

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NINTH PARLIAMENT-3RD SESSION

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REPORT OF

THE 45TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE AND THE 27TH CONFERENCE
OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
HELD IN ALGIERS, ALGERIA, 27TH
NOVEMBER TO 1ST DECEMBER 2004

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

DECEMBER, 2004

REPORT OF THE 45TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE 27TH CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION HELD IN ALGIERS, ALGERIA, 27TH NOVEMBER- 1ST DECEMBER, 2004

The 45th Session of the Executive Committee and the 27th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) were held in Algiers, Algeria at the Palace of Nations Centre from 27th November to 1st December, 2004.

The Kenya Parliament was represented by the Hon. Daniel Khamasi, MP/Leader of Delegation, the Hon.(Gen. Rtd) Joseph Nkaisserry, MP and Mr. Mohamed Ali , Clerk Assistant as the Secretary to the Delegation.

The National Groups of the following countries participated in the Conference:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda.

The 45th Session of the Executive Committee took place on 27th and 28th November, 2004. The Speaker of the National

Council Assembly of Algeria, H. E. Mr. Abdelkader Bensallah and the Chairman of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) Executive Committee, the Hon. BouBacar Ibrahim Keita Chaired. The APU Secretary General, Mr. Abelgadir Abdalla and the rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Mr. Ahmed Rasslan were in attendance. The Report of the Executive Committee is hereby attached (**Appendix 1**)

During the opening ceremony, the Hon. BouBacar Ibrahim Keita welcomed the participants to the Conference. In his speech, the Chairman of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) Executive Committee welcomed the participants and reminded the delegates that the Meeting of Algiers will be the occasion for APU to assess the actions which the member nations undertook according to the decisions and recommendations of the last session.

The Chairman further urged the delegates to be able to emerge with fruitful recommendations for a better responsibility for the demands in the area of sustainable development in member countries. The Speech by the APU Chairman is appended (**Appendix 2**).

The Speaker of the National Council Assembly of Algeria, H. E. Mr. Abdelkader Bensallah welcomed the delegates to Algeria and deplored the conflict situation prevailing in some parts of

the African continent and desired to see all conflicts in Africa settled to the satisfaction of their peoples and in accordance with the international law. The statement by the Speaker is hereby appended (**appendix 3**)

The recommendations of the 44th Conference were considered. Thereupon, the Chairman of the Executive Committee urged member Nations to enforce the previous recommendations so as to uphold the objectives of APU. Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference is appended (**Appendix 4**)

The Secretary General of APU informed the delegates of a request for observer status by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). The Executive Committee resolved to postpone the consideration of this request to its next Session. Report on the observer status request is appended (**Appendix 5**)

The Committee further considered and adopted the annual work programme, the draft budget for the financial year 2005 and draft agenda of the 27th Conference and draft agenda for the 46th Session of the Executive Committee as appended (**Appendix 6**)

A meeting of Women parliamentarians was held on Sunday 28th November 2004. During their deliberations, they recommended among other things the harmonization at the level of the continent of assessment indicators linked to gender equality, in particular those relating to Beijing platform. They further requested for the setting up of a committee of Women Parliamentarians within the African Parliamentary Union. A Report on the resolutions of the women Parliamentarians is appended (**Appendix 7**).

The 26th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union was officially opened by His Excellency the President of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, Hon. Abdelaziz Bouteflika. In his opening remarks, he challenged the National Parliaments to be in forefront in promoting good governance. He further stated that National Parliaments should make legislations that promote equitable international trade as it determines Africa's common future from the economic and social standpoint. The Speech is appended (**Appendix 8**).

The Speaker of the National Council Assembly of Algeria, H. E. Mr. Abdelkader Bensallah was elected the President of the Conference. The Delegates were also requested to nominate two Members from the five major regions of the continent to form a ten man group of Deputy Presidents. In this regard

Kenya's Delegation was nominated to represent the Eastern Africa region.

The Chairman and the Secretary General of the Executive Committee presented a Report on the activities of the Union for the past one year. The Report is appended (**Appendix 9**)

Two Committees were set up to consider and make recommendations on item agenda as indicated below.

Committee 1 was to consider the following agenda items:

- ❖ The promotion of good governance: role of African Parliaments,
- ❖ Representation of African Women in the decision making bodies: obstacles and strategies

Committee 2 was to consider the following agenda item:

- ❖ The role of African Parliaments in the promotion of an equitable international trade

The Conference adopted the recommendations made by the two Committees. The Reports of the two Committees are shown as **appendix 10**.

Several Members made their contributions during the Conference. Such contributions touched on many matters including annual membership payment by individual national groups, implementation of the conference recommendations and the need for regional and continental co-operation. It was resolved that Parliaments send their reports on their activities periodically to the General Secretary for submission to the Executive Committee.

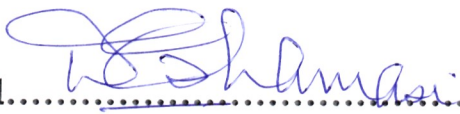
National Participating groups were requested to nominate two Members to constitute Members of the Executive committee. In this regard Kenya Delegation nominated Hon. Daniel Khamasi, MP and Hon. (Gen. Rtd.) Joseph Nkaiserry, MP.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Luanda, Angola. The Executive Committee will decide the date of the meeting and communicate with National groups, early next year. The Speaker of the National Council Assembly of Algeria, H. E. Mr. Abdelkader Bensallah was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee, while the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Hon. Peter Ala Adjetey was elected the Vice Chairperson and the post of the Rapporteur of the Executive Committee was given to Congo group.

The 28th Conference of African Parliamentary Union will be held in Brazzaville, Congo. The Executive Committee will

decide the date of the meeting and communicate with National groups, early next year.

The Conference was officially closed on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 at 6.30 pm local time.

Signed..........

Hon. Daniel Khamasi, MP

Leader of the Delegation

List of appendices

1. The Report of the Executive committee of the African Parliamentary Union
2. The official Speech by APU Chairman, Hon. Boubacar Ibrahim Keita
3. Statement by the Speaker of the National Council Assembly, Algeria
4. Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference
5. Report on the observer status request to the executive Committee
6. Annual work programme, the draft budget for 2005 and draft agenda for the 46th Session of the Executive committee
7. Report on the resolutions of the African Women Parliamentarians
8. The Official Speech of the President of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic,
9. Report on the activities of APU by the Chairman and the Secretary General
10. Report of the two Committees set up by the Executive Committee



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
(Algiers, 27-28 November, 2004)

Report of the Proceedings of the 45th Session of the Executive Committee

The 45th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held at the Palais des Nations of Algiers, in Algeria, on 27 and 28 November 2004. The proceedings were conducted under the chairmanship of Honourable Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali and current Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

He was assisted by the Speaker of the Council of Nation of the Algerian Republic, Honourable Abdelkader BENSALAH, the Speaker of the People's National Assembly of Algeria, Honourable Amar SAIDANI, the rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Mr. Ahmed RASSLAN and the Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union, Mr. Abdelgadir ABDALLA.

The delegates of the following parliaments took part in the proceedings: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.

The representatives of the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union, the ECOWAS Parliament, Pan African Parliament, Arab League and the African Development Bank also participated in the 45th session of the Executive Committee as observers.

I-Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee opened the session by thanking the Algerian authorities, particularly; the Council of Nation and the People's National Assembly, for the warm welcome accorded the delegates.

He then hailed the Algerian people for the fight which they were engaged in for their independence and for the hospitality which they provided African fighters.

Lastly, he requested the assembly to observe a minute silence in the memory of Madam Joyce KGOALI, Speaker of the National Council of Provinces.

