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A P U**

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*By the member
of majority
party, for
Aden Duale
on Tuesday*

**69th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
39th CONFERENCE**

*Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
5 - 9 November 2016*

28.2.17



REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



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ABIDJAN 2016

Tuesday, 28th February, 2017

The House met at 2.30 p.m

PAPERS LAID

Hon. A.B. Duale: Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table of the House today:

- ✓ The National Treasury Report to Parliament on all new Loans Contracted by the Government as at the end of January, 2017 – pursuant to Section 31(1) and (3) of the Public Finance and Management Act.
- ✗ The Public Finance Management (African Union and other International Organizations Subscriptions Fund) Regulations, 2017 and the Explanatory Memorandum.
- ✓ The Report of the Proceedings of the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and the 39th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) held in Rabat, Morocco, from 5th to 9th November 2016.

Hon. Nooru: Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House:
The Report of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Co-operatives on its consideration of the Livestock and Livestock Products Development and Marketing Bill, 2016.

Hon. Abongotum: Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table of the House today:

Reports of the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security on its consideration of the following Bills:

- (i) The Refugees Bill, 2016
- (ii) The Office of the County Printer Bill (Senate Bill No.42 of 2014).

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69TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



The 69th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held in Rabat, at the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco on 5 and 6 november 2016, under the presidency of Honourable Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe, vice - Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Delegates from the parliaments of the following countries also participated in the meetings: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, , Guinea Bissau, Libya, , Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

OPENING SESSION

Saturday 5 november 2016 (10.30 a.m.)

At the opening of the 69th Session of the Executive Committee, the President of the Senate of Zimbabwe and Vice-Chairperson of the APU Executive Committee, was flanked by Honourable Hakim Benchamach, President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco, Honorable Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh, Member of the National Assembly of Djibouti, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Honorable Albertina Teresa José, President of the APU Committee of women parliamentarians and Mr. N'zi Koffi, Secretary-General of the African Parliamentary Union.

Two statements were made at the meeting. The first, by the President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco and the second by the President of the Senate of Zimbabwe.

The President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco, Honourable Hakim Benchamach gave the welcome speech:

*"Your Excellency, Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of APU,
Heads of African parliamentary delegations,
Mr. N'zi Koffi, Secretary-General of APU,
Representatives of parliamentary organizations and unions,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

On behalf of the members of the two houses of parliament, I have great pleasure in first of all welcoming you to the opening of the 69th session of the Executive Committee of APU, which precedes the 39th Conference of Speakers of parliamentary assemblies, the Moroccan Parliament has the honour to host. I also wish you a pleasant stay in your second country, Morocco, and success in all your meetings.

I wish to take this opportunity to once again, reiterate the consistent ongoing activities by the Chairperson, the Secretary-General and members of APU, to enhance and promote coordination and cooperation among African parliaments. This will enable African legislative institutions to improve their services and activities, by affirming their constitutional values and the principles of human rights, endorsement of good governance and meeting the requirements of sustainable development, especially during this historic phase that our continent is going through, with profound and fast changes and constant challenges, at the political, security, economic, social and environmental levels.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With the unstable political and security situation in many African countries, and the constant fear of a return to civil war, the spread of terrorist organizations, not to mention the rising ethnic and religious conflicts and the expansion of criminal networks involved in arms and drug trafficking, smuggling and trafficking of humans, fuelled by the aftermath of the Arab spring in some countries, African countries have no choice but to devise a comprehensive and integrated African strategy, based on south-south cooperation, in the interest of all.

This strategy cannot be realized unless African countries build their national capacities, by developing coordination, cooperation and solidarity among each other at the bilateral level, and strengthening regional integration and interregional cooperation in education, trade, security coordination; and engaging in ongoing consultation anchored on standing institutional mechanisms.

With the international community adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, our role as parliamentarians has never been more crucial, as we are required to enact legislation and laws in line with these goals, and urge our governments to introduce efficient development policies on public-private partnerships and civil-society organizations, with the aim of achieving sustainable development in all dimensions.

I wish to take this opportunity to call on Africa to participate seriously and in a coordinated manner, in the international parliamentary meetings on climate change to be held in Marrakech on 13 November 2016, and which will be preceded by a coordination meeting on this issue among African parliaments on 12 November 2016.

Ladies and gentlemen,

No doubt, our African continent abounds in assets that can ensure its development towards a common prosperous area for social wellbeing.

Also, it is clear that more than ever, our continent must invest in building confidence in ourselves, in our collective capacity to decide our own destiny and carve the right future for our people. Our continent must also forge partnerships, which generate common dividends, and invest in human and social development rather than humanitarian aid. Instituting democratic processes in our political systems, strengthening citizen participation and

involving our citizens in decision-making for the future of our countries will further bolster these actions.

The Kingdom of Morocco has, since time immemorial, expressed its unflinching commitment to Africa and always committed to deepening its strategic and multidimensional ties with its brother African countries, based on a forward-looking vision of its absolute faith in the capacities of our continent to present development alternatives, which rely on its own means, through better exploitation of complementary assets aimed at guaranteeing economic integration resources under south-south cooperation.

In recalling the global geostrategic changes and the attendant waves of doubt on the capacity to build an international society founded on cohabitation, and which fosters peace, security, freedom, correlation between democracy and human rights, respect for national integrity of States and solidarity among peoples, we must underline that the choice of Morocco to come back into the fold, although its absence did not exceed the limits of the African Union's organizational framework, was in answer, on the one hand, to the numerous calls by African countries, which had always cherished the country's natural and rightful place within Africa's civilization, cultural, and institutional space, and on the other, following a decision emanating from all the vital forces of the Kingdom.

We must also touch on the powerful political signs contained in the historic royal message addressed to the 27th summit of the African Union held in Kigali, on the decision by Morocco to the return to the African Union. The royal message had intimated that "Morocco could not remain outside its institutional family and must therefore retake its natural and rightful place within the African Union" *end of quote*.

We would like to reiterate, on this occasion, the call by our brothers and friends of APU to take this historic opportunity, before our people, of the emergence of a new African awareness, which expresses the aspiration, our collective aspiration, to write a new page in our contemporary history, entitled self-confidence, a collective and constructive action to meet the expectations of our people and a better future.

Thank you for your kind attention."

After this statement, **Honourable Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe, Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee** gave the following statement:

*"Your Excellency the President of the House of Councilors,
Speakers of Parliament and Heads of Delegation, Honourable Members of the Executive
Committee of APU,
Honourable Members of National Parliaments,
The Secretary-General of APU,
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen*



I wish to welcome you warmly to the opening ceremony of the 69th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union.

After our June session in Khartoum, I am happy to see you once again in Rabat, a city where we have enjoyed so much hospitality, at the invitation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco. On behalf of everyone, and on my own behalf, I wish to sincerely thank the authorities of the Moroccan Parliament for the opportunity afforded us to hold our sessions in such excellent conditions.

Your Excellency the Speaker of the House of Councilors, I respectfully request you to convey to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, our profound respect and sincere wishes for the success and prosperity of His Kingdom.

Our thanks also go to the Government, parliamentarians and the staff of the Parliament and, indeed, the people of Morocco, for the warm welcome extended to all the delegations here.

Honourable members of the Executive Committee, dear colleagues, as you know, following legislative elections on 7 October 2016, a new House of Representatives has been sworn in. On behalf of everyone, I congratulate all the newly elected MPs and wish them success in their endeavours. I especially wish to pay homage to Honourable Rachid Talbi El Alami, who for the past two years, has been chairing the Executive Committee of APU.

Allow me also, to acknowledge all the members of the General Secretariat of APU for their commitment and for working, at times, under difficult conditions, to ensure smooth operations between our Union and the National Parliaments, as they strive to promote African parliamentary cooperation and our presence on the international parliamentary scene.

Honourable Speakers

Honourable Parliamentarians

Ladies and Gentlemen

The present session is special in that it coincides with the end of the two-year term of the members of the Executive Committee, elected at the 37th Conference held on 1 and 2 November 2014 at this same venue.

In addition to admissions and readmissions, this second ordinary session of the Executive Committee for this year will focus on reviewing the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of previous meetings, identifying activities for the coming year and adopting a budget to allocate the resources to fund them.

The Executive Committee will also consider the proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure deriving from the Union's Plan of Action and institutional strengthening.

These actions will primarily be aimed at breathing new life into our Union to reinvigorate it and increase its visibility at the regional and international levels.

I must also draw attention to the need for you to support the outreach efforts by the Bureau of the General Secretariat to encourage non-member parliaments to join us as soon as possible.

Also, our members must propose their countries to host meetings planned by the Executive Committee and also provide our organization with the resources by regularly paying up their contributions to enable APU to meet its goals.

With regard to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference, permit me to remind you that it is the statutory duty of the national groups to report such decisions and recommendations to the General Secretariat, in order to encourage interactions among our parliaments and assess the impact of our resolutions. I therefore reiterate to the national groups to give high priority to sending in their periodic reports.

Honourable Parliamentarians,

The 69th Session of the Executive Committee will also agree on the draft agenda of the 39th Conference. To that end, the 68th Session held in Khartoum on 2 and 3 June 2016 had proposed the following topics:

1. *Participation of citizens, especially the youth, in promoting democracy*
2. *The role of African parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*
3. *Combatting terrorism in Africa*

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians will consider “The contribution of African parliaments to combatting women’s and child labour”.

These are major topics, which I will not comment on now. Just as had been done for other APU conferences, these topics were selected, bearing in mind, the key concerns of the African people and the continent’s sustainable development goals.

As you may have observed, these are issues of common concern to African parliamentarians, representing people who aspire to live in peace and in democratic and stable societies at the political, economic and social levels.

Lastly, the Executive Committee will determine the agenda and venue for the 70th Session.

Honourable Speakers

Honourable Parliamentarians

Ladies and Gentlemen

With the adoption of the Plan of Action and institutional strengthening of APU in 2014, and the Euro as the reference currency for the Union’s budget, this Rabat meeting is an opportunity for a fresh start. Despite any difficulties we might encounter, there is no doubt

that our discussions here will propel us toward the future with more commitment and determination.

On this note, I wish to thank all parliamentarians present for their commitment to the ideals of APU, and also our guests who have kindly agreed to attend our meetings. I would also like to reiterate our gratitude to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco for all the facilities provided us. I wish us all a successful meeting and declare the 69th Session of the Executive Committee open.

Thank you for your kind attention.”

Applause

Meeting adjourns (10.55 a.m.)

Meeting resumes (11.30 a.m.)

The Chair announced the resumption of the meeting and invited the Secretary-General to read out the agenda of the 69th Session of the Executive Committee.

Adoption of the agenda

The Secretary-General presented the draft agenda as follows:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s).
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference.
3. Consideration and adoption of amendments to the Statutes and Rules of procedure.
4. Consideration and adoption of the annual work programme.
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for the 2017 financial year.
6. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 39th Conference.
7. Draft agenda of the 70th Session of the Executive Committee.
8. Date and venue of the 70th Session of the Executive Committee.

The agenda was unanimously adopted

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

The Secretary-General submitted his report on the application for membership of the parliament of Madagascar:

“REPORT of the Secretary General on the admission of the Parliament of MADAGASCAR

On the date of 31 October 2016, the APU Secretary General received from Mr William BIFOUROUACK, Secretary General of the National Assembly of Madagascar the following request for admission:

“The Speaker of the National Assembly

To

The Chairperson of the Assembly of national parliamentary assemblies of African Parliamentary Union

I have the honor to ask you to kindly confirm the application for membership of the Parliament of Madagascar to the African parliamentary Union (APU), expressed by honorable MAHAZOASY Mananjara Freddie Richard, Vice-president of the National Assembly of Madagascar which was Leader of the Malagasy delegation, during the 38th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) held on December 5th and 6th, 2015 in Bissau (Guinea-Bissau).

Please accept, Excellency, Mr President, the expression of my highest consideration.

Signed: RAKOTOMAMONJY Jean Max "

This request is presented according to provisions of article 3 of the Statutes. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Madagascar, the legislative power is devolved to the Parliament of Madagascar, namely the National Assembly and the Senate.

The members of the National Assembly and the Senate are elected for a five-year term. The last elections for the National Assembly and for the Senate took place respectively on December 20th, 2013 and December 29th, 2015.

This application for membership is submitted to the Executive committee for examination and recommendation to the Conference according to provisions of article 16 of the Statutes.

Applause

The application was welcomed by the Executive Committee which decided to refer it to Conference for approval.

Furthermore, the Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that he received from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Central Africa a letter announcing the resumption of activities of the Central African parliament within the APU, following the country's return to constitutional rule.

He emphasised the need for national parliaments to support the outreach efforts by the Bureau and the General Secretariat to attract new members.

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

The Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee invited the Secretary-General to read out his report on that item.

The Secretary-General presented the following report:

“IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

At the 68th Session of the Executive Committee held on 2 and 3 June 2016 in Khartoum, the General Secretariat presented a report on the first part of the activities involving the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 38th Conference held on 5 and 6 December 2015 in Bissau, Guinea Bissau, and the implementation of the annual work programme of the African Parliamentary Union.

1. Brief summary of the first part of the implementation report on the decisions

(a) Activities carried out subsequent to the 38th Conference (Bissau, 5 - 6 November 2015)

- ✓ Outcomes of the 38th Conference of APU sent to all National Parliaments, members and non-members of APU alike, and to inter-parliamentary and international organisations. These included the resolution on *“Promoting democracy and the rule of law to ensure peace and development in African countries”*, the resolution on *“African countries deal with the adverse effects of climate change: Measures to be taken and role of African Parliaments”*, the resolution of the APU Committee of women parliamentarians on *“Parliamentary action to efficiently combat violence against women and children”*, the *“Bissau Declaration”* and the *“Motion for peace and national reconciliation in Libya”*.
- ✓ Report of the 67th Session of the Executive Committee and summary records of the Bissau conference sent to national member parliaments of the Union.

- ✓ Preparations for the 68th Session of the Executive Committee held in Khartoum and the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference.

(b) Second African Parliamentary Conference on Migration

At the invitation of the National Assembly of Djibouti, with contribution from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and technical support from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), APU organised the second African Parliamentary Conference on Migration on 15 and 16 February 2016 in Djibouti, under the theme: " Contribution of African migrants to the development of countries of origin and destination."



(c) Review of APU participation in inter-parliamentary and international activities

The involvement of APU in inter-parliamentary and international activities is summarised below. The activities, which were reported at the 68th Session of the Executive Committee, are described in greater detail in the report of the General Secretariat to be presented at the 39th Conference. APU took part in the following activities :

- i. At the invitation of the President and Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, APU took part in the 134th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings held from 19 to 23 March 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia.
- ii. The African Parliamentary Union took part in the 23rd Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) held on 10 and 11 April 2016 in Cairo, Egypt.
- iii. On 4 and 5 May 2016, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, the African Parliamentary Union, in conjunction with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, organised the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary conference in Abidjan, which was preceded by the meeting of the Follow-up Committee to the 13th Conference on 3 May 2016.
- iv. At the invitation of the National People's Assembly of Algeria, the African Parliamentary Union took part in the International Symposium on "New challenges facing parliamentary diplomacy" held on 24 and 25 May 2016 in Algiers.

2. Activities carried out subsequent to the 68th Session of the Executive Committee (Khartoum, 2 - 3 June 2016) as part of the implementation of the annual work programme

(a) Outcome of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee

The General Secretariat transmitted the report and summary records of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee to all member parliaments of the Union.

(b) Preparations for the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and the 39th Conference

Following the offer of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco to host these two statutory meetings, the General Secretariat made a working visit to Rabat from 25 to 27 July 2016, to agree with the authorities of the Parliament of Morocco on the date, venue and practical arrangements for the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and the 39th Conference of Speakers of National Parliamentary Assemblies of APU.

(c) Amendments to the APU Statutes and Rules of Procedure

Upon receipt of the proposals for amendments to the founding texts of the Union subsequent to the adoption of the APU Action Plan for institutional strengthening, the Committee agreed at its 67th Session held in Bissau to defer discussions on the proposals to a later session. This was to enable National Groups, like the Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to send their proposed amendments to the General Secretariat. Having received no other submissions, the General Secretariat compiled a summary of the proposed amendments of the DR Congo National Group and those that it had prepared and submitted to the Bissau session, to ensure alignment of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure with the APU Action Plan. These amendments were sent to all National Groups and are to be considered by the Executive Committee at its 69th Session in Rabat.

(d) Payment of contributions arrears

In June and early October, the General Secretariat sent reminders to members who had not yet paid their annual contributions. Prior to the Rabat meetings, 15 Parliaments had paid their contributions for 2016 and three Parliaments had made payments in respect of their outstanding contributions.

The General Secretariat will at these Rabat meetings provide parliamentarians with an update on contributions of member Parliaments.

(e) Notice of meeting of the African Group and APU participation in the 135th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

As the coordinator of the African geopolitical Group with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the General Secretariat of APU made preparations for its recent meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on 23 October 2016, on the occasion of the 135th IPU Assembly and related meetings.

135th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, 23–27 October 2016, Geneva

The African Parliamentary Union took part in the 135th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings.

The agenda for the 135th IPU Assembly included the following items:

1. General debate on the theme: "Responding swiftly to human rights violations that portend conflict: the Role of Parliament"
2. The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
3. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs
4. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 137th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs.

The 135th Assembly received eight requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in its agenda. Further to the withdrawal of three of these requests by their authors, the Assembly decided, at the end of a vote by nominal call, to include in its agenda the merged proposal submitted by Germany and Mexico, entitled " **The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo**".

This emergency item and the theme of the above mentioned item 2 led to resolutions, which were adopted by the IPU 135th Assembly.

During the general debate, the members of Parliament had in mind several concerns: mechanisms to contribute to remedy situations of violations of human rights which augur a violent conflict? How to do against the tendency of granting a lower level of priority to the respect for human rights when a violent conflict appears? How can parliaments more mobilize the commitment and the leadership of women in their efforts aimed at tackling challenges connected with human rights?

Furthermore, the IPU Governing Council accepted the admission of Swaziland within the Union.

Besides, the APU General Secretariat organized, during this Assembly, the meeting of the African geopolitical Group which examined, among others subjects, the reports of its representatives within the IPU Executive committee, the choice of an emergency point to support for its inclusion in the agenda of the 135th Assembly, as well as the vacant positions during the Assembly. The African Group also proceeded to the election of its Bureau for its next meetings.

No specific comments were received from the members of the Executive Committee after the implementation report by the Secretary General on the activities following the 38th Conference, and on the Annual Work Programme of the African Parliamentary Union.

The report was unanimously adopted

Item 3: Consideration and adoption of amendments to the statutes and the rules of procedure

Following exchanges of views on the proposals of amendments to the statutes and the rules of procedure, the members of the Executive Committee made sub-amendments before adopting them.

Meeting adjourns (13.45 a.m.)

Meeting resumes (15.15 a.m.)

Item 4: Consideration and adoption of the annual work programme

The Secretary General read out the annual work programme as follows:

“ 2017 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The annual work programme for the year 2017 focuses on the activities relating to the statutory meetings of our African Parliamentary Union and on participation in inter-parliamentary and international conferences.

(a) Sessions of the African Parliamentary Union (APU)

1. The 70th Session of the Executive Committee

According to the Union's statutes, the first session of the Executive Committee of the year 2017, the 70th Session, will be held as usual towards May 2017. While waiting for the adoption of a programme of venues, a country is requested to host this session. This item is placed on the agenda of the current session of the Executive Committee.

2. The 71st Session of the Executive Committee and the 40th Conference of the Union.

The 71st Session of the Executive Committee as well as the 40th Conference of the Union will be held during the month of November 2017. The venue of that meeting will be decided during our Rabat meeting. Consequently, a country is requested to offer to host these two sessions. This item is placed on the agenda of the 39th Conference.

(b) Relations with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU)

1. Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference

Further to the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference held in Abidjan in May 2016, consultations will take place with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interparliamentary Union for the implementation of the decisions of the conference, especially the organization of a Follow up committee.

2. *Participation in the annual sessions of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU)*

With regard to the existing cooperation between the two Unions, the APU will take part in the statutory sessions of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2017. It will be the opportunity for the APU to examine with its partner the issues on the implementation of the common programme related to afro-arab parliamentary activities.

(c) **Relations with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**

1. *136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

The APU will take part in the 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union scheduled to take place in DHAKA (Bangladesh), from 1st to 5th April 2017. On this occasion the APU will organize the geopolitical African group meeting.

2. *137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

The APU will participate in the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union scheduled to be held in September or October 2017. On this occasion the APU will organize the geopolitical African group meeting.

3. *African parliamentary conference on Migration*

The APU General secretariat will examine with the Interparliamentary Union, its partner, the implementation of recommendations adopted during the conference on migration held in Djibouti in February 2016.

(d) **Relations with the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States**

The APU will participate in the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) member States, scheduled to take place during the year 2017.

(f) **Relations with other International and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations**

Relations of cooperation and exchanges will be maintained with different organisations in Africa and in the world, the APU, especially with the Panafrican Parliament, the Consultative Council of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Interparliamentary Coommittee of WAEMU (UEMOA), the ECOWAS Parliament and the CEMAC Parliament. APU will honour invitations from interparliamentary, regional and international organizations during 2017, in taking into consideration its activity programme and means. The objective of the APU participation is to reinforce its visibility and to develop cooperation with all other regional and international organizations.

The members of the Executive Committee highlighted the importance of thematic conferences and the need for closer cooperation with sub regional parliamentary organisations in Africa of which the DADC Parliamentary Forum.

They also stressed the need to follow up on the resolutions of the Conference. In that regard, the Secretary General observed that it was the responsibility of Parliaments to institute the right mechanisms for the implementation of recommendations.

The annual work programme for 2017 was unanimously adopted.

Item 5: Consideration and adoption of draft budget for 2017

The Secretary-General read out the presentation note and presented the 2017 draft budget:

“PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017

The 2016 budget allocations were taken into account for the draft budget, with the exception of certain budget lines the variations of which will be commented in the present note. The draft budget is balanced in receipts and expenses at 1 095 217 Euros, that is the same amount allocated in 2016.

In Receipts, we have, on one hand, the ordinary receipts which are mainly constituted by the contributions of the National Groups and on the other hand, the extraordinary receipts.

Like in 2016, forty National Groups contribute to the funding of the 2017 budget. They contribute for 91 % to the funding of the 2017 Budget with the same amounts of 2016.

As for the extraordinary receipts, only the subvention of the Arab Parliamentary Union which is annually paid.

In Expenditure, it is worth noting that some adjustments have been made in operational expenses, taking into account the increase or decrease variations in the use of budget allocations during the previous financial years. It is the case for budget items in staff expenses showing a decrease of 3.6% in comparison with 2016.

Regarding travelling allowances, the 2016 budget allocations were renewed for 2017.

There is no variation in budget estimates for " Equipment, Supplies and External services " compared with 2016. The execution of expenses in CFA francs during the previous years showed a stabilization of these expenses in particular recurrent expenditures as consumables, mail and communications.

At Transport heading, there is no variation in the budget estimates; for these expenditures, it is expected that the budget needs will remain at their 2016 level.

Estimates for « meetings and Sessions of the Union » were renewed for 2017 and a new post on the follow-up of the conference on migration was inserted. So, there is a light increase of 4.3% in this budget heading.

Finally, estimates in the heading "General expenses", budget allocation is increasing by 12,39 % with regard to 2016, because of the introduction of a new budget allocation on the recovery of the Working capital which decrease by 188 507 Euros in 2015. However, it is worth noting to indicate that this new budget allocation, necessary for a healthy financial management, is compensated by the decrease of dollar exchange losses for CFA francs expenses, that which become possible since 2015 with the adoption of the Euro as the reference currency of the APU budget.

In conclusion, the draft Budget for the financial year 2017 presented with some minor adjustments is in accordance with the 2016 budget objectives, that which allow the Union to continue funding its activities.

Such are the remarks the General Secretariat shares with the Executive Committee to which is submitted the draft Budget for the financial year 2017.

As no specific comments were made, the Executive committee adopted the draft budget for 2017 balanced in receipts and expenditure to the sum of EUR 1,095,217 (One Million Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred and Seventeen). (See annex III for budget presented and adopted for 2017).

The Executive Committee decided renewed its trust in Algeria and Senegal as Auditors for the financial year 2016.

Item 6: Consideration and adoption of draft agenda of the 39th Conference

The Secretary-General presented the draft agenda, adopted in Khartoum:

1. Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee.
2. Report of the General Secretariat.
3. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of procedure.
4. Report of the Commission of Women Parliamentarians.
5. *Participation of citizens and especially of young people in promoting democracy.*
6. *The role of African parliaments in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.*
7. The fight against terrorism in Africa.
8. Election of the members of the Executive Committee.
9. Date and venue of the 40th Conference.

