



**Pan-African
Parliament**
One Africa, One Voice

An Organ of the
**African
Union**



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Pan-African Parliament *Gazette*

Pan-African Parliament holds Session with impetus to Strengthen Africa's Future through Education and Strategic Partnerships



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THE YEAR OF EDUCATION

Educate an African fit for the 21st Century:

Building resilient education systems for increased access to
inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa

#YearOfEducation
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Foreword

The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) concluded on 5 July 2024, after two weeks of deliberations on issues facing our continent. I am filled with pride, hope, and optimism because of the way the session was conducted. The cordiality of the debates was refreshing, the objectivity with which we addressed issues was reassuring, the seriousness of our work was invigorating, and the commitment to unity and common purpose was rousing and inspiring.



We have taken the proverbial first step in the journey of a thousand miles toward building the PAP and the Africa we all aspire to. I urged members of our continental legislature not to let this be another false start but to recommit, in word and deed, to working together seamlessly. We must reject any overtures that seek to divide us in our endeavor to further PAP's mandate of "ensuring the full participation of African peoples in the economic development and integration of the continent."

Held under the African Union (AU) theme for 2024: "Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa," we were able to fully exercise our oversight function. We assessed the progress made in education and identified the challenges and gaps that need to be addressed, particularly in light of the compounded effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education systems across the continent. The Pan-African Parliament also deliberated on the harmonization and coordination of Member States' legislation to intensify efforts toward bridging these gaps and achieving education-related objectives in Africa, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

In addition to the Plenary activities, the session included meetings of the 11 Permanent Committees of Parliament. Their reports, aligned with their specific thematic areas, led to the adoption of groundbreaking resolutions and recommendations on various issues including peace and security, gender equality and equity, traditional medicine, the AfCFTA and free movement on the continent, the scourge of substance abuse, and mercenarism in Africa, among others. The Committees are the engine house of the Pan-African Parliament, enabling it to perform its core oversight, advisory, and consultative functions. The functions of the Permanent Committees correspond to those of the AU Specialized Technical Committees.

This special edition of our newsletter is a summarized compilation of some of the activities and deliberations held between 24 June and 5 July 2024 during our session. It also provides an overview of how the Pan-African Parliament sought to remain relevant in the continental governance matrix by aligning our programs and activities with the 7 AU Moonshots/Strategic Focus areas.

Enjoy the read!

H.E. Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira
President of the Pan-African Parliament

Bureau of the PAP

The Bureau of the Pan-African Parliament is composed of 5 members, one President and 4 Vice-Presidents, elected for a three-year term.

They represent the 5 regions of Africa: North Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa.

The Bureau is responsible for:

- Managing and administrating the Parliament and its organs.
- Regulating the procedures relating to the financial, organizational and administrative needs in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the AU and matters concerning members and the internal organization of the Parliament and its organs.
- Determining the draft agenda and the programmes of the Parliamentary Sessions.
- Determining the establishment and planning of the structure of the Secretariat, as well as laying down regulations, terms, and conditions of service for the staff submitted to Parliament for adoption.
- Proposing to the Council and the Assembly the number and job descriptions of its support staff.
- Proposing to the Pan-African Parliament, the appointment of the Clerk and Deputy Clerks to the Parliament.
- Preparing the draft budget of the Parliament and its presentation to the responsible Committee.
- Coordinating and harmonizing the functions of the Permanent Committees.
- Any other matters in accordance with the directives issued by Parliament.
- Carrying out any other functions as prescribed by Parliament or incidental to these functions.



H.E. Chief F. Z. CHARUMBIRA
President of the Pan-African Parliament
(Southern African Region)



Hon. Prof. Massouda M. LAGHDAF
1st Vice-President of
the PAP
(Northern African
Region)



Hon. Dr. Ashebir W. GAYO
2nd Vice-President of
the PAP
(Eastern African
Region)



Hon. Lúcia M. dos PASSOS
3rd Vice-President of
the PAP
(West African
Region)



Hon. Djidda Mamar Mahamat
4th Vice-President of
the PAP
(Central African
Region)

REGIONAL
CAUCUSES

Hon. Felix Mpozeriniga
Central Africa



Hon. Terrence Mondon
Eastern Africa



Hon. Sen. Azzeddine
Northern Africa

To be elected
Southern Africa



Hon. Alhagie Mbow
West Africa

THE ELEVEN PAP PERMANENT COMMITTEES

To be elected
Rural Economy



Hon. Kouadio Bertin
Education



Hon. M. Muntaka
Monetary and Financial



Hon. Sen. John Bideri
Trade



Hon. Jean Quirin
Health



Hon. Dao G. Mariam
Gender



Hon. Jean Nibirantije
Justice



Hon. Steven Mikaya
Rules



Hon. Behdja Lammali
Transport



Hon. Sherif El Gabaly
Cooperation

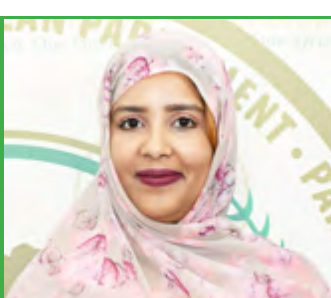


Hon. Miles Sampa
Audit

Ad Hoc Caucus



Hon. Amina Tidjani Yaya
WOMEN'S CAUCUS



Hon. Dahi Laila
CAUCUS ON YOUTH

Pan-African Parliament engages on strategic planning and alignment with Agenda 2063 ahead of Session



The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) convened a consultation meeting for its Bureau and leadership structures on results-based management and strategic planning ahead of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament on Monday, 24 June 2024.

The workshop, opened by PAP President Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira, aimed to align PAP activities with African Union strategic directions, focusing on results-based programming and budgeting. The meeting addressed Agenda 2063 and its 10-year Implementation Plan, and discussed PAP's strategic priorities for 2024-2028.

As members prepared to deliberate on the African

Union theme for 2024 and other critical issues, the engagement sought to analyze and synthesize relevant information and discuss PAP's strategic niche in implementing Agenda 2063.