After this introduction note, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee gave the floor to the Speaker of the Council of Nation, Honourable Abdelkader BENSALAH.

The Speaker of the Council, in his welcome address, expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the two Houses to all the delegations present in Algiers.

He then expressed his delight about the large number of delegates and the high level of representation of parliaments, which is a source of pride for the Algerian people.

He also pointed out that the Algerian people are moving forward resolutely towards reconciliation and democracy.

Finally, after having listed the agenda items of the Algiers session, the Speaker deplored the situation prevailing in Cote d'Ivoire, Middle East, Iraq and in Palestine and expressed the desire to see all these conflicts in Africa and in the rest of the world settled to the satisfaction of their peoples and in accordance with the international law.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, in his turn expressed his happiness to be in Algiers at the invitation of the Algerian National Group for the 45th session of the Executive Committee. He also extended his thanks to the Algerian National Group for the warm welcome and the facilities provided the delegates.

After having recalled the agenda items of the 45th session, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee explained to the delegates the resources which should be made available to the Union for its bloom and for the upgrading of its actions of partnership in order that the African parliamentarians can contribute effectively to the development of the continent.

II - Adoption of the agenda

On resumption, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee invited the Secretary General to present the agenda which includes the following items:

1. Admission (s) and re-admission (s)
2. Consideration and implementation of the 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 2005

5. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 27th Conference
6. Draft agenda for the 46th Session of the Executive Committee
7. Date and venue of the 46th Session of the Executive Committee

After the adoption of the agenda, the Executive Committee carried on with the consideration of the different items.

III – Consideration of the agenda items

Item 1: Observer status

The Secretary General read out the report on the request for the observer status prepared by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

After the contributions of the delegates, the Executive Committee decided to adjourn the consideration of this request to its next session and called on the General Secretariat to prepare all the documents required to explain issues to the members of the Executive Committee about the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

Item 2: Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 26th Conference

The Secretary General submitted his report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference.

The following items were treated:

- Summary record of the proceedings of the 44th session of the Executive Committee
- Relations between the APU and the Pan African Parliament
- The African Parliamentary Conference on “Refugees in Africa: challenges of protection and solutions”
- The holding of the African Development Forum (ADF IV)
- The participation in the present sessions and
- Finances

The delegates took the floor either to speak about the relations between the APU and the other parliamentary organisations or to ask for explanations on the “Tony Blair” report relating to the setting up of a Commission for Africa and “Cardoso” report on the UNO reforms and their involvement in the role of parliaments and the Inter-parliamentary Union.

They also recalled that the national groups should as well present their reports on the implementation and recommendations in accordance with Article 34 of the Rules and Regulations.

Lastly they stressed that each national group should do everything possible to resolve the misunderstanding which might exist between the APU and the Pan African Parliament.

Item 3: Annual work programme

The Secretary General submitted to the delegates the annual work programme for the year 2005 which will relate, on the one hand, to the organisation of our sessions of the Executive Committee and of the Conference and, on the other hand, to our participation in the inter-parliamentary and international meetings.

The delegates requested that the APU undertake actions towards community parliaments and some inter-parliamentary organisations, such as the ACP/EU Parity Assembly, in order to increase its audience.

They also requested that the summit of the Speakers of the World Parliaments which will take place in New York in 2005 be included in the annual work programme.

Lastly, they expressed the desire to see the APU and the Pan African Parliament organise a joint meeting every two years in order to contribute to the development of Africa.

Item 4 : Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for the financial year 2005

The Executive Committee turned on to the consideration of the Draft Budget for 2005 by listening first of all to the Secretary General of the APU who gave the broad lines of this budget document.

The Secretary General then presented the projections of the receipts and expenditures which did not differ much from those adopted for the financial year 2004.

This presentation lead to comments from the members of the Executive Committee who, on the whole, expressed the desire that the document submitted to them should in future be accompanied with an explanation in order to facilitate the examination and have a better clear view for 2005.

However, the delegates recalled that the annual management account which is to be presented to the next session of the Executive Committee should give a detailed breakdown of the utilisation of the Union's funds.

The members of the Executive Committee stressed on the settlement of the contributions in order to maintain the appreciable level of recovery recorded in 2003.

On this question, proposals were made with a view to increasing the Union's resources and seek for other financial resources other than the contributions of the National Groups. They agreed that a draft budget does not match the goals of the Union and that it reflects rather a minimum of financial commitments to be met by the National Groups.

The members of the Executive Committee, nevertheless, expressed their commendations and their thanks to the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and to his parliament for efforts made by bearing the costs of the missions undertaken on behalf of the Union.

At the end of the deliberations on this agenda item, the Executive Committee approved the draft budget for the financial year 2005 which balances receipts and expenditures at 1 053 563 US dollars.

Item 5: Draft agenda of the 27th Conference

1. Election of the President of the Conference
2. Admission (s) and re-admission(s)
3. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
4. Report of the Secretary General
5. The promotion of good governance: role of African Parliament
6. Role of African Parliaments in the promotion of an equitable international trade
7. Representation of African women in the decision-making bodies: obstacles and strategies
8. Election of members of the Executive Committee
9. Date and venue of the 28th Conference

On the fringe of the consideration of the draft agenda of the 27th Conference, the Chairperson proposed to the Executive Committee to include the speeches of the international organisations invited.

Item 6: Draft agenda of the 46th session of the Executive Committee

For its next session, the Executive Committee adopted the following draft agenda:

1. Admission (s) and re-admission (s)
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decision and recommendations of the Conference

3. Consideration of the audited Management Account for the financial year 2004
4. Preparation of the draft agenda of the 28th session of the Conference
5. Draft agenda of the 47th session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue of the 47th Session of the Executive Committee.

Item 7: Date and venue of the 46th session of the Executive Committee.

Angola has opted to host the 46th session of the Executive Committee; the date will be fixed with common accord between the Angolan National Group and the General Secretariat.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
Algiers, 27-28 November 2004

OPENING SPEECH OF
HONOURABLE IBRAHIM BOUBACAR KEITA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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*Your Excellency, the President of Council of the Nation
Honourable Speaker of the People's National Assembly
Honourable Speakers,
Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We are happy to be in Algiers at our 45th Session of the Executive Committee after being in Rabat a few months ago. We therefore respond to the kind invitation of the National Group of Algeria and, on your behalf, you will allow me to express to it our gratitude and our sincere thanks for the warm welcome and for all the facilities afforded us in order to conduct our deliberations under the best conditions.

Here in Algiers, we shall have, during this session, to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, the Annual Work Programme, and the draft project for 2005.

Our deliberations will consist also of the preparation of the 27th Conference which will follow our session.

Algiers will particularly be the occasion for us to provide the APU with the resources to enable it to pursue its activities in the interest of our respective parliaments. As a matter of fact, we should endeavour to save the APU from the difficulties likely to hamper its functioning. This explains why it is very necessary for our organization that we, the members, be vigilant as regards our obligations. I was happy to note in 2003 that an effort was made in this regard and which made it possible to record a satisfactory balance of the finance of our Union.

We have to strengthen the African Parliamentary Union for it to always remain this instrument of cooperation between the African national parliaments and coordination of our activities at the regional and international levels. I think that today, more than ever before, we should do everything possible to pursue the noble objectives set. Certainly, there are still obstacles on the way to full bloom of our Union, but thanks to our will, we shall continue to persist in the effort of strengthening the African Parliamentary Union. Is it not a motive of satisfaction in seeing the APU today providing its assistance in bringing into fruition certain programmes formulated by some international organisations and involving African parliamentarians in them?

