

On this item, the Secretary General said that he had not received any requests for admission or readmission. However, the item was still included on the agenda to remind members of the efforts that had to be made bilaterally or at international conferences.

The implementation of the plan of action of APU strengthened the various actions undertaken to attract new members.

B – Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference

Following the presentation by the Secretary-General of the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference, the members of the Executive Committee unanimously congratulated the Ivorian Parliament for their hospitality, and all the efforts made to ensure that the 66th Session of the Executive Committee is held under good conditions.

The Executive Committee noted the progress made by Burkina Faso to return to constitutional rule with the preparation of the next presidential and legislative elections slated for October 2015. It also commended the peace agreement of 15 May 2015 between the Government of Mali and certain armed groups, and took note of the commitment of the Malian Parliament to follow up the implementation of that agreement for a comprehensive and sustainable peace in north Mali.

The members of the Executive Committee questioned the implementation of the recommendations adopted by APU and the legislative actions undertaken by parliaments to combat terrorism. On that score, the welcomed the action carried out by Cameroon to adopt the legislative texts in that area.

With regard to the financial resources of the Union, the members of the Executive Committee expressed their concern about the decline in the income of the Union, and called on members to pay up their contributions.

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of activity reports that the parliaments had to report to APU, per the provisions of the statutes, in order to measure the impact in member countries, of the recommendations made by APU. He also said that preparations were underway for the conference on migration, to be held in Djibouti, and that there were initiatives to be taken for the admission of new members.

The committee then adopted the report submitted by the Secretary-General.

C – Consideration of the audited account for the 2014 financial year

Following the presentation of the management account for the 2014 financial year by the Secretary General, and after hearing the report on the audited accounts, the members of the Executive Committee expressed their satisfaction for the good quality of the financial documents presented for the sound management of the finances of the Union,

The delegates observed that the payment of contributions was still a source of concern for APU, given the decline in the recovery rate of contributions. He therefore made an urgent appeal to member parliaments to pay up their contributions.

The members of the Executive Committee commended Cameroon for the payment it made following the closing of the management accounts. They also commended the arrangements made by some parliaments to totally or partially pay up their arrears, and the commitments made by Gabon and Guinea Bissau to pay their contributions.

Although the Statutes of the Union provided for sanctions to be taken, the Executive Committee preferred to approach the countries in arrears to pay up their contributions. It adopted the proposals contained in the auditors' report.

Lastly, the Executive Committee, following this observation, adopted the audited management account for the 2014 financial year, as well as the report of the audited accounts.

D – Draft agenda for the 38th Conference

The Secretary General presented the draft agenda as follows:

1. Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee
2. Secretary-General's activity report
3. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
4. Proposals to amend the statutes and rules of procedure
5. *Promoting democracy and the rule of law to ensure peace and development in African countries* (Commission I)
6. *African countries face the negative effects of climate change: measures to be taken and role of African parliaments* (Commission II)
7. Date and venue of the 39th Conference.

After the adoption of this draft agenda, the Executive Committee, in conformity with the provisions of article 10 of the statutes, designated Hon. Aminata Diallo (**Senegal**) as Rapporteur of Committee I, and Hon. Mohamed Yousif Abdalla (**Sudan**) as Rapporteur of Committee II.

The Executive Committee finally took note of the following theme which will be considered by the meeting of the Committee of women parliamentarians on the occasion of the 38th APU Conference: "**Parliamentary action to fight efficiently violence against women on children**".

E – Draft agenda for the 67th Session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary General presented the draft agenda of the 67th session of the Executive Committee as follows:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Consideration of the proposed amendments to the statutes and rules of procedure
4. Consideration and adoption of the annual programme of work for 2016
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for the 2016 financial year
6. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 38th Conference
7. Draft agenda of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee
8. Date and venue of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee of APU.

The Executive Committee took note of the theme to be considered by the meeting of women parliamentarians at the 38th Conference of APU.

F – Date and venue of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee

As mentioned in his report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations, the Secretary General reminded the meeting that that session would take place in Bissau, Guinea Bissau toward the month of November 2015. The exact date will be set by mutual agreement between the Parliament of Guinea Bissau and the General Secretariat of APU.

G. Contribution of IPU to the Addis Ababa Memorandum of Understanding

The Executive Committee decided to support APU in inserting a paragraph, initiated by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the memorandum of understanding of Addis Ababa on the MDGs.

The text was communicated by the parliamentarians so that, on the one hand, actions could be taken among governments, and on the other, that the role of parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs, is considered favourably in interactions among the Speakers of parliaments and Ambassadors and Ministers of their respective countries.