A key aspect of the workshop was a presentation by Mrs. Botho Keba Bayendi, Director of Strategic Planning and Delivery at the African Union Commission, on the Agenda 2063 Second 10-Year (2024-2033) Implementation Plan, including the African Union's seven moonshots. These moonshots symbolize the AU's commitment to comprehensive development. Consequently, PAP will align its mission and objectives with these moonshots.

Pan-African Parliament President urges members to embrace their mandate and drive continental agenda



The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) President, H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira, urged African legislators to prioritize peace, security, and education while promoting the continental agenda. This appeal was made during the opening of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, under the African Union (AU) Theme for 2024: "The Year

of Education: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa."

"We need to prioritize promoting peace, security, and stability," said H.E. Chief Charumbira. "Without peace, there is nothing that can be done on this continent. We need to close ranks as Africans and put our differences aside for a better future. As representatives, we must promote collective self-reliance and economic recovery, facilitating cooperation and development in Africa."

He emphasized the importance of implementing AU policies, promoting human rights and democracy, and encouraging good governance, transparency, and accountability. H.E. Charumbira also highlighted the need to familiarize Africans with AU objectives and policies, strengthen continental solidarity, and build a sense of common destiny.

New APRM CEO pledges continued active collaboration with Pan-African Parliament on strategic priorities



The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has expressed support for the Pan-African Parliament

(PAP) during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, on 24 June 2024.

APRM's incoming CEO, Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, commended the efforts to amplify African voices and emphasized the commitment to freedom and justice. She highlighted the historical collaboration between APRM and PAP and pledged continued cooperation to advance education and Agenda 2063 goals.

Quatre, a former parliamentarian, reiterated APRM's dedication to democracy, good governance, peace, security, and stability across Africa. She emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum and staying aligned with historical progress.

Pan-African Parliament holds Session with impetus to Strengthen Africa's Future through Education and Strategic Partnerships



The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) ran in Midrand, South Africa from 24 June 2024 to 5 July 2024. This session focused on the African Union's 2024 theme: "Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century," emphasizing resilient education systems for inclusive, lifelong, quality learning.

The AU Agenda 2063 aims to transform Africa into an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent driven by its citizens. Education is central to this agenda, aligning with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite progress, significant disparities in education remain across Africa, with many children and youth out of school

and youth literacy rates in Sub-Saharan Africa at 77%, compared to the global average of 95%. Challenges include poverty, malnutrition, gender inequality, disability, and displacement.

Agenda 2063's Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (2024-2033) focuses on developing Africa's youth, with goals such as increasing educational access, ensuring primary education completion, boosting tertiary enrollment, improving healthcare and nutrition, promoting gender equality, reducing youth unemployment, and encouraging entrepreneurship. These initiatives support lifelong learning and align with the AU's 2024 education theme and Moonshot 6.

Solidarity messages underscore the strategic significance of the Pan-African Parliament

Various institutions urged the Pan-African Parliament to address critical issues and position Africa as a key global player through strategic partnerships. This was emphasized in solidarity messages during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament, aligning with the African Union's theme: "The Year of Education: Building Resilient Education Systems for Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality Learning in Africa."

Hon. Adel Bin Abdulrahman Alasoomi, President of the Arab Parliament, highlighted the importance of collaboration to advance shared values of freedom, security, and democracy. Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, Deputy Speaker of Nigeria's House of Representatives, praised the education theme and stressed a pan-African approach to meet SDG4 and address educational migration. Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose-Quatre, CEO of the African Peer Review Mechanism, underscored the Pan-African Parliament's role in promoting democracy and good governance. Hon. Rémy

Ngoy Lumbu, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, highlighted the complementary mandates of the Pan-African Parliament and the Commission.

Hon. Justice Modibo Sacko, Vice President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, emphasized the right to quality education and called for ratifying the Court's protocol. Ambassador André Nzapayeke, Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in South Africa, stressed prioritizing ordinary Africans and achieving Agenda 2063 goals. Palestinian Ambassador Hanan Jarrar described the situation in Gaza, praised Africa's stance against Israeli actions, and called for continued support.

H.E. Amb. Javier Niño Pérez, the EU Ambassador to the AU, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the EU-Africa partnership, pledging support on issues like conflict resolution and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area.



Pan-African Parliament Committee Appeals for Greater Financial Commitment from African Governments to Eliminate TB by 2030



The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Committee on Health, Labour, and Social Affairs has urged increased governmental funding to combat Tuberculosis (TB) in Africa. This call followed a presentation by the Global TB Caucus (GTBC) on Africa's TB challenges and the goal to eradicate it by 2030.

Meeting during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, GTBC Regional Manager Paidamoyo Magaya stressed the need to relaunch the TB Caucus within PAP. Magaya highlighted the importance of political commitment and increasing health budgets to

address TB effectively.

GTBC Regional Co-chair Dr. Christopher Kalila noted the reliance on global donors and the need for African governments to prioritize TB funding. Committee members supported the agenda, emphasizing the importance of political will, national TB caucuses, and increased health budgets.

The session concluded with committee members committing to establish national TB caucuses and enhance collaboration with the GTBC.

“Right to life is the basis for all other rights” - ACHPR Commissioner Idrissa Sow



Commissioner Idrissa Sow of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) urged lawmakers to adopt the Draft Protocol on the Abolition of the Death Penalty. He made this appeal while addressing the Pan-African Parliament's Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The ACHPR, established by the African Charter in 1987, protects human rights in Africa.

Sow highlighted that the death penalty, rooted in

pre-colonial times, was executed through various harsh methods. He emphasized the African Union's stance that the right to life is fundamental and that abolishing the death penalty is crucial for its protection. Sow noted the varied progress among countries, citing several that have abolished the death penalty in recent years. He stressed the importance of legislative action to address the gaps in the African Charter regarding capital punishment.

Pan-African Parliament intensifies calls for collaboration in addressing systemic challenges: Gender Equality



The Pan-African Parliament Committee on Gender, Family, Youth, and People with Disabilities called for collaboration to tackle gender issues in member states. On Tuesday, Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie of the ACHPR urged cooperation to address problems like FGM, child marriage, femicide, and gender-based violence, highlighting the urgency in hotspot countries like Niger and South Africa.