We hail, in this regard, the presence, at our session, of Honourable KALOWELE A. IDJI, Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin and President of the African Parliamentary Forum for the NEPAD

We wish to develop these partnership actions in order that African parliamentarians can better contribute effectively to the human development of our continent.

Honourable parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would not like to keep your attention further on matters which touch closely or by far our action for the development of our countries, for we shall certainly have the time to do so in the course of our discussions in Algiers.

Before I end my speech, I shall say that it is a fact that the APU will pursue its objectives as it has always done and the African national parliaments will be ready to support and strengthen their organisation.

It is my desire that our deliberations of Algiers become fruitful so as to contribute to moving our continent forward towards further progress and well-being of our populations.

I thank you and I declare the 45th Session of the Executive Committee of the APU open.



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

27th CONFERENCE
Algiers, 29-30 November 2004

Speech of

**Honourable Ibrahim Boubacar Keita
Speaker of the National Assembly of MALI
Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the African
Parliamentary Union at the 27th Conference**

(Algiers, Algeria, 29-30 November 2004)

*Your Excellency, President of the Republic,
Honourable President of the Council of the Nation,
Honourable Speaker of the People's National Assembly,
Honourable Speakers and Dear Colleagues,
Honourable Head of Government,
Honourable Representatives of Parliamentary and
International Organisations,
Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Honourable Invited Guests,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

What a great pleasure we have to be in Algiers, this beautiful capital which is also called the White Algiers, hung on its hills, throwing a panoramic look over the Mediterranean sea and sinking its roots both in Africa and in the Arab world. We are very proud to be, today, in this memorable month of November, the hosts of a country whose contemporary history has been characterised by a liberation struggle against the colonial occupation and for the advent of a free Africa, worthy and master of its destiny. We bow before the memory of the martyrs of the Algerian and African revolution.

Allow me to express, on behalf of my colleague Speakers, members of the National Groups and all the delegates invited to this Conference, our sincere thanks to the authorities, to the Parliaments and to the Algerian People, for the efforts made to enable us meet under excellent conditions as well as for the natural, fraternal and warm welcome accorded the various delegations present at our annual Conference. On behalf of all of you, I extend particularly my sincere thanks and my profound gratitude to the President of the Algerian Republic, His Excellency, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who is honouring us by taking part in the inaugural ceremony of the 27th Conference. We are all the more honoured that you are, Your Excellency,

President, one of those who has never stopped defending the interests of Africa. You have recently given the proof of this, by holding here, under your sponsorship, the extraordinary Summit of African Heads of State on NEPAD.

You are today, giving a proof once more by your presence which testifies, if need be, to the steadfastness in your support to the universal principles of democracy, peace and development.

Your Excellency, President, allow me, here a brief recall of the past, this past sometimes slightly forgotten by many today; nevertheless, a time of glory, dignity, and hope personified by some charismatic leaders:

- Mohamed V and Hassan II
- Ahmed Ben Bella
- Houari Boumedienne,
- Habib Bourguiba
- Gamel Abd El Nasser
- Modibo Keita
- Kwame N'Krumah
- Patrice Emery Lumumba
- Sekou Toure
- Jomo Kenyatta
- Jawaharal Nehru
- Sirimao Bandaranaike

time of history when Nelson Mandela, Madiba, was starting his martyrdom.

Their sentiments, their struggle for a world of freedom, dignity and especially of justice, were brilliantly and gallantly put up,

particularly on the United Nations tribune by Ministers and Representatives of which Africa, the Third World, and the entire progressist world still remember.

Mr. President, it is your honour and our basic duty to remember that you were part of this worthy struggle and glorious learned assembly. You were a contemporary of:

- Ousman Ba, your elder brother of Mali,
- Alex Quaison Sackey of Ghana,
- Ashkar Marouf of Guinea,
- Mongi Slim of Tunisia,
- Ahmed Balafredj of Morocco,
- Krishna Menon of India,
- Tom M'Boya of Kenya,
- Zulficar Ali Butto of Pakistan.

As one of the youngest, you were for the youth, in schools and universities, that we were, a model who was attractive both in oratory style and elegant dressing.

In fact, the one who was nicknamed the brain of the African diplomacy changed very easily the battle dress of Abdel Kader, the Malian, the man from Gao for the best suit, that of fighting, sharp, determined, firm, diplomat, but always courteous.

But Mr. President, kindly accept that we touch your humble personality a little while.

Your courageous anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist harangues roused us and reached us through the reports of Simon Malley, El Moudjahid and the one whom we called

“the unofficial of Cairo”- Al Ahram- of which the editorialist Mohamed Hassanein Heykal pleased us with his sense of positive formula.

Mr. President, this is to tell you that we are still following you with the same enthusiasm without fail for some decades now.

Your return to the helm of affairs and your recent victorious reelection are just an acknowledgement and rightful award of your immense patriotic merits.

Mr. President, thank you, thanks thousand times to the Man from Gao, for his steadfastness in affirming the African dignity and fidelity to the friendship forged in trial. It is certainly not the first leaders of the independent Mali or their eligible parties who will prove us wrong.

Again, recently, your gest, full of dignity, in your style, gest to our uncle Bakara Diallo, that all our people hailed.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting, which comes after the Accra Conference and the Rabat sessions represents an important moment for the African Parliamentary Union since it coincides with the end of the mandate of the members of the Executive Committee who were elected two years ago at the Khartoum Conference. I can say that I presided with pleasure and pride over our Executive Committee and I hope with honour that during this term of office, we contributed to strengthening the role of the APU, as the assembly of African National Parliaments.

*Your Excellency, President of the Republic,
Dear Colleagues,
Honourable invited guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The meeting of Algiers will be the occasion for us to assess the actions which we have undertaken according to the decisions and recommendations of our last sessions.

Furthermore, our conference will have, among other matters, to consider the promotion of good governance, promotion of an equitable international trade, and the representation of women in the decision-making bodies.

Good governance is a subject of paramount importance for us parliamentarians, for it concerns the political and economic life of our countries. We should promote this culture, bearer of democratic and respectful values of human rights, this culture which guarantees public liberties, participation of citizens in the political life, and which in the final analysis ensures peace. As we have to promote this culture, bearer of values guaranteeing rational management of budgetary resources as well as the undertaking of sound economic activities, rid of corruption and providing equal opportunities to the citizens.

Regarding the steady integration of our economies in the international trade, we often experience, during exportation, the effects of protectionist policies practised by developed countries, which does not fail to trigger off downswing in our export revenues needed for financing our development. On the other hand, that is during importation, we experience the effects of an unfair international trade liberalisation without considering, during international trade negotiations, the development levels of our countries in such a way as to introduce mechanisms capable of stabilising African

producers earnings. We should, moreover, find within the framework of trade rules, more flexible and simpler formula which will enable us to obtain at reasonable prices drugs required to face deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

With regard to the representation of African women in the decision-making bodies, I must say that despite an increasingly affirmed awareness of the important role which women can play in the political and economic life, difficulties remain and impede this human and democratic process.

*Your Excellency, President of the Republic,
Dear Colleagues,
Honourable invited guests,*

Briefly are the few points recalled, to which we, African parliamentarians, and lawmakers, think that we should add our contribution with a view to advancing towards human progress by making our countries worthy partners in line with the development objectives contained particularly in the NEPAD and the Millennium Declaration.

I am convinced that from our discussions here in Algiers, will emerge fruitful recommendations for a better responsibility for the demands in the area of sustainable development in our respective countries.

