

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TENTH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION

REPORT OF THE KENYA DELEGATION TO THE 53RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE 31ST CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU) HELD IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

25 - 30 NOVEMBER 2008

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

APRIL 2009

CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	3
CONSTITUTION OF THE DELEGATION	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	5
53 RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE APU	6
31 ST CONFERENCE OF THE APU	16
REPORT OF THE WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMITTEE OF THE APU	19
RESOLUTIONS OF THE 31 ST CONFERENCE OF THE APU	23
ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	39
DATE AND VENUE OF THE 32 ND CONFERENCE AND 55 TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE APU	39

PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker,

The African Parliamentary Union (APU), ex-Union of African Parliaments, is a continental interparliamentary organization set up in Abidjan on 13 February 1976. Its Statutes were modified and adopted during the 22nd Conference that took place on 17 to 19 September 1999.

It aims particularly:

- **to bring together the parliamentary institutions of all African States;**
- **to encourage contacts among African Parliamentarians, on the one hand, and between African Parliamentarians and Parliamentarians of other continents on the other hand;**
- **to contribute to the strengthening of the parliamentary institution of Africa, the promotion of democracy, and the realization of the objectives of the Organization of African Unity for the establishment of lasting peace.**

The APU is and will remain a privileged framework for parliamentary dialogue and for promoting peace, democracy, good governance, sustainable development and social progress in Africa. For this purpose, it holds annual conferences in order to discuss these matters and also organizes parliamentary meetings in cooperation with International Organizations or Institutions.

At present, 40 National Parliaments are members of the APU (Appendix I).

The APU Headquarters is in Abidjan.

Existing since 1976, the APU has become a privileged venue for parliamentary dialogue and action in Africa. The subject and the content of its resolutions as well as the relevance of the recommendations adopted at its conferences show its commitment to all that can contribute to the realization of a **sustainable development in Africa** based mainly on **security and peace, prevention of conflicts, human rights and democracy, participation of women, good governance, fight against corruption, population, health, civil society, education and science, external debts, structural reforms in economy, private sector, human development, national reconciliation etc.**

CONSTITUTION OF THE DELEGATION

The Kenya National Assembly as a member of the APU sent a delegation with the sole objective to attend and consequently participate in:

- the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union; and,
- the 31st Conference of the African Parliamentary Union.

The delegation comprised the following:

The Hon. Farah M. Maalim, MP (Deputy Speaker and Leader of the Delegation)

The Hon. Francis T. Nyammo, MP

The delegation was accompanied by:

Ms. Anne Musandu – Third Clerk Assistant/ Secretary to the Delegation

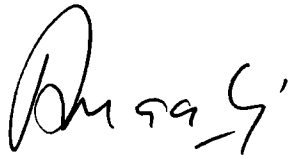
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Delegation to the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee and the 31st Conference of the African Parliamentary Union is grateful to the Hon. Speaker and the Liaison Committee of the Kenya National Assembly for facilitating the visit. The Committee would further like to thank the Clerk of the National Assembly and parliamentary staff for all the logistical and technical support accorded that guaranteed its successful attendance.

Furthermore, the Delegation specially thanks the staff of the National Assembly of Uganda/Uganda National Group of the APU and the General Secretariat of the APU who also facilitated positive and fruitful deliberations.

Last but not least, the Delegation by all means recognizes the people of Uganda whose warm hospitality ensured a comfortable and memorable stay in Kampala, Uganda.

It is now my humble request to present and commend this report to the House.



**HON. FARAH M. MAALIM, MP
DEPUTY SPEAKER AND LEADER OF THE DELEGATION
KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

APRIL 2009

THE 53RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The 53rd Session of the Executive Committee of the APU was held at the Commonwealth Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda on 26 and 27 November 2008.

The opening session took place under the distinguished Chairpersonship of Hon. Dr. Pie Ntavyahanyuma, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi and Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

He was assisted by Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Ebenezer Begyina Sekyi Hughes, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the APU, Hon. Pierre Ngolo, First Secretary of the Bureau of the National Assembly of Congo, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee and Hon. Abdelgadir Abdalla, Secretary General of the APU.

In attendance were delegates from the parliaments of: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Somalia was represented by its diplomatic mission in Kampala.

The representatives of the following organizations also took part in this session as observers: the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Monetary Union (CIP/UEMOA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Consultative Council of the Arab Maghreb Union, the League of Arab States and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU).

1.0 OPENING SESSION

Two statements were made at the opening session of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee by the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

In his statement, Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, first welcomed, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Ugandan Parliament, all the delegates present at the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee and 31st Conference of the APU. He expressed the hope that the facilities provided by the Ugandan Parliament would enable the delegates to have fruitful deliberations. He craved for their indulgence for any possible mishaps and assured participants that the Organizing Committee would work together with them to address any issues that may crop up.