Sallah-Njie stressed the importance of joint efforts and suggested using model laws to criminalize harmful practices. She emphasized monitoring compliance and engaging in outreach programs to advocate for legislative reform. Despite budget constraints, she encouraged impactful events and better use of existing legal instruments.

Permanent Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Engages with the World Food Programme on Food Security and Nutrition



The Pan-African Parliament's Permanent Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources held two sittings during the 3rd Session of the Sixth Parliament, focusing on education as per the African Union's Theme of the Year.

The committee began with a joint session with the Committee on Justice and Human Rights to discuss their roles in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 2030 for the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063. They then engaged with the World Food Programme (WFP) to address critical

issues in agriculture, food security, and nutrition. Dr. Hameed Nuru of the WFP highlighted the organization's key role in reducing hunger and improving agricultural productivity.

The WFP collaborates with the African Union to provide emergency food assistance, support nutrition programs, and enhance community resilience. Dr. Nuru emphasized Africa's struggle with food security and called for increased agricultural budget allocations. He also addressed food aid politicization and the importance of unbiased aid distribution.

Pan-African Parliament MPs charged to take African Union theme of the year to African citizens



The President of the Pan-African Parliament, Chief Fortune Charumbira, urged members to spread the African Union's annual theme to all African citizens. He emphasized the Parliament's role in translating AU policies and treaties into national laws, as outlined in Article 3 of the PAP Protocol. This article mandates the Parliament to amplify African voices and facilitate AU policy implementation.

Charumbira highlighted the Parliament's role as a link between the people and AU organs, noting

its annual activities promoting the AU theme. At a workshop on this theme, he tasked Hon Koudio Kouakuo Bertin with creating a document for MPs to discuss in their national parliaments, allowing for input and recommendations to be sent to the AU. He stressed the importance of mobilizing domestic resources for education, urging African parliamentarians to ensure adequate funding for quality education and skills development for all children, aiming for an educational turnaround in Africa.

Breaking down barriers to inclusive education



The African Union's 2024 theme focuses on "Educating an African fit for the 21st Century," aiming to build resilient education systems that provide inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning across Africa.

The theme highlights significant challenges hindering progress, including barriers for children with disabilities due to inadequate facilities and discrimination, as well as widespread poverty

preventing access to education. Cultural factors and teacher capacity also pose obstacles.

Strategies discussed include policy frameworks, infrastructure development, teacher training, ICT integration, collaboration in resource allocation, and monitoring and evaluation. Achieving inclusive education is seen as crucial for fostering respect, understanding, and a prosperous Africa.

Calls for Unified Efforts to Build Resilient Education Systems as gathering on AU Theme kicks off



Pan-African Parliament President H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira urges African nations to invest in education, emphasizing its role as a universal human right and public responsibility. Speaking at the AU-themed workshop, he called for mobilizing national resources to transform education systems and ensure equitable access. Despite progress in reducing out-of-school rates and improving completion rates, challenges persist, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Charumbira highlighted the need for additional

teachers and substantial financing to achieve universal education goals by 2030. Hon. Bertin Koudio Kouakuo emphasized the urgency of resilient education systems for sustainable development, advocating for teacher training, curriculum reforms, and digital education integration. H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine of the AU Commission underscored the imperative for inclusive, quality education to drive Africa's socio-economic progress, urging collaborative efforts across stakeholders.

Pan-African Parliament MPs urged to rigorously oversee national governments' budget allocations for education



The Pan-African Parliament Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs has issued a call to legislators to closely monitor their national governments' spending and budget allocations on education.

Chairperson Hon. Mubarak Muntaka cautioned that the vision of achieving inclusive and equitable education remains at risk due to reduced government spending on educational activities. He emphasized that governments must prioritize budget allocations and spending on education.

The African Union (AU) has designated education as its theme for 2024: "The Year of Education: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa." President of the Pan-African Parliament H.E. Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira declared that the parliament has also adopted a similar theme in alignment with the AU's mandate.

Pan-African Parliament Convenes Workshop to Address 21st Century Education in Africa



The Pan-African Parliament, in collaboration with African Union Agencies, partner organizations, and academic institutions, held a pivotal workshop today focused on the theme “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.” The event brought together a diverse array of experts and stakeholders to address the urgent need for educational reform across the continent.

Presentations and briefings were delivered by representatives from the African Union Commission for Education, Science, Technology

AUC Department of Education Highlights Pan-African Parliament’s Crucial Role in Advancing Educational Development

Representing the African Union Commission, H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI), challenged parliamentarians and stakeholders to champion an educational agenda that addresses barriers to inclusivity, affordability, accessibility, and applicability for improved educational outcomes.

During a workshop marking the African Union’s theme for the year, “The Year of Education: Educating an African Fit for the 21st Century,” the Department presented analyses on various topics, including the Continental Education Strategy for Africa, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, the AU Agenda for 2063, and the role of parliamentarians in advancing these agendas.

Chigozie Emmanuel Okonkwo, Policy Officer in the Department, urged members of the Pan-African Parliament to advocate for education as a fundamental tool for all aspects of development. He encouraged them to allocate at least 1% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to national science and technology budgets. Okonkwo emphasized the importance of parliamentarians establishing coordination mechanisms with

and Innovation (ESTI); the University of Zululand; the University of Cape Town; the University of Zambia; the Global Campaign for Education; the IDP Foundation for Education; the African Curriculum Association Online; the Center for Basic Research and Education Online; the Data for Governance Alliance Research and Policy Programme; Ushindi Empowerment; SAIIA; and the African Union Youth Envoy. Experts on the Right to Education and Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs) also presented technical findings and recommendations to the stakeholders present.

the ESTI department to promote its programs and advocacy efforts, as well as collaborating on strategic initiatives supporting ESTI as a developmental tool.