The Executive Committee supported the Sudan proposal for the inclusion on the agenda of an emergency item related to sanctions imposed on some African countries. The Executive Committee decided to submit that proposal to the Conference for approval in accordance with Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Executive Committee approved the draft agenda.

Item 7: Draft agenda of the 70th session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary-General presented the agenda as follows:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Examination of the audited management accounts for 2016
4. Preparation of the draft agenda of the 40th Conference
5. Draft agenda of the 71st Session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue of the 71st Session of the Executive Committee

The draft agenda was adopted

Item 8: Date and venue of the 70th Session of the Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee directed the General Secretariat to engage with Parliaments for the organisation of the 70th Session around May 2017.

Meeting adjourns (5.00 p.m.)

Meeting resumes (Sunday 6 November 2016 at 4.15 p.m.)

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chair asked the Rapporteur to present the report on the deliberations of the 69th Session of the Executive Committee.

The report of the 69th Session of the Executive Committee was unanimously adopted. (See Annex II).

CLOSING CEREMONY

At the end of the meeting, the Chair expressed her thanks and gratitude to the Moroccan authorities for all the facilities made available to them for the success of the meeting.

She also thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their participation in the meeting.

She then declared the 69th Session of the Executive Committee of APU closed.

Applause

The session closed at 5.45 p.m.

39th CONFERENCE

The 39th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union was held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, at the parliament house of Morocco, on 8 and 9 November 2016.

The representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, , Guinea Bissau, Libya, , Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Representatives of the parliament of Comoros and following organizations took part in the meeting as observers: the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Consultative Council of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of UEMOA, the European commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Tuesday 8 November 2016

(10.30 a.m.)

The official opening ceremony of the 39th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union was held, with Honourable Hakim Benchamach, President of the House Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco in the chair. He was flanked by Honourable Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe, vice - Chairperson of the Executive Committee and Mr. N'Zi Koffi, Secretary-General of APU.

Representatives of the diplomatic missions of African countries also attended the inaugural session.

The Honourable Hakim Benchamach, President of the Conference invited Honourable Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe, vice - Chairperson of the Executive Committee, to take the floor.

Honourable Edna madzongwe, addressed the Conference:

*“Excellency, President of the House of Councilors,
Speakers and dear colleagues,
Head of Government,
Members of Government,
Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations,
Representatives of parliamentary and international organizations,*

*Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my pleasure to warmly and cordially welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 39th Assembly of the African Parliamentary Union.

Let me tell you how proud and immensely pleased we are to meet together in this beautiful and welcoming city of Rabat, this beautiful capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, nominated as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2012, with its historic sites, such as the Medina and ramparts of the Kasbah.

Let me also , on behalf of the Speakers of Parliaments and Heads of delegations, the Members of the Executive Committee of the APU and all the delegations attending this ceremony, express my sincere appreciation and deep thanks to the authorities of the Moroccan Parliament for the opportunity offered to convene this Session in Rabat.

Thanks are also conveyed to the authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Parliament and the Moroccan people for the brotherly and warm welcome, as well as the fine care extended to us since we arrived to Morocco.

On your behalf, I wish to express my warm thanks and profound gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, for his support to our parliamentary organization.

Kindly let me, Mr. President, address my congratulations for the excellent organization of the Rabat Sessions, and for all the facilities made available by your Parliament.

Following Bissau, for our previous conference in December 2015, and Khartoum for our first session of the Executive Committee for that year, in June 2016, our meeting in Rabat is a new start for our parliamentary union. We will have to adopt amendments to our Statutes and Rules in conformity with the APU strategic plan of action, and we have to set up a new Executive Committee, whose current members had been elected in 2014 at our 37th Conference which also took place in Rabat.

On your behalf , I wish to express my congratulations to the former Speaker of the House of representatives of the Moroccan Parliament, His Excellency Mr Rachid Talbi Alami, for having successfully chaired during the last two years our Executive Committee.

*Excellencies,
Honourable parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

The African Parliamentary Union is today a privileged platform for debating themes of paramount importance to Africa. It is the crucible in which common positions of African national parliaments take shape on all issues.

The meetings here in Rabat will be an occasion for us to consider, among other important matters;

- *Participation of citizens and especially of young people in promoting democracy.*
- *The role of African parliaments in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.*
- *The fight against terrorism in Africa.*

No one can ignore the fact that the themes of the participation of citizens in promoting democracy and the Sustainable Development Goals are closely linked, through the realization of the Rule of Law mentioned in the goal 16.

The issue of sustainable development goals is of paramount importance for growth and social progress as well as for security. Indeed, education, health, development of agricultural production for food security, investment development, citizens' participation, environmental preservation, and good political and economic governance, are all areas in which parliamentarians can make their voice heard for the benefit of the future generations of our countries.

Combating terrorism is a great challenge for our continent because it is a real threat to the security of our countries. Conflicts, poverty, organized crime such as arms and drug trafficking greatly contribute to feed terrorism. We call for cooperation among our countries with a view to enhancing efficiency in combating terrorism and its causes.

*Excellencies,
Honourable parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

The Committee of women parliamentarians will tackle the issue of *women and child trafficking and labor*. The Parliaments have to monitor the enforcement of laws and other regulations to effectively combat women and child trafficking and labour and strengthen national efforts against trafficking in persons. Recommendations will be proposed by the Committee to combat this scourge.

Honourable parliamentarians,

These are a few points that I wished to raise briefly and which will be debated at this 39th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union in Rabat. I hope that the outcome of our deliberations will contribute to the realization of peace, security and sustainable development in our respective countries.

Lastly, I wish to reiterate, on your behalf, my warm thanks and deep gratitude to His Majesty King Mohamed VI, for his support to the African Parliamentary Union, as well as to the parliamentary authorities for giving us the opportunity to enjoy the Moroccan hospitality. I wish you successful and fruitful deliberations.

I thank you."

Applause

The President of the conference , Honorable Hakim BENCHAMACH, President of the House of Councillors, addressed the following speech:

“Ladies and gentlemen,

It’s a pleasant coincidence that our Conference is being held at the same time as the beginning of that of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) in Marrakech.

While the items on the agenda of COP22 generally have to do with the ways and means for coping with the challenges of climate change, of which our continent bears the brunt; and the mechanisms for transforming the Paris Convention into concrete action, those of our Conference will enable us to consider other challenges quite similar to those of climate change. They have to do with the agonizing nightmare of terrorism, and also the failure and complexity of the participation process of African citizens, especially the youth, in political decision-making in their countries.

When we add other challenges on the agenda of this session, such as the rural exodus, immigration, tensions and conflicts, we realize how dense the agenda of our continent is, and the scope and size of the historic responsibilities on our hands.

In referring to the agenda items of our current Conference, I must say that based on the topics we have to discuss, we are not really starting from scratch. APU had to build gradually and in a participatory manner, the elements of an overall vision on combating terrorism – the causes, acts, its effects or ways and means to combat it. I wish to point out some other ways for adding to this vision. These are the factors and structural and deep effects of terrorism.

Terrorism is not simply an act, but essentially the result of depraved thinking and discourse which incites hatred against society, State, the period, and in most cases, hatred for life itself. Terrorism is therefore based on extremist thoughts, based on absolute claims to possess the truth, which opposes total refusal of the notion of social, political and economic relativity.

We must mention here, Resolution 33/22 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, adopted by the Human Rights Council on 30 September 2016, and voted by 10 African countries, including Morocco. This resolution emphasized the important role played by teaching, respect for cultural diversity, prohibition and fight against discrimination, employment and integration in the broader sense of the word. It also underlined the importance of introducing appropriate learning strategies to help in preventing and combating violent extremism, which leads to terrorism, while focusing on the importance of the role of religious departments and institutions, local societies and the leadership of civil society in the prevention and fight against terrorism and extremism. It also focuses on the need to “introduce mechanisms for the participation of the youth in efforts to promote ethnic, national and religious tolerance”.

Asides these points, are other factors, which can enlighten our discussions on combating terrorism and on our role, as parliamentarians. These include:

1. The spectre of terrorism and terrorist threats are common challenges that must always be our topmost priority and the concern of our parliaments at the continental and international levels.
2. Security measures and peacekeeping arrangements are essential prerequisites, but are still inadequate. They must be enhanced and consolidated more through practical programmes to prevent rampant radical tendencies, and must also be supported by programmes aimed at crushing out the worsening radical tendencies.
3. The overriding need to avoid falling into the trap that terrorists are trying to drag us into, which is, cowing easily to the temptation to gradually abandon the values that democratic societies are based on – democracy, human rights and freedoms.
4. Efforts at combating terrorism and ridding it of its sources must take place alongside efforts to support and strengthen continental and international cooperation for development and innovation of concrete solutions to meet the expectations the masses in our countries at the economic, social and cultural levels.

In the light of the foregoing, in our humble opinion, we ought to mention other structural factors which contribute to fueling the pockets that harbor terrorism, these include: lapses in political and economic governance and fragile democracy frameworks and the rule of law, limited access by large segments of social categories to their economic, social and cultural rights and weak gender systems. Apart from the overriding need to be aware of the grave dangers – real or concealed, in the links, in Sahel-Sahara region, between separatist movements and terrorist groups and organized crime networks, clandestine immigration, trafficking and panhandling through the exploitation of those tragedies, money laundering and diversion of humanitarian aid ...

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we quickly became aware of the links existing between these factors, our country adopted an approach to counter terrorism, based on the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, as provided in United Nations General Assembly resolution 290-66 of 10 September 2012, and resolution 291-64 of 16 July 2010, and as developed in many other reports by the United Nations Secretary-General.

In all modesty, this approach seems to be a major experience and we believe that it must be examined and scaled up.

Morocco, as mentioned by His Majesty the King, in his speech in Dakar, is committed to bringing its experience to bear to help its brothers and friends. There are two fundamental and essential aspects of Morocco's expertise in counter terrorism, the first has to do with restructuring the policies of religious persuasions, which the country has undertaken and will

always undertake. This relies mainly on the values of tolerance, middle ground and moderation. The second aspect is supporting post-assistance efforts, and making administrative revisions in which a great number of people have been sentenced for terrorism.

In addition to these two aspects are innovative national and African solutions, in collaboration with the partners of Morocco on our continent, in the area of countering the structural factors that lead to terrorism. These solutions cover several areas, including support for democracy at the local level, with local government, as one of the key guarantees of terrorism prevention. At this time when regions are starting to exercise their new constitutional and legal competences, especially in the area of developing participatory regional development programmes, we can be optimistic about the impact of this new generation of territorial development programmes on some rural regions and the peripheries of some cities that are geographically demarcated, and where the vulnerable categories of population dwell in conditions that expose them to the danger drifting towards terrorist projects or joining terrorist groups.

I am convinced that our joint responsibility as parliamentarians will be seen through our concern to counter terrorism and develop the conditions that will allow our people to benefit from and acquire their legitimate rights to peace, development, democracy and dignity. Our collective responsibility is to put forward our priorities and in step with our joint efforts on combating terrorism, address the need to clarify policies to at least mitigate this situation of non-conviction prevailing in our region.

Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to recommend the creation of a mechanism for implementing a parliamentary roadmap to monitor, coordinate and exchange expertise among parliamentarians within APU, to revitalize this responsibility. This recommendation will be a procedure to implement item 21 of the APU resolution entitled, "African countries combat terrorism in all its forms, by supporting national capacities and strengthening international cooperation in this area" for 2014.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Without question, citizen participation, especially by the youth, in decision-making, is one of areas to look closely at in countering terrorism. Countries that had been able to make ample use of their youth, who are a rich resource, have created a positive force in the development of their societies and been able to rise to the highest levels of developed countries. On the other hand, countries that have neglected to invest in their youth have rather turned this human potential, into a source of socioeconomic and political problems and instability.

Adopting the approach to involve the youth is one that allows for the participation of all social categories. Ladies and gentlemen, we must recognize that parliaments that do not respond to the concerns and aspirations of society are not worth their salt. We, as parliamentarians, must therefore involve ourselves in protecting the youth and in ensuring the success of public policies concerning them, providing the coordination mechanisms necessary for youth issues to occupy an important place in social, economic and environmental policies.

The 2030 sustainable development plan is an appropriate platform and promising plan of action for developing the role of parliaments to enhance citizen participation, especially the youth, and encourage them to adhere to the development process, to contribute to solving socioeconomic and cultural problems confronted by our countries and thereby limit the gravity of extremism and terrorism.

You must know that in light of the important role played by parliamentary assemblies in carrying out the Sustainable Development Goals, parliaments participated in devising these goals, in efficiently taking part in scientific conferences and meetings on them, the most recent of which was resolution United Nations General Assembly 1/70 on the sustainable development plan. It had endorsed the role of national parliaments, in its 45th paragraph: *"We know the essential role that national parliaments play by virtue of their legislative and budgetary functions and the control that they exercise on the application of our commitments"*. Paragraph 25 of the above General Assembly resolution considered parliament as an element in itself in the adoption, monitoring and execution of the sustainable development plan which provides, *"The Charter of the United Nations opens by these famous words: "We the peoples of the United Nations". Today, we the people of the United Nations are engaged on the path of 2030. Governments, parliaments, the United Nations system, civil society, enterprises and the private sector, the scientific and university communities and humanity at large will all participate in this quest". Millions of people already participate in this programme and have taken ownership of it. It is a programme of the people, by the people and for the people – and that, we believe, is the best guarantee for success"*.

We are well aware of the major channels and mechanisms used by parliaments to ensure the implementation of the sustainable development goals to revitalize their roles and allow them to exercise their competences in legislation, control, debate and adoption of budgets.

At this juncture, I wish to recall some methods, which I consider crucial, in actions aimed at adopting procedures for implementing the 2030 sustainable development goals. These include:

- Establishing a close relationship between economic growth and social justice and social cohesion
- Using the participatory and human rights approach
- Relying on constitutional commitments specific to each country and other commitments under international conventions, such as those relating to socioeconomic, cultural and environmental and child rights, and those pertaining to the physically challenged
- Relying on the horizontal character of gender equality

Allow me, to underline, once again, the importance of the initiatives undertaken by APU to strengthen and develop coordination and cooperation between African parliaments, enabling African legislative bodies to improve their services, by endorsing the values of democracy and the principles of the rule of law and endorsement of good governance and requirements of sustainable development. Allow me, also, wishes you success in this

conference, as it adopts a common conception and unified positions on the issues laid before it and on other areas of common interest.

I reiterate the call for better and more coordinated participation in the African parliamentary meetings on climate change, which will take place on 12 November 2016 in Marrakech, to agree a common Africa vision that will contribute to making Africa's voice heard on the issue, at the United Nations organization.

We are determined to ensure that our people have a good place under the sun. To be worthy of this place, we must strengthen and sustain the African consciousness, which is gradually emerging. We must have confidence in ourselves, and work towards joint constructive cooperation and action.

In African culture, there is a proverb which says, "Your skin can only be well scratched by your nails", meaning you are the only one who can help yourself.

I thank you for your kind attention."

The President of the conference adjourned the session and invited delegates to a welcome cocktail.

Meeting adjourns (11.10 a.m.)

Meeting resumes (11.50 a.m.)

The President called upon the Secretary-General to present the draft agenda for the 39th Conference.

The Secretary-General presented the draft agenda as follows:

1. Admission(s) and readmission(s)
2. Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee.
3. Report of the General Secretariat.
4. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of procedure.
5. Report of the Commission of Women Parliamentarians.
6. *Participation of citizens and especially of young people in promoting democracy.*
7. *The role of African parliaments in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.*
8. The fight against terrorism in Africa.
9. Election of the members of the Executive Committee.
10. Date and venue of the 40th Conference.

Le President gave the floor to Sudan.

The representative of the Parliament of Sudan delivered his address to the conference :

*"The Chairperson of APU,
Dear members ,*

We have met here today on the soil of a brother country, the Kingdom of Morocco, which is hosting our meetings, with Mr. Hakim Benmechech, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco in the chair. We extend warm greetings to the Kingdom of Morocco, His Majesty the King, the Parliament and people of Morocco, for their warm hospitality and for the excellent working conditions made available to us, and the perfect organization of the present session.

*The Chairman of APU,
Dear members,*

In the euphoric aftermath of the end of apartheid in South Africa and the entire Southern African region, and at the end of the 20th century and the dawn of the 21st century and the 3rd millennium, and the emergence of the emblematic figure, Nelson Mandela, who became the President of the Republic of South Africa, after a long fight against racist forces, and on the African and international scene, venerated by presidents and people, indescribable waves of joy, expectations and even trust, prevailed all over the continent, signifying that the 21st century and 3rd millennium belong to Africa, and will bring peace, security, stability, growth, wellbeing, solidarity and union to the continent.

I wish to reiterate, Mr. Chair, and all the honourable members of this Union, I salute you all sincerely. Today, you represent the people of this young continent, which is in the process of joining its forces under your leadership, drawing inspiration from the spirit of our founding fathers, by listening to the concerns and expectations of its children in revolt, who, for decades now, have paid a heavy toll because of colonialism and even neocolonialism in their internal affairs. This has led to an escalation of wars between the sons of the same country and between our countries across borders demarcated by this very colonialism, on a continent whose people moved about freely, in fraternity, good-neighbourliness, without any trace of tension. These interventions, coupled with other internal factors, have led to bloody conflicts and untold terrorist adventures, which have taken lives, and led to destabilization, retarded development, impeded agricultural reform and industrial growth. They have adversely affected education and health, drinking water projects, basic infrastructures, including roads, railways, airports and means of communication. The situation has led to poverty, unemployment and misery, especially among the youth. In their desperation, the sons of our continent had no other option but to move towards the cities, endure humiliating immigration practices, and degrading asylum situation, as they crossed across seas and oceans, braving dangers that have taken many of their lives.

*Mr. Chair,
Dear members,*

Owing to all these factors, Africa has become, in the eyes of the West and its media, the symbol of under-development, worse still, a glaring example of misery, corruption, ignorance, sickness and devastating epidemics. It has also become, as they claim, the largest scene for human rights violations, as became the dumping ground for waste, the receptacle of aid and charity of their associations and an object of pity and irony.

It is not surprising, therefore, to see right before our eyes, some of our presidents and vice-presidents get kidnapped on our continent, just as our ancestors were kidnapped. Today, our leaders are handcuffed to Europe to be judged by a so-called international court, while the powers that be, the masters of this world – USA, Russia, China, India and Israel - refuse, with arrogance, to be part of this system, or have it disturb their citizens in any way.

*Mr. Chair,
Dear members,*

I am very honoured to be here, with you, and to speak to you on this platform and in the same context, on the situation in Sudan, which just shows the dramatic scenes that any African country can experience, when we underestimate or ignore the capacity of certain domination forces, drape their designs, their treachery, their excellent performances to jeopardize our countries and our people under all sorts of pretexts and motives.

*Mr. Chair,
Dear members,*

In the early 1990s, Sudan set its development rolling by relying on an ambitious plan aimed at remedying poor growth to reach positive rates of overall development, as unique and objective means of guaranteeing and preserving the right of citizens to a decent and satisfactory life and meeting the basic needs of individuals and society. In the light of the challenges, which were difficult but well targeted, it was necessary to summon ambition and willingness in the country in order to achieve the goals contained in the national development project and call for regional and international cooperation. However, the path toward the realization of this project, with all its promising goals and hopes for our people, was broken. The pace of development was halted. The projects faced challenges that exceeded the solution capacities of countries, because of the unfair unilateral measures taken by various American administrations to boycott the country on all fronts of development, cooperation and assistance. This boycott then led to total economic embargo, with the introduction of unilateral coercive measures against the country.

*Mr. Chair,
Dear members,*

From 1993, successive American administrations have taken these measures and placed Sudan on the list of countries, which support terrorism, without proof or justification. This

measure has made my country prey to a series of economic, human and legal constraints, all which have reduced the development capacity of the State and slowed development efforts, through a series of additional coercive measures, taken unilaterally, which have negatively impacted human rights in the Sudan for access to development and citizen services.

The coercive unilateral measures taken by America have restricted trading activities, prohibited American investments in the Sudan, frozen all assets of the Sudan government, ordinary citizens and State officials. These measures are a blatant contradiction to international law in general, and the letter and spirit of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in particular, as they have led to adverse effects on the fundamental human rights of Sudanese citizens, particularly the right to development and other rights, such as the right to decent life, food, health, education and access to safe drinking water.

Despite these active and unrelenting efforts in recent years by Sudan to overcome the adverse effects of these measures by opening up to other advanced countries in order to meet the basic and essential needs of its citizens, the US government moved quickly to obliterate these efforts by preventing the country from establishing any cooperation ties with other countries. It imposed sanctions against all sources of financing and trade worldwide, threatening anyone who could have positive relations with the country, in any economic or financial activity aimed at meeting the needs of the country's people. These sanctions were instituted in 1997 as extensive coercive measures in the industrial sector thereby tightening the noose on Sudan which consequently found itself deprived of access to external resources needed to develop its potential and natural resources. The aim was to stifle the country's national output and entire productive capacity. As a result, the country is witnessing a degradation of its fundamental structure and its ability to supply goods and services to the citizens. These American unilateral measures have therefore reduced opportunities and the capacity of the State to guarantee all the fundamental human rights that the Sudanese must enjoy.

*Mr. Chair,
Dear members,*

The reality of development in my country clearly indicates that restrictions and coercive unilateral measures foisted by the US on a large number of countries under the threat of economic and legal sanctions should they establish economic, political and trade relations with Sudan have had adverse effects on human rights in the country in terms of material and living standards, particularly the right to general development through better harnessing of the country's resources and potential. Cases of restrictions in the development and services sectors may be identified as follows:

Agricultural sector: this is the sector that ensures food security and the source of human right to food. The sector has seen a structural deterioration following the unilateral measures. Agricultural projects have been deprived of equipment, machinery and farming techniques that would contribute to enhanced production in terms of quantity and quality and the reduction of costs. Consequently, agricultural development programmes have slowed down even though there are over 200 million of fedanes of arable lands (NDT: 4200m²/fedane). Currently, as a result of these coercive measures, only 26% of these lands

have been developed accounting for the increase in the country's wheat imports estimated at US\$ 1.5 million per annum. Hence, the country is facing considerable challenges in ensuring the availability of food products following the increase in the foreign exchange and the severe US restrictions imposed on bank transactions involving the country and their effects on investments and agricultural exports. The American unilateral coercive measures have increased the country's external debt stock to over forty billion dollars thereby directly impacting on the financing of development projects of vital importance and leading to a reduction of transaction opportunities with international markets and foreign exchange supply in relation to demand resulting in the decline in the value of the local currency. In view of this, it is to be expected that Sudan would not be eligible for the debt forgiveness initiative taken for indebted countries since the debt of nearly all such countries have been written off, with the exception of that of Sudan even though it meets the conditions required. Furthermore, Sudan is facing major difficulties related to the unilateral coercive measures in its efforts to join the WTO.

In the health sector, the US coercive unilateral restrictions have had negative impacts on the entire health sector thereby significantly reducing the country's capacity to fight epidemics and resulting in increased import costs of a large number of medicines, equipment and inputs needed to fight epidemics. To this may be added the country's inability to ensure adequate supply of some vaccines and preventive care, not to mention the treatment of endemic diseases and unavailability of some necessary medical equipment and materials, consumables for combating certain diseases that should be contained and eradicated such as malaria, yellow fever and challenges in obtaining medicines to treat diseases of international dimension such as AIDS.

The American coercive measures have not only impacted on indispensable health needs but have been extended to the restrictions on international and regional banks to conduct business with Sudan in the area of health. This has led to a serious shortage of some indispensable medicines and equipment.

In the educational sector, the coercive measures have deprived Sudanese nationals of opportunities for scholarships and educational programmes and technologies. Although some institutions and technical educational workshops were originally set up through American support, the country is unable to modernize them as a result of the sanctions; and this has stymied the development of educational sectors such as technical sciences, training of engineers, industrial sciences and agriculture due to the run-down state of these institutions and workshops.

Furthermore, the measures have deprived Sudanese of access to education. School drop-out rate in basic education was 7.4% in 2012-2013. At the secondary level, the enrolment rate was 24.6% while that technical education declined from 16% in 1992 to 3% in 2015. The material environment of education, curricula, and quality of education were also affected, resulting in the departure of a large number of qualified teachers to other countries in order to improve their economic conditions and professional skills.