In his turn, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, first extended his greetings to all the delegates and on behalf of the members of the Executive Committee, thanked the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and the Ugandan Parliament, the Ugandan authorities and all the people of Uganda for their warm welcome and for the efforts deployed to ensure the success of the meetings.

He said that important issues would be considered at this 53rd Session. These included the preparation of the 31st Conference of the APU. He then gave an overview of the agenda items.

With regard to membership of the APU, he renewed the hope that all National Parliaments of the continent would join the APU, so as to strengthen the organization, in its capacity as an African parliamentary forum. It is therefore important to step up our efforts to encourage other national parliaments to join the Union. The existence of the Pan-African Parliament should not impede national Parliaments wishing to join the Union. Indeed, our activities differ from

those of the Pan-African Parliament, for its is to legislate for the African Union. Indeed, our missions and objectives complement each other and are in furtherance of a continent where peace and development would reign supreme. He further expressed the hope that the significant contacts made by the Secretary General and the increased awareness about our objectives, would encourage other national Parliaments to join the African inter-parliamentary union.

Commenting on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference, the Chairperson said that in Addis Ababa, the parliaments adopted resolutions on "the environment and sustainable development", and "intra-African trade and integration of the continent". It was clear that the importance of these issues should encourage parliaments and national parliamentarians to inform the General Secretariat about their activities, to enable the General Secretariat to mention them in its annual activity report. This will promote the exchange of experiences among Parliaments.

On the work programme and the Union's financial situation, the Chairperson said that the smooth functioning of the organization requires adequate financial resources. To this end, he called on members to pay up their contributions regularly to avoid accumulating arrears. This would enable to APU implement its work programme and continue to be an instrument of cooperation and rapprochement among Parliaments in Africa.

Apart from the proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee raised the issue of the agenda of the 31st Conference that would immediately follow the Executive Committee session in Kampala, stressing on the importance of the themes to be discussed.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee concluded his address by expressing the hope that the meetings would be fruitful, whereupon he declared the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee open.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee invited the Secretary General to read the agenda items of the 53rd Session.

The Secretary General presented the draft agenda as follows:

1. Admission(s) and readmission(s).
2. Consideration of the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Conference.
3. Consideration and adoption of the annual work programme.
4. Consideration and adoption of the draft Budget for the financial year 2009.
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda for the 31st Conference.
6. Consideration of proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules.
7. Draft agenda for the 54th Session of the Executive Committee.
8. Date and venue of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee.

With no observations made, the draft agenda was adopted.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 Admission(s) and readmission(s)

In tackling this agenda item, the Secretary General informed members of the Executive Committee about contacts made with parliaments that were not yet members. In that connection, the General Secretariat had received a request from the East African Legislative Assembly, for observer status with the APU. After reading the report of the Secretary General, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the request.

3.2 Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference

Following the presentation of the memorandum on the implementation of the decision and recommendations of the Conference, the delegates expressed their appreciation of the quality of work done by the General Secretariat and commended the APU for the part it played during the meetings of the African Geo-Political Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Executive Committee welcomed the election of Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, to the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the support given to Palestine for its admission as full-fledged member of the IPU.

Some delegates expressed the hope that the APU would plan to make arrangements to send observer missions to African countries holding elections, especially legislative elections. This, they deem, would be an important component of the activities of the Union.

Other delegates raised the issue of the prospective study on relations between the Pan-African Parliament and the African Parliamentary Union, which was adopted by the Executive Committee at its 50th Session held in May 2007 in Khartoum. They suggested that a copy of the study should be sent to all

countries that were still hesitant to join the APU. Indeed, they realize that, some countries still did not have a clear idea about the difference between these two organizations and the complementarity of their objectives.

3.3 Consideration and adoption of the Annual Work Programme

With regard to the Union's statutory meetings, Burkina Faso proposed to host the 55th Session of the Executive Committee and 32nd Conference.

With no objection raised on the annual work programme for the year 2009 presented by the General Secretariat, the programme was adopted by the Executive Committee.

3.4 Consideration and adoption of the draft Budget for the year 2009

Following the presentation by the Secretary-General of the Draft Budget for the financial year 2009, members of the Executive Committee gave their views on various points. They were unanimous in congratulating the General Secretariat on the clear presentation of the draft budget and the sound management of the Union's finances.

