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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION- 2016

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE ALL AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG's)

MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

CLERK'S CHAMBERS  
DIRECTORATE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,  
NAIROBI

APRIL, 2016

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## **ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

EALA – East African Legislative Assembly

AU - African Union

DDR – Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States

MDG – Millennium Development Goals

MP – Member of Parliament

PPP – Public Private Partnership

SADC – Southern Africa Development

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

UN – United Nations

## **1.0 PREFACE**

On behalf of the Kenyan delegation to the All African Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 199 (6), it is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to the House the Report of the delegation on the All African Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

The Conference was held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria. The National Assembly participated in the Conference following an invitation to the Speaker of the National Assembly by the Conference Secretariat. The Speaker nominated members of the Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to form the delegation to attend the conference and it is on the basis of the delegation's participation in the conference that this report is produced.

### **1.1 Committee Mandate**

The Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources is established under the National Assembly Standing Orders No. 216(1). The functions and mandate of the Committee are also contained under the National Assembly Standing Orders, No. 216(5) as:-

- a) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned Ministries and departments;
- b) Study the program and policy objectives of the Ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c) Study and review all legislation referred to it;

- d) Study, access and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and Departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with its stated objectives;
- e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned Ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;
- f) Vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204; and
- g) Make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

The subject matter of the Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources are stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders No. 216 (f) as follows: climate change, environment management and conservation, forestry, water resource management, wildlife, mining and natural resources, pollution and waste management.

## **1.2 Committee Membership**

The Committee comprises of the following membership:-

1. Hon. Amina Abdalla, M.P. - Chairperson
2. Hon. Alexander K. Kosgey, M.P. - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a, M.P.
4. Hon. Samuel Ndiritu, M.P.
5. Hon. Aisha Jumwa Karisa, M.P.
6. Hon. Ejidius Njogu Barua, M.P.
7. Hon. Jude Njomo, M.P.

8. Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, M.P.
9. Hon. Kathuri Murungi, M.P.
10. Hon. Sunjeev Birdi, M.P.
11. Hon. Jackson K. Rop, M.P.
12. Hon. Abdi Noor Ali, M.P.
13. Hon. Joyce Emanikor, M.P.
14. Hon. Abdulaziz Farah, M.P.
15. Hon. Ronald Tonui, M.P.
16. Hon. (Dr.) Reginalda Wanyonyi, M.P.
17. Hon. Gideon Mwiti, M.P.
18. Hon. Hassan Dukicha, M.P.
19. Hon. Chachu Ganya, M.P.
20. Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, M.P.
21. Hon. Charles Geni Mongare, M.P.
22. Hon. (Dr.) Wilber K. Ottichilo, M.P.
23. Hon. Khatib Mwashetani, M.P.
24. Hon. George Ogalo, M.P.
25. Hon. (Major) Muluvi Mutua, M.P.
26. Hon. Mohamed Diriye M.P.
27. Hon. Peter Kinyua, MP.
28. Hon. Shukra Hussein Gure, M.P.

### **1.3 The All African Parliamentary Conference on Sustainable Development Goals**

#### **Mr. Speaker,**

The All African Parliamentary Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) took place on 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria bringing together

parliamentarians, civil society groups and technocrats from West Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa and East African countries as well across regional parliamentary institutions in Africa. Countries that were represented at the Conference included Benin Republic, DR Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Kenya, Niger, Uganda, Zambia, Togo, Gambia, Chad, Central African Republic and Swaziland.

The Conference was also attended by representatives from regional parliamentary bodies in Africa, including the Pan African Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly, ECOWAS Parliament and the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

The Continental parliamentary conference was hosted by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in partnership with the United Nations SDG Action Campaign.

The Conference was premised on the conviction that the effective domestication of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets at national levels depends on parliamentary ownership and actions towards enabling legislations, appropriation, oversight and monitoring of the SDGs. The purpose of the conference was to promote solidarity, cooperation and learning amongst African parliamentarians to build capacity, promote partnerships and foster parliamentary engagement with the SDGs and to contribute to the process of domestication, institutionalization, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at regional and national levels in Africa.