With regard to higher education, the sanctions have deprived it of scholarships and computer programmes. Wastage in the sector is estimated at \$794 million.

Also, the sanctions have had a negative impact on the right to safe transport as a fundamental human right resulting in a deterioration of the road network linking all the country's regions. They have led to the deterioration of 83% of locomotives, which are American made, and which Sudan had acquired over the years, prior to the embargo, to strengthen its rail transport capacity. This has culminated in the closing of key railway lines of a total length of over 10,000 kilometers, mainly because the US government has refused to sell locomotives or spare parts to Sudan. Furthermore, spare parts ordered since 1992 have been seized in some European ports on the basis that they are American made and placed under embargo, and that constitutes an infringement of US laws, which have placed total embargo on the sale or exportation of American goods to Sudan.

In the same vein, the embargo has prohibited Sudan from purchasing Boeing aircraft, or renewing or buying spare parts for them. Consequently, periodic maintenance and qualification of equipment have halted. Sudan has also had to prohibit the importation of Airbus aircraft since they contain over 10% of US-made components, which is the percentage that triggers the prohibition of all international firms to do business with Sudan.

The American unilateral embargo has therefore transformed into an international embargo in violation and flagrant contraction with the UN charter and all recognized international laws.

*Mr. Chairperson,
Dear members,*

The Sudan, which has courageously faced up to the practices of colonialist forces of this world supported liberation movements of Africa in their legitimate fight to free themselves of the stranglehold of this same colonialism and for the independence of all African countries.

Sudan which gained its independence on 1 January 1956, and thus become one of the first African countries to do so, is the same Sudan that has hosted and supported the icons of the Africa's struggle against colonialism and for independence such as Jomo Kenyatta, Nkrumah, Sékou Touré, Lumumba, Abdenasser, Samara Michel and Nyerere.

Sudan proudly welcomed the African leader, Nelson Mandela to its soil and, with love and consideration, provided him with a travel document to enable him travel throughout the world and raise awareness about the noble fight being waged in South Africa under his leadership.

On the admission of even white South Africans in the white government of the time themselves, Sudan was among the first countries in the Continent that strictly abided by the total boycott of apartheid up to its abolition.

Sudan was also the country that established the African International University which it chaired and which has admitted thousands of African students, both male and female, from various countries of the Continent, thus contributing to disseminating knowledge to the

children and future leaders of Africa who will be called upon to take charge of its destiny and fashion out, through the solidarity binding them, a new glory for Africa.

Despite these challenges that were aggravated by the American economic embargo and the external constraints, Sudan has remained open, from west to north and to east, to emigration of thousands of African children.

*Mr. Chairperson of APU,
Dear members,*

The reason we are talking this way is precisely in order to attest to Sudan's attachment, in heart and spirit, to this continent and to underscore our desire to assume the duty we have towards or brothers in African countries, in both joy and pain, and in all circumstances.

*Mr. Chairperson of APU,
Dear members,*

Africa, as a whole, is facing the threat that colonialist circles, both old and new from outside to destabilize and delay its agricultural, industrial and social development, plunder its immense wealth, both in terms of human and natural resources and make it a mere market of the consumption of Western goods at a high cost for the African.

The real reason behind the American unilateral economic embargo against Sudan, the military aggression, the media slandering and the political isolation is to prevent it from becoming economically powerful and spreading its wealth throughout the Continent as well as providing support to its brothers in Africa, a continent that abounds with human and material resources and which resolutely aspires to fighting for its right to security, stability and total development.

*Mr. Chairperson of APU,
Dear members,*

By presenting to you through our statement which conveys the pernicious effects of the unfair American unilateral coercive measures on our country's efforts to uphold Sudanese human rights to essential services, in education, health, access to drinking water, transport and security, we are awaiting, with much hope, for our Union to support us:

- By adopting a firm resolution of support and solidarity to Sudan in its development efforts and its response to these unjust measures by clearly and unequivocally declaring that the APU is opposed to the American unilateral coercive measures ;
- By requesting the immediate lifting of the American unilateral sanctions imposed on Sudan through an appeal to the international community and stakeholders to express their rejection of and opposition to these largely prejudicial measures, to enable Sudan to meet the exigencies of sustainable development for Sudanese and uphold the rights of the citizens to comprehensive development. Such a position is legitimate

as it is dictated by our history and spirit of solidarity that unites us in support of our interests and the community of our destiny.

*Mr. Chairperson of APU,
Dear members,*

Such a noble and decisive African position, will have all the consideration and recognition of our country. Sudan will be proud since this will reflect the position of a humane Africa that upholds the rights of Sudanese, especially its right to development in order to meet the needs of its people for a decent life in all aspects related to both material and moral development.

Thank you for your attention.”

The President submitted to the approval of the conference the proposal to include in the agenda a 9th item on «*lifting unilateral economic sanctions imposed to Sudan and Zimbabwe* ».

Adopted

The amended agenda was adopted

The President of the conference invited the Speaker of the House of representatives of Libya to take the floor:

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Libya addressed the conference as follows:

*“Chairperson of the Conference,
Distinguished Speakers, Heads and Members of African parliamentary delegations,*

Allow me, first of all, to thank on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Libya and my colleague members of the Libyan House of Representatives, the Kingdom of Morocco, His Majesty the King and the Government and the Moroccan parliament for the warm welcome and hospitality as well as the efforts made in support of the African continent and its causes that chart its destiny.

I also salute you all – for the interest you have shown in the future of the peoples of the Continent and in strengthening relations between African States in the interest of these countries, which will benefit their citizens.

Speakers and Heads of Delegations,

The legal, moral and historical commitment that we have made for the African continent and its people, the common destiny binding us and the hopes we share make us want to constantly work towards establishing long term strategies at the political, economic, security and socio-cultural levels to promote our continent, concretize the sustainable development programmes and ensure a radiant future to current and future generations. This is the fundamental philosophy on which our African union rests.

The essence of this statement derives from our deep conviction of real challenges and threats facing our African continent both internally and externally. We are therefore, all of us, being called upon for a larger strategic and constructive cooperation aimed at addressing the causes of these threats in order to safeguard the sovereignty of our countries, guarantee our territorial security, revitalize our economies, raise the standard of living and guarantee the well-being of our citizens.

If today, no one is unaware of external colonialist intentions for our union and our wealth as well as the interference in our affairs, as result of the internal problems facing African States be they economic, such as poverty, unemployment, famine, weak growth rates, in the area of security, through the spread of armed terrorist organizations such as Daiche, Ansar Echariaa and Boko Haram – and civil and ethnic wars or at the geopolitical level through problems at borders and the inability to protect them, internal conflicts and regional political conflicts between States, and Union members.

Based on that, I call on all African States to work more than ever towards the revitalization of the role of the African Union and its specialized bodies, notably the Pan-African Parliament and the Commission, by presenting strategic approaches and solutions to help address the problems facing the Continent and which hamper the realization of the strategic objectives defined since 1963 at the inception of the OAU, now replaced by the new framework, namely the African Union. These objectives have underpinned the solidarity between African people and countries, the defence of their sovereignty and independence as well as the achievement of sustainable development.

To help attain these objectives, I urge the States of the Union to encourage the implementation of peaceful mechanisms, particularly strategic dialogue, in resolving conflicts between some African countries or internal conflicts that could end in taking up of arms against the State, since such conflicts constitute a major obstacle to achieving the strategic objectives upon which the African Union was founded.

Permit me to sincerely speak to you about the real reasons that, in my view, have prevented, after a careful review of the years, the implementation of these objectives. The main reason has been the absence of good governance and legitimate strong institutions in many African countries. We must focus our attention on two key pillars for addressing the problems of the Continent, ensure its promotion and achieve its integration namely: education and development.

Speakers and Heads of Delegations,

We, at the House of Libyan Representatives are convinced of our national, legal and moral duty to the Libyan Nation, of our commitment to the integrity of the Libyan territory and the halting of political and institutional divergences caused by groups with an ideology and regionalists who are opposed to the principle of political participation and have turned against the verdict of the ballot box and the will of the Libyan people by advancing feeble arguments to justify their rejection of a peaceful transition to power. This caused considerable harm to the Libyan State, exacerbated the Libyan citizenry and fuelled the

expansion of terrorism. We have accepted to be part of the political dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations for the support of Libya alongside putschist groups. The House of Representatives joined the negotiation process with a positive mindset and high national responsibility based on the need to uphold the supreme interest of the country over personal interests. In these negotiations, the House of Representatives made considerable painful concessions that the groups with armed stranglehold over Tripoli jointly exploited together with the UN mission responsible for drafting a draft political agreement. The situation, which undermined the political process and deepened suspicion in the end, did not make it possible to give credit to the two governments presented by the Presidential Council. The first serious violations committed by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General (Bernardino León) occurred when he decided to reopen the draft agreement ratified by all the Parties to the National Dialogue – at the various stages- for the benefit of a bloc within the National General Congress called « Bloc of loyalty to the blood of martyrs » led by people with extremist ideology and interest groups, thereby aggravating the divisions within the House of Representatives and negatively influencing its democratization process. It is worth stressing that when the House of Representatives accepted in principle the last draft, it subjected its agreement to one condition, namely the repeal of Article 8 aimed at the disintegration of the military institution. The article has serious effects on the national security in Libya and regional security of the African continent. This condition has not been accepted to this day.

On the other hand, serious violations were also committed by the Presidential Council and Consultative Council of State resulting from the non-constitutionalized political agreement in the constitutional proclamation. Indeed, these two Councils began their mission before the constitutional amendment, hence their illegitimacy since they acted outside the constitutional structure of State. It is also out of step with the political agreement itself, specifically with Art 12 of the additional provisions and enshrines a *fait accompli*, without forgetting that non-objective methods that are in contradiction with the political agreement were used, with regard to the choice of members of Government and clearly disregarding the criteria of competency and participation, not to mention the absence of an action plan by the two governments proposed to steer the transition period. This situation caused a problem between the unconstitutional Presidential Council and the Central Bank Commissioner in Tripoli. It was the main reason for holding of the last London conference on Libya. This constitutes a serious and clear violation of the national sovereignty of Libya as well as international charters and the African Union charter.

Other serious violations include the absence of a quorum on the Presidential Council, which constituted a painful infringement of the principle of consensus on which the political agreement is based. The legitimate provisional government was therefore forced to appeal to the administrative tribunal to convey its opposition to all the decisions and measures by Presidential Council and its government without taking into account the will of parliament as the representatives of the Libyan nation and resorting to procedures that are in contradiction with the constitutional declaration and political agreement. The tribunal ruled in favour of the reversal of all the decisions taken by the Presidential Councils and their governments since they were illegitimate.

Serious breaches of political agreement also include the encroachment by the Consultative State Council on the legislative powers of the House of Representatives by attempting to revise the constitution under the banner of the National General Conference. The situation was aggravated further when the President of the unconstitutional Presidential Council declared that this initiative constitutes a step in the right direction. The Consultative Council did not content itself with the initiative but made its declaration public in contradiction with the political agreement thereby calling into question the legitimacy of the House of Representatives resulting from the constitutional declaration and expressing the will of the Libyan people and on the basis of which it became a legislative power. This indicates its desire to exclude the House of Representatives from the transition phase following the signing of the political agreement by availing itself of the support of NATO, which has been working towards the formulation of a political framework for Libya in relation to its interests, and using a method similar to the one used in Irak and Afghanistan.

Serious infringements to the political agreement were also manifest through the non-respect and non-application of security measures, since the armed militia, supported by the Presidential Council and the Consultative Council and some western countries, refused to leave Tripoli, to reposition themselves outside the city and surrender their arms and munitions, whereas it has been more than 10 months since the political agreement was signed. These security measures constitute, for the House of Representatives, the crucial and strategic portion of the political agreement since they are closely related to the peace process, which remains the supreme goal of the House through its participation in the negotiation process and the painful concessions which it made to those who have corrupted the transitional political life and turned against the democratic process and the will of the Libyan people. The situation worsened when the Presidential Council went so far as to confer the legitimacy – which it did not have- on these armed militia by taking the decision to establish the presidential guard even though the constitutional declaration and political agreement forbade the creation of paramilitary or parallel institutions alongside the official army and police. In a bid to deepen and exacerbate the wound, the Presidential Council attempted to win the sympathy of these militia through money by resorting to the illegal payment procedures incompatible with the supreme interest of the country in order to ensure that it remains in Tripoli; this made the latter appear to be secure whereas the reality is completely the opposite. This was made possible by the fallacious reports made by the Provisional Council on the security measures and other political reports prepared by Western countries that hosted the recent London Conference on Libya.

Speakers and Heads of Delegations,

The war waged by the national army subjected to legitimacy of the House of Representatives, against armed terrorist organizations such as Daesh, Ansar Echaria, and factions related to Boko Haram, is not only aimed at terrorism in Libya, but at reducing and preventing the expansion of such terrorist organizations throughout the continent and thereby ensuring peace and security in Africa. It is for this reason that, as representatives of the will of the Libyan people who constitute a demographic entity of the African continent, we hope that its specialized bodies, especially the Pan-African Parliament, will play an effective role by putting pressure on the international community to lift the embargo on the supply of arms to the national army in order to enable Libyans to defend themselves and

oppose the violation of the territorial integrity of their country and strengthen the partnership, security, peace and stability with countries of the African Union.

Our policies on Libyan investments in many countries remain consistent and balanced. We are working towards consolidating them in the common interest of Libyan people and those of Africa. As the elected representatives of the Libyan people, we call on the African countries with whom we have this strategic relationship, to safeguard these investments, cooperate with the legitimate constitutional institutions represented by the House of Representatives and the legal institutions derived from them, to break all ties with parallel institutions that are not based on the people's will as the sole source of legitimacy and which is operating in contradiction with the constitution and Libyan laws, which will could, may God forbid, lead to calling into question of the trust between Libya and some African countries.

Lastly, we hope that the African Parliament will remain with the people of Libya by supporting the legitimacy of the House of Representatives and of the provisional government derived from it and institutions depending on it. These are institutions that represent all Libyans from various regions and social components; and this constitutes an affirmation of the democratic principles, national sovereignty, and independence guaranteed by all pacts and charters of the African Union.

We thank you for your kind attention.”

The President of the Conference invited the representative of the Assembly of the people of Egypt to take the floor:

The representative of the Assembly of the people of Egypt, having thanked the host country for all the opportunities granted to the delegates, indicated to the parliamentary delegates that the women represented 30 % of the members of Egyptian parliament. He particularly insisted on the active role of the women in keeping peace and stability in the country.

The President of the Conference gave the floor to the representative of the National Assembly of Mali:

The representative of the National Assembly of Mali thanked, first of all, Morocco for its support and its solidarity in favour of Mali which is in crisis.

He also underlined the important role played by Algeria in the resolution of this crisis which ended in the 2015 Algiers agreement. However, the safety is not guaranteed in the country and even beyond the borders yet.

Evoking the next organization of the municipal elections, he underlined the efforts of the authorities to make the women participate to be elected as local councillors.

The President of the Conference invited the President of the Senate of Equatorial Guinea to take the floor:

The president of the Equato-guinean Senate has, besides thanks expressed towards Morocco, emphasized the fight against violence, conflicts, terrorism and consequently insecurity, plagues which aggravates poverty on the continent. She denounced, besides, the exaggerated appetite of multinationals for the African raw materials, that which may sentence certain countries to the underdevelopment.

The President also evoked the problems of the maritime piracy, the arms trafficking and the phenomenon of migration.

She finally underlined the role of the Parliament as guardian of human rights, attuned to citizens and attached to gender equality.

The President of the Conference invited the representative of the Parliament of Algeria to take the floor:

The representative of the Parliament of Algeria addressed the conference as follows:

*“Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished members,*

First of all, I would like to express our joy and pleasure in finding ourselves in this sisterly country and in this beautiful and hospital city of Rabat.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my congratulations to the new Moroccan parliament derived from the last legislative elections as well as our best wishes to the next government. I would also like to thank Mr. Rachid Talbi Alami, President of the House of Representatives of the Moroccan Parliament for the successful tenure of the Executive Committee during the 2014-2016 period. Our gratitude also goes to the APU Secretariat for the support to national parliaments.

Mr. Chairperson,

The topics selected for the Conference are of great importance and sensitivity. We must consider them with all the interest they deserve.

You are not unaware that the phenomenon of terrorism affects virtually all African countries, which continue to suffer its ravages and consequences. This is why the themes chosen namely, sustainable development, youth and democracy are timely because they constitute mechanisms for the eradication of terrorism, its origins and sources. We shall discuss these topics in detail at the working groups that will be set up for the purpose.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Algerian parliamentary delegation is confirming its support to the Sudanese people for the injustice and embargo placed on it. The latter is synonymous with the slow death of the Sudanese people which has not committed any repressible acts.

Lastly, I wish that our Conference would pass resolutions and recommendations in the interest of our peoples and our continent. I also wish our meeting every success.

Thank you for your attention.”

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

The Secretary General indicated that the Executive Committee has examined, during its 69th Session which has just taken place on 5 and 6 November 2016, the application for membership of the Parliament of Madagascar and recommended to the 39th Conference to accept the admission of that Parliament within the Union.

The Conference unanimously accepted the admission of the Parliament of Madagascar in the APU.

The President of the conference invited the representative of the parliament of Madagascar to take the floor :

The representative of the parliament of Madagascar delivered the following message to the conference :

*« Honourable President of the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Conference of Presiding officers of national parliamentary assemblies,
Honourable members of the presiding officers conference,
Honourable members of the Executive Committee,
Honourable Heads of delegation,
Honourable parliamentarians,
Mr APU Secretary General,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is a honour for me today to take the floor on behalf of the Madagascar parliament. I am honoured to be with you to take part in the so important APU sessions.

As member of the conference of presiding officers of national parliamentary assemblies, the speaker should have to be here in my place to deliver his speech, but as he has an impediment in the country, he charged me to take the floor on behalf of the Madagascar parliament and to attend this important session. Please apologize him.

We thank God for having guided us and given us this fraternal moment.

We also thank the President of the House of Councillors of Morocco who warmly welcomed all the participants.

We have been well received and express our gratitude. Our thanks are also addressed to the host country, the Moroccan population and to all the organizers, particularly to:

- the President of the conference,
- the members of the conference,
- the Chairperson of the Executive Committee,
- the members of the Executive Committee,
- and to all the representatives of the APU member countries.

Don't forget the APU Secretary General who kindly eased our admission in this so important organization that is the African Parliamentary Union.

Therefore, on behalf of the Madagascar parliament, I officially announce our will to actively collaborate and participate in all the organization's activities.

Finally, on behalf of the Malagasy parliament, I reiterates my deep thanks to all the participants and particularly to the host country.

Thank you for your kind attention.»

Applause

The conference accepted the admission in the APU of the Parliament of Madagascar.

Item 2: Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee

Report of the outgoing Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Honourable Rachid Talbi Alami:

*“Honourable Speakers and Heads of Delegations,
Honourable members of the Executive Committee
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Secretary General of APU,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Before presenting the activities that I had the honour and pleasure to conduct in the period following our 38th Conference held from 5 to 6 December in Bissau, allow me to recall that it was at the 65th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union and the 37th Conference of Speakers of National Parliamentary Assemblies held at this very venue in Rabat from 29 October to 2 November 2014 that I was elected by the Conference to chair the Executive Committee of the Union for a period of two years - 2014 to 2016.

On behalf of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and on my own behalf, I wish to express my profound gratitude to all the members of the Conference of APU for the trust placed in our country.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all member Parliaments of APU for their participation in the life of our organization and for their cooperation during my term of office.

I wish to thank the Government, the Parliament and people of Cote d'Ivoire who host the headquarters of APU and provide it with the facilities needed for the smooth functioning of the Union.

My thanks also go to the General Secretariat of APU for their constant efforts in carrying out the work programme adopted by the Executive Committee of the Conference. These efforts are evident in the resources mobilized to implement our programme of activities and by the participation of APU in different meetings.

Since the Bissau Conference, the Chairman of the Executive Committee has performed the following duties.

1. Efforts continued to encourage non-member parliaments to join our Union. Every opportunity was used to meet the Speakers of the parliaments concerned.
2. Intervention at the opening of the 38th Conference of speakers of national parliamentary assemblies, held on 5 December 2015 in Bissau, where the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union put forward, among others, projects initiated by the Office Cherifien des Phosphates group, to develop agriculture in African countries, as a model of South-South partnership.
3. Follow up on preparations for the Second African Parliamentary Conference on Migration, initiated by APU, and held 15-16 February 2016 in Djibouti, at the invitation of the country's National Assembly, with the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and technical assistance from the International Organization for Migration and UNDP. This second meeting focused on "The contribution of African migrants to the development of origin and destination countries". The declaration adopted at the end of that meeting considered the issue of migration as a "historic phenomenon, which cannot be ignored and which should be tackled using a holistic approach (...) and parliamentary diplomacy, as part of bilateral and multilateral cooperation".
4. At the invitation of the Chairman and Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), APU participated in the 134th Assembly of IPU, held 19 - 23 March 2016 in Lusaka. Among the topics discussed was the participation of the youth in politics,

- global mobilization against the threat of terrorists and preservation of mankind's cultural heritage.
5. Follow up on preparations for the meeting of the African Geopolitical Group, organized on the margins of the 134th Assembly in Lusaka and the 135th Assembly in Geneva (23-27 October 2016).
 6. APU attended the 23rd Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) on 10 and 11 April 2016 in Cairo. The meeting discussed ways and means of joining forces against the threat of terrorism and distinguishing between terrorism and the right of the people to fight against occupation.
 7. In line with the 2016 work programme adopted by the Executive Committee in Bissau, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, together with the APU General Secretariat, oversaw the organization of the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary conference on 4 and 5 May 2016 in Abidjan. The meeting was organized jointly with the Arab Parliamentary Union. Participants at the meeting urged African and Arab countries to cooperate in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and also against extremism. In reviewing the situation in the Middle East and Arab States, they highlighted the need to intensify trade between Arab and African countries so as to consolidate peace and sustainable development.
 8. At the invitation of the National Assembly of Sudan, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the General Secretariat of APU, monitored the organization of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee, which took place in Khartoum on 2 and 3 June 2016.
 9. Monitoring preparations for the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and 39th Conference of Speakers of National Assemblies currently taking place in Rabat.
 10. As Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, I led meetings of the 12th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, held 28 and 29 May 2016 in Tangiers, at the initiative of the House of Representatives, placed under the sign of "Together for a common future in the Euro-Mediterranean space". The Union has five member countries from North Africa, and is a gateway for the entire African continent in the Euro-Mediterranean space and the world at large.

I said, during that Assembly, that the theme chosen for the session summed up the ambitions of the Euro-Mediterranean peoples, the trials that the region faced and the aspirations of its citizens and elites, while affirming that *"Development, democracy and peace in the region call for promoting integration of the Euro-Mediterranean group, through concerted effort and collective commitment for a better future, noting the need to develop cultural and human leverage and promote the values of dialogue and acceptance of others, despite the differences, so as to overcome the challenges of the region"*.

Lastly, in their interventions, the parliamentary delegations participating in this session were unanimous in underlining the need for European countries to adopt clear and concrete strategies for the countries south of the Mediterranean, so as to create an enabling environment for progress and prosperity, support the democratic process, peace, security and stability and enhance rights and freedoms with a renewed forward-looking spirit.

11. The Chair of APU wishes to take this opportunity to inform you that the Kingdom of Morocco, firm in its commitment toward Africa, and as one of the founding members of OAU, having played a vanguard role since independence in defending the interests of our continent, has decided to retake its natural place within the Pan-African organization, a decision, which was announced through a message by His Majesty King Mohammed VI at the 27th Summit of the African Union held in Chad.

This wise decision is truly in line with the historical commitments made by the Kingdom, which has always championed the fight of the African people for emancipation and make their voices heard at the international level. Once again, the Kingdom is putting at the centre of its economic and social revival strategy, joint ownership of the challenges faced by the continent, and mutual and beneficial partnership with its African brothers. The frequent visits by His Majesty King Mohammed VI to African countries and his recent tour in three East African countries have further cemented the fraternal ties enjoyed by the Kingdom with the countries of the continent and serve as opportunities for signing win-win agreements, which prove that south-south cooperation is up and running, so much so that the Kingdom has become the second leading African investor on the continent.

Lastly, I cannot end without expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude for your support to the Chair of the Executive Committee during the last two years.

Thank you for your kind attention.”

The President asked the Conference to comment on the report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

The report was adopted.

Item 3: Report of the activities of the General Secretariat

The General Secretariat presented the following report:

“ACTIVITY REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT December 2015 – November 2016

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Union, this report is being presented to the 39th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union. The report is on activities carried out by the Union since the 38th Conference, held on 5 and 6 December 2015 in Bissau.