In answer to questions from participants, the Secretary-General said that:

- with regard to transport costs, which had reduced, compared to the year 2008, the work programme carried out in previous years was taken into account;
- with regard to other expenditure estimates such as educational costs and health insurance, it was observed that the amounts were calculated by taking into consideration the actual expenses made during the last two years;

- the drop in budget allocations did not mean that the activities of the APU will decrease or that there would be reduced staff performance or efficiency;
- regarding the possible change in the budget's reference currency, a decision would be taken by the 31st Conference. If the Euro is adopted as reference currency, the decision will apply for the 2010 budget.

Participants dwelt at length on the issue of arrears in contributions. In this regard, they suggested that a decision be taken to enable the APU to regularly receive the funding it needs to enhance and improve its efficiency.

The members of the Executive Committee sought further clarification on the issue of drawing up the Budget in Euro, in light of the international financial situation, and the recovery of the US dollar.

Following all these observations, the Executive Committee approved the draft Budget for the financial year 2009, balanced in income and expenditure in the amount of One million, two hundred and twenty-three thousand nine hundred and forty dollars (US\$1,223,940).

Lastly, the Executive Committee renewed its trust in Algeria and Niger as auditors for the 2008 financial year.

3.5 Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 31st Conference

In considering the draft agenda of the 31st Conference, some delegates recalled the decision taken at the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee to submit to the Conference, the inclusion of an item on the situation in Somalia and Zimbabwe, plus the situation currently prevailing in the East of the Democratic

Republic of Congo. They therefore proposed that this item should be included in the draft agenda of the Conference.

Furthermore, the delegates requested the General Secretariat to develop an approach that enabled delegations to conferences to systematically study issues and developments on the African continent and adopt resolutions thereon.

Following discussions on this item, the Executive Committee approved the draft agenda as follows:

1. Election of the President of the Conference.
2. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
3. Activity Report of the General Secretariat.
4. Consideration and adoption of the amendments to the Statutes and Rules.
5. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians.
6. Consideration and adoption of the proposal by the Executive Committee to draw up the budget in Euro.
7. Situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Zimbabwe.
8. The respect of international law with a view to safeguarding the sovereignty of African States.
9. Consideration and adoption of the proposed to institute within the APU, the *"African Parliamentary Conference on Migration and Development."*
10. *Development of agriculture in Africa with a view to facing the food crisis and contributing to the reduction of poverty.*
11. *Promotion of health in Africa through the combating of HIV/AIDS and improvement of maternal and child health.*
12. Election of members of the Executive Committee.

13. Date and venue of the 32nd Conference.

3.6 Consideration of proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules

The proposed amendment to paragraph 3 of Article 14 of the APU statutes, presented by Ghana, led to a debate, following which, the members of the Executive Committee introduced a sub-amendment to delete the words "*following death or resignation*". The purpose of this sub-amendment is not to limit cases of termination to death and resignation only.

The proposed amendment was adopted and reworded as follows:

"The Chairperson of the Executive Committee must be a Speaker of a National Parliament.

In the event that the Speaker ceases to be a Speaker of the National Parliament, the successor shall thereupon become, Chairperson of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the duration of the term."

The proposed amendment to Rule 33 of the Rules, presented by the Committee of Women Parliamentarians was adopted without debate and worded as follows:

"The Committee of Women Parliamentarians shall elect, from among its members, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur. The members of the Bureau shall be elected for a period of two years on a rotating basis, which takes account of equitable regional distribution.

3.7 Draft agenda of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary-General submitted the draft agenda, which was adopted:

1. Admission(s) and readmission(s).
2. Consideration and implementation of the decision and recommendations of the Conference.
3. Consideration of the audited management account for financial year 2008.
4. Preparation of the draft agenda of the 32nd Conference.
5. Draft agenda of the 55th Session of the Executive Committee.
6. Date and venue of the 55th Session of the Executive Committee.

3.8 Date and venue of the 54th Session of the Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee requested the Bureau and the General Secretariat to pursue contacts with Parliaments in view of organizing the 54th Session around the month of May 2009.

4.0 THE 31ST CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The 31st Conference of the APU was held on 29 and 30 November 2008 at the Commonwealth Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda following the conclusion of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee.

The Conference was officially opened in an occasion graced by H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda.

4.1 SPEECH BY H. E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

H. E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni gave a rousing speech that touched on the essence of the Conference.

H. E. the President began by stating that Parliament, vested with the mandate to draft, debate and pass laws and legislation through which the institutions of government endeavour to guide the progress of nations, had a major role to play in the transformation of society with Parliamentarians as stakeholders in the development process.