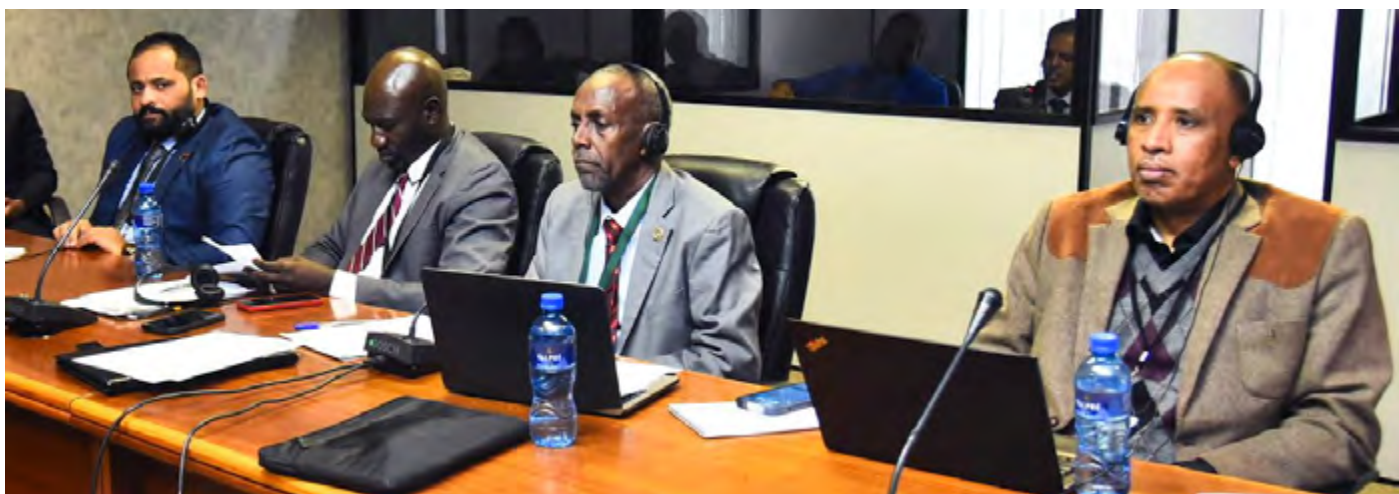
Seminar Highlights Critical Role of Family Research and Policy in Africa's Socio Economic Development



Today, June 27th, a joint seminar titled “Enhancing African Family Values to Achieve Citizens’ Socioeconomic Protection and Security” is taking place as part of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament. This seminar aligns with the African Union (AU) theme for 2024, “Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century.” The Permanent Committees on Health, Labour and Social Affairs; Justice and Human Rights; and Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources are actively engaging in presentations and discussions with internal and external stakeholders.

The opening session delved into “The State of Family Research and Policy in Africa,” featuring a comprehensive presentation by Professor Zitha Mokomane from the University of Pretoria and Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang, Senior Social Welfare Officer at the African Union Commission. Their presentation, “Mapping Family Research and Policy in Africa,” provided insights into the current state of family research and the policies shaping family welfare across the continent.

Permanent Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Gears Up for COP29



The Pan-African Parliament’s Permanent Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources, together with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), convened during the ongoing 3rd Session of the Sixth Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, under the AU’s Theme of the Year on education. They discussed outcomes from COP28 and preparations for COP29 in Azerbaijan later this year.

PACJA Director Dr. Mithika Mwenda highlighted Africa’s limited progress post-COP28, particularly in securing climate finance commitments from developed nations. Despite an agreement on

funding mechanisms for loss and damage at the Dubai conference, significant financial pledges remain unmet. Developed countries, originally pledging USD 100 billion annually since COP26, have largely provided loans, exacerbating African countries’ debt burdens.

Addressing parliamentarians’ concerns about these debts fueling conflicts and economic hardships, discussions included proposals for debt swaps under the UNFCCC fund. While some suggested boycotting COP29, Mwenda advised against it, advocating for strategic negotiations leveraging alliances like BRICS for better outcomes.

Pan-African Parliament Calls Out Conflict and Instability, Champions Sustainable Conflict Resolution Mechanism



Calls against conflict and instability in the region have emphasized the urgent need for peace. Advocates have supported sustainable conflict resolution mechanisms to address underlying issues effectively.

This was outlined in the report on the “Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM)-8 Conference on Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AfCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development,” presented and

adopted by the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Trade, Customs, and Immigration.

The report stemmed from the Senior Officials Conference of the 8th Session of the Pan-African Forum on Migration, held from October 31 to November 2, 2023, under the theme ‘Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AfCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development,’ with participation from group members.

Pan-African Parliament Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs Adopts the Draft Model Law on Cooperative



The Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs in the Pan-African Parliament will present the Draft Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa for adoption by the Parliament’s plenary next week. In partnership with the International Co-operative Alliance-Africa (ICA-Africa), the Committee met during the ongoing 3rd Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, held under the 2024 African Union Theme focusing on Education. Dr. Chiyoget B. Sifa, ICA-Africa Regional Director and CEO, presented the final Draft Model Law on Cooperatives.

In November 2022, the Pan-African Parliament Plenary approved the Committee’s proposal to develop a Model Law on Cooperatives, intended

as a soft-law instrument for AU member states to use or adapt. The development process, guided by the Pan-African Parliament Guidelines, included initiation, formulation, and adoption stages. Following a consultative meeting in Nairobi in August 2023, Pan-African Parliament Officer Clement Mavungu emphasized the Model Law’s comprehensive approach to cooperative governance.

The Committee now prepares to review and potentially adopt the final report, which, upon approval by the Parliament’s plenary, will become an approved Model Law for the AU. Subsequently, it will be forwarded to heads of state for adoption, aiming to harmonize cooperative laws across the continent.

ECOSOCC - Pan-African Parliament collaborative effort praised as essential to promote free movement within the continent



The collaboration between the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) and the Pan-African Parliament has been commended as a pivotal achievement in advancing free movement across the continent.

It has been hailed as instrumental in fostering integration and cooperation among African nations.

This was highlighted in the report of the mission on ECOSOCC-Pan-African Parliament Working

Session on Advancing Free Movement in Africa' that was presented to the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Trade, Customs, and Immigration matters.