During the period, the Union mainly conducted its own statutory meetings and was also invited to attend international meetings.

I. STATE OF THE UNION

1. Members

The African Parliamentary Union currently has 40 members, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

As mentioned in our last report, we welcome the Parliaments of Egypt and Central Africa into our fold, following elections organized in those countries and the setting up of new legislative institutions.

The Parliament of Madagascar, for its part, had expressed its intention to rejoin APU, pending the necessary formalities.

Non-member national parliaments are: Botswana, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Eritrea, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia.

Efforts are underway to encourage these countries to join our organization. We will not relent in inviting member parliaments to support our efforts through their contacts and relations with the non-member national parliaments.

Increasingly we are observing, especially during inter-parliamentary meetings, that the absence of those parliaments has been hampering coordination of our activities, and affecting the outcome of consultations and the final position to be adopted by the African parliamentary group at international meetings. Once again, we wish to reiterate the importance of our African parliamentary assembly as a means of influencing decisions taken

at inter-parliamentary meetings. That is why we urge non-member parliaments to join our community to make it more productive.

2. Finances

The financial results presented in the management account for fiscal year 2015 and submitted to the 68th Session of the Executive Committee held in Khartoum showed a large negative balance of 188,507 euros, which decreased the operational account by the same amount. The deficit was caused by a drop of nearly 40% in contributions compared to 2014. Contribution recovery for 2015 was only 47% of estimates, with only 16 countries paying up. Such results do not augur well for financing the Union's activities and implementation of its action plan and institutional strengthening.

Every parliament must pay up its annual contributions as shown in the budget, so as to provide the Union with the resources needed to conduct its work, in its capacity as an instrument of national parliaments for the promotion of African parliamentary cooperation.

With regard to the current fiscal year, to date, 15 parliaments have paid up their contributions for 2016, while three have paid their arrears.

II. APU SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

1. 38th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union

The General Secretariat transmitted the outcomes of this meeting held on 5 and 6 December 2015 in Bissau, to all member and non-member National Parliaments, and also to international and parliamentary organizations. The outcomes were as follows:

- Resolution on *"Promoting democracy and the Rule of Law to ensure peace and development in African countries"*
- Resolution on *"African countries cope with the adverse effects of climate change: measures to be taken and role of African parliaments"*
- Resolution by the Committee of Women Parliamentarians on *"Parliamentary action to efficiently combat violence against women and children"*
- *"Bissau Declaration"*
- *"Motion for national reconciliation in Libya"*

These resolutions are available at: (www.africanpu.org).

The record of the Bissau meetings has also been sent to member parliaments.

2. Sessions of the Executive Committee

Pursuant to the statutory provisions of the Union, the Executive Committee held two ordinary sessions. The first was in Khartoum, on 2 and 3 June 2016, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Sudan, and the second, convened by the Moroccan parliament, is currently being held here in Rabat, on 5 and 6 November 2016.

2.1. 68th Session of the Executive Committee, 2 - 3 June 2016, Khartoum

The members of the Executive Committee commended and thanked the National Assembly of Sudan for their hospitality and all the efforts made to ensure the smooth running of the 68th Session of the Executive Committee.

The members of the Committee, recognizing the importance of their participation in APU meetings, stressed the need for a follow-up by every member parliament. Also, depending on the priorities of each country, the recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by successive APU Conferences should be implemented and regular reports sent to the General Secretariat. To that end, there should be exchange of information between parliaments and with the General Secretariat by using electronic means such as email.

Tackling the issue of amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee decided to consider the item at future sessions, based on proposals to be made by members.

In reviewing the financial situation of APU, the members of the Executive Committee acknowledged the difficulties that had led the Union to resort to the operating account, and stressed the urgency for countries to pay up their contributions so as to avoid statutory sanctions. They asked the General Secretariat to use the more cost-effective electronic means of communication to urge members to pay up their contributions. The Executive Committee decided to suspend the transfer of credits from one budget item to another, pending the relevant amendments to the financial regulations. It also adopted the audited management accounts as well as the report of the audited accounts and gave the Secretary-General its seal of approval for the financial management for fiscal year 2015.

The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda of the 39th Conference and selected the following topics for consideration in Rabat:

1. Participation of citizens, especially the youth, in promoting democracy
2. Role of African Parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
3. Combating terrorism in Africa

The Executive Committee took note of the proposal by the Committee of Women Parliamentarians to consider "*Parliamentary action against child and women's labour*", at the 39th Conference.

Lastly, in a Declaration adopted at the closing of the 68th Session, the Executive Committee first expressed its gratitude to the people and authorities of Sudan, and condemned acts of terrorism in Africa and the world at large. It also vehemently rejected allegations made against African leaders by the International Criminal Court, while calling for respect for the will of the people and refusal of interference in the internal affairs of African countries. It also called for the lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe, the restrictions imposed on Sudan and the unilateral procedures aimed at boycotting that country, and respect for the will of the Sudanese people to be done. It also praised the Libyan people for their efforts to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis and rebuild the country.

2.2. Preparations for the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and the 39th Conference

Following the proposal by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the statutory meetings, the Secretary-General traveled to Rabat from 25 to 27 July 2016, to finalize arrangements with the Moroccan Parliament authorities and decide on the dates and venue for the for the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and 39th Conference of Speakers of National Parliamentary Assemblies of APU.

Invitations to the 69th Session and 39th Conference were sent to all member and non-member parliaments and also to inter-parliamentary and international organizations.

This 69th Session of the Executive Committee considered among other items, the admissions and readmissions to the Union, the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 38th Conference, review of the amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the 2017 Work Programme of the Union, the draft budget for 2017, the draft agenda for the 39th Conference and the date and venue for the 70th Session of the Executive Committee.

3. Meeting of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians

Pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes of APU, the Committee of Women Parliamentarians held its meeting during the 38th Conference of the Union in Bissau. One of the topics of discussion was "***Parliamentary action to efficiently combat violence against women and children***".

At the end of their deliberations, the women parliamentarians adopted a resolution, which was approved by the 38th Conference and communicated to all member and non-member parliaments of APU.

III. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Second African Parliamentary Conference on Migration (Djibouti, 15 and 16 February 2016)

As part of the implementation of the APU annual work programme adopted by the 67th Session of the Executive Committee, the Second African Parliamentary Conference on Migration was held on 15 and 16 February 2016 in Djibouti, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Djibouti.

The conference, on the theme, “Contribution of African migrants to the development of origin and destination countries”, was organized by APU with the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and technical assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In preparing for the conference, APU held several meetings with IPU and the other organizations mentioned, and also with experts, to determine and map out the areas of intervention for every stakeholder in this specialized meeting.

The conference was chaired by Honourable Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker of the National Assembly of Djibouti. It brought together representatives of the parliaments of: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and Togo. Representatives of FAO, the League of Arab States, the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union were also present at the meeting.

In the final declaration adopted at the end of the meeting, participants expressed the view that migration was a historic and incompressible phenomenon, which was inherent in human nature, and therefore had to be tackled holistically through rights-based governance. Participants discussed the links between migration and development and the opportunities for origin countries in terms of joint development. They encouraged parliaments to focus on the issue of migration and include it in national development strategies as an integral part of public policy.

(The text of the Declaration is available at: <http://www.africanpu.org>).

2. 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings, 19-23 March 2016, Lusaka

The African Parliamentary Union participated in the 134th Assembly and related meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held from 19 to 23 March 2016 in Lusaka. The agenda of the Assembly was as follows:

1. General debate on the theme, “Rejuvenating democracy: Giving voice to youth”
2. *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights* (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

3. Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity (Standing Committee on Finance and Trade)
4. Reports of the Standing Committees and other Committees and Working Groups
5. Giving an identity to the 230 million children without civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21st century. (Emergency item).

At the end of the general debate, the 134th Assembly adopted the final document in which parliamentarians noted that today, more than half the world's population was under 30 years, while only 1.9 of parliamentarians were under 30, and declared that it was time to take action to revamp democracy to stem the growing disengagement of young people, who will be the adults of tomorrow. They therefore committed to rejuvenate democracy by:

- Giving voice to the youth and all citizens, irrespective of age, who have a role to play in rejuvenating democracy
- Ensuring that everyone is included, with governments conforming to the will of the people and accounting to it for their actions
- Ensuring that parliaments adjust to current times, and review their processes to keep up with changing trends in social and individual requirements
- Modernizing the functioning of institutions, opening up to new technologies that would lead to a new era of democracy 2.0
- Changing the way in which politics is played, as citizens expect exemplary integrity from parliamentarians and institutions
- Working toward a better future, taking the voice of future generations into account in political discourse and processes and ensuring better quality life for our children than we had, and that they are able to live in good health in a better world

(The text of the final document of the general debate is available to delegates).

Items 2, 3 and 5 led to resolutions, which were adopted by the Assembly.

The 134th Assembly adopted the declaration of the President of IPU, condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March 2016, which cost the lives of several innocent people and injured many.

At the 198th session, the Governing Council of IPU approved the request for re-membership of the Parliaments of Egypt and Comoros, and the membership of the Parliament of Guyana. It also approved the request by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), which had requested to move from permanent observer status to that of associate member.

At the 134th Assembly, IPU organized a joint IPU-UNAIDS field mission, carried out by the Consultative Group on HIV/AIDS and mother, neonatal and child health, and also parallel meetings on the topics:

- Leading by example on climate change: a lighter carbon footprint for parliaments

- Preventing child and forced marriage: making the global health goals a reality for girls;
- Reducing nuclear threats – the role of parliamentarians

Meeting of the African Group

Also at the 134th Assembly, the General Secretariat of APU held a meeting of the African Geo-political Group on 18 March 2016, with Honourable Idriss Ngari, Second Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of Gabon in the chair.

A report read to the Group by its representatives on the IPU Executive Committee touched mainly on the activity report of the President, the annual activity report of the Union, the situation of some members, financial issues, cooperation with the United Nations, review of the IPU 2017-2023 strategy and future Assemblies and inter-parliamentary meetings.

The group reviewed requests for inclusion of an emergency item in the Agenda of the 134th Assembly, and focused on two proposals, one from Morocco entitled, *“Complete the process of international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments”*. The other emergency item was by Sudan: *“Human slave trade: act of terrorism, serious violation of human rights and human dignity, and threat for peace and regional and international security”*. Following intense debates, the Group decided to put it to the vote in plenary. The Moroccan delegation withdrew its proposal for the benefit of that of Sudan. Sudan’s proposal was however, not taken following the roll-call vote. The Assembly selected the proposal by France, which had been merged with that of Uruguay, on children without civil status.

The African Group then appointed its representatives to fill vacant positions in the organs, committees and other working groups of IPU.

3. 23rd Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, 10 -11 April 2016, Cairo

The African Parliamentary Union participated in the 23rd Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), held in Cairo on 10 and 11 April 2016.

The 23rd Conference expressed its deep concern about recent developments on the international scene, marked by escalating violence, terrorist activities and rising extremism, and strongly condemned the terrorist attacks perpetrated on the African continent, in Europe, and in the Arab countries, and called for more international solidarity within the framework of resolutions taken by the United Nations Security Council to combat these attacks which are seriously threatening security and stability at the regional and international levels. The Conference was of the view that terrorism should not be confused with the right of the people to fight against occupation of their land and recover what is rightfully theirs. It also rejected any links between terrorism and Islam, which is a religion of peace and tolerance.

The Conference also called for harmonization of legislation against terrorism in Arab States and recommended that a fund should be set up by the League of Arab States, and resourced by its members, to fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Recalling previous resolutions, the Conference of AIPU reiterated its support for the Palestinian cause, for which a fair and comprehensive solution, based on international legitimacy, should be sought, if there is to be peace in the Middle East. It also considered the situation in other Arab countries and expressed its support to them.

The 23rd Conference had recommended that its secretariat should coordinate activities with the General Secretariat of APU, for the holding of the meeting of the Monitoring Committee and the 14th Afro-Arab Conference held on 4 and 5 May 2016 in Abidjan, and called for massive participation by Arab parliamentarians.

At the Cairo meeting, the Secretary-General of APU transmitted fraternal greetings and wishes of success to Arab and African parliamentarians alike. He said that Africa was concerned by the situation prevailing in the Arab world, because of the common destiny of the two parties, based on shared cultural, civilization and economic ties. He expressed the support of APU to all efforts being made toward peace in the Arab world and solidarity with the Arab countries concerned, in their fight for preservation of their sovereignty and independence. He stressed the importance Afro-Arab dialogue, which is a political instrument and expressed the readiness of the Ivorian Parliament to provide all the necessary facilities for the success of the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference.

4. 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference, 3 - 5 May 2016, Abidjan

In accordance with the 2016 work programme adopted by the Executive Committee at its session held in December 2015 in Bissau, and at the invitation of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, APU organized the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference on 4 and 5 May 2014 in Abidjan, jointly with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union. The conference was preceded by a meeting of the Follow-up Committee on 3 May 2016.

4.1. Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, 3 May 2016, Abidjan

The Follow-up Committee of the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference met on 3 May 2016 at the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire. The Conference elected its Bureau, comprising:

Chair: Mr. Ahmed Hemren, Member of the National Assembly of Mauritania
Rapporteur: Mr. Mohamadei Bundukji, Member of the Senate of Jordan

The Follow-up Committee heard the joint report of the General Secretariat of APU and that of AIPU on activities they had carried out together, as part of implementing the decisions and recommendations of the 13th Afro-Arab Inter-Parliamentary Conference held from 25 to 27 June 2013 in Rabat.

Members of the Follow-up Committee lauded the efforts made by the two General Secretariats and discussed:

- The need to hold two meetings yearly, in compliance with the rules of the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference
- The holding of the parliamentary forum in early 2017 on "Challenges of globalization and its effects on national cultures in Africa and the Arab world"
- Reactivating and forming bilateral friendship groups between African and Arab parliaments

- Urging Arab and African parliaments to request their governments to increase the number of diplomatic representations
- Improving coordination between African and Arab parliamentary delegations at IPU meetings so as to harmonize the positions of African and Arab parliaments

The Follow-up Committee ended by adopting the following agenda for the 14th Conference:

1. Election of the Bureau of the Conference
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Monitoring Committee
4. Exchange of views on “Developing interactions between Arab and African countries to promote peace and sustainable development”
5. Forming a new Monitoring Committee
6. Date and venue of the 15th Conference

4.2. 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference

The 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference was held at the National Assembly of Cote d’Ivoire, with Honourable Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d’Ivoire, in the Chair. The Conference was attended by 27 African and Arab Parliaments, nine Speakers and nine Deputy-Speakers of national parliamentary assemblies, while two organizations attended as observers.

Three statements were made at the inaugural session by Honourable Dr. Chafik Rachadi, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, representing the President of the Executive Committee of APU, Honourable Emile Rahme, member of the National Assembly of Lebanon, representing AIPU and Honourable Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d’Ivoire.

The Conference unanimously elected Honourable Guillaume K. Soro as Chair of the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference.

At the end of the meetings, the 14th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference adopted a Final Communiqué, with the following main points:

- The situation in Africa
- The situation in the Middle East and Arab countries
- Combatting terrorism
- Developing interactions between Arab and African countries with a view to promoting peace and sustainable development

The new Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference was set up as follows:

- African side: Burundi, Guinea, Mali, Namibia and Uganda
- Arab side: Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya and Palestine.

Lastly, the conference welcomed the proposal by the Egypt Parliament to host the 15th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference and asked the General Secretariat of AIPU to conduct consultations with the authorities of the host Parliament to set the date for the meeting.

5. International Forum on “New challenges of parliamentary diplomacy”, 24-25 May 2016, Algiers

The African Parliamentary Union participated in the international forum on “New challenges of parliamentary diplomacy”, held on 24 and 25 May 2016 in Algiers, at the People’s National Assembly of Algeria.

Given the complexity of interactive international relations and thorny issues such as terrorism, organized crime, drug and human trafficking and sustainable development faced by mankind, and which call for cooperation among all countries to bring an end to their negative effects on security and stability at the regional and international levels, this forum focused on three main topics:

- The role of external parliamentary action in strengthening official diplomacy
- The role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening security and world peace and solidarity among peoples
- Multilateral parliamentary diplomacy

At the end of the meetings, participants adopted a final communiqué, which reaffirmed, among others, the important role played by parliamentary institutions and the need to expand the scope of action of parliament, especially in its interactions with government on foreign policy. Equally important was the role that regional and international parliamentary organizations played as dialogue and consultation platforms for enhancing joint action among parliamentary assemblies. Participants rejected all forms of extremism and reiterated their commitment to pursuing the fight against terrorism. They expressed their firm and unflinching commitment to ensuring that relevant United Nations resolutions are complied with to restore fair and inclusive peace in the Middle East, grant the Palestinian people their legitimate and inalienable rights, establish Palestine as an independent State with the 1967 borders, and with Al Qods Al Charif as the capital and ensure the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories.

6. 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings, 23 - 27 October 2016, Geneva

APU took part in the 135th Assembly and related meetings organized by IPU from 23 to 27 October 2016 in Geneva.

The agenda for the 135th Assembly was as follows:

5. General debate on the theme “Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders”
6. “The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective”. (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights).
7. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and on United Nations Affairs

8. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 137th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs

At the start of the meeting, eight requests for the inclusion of an emergency item were put before the 135th Assembly. Following the withdrawal of three of those requests by their authors, the Assembly decided, following a roll-call vote, to include in its agenda, the merged proposal presented by the German and Mexican delegations entitled: "The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo".

This emergency item and the theme of item 2 above led to resolutions, which were adopted by the Assembly.

During the general debate, parliamentarians raised concern about the fact that across the world, "there is widespread marginalization, inequality, political exclusion, religious intolerance, poverty, undue restrictions on fundamental freedoms such as the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and no country is immune to human rights violations. Failure to address human rights challenges not only runs counter to national and international obligations, but can also create a fertile breeding ground for violent conflict if abuses become more serious and widespread. Parliaments are the guardians of human rights and the rule of law. As parliamentarians, we are the "eyes and ears" of citizens and are familiar with their concerns. We are well-placed to articulate those concerns in parliament. We are therefore at the forefront of raising the alarm and taking action when serious human rights challenges arise". Participants at the general debate then made the following recommendations:

- Prevent human rights violations
- Tackle human rights violations when they occur
- Build an inclusive and integrated society through closer cooperation with all stakeholders.

(The final document of the debate is available for delegates).

IPU organized several parallel events during the Assembly, including:

- Panel debate on refugees, migrants and their hosts – what next?
- Side event: The role of parliaments in implementing the Paris Agreement
- Leaving no one behind: parliaments at the forefront of protecting women's, children's and adolescents' health in migration crises, including in humanitarian and fragile settings
- Parity debate: Harassment and violence against parliamentarians: Issues and solutions
- Panel discussion: How parliaments change: Developing recommendations for strengthening parliamentary oversight
- Side-event for African Parliaments: Putting into practice the recommendations of the Abidjan seminar on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

-
- Informal panel discussion: How to reconcile growing military expenditures with the realization of our sustainable development commitments?
 - Side event on "e-Parliament: Online voting in a parliamentary context"

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a panel debate on "Securing the rights and future of women and girls during war and conflict"

At its 199th session held during this Assembly, the Governing Council decided to admit the Parliament of Swaziland into the African Parliamentary Union.

Meeting of the African Geopolitical Group

At the 135th Assembly, the General Secretariat of APU held a meeting of the African Geopolitical Group on 23 October 2016. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Richard Auguste Onouviet, Speaker of the National Assembly of Gabon.

The African Group heard reports by its representatives on the Executive Committee, at the meeting with Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of Standing Committees, which were mainly the IPU President's activity report, the Draft revised IPU Strategy for 2017-2021, membership issues, financial matters and cooperation with the United Nations and future meetings.

In considering the requests for inclusion of an emergency item on the agenda of the Assembly, the African Group decided, following a vote, to support the proposal made by the Kenyan delegation entitled "Addressing the South Sudan conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding peace and security".

The Group appointed its representatives to fill their positions on the committees and working groups of the Union.

The African Group also elected Ms. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, to chair its meetings.

On the margins of the Assembly, the General Secretariat of APU conducted a working meeting with the General Secretariat of IPU, on cooperation between the two institutions, particularly in the implementation of the Final Declaration of the African Parliamentary Conference on Migration held on 15 and 16 February 2016 in Djibouti, which was organized with contribution from IPU and technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)."

The President, following this report, requested delegates to comment on the activity report.

The report was adopted.

Point 4 : Amendments to the Statutes and the Rules of procedure

The Secretary General submitted the the amendments to the statutes and the rules which were considered and adopted by the Executive Committee at its Rabat session.

Following this presentation, the conference adopted the amendments to the Union's texts. (see the amended texts in annex IV)

Adjournment of the sitting (1.30 p.m.)

COMMITTEES

Tuesday 8 November (afternoon) and Wednesday 9 November 2016 (morning)

The Conference continued its sessions in Committees as follows:

Committee one was responsible for considering the two items, the first on "*Participation of citizens and especially of young people in promoting democracy*" and the second on "*The role of African parliaments in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals*".

Committee two was responsible for considering the two items on "*The fight against terrorism in Africa*" and "*Lifting unilateral economic sanctions imposed to Sudan and Zimbabwe.*"

At the end of the breakout sessions, draft resolutions were prepared. (See reports on breakout sessions).

PLENARY SESSION RESUMES

Wednesday 9 November 2016 (3.40 p.m.)

Item 5: Report of the committee of women parliamentarians of APU

The President of the Conference invited Ms. Maelainine Amina, member of the House of representatives of Morocco, Rapporteur of the APU Committee of women parliamentarians, to present the report of the women parliamentarians.

Ms. Maelainine Amina, read the following report:

"REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

On the occasion of the 39th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union, the Comitée of Women Parliamentarians, chaired by Honourable ALBERTINA TERESA JOSE, Member of the National Assembly of Angola and Chairperson of the APU Committee of Women Parliamentarians, was convened on 7 November 2016 in Rabat, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Honourable ALBERTINA TERESA JOSE was assisted by Honourable DIALLO Aminata, Member of the National Assembly of Senegal and Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Honourable MAELAINE AMINA, Member of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and Rapporteur of the Committee, and Mr NZI Koffi, the APU Secretary General.

The following member parliaments were in attendance: Took part in the work, members of the following parliaments: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The representative of the Union of the Comoros attended the meeting as an observer.

In her opening speech, the Chairperson, on behalf the Committee and on her own behalf, thanked His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the authorities, people and women parliamentarians of Morocco, for the hospitality and courtesies extended to participants at the Committee's meeting.

Speaking to the topic "***The contribution of African Parliaments in combating women and child trafficking and labour***", she presented the African context as characterised by human trafficking, which affects over two million people, mostly women and children, annually.

In view of the considerable expansion of the trade in the last ten year, there is an urgent need for action to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect victims, namely women and children.

She recalled that African parliaments, as elected representatives of the people, have a duty and the power to ensure that laws and other measures are put in place and implemented to that end. She therefore urged that no effort be spared to pass laws to ensure more effective action. .

She concluded by wishing the Committee a successful meeting and by declaring the meeting of the APU Committee of Women Parliamentarians open.

Prior to the adoption of the agenda, the Chairperson expressed appreciation to the other members of the Bureau for the work done in her absence. She also thanked the General Secretariat for the support provided to the Committee. She then appointed the Vice-Chairperson to chair the meeting. The Committee adopted the agenda with the following items:

- 1- The contribution of African Parliaments in combating women and child trafficking and labour
- 2- Activity report for 2016
- 3- Programme of activities for 2017
- 4- Election of the Bureau ;
- 5- AOB

Thereafter the Committee proceeded to consider the items of the agenda.

Item 1: The contribution of African Parliaments in combating women and child trafficking and labour

Following intense and fruitful discussions on the subject, the APU Committee of Women Parliamentarians came up with the following draft resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

“The contribution of African parliaments in combating women and child trafficking and labour”

Explanatory Memorandum

Human trafficking affects over two million people, mostly women and children, annually. Hitherto, trafficking was mainly associated with illicit trade in contraband goods, mostly narcotic drugs. However in the last ten years, the trade has mushroomed and now includes trafficking in human beings, mainly women and children. Recruited through deception, the victims soon end up trapped in a network of exploitation and deceit leading to trafficking. As a modern-day form of slavery, human trafficking is a violation of human rights. It is a crime against both the individual and the state and must be recognized as such and punished by law. It undermines the security of both the person and the State. Thus, efforts to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect victims must focus on the individual person and not just on the security of the State.