The President made the following critical comments on the development of agriculture in Africa with a view of facing the food crisis and contributing to the reduction of poverty:

- poverty and hunger were still top on the list of challenges faced by Africa despite many African governments being committed to attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals which promise to halve poverty and hunger by 2015;

- the current food crisis could be viewed as a “good” thing for Africa because it gave Africa the opportunity to produce food for sale globally;
- Africa had to make all efforts to ensure value addition to all her produce because by simply exporting raw material as was mainly the case; processed products fetched higher prices on the market and the value addition chain created more employment for the local populace;
- the development policies in Africa should fuel agricultural water-management including rain water harvesting, irrigation and improving on-farm soil and water conservation practices;
- African governments must strengthen the existing national seed production and certification institutions and frameworks in order to devise effective means of improving the multiplication and dissemination of improved seeds;
- market access for our produce shall enable Africa to step up the income of our people, by providing jobs and enhancing competitiveness;
- there was need to generate enough electricity through a variety of sustainable resources such as hydro, solar, geothermal and wind;
- in Maputo in 2003, the Head of State and Government adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and made commitment to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development.

On the promotion of Health in Africa through the combat against HIV/AIDS and the improvement of maternal and child health, H. E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni called attention to the following:

- HIV/AIDS was preventable and that one generally had to make real effort to contract the virus;

- the fact that child deliveries at health units were very low amongst women who had no education and that education, therefore, was a major factor in ensuring maternal and child health;
- supportive legal frameworks need to be put in place to facilitate the implementation of some new HIV programmes in the African region;
- African countries also needed to provide the suitable political environment and continue to mobilize communities and resources for interventions against HIV/AIDS.

H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda declared the Conference open.

4.2 SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

4.2.1 Consideration and adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was considered and adopted without amendments

4.2.2 Election of President of the Conference

The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi was elected President of the Conference by acclamation.

4.2.3 Activity Report of the General Secretariat

The report was adopted without amendments.

4.2.4 Consideration and adoption of the amendments to statutes and rules of procedure

4.2.5

5.0 REPORT OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMITTEE OF APU

On the occasion of the 31st Conference of APU, the Committee of Women Parliamentarians met on 27 November 2008 in Kampala with Madam Khadidiatou Diedhiou, delegate from Senegal as chairperson. She was assisted by Madam Tawair Kafi Afaf, delegate from Sudan as Vice-Chairperson.

In her opening speech, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Bureau, thanked the National Group of Uganda for all the kindness accorded to the women.

She then welcomed all participants and wished them success in their deliberations.

The draft agenda included the following items:

1. Adoption of the agenda;
2. Role of Parliaments in the fight against all forms of violence on children;
3. Role of Parliaments in the integration of women in the political life on the African continent;
4. Plan of action for 2009;
5. Election of the Bureau.

Following the adoption of its agenda, the Committee first considered the themes of the meeting before adopting the Plan of Action for 2009 and electing its Bureau.

5.1 Role of Parliaments in the fight against all forms of violence against children.

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the APU proposed to the 31st Conference the following recommendations:

1. institution by governments, of policies and measures aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against children;
2. implementation of actions to prevent and protect the girl child against sexual violence;
3. establishment of structures aimed at enforcing laws on the prevention of all forms of violence and protection of children;
4. organization of meetings to raise awareness of parents about the issues related to children;
5. raising awareness among community leaders, the private sector and governments, with a view to making them assume their responsibilities to ensure that children are not subjected to violence;
6. partnership with government institutions to coordinate policies aimed at promoting measures to guarantee the protection of the rights of the child.

5.2 The role of Parliaments in the integration of women in the political life of on the continent.

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the APU proposed to the 31st Conference the following recommendations:

1. implementation of various programmes of action and the institution or strengthening of national mechanisms on women's promotion;
2. creation of networks for promoting exchanges and building the capacities of women parliamentarians;
3. setting up gender units within the States' economic communities;

4. creation of NGOs specialized in the awareness campaigns, organization of training sessions for the building the capacities of women in leadership positions, advocacy among public authorities to improve the position of women;
5. adoption of laws on quotas as an interim measure for integrating women into political life and on affirmative action to increase the number of women at all levels;
6. review of socio-cultural practices which impede participation of women in political life;
7. mainstreaming of the gender into the process with a view to ensuring full and active involvement of women in economic and social life;
8. adoption of policies to promote education of families, which form the very core of society; and
9. elimination of discrimination against African women in the civil service.

To this end, the Committee welcomed the presence of the representative of the Arab League, who said that her organization was ready to support the Committee on specific projects relating to women, children, the family e.t.c.

5.3 The 2009 Plan of Action was renewed for the year as follows:

- representation of the Committee at the inter-parliamentary and international meetings to which APU is invited;
- meetings among women Parliamentarians at the national and sub-regional levels, with partners of their choice and the various United Nations bodies;
- participation in or organization of seminars on gender and literacy campaigns, gender and equality, gender and trade etc. ;
- ◆ training in public speaking, budget analysis, etc.