Following the ECOSOCC proposal for collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament, the two organs convened a working session with the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Trade, Customs, and Immigration Matters from 6th to 7th March 2024 in Mahé, Seychelles.

Pan-African Parliament unveils landmark Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security in Africa



"African Parliamentarians must prioritize the fight against hunger to achieve the continent's mission of Ending Hunger, said Pan-African Parliament President H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira, unveiling the 'milestone' Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security in Africa in Midrand, South Africa. Adopted by the Pan-African Parliament Plenary on November 11, 2022, the model law aims to inspire African Union (AU) Member States to develop national legislation on food and nutrition security. Charumbira urged Parliamentarians to treat food security as a human right and act decisively, citing Article 17 of the AU Constitutive Act.

He emphasized Africa's potential for self-sustainability in food production and urged collective action to end reliance on external sources. The AU aims to eliminate hunger by 2025, a target reaffirmed by Agenda 2063 and AU Summit decisions on agricultural growth. However, current efforts are insufficient, according to AUDA-NEPAD. The model law, a collaboration between the Pan-African Parliament, WFP, and FAO, symbolizes ongoing efforts to combat hunger.

Pan-African Parliament rallies behind the use of traditional medicine



The Pan-African Parliament Committees on Health, Labour, and Social Affairs, in collaboration with Gender, Family, Youth, and People with Disabilities, discussed promoting traditional medicine in Africa. They emphasized enhancing its scientific basis through research and innovation. This followed a Plenary report from June 2023 urging legal frameworks for traditional medicine regulation and public awareness.

Prof. Julio Rakotonirina of the African Union Commission highlighted traditional medicine's role in Agenda 2063's vision for Africa's socio-

economic transformation. He stressed the African Health Strategy's goals, including a supportive regulatory environment for quality traditional medicines.

The Parliamentarians met post-establishment of a Southern African sub-regional network of traditional leaders in April 2024, aimed at combating substance use disorders. They heard from stakeholders advocating for traditional medicine's economic and health benefits, encouraging its support.

Pan-African Parliament Hosts Dialogue with Civil Society



The Pan-African Parliament hosted its second dialogue session with civil society groups during its 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, on June 29, 2024. This session focused on education under the African Union's theme for the year.

Mr. William Carew, Head of Secretariat for ECOSOCC, emphasized the importance of ongoing discussions between the Parliament and civil society across Africa. He highlighted their role in promoting democratic governance that

addresses people's needs.

Carew underscored the collaboration's significance in advancing Agenda 2063, Africa's strategic framework for socio-economic transformation over the next five decades. He outlined areas where they can work together, including advocacy, policy formulation, and accountability. He stressed the role of civil society in raising awareness and mobilizing support for Agenda 2063, while Parliamentarians can champion policy changes and resource allocation.

Pan-African Parliament-CSO dialogue urges ratification of AU Treaties



The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 6th Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, urged African member states to prioritize ratifying African Union (AU) treaties. Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Ms. Jessie Majome, emphasized this during the Pan-African Parliament's dialogue with the Civil Society Forum.

Established in August 2018, the Pan-African Parliament Civil Society Forum aims to coordinate civil society efforts for engagement with the PAP. Ms. Majome stressed PAP member states' responsibility to prioritize ratifying AU treaties, particularly the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the AU concerning the PAP, for countries yet to ratify it.

African Leaders urged to address growing instability across the continent



Ms. Liesl Louw-Vaudran, Senior Advisor at the International Crisis Group for the African Union, urged African leaders to tackle regional instability. Addressing Pan-African Parliament legislators and civil society delegates, she stressed strategic interventions to restore stability and promote integration across the continent.

Since Egypt's 1952 coup, Africa has seen numerous others. Louw-Vaudran called for decisive leadership to uphold democratic principles, advocating the Pan-African Parliament as pivotal for treaty ratification.

Highlighting challenges including conflicts and integration issues, she noted six African Union suspensions and threatened ECOWAS departures. She warned of dire impacts, with recent Sahel region changes ignoring AU commitments, prolonging instability.

Ms. Lindiwe Khumalo, Pan-African Parliament Clerk, stressed its role in ensuring African people's full economic and integration participation. She highlighted the Parliament's integration agenda through shared values, harmonized instruments, and African civil society partnerships.

Eswatini Prime Minister Encourages Africa to Embrace Home-Grown Democracy and Ubuntu



H.E. Russell Dlamini, Prime Minister of Eswatini, urged African nations to adopt home-grown democratic systems and embrace the philosophy of Ubuntu. Addressing the Pan-African Parliament Plenary, he stated that the prevalent Western democracy has not entirely benefited Africa and its people.

Speaking at the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 6th Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, Dlamini focused on “Unpacking the Issue of Pan-Africanism” and the role of the Pan-African Parliament. He highlighted that since May 1963, when 32 African heads of state met in Addis Ababa to establish the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), later the African Union (AU), the vision was

always for a united and self-determined Africa. The OAU Charter emphasized freedom, equality, justice, and dignity as essential for achieving Africans’ aspirations. Pan-Africanism aimed to promote understanding and cooperation, transcending ethnic and national differences, rooted in African socialism and unity.

H.E. Dlamini noted that the foreign democratic system had failed to bring Africa peace, stability, and prosperity. He pointed out that it often leads to frequent leadership changes, partisanship, and instability, recycling leaders without transforming societies. Instead, he called for home-grown systems that unite Africans and focus on growth, development, peace, and unity.

The Pan-African Parliament has adopted the Model Law on Cooperatives

This law aims to guide the development and revision of cooperative legislation across Africa. It serves as a tool to inspire new laws where none exist and to enhance existing ones to meet current needs and trends. The law also seeks to harmonize cooperative practices continent-wide.

The Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs presented the draft law, which was approved on November 18, 2022. The Parliament highlighted collaboration with the International Cooperative Alliance and urged involvement from relevant African Union departments and civil organizations in its formulation. Members of Parliament were encouraged to champion the adoption and implementation of the Model Law in their respective countries.