The Kenyan Parliamentary delegation comprised of the following:-

1. Hon. Wilber Ottichilo, MP – Leader of delegation
2. Hon. Barua Ejidius Njogu, MP

3. Mr. Nicholas Emejen – Secretary to delegation

#### **1.4 Key Conference Resolutions**

##### **Mr. Speaker,**

The parliamentarians at the national and regional level while affirming the mandate given to them by the people of Africa, a majority of whom are poor citizens, to represent them and be their voices in local, national, regional and global affairs resolved to:-

1. Play a critical role in ensuring the achievement of the SDGs and prioritising relevant policies and legislations in their respective Parliaments;
2. Champion the fight against corruption and ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the utilisation of resources allocated;
3. Facilitate the emergence of legislative and policy frameworks for implementation of the SDGs and ensure national parliamentary briefings, Motions, Committees and caucuses on SDGs;
4. Build parliamentary knowledge on SDGs and provide tools for parliamentary engagement;
5. Prioritise policy and budget support for the implementation of the SDGs on poverty eradication, education, gender equality, health and environment; and to work within their Parliaments and their governments to engage effectively in developing programmes and setting the agenda for the implementation of the SDGs.
6. Strengthen alliances and create synergies between continental, regional and national parliaments in SDGs programmes;
7. Develop capacity to generate and analyse their own data; and that parliamentarians should be leaders by example and set the pace for transformative leadership.



8. Establish standing committees, at the National and regional parliaments, on implementation of sustainable development goals as well as caucuses on sustainable development.
9. Allocate adequate domestic resources to finance implementation of the sustainable development goals during the budget making process.

### **1.5 Acknowledgement**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

The Committee wishes to register its appreciation to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the support accorded to the Committee in the execution of its mandate.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the members of the delegation for their patience, endurance and dedication in actively participating in the Conference.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and pursuant to Standing Orders No.199 of the National Assembly, I now have the honour to present the Report of the Committee on the All African Parliamentary Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and recommend it for adoption pursuant to the provisions of Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

Thank You,

**SIGNED** .....



**HON. WILBER OTTICHILO, MP**

**LEADER OF DELEGATION, ALL AFRICA PARLIAMENTARY  
CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**DATE**.....

12<sup>th</sup> - April, 2016

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted at the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, which took place at the UN headquarters in New York, USA, to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after its expiration on December 31, 2015.
- 2.2 The 193 member countries of the United Nations unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals intended to galvanize and guide the world's efforts to eradicate poverty, end hunger and address climate change by 2030.
- 2.3 The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are broken down into 169 specific targets to be achieved voluntarily by countries over the next 15 years. For rich countries, the 2030 agenda provides a framework for greater coordination of efforts to finance the achievement of the targets in developing countries.
- 2.4 The post-2015 agenda is universal and inclusive, encompassing multiple policy areas and stakeholders well beyond national governments. The goals provide a crucial reference point for encouraging countries and stakeholder groups to set detailed and relevant frameworks for their own development activity.

### **Opening Remarks**

- 2.5 The representative of East African Legislative Assembly, Hon. Abubakar Zien Abubakar while delivering a goodwill message at the All African Parliamentary Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), stressed the need to fight corruption in the continent for sustainable development goals to be successfully implemented and achieved. He noted that until

parliamentarians are able to play their rightful roles, the goals will not be achieved on time.