5.4 As part of its future activities, the Committee thanked the Sudanese Parliament for agreeing to host the first meeting of women parliamentarians slated for April 2009 in Khartoum.

5.5 Election of the Bureau

5.5.1 The Bureau of the Committee was elected for two years on a rotating basis, which takes into account equitable regional distribution.

Chairperson: Cameroon (Central Africa)

Vice-Chairperson: Egypt (North Africa)

Rapporteur: Uganda (East Africa)

5.5.2 At the end of the meeting of the Committee of African Women Parliamentarians, the Rapporteur expressed satisfaction at the frank collaboration among the members of the out-going Bureau. The in-coming Bureau, for its part, thanked all the delegates for placing their trust in them by electing them to these positions.

5.5.3 Lastly, the out-going Chairperson thanked everyone for a successful meeting.

5.5.4 In conclusion, the Committee commended the Secretary-General of the APU for the technical support provided, which contributed to the smooth running of the meetings. The Committee therefore called for the use of the Consultant on a permanent basis.

6.0 RESOLUTIONS OF THE 31ST CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

6.1 The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 31st Conference in Kampala, Uganda, on 29 and 30 November 2008, adopted resolutions on the following concerns:

6.1.1 Resolution on the situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Somalia and in Zimbabwe

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 31st Conference in Kampala, Uganda, on 29 and 30 November,

a) Concerning the situation in Zimbabwe

Expresses its deep concern in the face of the difficult economic and social situation of the people in Zimbabwe which may worsen due to the collapsing services of health, sanitation and education;

Requests instantly all the partners to support and facilitate humanitarian assistance;

Calls on all the parties to cooperate in the rapid formation of a national unity government which should urgently adhere to the settlement of problems linked to inflation and unemployment;

Requests all the western countries to lift the economic sanctions which have worsened the situation.

b) With regard to the situation in Somalia

Affirms the requests of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity in Somalia;

Insists on the need to ensure and maintain stability and security all over Somalia;

Declares itself concerned about all acts of violence aimed at hindering or impeding a peaceful political process;

Requests that measures be taken against anyone who would attempt to hamper a peaceful political process or to threaten by force the transitional federal institutions or the African Union Mission in Somalia.

c) Regarding situation in East of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Condemns all acts of violence and every armed uprising against a legally and legitimately established government;

Affirms its support to the respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of Congo;

Urges instantly all the parties involved in the violence in the East of Democratic Republic of Congo to respect cease-fire immediately;

Urges also all the countries involved directly or indirectly in the crisis in the East of the Democratic Republic to give peace a chance;

Supports the mediation of the former Nigerian President, Olesegun Obasanjo, Special Envoy of the United Nations for the Great Lakes regions;

Implores all the internal and regional parties in the conflict to cooperate with the former President, Olesegun Obasanjo, to find a global and urgent political solution to the crisis, and end the threat to international peace and security in the region;

Expresses its deep concern regarding the exacerbation of the humanitarian situation and the attacks against the civil population as well as the extensive violation of human rights;

Implores all the parties to coordinate instantly operations in accordance with international right with a view to facilitating the humanitarian assistance;

Supports the strengthening and clarification of the mandate of MONUC so as to enable it to carry out its mission fully and conveniently;

Calls, lastly on all the countries of the Great Lakes to give importance to internal dialogue as means of settling the conflicts so as to save the sub-region from cyclical troubles.

6.1.2 Resolution on the the respect of international law with a view to safeguarding the sovereignty of African states

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 31st Conference in Kampala, Uganda, on 29 and 30 November 2008,

Affirms that virtue of the principle of equal sovereignty of all the Members of the United Nations Organization, abuse of the principle of international law constitutes not only a violation of the sovereignty of African countries, but also a violation of the principle by which a country cannot exercise its power over the territory of another.

Calls on the International Community to respect the principles of international law with a view to preserving the sovereignty of countries;

Requests the African Union to take up the issue by virtue of its prerogatives and to adopt appropriate mechanisms aimed at preserving the sovereignty of its member States against abuse, violation or misinterpretation of the principles of international law.

Requests the cancellation of the illegal indictments and arrest warrants issued against Rwandan, Senegalese and Sudanese officials, and calls for the immediate release of Rose Kabuye, from Rwanda, and other African citizens who are in the same situation.

Calls on the international community to apply the Rome Statute of the ICC on member countries only and not to use political motivations to indict citizens and leaders from African countries especially those who are not part to the agreement as in the case of Sudan and the President of Sudan.

Requests all countries to respect the Vienna Agreement which obliges member countries to only adhere to agreements ratified by those countries.