Regarding budget matters, the Parliament discussed a 1% decrease in the 2025 budget compared to 2024, expressing concerns about

funding constraints affecting parliamentary activities. The Committee Chairperson assured continued efforts to secure alternative funding sources and requested a meeting with the Head of African Union Reforms to address budget allocations.



Pan-African Parliament Committees delve into Revised OAU Convention for Eliminating Mercenaries in Africa



The Pan-African Parliament Committees on Cooperation, International Relations, and Conflict Resolution; Justice and Human Rights; and Rules, Privileges, and Discipline met to discuss the revised OAU Convention on Mercenaries in Africa following a briefing on Africa's peace and security needs.

Ms. Joseline Naimana and Mr. Samory Badona Monterio from the AUC presented insights into evolving mercenary threats across Africa. The

original 1977 African Convention on Mercenarism aimed to safeguard sovereignty during decolonization but lacks provisions for modern challenges like cybercrime and PMCs.

Despite condemning mercenaries, the convention doesn't classify their activities as a "grave breach" under Protocol I of 1977. In 2018, the AU recommended revising the convention to address PMCs and the evolving security landscape.

Pan-African Parliament Demands Swift Action to Promote Free Movement Across Africa

Members of the Pan-African Parliament have underscored the critical need for political and social stability to achieve the dream of a highly integrated and economically prosperous Africa.

The Parliament has reiterated its commitment to facilitate the effective implementation of African Union (AU) policies, to promote intra-African trade, and to advocate for the ratification and domestication of the Free Movement of Persons (FMP) in AU member states. This came to light during the presentation and adoption by the Plenary of a report on the working session between the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration PAP Working Session on Advancing Free Movement in Africa.

The working session, held in March 2024, focused on enhancing understanding and support for the ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to free

movement of persons, right of residence, and right of establishment through parliamentary engagement. It aimed to build knowledge, assess key issues, and formulate actionable strategies for mobilizing support for the FMP.



20th Anniversary: Pan-African Parliament Reflects on the Journey and Charts the Path Forward



The Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, South Africa, the headquarters of the Pan-African Parliament, was the scene of vibrant celebrations on Monday, marking the 20th anniversary of the Pan-African Parliament. The Parliament was first inaugurated on 18 March 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Held under the theme “Two Decades of the Pan-African Parliament: Reflecting on the Future and Charting a Path Forward,” the event brought

Pan-African Parliamentarians take aim at the peace and security situation in Africa

Led by Hon. Dr. Sherif El Gabaly, Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations, and Conflict Resolution, today’s Plenary Session of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament focused on issues of peace and security.

Hon. Dr. Gabaly summarized the Committee’s findings on current conflict statuses in his report. Ambassador William Awınador-Kanyirige and H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, African Union (AU) Commissioner for Political Affairs, also provided an overview of Africa’s security situation. They highlighted widespread insecurity across all five geographical zones, severely threatening peace.

“In East Africa, despite UN peacekeeping efforts, insecurity persists in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),” noted the report. “In North Africa, Libya’s chaos has sparked instability across Central Africa. In West Africa, violent extremism fueled by various terrorist groups plagues the Sahel region. Unconstitutional

together parliamentarians, representatives of African Union (AU) organs, the African Diplomatic Corps accredited to South Africa, and civil society organizations. The celebrations provided an opportunity to outline a vision for the future of the Pan-African Parliament, identify key areas for improvement and expansion, and emphasise the Parliament’s role in the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and other regional development initiatives.

changes of government in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, and Niger have further destabilized populations.”



Pan-African Parliament MPs to lead advocacy for more funding



The President of the Pan-African Parliament, H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira, has appealed to Pan-African Parliament MPs to lead the engagements with their national Foreign Affairs Ministers and Ambassadors to the African Union on the need to provide more resources to the Pan-African Parliament.

To this effect, the Clerk of Parliament is to develop an advocacy pack to be used by all Pan-African Parliament MPs for these engagements. The President made this appeal when he presented the performance report of the Pan-African Parliament from March-June, 2024 to plenary for discussion and adoption.

Pan-African Parliament Plenary Engages the Scourge of Drug and Substance Abuse



The plenary session of the Pan-African Parliament convened on July 3, 2024, featured a presentation and debate on 'The Scourge of Drug and Substance Abuse as a Barrier to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Education in Africa'. Led by the Youth Caucus, this critical discussion underscored challenges impacting Africa's youth, aligning with the African Union's 2024 theme on Education, which frames the ongoing 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament.

The scourge of drug and substance abuse undermines efforts to provide a conducive learning

environment and hampers the development of human capital critical for the continent's socio-economic growth. Recognizing this challenge, the Pan-African Parliament's Youth Caucus has moved to take proactive measures to address the growing drug epidemic through legislative frameworks and policy advocacy. By tackling this complex issue, the Pan-African Parliament is engaging in Moonshot 6 of Agenda 2063's Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (2024-2033) focused on holistic capacity development, transforming Africa's youthful population into a productive force.

Pan-African Parliament's performance report unanimously adopted: Progress, challenges and roadmap highlighted

The Pan-African Parliament's Performance Report - March to June 2024, presented by President H.E Hon Chief Fortune Charumbira on 3 July 2024, provided a comprehensive overview of the institution's activities and progress over the past several months. The report, which was unanimously adopted by the members of the continental Parliament, provides insight into the successes and challenges faced by the organisation since its previous full session in May 2023.

Structured around the four strategic objectives outlined in the Pan-African Parliament's Strategic Plan, it also outlines the activities undertaken by the Pan-African Parliament since the 37th African Union (AU) Summit in February 2024, in furtherance of the Executive Council decisions which facilitated the Pan-African Parliament's return to full operational functionality as well as the Strategic Objectives of the institution. The report also encompasses various aspects of the Parliament's operations, including Bureau missions, administrative and staff matters, and emerging issues related to the Parliament's statutory responsibilities, in line with the Pan-African Parliament's mandate of, "ensuring the full participation of African peoples in the economic

development and integration of the continent."