The Committee of African Women Parliamentarians, meeting in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco,

Whereas human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is a violation of human rights, particularly those of women and children,

Whereas it is a crime against both the individual person and the State, and undermines both the security of the person and that of the State,

Whereas trafficking in persons is a problem that extends beyond national borders,

Mindful that the fight against human trafficking faces many challenges,

Noting that compliance by countries with international standards varies significantly from region to region,

Considering that the Internet and other information technology applications such as web sites and computerised databanks may also be used to combat human trafficking, if they are used properly,

Recognizing that child labour perpetuates the vicious circle of poverty and prevents children from acquiring the skills and education required for a better future,

Mindful that Africa is the continent most affected by child labour,

Affirming that the impact of the practice which largely exceeds the scope of childhood also affects national economies through losses in competitiveness, productivity and potential income,

Emphasizing the need to implement a law in this area,

Mindful of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children;

Relying on body of international instruments, especially dealing with human trafficking as set out in Article 4-a of the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings of 16 May 2005, and Article 3-a of the Palermo Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recommends:

1. The passing of laws that consider persons who are trafficked as victims and not criminals;
2. The enforcement of laws and other measures by parliamentarians, as elected representatives of the people, in order to effectively combat women and child trafficking and labour and strengthen national efforts against human trafficking;
3. The implementation of actions to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect the victims; actions centred on individual persons and not just State security;
4. The regulation of professions and protection of the rights of women and children to reduce their trafficking and exploitation;
5. The launch of a campaign to raise the awareness of victims to encourage them to come forward and, consequently, intensify legal action;
6. The adoption of victim assistance programmes which also guarantee total protection for victims as witnesses, so as to encourage them to testify;
7. Successful prosecutions and severe sanctions as a way of deterring future traffickers;
8. The Deployment of comprehensive databases on trafficking to provide a platform for cooperation between groups from various regions fighting the phenomenon alone;

9. The strengthening, where applicable, of human trafficking laws and an increase in funding for the purposes of implementation and monitoring;
10. Withdrawing children under the minimum employment age from work, providing them access to education and supporting their families through vocational training or employment opportunities;
11. Greater empowerment of women through gender budgeting during budget approval;
12. The establishment in our parliaments of a standing committee on gender, in order to ensure women's participation in all spheres of national life.
13. The creation of an African observatory for the protection of children and of an African organisation for children, like UNICEF;
14. The reduction of social disparities, the eradication of poverty and the implementation of a health and social assistance programme;
15. The introduction of an African parliament for children;
16. The introduction of a best creative work award for children;
17. The establishment, in national parliaments, in the Pan-African parliament and in regional parliaments, of standing committees or sub-committees on children and family affairs;
18. The setting up of TV and radio stations for children;
19. The sensitisation of families and various social actors on the hazards associated with child labour;
20. The setting up of training centres that are tailored to the age and interest of children;
21. The establishment of joint parliament–government committees or bodies to investigate child labour-related issues through inspection visits to schools, companies and the street;
22. The provision of social and psychological assistance to victims.

Item 2: Activity report for 2016

Prior to discussions on item 2 of the agenda, the General Secretariat of APU formally introduced the delegates from Uganda and Namibia as Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia respectively.

The Committee also noted that no activities had been carried out since the last meeting. However, UN Women was contacted and agreed to support African women parliamentarians in some activities. The Committee will also be supported by the President of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians and Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia.

Item 3: Programme of activities for 2017

After fruitful exchanges on item 3, the programme of activities was approved as follows:

- Joint activities with UN Women and IPU on matters such as early marriage, unemployment, immigration, quota for women's participation in parliaments;
- Creation of a Facebook page or other platform to enable APU women parliamentarians to stay in touch and interact on issues of common concern.

Item 4: Election of the Bureau

Given the low level of attendance at the Committee's meeting, the Committee recalled the provisions of Article 8 of the APU Statutes which stipulate in paragraph 5 that,

"Every delegation of a national group to the session of the African Parliamentary Union shall include at least one woman", and urged the delegations to comply, suggesting that any delegation that does not conform to Article 8 of the APU Statutes for three consecutive meetings:

- Shall be prevented from attending the meeting; and
- Shall not stand for any office in the Committee.

Prior to the election of the new Bureau, the Chairperson recalled the provisions of article 33(1) of the APU Rules of Procedure, which provide that,

"The committee of Women Parliamentarians shall elect, from among its members, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur. The members of the Bureau shall be elected for a period of two years on a rotating basis taking into account an equitable geographical distribution"

The composition of the new Bureau is as follows:

Chairperson : Senegal
Vice-Chairperson: Egypt
Rapporteur : Sudan

Item 5: AOB

At the end of the meeting of the African Women Parliamentarians, the Chairperson of the meeting lauded the active contributions of participants through fruitful and enriching exchanges on the topic and other items on the agenda.

She requested the national groups to forward their inputs to the APU General Secretariat ahead of their Committee's meeting, in order for those inputs to be summarised in a document to be circulated to them before the meeting.

She also recalled the provisions of Article 8(5) of the APU Statutes, which provide that, *"Every delegation of a national group to the session of the African Parliamentary Union shall include at least one woman"*, and urged national Parliaments to be compliant.

She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the men parliamentarians who attended the Committee's meeting in solidarity with the Committee. She also conveyed her gratitude to the Committee for the trust and confidence reposed in her and other members of the Bureau, for the conduct of the affairs of the Committee.

Likewise, she commended the General Secretariat for the technical support it provided to the Committee, resulting in a successful meeting.

Done in Rabat, on 7 November 2016"

The conference adopted the report unanimously

Item 6 : Participation of citizens and especially of young people in promoting democracy

Item 7: The role of African parliaments in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals

The President invited the rapporteur of the first committee to present his report.

"Report of the First Committee

Commission I, set up by the 39th Conference, met on 8 and 9 November 2016 to consider Conference agenda items 6 and 7 on "Participation of Citizens, especially the Youth, in Promoting Democracy", and "The role of African Parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals" respectively.

Representatives from the following countries took part in the Committee's work: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.

Representatives from the Comoros attended the proceedings as observers.

The Committee began its work by electing **Madam Amedjogbe Akossiwa** of Togo as Chairperson. The rapporteurs of the Committee, appointed by the 68th Session of the Executive Committee, were:

- **Mr Ali Osman** of Ethiopia, as Rapporteur for item 6
- **Mr Mohamed Ahmed Hamid Alshayib** of Sudan, as Rapporteur for item 7

At the end of its deliberations, the Committee adopted the following two draft resolutions, which were submitted to the 38th Conference." (see the text of the resolution in annex I)

The conference unanimously adopted the report

The President invited the Rapporteur of the second committee to submit his report.

Item 8 : The fight against terrorism in Africa

Item 9: Lifting unilateral economic sanctions imposed to Sudan and Zimbabwe

"REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

The second working Committee set up by the 39th Conference of the APU met on 8 November 2016 to examine the items of the of the Conference agenda on:

1. The fight against terrorism in Africa
2. The lifting of the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on Sudan and Zimbabwe

Members of the Committee include representatives from the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.

The Bureau of the Committee was as follows:

Chairperson and Rapporteur on item 1: Hon. Pierre Flambeau NGAYAP – Senator (Cameroon)

Chairperson on item 2: Hon. Pierre Flambeau NGAYAP – Senator (Cameroon)

Rapporteur on item 2: Hon. Diallo Ahmed Aziz – MP (Burkina Faso)

Members of the Committee reviewed the two draft resolutions and various proposals for modification.

The Second Committee, at the end of its deliberations, adopted the following draft resolutions which it hereby presents to the 39th Conference :” (*see the text of the resolution in annex I*)

The conference unanimously adopted the report

Item 10 : Election of the members of the Executive Committee (2016--2018)

After the submission of the names of their representatives by the different delegations, the Secretary General read out the following list of the members of the Executive Committee:

COUNTRY	Names	Title
ALGERIA	Kacha Saïd (Mr) Boukerroucha Abdelkader (Mr) Ayad Ratiba (Ms)	Senator MP MP
ANGOLA		
BENIN	Zinsou Edmond (Mr) Dafia Abiba (Ms) Atao Hinnouho (Mr)	MP MP MP
BURKINA FASO	Bindi Ouoba (Mr) Fatimata Korbeogo (Ms) Ahmed Aziz Diallo (Mr)	
BURUNDI	Mbomeko Sauda (Ms)	MP
CAMEROON	Hon. Dr. Ngayap Pierre Flambeau (Mr) Hon. Tomaino Ndam Njoya Patricia (Ms) Hon. Din Bell Armanda (Ms)	Senator MP Senator
CENTRAL AFRICA		
CONGO	Etaka Yemet Valère Gabriel (Mr) Opimbat Charlotte (Ms) Tsalabiende Joseph (Mr)	MP, First secretary MP, 1st Questor MP
COTE D'IVOIRE		
DJIBOUTI	Ali Soubane Ateye (Mr) Fatouma Mohamed Kamil (Ms) Abdoulkader Mohamed Moussa (Mr)	MP MP MP
EGYPT		
ETHIOPIA	Hon. Amanuel Abreham (Mr) Hon. Mohammed Reshad (Mr) Hon. Ali Osman (Mr)	State Ministry Deputy Speaker MP, Foreign St. Commission
GABON		
GAMBIA		
GHANA	Hon. Abubakari Dey Ibrahim (Mr) Hon. Koomson Hawa Mavis (Ms) Hon. Amankwanor Joseph Sam (Mr)	MP MP MP
GUINEA-BISSAU	Dam lala Barançaõ (Ms) Lassana Fati (Mr) Maria Paula Costa Pereira (Ms)	MP MP MP
GUINEA (Conakry)		
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	S.E Santiago Nsobeya Efuman (Mr) Hon. Salvador Nguema Mangue (Mr) Hon. Natividad Ondo Bindang (Ms)	1st Vice-President MP MP

Report of proceedings of 69th Executive Committee Session
and 39th Conference of APU – Rabat (Morocco), 5 – 9 Nov. 2016

COUNTRY	Names	Title
KENYA		
LIBERIA		
LIBYA		
MALI	Cheick Tahara Nimaga (Mr) Labasse Kané (Mr) Sory Ibrahim Kouriba (Mr)	Vice-President MP MP
COUNTRY	Names	Titles
MOROCCO	Mayara Enaam (Mr) ----- -----	1st Vice-President, Senate
MAURITANIA		
NAMIBIA	Margaret Mensah Williams (Ms)	President
NIGER	Hon. Moumouni Issa (Mr) Hon. Harouna Daidouka (Mr) Hon. Maïmouna Hima (Ms)	MP MP MP
NIGERIA	Hon. Babataunde Kolawole (Mr) Hon. Samuel I. Ikon (Mr) Hon. Olusola A. Adebisi (Mr)	MP MP Senator
UGANDA		
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	Lukiana Mufuankolo Marie Ange (Ms) Mushizi Nfundiko (Mr) Ndebo Akanda Ignace (Mr)	MP MP Senator
RWANDA	Hon. Mukama Abbas (Mr) Hon. Uwayisenga Yvonne (Ms) Hon. Prof. Laurent Nkusi (Mr)	Vice- President MP Senator
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		
SENEGAL	Alioune Badara Diouf (Mr) Aminata Diallo (Ms) Mamadou Badji (Mr)	MP MP MP
SIERRA LEONE		
SOMALIA		
SUDAN	Hon. Mohamed Ahmed Hamid (Mr) Hon. Saga Hussein Elnour (Mr) Hon. Afaf Tawir Kafi (Ms)	MP MP MP
SOUTH SUDAN	Rt. Hon. Anthony Lino Makana (Mr) Hon. Anne L. Abye (Ms)	President MP
CHAD		
TOGO	Sego Ebè Franck (Mr) Amedjogbe A. Olivia (Ms)	MP, 3rd Questor MP
TUNISIA		
ZIMBABWE	Edna Madzongwe (Ms) Mabel Chinomona (Ms) Misheck Chipanga (Mr)	President of the Senate Vice-President Senator

The Conference approved this list of new members of the Executive Committee and then proceeded to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee in conformity with the provisions of the Statutes which have just been adopted, after a debate on the principles likely to guide the parliamentarians in that election process, especially regarding the rotation and the fair representation of sub regions of the continent,.

Thus, the Conference heard the following message of **Honourable Cipriano CASSAMA, Speaker of the People’s National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau, candidate to the post of Chairperson of the Executive Committee:**

*“Excellency the Speaker of the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco and
Chairperson of the Executive Committee of APU,
Excellencies Speakers of Parliamentary Assemblies of African countries here present,
Secretary-General of APU,
Members of delegations of parliaments present at this Session,
Chairperson of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians of APU,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

I have the great honour to take the floor at this 69th Session of the Executive Committee and 39th Conference of Speakers of National Parliamentary Assemblies of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) being held here in Morocco.

Allow me, first of all, to express our deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations attending this meeting. I wish, especially, to thank His Majesty King Mohammed VI for hosting this conference and providing all the facilities needed to ensure a pleasant stay in this country. I welcome the successful deliberations on the topics of the meetings.

I also wish to congratulate the organizers on the choice of such major topics that cut across modern societies, especially those facing the most difficulties in implementing social rights, and which, therefore, have become the most vulnerable to contemporary threats such as human trafficking, especially of women and children; women’s and child labour, and early and forced marriages.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Currently, democracies are faced with countless and complex challenges, which, if not met with determination, may jeopardize the very foundations of our countries and question our shared values. I believe, therefore, that this event is an ideal forum for adopting joint strategies to tackle, in our capacity as parliamentarians and governments, these social evils, by taking preventive measures against them or cracking down on them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The participation of citizens, especially the youth, in promoting the consolidation of our democracies, is a crosscutting challenge for all contemporary democracies, because it would be quite inconceivable to meet the aspirations of our people, if the most important section of our society is not present or is always distanced from democratic forums.

It is vital for our governments to introduce mechanisms to promote the culture of participation, by involving the youth in national debates and increasing their presence in the public sphere and decision-making. This calls for amending the operational structure of our institutions, to make them more open to listening to and taking the requests of people in general, and the youth in particular, into consideration.

Having understood this need, the Peoples' National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau, in partnership with organizations representing the youth, and with financing from its partners, held a youth parliamentary day, with the theme "The role of the youth in democracy-building", where young people had the opportunity to debate freely, without any qualms, on all subjects pertaining to their political participation, and drawing major conclusions which will be submitted to the country's executive.

In their capacity as entities responsible for approving government action, and more importantly, for the political surveillance of executive action, national parliaments can play, and indeed, do play, a major role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This role, I am sure, can be played at several levels: first, in terms of the budget allocated to it; then at the level of the specialized committees, with parliaments controlling the execution of the budgets allocated to the key sectors and for sustainable development, and also at the level of control of the accounts put forward by the executive.

Alongside the rational allocation of resources to the appropriate sectors, sustainable development requires projects to be environmentally friendly, an issue that should be an overriding concern for African parliaments, particularly, APU.

With regard to environmental protection, I welcome the initiative by the international community in endorsing the Kingdom of Morocco's acceptance to host the COP22, as our countries must seriously focus on protecting our common heritage, so as to leave a lasting legacy for future generations, enabling them to have decent livelihoods.

We cannot aspire to sustainable development without environmentally friendly projects and without investing in building the capacities of the youth and women, and in reducing gender inequalities. These principles should undergird all public policies that we plan to introduce.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

As Honourable Hakim Bechamach of the Kingdom of Morocco intimated, the African continent is facing challenges on all fronts – security, economic and environmental. One of these challenges is the emergence of terrorist groups that are destroying lives and national infrastructure. For that, dear colleagues, dear guests, the pooling our efforts, sharing

information and adopting joint strategies to counter terrorism, should be the tools for evaluating action by our governments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to communicate to this august assembly that the *Assembleia Nacional Popular de Guiné-Bissau* (Peoples' National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau) is humbly participating in this Conference and has the honour to present its candidacy for the chair of our organization. We hope to be able to count on the support of all the parliaments and delegations here present. Allow me, also, to congratulate the outgoing chair on the herculean job done for the Union and the commitments made towards the expansion of our organization.

The efforts made by the outgoing management notwithstanding, many challenges still remain, and which require quick and efficient answers, such as consolidating the budget framework of the organization by providing it with more resources to meet its obligations fully; expanding the membership base, sparing no effort to encourage other parliaments to join the Union; and broadening the partnership base between our forum and other organizations, within the continent and beyond. My goal, in the event the chair of the organization is accorded to the *Assembleia Nacional Popular da Guiné-Bissau*, would be to carry APU to other global and subregional forums such as the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union to project our Union as a force to reckon with. Also, we would like APU to be included in the list of election observer organizations.

These are the commitments that we must meet, in a spirit of continuity, in the event that our candidacy is accepted by your Excellencies.

*Invited guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

While we are aware of the difficulties of such an undertaking, we acknowledge, and cannot hide the fact, that our country is undergoing political crisis, which may raise concerns about our candidacy for the highest position in APU. While the situation, is of concern to us, as a country, I am convinced that there is no risk that our parliament will be dissolved, especially as, right now, there are all indications that a Prime Minister will be appointed and a government formed to carry out its functions in a stable environment until elections are called.

Chairing the APU would be both a privilege and responsibility for the *Assembleia Nacional Popular da Guiné-Bissau*, and a sign of solidarity of the parliaments of the continent with the Parliament and people of Guinea-Bissau. In reaffirming our commitment to pursue the consolidation of the structures of APU therefore, in all humility and with a sense of profound responsibility, we submit our candidacy, convinced that it will meet with your support and approval.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We could not end without reiterating our sincere gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco, particularly His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Moroccan people, for the warm and fraternal welcome to all delegations.

I also wish to show our solidarity to our brothers from Libya, the Sudan, Mali, Zimbabwe and others, as they go through this difficult time, dealing with terrorism and coping with the embargo, hoping that the respective countries and people would find in this association of parliamentarians, new impetus, immense understanding and affection, to assuage their suffering.

Thank you very much.”

The Conference elected by acclamation Honourable Cipriano CASSAMA, Speaker of the People’s National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau, unique candidate, as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Thereafter, the members of the Executive Committee elected the other members of the Bureau as follows:

Vice-Chairpersons:

- Hon. Mayara Enaam , 1st Vice President of the House of Councillors of Morocco ; (North Africa)
- Hon. Pierre Flambeau NGAYAP - Senator from Cameroon ; (Central Africa)
- (Southern Africa)

Rapporteur: Honourable Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh, Member of the National Assembly of Djibouti (East Africa)

Item 11: Date and venue of the 40th Conference

The President asked the APU General Secretariat and the members of the Executive Committee bureau to consult with the member parliaments so that to fix a venue and a date for November 2017.

Applause

CLOSING SESSION

The President of the Conference then gave the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Hon. Lukiana Mufwankolo M.A , member of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on behalf of all the delegations, presented a vote of thanks.

**“VOTE OF THANKS TO HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI AND THE AUTHORITIES OF
MOROCCO**

The Members and delegates of the African Parliamentary Union, meeting at the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and 39th Conference from 5 to 9 November 2016, in Rabat,

Struck by the interest shown by His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Morocco in the African Parliamentary Union,

Appreciating the fraternal and warm hospitality accorded the different parliamentary delegations by the people and authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco,

Conscious of the efforts made by the authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco to hold the 69th Session of the Executive Committee and the 39th Conference of APU in Rabat,

- Express their thanks and heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty, King Mohammed VI for his support and interest in the African Parliamentary Union;
- Express their sincere gratitude to the authorities and people of Morocco for their warm hospitality towards the delegates;
- Commend the authorities and Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco for the excellent organization of the APU sessions;
- Greet the projects and the dynamics of reforms launched by the Kingdom of Morocco under the supervision of His Majesty the King Mohamed VI in favour of the strengthening of the democratic process in the country;
- Greet and support the initiative of His Majesty the King Mohamed VI concerning the return of the Kingdom of Morocco within its African institutional family and consider that this initiative will strengthen the process of construction of close and prosperous Africa.

Done in Rabat, 9 November 2016”

Applause

The President of the Conference, in his closing address, reiterated his thanks to delegates for their participation in the meetings.

He expressed his satisfaction for the results of the Rabat sessions and called on parliamentarians to intensify their efforts so that the debates be always of high level ones.

The President added that his country, Morocco, always remains available to contribute to actions aimed at meeting the lot of challenges the continent is facing.

On these words, The President declared the 39th Conference of African Parliamentary Union closed.

(The Conference was closed at 08.00 p.m.)

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: Resolutions and declarations

R.140/39/16

PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH, IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

*Resolution adopted by the 39th Conference
(Rabat, 9 November 2016)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 39th Conference in Rabat (Morocco) on 8 and 9 November 2016,

Reaffirming its commitment to democracy, and *convinced* that promoting and strengthening it can contribute to building peace, stability and economic and social progress in African countries,

Recalling the commitment by States, as stated in the Millennium Declaration, that they would spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and *encouraged* by the fact that participation by the youth in political life features among the priority actions of democracy worldwide,

Bearing in mind its resolutions on “Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law to ensure Peace and Development in African Countries”, adopted by the 38th Conference held on 6 December 2015 in Bissau, and “The Strengthening of Democratic Governance in African Countries as a necessity for Political, Economic and Social Stability” adopted by the 35th Conference held in Kigali, on 30 November 2012, and the resolution on “Youth Participation in the Democratic Process” adopted on 1 April 2010 by the 122nd IPU Assembly in Bangkok,

Considering that per the terms of the Universal Declaration on Democracy adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in September 1997, “democracy is founded on the right of everyone to take part in the management of public affairs; it therefore requires the existence of institutions at all levels and, in particular a Parliament in which all components of society are represented and which has the requisite powers and means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action”,

Welcoming the decision by the 26th Conference of the African Union to place the year 2017 under the theme “Investing in the Youth as a Demographic Dividend”, and *Taking note* of the final document of the general discussion on the theme: “Rejuvenating democracy: Giving voice to youth”, at the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held on 23 March 2016 in Lusaka,

Considering that the participation of the youth in decision-making processes is a way of promoting the active exercise of citizenship and arousing civic commitment in them, teaching them the functioning of institutions and enhancing their sense of social responsibility,

Aware that the feeling of abandonment and exclusion could be a source of social frustration and lead to lack of civism and rejection of all authority of the State, radicalization and disenchantment toward democratic systems and institutions,

Aware that popular uprisings throughout the world, mainly led by young people, have affirmed the need for democratic governance, anchored on inclusion, participation, non-discrimination and empowerment,

Concerned by the downward trend of election participation rates, over time, the disenchantment of many citizens, particularly young people, with traditional political processes, and *Observing* on the other hand, that young people are increasingly involved in democracy movements all over the world,

Deploring the poor level of democratic culture in popular circles and *underlining* the importance of formal education and informal learning in training the youth in democratic citizenship,

Aware of the fact that promoting and strengthening democracy, by increasing the participation of young people in decision-making could be a means for dealing with the rise in extremism,

1. *Believes* that the role played by parliament in promoting democracy is highly important, in that it represents all facets of society and has the powers to express the willingness of the people by legislating and controlling government action;
2. *Invites* African States to provide their parliaments with the human and material resources needed, in their efforts to promote democracy, and *Commits* African parliaments, in modernizing and rejuvenating their parliaments, to enhance their legislative and control powers and their checks and balances, to further democracy and the rule of law;
3. *Requests* African countries to devise and implement civic educational programmes designed to entrench democracy in societal values, and to this end, *Calls upon* them to encourage and support the efforts deployed by national non-governmental organizations, trades unions, the media or any other competent body in training, production of teaching aids or extension work;
4. *Calls upon*, following the example of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, African political leaders to strengthen the links between the sustainable development goals and the aspirations of the citizens, who are calling for greater transparency, accountability and a more inclusive decision-making process;
5. *Urges* African parliaments to ensure that the voice of the people, particularly that of young people, is taken into account when countries set their priorities, goals and indicators and tie them to the sustainable development goals.