- 2.6 The Director, UN SDG Action Campaign, Mitchell Toomey stressed on the role of parliaments in planning, intervention and oversight of the process of bringing the goals to life. He noted that for development to thrive and be sustained there was need to make every process participatory and all inclusive.
- 2.7 The Chairman of the Nigerian National Assembly Committee on SDGs and chairman of the conference organizing committee, Hon. Abdulkabir Tijjani Joda, stated that parliaments working with the SDGs as the chief driver will lift Africa and its people to the next level of development.
- 2.8 The Speaker of the Ghanaian Parliament, Edward Doo Ajao noted that the conference emboldens the major initiatives for sustainable development and enhances the drive for reducing poverty on the African continent. He urged participants to hold fast to the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals so as to uplift national states from the doldrums of backwardness".
- 2.9 On his part, the Deputy Speaker of Nigeria's House of Representatives, Hon. Yusuf Sulaiman Lasun stated that African parliamentarians must work to enhance development strategies that will tackle challenges in rural areas.
- 2.10 The delegates were urged to come up with policies to ensure that the process of implementing and achieving the goals are inclusive and participatory given that they are goals meant to improve the lives of ordinary poor citizens.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

2.11 At the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which expired on December 31, 2015 were replaced by Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals comprise of 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

2.12 The Conference recalled that one of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 conference of 2012 was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which would build upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and converge as the post 2015 development agenda. The following are the Sustainable Development Goals:-

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable

industrialization and foster innovation

- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### **3.0 DEVELOPING A PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM FOR EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH SDG's IN AFRICA**

3.1 The Conference participants acknowledged the fundamental role of parliamentarians as the representatives of the people to be engaged on the achievement/realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The meeting noted that parliaments and parliamentarians were not effectively engaged in the millennium development goals thus leading to the bare minimal achievement of the goals. Parliaments being the link between the executive and the people and playing the critical role of appropriating the budget need to be engaged at very stage towards the achievement of sustainable development.

- 3.2 The realization of sustainable development goals requires accountability which starts with parliamentarians as the elected representatives of the people. Parliaments across the continent at the national and regional levels should strengthen the already existing accountability mechanisms, through tighter legislation, such as public accounts committees, office of the auditor general, anticorruption institutions in order to minimize waste and eliminate avenues through which the much needed limited public resources are lost.
- 3.3 The meeting recognized the need for building capacity among parliamentarian to be able to undertake effective oversight. National and regional parliament were urged to invest in building capacity of members of parliament and staff who are the institutions memory to be able to carry out effective oversight over the executive in the implementation of sustainable development in the continent. Sensitization programs be developed with the support of development partners targeting members of parliament at the national and regional levels.
- 3.4 The participants noted that the need for coordination in Parliament on the activities relating to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The various parliamentary portfolio and standing committees need to be well coordinated, through the establishment of a standing committee specifically to deal with sustainable development goals, for effectiveoversight in order to realize the post 2015 agenda within the agreed period of 15 years.
- 3.5 The Conference recognized the necessity for that Parliament to engage with other key stakeholders on the implementation of SDG's. A partnership and engagement with the civil society, private sector, academia, women, youth and other groups need to be established for timely achievement of SDG's targets. A

synergy among the various actors will accelerate the rate of implementation and realization of the development agenda.

3.6 Regional Parliaments particularly those with legislative powers need to play a more effective role in the implementation and achievement of SDG's by 2030. The regional parliaments can accelerate realization of the development goals by enacting legislation bind members States to prioritize key sustainable goals and entrenching policies that combat corruption and reduce wastage while targeting efficiency in service delivery.

#### **4.0 PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

4.1 The Parliamentarians present resolved to establish a Parliamentary Network on Sustainable Development to replace the Parliamentary Network on Millennium Development Goals following the lapse of the Millennium Development Goals in December, 2015.

4.2 The Participants were presented with a draft Constitution proposing the establishment of the African Parliamentary Network on Sustainable Development. The participants considered the draft constitution and adopted it with amendments.