Pan-African Parliament commits to Advancing Citizens' Interests in Response to Performance Report



H.E. President, Chief Fortune Charumbira appealed for commitment, unity and focus while presenting the Performance Report for March to June 2024 at the currently underway 3rd Ordinary Session of the 6th Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa.

The report, unanimously adopted by the members, outlined the institution's activities and progress over the past several months. Following the presentation, members of the Pan-African Parliament shared their interventions, reflecting

on the achievements and challenges presented in the report.

The Performance Report has not only provided a roadmap for the future but also initiated crucial discussions on how to overcome existing challenges and enhance the Pan-African Parliament's role in continental governance. As the Pan-African Parliament moves forward, its members' interventions reflected alignment with Agenda 2063's Second 10-Year Implementation Plan (2024-2033).

Pan-African Parliament Women's Caucus Unveils Key Recommendations from the 14th Conference on Women's Rights



Hon. Mrs. Amina Tidjani Yaya, Chairperson of the Women's Caucus of the Pan-African Parliament, presented the comprehensive report of the 14th

Pan-African Parliament Conference on Women's Rights during the July 3rd plenary session of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament. The annual conference, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on December 28-29, 2023, convened representatives from international and African institutions, as well as civil society, to empower parliamentarians and stakeholders across African caucuses in advancing women's rights and economic integration.

The conference sought to empower women parliamentarians and participants on women's issues in Africa, fostering responsive actions that uphold women's rights, harness the full potential of women's leadership, and promote the financial inclusion of both women and youth. Moreover, it provided a platform to oversee the endorsement, adaptation, and execution of women's rights protocols and international treaties protecting human rights, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), and the African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018-2028.

Pan-African Parliament Agrees on Equitable Funding Mechanisms for Regional Caucuses

In a significant move towards a more equitable and inclusive Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the continental legislative body has agreed on funding mechanisms for its regional caucuses. This landmark decision is expected to provide much-needed support to caucuses representing diverse regions across the continent, enabling them to contribute effectively to the Parliament's legislative and oversight functions.

The agreement was reached following a series of dialogues and consultations, highlighting the PAP's commitment to addressing structural imbalances that have historically disadvantaged certain regions.

The motion, moved by Hon. Prof Margaret Kamar and seconded by Hon. Wavel Woodcock at the ongoing 3rd Ordinary Session of the 6th Pan-African Parliament, implored the Bureau to ensure equitable funding for all regional caucuses. This would enable them to fulfil their functions and contribute to achieving the mandate of the continental Parliament.



Continental Parliament advocates for strengthening African family values and social protection



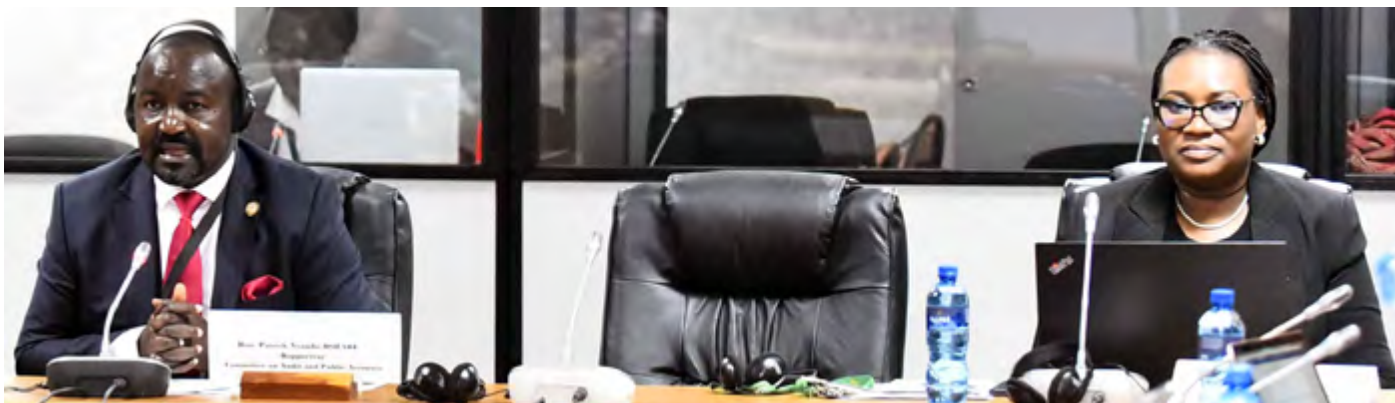
The Pan-African Parliament plenary heard the presentation of the report from the Permanent Committee on Gender, Family, Youth, and People with Disabilities. The report, delivered by the Committee Chairperson Hon. Mirriam Gabala, was grounded in the committee's joint workshop held on June 27, 2024, under the theme "Strengthening African Family Values to Ensure Socio-Economic Protection and Security of Citizens."

African Parliamentarians were reminded that the family is the cornerstone of society, where essential values, norms, and behaviors are nurtured in young generations. Acknowledging

the family's role as the foundational unit for demographic reproduction and citizen training, the discussions of the joint workshop highlighted the importance of instilling respect, responsibility, and solidarity within the family structure.

These values are crucial for the social, economic, and political life of nations. Legislatively, the workshop advanced the objectives of the Action Plan of the Family in Africa (AP), which emphasizes promoting, formulating, implementing, and monitoring AU policies to ensure family protection and support.

AFROPAC Seeks Partnership with Pan-African Parliament



The African Organization for Public Accounts Committees (AFROPAC), comprising Public Accounts Committees from various African legislatures, has met with the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Audit and Public Accounts (CAPA) to discuss potential collaboration in multiple areas. The meeting took place during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 6th Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa.

CAPA, established in 2015, is tasked with reviewing audit reports, overseeing accounting policies and

guidelines, and ensuring good governance and accountability within the Pan-African Parliament.

"In our meeting, I emphasized the need for collaboration in research and development, policy, and knowledge sharing," said Medard Lubega Sseggon, AFROPAC Chairman. He added, "We agreed to formalize our relationship with a Memorandum of Understanding and to start participating in each other's activities to further our common objectives."