I pray that our proceedings, like those that we have carried out in our various legislative Assemblies, be the occasion to strengthen our determination to always do better so as to provide our populations with resources to enhance their well-being and to live under conditions of peace and development.

Before I end my speech, I would like to reiterate, on your behalf, my profound thanks and my gratefulness to the President of the Algerian Republic for his support to the African Parliamentary Union, as well as to the Parliamentary Authorities for giving us the opportunity to appreciate the Algerian hospitality.

Thank you.



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 26th CONFERENCE OF THE APU**

On the occasion of the 44th Session of the Executive Committee in Rabat 11 to 12 May 2004, the General Secretariat presented the first part on the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the 26th Conference held in Accra from 20 to 21 October 2003. The present report focuses on the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the 26th Conference since the 44th Session held in Rabat.

Account of the proceedings of the 44th Session of the Executive Committee

At the end of this session, the General Secretariat has sent the report of its proceedings to all member parliaments of the Union, to observers and international organisations invited.

The General Secretary also requested all member parliaments of the Union to send their memoranda and/or draft resolutions to the General Secretariat on the items placed on the agenda of the 27th Conference in Algiers.

Relationship between the African Parliamentary Union and the Pan-African Parliament:

As you may recall the Executive Committee in its 44th Session held in Rabat 11-12 May 2004 has expressed satisfaction with the successful establishment of the Pan- African Parliament, and has asked the Secretariat General to send to all national Parliaments the conclusions of the proceedings of Addis Ababa and Libreville on the Relationship between the African Parliamentary Union and the Pan-African Parliament. The General Secretariat did send the above mentioned documents to all national Parliaments.

Implementation of the work programme

The African Parliamentary Conference on "Refugees in Africa: The Challenges of Protection and Solutions"

In accordance with the work programme adopted by the Executive Committee in its 43rd Session held in Accra 17-18 October 2003, the APU could successfully organize in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and with the sponsorship of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the African Parliamentary Conference on "Refugees in Africa: The Challenges of Protection and Solutions" held in Cotonou, Benin, 1 - 3 June 2004.

The Conference was attended by a large number of Parliamentary delegations. The Conference concluded its work in the universal adoption of a Declaration and a Programme of Action that tackled a number of issues pertaining to questions relating to refugee situations in numerous African countries. These issues focused on: honouring and strengthening of international refugee, human rights and humanitarian principles, finding durable solutions, ensuring physical and legal protection of refugees and strengthening the role of Parliaments in the process of acceding to the instruments of international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law.

With regard to the implementation and follow-up actions, the Secretariat General distributed widely among African Parliaments and regional, parliamentary and international organisations the Final Declaration and the Programme of action which have been adopted by the Conference. The Secretariat General takes this opportunity to urge all African Parliaments to implement the recommendations made in Cotonou as well as the programme of action adopted by the Conference.

The APU has also participated in the following functions:

African Development forum IV

After 44th Session of the Executive Committee held in Rabat, the Secretary General took part in the (African Development Forum) ADF IV held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 15 October 2004 together with a group of parliamentarians. The forum deliberated on the theme of Governance for a Progressing Africa, where it could successfully set the challenges to good governance and an agenda for action to defy these challenges and to address capacity deficits in key areas. The forum also recommended that strong and effective partnerships be built with key organizations in Africa dealing with issues pertaining to good governance such as the African Parliamentary Union.

111th Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU)

The APU took part in the 111th General Assembly of the IPU in Geneva, from September 28 to October 1, 2004. On the fringes of this Assembly, the APU, being coordinator of the African Group, organized the meeting of the Group under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Chairperson of Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union, and has deliberated on various items in relation to the work of the IPU Assembly and all issues concerning the African Group in the 111th Assembly.

Preparation for the current meetings of the APU

The Secretary General, accompanied by one of the directors, travelled to Algiers in June 2004 to carry out the necessary preparations for the 45th session of the Executive Committee and the 27th Conference of the APU. An agreement was concluded between the Nation Council and the APU on the date of these sessions of the Union in Algiers as well as setting the duties and obligations of each part.

Finances

Concerning the finances of the Union, we have to say that the current financial year may not, unfortunately, achieve the same results as in 2003. In fact, up today, only some 15 Parliaments have fulfilled their financial obligations towards the Union.

In order to maintain the level of contribution settlements recorded in 2003, the General Secretariat insistently urges Parliaments to fulfil their financial obligations.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

EC/45/1

OBSERVER STATUS

On 21 October 2004, the Secretary General received a request to the African Parliamentary Union to grant an observer status in the APU to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The letter which was addressed to the Secretary General by the Regional Director for Africa reads as follows:

21 October 2004

*Mr. Abdalla Abdelgadir
Secretary-General
African Parliamentary Union
P.O. Box 314 Abidjan
Cote d'Ivoire*

Request for Observer Status at the African Parliamentary Union for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

I wish to take this opportunity to convey my greetings and to extend my congratulations to the African Parliamentary Union for its achievements in strengthening and nurturing a culture of democracy throughout the continent.

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance is an intergovernmental organization, headquartered in Stockholm, with observer status at the United Nations and with member states from all continents. It has a mandate to develop and support sustainable democracy in countries and regions worldwide. IDEA works with new and established democracies, helping to develop and strengthen the institutions and culture of democracy. IDEA collaborates with members of the international community, as well as with local stakeholders in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and, more recently in the Arab world and the South Caucasus.

In 2004, International IDEA established a Regional Office for Africa in Pretoria and is now in the process of establishing a sub-regional office for West Africa. International IDEA is committed to working closely with all regional institutions to strengthen the democratic institutions throughout the continent.

In both Southern and West Africa, IDEA is working with Regional Economic Communities and Election Management Bodies (EMBs) to provide training and support for election management bodies and to assist with upgrading standards for electoral and where possible to enhance regional cooperation and common standards. IDEA is also conducting research and dialogue activities with political parties in several countries which are part of a wider programme to assist in strengthening of political parties as more effective actors of democratization and good governance.

IDEA considers the African Parliamentary Union to be a key institution in promoting sustainable democracies in Africa. Through its endeavors aimed at strengthening the role and prestige of the Parliamentary institution, contributing to the effective realization of the ideals of liberty, peace and justice as well as to the promotion of human rights through striving to achieve systematic establishment of the rule of law in the African communities, the African Parliamentary Union is making a positive contribution to the promotion of a culture of democracy in Africa.

International IDEA wishes to further strengthen its ties with the African Parliamentary Union through collaborative programmes aimed at strengthening democratic institutions in Africa. In order to further strengthen our cordial relationship, International IDEA is kindly requesting to be granted an observer status at the African Parliamentary Union. We strongly believe this will be the start of a long partnership between our two organizations that will further promote democracy and good governance in Africa.

I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance and we await your response with great expectation. We certainly look forward to strengthening cooperation with you and your Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

Abdalla Hamdok
Regional Director for Africa

Taking into consideration the fact that this organization, with local stakeholders in Africa, is mandated to develop and support sustainable democracy and strives to help, develop, strengthen democratic institutions and deepen the culture of democracy,

Considering also the fact it has expressed keenness to further strengthen its ties with the African Parliamentary Union through collaborative programmes aimed at strengthening democratic institutions in Africa,

In accordance with Article (9) of the Constitution and Rule (3) of the Rules of the APU we recommend to the Executive Committee to grant this organization an observer status in the APU.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The African Parliamentary Union's Annual Work Programme for the year 2005 will focus, on the one hand, on the holding of the sessions of the Executive Committee and the Conference, and on the other hand on participation to inter-parliamentary and in international meetings.