4.3 Elections for the leadership of the Parliamentary Network on Sustainable Development were conducted in which each of the five regions in Africa namely; East Africa, Southern Africa, Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa, was allocated a slot at the executive committee after nominating two members each to the committee. The African Union was also recognised and

allocated a slot at the Executive Committee (EX-CO). Kenya was elected as the First Vice President, to be represented by the Hon. Ejidius Njogu Barua, MP. Other Executive Committee members included:-

1. Hon. Abdulkabir Tijjani Joda - President - Federal Republic of Nigeria
2. Hon. Ejidius Njogu Barua, MP - First Vice President - Republic of Kenya
3. Senator Fortune Charumbira - Second Vice President - African Union
4. Hon. Joseph Njobvuyalema - Secretary General - Malawi/SADC
5. Vice Secretary General - Republic of Tanzania
6. Treasurer - Democratic Republic of Congo

## **5.0 PARLIAMENTARIANS AS CRITICAL ACTORS IN NATIONAL DOMESTICATION, INTEGRATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE SDG's**

5.1 The Participants at the conference noted that parliaments across Africa, at the national and regional levels, have been instrumental in shaping and advancing democratic governance and people-centered development on the continent.

5.2 Participants appreciated the fundamental role that Parliaments and Parliamentarians play in enhancing planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability of interventions in development through legislation, resource allocation, oversight and parliamentary scrutiny of the work of the executive. The exercise of these instruments promotes democratic norms, people-centred governance and development in Africa.

5.3 The participants noted that in order to maximize the impact of the SDGs post-2015 Agenda, parliamentarians across the continent should be actively engaged at the every stage to ensure familiarity with and support for the agenda as well



as coordination of activities of the numerous parliamentary committees and caucuses dealing with issues relevant to the SDGs.

5.4 The Conference noted that SDGs will become signposts for advancing and measuring commitments to human, social and economic development. It further noted that the attainment of the 169 targets of the SDGs would advance the focus on achievement in reducing poverty, hunger, inequality and diseases. To this end, the conference reaffirmed the need for greater parliamentary cooperation and engagement in framework and agenda setting for the achievement of SDGs.

5.5 The participants further noted that SDGs will be easily implemented through collective work and shared efforts. In this regard therefore MPs from different parties, who share the same interest in SDGs, or in one specific goal of sustainable development, can join forces and create cross-party group as a platform to discuss and support the SDGs.

5.6 The conference acknowledged that Parliamentarians as the policy makers working together with national governments should integrate the SDGs agenda in established national strategies. Further Members of Parliament through parliamentary diplomacy should integrate the SDG agenda as a key focus of foreign policy that will assist in internationalizing the local post 2015 Agenda in international conferences and other fora. Supporting the government in aligning its international commitments and its national development priorities is critical for Parliament.

## 6.0 EVOLVING A GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS FOR THE SDG's

### **Accountability mechanisms**

- 6.1 The Conference participants noted that domestic accountability involves internal, national accountability systems and often covers the entire range of public policies. Domestic accountability mechanisms include parliamentary oversight and national audits, which increasingly scrutinize both international co-operation and domestic policies. Many domestic accountability mechanisms are built into democratic governance, including legal enforcement of rule of law, media scrutiny, civil society and non-governmental organization advocacy, elections and public engagement.
- 6.2 The participants called on governments in collaboration with their parliaments, both at national and regional levels, to urgently pursue acceleration policies and programmes and strategies in order to ensure that lessons learnt on MDGs can build to the success in the attainment of SDGs targets in Africa. They expressed belief that the plight of the poor, marginalized and vulnerable should be the basis and remain the centrality of any emerging development framework for the achievement of the SDGs.
- 6.3 The participants noted that strengthening the already existing institutions of good and accountable governance is a major requirement for people-centred development and stressed the need for parliamentarians to champion the fight against corruption in various institutions.
- 6.4 The participants called upon governments and parliamentarians to link development and security initiatives as a pre-requisite for peace, and develop

strategies to ensure good governance to promote functioning democracies. They called upon political leaders to engage in activities that would enhance peace and reduce political and ethnic tensions. Leaders were called upon to prioritize and address the issue of marginalization and exclusion of people as well as fighting terrorism and violent extremism. They also expressed belief in justice for all, access to justice and independence of the judiciary.