Calls on African and third world countries to be aware of double standards in applying international laws and applying them only against African countries whereas other countries are immune from prosecution.

6.1.3 Resolution on the development of Agriculture in Africa with a view to facing the food crisis and contributing to the reduction of poverty

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 31st Conference in Kampala, Uganda, on 29 and 30 November 2008,

Exhorts African States to create and preserve the conditions of sustainable peace and security that propitious to investment in all sectors, especially in the sector of agriculture.

Recommends African countries to invest more in agriculture, a field that must be at the heart of the efforts of development in order to chieve, amon others, the first Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on halving poverty by 2015.

Urges African countries with the support of developed countries, to promote investments in agriculture in order to increase productivity and yields and improve the revenues of the poor as well as the supply of foodstuffs.

Asks African States to include reforms I the land sector with a view to guaranteeing access to land ownership and strengthen the security of law-land and the quality of land management.

Encourages the National Parliaments of the continent to:

- ensures that the agriculture sector gets adequate public funding that would enable ti to attain the objectives of fooc security in the long run;
- to legislate so as to facilitate investments in agriculture and in activities aimed at achieving food security;

Asks the African States and the other countries that are affected by the food crisis, in accordance with the right to food stated by the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, to work, in the framework of

international organizations with a view to making agricultural produce not considered as ordinary produce that can be exposed to stock market speculations.

Calls on multilateral institutions and developed countries to promote new international policies that favour other national and regional policies in order to overcome the food crisis and reduce poverty.

Encourages African states to facilitate the participation of the civil society in the drafting of agricultural policies.

Urges African countries to promote bio-safety provisions and to increase private and public investments in agriculture as well as in other areas of the chain of value underlying the production and the marketing the food.

Calls on multilateral institutions, under the authority of the United Nations and specialized institutions like the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the International Funds for the Agricultural Development (IFAD), to give more priority to agriculture and food production by stressing on the micro-gardening.

Asks developed countries, African countries and the concerned institutions, to promote agriculture research to come up with seeds that can stand African climate conditions and increase the yields.

Encourages African States to support and improve the rural population's access to fundamental assets such as land, water, human resources, by developing public investments in the areas of irrigation, health and education.

Exhorts African States to promote investments in the basic infrastructure sector necessary for economic development and to encourage the implementation of an

industrialization policy aimed at transforming agriculture products as well as technology transfer and partnership.

Asks developed countries to pursue their efforts aimed at, on the one side, suppressing agricultural subsidies, namely for rice, cotton and oilseeds and on the other hand, at opening their markets to African produces by avoiding the use of excessive non tax barriers.

Exhorts African States to take the following measures to ensure food security and sovereignty, particularly:

- a) dedicate at least 10% of the national budgets to agriculture in conformity with the Maputo Declaration and that of the declaration of the summit of Abuja on food security in Africa;
- b) introduce a policy of training and development of human resources in the rural area in order to increase agricultural productivity;
- c) increase investment in food produce and ensure the political and economic conditions with a view to facilitating the access of smallholders to local markets especially in developing road and railway infrastructures;
- d) encourage a better organization of farmers so as to increase their productivity in the foodstuff sector and promote the consumption of local products;
- e) implement national and regional policies of biodiversity protection, soil and water and promote the diversification of the agricultural activities, especially aquaculture for an optimized and sustainable exploitation of the natural;
- f) introduce, for low countries and for a limited period, regulation tools that enable the promotion of agriculture and rural trade;

- g) help smallholders reduce their production costs linked to the high prices of raw material or energy;
- h) change, if possible, export crops into food crops and seek for other sources of income to improve or reverse the situation of being net importers of food;
- i) establish an Agricultural Policy at the Regional Economic Communities (REC), following the example of the Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in order to favour the creation of an agricultural market, increase agricultural production and stabilize the prices and combine investment efforts in the sector of agriculture;
- j) speed up the implementation of the provisions relating to trade approved by the REC by reducing tax barriers and suppressing non-tax barriers at technical and other levels by 2010 and take into account these measures in the Doha round and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations;
- k) redefine the agricultural policy in support of women who make more than half of the agricultural workforce, by facilitating their access to productive assets;
- l) implement an investment funds for agricultural sector in order to develop access to credit and micro credit, particularly for women and small farmers;
- m) increase investment in rural infrastructures, irrigation, research and agriculture produce storage infrastructure;
- n) encourage smallholders to embark in high added value activities such as poultry farming, bee rearing and aquaculture, in order to increase their incomes to help reduce poverty in the rural area;
- o) facilitate investments and business setting in agro-industry in order to create;

- p) set up a mechanism for protection and assistance to farmers aimed at overcoming the losses caused by natural disaster;
- q) establish a modern centre at the continental level for gathering information, statistics and analysis in order to create a database which will enable exchange of information in the agriculture and investment sectors.