Following is a brief summary of the work programme:

A- Sessions of the African Parliamentary Union

1. *Date and venue of the 46th Session of the Executive Committee: Luanda*
2. *Date and venue of the 47th Session of the Executive Committee: Brazzaville*
3. *Date and venue of 28th Conference: Brazzaville*

B- Relations with the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union

1. *Participation in the annual conference of the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union*
2. *Follow Committee of the Afro-Arab parliamentary Conference*
3. *11th Afro-Arab parliamentary Conference*
4. *Afro-Arab parliamentary symposium on a topic to be defined jointly by the African Parliamentary Union and Arab Inter-parliamentary Union.*

C- Relations with the Arab Maghreb Union

Participation in the annual meeting of the Consultative Assembly of the Arab Maghreb Union

D- Sessions of the Interparliamentary Union

1. *112th Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union: Manila*
2. *113th Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union: Geneva*

E- Relations with International Organisations

1. *African Union* - Summit of Heads of State and Governments
2. *UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Community of the Red Cross* Follow-up Committee of the parliamentary Conference on International Humanitarian Law and on Refugees

F- Relations with the Economic Commission of Africa:

Cooperation with the ECA in the capacity building programme designated by the ECA to parliaments in Africa.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
27th CONFERENCE
(Algiers, 27th November – 1st December 2004)

**DRAFT BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR 2005**

BUDGET FOR 2005
(in U.S. Dollars)

SECTION I : RECEIPTS

Ordinary Receipts

Heading I : Contributions of National Groups	1 026 563
Heading II : Other receipts	2 000
Sub-Total	1 028 563

Extraordinary Receipts

Heading III : Subventions and donations	(for the Record)
Heading IV : Other extraordinary receipts	25 000
Sub-Total	25 000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	U.S. \$ 1 053 563

SECTION II : EXPENSES

Expenses

Heading I : Staff expenses	524 423
Heading II : Travelling allowances	63 340
Heading III : Equipment, Supplies, External Services	153 300
Heading IV : Transport	57 000
Heading V : Meetings and Sessions	174 000
Heading VI : General expenses	81 500
TOTAL EXPENSES	U.S. \$ 1 053 563

A SUMMARY OF THE 2005 BUDGET
(in U.S. Dollars)

DESCRIPTION	2004 ESTIMATES	2005 ESTIMATES	VARIATION
SECTION I : RECEIPTS			
<u>Ordinary Receipts</u>			
Heading I : Contributions of National Groups	1 028 920	1 026 563	- 2 357
Heading II : Other Receipts	2 000	2 000	-
Sub-Total	1 030 920	1 028 563	- 2 357
<u>Extraordinary Receipts</u>			
Heading III : Subventions and donations ...	-	-	-
Heading IV : Other extraordinary receipts .	25 000	25 000	-
Sub-Total	25 000	25 000	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1 055 920	1 053 563	- 2 357
SECTION II : EXPENSES			
<u>Expenses</u>			
Heading I : Staff expenses	495 300	524 423	+ 29 123
Heading II : Travelling allowances	63 340	63 340	-
Heading III : Equipment, supplies, external services	179 300	153 300	- 26 000
Heading IV : Transport	53 480	57 000	+ 3 520
Heading V : Meetings and sessions	158 000	174 000	+ 16 000
Heading VI : General expenses	106 500	81 500	- 25 000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1 055 920	1 053 563	- 2 357

SECTION I : RECEIPTS

Ordinary Receipts

<i>Head.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	2004 <i>Estimates</i>	2005 <i>Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
I		Contributions of National Groups			
	1	Contributions on equal basis	266 000	280 000	+ 14 000
	2	Contributions according to AU rates ..	762 920	746 563	- 16 357
		Sub-Total 1	1 028 920	1 027 063	- 2 357
II		Other receipts			
	1	Scrapped goods	2 000	2 000	-
		TOTAL I + II	1 030 920	1 028 563	- 2 357

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIONAL GROUPS FOR THE YEAR 2005
(in U.S. dollars)

<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>PART 1, EQUAL</i>	<i>(*) %</i>	<i>PART 2, ACCORDING TO %</i>	<i>AMOUNT OF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION</i>
1. Algeria	7 000	8.65	64 578	71 578
2. Angola	7 000	2.20	16 425	23 425
3. Benin	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
4. Burkina Faso	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
5. Burundi	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
6. Cabo Verde	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
7. Cameroon	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
8. Central Africa	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
9. Chad	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
10. The Congo	7 000	1.17	8 735	15 735
11. Côte d'Ivoire	7 000	3.67	27 399	34 399
12. Djibouti	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
13. R.D.Congo	7 000	3.69	27 549	34 549
14. Egypt	7 000	8.65	64 578	71 578
15. Equatorial Guinea	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
16. Ethiopia	7 000	3.69	27 549	34 549
17. Gabon	7 000	1.58	11 796	18 796
18. Gambia	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
19. Ghana	7 000	4.41	32 923	39 923
20. Guinea	7 000	1.10	8 212	15 212
21. Guinea-Bissau	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
22. Kenya	7 000	3.56	26 579	33 579
23. Liberia	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
24. Libya	7 000	8.12	60 622	67 622
25. Mali	7 000	1.06	7 913	14 913
26. Mauritania	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
27. Morocco	7 000	6.84	51 066	58 066
28. Namibia	7 000	1.17	8 735	15 735
29. Niger	7 000	0.92	6 868	13 868
30. Nigeria	7 000	8.65	64 578	71 578
31. Rwanda	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
32. Sao Tome & Principe	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
33. Senegal	7 000	1.24	9 257	16 257
34. Sierra Leone	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
35. Somalia	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
36. The Sudan	7 000	3.73	27 847	34 847
37. Togo	7 000	0.86	6 420	13 420
38. Tunisia	7 000	3.44	25 682	32 682
39. Uganda	7 000	1.59	11 870	18 870
40. Zimbabwe	7 000	2.78	20 755	27 755
TOTAL	280 000	100	746 563	1 026 563

(*) According to AU rates.

EXTRAORDINARY RECEIPTS

<i>Head.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	2004 <i>Estimates</i>	2005 <i>Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
III		Subventions and donations			
		Subvention of Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	-
IV		Other extraordinary receipts			
		Contribution of the Arab IPU	25 000	25 000	-
		TOTAL III + IV	25 000	25 000	-

SECTION II : EXPENSES

Heading I : Staff Expenses

<i>Item</i>	<i>Par.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>2004 Estimates</i>	<i>2005 Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1		Salaries			
	01	The Secretary-General ...	72 000	72 000	-
	02	Staff.....	242 000	242 000	-
2		Social security contributions			
	01	Health insurance	38 000	35 000	- 3 000
	02	Family allowances	8 400	8 400	-
	03	Housing allowance	32 470	32 470	-
	04	School fees	24 310	45 000	+ 20 690
	05	Travel expenses	10 000	20 000	+ 10 000
	06	Clothes	520	753	+ 233
	07	Retirement insurance	61 600	62 800	+ 1 200
	08	Entertainment expenses	6 000	6 000	-
		Total Heading I	495 300	524 423	+ 29 123

Heading II : Travelling Allowances

<i>Item</i>	<i>Par.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>2004 Estimates</i>	<i>2005 Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1		Secretariat-General			
	01	Participation in international conferences	33 000	33 000	-
	02	Preparation of meetings	12 000	12 000	-
2		Audit of accounts	8 340	8 340	-
3		Chairman of the Executive Committee	10 000	10 000	-
		Total Heading II	63 340	63 340	-