### **Governance Architecture**

6.5 On the issue of governance architecture, the participants called upon parliaments and governments to create an enabling environment for citizen engagement including advocacy with governments to embrace participation.

6.6 The participants expressed confidence in citizen empowerment, building capacity and confidence of citizens to engage in various development initiatives and decision-making processes and also in supporting citizen feedback mechanisms to contribute to monitoring and accountability of various SDG programmes to ensure achievements of the goals.

## **7.0 ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES IN AFRICA**

7.1 On the issue of socio-economic inequalities, the participants stressed and affirmed that human rights, human dignity and equity remain at the core of social and economic development in Africa, with the need to ensure strategies and actions to tackle inequality in Africa and the role of stakeholders, parliaments, civil society and private sector.

- 7.2 The participants noted that African governments need to ensure the incorporation of social inclusion, welfare, economic and social rights in economic development planning and in measuring the impact of economic policies.
- 7.3 The participants also recognized that gender equality has a ripple effect on the achievement of inclusive and progressive human development and good governance, and that there is need to harness the potential of gender equality and equity in the achievement of sustainable development.
- 7.4 The Conference noted that Members of Parliament have a significant role in addressing inequalities in Africa through legislating and oversight. Members of Parliament should bring motions and improve on policies that seek to address inequalities. SADC experiences
- 7.5 The Conference observed that MDG's failed to address equity and the needs of the poor of the society eventhough progress was made on a number of issues it was not shared or spread across all the countries and therefore the need for SDG's. Some of the inequalities that need to be addressed in Africa include and not limited to Gender injustice, Illicit financial flows, Unfair access to capital and knowledge, Unfair access to information, Privatization, Unfair tax regimes, and Unfair allocation of resources.
- 7.6 In order to address the issues of socio-economic inequalities, national governments, parliaments and civil society need to adopt a central framework based on equality and equity, abolish practices that prevent some sections of society from decision making and build on best practices/experiences to strengthen role in addressing socio-economic inequalities.

## **8.0 DIALOGUE ON PARLIAMENTS, SDG's AND STRUCTURAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF AFRICA VISION 2063**

8.1 The African Vision 2063 was adopted by African Heads of State in January 2016 with a vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. The Agenda 2063 captures the aspirations of the African people, and their priorities.

8.2 Agenda 2063 prioritizes regional integration as a key vehicle for Africa's accelerated social and economic development and based on that, Parliament should place regional integration as one of the areas of strategic focus in terms of parliamentary diplomacy. Agenda 2063 includes the achievement of a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, an integrated continent politically united based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism (an ideology that encourages the solidarity of Africans all over the world); Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and a peaceful and secure Africa.

8.3 The role of Parliament in the realization of sustainable development goals and aspirations of African vision 20163 include and not limited to:-

- i. **Parliament has a greater role in the implementation of the SDG's and the structural social economic transformation of Africa as contained in Africa Vision 2063.** Parliamentarians should participate in making policies and laws that enhance an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

- ii. Parliamentarians should participate in the ratification of protocols and agreements geared towards enhanced intra Africa trade, investment in infrastructural development, ensuring easy access to affordable reliable, sustainable and modern energy to spur economic growth in rural areas.
- iii. To encourage increased intra Africa trade parliaments and national governments should develop protocols and legislation to ensure and encourage free movement of human capital as well as goods and services across national boundaries.
- iv. Members of Parliament as the representatives of the people should work towards legislating on action to combat climate change and its impact and work towards a continental partnership to mitigate against the effects of climate change.
- v. Members of Parliament should appropriate adequate resources from within and reduce aid dependency and budget support.. this can be achieved through prudent management of resources, value addition to products, eliminating all forms of illicit flows, double the contribution of African capital markets in development financing, reducing unsustainable debt levels and prudent application of borrowed resources to create wealth through investment in capital projects and not for recurrent expenditure.
- vi. Parliamentarians should on a nonpartisan engagement provide an environment for good governance, accountable and transparent leadership and work towards developing responsive institutions for a prosperous and united Africa whose development is people centered.
- vii. Parliamentarians as the representatives of the poor rural and urban populations in Africa should look inwards to mobilise African resources to finance and accelerate its transformation, integration, peace, security, infrastructure, industrialization, democratic governance and strengthen

continental institutions.