Calls on international and regional financial institutions to support the African countries who are experiencing microeconomic distortions in their budgets and balances of payments.

Exhorts creditors to cancel African external debts which reimbursement attempts seriously put a strain on their financial capacities in terms of investment and poverty reduction.

Invites developed countries to hold and fulfil their commitments in terms of public aid to development (PAD) fixed at 0.7% of their GNP and to dedicate 0.15 to 0.20% of its share to the less developed countries.

Encourages the countries benefiting from public aid to development to dedicate more of it to the development of agriculture;

Recommends the countries concerned to stop the development of the production of biofuels which are one of the causes of the food crisis and to promote research on the production of second generation biofuels.

Invites African countries to establish rules as well as suitable assistance to family farms, in order, on the one hand, to value at local level, the local potentials as the farmers' know-how, and local seeds and on the other hand, to develop internal exchange.

Asks the European Union, to review, with a non mercantile approach, the conception of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for them to serve development; only a EU/African countries economic partnership based on the goals of development in terms of economic capacities and adequate and suitable infrastructures, could make African countries take advantage of the trade liberalization and not hinder the sub-regional and region integration.

Urges African States to take into consideration, during Doha round and EPA negotiations, the measures adopted in the RECs in terms of inter-African trade.

Calls on African States to work within to work within the World Trade Organization (WTO) in order to value development priorities and therefore make a proposal for the General Agreement on customs rights and trade to be amended with a view to strengthening the principle of non-reciprocity in trade.

Invites the countries and international institutions to promote local skills and agro-ecology which must be one of the area of agronomic public research.

Encourages the African States to work out a policy to develop non-agricultural activities and jobs for the youth in the rural areas and in urban centres.

Exhorts the international community to strengthen its support to African Union/NEPAD (AU/NEPAD) programmes and plans relating to agriculture and food security, to water and infrastructures and particularly to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Recommends the implementation at the international level, of a mechanism that coordinates the actions of the key players of the agricultural industry in order to stabilize agriculture markets and efficiently respond, with the support of the

World Food Programme (WFP), to situations of food crisis, especially in low income countries.

6.1.4 Resolution on the promotion of health in Africa through the combat of HIV/AIDS and the improvement of maternal and child health.

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 31st Conference in Kampala, Uganda, on 29 and 30 November 2008,

Urges the African Union, on the one hand, to intensify its efforts of promoting good governance and preventing conflicts, and the governments on the other hand, to use direct dialuge to settle the conflicts they are confronted with in order to lay the foundation of political and economic stability.

Also urges African States to make health promotion in Africa, through the fight against HIV/AIDS and the improvement of maternal and infant health the utmost priority, and therefore, work tirelessly with the view to achieving the millennium development goals 4 and 5.

Encourages African States to draw up and implement, on the one hand, policies that improve the living conditions of their people through job creation and social security development and on the other hand, health funding policies and strategic plans in the framework of the global approach of national development, that help protect the most vulnerable, especially the women and the children.

Strongly encourages African States to make every effort to bring the share of national budget that will be dedicated to health to 15% and increase investments in HIV/AIDS researches, in conformity with the pledges made by the Heads of

State and Government in the Abuja Declaration and this, in the framework of the global process of strengthening their systems.

Supports the decision of the Summit of the African Union relating to the production of generic medicines in the continent in order to ensure sustainable access to them and persistently asks the African Union Commission to speed up the development of an African policy on the production of pharmaceutical drugs in Africa in partnership with the UN specialized institutions, pharmaceutical groups and the private sector.

Asks African States to intensify their efforts relating to the implementation of the Decade of African Trade Medicines (2001-2010), the promotion of pharmacopoeia research and the development of national pharmaceutical industries in the framework of the decision of the African Union Conference on the production of generic medicines in Africa and more particularly those against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Asks African States to mobilise human, material and financial resources in order to provide their population with appropriate, accessible, quality and affordable health services and to reduce mother and child mortality, and to bear free of charge births and emergency obstetrical and neonatal care.

Exhorts African leaders to correct the distortion in terms of health financing and health infrastructure distribution between rural and urban areas.

Encourages African States to strengthen their cooperation, at the sub-regional, and continental level, notably through the sharing of information, experiences and skills so as to join their efforts in the struggle against HIV/AIDS, the improvement of maternal and infant health and persistently asks them to launch

joint research programmes for the development of an efficient vaccine against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases.