Heading III : Equipment, Supplies, External Services

<i>Item</i>	<i>Par.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>2004 Estimates</i>	<i>2005 Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1		Office supplies	7 000	7 000	-
2		Documentation	3 000	3 000	-
3		Printing work	11 000	11 000	-
4		Supplies for the printing of documents	8 000	8 000	-
5		Supplies for conferences	7 000	7 000	-
6		Mail and Internet connexion	24 000	24 000	-
7		Water, Electricity, Telephone, Fax...	30 000	30 000	-
8		Insurance on the administrative building	1 800	1 800	-
9		Maintenance			
	01	Equipment	5 000	5 000	-
	02	Administrative offices	10 000	10 000	-
10		Equipment of administrative offices	30 000	30 000	-
11		Service cars			
	01	Purchase	26 000	-	- 26 000
	02	Maintenance and repairs	3 500	3 500	-
	03	Insurance	2 000	2 000	-
12		Fuel	11 000	11 000	-
		Total Heading III	179 300	153 300	- 26 000

Heading IV : Transport

<i>Item</i>	<i>Par.</i>	<i>Description</i>	2004 <i>Estimates</i>	2005 <i>Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1		Secretariat-General			
	01	Participation in international conferences	24 000	24 000	-
	02	Preparation of meetings	8 480	12 000	+ 3 520
2		Audit of Accounts	9 000	9 000	-
3		Chairman of the Executive Committee	12 000	12 000	
		Total Heading IV	53 480	57 000	+ 3 520

Heading V : Meetings of the Union

<i>Item</i>	<i>Par.</i>	<i>Description</i>	2004 <i>Estimates</i>	2005 <i>Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1		Interpreters and Translators			
	01	Remunerations	40 000	56 000	+ 16 000
	02	Per diem	33 000	33 000	-
	03	Transport charges	30 000	30 000	-
2		Secretariat			
	01	Travelling allowances	28 000	28 000	-
	02	Transport charges	25 000	25 000	-
3		Gratuities	2 000	2 000	-
		Total Heading V	158 000	174 000	+ 16 000

Heading VI : General Expenses

<i>Item</i>	<i>Par.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>2004 Estimates</i>	<i>2005 Estimates</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1		Reserve for receipts account	75 000	50 000	- 25 000
2		Financial costs	1 500	1 500	-
3		Other general expenses	30 000	30 000	-
		Total Heading VI	106 500	81 500	- 25 000



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
27th Conference
(Algiers, 27th November-1st December 2004)

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 27TH CONFERENCE

1. Election of the President of the Conference
2. Admission(s) and re-admission(s)
3. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
4. Report of the Secretary General
5. The promotion of Good Governance: role of African Parliaments
6. Role of African Parliaments in the promotion of an equitable international trade
7. Representation of African women in the decision making bodies: obstacles and strategies
8. Election of the members of the Executive Committee
9. Date and venue of the 28th Conference.



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR 46TH SESSION OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Admission and re-admission in the Union
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Examination of the audited Management Account for the financial year 2004
4. Drawing up of the draft agenda for the 28th Conference
5. Draft agenda for the 47th Session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue for the 47th Session of the Executive Committee.

**RESOLUTION
OF AFRICAN WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Meeting on the Sidelines of the African Parliamentary Union

We, African Women Parliamentarians gathered in Algiers on 28 November 2004, on the occasion of the 27th Conference of the African Parliamentary union

- 1- Recalling the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Man and the Declaration of the African Charter on the Rights of Man and Peoples.*
- 2- Recalling the Declaration and the Action Plan adopted by the 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995 and the final document adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its Extraordinary Session on the theme « Women in the Year 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace. »*
- 3- Recalling the Parliamentary Declaration of Beijing adopted by the participants in the Parliamentary Day held on the occasion of the 4th World Conference on Women.*
- 4- Reaffirming the Millennium Declaration proclaimed by the United Nations and the Heads of State and the development objectives set out in this declaration, in particular equal opportunities between the sexes, the integration of women in the working life, both economic and political, necessary to democratic consolidation and advances.*
- 5- Recalling the Universal Declaration on democracy adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1997.*
- 6- Considering the recommendation of the African Union aiming to set up a policy of parity in decision making organs.*
- 7- Considering that women represent about half the population of Africa.*
- 8- Emphasizing that owing to the importance of their education, training level, traditional know-how, women constitute an insufficiently exploited wealth of expertise.*

9- Convinced that women carry more values based on the spirit of solidarity, social justice and peace.

10- Noting that in spite of the constitutional provisions establishing the principle of equality between men and women, in practice, discrimination between the sexes prevails.

11- Considering that women are always under-represented at decision making positions in governments, public administrations, judicial systems, the economy, and in elected bodies, particularly in parliaments.

12- Considering that an equal participation of both sexes at decision making positions constitutes a fundamental element for the implementation of the principle of human rights, justice, and democratic legitimacy.

13- Considering the lack of contribution of women in the political, economic and public life in general.

14- Considering the lack of reliable data on the distribution between sexes in leading organs in the economic sector, in political parties, trade unions, and associations.

15- Emphasizing the key role that parliaments may play to promote gender equality thanks to their functions in legislation, government supervision, and the mobilization of public opinion.

16. Taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc committee of Women Parliamentarians of the APU :

1. **Invite** men and women parliamentarians to take the commitment to consolidate parliamentary actions aiming to encourage equality between both sexes at the national and international level, and to follow up the implementation of the Beijing plat-form and the final document of the extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nation held in 2000.

2- **Invite** parliamentarians to be more attentive to issues of gender equality by favouring the presence of women in the organs of

Parliamentary Assemblies particularly in committees, by setting a target of at least 30% representation.

3- **Request** Governments to develop systematic policies of gender equality.

4- **Recommend** that Parliament review legislations in order to integrate, in case of need, the preoccupations linked to gender equality.

5. **Recommend** that the different ministerial sectors are encouraged to take into consideration the specific needs of women while formulating policies in particular budget policies and to favour the analysis of the implications of budget choices on women.

6. **Request** the Heads of State and Governments as well as the leaders of political parties to adopt a policy of quotas to impose the presence of more women at all decision levels.

7. **Request** parliamentarians to see that international commitments taken by their governments are fulfilled and implemented, notably those which relate to the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination towards women.

8. **Recommend** that treaties and international commitments relating to gender issues of the kind included the CEDAW are widely disseminated.

9. **Recommend** the implementation of a system of information and reliable databases, distributed according to gender at regional and sub-regional levels.

10. **Recommend** the harmonization at the level of the continent of assessment indicators linked to gender equality, in particular those relating to the Beijing platform.

11. **Recommend** the development of networks of exchanges, information and data bases between the different parliaments, and to make known and disseminate useful advances for equal opportunities in each country.

12. **Request** the setting up of a committee of women Parliamentarians within the African Parliamentary Union.

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AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

THE ALGERIAN DEMOCRATIC AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

SPEECH BY

His Excellency, Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA,

PRESIDENT OF THE ALGERIAN DEMOCRATIC AND PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC

AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY
UNION CONFERENCE

ALGIERS, 29 NOVEMBER 2004.

Honourable President of the Conference,
Honourable Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the African
Parliamentary Union,
Honourable President of the Pan African Parliament,
Honourable Secretary General of the Inter-parliamentary Union,
Honourable Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union,
Honourable Secretary General of the Arab Parliamentary Union,
Honourable Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations
Organisation,
Honourable Representative of the Commissioner of the African Union,
Honourable Representative of the Secretary General of the Arab League,
Honourable Representatives of the regional and international organisations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to welcome you to Algeria and to express my joy to be among you.