- viii. Parliamentarians charged with the responsibility of oversight should develop institutional oversight mechanisms with in-built monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the implementation of SDG's and aspirations of Vision 2063.

## **9.0 SUSTAINING FINANCING OF THE SDG's IN AFRICA: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT**

9.1 The participants at the Conference noted that without the support of the MPs, the SDGs agenda will not receive the local financial resources from the State required for their delivery. This will frustrate people and will likely freeze the development process. **Therefore, MPs should take the responsibility to campaign for a suitable budget that enables swift and smooth implementation of the SDGs agenda.** It is critical to place the SDGs on the agenda of the Parliament in the early stages of budget discussions and debates. Parliamentarians being aware of the SDGs and understanding their importance for development can dedicate an amount of the national budget every year for implementing these goals. Before the yearly approval on the budget is the perfect timing for MPs to raise the issue at the parliament sessions and campaign for a suitable share of the budget for the SDGs. In spite the ever increasing citizen demands on limited resources, Parliaments should allocate local resources to sustain financing of SDG's and move away from being recipients and start becoming the sponsors of strategic development programmes.

9.2 The meeting urged Parliamentarians across the continent to engage companies and big corporates on sustainable development and encourage them to align

corporate strategies and processes with sustainable development priorities. Further Parliaments can encourage, through legislation, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) that allow for pooling resources, sharing risks and overcoming systemic challenges for successful implementation of the SDGs whose actualization requires creativity, perseverance and the support of public trust through transparency and accountability. Some of the sustainable development goals are complex in nature and their attainment will largely depend on multi-sector partnerships that connect funding and expertise with local resources, implementation capacities and ownership.

9.3 Through national policies the leaders both at the executive and legislature should be able to undertake the Mapping of national poverty to guide in achieving the eradication of poverty which is Goal No.1 of the SDG's. Mapping of national poverty will assist in identifying most need areas that will receive targeted funding of prioritised development projects in key areas and thus bring about equitable development in areas previously marginalised or neglected.

9.4 The legislatures having the oversight mandate and having the instruments to exercise control over the executive should ensure implementation of SDG's by the executive and coordinate agencies to pull resources together and direct them to critical development areas.

9.5 Through the legislative power, parliament should be able to check on the resource outflow from Africa and streamline the tax regimes. This will ensure that adequate resources are available for the implementation of sustainable development.



9.6 The Conference noted that without serious sustainable financing for the implementation of the SDG's the goals will remain as a wish list and therefore the need for domestic resource financing.

## **10. PROMOTING PEACE, JUSTICE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT**

10.1 The Conference took cognizance of **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which recognizes that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.** In particular, Goal 16 of this Agenda aims at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

10.2 The participants noted that conflicts, insecurity and instability are among the most serious problems that Africa is facing. These conflicts not only lead to loss of human lives and devastation, but have a direct and indirect impact on development. In many cases, conflicts and instability are linked to problems in the security sector of the partner countries. In addition, non-respect of the rule of law and fundamental rights too often happens where security sector actors are not under civilian oversight, and/or interfere with the political life, are committing abuses and human rights violations or are unable to provide security services for the population and to counter threats such as terrorism and organized crime.

10.3 The parliamentarians observed that supporting security sector actors, including by ensuring their effective functioning and proper democratic and

civilian oversight, is particularly important in conflict prevention, conflict resolution or post-conflict scenarios, including Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) processes.

10.4 The African Union (AU) peace and security architecture supports governance and reform of the security sector as a key to prevent conflicts and to contribute to sustainable peace, state-building and development. Whilst the AU is an important actor in supporting peace, security and sustainable development in Africa, limitations in the existing financing instruments to provide a comprehensive financing to security capacity building in member countries reduce its Impact in achieving that pivotal role of driving peace, security and sustainable development in the continent.