6. Also urges African parliaments and parliamentarians to take all the measures needed to ensure an enabling environment for participation by the youth and galvanize their leadership, and avoid political, economic and social marginalization, which give way to extremism and violence;
7. *Reaffirms* the need for African parliaments, in their structures and functioning, to adapt themselves to the digital environment to improve transparency and accountability, and also take into account the fact that modern information technologies such as the internet, mobile telephone networks and social media are changing the ways in which citizens, especially the youth, are engaged;
8. *Calls upon* parliaments to create the legal framework and mechanisms that respect social diversity and which include measures to support associations, dialogue structures and means of communication, to enable broad civil society participation in promoting democracy;
9. *Calls upon* parliaments to support comprehensive youth policies, especially for the poor and marginalized, that promote health and employment, match education to market requirements, and foster access to loans for young entrepreneurs, taking all aspects of youth development into account;
10. *Urges* African parliaments to take the appropriate legal measures to increase representation of the youth in parliaments and other decision-making bodies, by instituting quotas in relation to the proportion of eligible young people, by alleviating restrictions on the legal age for election, and by strengthening political party support, entrusting the youth with leadership positions and making them models to be followed by their peers. Special attention should also be paid to the situation and needs of young women;
11. *Requests* African parliaments to open parliamentary debates to young people, through consultations and parliamentary hearings, and by forging links with youth parliaments and national and municipal councils and similar bodies, student associations and youth NGOs, so as to foster inclusive dialogue for peace and tolerance;
12. *Urges* African parliaments to draw up and adopt strategies designed to mobilize the youth as agents of transformation, and foster economic empowerment among them, civil commitment and increased participation in decision-making at the local and national levels, in politics and in public institutions, and in strengthening resilience;
13. *Calls upon* African parliaments to support projects designed to encourage youth participation in peaceful collaboration in conflict zones, the fight against terrorism, organizing young people in the fight against corruption, establishing local youth councils and media campaigns for greater participation of the youth in elections;
14. *Calls upon* African parliaments to support initiatives of civil society organizations aimed at promoting participation and political, social and cultural integration of the youth as an alternative to violence, and as a way of contributing to social cohesion and preventing violent extremism, by promoting dialogue, tolerance and citizenship;

15. *Calls upon* African parliaments to encourage participation by young parliamentarians by systematically including them and other men and women in delegations taking part in international debates and forums.

R.141/39/16

**THE ROLE OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS
IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*Resolution adopted by the 39th Conference
(Rabat, 9 November 2016)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 39th Assembly in Rabat (Morocco) on 8 and 9 November 2016,

Whereas the sustainable development Agenda is a plan of action designed to strengthen peace around the world,

Convinced of the need to protect and care for our planet in order to move towards a sustainable path of resilience,

Stressing that the 17 sustainable development goals and the 169 targets are in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals and geared towards achieving human rights for all, gender equality and empowerment for women and girls,

Stressing, moreover, that these integrated and inextricably linked goals balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental,

Acknowledging that parliaments should promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they reflect the needs and aspirations of the people,

Highlighting the important role of parliaments in promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including voting the required appropriations, passing the required legislation and scrutinising government efforts to achieve the SDGs,

Considering that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is a prerequisite for sustainable development,

Also stressing that job creation, particularly for the youth and women, affords the citizenry the opportunity to earn a decent living and must be a permanent consideration in sustainable development policies,

Emphasising that African countries should implement a sustainable policy for increased agricultural productivity,

Convinced that strong parliaments will play a central role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; this includes ensuring that development policies and plans are developed through inclusive and participatory processes, and requesting regular status reports,

Emphasising the urgent need for developed countries to fulfil the commitment to move the official development assistance (ODA) level to 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) as a critical step towards achieving the SDGs,

Recalling its resolution on sustainable development adopted at its 37th Conference held in Rabat (November 2014),

1. *Urges* parliaments to make laws which meet the SDGs requirements and to ensure effective implementation by their governments of such laws, and of resultant national policies and strategic plans; to consider the constitutional entrenchment of some SDGs related to fundamental rights;
2. *Calls on* African parliaments to ensure that all laws are consistent with the SDGs and that their oversight procedures emphasise government responsibility for implementing the SDGs, and to maintain an on-going dialogue with civil society;
3. *Encourages* African national parliaments to ensure that their governments adopt social and economic policies that foster sustainable growth in keeping with the SDGs, pursue their institutional reform efforts, promote democracy and human rights, and fight corruption;
4. *Requests* governments to regularly brief their respective parliaments on actions and progress towards achieving the SDGs, and thus enable them to monitor and assess implementation;
5. *Recommends that* national parliaments set up committees, which will be responsible in their specific areas for initiating and following up on actions towards implementing the SDGs, particularly in the areas of agriculture and food security, health, education, social welfare, water, energy and environment;
6. *Encourages* public debates on poverty reduction strategies in parliaments;
7. *Urges* parliaments, governments and international organisations to promote micro-credit, especially in rural areas;
8. *Encourages* parliaments to sustain their efforts at reducing poverty and empowering and promoting women as well as gender policies; to this end, proposes the establishment of specialized parliamentary bodies to pursue these issues;
9. *Requests* parliaments to take legislative measures to eliminate discrimination against women and facilitate their access to economic resources and services that move them out of poverty towards sustainable development;

10. *Requests* national parliaments to ensure that policies and budget documents *highlight the achievement of the SDGs; adequate budgetary resources should be* in place;

11. *Urges* national parliaments and governments to prioritise domestic financing for sustainable development agendas by strengthening local fiscal and financial governance structures, combating capital flight, and mobilising migrant remittances;

12. *Calls on* national parliaments and governments to promote private investment and public-private partnerships (PPP) for the financing and operation of public utilities, especially in the areas of housing, resilient infrastructure and environment;

13. *Requests* African national parliaments, within the framework of bilateral and multilateral parliamentary activities, to involve parliaments of developed countries in efforts to get their respective governments to fulfil their commitment to allocate 0.7% of GNP to Official Development Assistance (ODA), in accordance with the Millennium Declaration and other international commitments regarding development financing;

THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN AFRICA
Resolution adopted by the 39th Conference
(Rabat, 9 November 2016)

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 39th Conference held on 8 and 9 November 2016 in Rabat (Morocco),

Emphasizing the urgent need to wage a relentless war on all forms and manifestations of terrorism, which threatens peace and security in Africa and the world at large, through all means, and in keeping with international and regional instruments,

Highly concerned about the threat of terrorism in Africa, which has spread to other regions hitherto spared from it, and which are today facing armed terrorist groups and movements,

Convinced that education, mass information and political and economic governance gap as well as the lack of State authority in some regions of our countries create a breeding ground for terrorism in Africa,

Affirming that impoverishment, religious radicalism, civil, political and military conflicts, internal tensions, organized crime, particularly smuggling, drug and arms trafficking, maritime piracy, human trafficking, human organs trafficking and illegal migration, contribute to the emergence and spread of terrorism in Africa,

Reaffirming that there is no link between religions and terrorism,

Concerned about the facilities at the disposal of terrorist groups for obtaining arms and broadcasting their propaganda through the internet and social media,

Noting the existence of informal channels in African countries, which encourage the circulation of money for the purposes of money laundering and terrorism financing,

Noting also that terrorist groups are taking advantage of corrupt systems and using regular channels to launder their money,

Convinced that Parliaments and civil society have a crucial role to play in combating terrorism and eliminating its root causes, and promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and peaceful conflict resolution, as means of preventing terrorism,

Emphasizing the need for close cooperation between African countries and at the international level to combat terrorism,

Recalling its resolution adopted at the 37th Conference held in Rabat on 1 and 2 November 2014,

1. *Commends* the front lines countries and the international community for the efforts and sacrifices made towards the fight against terrorism;
2. *Urges* African States to continuously improve political and economic governance in order to eradicate the conditions which encourage the emergence and the spread of terrorism, by involving Parliaments and civil society in promoting peace and security and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa's Agenda 2063;
3. *Encourages* African States to promote democracy, the rule of law, the decentralization, peaceful transfer of power and human rights;
4. *Reaffirms* that the fight against terrorism should entail promoting cooperation, coordination and consistency of initiatives; combating corruption, dealing with youth unemployment, social exclusion, radicalism and extremism, fostering regional and international cooperation in the field of military training and intelligence systems in combating terrorism; and upgrading the operational capacities of the defence and security forces;
5. *Urges* African States to attach particular importance to the youth and women, and provide them with education and decent source of livelihood, by promoting employment and developing income-generating activities; and also to combat social discrimination and political exclusion;
6. *Requests* African States to factor activities aimed at combating social injustice and socio-economic marginalization into their socio-economic programmes;
7. *Calls upon* Parliaments and governments to promote decentralization, develop economic and infrastructural investments, so as to encourage people to settle in vast and under-populated areas of their territories and border regions;
8. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen and/or update national laws which have an impact on combating and financing terrorism;
9. *Encourages* Parliaments to work together with their Governments to introduce legal and regulatory arrangements aimed at preventing and combating terrorism which is nurtured by organized crime, particularly kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and money laundering;
10. *Calls* for legal cooperation and sharing information as part of combating terrorism and implementing a security policy at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international levels;
11. *Urges* the media and civil society stakeholders to work in tandem with Governments and Parliaments to promote dialogue and national reconciliation as well as the values of tolerance and non-violence;

-
12. *Calls* for State action at the global level, aimed at implementing mechanisms to effectively combat cyber crime and step up the fight against terrorism on the web by preventing the dissemination of terrorist propaganda, through surveillance and enhanced cooperation with the internet giants such as Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo, and Google;
13. *Encourages* African States to give priority to peace and foster inclusive political dialogue and negotiation by involving Parliaments and civil society as a whole, and communities, to avert internal conflicts, promote peace, cohabitation as well as inter-faith, intra-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and tolerance;
14. *Encourages* States to ensure compliance with international law, particularly in the area of human rights, refugee rights, humanitarian law and non-intervention in internal affairs of States;
15. *Urges* all States in the world, particularly in Africa, to introduce prevention and monitoring arrangements aimed at ensuring that financial and banking institutions, economic ventures, organizations or other entities operating on their territory do not become means for terrorists to finance their criminal or money-laundering activities;
16. *Urges* Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation in the area of combating terrorism, through the mutual exchange of information and experiences relating to national legislation on terrorism and organized crime;
17. *Urges* States in the world, particularly in Africa, to enhance their activities and cooperate effectively in surveillance of their territories and control of their land, sea and air boundaries in order to prevent the installation of terrorist training bases or to proceed to their destruction, and prevent any infiltration of arms, individuals or groups involved in the planning, organization and execution of terrorist acts;
18. *Calls* for the strengthening of inter-State and inter-community cooperation as well as coordination between the security services in the fight against terrorism;
19. *Reiterates* its call for strengthening mechanisms for preventing and combating terrorism, introduced by the African Union and the regional economic communities, such as the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Multinational Joint Task Force set up by the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, the Regional Task Force in Central Africa, the Easter Africa standby Force, the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit and the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL);
20. *Invites* States to accelerate the process of ratification of the “ Charter on maritime security and safety and development in Africa” adopted in Lomé on 15 October 2016.
-

LIFTING THE ECONOMIC UNILATERAL SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON SUDAN AND ZIMBABWE

*Resolution adopted by the 39th Conference
(Rabat, 9 November 2016)*

The African Parliamentary Union (APU), meeting at its 39th Conference in Rabat (Morocco) on 8 and 9 November, 2016,

Recalling the UN human Rights Council Resolution No 27/21 in this respect,

Affirming that coercive unilateral measures and Legislations, Violate the International Law, the international humanitarian law, and contradicts with the UN Charter, norms, and principles governing the peaceful relations between Sovereign states,

Recalling the Khartoum Declaration of the APU Executive Committee adopted on 3 June 2016,

Deploring the USA decision of 30 October 2016 concerning extension of the coercive sanctions imposed by USA that harmed the vital interests and the sovereignty of Sudan,

Also deploring the US unilateral economic, financial and trade sanctions on Zimbabwe,

Affirming that the unilateral economic, financial and commercial sanctions imposed by the USA on Sudan, Zimbabwe and other African countries are unilateral coercive measures of which the repercussions are serious not only for all the sectors of the economy but also for the fundamental rights of peoples,

Emphasizing that the disastrous repercussions of these sanctions impede the building of peace, democracy, good governance and sustainable development of concerned countries,

Supporting all the resolutions adopted by the African Union, the Pan African parliament, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-alignment Movement calling for Immediate lifting of USA unilateral economic sanctions on these peoples,

Emphasizing the firm international community rejection of applying any unilateral coercive measures, which was expressed in the 2015 UN world summit on sustainable development while adopting the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Strongly condemns* the unilateral coercive measures consisting in economic sanctions imposed by the USA on the Sudan and Zimbabwe peoples;

2. *Commits itself* to use all Regional and international forums and parliamentary diplomacy to urge USA to immediately lift these unfair measures which harm these countries and humiliate their peoples;

3. *Calls on* the APU Executive Committee Bureau to work for the immediate lifting of the unfair sanctions against these countries;

4. *Brings* its unflinching support to Sudan, Zimbabwe and the other concerned countries as well as to their peoples, Governments and Parliaments in their struggle for the lifting of the unfair sanctions imposed on them;

5. *Convey* a vote of thanks and gratitude to all the African leaders for their continuous support to these countries, their governments and peoples in their long struggle to lift the unilateral coercive measures.

RCF.10/39/16

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS
IN COMBATING WOMEN AND CHILD TRAFFICKING AND LABOUR**
*Resolution adopted by the APU Committee of women parliamentarians
(Rabat, 7 November 2016)*

The Committee of African Women Parliamentarians, meeting on 7 November 2016 in Rabat (Morocco),

Whereas human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is a violation of human rights, particularly those of women and children,

Whereas it is a crime against both the individual person and the State, and undermines both the security of the person and that of the State,

Whereas trafficking in persons is a problem that extends beyond national borders,

Mindful that the fight against human trafficking faces many challenges,

Noting that compliance by countries with international standards varies significantly from region to region,

Considering that the Internet and other information technology applications such as web sites and computerised databanks may also be used to combat human trafficking, if they are used properly,

Recognizing that child labour perpetuates the vicious circle of poverty and prevents children from acquiring the skills and education required for a better future,

Mindful that Africa is the continent most affected by child labour,

Affirming that the impact of the practice which largely exceeds the scope of childhood also affects national economies through losses in competitiveness, productivity and potential income,

Emphasizing the need to implement a law in this area,

Mindful of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children;

Relying on body of international instruments, especially dealing with human trafficking as set out in Article 4-a of the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings of 16 May 2005, and Article 3-a of the Palermo Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recommends:

1. The passing of laws that consider persons who are trafficked as victims and not criminals;
2. The enforcement of laws and other measures by parliamentarians, as elected representatives of the people, in order to effectively combat women and child trafficking and labour and strengthen national efforts against human trafficking;
3. The implementation of actions to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect the victims; actions centred on individual persons and not just State security;
4. The regulation of professions and protection of the rights of women and children to reduce their trafficking and exploitation;
5. The launch of a campaign to raise the awareness of victims to encourage them to come forward and, consequently, intensify legal action;
6. The adoption of victim assistance programmes which also guarantee total protection for victims as witnesses, so as to encourage them to testify;
7. Successful prosecutions and severe sanctions as a way of deterring future traffickers;
8. The Deployment of comprehensive databases on trafficking to provide a platform for cooperation between groups from various regions fighting the phenomenon alone;
9. The strengthening, where applicable, of human trafficking laws and an increase in funding for the purposes of implementation and monitoring;
10. Withdrawing children under the minimum employment age from work, providing them access to education and supporting their families through vocational training or employment opportunities;
11. Greater empowerment of women through gender budgeting during budget approval;
12. The establishment in our parliaments of a standing committee on gender, in order to ensure women's participation in all spheres of national life.
13. The creation of an African observatory for the protection of children and of an African organisation for children, like UNICEF;
14. The reduction of social disparities, the eradication of poverty and the implementation of a health and social assistance programme;
15. The introduction of an African parliament for children;

16. The introduction of a best creative work award for children;
 17. The establishment, in national parliaments, in the Pan-African parliament and in regional parliaments, of standing committees or sub-committees on children and family affairs;
 18. The setting up of TV and radio stations for children;
 19. The sensitisation of families and various social actors on the hazards associated with child labour;
 20. The setting up of training centres that are tailored to the age and interest of children;
 21. The establishment of joint parliament–government committees or bodies to investigate child labour-related issues through inspection visits to schools, companies and the street;
 22. The provision of social and psychological assistance to victims.
-

REPORT OF THE 69th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION

(Adopted on 6 November 2016)

The 69th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held in Rabat, Morocco, at the House of Representatives, on 5 and 6 November.

The opening ceremony of the session was chaired by the Honourable Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

She was flanked by Honourable Hakim BENCHAMACH, President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco, Honourable Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh, Member of the National Assembly of Djibouti and Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, the Honorable Albertina Teresa José, Chairperson of the APU Committee of women parliamentarians and Mr N'ZI Koffi, Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union.

Delegates from the following national parliaments participated in the 69th Session of the Executive Committee: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.

I – OPENING SESSION

The opening ceremony of the 69th Executive Committee Session was addressed by the President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

In his address, **Honourable Hakim BENCHAMACH, President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco**, on behalf of the two Houses, welcomed all delegations participating in the 69th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union and wished them a pleasant stay in Morocco.

He welcomed the APU-led initiatives and efforts towards strengthening cooperation between African Parliaments.

He recalled that parliamentary institutions in Africa contribute to the strengthening of democracy and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The President of the House of Councillors also recalled that Africa is confronted with economic, security and environmental challenges. The security situation in African countries is still characterised by conflicts, the emergence of terrorist groups and the spread of arms trafficking, drug trafficking and human trafficking, he added.

He therefore called on African countries to adopt a holistic strategy to promote continental integration. In that regard, the President underscored the need to develop the capacity of African countries, promote coordination of efforts at the bilateral level as well as cooperation in various areas, so as to achieve sustainable growth thanks to the contribution of Parliaments.

The President of the House of Councillors also took the opportunity to remind delegates that a coordination meeting of African parliaments was planned as part of the COP 22 meeting aimed at defining a unified approach and ensuring that African views are heard on the challenges of climate change.

He welcomed the progress recorded across the African continent in the areas of investment, consolidation of democracy and involvement of citizens in decision making.

The President of the House of Councillors reaffirmed his country's commitment to the development of South-South cooperation and to return to the African family.

In her address, Honourable **Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee** welcomed participants to the 69th Session of the Executive Committee of APU and noted that the pleasure to meet again in Rabat at the invitation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco was shared by all. She therefore thanked, on behalf of all participants, the authorities of the Parliament of Morocco for the opportunity afforded to hold the sessions in such excellent conditions.

She requested the President of the House of Councillors to convey to His Majesty Mohamed VI, their high esteem and sincere wishes for the success and prosperity of his Kingdom.

Referring to the parliamentary elections which took place on 7 October, she congratulated the newly elected Members, particularly Honourable Rachid Talbi El Alami who for two years had chaired the Executive Committee of APU.

The Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee noted that the session coincided with the end of the two-year term of the members of the Executive Committee, elected at the 37th Conference held on 1 and 2 November 2014 at this same venue.

The various items to be discussed at this session will breathe new life into our Union, she added, calling once more on national Parliaments to support the outreach efforts by the Bureau and the General Secretariat to ensure that parliaments which are not yet members of APU join the Union.

She also requested member countries to propose their countries to host our sessions and pay up their contributions on time, to enable APU to meet its goals.

With regard to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference, the Vice-Chairperson reminded parliaments of their statutory obligation to send their periodic reports to the General Secretariat in order to encourage interactions among parliaments and assess the impact of resolutions.

Touching on the themes to be discussed by the 39th Conference and the APU Committee of Women Parliamentarians, she indicated that these topics were selected, bearing in mind the key concerns of the African people and the continent's sustainable development goals.

Considering that the Rabat meetings are an opportunity for a fresh start, the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee ended her address by thanking all parliamentarians present for their commitment to their organisation and also by reiterating, on behalf of everyone, her gratitude to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco for all the facilities provided them.

She finally declared the 39th Session of the Executive Committee open.

II – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee invited the Secretary General to read out the items on the draft Agenda of the 69th Session.

The Secretary General presented the following draft agenda:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference.
3. Consideration and adoption of amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
4. Consideration and adoption of the Annual Work Programme for 2017
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for 2017
6. Consideration and adoption of draft agenda for the 39th Conference
7. Draft agenda for the 70th Session of the Executive Committee
8. Date and venue of the 70th Session of the Executive Committee

There being no comments, the draft agenda was adopted.

III – CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEMS OF THE AGENDA

A- Admission (s) and readmission (s)

The Secretary General presented a report on a membership application by the Parliament of Madagascar in line with Article 3 of the Statutes. The application was welcomed by the Executive Committee which decided to refer it to Conference for approval.

He also informed the Executive Committee of the resumption of activities by the Parliament of the Central African Republic following the country's return to constitutional rule.

He emphasised the need for national parliaments to support the outreach efforts by the Bureau and the General Secretariat to attract new members.

B- Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference

No specific comments were received from the members of the Executive Committee after the implementation report by the Secretary General on the activities following the 38th Conference, and on the Annual Work Programme of the African Parliamentary Union.

C. Consideration and adoption of amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure

Proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure were reviewed by the members of the Executive Committee. Following an exchange of views on the proposals, the Executive Committee members made sub-amendments to the amendments before adopting them.

D- Consideration and adoption of the Annual Work Programme

During deliberations on this item of the agenda, the members of the Executive Committee highlighted the importance of thematic conferences and the need for closer cooperation with sub regional parliamentary organisations in Africa.

The members of the Executive Committee also stressed the need to follow up on the resolutions of the Conference. In that regard, the Secretary General observed that it was the responsibility of Parliaments to institute the right mechanisms for the implementation of recommendations.

E- Consideration and adoption of the budget for 2017

As no specific comments were made, the draft budget for 2017 in the sum of EUR 1,095,217 (One Million Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred and Seventeen) was adopted by the members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee decided to reappoint Algeria and Senegal as Auditors for the financial year 2016.

F- Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 39th Conference

The Executive Committee approved the draft agenda prepared at the 68th Session in Khartoum with the addition of the item on admissions, so as to reflect the membership application made by the Parliament of Madagascar. The draft agenda is therefore as follows :

1. Admissions and readmissions.
2. Report by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
3. Activity report by the Secretary General
4. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
5. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
6. Participation of citizens, especially the youth, in promoting democracy
7. The role of African Parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
8. The fight against terrorism in Africa
9. Election of members of the Executive Committee
10. Date and venue of the 40th Conference

Sudan made a proposal for the inclusion on the agenda of an emergency item related to sanctions imposed on some African countries. The proposal which received the support of the Executive Committee will be submitted to the Conference for approval in accordance with Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure.

G- Draft agenda of the 70th Session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary General tabled the following draft agenda which was adopted:

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Examination of the audited management accounts for 2016
4. Preparation of the draft agenda of the 40th Conference
5. Draft agenda of the 71st Session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue of the 71st Session of the Executive Committee

H- Date and Venue of the 70th Session of the Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee directed the General Secretariat to engage with Parliaments for the organisation of the 70th Session around May 2017.