It is a homage which you are paying to my country by choosing its capital, Algiers, to hold the 27th session of the African Parliamentary Union and the 45th meeting of its Executive Committee.

After the African Heads of State and Government, it is the turn of the legislatures, represented at its highest level, to meet here, a few days later.

The themes devolved on your proceedings occupy a core place among the concerns and objectives of the NEPAD.

As I have just said, less than one week ago, the Heads of State, members of the NEPAD implementation committee, held the meeting here in Algiers. This meeting offered the opportunity for member Heads of State to confirm their collective willingness to pursue the initiative of recovery and rebirth of Africa in order to occupy its rightful place in the world.

But, however determined they may be, the efforts of the Heads of State can fully yield results in the implementation of this process only if they receive a substantial and steadfast support from African parliamentarians.

The NEPAD is an original African initiative around which all African countries came together to work out their development, achieve their integration in the globalisation and fully take part in the changes going on, on the international scene.

This initiative is the result of a long maturing process. It is the reflection of the determination of Africa to get committed, through bold steps and by relying first of all on its own efforts, in another very specific way of development, of which the objectives and the rate of implementation were set by African themselves.

The themes devolved on your proceedings reflect the major concerns of the African Union through the initiative of NEPAD, and your contribution to their promotion will be of the utmost interest.

Regarding good governance, it seems to me that this cannot be possible without a rule of law, without true democracy, without political pluralism. There could not be good governance either, without the people's control, exercised by freely and regularly elected assemblies, and by strong and vigilant civil society.

There is no good governance lastly, without transparency in the management of public affairs, and without rendering accounts by constitutional or legal institutions freed from any supervisory link, and led by an independent judiciary authority.

There cannot be good governance also, without freedom of expression and opinion, supported by unbiased media, having free access to information and investigation, and working under strict respect of professional codes of ethics, which protect privacy and dignity of persons.

We rely much on you for guidance as far as these essential issues are concerned, and we expect with keen interest, your recommendations and resolutions to guide our action. The subject matter of good governance is at the centre of the concerns of the African Union and NEPAD which is the instrument of implementation. Obviously, Africa has made much progress in this area, but with more or less success, including our country Algeria. Good governance should indeed be a goal; nevertheless it is especially a means for instituting the rule of law, democracy, economic and social prosperity, cultural development in its diversity, leading to social peace.

African parliamentarians seemed to me the most competent to propose the tracks and the most pragmatic suggestions to encourage internal and external good governance.

The question of the need for promotion of global trade rules, which are fair and more equitable, is a typical example. This wide subject is at the heart of our concerns in the African Union, as it determines our common future from the economic and social standpoint.

For the meantime, we do not have much influence on the trend of these rules which govern the global trade. It is therefore necessary to reverse this tendency through measures to be determined both at the internal level and at the regional and continental levels.

These are the challenges which we face from a non-adapted globalisation, often misunderstood and undefined, and which seems inevitably suspicious to us. African countries should not remain on the fringe of this globalisation for even if they wish they could not in any case. Therefore it is better to accept it with boldness, consciousness, ingenuity and political courage.

Our vast continent has considerable resources and substantial economic potentials which enable it to become an "attractive zone" of the world economy provided that Africans have the political will to achieve their integration and unity which the African Union is endeavouring to become the leader.

It is one of the major aims of the NEPAD initiative which is to ensure that our continent integrates into this global dynamic in an organised manner and prepare severally as much as possible. In this respect, your deliberations interest us very much, your resolutions and recommendations on these important subjects will undoubtedly be very useful to us; be therefore bold and go beyond the fact which not all that positive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now want to raise before you a topic which is particularly dear to my heart which assumes a paramount importance for the future of our continent. I mean the access of African women in decision-making bodies. This is indeed one of the "core" themes of your debates.

It is a difficult subject because it should absolutely distant itself from stereotypes which generally characterise this debate for it is often one of the most serious subjects which face our societies.

It is nevertheless closely linked to the development of our countries. In fact, there cannot be good governance nor real democracy, if African women remain victims of discrimination, which is often habitual but not legal.

I know very well that all the constitutions of Africa and the laws of our countries are very cautious to treat women equally as men before the law.

I know very well also, that women are promoted here and there to very conspicuous positions of authority perhaps to serve as "alibi" and in order to gain an international respect, by thus avoiding a breach of international conventions which we have freely adhere to.

We know that some sort of discrimination in respect of women, particularly, in the area of politics, employment, wages, exists also in Europe and elsewhere.

In Africa, considerable progress has nevertheless been made, but it is particularly due to a fight on the part of women.

Unfortunately, there exists in our countries negative attitudes, sluggishness, belittling traditions which give the African women a silent inferior status.

At present, for a woman to obtain a high employment, she should be more competent than the man, which implies that for a woman to be at the same level with a man in the decision-making bodies, she has to be well above him.

Almost everywhere, the power of prejudices, negative habits and some traditions which are sometimes wrongly linked to religion, sometimes to some ancestral customs or to archaic and obsolete jurisprudences, destroy the constitutions and the law of our countries.

We should perhaps plan out other mechanisms of systematic fight against discriminatory attitudes towards women, since the laws seem to be powerless in doing so.

This crucial fight is closely linked to democracy and to human rights. It is set forth as a determinant condition in good governance. It will be won – side by side with a resolute policy of States- at school, in the universities, in research centres, through the mobilisation of the civil society, unions and political parties.

With regard to the Algerian women, I must say that they were emancipated during the national war of liberation, in the efforts for the development of the country and quite recently in the antiterrorist fight in which they paid a heavy toll.

Their presence is not only symbolic in the high positions, they participate more and more in decisions involving the state and the people. But the road remaining towards a total rehabilitation of the status of women in our societies is still long as far as I am concerned, because it is above all cultural and social.

Honourable President,

Honourable Delegates,

Our continent is not in “isolation”, but in a world which is constantly growing sometimes very dangerously, it is for it to make its voice heard over the international problems, be they economics or politics, and “the parliamentary diplomacy” becomes increasingly important continentally and worldwide.

It is for you to consolidate the group of the developing countries referred to as “Group of 90” in the WTO negotiations. Just as it is important that our parliamentarians become involved in the establishment of a world parliamentary group responsible for the question of coherence of the economic policies and social policies at the international level in order to carry out an integrated surveillance of the actions of international organisations of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the WTO.

Our parliamentarians are equally called upon to get mobilised on the question of reform of international governance with the objective of giving the globalisation phenomenon a human face by taking into account its social dimension.

Honourable President,
Honourable Delegates,

Your day to day action to establish the culture of peace and tolerance will enable our peoples and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to step up efforts in order to eradicate terrorism, disorder and the hot spots.

We should especially make every effort in order that the dialogue and the negotiations concerning Darfour are rapidly concluded in Abuja under the leadership of the current President of the African Union, so that our sister country Sudan recovers its serenity, and finalise successfully the Nivasha peace talks in Kenya for a comprehensive and final agreement.

You might certainly be aware also of the situation in Iraq and the extreme violence which the brotherly Iraqi people are experiencing everyday. Optimal conditions of peace and security should be met to enable the Iraqis, under the active control of the United Nations, to freely elect and without any constraint, their representatives, end the occupation and to maintain the unity of their country.

In Palestine, we are sincerely concerned with the permanent and demeaning aggression by Israel of a people deprived of their most basic rights in the total indifference of the international community.