Asks African parliamentarians to spare no efforts to sensitize their Parliament and work in cooperation with the Executive, the scientist community, the local offices of the UN organizations concerned, the NGOs and the civil society organizations in their respective countries, towards the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals 4 (infant health), 5 (maternal health) and 6 (struggle against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases).

Recommends African national parliaments to take legislative measures to remove, at the national level, all the obstacles, whether legal, cultural or religious, to the access to HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, care and treatment, and free and continued care to infected people, to dissemination of information and sexual education, especially for the youth.

Calls on African parliaments and governments to ensure, through the systems of governance they will have established, the protection, the promotion and the respect of fundamental rights for every people, especially those who can suffer from discrimination and stigmatisation, with the cooperation of the media, and more particularly the local radio stations.

Persistently asks African States to adopt national policies that meet the specific needs of AIDS orphaned children.

Exhorts African States to promote married life through Family Codes that take into account the specificities of cultural legacies.

Invites African parliamentarians to work towards the progressive harmonization of the appropriate legislations in terms of the response to HIV/AIDS at the sub-regional, regional and continent levels.

Calls on the international community, including the system of the United Nations, its relevant specialized institutions, the bilateral agencies, the private sector and other community and other stakeholders, to increase mobilization in order to support African countries' efforts in the HIV/AIDS control.

Commends the establishment of the World Funds and persistently asks the international community to fulfil its pledges by paying out, through simplified mechanisms, the funds needed for the full implementation of the programmes of prevention, care, support, and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases.

Calls on developed countries to honour their promise to dedicate 0.7% of their GNP to developing countries in the form of Public Development Aid.

Exhorts creditors to cancel African countries foreign debts which reimbursement seriously affects their public finances in a context where the resources dedicated to the struggle against HIV/AIDS are far below the scale of the pandemic.

Persistently asks the World Trade Organization (WTO) to adopt measures aimed at smoothing and facilitating import and export procedures for generic medicines produced under compulsory licensing, in the framework of the implementation of the Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and public health; these provisions are needed to effectively facilitate and ensure quick and affordable access to medicines and all HIV therapies, for African countries, especially those with inadequate or inexistent production capacity in the pharmaceutical sector.

Asks the international community to facilitate technologies transfer to African countries and to make an objective assessment of the incidences of the multilateral and bilateral trade agreements on the access to medicines, their local production as well as the development of new medicines.

Encourages African States to:

- strengthen training, communication and family life education programmes especially for women, in order to help them play a more efficient role in the process of improving the state of health for the populations,
- make regular national surveys on the scale and the determinants of maternal and infant mortality and on the results of the sexual education of the youth and adolescents,
- hold proximity campaigns to sensitize the adolescents and the youth on the available health services for maternal and infant protection.

Invites African States to promote primary health care and to continue the immunization campaigns against infectious diseases, especially in countries of countries of conflict.

Asks African States to create in their national health systems, services that are essential at the community level, to strengthen medical and paramedical staff training programmes in order to have a sufficient number of qualified workers.

Urges African parliamentarians to ensure the development of the institutional capacities of their parliaments for them to exercise their legislative and

overseeing missions in the follow up, funding and execution of HIV/AIDS programmes, with a view to guaranteeing transparency.

Calls on African leaders, in the framework of the improvement of health in their respective countries, to act in a more global perspective including initiatives aimed at fighting gender inequality, making mentalities progress and settling the major economic, social and educative problems, with a view to achieving sustainable progress in terms of maternal and infant health.

Calls upon African governments to commit adequate financial resources for the implementation of the Road Map for reduction of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

Calls on all African countries to implement programmes of construction and rehabilitation of health infrastructure and equipment so as to improve the quality of obstetrical emergency services.

Requests African States to adopt cultural and educative policies aimed at correcting the erroneous concepts and tradition relating to health.

Requests all Africans Countries, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on the Population and Development (ICPD, Cairo 1994) to take stock at the national and sub-regional levels, of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of action and to take the necessary measures to speed up the achievement of these objectives.

6.2 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The member states forwarded and approved names of nominated members of the Executive Committee of the APU.

Kenya's membership to the Executive Committee include:

The Hon. Farah M. Maalim, MP - Deputy Speaker
The Hon. Francis T. Nyammo, MP
The Hon. Sophia Abdinoor, MP

Furthermore, it was approved the APU's the Executive Committee Bureau be comprised of representatives from the following states:

The Chair - UGANDA (Speaker of the National Assembly)
The Vice Chair - BURUNDI
Rapporteur - SENEGAL

**6.3 DATE AND VENUE OF THE 32ND CONFERENCE AND 55TH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN
PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

At the invitation of the Parliament of Burkina Faso, the 32nd Conference and 55th Session of the Executive Committee of the APU will take in Ouagadougou (BURKINA FASO) in November 2009.