10.5 Participants also recognized the important role of Parliament in promoting a culture of tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality and human rights protection. Uphold these values at all times even when it might compromise short term electoral goals.

10.6 The meeting further observed that in order to achieve an inclusive society leaders at the regional and national levels should actively promote inclusive public institutions, gender mainstreaming and equal access to public goods and services so as to ensure that no one is marginalized and that everyone has a stake in society including in decision making.

10.7 Participants urged that national governments and other partners to invest in strengthening the technical capacity, including research facilities and organizational structure, of parliamentary institutions to ensure parliamentarians can effectively perform their functions. This may mean

increasing parliamentary budget, hence enhanced political will and external support is needed for parliamentary strengthening.

10.8 Political leaders were called upon to work hard to give credibility to institution of parliaments and ensure they are seen as high trust institutions since parliamentarians are the arm of the people and not the arm of government. This can be realized through building effective, accountable and inclusive parliaments by being effective, accountable and inclusive parliamentarians.

10.9 Parliamentarians should advocate strongly and take action for a governance system (including constitution) and public institutions that reflect diversity in society including minority representation in legislatures and employment opportunities.

10.10 participants called upon Parliaments to hold the executive accountable for the delivery of public services and the equitable distribution of resources noting that marginalization and radicalization are often due to the lack of, or inequitable delivery of, public goods and services. Parliament should promote the active engagement of a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including civil society, the media and the private sector, in political discussions relating to allocation of resources, terrorism and violent extremism, ensuring that the voices of the marginalized are heard thus promoting social cohesion, nation building and national reconciliation.

## **11.0 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS**

The Members of Parliament attending the Conference from the National and Regional Parliaments, while affirming the mandate given to them by the people of

Africa, a majority of whom are poor citizens, to represent them and be their voices in local, national, regional and global affairs resolved to:-

1. Play a critical role in ensuring the achievement of the SDGs and prioritising relevant policies and legislations in their respective Parliaments;
2. Champion the fight against corruption and ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the utilisation of resources allocated;
3. Facilitate the emergence of legislative and policy frameworks for implementation of the SDGs and ensure national parliamentary briefings, Motions, Committees and caucuses on SDGs;
4. Build parliamentary knowledge on SDGs and provide tools for parliamentary engagement;
5. Prioritise policy and budget support for the implementation of the SDGs on poverty eradication, education, gender equality, health and environment; and to work within their parliaments and their governments to engage effectively in developing programmes and setting the agenda for the implementation of the SDGs.
6. Strengthen alliances and create synergies between continental, regional and national parliaments in SDGs programmes;
7. Develop capacity to generate and analyse their own data; and that parliamentarians should be leaders by example and set the pace for transformative leadership;
8. Establish standing committees, at the National and regional parliaments, on implementation of sustainable development goals as well as caucuses on sustainable development; and
9. Allocate adequate domestic resources to finance implementation of the sustainable development goals during the budget making process.

## 12.0 RECOMMENDATION

Considering that the sustainable development goals are multi-sectoral and that their oversight is scattered among various departmental committees and acknowledging the need to have a coordinated approach for the effective implementation of the post 2015 agenda, the National Assembly should consider establishing a standing committee on sustainable development goals whose overall objective is to coordinate the oversight of all SDG programs. The committee will be mandated to:-

- (i) Raise awareness of SDG's within Parliament and ensuring that there is buy-in on the SDGs among parliamentarians;
- (ii) Ensure that the work of all committees supports SDG implementation. This requires that the committee is familiar with the SDG goals and targets relevant to each committee and the works with that committee to ensure that the work of the committee addresses these goals and targets relevant to it;
- (iii) Monitor the progress and ensure accountability in the implementation of SDG programmes as well as advocating for budgetary allocation to specific SDG projects in line with national priorities;
- (iv) Ensure availability of data on SDG progress to inform the work of all committees in setting priorities and allocating resources;
- (v) Engage other stakeholders in SDG implementation by reaching out to other stakeholders and coordinate their engagement with Parliament in the implementation of the SDG's; and
- (vi) Compile, disseminate and share information on what the Parliament is doing on the SDG's. The Committee will report to House the status of implementation and progress of SDG programmes on a bi-annual basis.