BUDGET FOR 2017
(in Euros)

1 095 217 Euros

<i>Description</i>	<i>2016 Approved Budget</i>	<i>2017 Estimates</i>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
<u>Ordinary Receipts</u>		
Contributions of National Groups	997 217	997 217
Other Receipts	-	-
Sub-Total	997 217	997 217
<u>Extraordinary Receipts</u>		
Subventions and donations	79 000	79 000
Other extraordinary receipts	19 000	19 000
Sub-Total	98 000	98 000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1 095 217	1 095 217
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Staff expenses	529 017	509 537
Travelling allowances	53 000	53 000
Equipment, supplies, external services	144 700	144 700
Transport	60 500	60 500
Meetings and sessions	231 500	241 500
General expenses	76 500	85 980
TOTAL EXPENSES	1 095 217	1 095 217

Ordinary Receipts

997 217 Euros

Description	2016 <i>Approved Budget</i>	2017 <i>Estimates</i>
Contributions of National Groups		
Contributions on equal basis	244 000	244 000
Contributions according to AU rates	757 217	757 217
Sub-Total	997 217	997 217
Other receipts		
Scrapped goods	-	-
Sub-Total	-	-
TOTAL	997 217	997 217

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIONAL GROUPS FOR THE YEAR 2017
(in Euros)

COUNTRY	PART 1, EQUAL	%	PART 2, ACCORDING TO %	AMOUNT OF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
1. Algeria	6 000	8.63	65 347	71 347
2. Angola	6 000	2.19	16 582	22 582
3. Benin	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
4. Burkina Faso	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
5. Burundi	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
6. Cameroon	6 000	3.47	26 274	32 274
7. Central Africa	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
8. Congo	6 000	1.17	8 858	14 858
9. Côte d'Ivoire	6 000	3.67	27 789	33 789
10. Djibouti	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
11. Egypt	6 000	8.63	65 347	71 347
12. Ethiopia	6 000	3.68	27 864	33 864
13. Gabon	6 000	1.56	11 812	17 812
14. Gambia	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
15. Ghana	6 000	4.40	33 316	39 316
16. Guinea-Bissau	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
17. Guinea(Conakry)	6 000	1.08	8 177	14 177
18. Equatorial Guinea	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
19. Kenya	6 000	3.55	26 880	32 880
20. Liberia	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
21. Libya	6 000	8.10	61 330	67 330
22. Mali	6 000	1.06	8 025	14 025
23. Morocco	6 000	6.83	51 717	57 717
24. Mauritania	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
25. Namibia	6 000	1.17	8 858	14 858
26. Niger	6 000	0.91	6 890	12 890
27. Nigeria	6 000	8.63	65 347	71 347
28. Uganda	6 000	1.58	11 996	17 996
29. D.R.Congo	6 000	3.68	27 865	33 865
30. Rwanda	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
31. Sao Tome & Principe	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
32. Senegal	6 000	1.23	9 312	15 312
33. Sierra Leone	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
34. Somalia	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
35. Sudan	6 000	3.72	28 167	34 167
36. South Sudan	6 000	1.10	8 328	14 328
37. Chad	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
38. Togo	6 000	0.86	6 512	12 512
39. Tunisia	6 000	3.43	25 971	31 971
40. Zimbabwe	6 000	2.77	20 973	26 973
TOTAL	240 000	100.00	757 217	997 217

EXTRAORDINARY RECEIPTS

98 000 Euros

Description	2016 <i>Approved Budget</i>	2017 <i>Estimates</i>
Subventions and donations		
Subvention of Côte d'Ivoire	79 000	79 000
<i>Other extraordinary receipts</i>		
Contribution of the Arab IPU	19 000	19 000
TOTAL	98 000	98 000

Staff Expenses

509 537 Euros

Description	2016 Approved Budget	2017 Estimates
Salaries		
The Secretary-General	84 552	84 552
Staff	250 000	250 000
Social security contributions		
Health insurance	35 000	40 000
Family allowances	8 750	8 750
Housing allowance	37 710	37 710
School fees	18 000	10 000
Transport allowance	3 875	3 875
Travel expenses	14 000	14 000
Clothes	650	650
Retirement insurance	72 480	70 000
Entertainment expenses	4 000	4 000
TOTAL	529 017	509 537

Travelling Allowances

53 000 Euros

Description	2016 Approved Budget	2017 Estimates
General Secretariat		
Participation in international conferences	25 000	25 000
Preparation of meetings	8 000	8 000
Audit of accounts		
	9 000	9 000
Chairmanship of the Executive Committee		
	11 000	11 000
TOTAL	53 000	53 000

Equipment, Supplies, External Services

144 700 Euros

Description	2016 Approved Budget	2017 Estimates
<i>Office supplies</i>	4 500	6 500
<i>Documentation</i>	700	700
<i>Printing work</i>	4 000	4 000
<i>Supplies for the printing of Documents</i>	6 000	6 000
<i>Supplies for conferences</i>	3 000	3 000
<i>Mail and Internet connexion</i>	30 000	34 000
<i>Water, Electricity, Telephone, Fax</i>	22 000	22 000
<i>Insurance on the administrative Building</i>	2 000	2 000
<i>Maintenance</i>		
Equipment	4 000	4 000
Administrative offices	5 000	15 000
<i>Equipment of administrative offices</i>	25 000	25 000
<i>Service cars</i>		
Purchase	20 000	-
Maintenance and repairs	3 500	3 500
Insurance	3 000	7 000
<i>Fuel</i>	12 000	12 000
TOTAL	144 700	144 700

Transport

60 500 Euros

Description	2016 Approved Budget	2017 Estimates
Secretariat-General		
Participation in international conferences	30 000	30 000
Preparation of meetings	7 800	7 800
Audit of Accounts	8 700	8 700
Chairman of the Executive Committee	14 000	14 000
TOTAL	60 500	60 500

Sessions of the Executive Committee and APU Conference
Meeting of the Committee of women parliamentarians
2nd Parliamentary Conference on Migration

241 500 Euros

Description	2016 Approved Budget	2017 Estimates
Interpreters and Translators		
Remunerations	65 000	65 000
Per diem	45 000	45 000
Transport charges	45 000	45 000
Secretariat		
Travelling allowances	40 000	40 000
Transport charges	35 000	35 000
Follow-up of the 2 nd Conference on migration	-	10 000
Gratuities	1 500	1 500
TOTAL	231 500	241 500

General Expenses

85 980 Euros

Description	2016 <i>Approved Budget</i>	2017 <i>Estimates</i>
<i>General provisions</i>	5 000	7 000
<i>Financial costs</i>	1 500	1 500
<i>Other general expenses</i>	70 000	15 000
<i>Provision for the working capital recovery</i>	-	62 480
TOTAL	76 500	85 980

STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

(modified and adopted on 08 November 2016 by the 39th Conference)

STATUTES

CONTENTS

CHARTER OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Part I : ESTABLISHMENT AND HEADQUARTERS

Part II : MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNION

Part III : ORGANS OF THE UNION

Part IV : FINANCES OF THE UNION

Part V : GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHARTER OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

WE, Presiding Officers and representatives of African parliaments meeting in Luanda on 18 September 1999,

RECALLING our decision to set up the Union of African Parliaments taken at our meeting in Abidjan from 11th to 13th February, 1976,

COMMITTED to the spirit, principles and objectives of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

DESIROUS of seeing all African Parliaments unite to ensure liberty, equality, justice, dignity, prosperity and social progress to African peoples;

CONSIDERING the common objectives pursued by African Parliaments;

GUIDED by a common will to develop relations of co-operation and friendship among African Parliaments;

CONSCIOUS of the necessity to develop the parliamentary institution in Africa and enhance its prestige;

CONVINCED of the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering democracy, peace and development in Africa;

RESOLVED to strengthen the ties and maintain permanent exchanges among African Parliamentarians by the setting up of a common organization;

DETERMINED to give effect to the Abidjan Declaration of 27th January 1975;

REAFFIRM the existence of an inter-parliamentary continental organization, hitherto called the "Union of African Parliaments" (UAP), which shall now be called the "African Parliamentary Union" (A.P.U), whose objectives shall be the following :

- to promote unity of action among parliamentary institutions of all African States;
- Dedicate the APU as forum of National Parliaments of the African continent and as instrument of dialogue and parliamentary cooperation in the service of peace, democracy, good governance and sustainable development;

- to strive for the systematic establishment of an authentic law-based African community founded on the political, economic, social and cultural realities of the continent;
- to encourage contacts among African Parliamentarians, on the one hand, and between African Parliamentarians and Parliamentarians of other continents, on the other hand;
- to contribute :
 - * to the strengthening of the role and prestige of the parliamentary institution in Africa, by drawing inspiration from fundamental African and universal human values;
 - * to the promotion of representative national parliaments of the populations;
 - * to the promotion of interparliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy;
 - * to the effective realization of the ideals of liberty, peace and justice as well as to the promotion of human rights;
 - * to deepening the concept of democracy and to its effective functioning;
 - * to the realization of the objectives of the Organization of African Unity for the establishment of a lasting peace through dialogue within the framework of the inter-African co-operation and the promotion of the policies of good neighbourliness, peaceful co-existence and African unity.

DO hereby adopt the following Statutes to regulate its activities :

PART I : ESTABLISHMENT AND HEADQUARTERS

ARTICLE 1

1. It is hereby established an African Inter-parliamentary Union called “African Parliamentary Union” abbreviated as APU.

2. The objectives of the African Parliamentary Union shall be as follows:

- a) promote unity of action among parliamentary institutions of African States;
- b) Serve as a framework of dialogue and parliamentary cooperation on consolidation of peace and stability, strengthening and enhancement of democracy and good governance, promotion of human rights and protection of women’s rights, environmental protection, and sustainable development;
- c) Strive towards the gradual establishment of an effective law-based African community based on the political, economic, social and cultural realities of the continent;
- d) Foster contacts among African parliamentarians on the one hand, and between African parliamentarians and those of the rest of the world on the other;
- e) To contribute to:
 - i. Strengthening the role and prestige of the parliamentary institution in Africa by drawing inspiration from fundamental African and universal human values and principles of democracy;
 - ii. Promoting national parliaments, that represent the people; and the development of practices enabling the reinforcement of their means of action;
 - iii. Promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy;
 - iv. Achieving the ideals of equality, peace, justice, promotion of human rights and civil liberties;
 - v. Promoting gender equity in public institutions as well as equal opportunities in governance and development processes;
- f) To contribute to achieving the objectives of the African Union for the establishment of lasting peace through dialogue, within the framework of inter-African cooperation and a policy of good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and African unity.

3. It shall also cooperate with international and regional parliamentary organizations pursuing or sharing the same objectives.

ARTICLE 2

The headquarters of the Union shall be in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. It may be transferred to the capital of any other African country, whose parliament is a member of the Union, by decision of the Conference.

ARTICLE 3

1. The National Parliament or the National Parliamentary Assembly set up in accordance with constitutional provisions of any African state may apply for membership of the Union.
2. An application for membership shall be in writing and shall include the undertaking to comply fully with the provisions governing the Union.
3. The application for membership must be accompanied by the following: a copy of the Statutes, the national law on the representation of the people and the Standing Orders of the Parliament.

PART II : MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNION

ARTICLE 4

Each National Parliament or Parliamentary National Assembly shall constitute a National Group.

ARTICLE 5

A National Group shall :

- a) contribute to having the Union and its objectives known ;
- b) submit the resolutions and decisions of the Union to its own parliament, according to the most appropriate procedure, and communicate them to the Executive arm of its own government ;
- c) ensure the implementation of the resolutions of the Union and inform the Secretariat, at least once a year, of the measures taken and the results obtained ;
- d) pay to the Union an obligatory annual contribution in accordance with a scale drawn up by the Executive Committee ;
- e) take all necessary measures with a view to participating in the work of the Union, and maintain regular contacts with the Secretariat to which it shall submit each year a report on its activities and a list of its members;
- f) Present reports to the General Secretariat of the Union on the measures and procedures taken with regard to the resolutions and recommendations of the Union;
- g) Allow the Secretary General to present a summary of such reports as part of his implementation follow-up report to the Executive committee, to enable it to assess the impact of the resolutions and recommendations.

ARTICLE 6

The National Group shall be composed only of Members of Parliament. However, former Members of Parliament or other African personalities who have rendered outstanding services to the Union or to Africa may be admitted as honorary members on the proposal of a National Group. Admission shall be decided by the Conference on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

PART III : ORGANS OF THE UNION

ARTICLE 7

The organs of the Union shall be the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat.

SECTION 1 : THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

ARTICLE 8

1. The Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments shall be the highest organ of the Union (herein "the Conference").
2. It shall be composed of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments or their representatives (herein "the Presiding Officers").
3. The Presiding Officers shall be accompanied by Members of Parliament who attend the Conference as delegates.
4. The number of delegates to the Conference shall be limited in the case of National Groups of countries with a population of :
 - a) less than five (5) million, to three (3) delegates ;
 - b) between five (5) and twenty (20) million, to seven (7) delegates ;
 - c) between twenty (20) and fifty (50) million, to nine (9) delegates ;
 - d) over fifty (50) million, to fifteen (15) delegates.
5. Every delegation of a national group to the session of the African Parliamentary Union shall reflect the political configuration at the National Parliament and shall include at least one woman.
6. All Women Parliamentarians delegated to the Conference shall form "The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the African Parliamentary Union". This Committee shall meet on the eve of each Conference."

ARTICLE 9

1. Countries having submitted applications for membership may be accorded observer status pending a ruling on their applications.
2. Non-member African countries provided or not with parliamentary institutions, as well as regional, inter-regional and international organizations, may, upon a written application, be admitted as observers.
3. The observer status shall be accorded by the Executive Committee on the report of the Secretary General.

ARTICLE 10

1. The Conference shall be responsible for the general policy of the Union and for all its activities as defined by these Statutes.
2. It shall deliberate on topical issues concerning the Union, Africa and the World, make declarations and pass resolutions, votes and recommendations which it may address to the Governments and organizations concerned.
3. It shall decide on specific missions within the framework of the Union and shall adopt their reports.
4. It shall set up standing or temporary study committees.
5. It shall elect the members of the Executive Committee for a two (2)-year term.
6. It shall elect the Chairperson of the Executive Committee at the end of each of its ordinary sessions.
7. It shall request the Executive Committee, for each theme of the Conference agenda, to appoint a Committee Rapporteur to prepare and draw up a draft resolution in cooperation with the General Secretariat
8. It shall discuss and approve the report of activities of the Executive Committee.
9. It shall adopt any modification or amendment to the Statutes.
10. It shall decide the admission and re-admission of National Groups on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
11. It shall appoint the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
12. It shall give a decision on the acceptance of donations, legacies and of the contributions, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 11

1. The Conference shall be presided over by the Presiding Officer of the National Parliament of the host country.
2. The bureau of the Conference shall be composed of the Presiding Officer of the National Parliament of the host country, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, and other Parliamentary Assembly Presiding officers attending the Conference as Vice-Presidents. The President of the Conference shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to replace him/her in case of absence from one or several sessions.
3. In the event of impediment of the Presiding Officer of the National Parliament of the host country, the Vice-President of the Assembly shall chair the opening ceremony. Regarding the supervision of the proceedings of the conference, the Bureau, chaired by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, shall meet to appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to chair the Conference.

ARTICLE 12 :

1. The Conference shall meet once a year in ordinary session.
2. However, it may be convened in extraordinary session :
 - a) at the request of the Executive Committee
 - b) at the request of 2/3s of National Groups.

ARTICLE 13

The structures and functioning of the Conference shall be set out in the Rules.

SECTION 2 : THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 14

1. The Executive Committee of the Union is composed of three (3) members per National Group including at least one woman.
2. The members of the Executive Committee shall elect their bureau, composed of a Chairperson, three (3) Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Chairperson of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians shall be an ex-officio member of the Bureau. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee must be a Presiding Officer of the National Parliament.
3. Whenever the Chairperson ceases to be Presiding Officer of his or her National Parliamentary Assembly, the successor shall assume office as Chairperson for the unexpired term of office of the Chairperson with effect from the date he or she ceases to be Chairperson.

4. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee must be a Presiding Officer of the National Parliament.
5. The members of the Bureau shall be elected for two years on a rotating basis which takes account of equitable regional distribution.
6. The Bureau may hold meetings prior to every Executive Committee meeting to:
 - a) Propose the draft agenda for the Executive Committee meetings;
 - b) Consider proposals sent by member National groups on items of the APU conference agenda with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Committee when it prepares the APU conference agenda and submit the recommendations to the Executive Committee.
7. In his absence, the Executive Committee chairperson may commission a bureau member to represent him in the occasions he invited thereto.
8. The bureau of the Executive Committee is composed of the chairperson elected by the conference at each of its ordinary sessions, and three vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur elected by the members of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians shall be an ex-officio member of the Bureau. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee must be a Presiding Officer of the National Parliament.
9. The Secretary-General shall attend the meetings of the bureau of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 15

The attributions of the Chairperson of the Executive are especially:

- a) to work for new memberships;
- b) to ensure the regular holding of the Union's sessions;
- c) to decide to be represented by a Vice-president, the APU regional Representative or the Secretary General;
- d) to promote the communication of APU with the media, in his or her country, in the Union's office and on the occasion of the meetings of the Union or international meetings;
- e) to approach the Presiding officers of assembly for the payment of the contributions.

ARTICLE 16:

1. The Executive Committee shall meet twice a year in ordinary session upon the invitation of its Chairperson. One of the two sessions shall take place immediately prior to the Conference.
2. The Executive Committee may meet in extraordinary session if 2/3s of National Groups so request.

ARTICLE 17

The functions of the Executive Committee shall be :

- a) to determine and direct the activities of the Union and oversee their implementation in conformity with the decisions and recommendations of the Conference ;
- b) to adopt during its sessions declarations on topical issues ;
- c) to designate a member of the Executive Committee in each of the five regions of the continent as APU regional representative ;
- d) to adopt a programme of meeting venues on the rotational basis (sub regional, alphabetical and according to language) ;
- e) to fix the date and venue of the Conference
- f) to draw up the draft agenda for the Conference, taking account of the proposals of National Groups ;
- g) to convene the Conference in ordinary session ;
- h) to recommend to the Conference the admission and re-admission of National Groups;
- i) to decide the participation of its representatives to the missions organized by regional and international organizations (election observer missions, mediation and conflict settlement);
- j) to oversee the administration of the General Secretariat and its activities related to the implementation of the decisions taken by the Conference ;
- k) to approve the audited management account of the Union for the previous year or the period elapsed since the presentation of the last audited management account ;
- l) to approve annually the work programme, the schedule of contributions and the budget of the Union ;
- m) to set up a follow up committee of contributions;

- n) to present to each ordinary session of the Conference a report on its activities ;
- o) to draw up the scale of salaries and allowances of the Secretary-General and the staff of the Secretariat ;
- p) to appoint two Auditors annually from its members to audit the accounts of the previous financial year ;
- q) to assess, at least every two years, on the basis of an evaluation report by the Secretariat, the impact of the resolutions and recommendations passed by the Union on member countries and on the international community ;
- r) to ensure a regional balance within the permanent or temporary organs of the Union;
- s) to discuss any other questions submitted by the National Groups as regards the life and working of the Union ;
- t) to achieve rapprochement, consultation and co-operation with other international organizations in compliance with the principles and objectives of the Union ;
- u) to recommend to the Conference the appointment of the Secretary-General;
- v) to take the necessary measures for replacing the Secretary-General in case of absence or disability ;
- w) to recommend the acceptance of donations and legacies ;
- x) to approve the Financial Regulations ;
- y) to recommend the Union's Staff Regulations ;
- z) to request the convening of the Conference in extraordinary session, in accordance with Article 11 ;
- aa) to submit to the Conference, for approval, proposed amendments to the Statutes and the Rules.

ARTICLE 18

The structures and functioning of the Executive Committee shall be set out in the Rules.

SECTION 3 : THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 19:

1. The General Secretariat shall be the administrative link between the National Groups and the Union, and between the Union and international organizations.
2. It shall be run by a Secretary-General.

3. The functions of the Secretary-General shall be :

- a) to promote the APU representation as organization of national parliaments of the African continent ;
- b) to ensure the smooth administrative functioning of the Union;
- c) to prepare the draft budget of the Union to be submitted to the Executive Committee;
- d) to implement the budget of the Union ;
- e) to prepare the issues to be submitted to the Executive Committee and the Conference and distribute the relevant documents in good time ;
- f) to see to the implementation of the decisions of the Executive Committee and the Conference and take all measures to that effect;
- g) to make statements on behalf of the Union concerning its activities ;
- h) to present to the Conference a report on the activities of the Union ;
- i) to maintain the archives of the Union and set up a rational documentation policy;
- j) to support and stimulate the activities of National Groups ;
- k) to mobilize financial and human resources in order to develop the activities and achieve the objectives of the Union ;
- l) to promote the expertise and the representation of the staff personnel in all the Union's activity fields, the sub regions and the Union's official languages;
- m) to encourage the affiliation of new members;
- n) to ensure coordination of the African geopolitical Groups within the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and similar organizations.

ARTICLE 20

1. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Conference on the recommendation of the Executive Committee for a four-year term.
2. The Secretary-General may be re-appointed only once.
3. The Secretary-General shall be responsible to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 21

Members of the General Secretariat shall be international civil servants. They shall be governed by a specific Statute approved by the Conference on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

PART IV : FINANCES OF THE UNION

ARTICLE 22

1. The resources of the Union shall derive from :

- a) annual contributions of National Groups ;
- b) voluntary contributions of National Groups ;
- c) revenues from securities investments;
- d) donations and legacies ;
- e) contributions of other international organizations or institutions within the framework of the implementation of programs worked out in partnership with the Union.

2. The scale of contributions of National Groups and the terms and conditions for budgetary execution and control shall be established in accordance with the provisions of article 16 of the Statutes and with the Financial Regulations.

ARTICLE 23

The movable and immovable properties acquired by or on behalf of the African Parliamentary Union shall constitute the assets of the Union independently of their location.

ARTICLE 24

The Secretary-General shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the financial management and the Union assets.

ARTICLE 25

The Secretary-General shall recommend to the Executive Committee the draft financial regulations for the financial management and assets as well the modalities for auditing the annual financial statements of the Union.

ARTICLE 26

1. A National Group which fails to pay its annual contribution for two financial years shall have its rights suspended.
2. Upon the report of the Secretary-General, the Executive Committee shall vote the suspension by a simple majority of its members after having exhausted all the other means of action with the National Group concerned which shall, however, remain a member of the Union.
3. The Executive Committee shall restore the rights of the National Group once the outstanding contributions are paid.

PART V : MODIFICATION OF STATUTES

ARTICLE 27

1. These Statutes may be amended upon written proposals by any National Group submitted to the Executive Committee which shall approve them by a two-thirds majority of the members present.
2. Such written proposals for amendment must reach the General Secretariat at least six months before the holding of the Conference and circulated to National Groups at least three months before the holding of the Conference.
3. After approval by the Executive Committee, the proposed amendments must be adopted by the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the members present to be binding and effective.

PART VI: GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 28

The Rules submitted by the Executive Committee to the Conference for approval shall determine the modes of enforcement of these Statutes.

ARTICLE 29

The 1976 Statutes of the UAP is hereby repealed. Notwithstanding the repeal, all actions and decisions taken under the 1976 Statutes remain valid and binding.

ARTICLE 30

The Statutes enter into force on the day of their adoption by the Conference of the APU.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Part I : THE CONFERENCE

Part II : THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Part III : THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Part IV : GENERAL PROVISIONS

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Rule 1

These Rules shall govern the structure and functioning of the organs of the African Parliamentary Union, that is : the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments (herein the Conference), the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat.

PART I : THE CONFERENCE

SECTION 1 : COMPOSITION

Rule 2

1. The Conference shall be composed of the Presiding Officers of National Parliaments or their representatives, accompanied by Parliamentarians who shall attend the Conference as delegates, in conformity with article 8 of the Statutes.
2. In accordance with Article 8 of APU Statutes, women parliamentarians must be included among the delegates to the Conference.

Rule 3

1. Representatives of the Union non-member African countries provided or not with parliamentary institutions, as well as of regional, inter-regional and international organizations, may be invited by the Executive Committee to follow the proceedings of the Conference as observers.
2. Observers may be invited by the President to take the floor.

SECTION 2 : SESSIONS

Rule 4

1. The Conference shall meet every year in ordinary session. It can be convened in extraordinary session either on the proposal of the Executive Committee or at the request of 2/3s of National Groups.
2. The convocation of an ordinary session shall be sent out by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee to National Groups at least two (2) months before the opening of the Conference. In case of an extraordinary session, this time limit shall be reduced by half.
3. Any convocation of an ordinary session or an extraordinary session must include the agenda for the session.

Rule 5

The Union and the National Group of the country where a Conference is held shall be responsible for the material organization of the Conference, according to an agreement concluded with the General Secretariat acting in the name of the Union.

Rule 6

The Conference shall be presided over by the Presiding Officer of the Parliamentary Assembly of the host country, in conformity with the provisions of article 11 of the Statutes.

Rule 7

1. In conformity with the provisions of article 11 of the Statutes, the bureau of the Conference shall be composed of the Presiding Officer of the National Parliament of the host country, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, and other Parliamentary Assembly Presiding Officers attending the Conference as Vice-Presidents.

2. The bureau assisted by the Secretary-General shall see to the smooth functioning of the Conference proceedings.

Rule 8

The proceedings of the Conference shall be directed by its President who shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to replace him/her in case of absence from one or several sessions.

SECTION 3 : MEETINGS

Rule 9

The Conference shall meet in public, unless 2/3s of the members present at the Conference decide otherwise.

Rule 10

1. The President of the Conference shall open, conduct proceedings, adjourn and close the meetings.

2. The President of the Conference shall have the Rules observed, call upon speakers, put questions to the vote, make known the results of voting and declare the Conference closed.

3. The President of the Conference shall maintain order in the hall.

SECTION 4 : AGENDA AND DEBATES

Rule 11

1. The Conference shall meet on the basis of an agenda proposed by the Executive Committee. It shall close as soon as the agenda is over.
2. The Secretary-General shall communicate the agenda to National Groups at least three (3) months before the opening of the Conference.