LIST OF DELEGATES

ALGERIA

Mr Kikane Djamel	Vice-President of the Senate
Mr Boulahia Brahim	Chairman of the Foreign affairs committee
Mr Bedaida Bouzid	Senator
Mr Boukeroucha Abdelkader	Deputy
Mr Mameri Abdelkader	Head of Studies
Mrs Abdellaoui Fatima	Principal Asistant

BURKINA FASO

Hon. Koné Ibrahima	2 nd Vice-President of National Council of Transition
Hon. Ouattara Hervé	Deputy
Hon. Ouedraogo Claude	Deputy
Hon. Ouedraogog Pascal	Deputy
Hon. Sawadogo Casimir Wendwaoga René	Deputy
Hon. Traoré Nampé Adama Kaled	Deputy
M. Yamba Félix Soudre	Administrator
Mrs Delwende Tene Pascaline Yaogo	Administrator

CAMEROON

National Assembly

Hon. Baoro Théophile	Deputy Speaker of gthe National Assembly, head of delegation
Hon. Tomaino Ndom Ntoya	Secretary of the Bureau, N.A.
Hon. Okia Mukete Godwill	Deputy Secretary general, N.A.

Senate

Hon. Tchatchouang Paul	Vice-President of the Senate
Hon. Baba Hamadou	Senator
Hon. Nnanga Ndoum	Senator
Hon. Din Bell	Senator
Hon. Jean-Marie Mama	Senator

CHAD

Hon. Sego Etsé Franck	Deputy
Hon. Mme Amedjogbe Akossiwa	Deputy
Hon. Dobou Kwadjo Sedem	Deputy
Hon. Kampatibe Nagbandja	Deputy

COTE D'IVOIRE

Mr Brou Koffi René	Deputy
Mrs Bregnon Pauline	Deputy
Mr Deby Yao Benjamin	Deputy
Mr Gnezere Ignace	Deputy
Mr N'Guessan Kouao N. Yves	Administrative Secretary

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Hon. LUKIANA MUFWANKOLO Marie-Ange	Deputy, Head of delegation
Hon. ALONGA LIKILI Toussaint	Deputy
Mr EYALA MBWAKAMA	Chief of cabinet of the 2 nd Vice President
Mr TUPA KAMANGO Benoît Patrice	Adviser
Mr TSHIALA MAYEMBE Célestin	Adviser, APU Administrative secretary
Mrs MBWITI Florence	Assistant

DJIBOUTI

Mr Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh	Deputy
Mr Mahdi Moumin Hadi	Deputy
Mr Abdoukader Mohamed Moussa	Deputy
Mrs Fatouma Mohamed Kamil	Deputy

ETHIOPIA

Hon. Atsbeha Aregawi	State Minister, Head of delegation
Hon. Ali Osman	MP
Hon. Tinfu Muche	MP

GABON

Hon. Léonard Adjembe	Vice-President of the Senate, Head of delegation
Hon. Nze Dekale	Senator
Hon. Leckat Christiane	Senator
Hon. Ndjila Marguerite	Senator
Mr Jean Otsagambari	Civil servant

GHANA

(delegation of 03 MPs)

GUINEA BISSAU

Mrs Dan lala Barancao	Deputy
Mr Lassana Fati	Deputy
Mr Higinio Cardoso	Deputy
Mr Pedro Rosa Co	Deputy

MALI

Hon. Abdoulaye FOFANA	7th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, head of delegation
Hon. Doumbia Rokia TRAORE	Deputy, 4th Parliamentary Secretary
Hon. Cheick Tahara NIMAGA	Deputy, 5th Parliamentary Secretary
Hon. Sory Ibrahima KOURIBA	Deputy, 7th Parliamentary Secretary
Hon. Amadou DIEPKILE	Deputy, 10th Parliamentary Secretary

MOROCCO

Mr Rachid Talbi EL ALAMI	Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the APU Executive Committee, Head of delegation
Mrs AMINA MAELAININE	Deputy,
Mr AHMED CHAQRI	Director, Cabinet of the Speaker
Mr KHALID ADNOUN	1st Adviser of the Speaker
Mr LEBBAR ABDESSLAM	Senator, member of the House of Councillors

NAMIBIA

Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere	Speaker of the National Council, Head of delegation
Hon. Hilma Nicanor	Deputy Minister
Hon. Leornard Shimutwiken	Member of Parliament
Ms. Taimi Itembu	Personal Assistant
Mr. Filip Abraham	Protocol Officer

NIGER

Mrs Adiza Dadi
Mr Boubakar Alkaly Amadou
Mr Gageré Elhadji
Mrs Bello Salamatou

RWANDA

Hon. Nkusi Laurent	Senator
Hon. Uwayisenga Yvonne	Deputy
Hon. Mukazibera Agnès	Deputy

SENEGAL

Mr Diouf Alioune Badara	Deputy
Mrs Diallo Aminata	Deputy
Mr Badji Mamadou	Deputy
Mr Ndiaye Mamadou Moustapha	Deputy
Mrs Mane Mariama	Deputy

SOUDAN

Hon. Mohamed Yousif Abdallah Mohamed	Chairperson of Foreign affairs committee
Hon. Wafa Makki Ahmed Ali	MP
Mr Siddig Mansour	

TOGO

Hon. Ndoubabe Tomel

Member of the Executive Committee

Hon. Souleyman Abbas

Member of the Executive Committee

Hon. Djekornonde Tapambaye

Member of the Executive Committee

ARAB INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (Observer)

Mr BOUCHKOUJ Nouredine

Secretary General