Pan-African Parliament Exemplifies Unity and Discipline in Adoption of Recommendations



The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Pan-African Parliament concluded with a powerful display of unity and discipline. H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the Pan-African Parliament, applauded the unwavering dedication of Parliamentarians to the advancement and prosperity of the continent.

This remarkable showcase of cohesion and commitment unfolded in Midrand, South Africa, from 24 June to 5 July 2024 under the African Union (AU) Theme for 2024: “Educate an African fit for the 21st century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive,

Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.”

“I am delighted by the discipline we have demonstrated throughout the session leading to this day,” said H.E. Chief Charumbira during the official closing of the Session. “The way we have behaved, the sense of unity and character we have shown is amazing. With this attitude and behavior, our Parliament is destined for greater heights. Your behavior will surely drive and invite more Africans to take an interest in this Parliament. The spirit of discipline and unity is key to achieving a better Africa.”

Amb. Bankole Adeoye Highlights Urgency for Peace and Security in Africa at Pan-African Parliament’s Closing Ceremony

During the closing ceremony of the Pan-African Parliament’s 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament, His Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner of the African Union Commission for Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS), addressed African Parliamentarians calling for concerted and intensified efforts towards peace and security across Africa.

In his speech, Ambassador Adeoye emphasized the critical nature of addressing the continent’s multifaceted security challenges. He began by acknowledging the urgent need for collective action in the face of escalating conflicts and environmental crises. “Excellencies, Honorable Members, the peace and security landscape in Africa demands our unwavering attention,” Ambassador Adeoye emphasized.



Pan-African Parliament Plenary Deliberates Legal Framework of Draft Model Law on Gender Equality and Equity



The Pan-African Parliament convened its plenary session to receive the report from the Permanent Committee on Gender, Family, Youth, and People with Disabilities. Chaired by Hon. Miriam Dao Gabala, the committee's presentation focused on the Legal Framework of the Draft Model Law on Gender Equality and Equity in Africa.

The session highlighted the committee's comprehensive approach to promoting gender equality, family welfare, and the rights of persons with disabilities across the continent.

Key highlights of the session included the successful implementation of the committee's budget in accordance with Article 26 of the PAP regulations, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to advancing gender equality and disability rights. The committee's initiatives culminated in regional consultations with African Union bodies, civil society, and partners, contributing to the development of the Legal Framework for the Draft Model Law on Gender Equality.

Pan-African Parliament and PACJA Harmonize Voices, Urge Climate Solutions in Africa

The Pan-African Parliament and the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) have highlighted the urgent need for climate action, calling for the implementation of effective policies to combat climate change.

During debates on climate change issues and the activity report of the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources, the Pan-African Parliament emphasized the necessity of climate action.

Hon. Abdallah Barakat Ibrahim, Deputy Chair of the Committee, stated that after extensive consultations with partners, including PACJA and the African Climate Legislative Initiative (ACLI), the Committee resolved that developing a model law on climate change is critical to mitigating its impacts. He noted that most African countries lack dedicated legislative instruments to address climate change. A PACJA study revealed that only Kenya has enacted a specific climate change law, while other countries address it under broader environmental issues.



Chief Charumbira's Call for Unity: Pan-African Parliament's Vision for the Future



Pan-African Parliament President H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira emphasized the importance of a unified vision, urging legislators to “Think Africa Above All.” He highlighted the need for cooperation and mutual support to achieve sustainable development and prosperity across African nations.

Chief Charumbira made these remarks while officially closing the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South

Africa, held from June 24 to July 5, 2024.

“We carry an onerous mandate to represent not just the people of our respective Member States but the whole of Africa. Once elected, we cease to be mere functionaries of our home countries and become representatives of the entire continent. While focusing on our countries’ interests, we must always consider the broader interests of Africa.

Pan-African Parliament resolves to intensify advocacy for the ratification of the Malabo Protocol



The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament concluded on a positive note, with MPs reaching consensus on how to tackle several issues affecting the continent.

The session, held from 24 June 2024 to 5 July 2024 at the Pan-African Parliament headquarters in Midrand, South Africa, was conducted under the African Union (AU) Theme for 2024: “Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant

Learning in Africa.”

During the closing ceremony, MPs adopted 11 resolutions presented by various committees. One of the key resolutions emphasised the need for more countries to support the ratification and domestication of the Malabo Protocol and other AU legal instruments. The 2014 Protocol to the constitutive act of the AU relating to the Pan-African Parliament, also known as the Malabo Protocol, aims to extend the powers of the Pan-African Parliament.

Brief introduction to the institution

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP), a strategic Organ of the African Union, was set up to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the economic development and integration of the continent.

The Functions and Powers of the PAP are defined in Article 11 of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the

Pan-African Parliament.

Representing the entire African population, the PAP consists of 275 Members of Parliament from the 55 member states of the Union.

Each member state appoints five representatives, including at least two women, and reflecting diverse political opinions.

Secretariat of the Pan-African Parliament

In the performance of its functions, Parliament is supported by the Secretariat. The Secretariat is headed by the Clerk of Parliament. The Clerk is assisted by two Deputy Clerks: the Deputy Clerk in charge of Legislative Business and Conferences and the Deputy Clerk in charge of Finance, Administration and Human Resources. The Clerk and Deputy Clerks are appointed by the Parliament, on recommendation of the Bureau. The Secretariat is composed of 74 staff members of various profiles and categories.

With the support of the Deputy Clerks, the Clerk heads the Secretariat, organizes the elections of the President and Vice-Presidents, takes minutes of all the proceedings of Parliament and the Permanent Committees, authenticates the votes and proceedings of each sitting by signature, supervises the staff of the secretariat and manages the day to day administrative affairs of the Parliament. Finally, the Clerk is the accounting officer of the Parliament.



Mrs. Lindiwe Khumalo
Clerk of Parliament



Mr. Gali Massa HAROU
Deputy Clerk - LBC



Mr. Kenneth AKIBATE
Acting Deputy Clerk - FAHR

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