Rule 12

1. Any national Group may request the inclusion of a supplementary item in the Conference agenda. To be admissible, such a request must be submitted at least two (2) months before the session and receive in its favour the simple majority of the members present.
2. Nevertheless, no time-limit condition shall be required for a request for an item whose urgent and exceptional nature is justified. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in its favour in order to be accepted.
3. The Conference shall hear first the sponsor of the request for a supplementary item and a contrary opinion.

Rule 13

Any National Group may submit a memorandum, a motion or a draft resolution on a subject included in the agenda.

Rule 14

1. Any item on the agenda that should be dealt with by a resolution shall be referred to the competent Committee.
2. The Conference may decide to debate an item on the agenda first in plenary session before referring it to the competent Committee.
3. Any supplementary item on the agenda can be referred to the competent Committee without debate in plenary session.

Rule 15

1. No speaker may take the floor without the authorization of the President. A speaker shall not keep the floor for more than 10 minutes.
2. Nevertheless, this time limit shall not apply to the Rapporteurs who give accounts of the questions entrusted to them.

3. Other speakers shall take the floor in the order in which they have requested to speak. The President may call to order the speaker who departs from the question under discussion and, if necessary, withdraw the floor from him.

4. The sponsor of a motion shall be invited by the President to justify it briefly. A decision shall be made immediately without debate, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

5. Discussions shall turn only on the items on the agenda.

Rule 16

The draft resolutions and the amendments relating to the items on the agenda must be put at the delegates' disposal immediately in order to permit discussion at the meeting during which the related questions are considered.

Rule 17

When a question on the agenda has already been treated by the competent Committee, the debate shall be about the text submitted by this Committee.

SECTION 5 : AMENDMENTS

Rule 18

Amendments shall be relevant to the text.

Rule 19

1. In the discussion of amendments and motions of procedure, the author of the initiative, the Rapporteur of the Committee and, if necessary, a speaker with a different opinion shall be the only ones to be heard, unless the President decides otherwise.

2. Nobody shall be allowed to explain his vote on the motions of procedure.

Rule 20

1. If two or more amendments the vote of which is required in plenary session apply to the same words in a draft resolution, the one that departs most from the text shall have priority and shall be put to the vote first.

2. If two or more amendments are mutually exclusive, the adoption of the first shall involve the rejection of the other amendment or amendments bearing on the same words. If the first amendment is rejected, the next in order of priority shall be put to the vote, and so on for each of the other amendments.

3. In case of doubt regarding the priority, the President shall decide.

SECTION 6 : VOTING

Rule 21

1. Each National Group shall have a single vote.
2. No vote may be taken if the number of the National Groups present is less than the absolute majority of the National Groups represented at the Conference.

Rule 22

Unless provided otherwise, the decisions of the Conference shall be taken by the absolute majority of valid votes.

Rule 23

1. Voting shall take place either by roll-call, show of hands or by acclamation.
2. However, for personal appointment voting shall be by secret ballot.
3. Voting may take place by secret ballot if the majority of represented National Groups so request.

SECTION 7 : STANDING COMMITTEES

Rule 24

1. In application of article 10 of the Statutes, the Conference shall set up the following standing committees :
 - a) the political committee;
 - b) the economic and sustainable development committee.
2. The National Groups participating in the Conference shall be represented in the committees.

Rule 25

Representatives of non-member African countries provided or not with parliamentary institutions and of international organizations may be invited by the bureau of the Conference to follow the work of committees as observers. They may speak only with the authorization of the Chairperson of the committee.

Rule 26

1. The committees shall elect at every Conference on a rotating regional basis their bureaux composed each of a Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

2. A National Group may not simultaneously hold more than one post as Chairperson or Rapporteur within committees.

Rule 27

1. The Chairperson shall open, conduct proceedings, adjourn and close the meetings.
2. The Chairperson shall direct the work of the Committee, see that the Rules are observed, call upon speakers, put questions to the vote, make known the results of voting and declare the sessions opened and closed. The decisions on these matters shall be final and shall be accepted without debate.
3. The Chairperson shall decide in all cases not covered in the present section, taking inspiration from the general rules of procedure contained in the present Rules.

Rule 28

During the consideration of the issues submitted for deliberation, the committees may have themselves assisted or ask the advice of any extraparliamentary persons or bodies capable of enlightening them on the subjects under discussion.

Rule 29

The Committees shall prepare reports and/or draft resolutions on the questions referred to them by the Conference.

Rule 30

The Committee shall draw up a draft text without opening a debate on the substance of the question which was the subject of a debate in the plenary session of the Conference.

Rule 31

For the final drawing up of a draft text, the Committee shall set up within it a drafting committee composed of six members at most. This composition shall take into account equitable geographical and gender distribution.

**SECTION 8 : COMMITTEE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AFRICAN
PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

Rule 32

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians shall have the following objectives:

- a) Increase Women Parliamentarian's participation in the sessions of the Union with a view to promoting the parity between men and women in all areas;

b) Promote contacts and consultation among women parliamentarians on all issues of common interest;

c) Arouse the interest of women in general and that of women parliamentarians in particular for the proceedings of the Conference of the APU;

d) Propose recommendations relating to women or certain issues included in the agenda of the Conference.

Rule 33

1. The Committee of women parliamentarians shall meet on the occasion of the conference.

2. The women parliamentarians participating in the Union's sessions take part in the meeting of the committee.

Rule 34

1. The committee of Women Parliamentarians shall elect, from among its members, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur. The members of the Bureau shall be elected for a period of two years on a rotating basis taking into account an equitable geographical distribution.

2. Any other provisions relating to the structure and functioning of the Committees of the Conference shall be applicable to the "Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the Union".

Rule 35

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians shall present a report of its deliberations to the Conference.

SECTION 9 : REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AND RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Rule 36

The report of proceedings shall be published in the six months that follow the Conference.

Rule 37

At the close of the Conference, the President shall enumerate the different resolutions or recommendations passed by the Conference.

Rule 38

The National Groups shall make all necessary arrangements for the effective implementation of the resolutions and recommendations passed during the meetings of the Union and shall inform the Secretary-General of such arrangements.

PART II : THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 : COMPOSITION

Rule 39

The Executive Committee is composed of three (3) members per National Group including at least one woman.

Rule 40

1. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Conference on the proposal of National Groups for a two-year term.
2. The new members of the Executive Committee shall elect the other members of the Executive Committee bureau : three Vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur. The Chairperson of the Committee of Women shall be an ex-officio member of the Bureau, in conformity with provisions of article 14 of the Statutes.
3. The new members of the Executive Committee shall designate among them an APU regional representative for each of the five regions of the continent.

Rule 41

A member of the Executive Committee who is unable to participate in a session may be replaced by another member from his National Group.

SECTION 2 : SESSIONS

Rule 42

1. The Executive Committee shall meet normally in two ordinary sessions each year.
2. The first session shall take place in the four (4) months that follow the end of the calendar year. It shall take place in a member country which proposes in advance to host it, or in Abidjan, the Union's headquarters. The chairperson of the Executive Committee may propose to host that session in his or her country.

3. It shall be mainly devoted to the examination of the Management Account and the Auditors' report as well as to the drawing up of the draft agenda for the next Conference. The Executive Committee, during that session, may consider and adopt declarations on topical issues;

4. The second session shall precede the Conference immediately.

5. It shall be devoted particularly to the adoption of the annual work programme as well as to the discussion and vote of the budget for the next financial year.

6. The Executive Committee may be convoked in extraordinary session if 2/3s of National Groups so request.

SECTION 3 : MEETINGS

Rule 43

The Executive Committee shall meet in public, except contrary decision taken by 2/3 of the delegates present at the Conference.

Rule 44

1. The Executive Committee may not deliberate validly unless the majority of its members are present.

2. The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by the simple majority of the members present. In case of a tie, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Rule 45

Each National Group shall have a single vote.

Rule 46

The votes of the Executive Committee shall be taken by roll-call , show of hands or by acclamation. They may be taken by secret ballot if the majority of represented groups so request. Nevertheless, if the vote aims at individual appointments, then it must be by secret ballot.

Rule 47

The results of the votes shall be reported by two tellers appointed by the Chairperson.

SECTION 4 : AGENDA

Rule 48

The Secretary-General shall establish the draft agenda for each session, in agreement with the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Rule 49

The Secretary-General shall communicate the draft agenda to the members of the Executive Committee at least two months before the opening of the session.

SECTION 5 : CHAIRPERSONSHIP AND SECRETARIAT

Rule 50

1. The Chairperson shall open, conduct proceedings, adjourn and close the meetings; he shall direct the work of the Executive Committee, have the Rules observed, call upon delegates to speak, put questions to the vote, proclaim the results of ballot and declare the sessions opened or closed. The decisions relating to these issues shall be final and must be accepted without debate.

2. The Chairperson shall decide in all cases not provided for in this part, basing himself on the general rules of procedure contained in the present Rules.

Rule 51

1. The Secretary-General of the Union shall attend the meetings of the Executive Committee and its bureau.

2. He or she shall assist the Chairperson in the conduct of proceedings.

3. The Secretary-General may comment on any matter under consideration and shall answer the questions put to him on that occasion.

Rule 52

1. The Secretary-General of the Union shall receive or prepare all the documents necessary for the deliberations of the Executive Committee and shall distribute them to its members without delay.

2. The Secretary-General shall draw up a report of proceedings which must be addressed to the Committee members at least within two months after the close of each session.

PART III : THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Rule 53

The General Secretariat shall be the administrative link between National Groups and the Union, on the one hand, and between the Union and international organizations, on the other hand. It shall be run by a Secretary-General.

Rule 54

The General Secretariat shall be provided with administrative, financial and technical services that ensure the implementation of all requisite tasks for the smooth running of the Union.

Rule 55

The administrative, financial and technical services of the Union shall be placed under the authority of the Secretary-General. He shall be accountable for their smooth running before the Executive Committee and the Conference.

Rule 56

The Secretary-General shall be assisted by Directors. In case of absence or impediment, a Director shall replace him on decision of the Secretary-General or the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, according to the case.

Rule 57

1. The Secretary-General, each year, shall give the Conference an account of the activities of the Union. The Report of the Secretary-General shall be accompanied by a summary of the reports submitted by National Groups.
2. The Secretary-General may, at any time and at the invitation of the President of the Conference, submit reports on any question under discussion to the organs of the Union.
3. The Secretary-General may also be invited to comment on any question under discussion.

Rule 58

The Secretary-General shall see that the working papers are in possession of National Groups at least two months before the session.

Rule 59

1. For the choice of the Secretary-General, the Executive Committee shall examine the applications and submit its choice to the Conference, following the criteria of competence and experience.
2. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Conference for a 4-year term. The Secretary-General may be only once re-appointed.
3. The Secretary-General shall work under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the Union.

PART IV : GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 : FINANCING

Rule 60

1. The setting up and operating expenses of the Union's organs shall be assumed by the National Groups according to the budget prepared by the General Secretariat and approved by the Executive Committee. The National Groups shall be responsible for the travelling charges and the accommodation costs of their delegations.
2. A National Group which fails to pay its annual contribution for two financial years shall have its rights suspended in accordance with Article 24 of the Statutes.
3. These rights pertain to participation in sessions, voting and presenting candidates to positions on the permanent and temporary organs of the Union.

SECTION 2 : WORKING LANGUAGES

Rule 61

Arabic, English, French and Portuguese shall be the working languages of the African Parliamentary Union. The acts and documents of the APU shall be drawn up in these four languages.

SECTION 3 : MODIFICATION OF THE RULES

Rule 62

1. These Rules may be amended upon written proposals by any National Group submitted to the Executive Committee which shall approve them by a two-thirds majority of the members present.

2. The Conference shall adopt and modify the Rules on the proposal of the Executive Committee by a 2/3 majority of the votes.
3. Proposals for the modification of these Rules must be made in writing and sent to the Secretary-General at least two months before the meeting of the Executive Committee.
4. These proposals shall be sent urgently to National Groups.

SECTION 4: ENTRY INTO FORCE

Rule 63

These Rules shall come into force on the date of their adoption by the Conference.

LIST OF DELEGATES

(I) MEMBER PARLIAMENTS

ALGERIA

Mr Tagguiche Abdelmadjid	Vice President of the Council of Nation (Senate), Head of delegation
Ms Barki Aïcha	Member of the Council of Nation
Mr Kacha Saïd	Member of CN
Mr Boukerroucha Abdelkader	Member of the People's National Assembly
Ms Ayad Ratiba	Member of PNA
Mr Mameri Abdelkader	High Officer, CN

ANGOLA

Ms Joana Lina Ramos Baptisa Candido	Vice President of the National Assembly (NA), Head of delegation
Ms Albertina Teresa Jose	Member, NA
Ms Miraldina Jamba	Member, NA
Ms Guillermina Alkaim	Member, NA
M. Manuel Calunga	Member, NA
Mr Walter Pacheco	Assistant
Mr Edilson Agostinho	Director of cabinet

BENIN

<u>Rt Hon. Adrien HOUNBGEDJI</u>	<u>Speaker of the National Assembly</u> (NA), Head of delegation
Mr Zinsou Edmond	Member, NA
Ms Dafia Abiba	Member, NA
Mr Hinnouho Atao Mohamed	Member, NA
Mr Houetognankou Jude	Protocol
Mr Houenou Myaiane	Chief of Protocol
Mr Hounkpevi Clément	Aide de camp

BURKINA FASO

Mr Ouoba Bindi	Member of the National Assembly, Head of
Mr Hama Moussa D.	delegation
Mr Ye Luc	Member, NA
Mr Diallo Ahmed Aziz	Member, NA
Ms Ouedraogo Fatimata	Member, NA
Mr Ouedraogo Michel	Member, NA
Mr Bacye Z. François	Member, NA

BURUNDI

Ms MBONEKO Sauda	Member, National Assembly
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CAMEROON

National Assembly

Mr BAORO Théophile	Vice President, Head of delegation
Ms TOMAINO H. Patricia	Member, NA
Mr GODWILL OKIA Mukete	Deputy Secretary General
Mr AL HADJI AZI	Secretary of delegation

Senate

Mr Ngayap Pierre Flambeau	Senator
Ms Din Bell Armande	Senator

CONGO

<u>Rt Hon. Justin Koumba</u>	<u>President of the National Assembly, Head</u>
	<u>of delegation</u>
Mr Eteka Yemet Valere Gabriel	First Secretary
Ms Opimbat Charlotte	First Questor
Mr Tsalabiendze Joseph	Member, NA
Mr Mangoueleh Beoleh	Administrative Secretary
Mr Loubongo Apollinaire	Administrative officer

DJIBOUTI

Mr Ali Soubaneth Atteyeh	Member of the National Assembly Head of
	delegation
Ms Fatouma Mohamed Kamil	Member, NA
Mr Mahdi Moumin Hadi	Member, NA
Mr Abdoukader Mohamed Moussa	Member, NA

EGYPT

Mr El Sayed Mahmoud Ahmed Hussein El Sherif	Vice President of the House of Representatives (HR), Head of delegation
Mr Ahmed Wael Kadry El Meshneb	Member of the HR
Ms El Hamn Khamis Ebrahima	Member of the HR

ETHIOPIA

Mr Amanuel Abreham	State Minister, Head of delegation
Mr Ali Osman	MP, Foreign Affairs St.com
Mr Mohamed Rashid Haji	Vice President of the Assembly of Federation
Mr Aschalew Tafese	

GAMBIA

<u>Rt Hon. Abdoulie Bojang</u>	<u>Speaker of the National Assembly, Head of delegation</u>
Mr. Dodou GM. Kebbeh	Secretary General, NA
Mr. Kwasu Drammeh	First Secretary, Embassy , Rabat

GHANA

Mr Yeboah David Enric	Member of Parliament
Mr Abubakari Ibrahim Dey	MP
Mr Amankwanor Joseph Sam	MP
Ms Koomson Mavis Hawa	MP
Mr Sakpor John Doe	MP
Ms Peace Fiawoyife	Assistant Secretary General

GUINEA BISSAU

<u>Rt Hon. Cipriano Cassamá</u>	<u>Speaker of the People's National Assembly,</u> Head of delegation
Ms Maria Paula Costa Pereira	Member of the PNA
Mr Lassana Fati	Member of the PNA
Mr Vasco Biague	Adviser
M. Edson Araujo	Protocol

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Senate

Rt Hon. Teresa Efua Anangono

Mr Melchor Esono Edjo
Ms Silvia Paloma Obono Edjang
Mr Victorino Nka Obiang Maye
Ms Perla Divina Owono Efua
Mr Javier Mesie Bico Mangue
Mr Ambrosio Engonga Mbo Nchama
Mr José Reginaldo Asumu Nzang Akumu

President of the Senate, Head of delegation

Senator
Senator
Secretary General , Senate
Director of cabinet
Director, Protocol
Director, Press
Cameraman

National Assembly

Mr Santiago Nsobeya Efuman Nchama
Mr Salvador Nguema Mangue
Ms Natividad Ondo Bindang

1st Vice President, Head of delegation
Member, NA
Member, NA

LIBYA

Rt Hon. Akila Saleh

Mr Ali Omar Abou Al Kassim Al Takbali
Mr Saleh Kamla Yassko Darkoui
Mr Nasrouddine Mihni Ghabachi
Ms Naïma Ramadan Akl Dilf
Mr Abdullah Al Messri Fadil Moussa
Mr Kaiss Ali Al Jabrani
Mr Adil Omar Abou Faliha
Mr Idriss Mhammed Badr
Mr Abdelbasset Hafida
Mr Rafii Mahmoud Al Jaml
Mr Ouajdi Moustapha Ramadan
Mr Anis Ahmed Youssouf
Mr Islam Soulaïman Saleh
Mr Marouan Achour Abdoullatif
Mr Khaled Omar Attabib
Mr Houssein Abdelsadek Abou Hajar
Mr Mhammed Salem Abou Fares

Speaker of the House of Representatives

(HR), Head of delegation,

Member of the HR
Member of the HR
Member of the HR
Member of the HR
Chief of Cabinet
Deputy Director, Protocol
Secretary, Speaker office
Public Affairs
Security
Photograph
Attendant
Security
Attendant
Attendant
Director, Protocol
Finance officer
Protocol

MADAGASCAR

Mr Tonovay	Member of the National Assembly
Mr Rakotonirina Joé Ernest	Member of the National Assembly
Ms Naharimamy Lucien Irmah	Member of the National Assembly
Ms Raharimanarivo Voahanginiaina	Member of the National Assembly

MALI

Mr NDIAYE MODY	3rd Vice President, Head of delegation
Mr NIMAGA Cheikh Tahara	Member of the National Assembly
Mr KOURIBA Sory Ibrahima	Member of the National Assembly
Mr KANE Labane	Member of the National Assembly

MOROCCO

Mr Hakim Benchemach	President of the House of Councillors (Senate), Head of delegation
Ms Amina Maeline	Member of the House of Representatives
Mr Mayara Enaam	Member of the House of Councillors
Mr Chada Ahmed	Member of the House of Councillors
Mr El Kamel Abderrahim	Member of the House of Councillors
Mr Najib El Khadi	Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Mr Abdelouahid Khouja	Secretary General of the House of Councillors

NAMIBIA

<u>Rt Hon. Margaret MENSAH WILLIAMS</u>	<u>President of National Council (Senate)</u>
Ms Mirjan N.N. NAKUTWINA	Secretary

NIGER

Mr Moumouni Issa	Member of the National Assembly (NA), Head of delegation
Mr Sadou Rékiatou	Member, NA
Mr Harouna Dédouka	Member, NA
Mr Hima Maïmouna	Member, NA
Mr Idi Moussa Issiaka	Member, NA
Ms MBello Salamatou	Adviser

NIGERIA

Mr OLUSOLA Adeyeye A.	Senator, Head of delegation
Mr SANI Mustapha	Senator
Mr ISAH HAMMA Misau	Senator
Mr BABATUNDE Koiawale Gabriel	Member of the House of Representatives
Mr Ikon Samuel Okan	Member of the House of Representatives
Ms Mundi Aisha	Spouse to Sani Mustapha
Mr Alh. M.A. SANI OMOLORI	Clerk to National Assembly
Ms AYOBAMI Sani Omolori	Spouse to Clerk
Ms RABI ADA Audu	Secretary NSNL
Mr YAHAYA H. Danzaria	S.A. to CNA
Mr AYENI ODUNAYO Adeola	S.A. to Leader of delegation
Mr SHEHU Umar	Adviser
Mr Ahmed SULEIMAN ISAYAK	Adviser

UGANDA

Rt Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga

Speaker of the Parliament, Head of
delegation

Ms Nakawunde Sarah	MP
Ms Kahunde Hellen	MP
Mr Baba James	MP
Mr Dhamuzungu Godfrey	MP
Mr Tumukwasibwe Robert	Adviser
Ms Alice Nyamwenge Mukyasi	Assistant Secretary General
Mr Charles Bukuwa	Protocol
Mr Moses Kaziba	Public Affairs
M. Moses Kango	Press
Mr Moses Ngobi	Aide de camp

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Senate

Mr DJOLI ESENKEKELI Jacques	Senator, Head of delegation
Mr TSHIALA MAYEMBE Célestin	Director, Principal Adviser

National Assembly

Ms Lukiana Mufwankolo M.A	Member of the NA, Head of delegation
Mr Mushizi Kizito	Member, NA
Ms Bosekota Lyna	Officer

RWANDA

Mr Mukama Abbas	Vice President, Head of delegation
Mr Nkusi Laurent	Senator
Ms Uwayisenga Yvonne	Member of the Chamber of Deputies

SENEGAL

Mr Diouf Alioune Badara	Member of the National Assembly, Head of delegation
Mr Badji Mamadou	Member, NA
Ms Diallo Aminata	Member, NA
Mr Ndiaye Mamadou Moustapha	Member, NA
Ms Mane Mariama	Member, NA

SUDAN

<u>Rt Hon. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer</u>	<u>Speaker of the National Assembly (NA)</u> , Head of delegation
Mr Mohammed Hamed Mansour Achayeb	Member, NA
Ms Ista Kokou Rahal	Member, NA
Ms Sagha Hussein El Nour Mohamed Salama	Member, NA
Mr Mohammed Youssouf Abdoullah	Member, NA
Mr Aoud Haj Ali	Member, NA
Mr Mehdi Ibrahim Mohammed	Member, NA
Ms Afaf Tawer	Member, NA
Mr Abdoul Basset Khalf Allah Souleiman	Adviser

SOUTH SUDAN

Rt. Hon. Anthony Lino Makana	Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly, Head of delegation
Ms Anne L. Abye	MP

TOGO

Mr Segou Etse Franck	Member of the National Assembly, 3rd Questor, Head of delegation
Ms Amedjogle Akossiwa Olivia	Member, NA
Mr Labitoko Kadjila	Member, NA
Mr Dobou Kwadzo Sedem	Member, NA
Mr Kampatibe Nagbandja	Member, NA

ZIMBABWE

Rt Hon. Edna Madzongwe

Mr Mabel Memory Chinomona
Mr Tongesai Shadreck Chipanga
Ms Theresa Makone
Mr Chief Marozva
Mrs Roselyn D. Makoni
Mr Gift Chinyemba
Mr Simeon Chifamba

President of the Senate, Head of delegation
Vice President, National Assembly
MP, Senator
MP, Senator
MP
Director
Secretary
Security

(II) OBSERVERS

A/ PARLIAMENTS

COMOROS

Rt Hon. Abdou Ousseini

Mr Maoulana Charif
Ms Hadjra Oumouri
Mr Ali Madi Ben Mohamed

Speaker of the National Assembly,
Head of delegation
1st Vice President
MP
MP

B/ ORGANIZATIONS

ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Mr Fayez Al Shawabkeh Secretary General

MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Mr Mokadem Saïd Secretary General

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF MEMBER STATES OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (PUIC)

Mr Prof. Mahmut Erol Kilic Secretary General
Mr Amb. Aliasghar Mohammadi Sijani Deputy Secretary General

WAEMU INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Mr Jacob Ouedraogo	Vice-President
Ms Doubou Dogo Fatima	Vice-President
Ms Bagayogo Traore Aminata	1st Questor
Mr Touré Ahamadou Toumani	Protocol

EUROPEAN UNION

Mr Philip Mikos	Cooperation Chief, delegation of the European Union in Morocco
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FAO

Mr Michael Georges Hage	FAO Representative in Morocco
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UNICEF

Ms Regina De Dominicis.	Representative in Morocco
Mr Behzad Noubary	Deputy representative in Morocco

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Mr Pascal Mauchle	Head of ICRC delegation in Morocco
Mr Hicham Bargui	Communication coordinator
Mr Benjamin Charlier	Law adviser