## COMMUNIQUE

### We African Parliamentarians;

*Acknowledging* that parliaments across Africa have been instrumental in shaping and advancing democratic governance and people centered development on the continent;

*Recognizing* the vital role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians in enhancing planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability of interventions in development through legislation and resource allocation as well as through oversight and parliamentary scrutiny of the work of the executive; promoting democratic norms, people centred governance and development in Africa

*Further recognizing* Parliaments critical role on Legislation Oversight and Representation in ensuring achievement of the development agenda

*Recalling* that one of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference of 2012 was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which would build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post 2015 development agenda;

*Aware* that The UN process on post-2015 is premised on transparency, openness and full participation by all relevant stakeholders; including Parliamentarians and citizens, having the opportunity to participate and provide inputs into the various processes at various levels

*Further recalling* that this initiative will target Continental, Regional and National Parliamentarians plus Parliamentary Institutions and Networks, it is imperative that in order to maximize impact of the SDGs/Post 2015 Agenda, Parliamentarians should be actively engaged at the very beginning to ensure familiarity with and support for the agenda as well as coordination of activities of the numerous Parliamentary Committees and Caucuses dealing with issues relevant to the SDGs;

Recalling the Meeting of African Parliamentarians which convened in Abuja in 2010 resolving to form the Network leading to the launch of African Network of Parliamentarians on MDGs under the theme No Excuse to 2015.

Further recalling the resolutions of Abuja conference which took place in Abuja in March 2016 that transformed the African Network of Parliamentarians on MDGs to the African Parliamentary Network on Sustainable development

*Further recalling* that the SDGs will become signposts for advancing and measuring commitments to human, social and economic development;



*Recognising* previous declarations, resolutions and decisions of global and regional parliamentary bodies on the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in development agenda thus achievement of SDGs and enhancing the role of parliamentarians in implementation of the SDGs

*Noting* that the attainment of the targets of the SDGs would advance the focus on achievement in reducing poverty, hunger, inequality and diseases, but would also to demonstrate the capacity and commitment of the international community to set and follow through practical targets for global partnership and even human development for all peoples;

*Noting* the need for greater parliamentary cooperation and engagement in framework and agenda setting for the achievement of SDGs

Hereby resolve as follows:

**a) As African Parliaments and Parliamentarians, we:**

- (a). Affirm the mandate given to us by the peoples of Africa and majority poor citizens to represent them and be their voices in local, national, regional and global affairs;
- (b). Further affirm that as parliamentarians, we have a role to play in ensuring the achievement of the SDGs And prioritizing relevant policies and legislations in our respective parliaments
- (c). Champion the fight against corruption and ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the utilisation of resources allocated
- (d). Facilitate the emergence of legislative and policy frameworks for implementation of SDGs ensure National Parliamentary briefings and Parliamentary motions on SDGs
- (e). Build Parliamentary knowledge on SDGs and provide tools for parliamentary engagement
- (f). Strengthen alliances and create synergies between continental, Regional and National Parliaments in SDG programs
- (g). We encourage all Parliaments to form Parliamentary committees on SDGs

**socio economic inequalities**

- (a). We affirm that human rights, human dignity and equity remain at the core of social and economic development in Africa need to ensure Strategies and actions to tackle inequality in Africa and the role of stakeholders; Parliaments, Civil society private sector
- (b). We urge African governments to ensure the incorporation of social inclusion, welfare, economic and social rights in economic development planning and in measuring the impact of economic policies.
- (c). The inclusion of more women in our work to better address the work on SDG. Adequate capacity building for parliamentarians on the new development agenda