Lastly, in Maghreb, we re-affirm the relevance and the validity of the Baker Plan which is to enable the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario front to find a final settlement and within the framework of the United Nations, to this conflict. Algeria, as I have several times affirmed, has no interest in this affair if not that of enabling the Saharoui People to exercise freely their rights to self-determination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would not like to conclude without saying a few words about the Pan African Parliament. I am pleased that it is finally established and that it held its first session in Johannesburg two months ago. This parliamentary organ of the African Union should represent the African peoples and become the supranational legislative. If it is welcome in the institutions set up of the African Union it would however have another mission than that of the APU. A mission closely linked to the union of our continent in the supranational entity. It will become the continental legislative. In the medium term, and as the protocol establishing its statute stipulate, it is assigned a very useful consultative role, compared with the establishment of African unity.

In conclusion, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to welcome you once more to Algiers, and wish total success in your deliberations.

Thank you



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

27th CONFERENCE

Algiers, 29-30 November 2004

**REPORT OF HONOURABLE IBRAHIM BOUBACAR KEITA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks and profound gratitude for your confidence and your support during my term of office as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of our Union. I must say that throughout this task which you assigned me, I continued to be, as much as possible, listening to the concerns of our organisations in order that, together, we can act towards the promotion of our parliamentary activities at the continental and international levels. Since our Accra conference, I had undertaken certain activities within the framework of my responsibilities as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the APU.
2. In addition to the contacts with the Secretary General of the APU and the guidelines given for the implementation of decisions and recommendations of our conference, I see the opportunity during the missions I undertook on behalf of the APU to make the voice of our organisation heard and to increase its perceptibility at the international level.
3. As part of the relations which we foster with our Arab parliamentary colleagues, I was represented by Mr. Kassoum TAPO, deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali, and the Secretary General of the APU, at the 11th Conference of the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union which was held in Damascus, Syria, from 1 to 3 March 2004. As you know, the discussions were focused, particularly, on our common activities. I am

happy to note that this exemplary co-operation is on a good track and that we can develop it further.

4. The 110th Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union which was held in Mexico from 15 to 23 April 2004 was for me the place to renew contact with my colleague speakers and to exchange our views on the issues considered by this assembly and on our action as African geopolitical group, which met under my chairmanship. The Secretary General will give an overview of this meeting in his report.
5. During the implementation of the decision of our conference, I followed closely the organisation of the African regional parliamentary Conference on "Refugees in Africa" which was held from 1 to 3 June 2004 in Cotonou, Benin. I can say that this conference organised in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the support of the Inter-parliamentary Union is the sign of the new dynamism of our Union which is widening its scope of co-operation with the international institutions.
6. Geneva was another meeting place of the Assembly of the APU which held its 111th session from 28 September to 1 October 2004. The African Group meeting which I had the honour to preside over was a moment to rub shoulders with African parliamentarians and to see how we could act at the level of this Assembly in the interest of our continent. You will agree that it is these types of meetings which mostly provide the opportunity for coordinating our activities and of consulting together on issues of interest to our continent and our national parliaments.
7. I accepted wholeheartedly the invitation of the Institution "InWent capacity Building International" by participating in the meeting organised from 20 to 23 October 2004 in Berlin on the theme: Good governance and the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of NEPAD. On this occasion, I reaffirmed the role of the African Parliamentary Union and African parliamentarians in the promotion of good governance and NEPAD as the themes which we are to consider in Algiers do prove today.
8. With regard to our statutory activities, I have had to convene the 44th Session of the Executive Committee held in Rabat on 11 and 12 May 2004. It was the occasion, among others, to assess the implementation of our decisions and consider the management account of the financial year 2003. As a follow-up to this session I, with the Secretary General of the

APU and in relation with the Algerian parliament, took necessary measures in order for us to be in Algiers today within the framework of the 45th session of the Executive Committee and the 27th Conference.

9. Lastly, you can imagine also that a sad event, namely, recent turmoil which Cote d'Ivoire has been experiencing, induced me to inquire about the situation of our Secretary General and the difficult conditions under which our workers perform their duties, especially, when their security and that of their families are not easy to guarantee under such circumstances.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

27th CONFERENCE
Algiers, 29-30 November 2004

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE APU

(October 2003 – November 2004)

In conformity with the Rules and Regulations of the Union, this report of activities is presented at the 27th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union and relates to the activities of the Union since the 26th Conference held in Accra on 20 and 21 October 2003.

The activities led by the Union focused on the statutory meetings convened by the APU since the 26th Conference of the APU held in Accra, on the one hand and on the activities and initiatives carried at the continental and international levels on the other hand.

I – SITUATION OF THE UNION

1 - Members

Since the re-affiliation of Sierra Leone and Gambia at Accra Conference, no other request for re-affiliation from national parliaments has been made. Thus, the APU today is composed of the following 40 members: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central Africa, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somali, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

As for the parliaments which are not yet members of the APU, we should pursue our efforts to gather in our African Organisation, national parliaments, all African States parliamentary institutions, as stated in the African Parliamentary Union Charter adopted in Luanda in 1999. It is undeniable that strengthening the APU would lend weight to our parliamentary action at the national and international levels. It would also allow to fully taking into account the concerns of the African Parliaments in global forums where sometimes topics dealt with concern our continent.

We are maintaining regular contacts with parliaments that have not yet joined us, whether through correspondences to inform them of our results and sessions or during international meetings.

2 – Finances

According to the financial results of the year 2003 we have presented at the 44th Session of the Executive Committee in Rabat, the recovery of the contributions has notably increased. Therefore, the surplus noted was used to consolidate the Working Capital. This situation has provided the APU with the means to carry out its budget in conformity with the financial and budget requirements. This is why it is necessary to maintain this financial performance, thanks to the efforts made by the national groups in the settlement of their contributions.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge Parliaments that have not yet settled their contributions to do so as soon as possible in order to maintain the financial results we have achieved in 2003.

II – STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

1 - 26th Conference of the APU

In the framework of its statutory activities, the APU held its 26th Conference in Accra (Ghana) on October 20 and 21, 2003. The General Secretariat has forwarded the Report of Proceedings of this conference including the resolutions adopted to all member and non-member Parliaments and International Organisations as well.

These resolutions, available on the Unions' website were related to the following topics:

- The promotion of the role of women in the development of Africa ;
- The role of parliamentarians in the promotion of human rights in Africa ;
- Strengthening democratic institutions with the view to implementing the NEPAD.

African women parliamentarians met on the fringes of Accra's proceedings and adopted a report, which mainly focused on the representation of women in the decision-making process, the promotion of women well being and the improvement of women's rights.

2 - Sessions of the Executive Committee

In conformity with Article 38 of the Rules and Regulations of the Union, the Executive Committee held two sessions.

The first session was held in Rabat, on May 11 and 12, 2004 and the second here in Algiers November 27 and 28, 2004.

2.1. 44th Session of the Executive Committee (Rabat, May 11 and 12, 2004)

At the invitation of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Executive Committee met in Rabat under the presidency of His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Chairperson of this body of the Union.

During the session, the Executive Committee admitted into the Union as observer the Parliament of the CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa). The Executive Committee also examined the Management Account for the financial year 2003, considered the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference as well as other items.

Concerning the financial situation of the Union, the Executive Committee was delighted with the improvement of the contribution recovery rates, which enable to adjust the working capital to an appreciable level compared to the annual budget.

Regarding the second item, the Executive Committee expressed satisfaction that the APU has made its contribution to the establishment of the Pan-African Parliament and urged for a frank co-operation between the Pan African Parliament and the APU.

In addition, the Executive Committee condemned the human rights violation at the international and African level and particularly, the humiliation and tortures the Iraqi and Palestinian people are subjected to.

In this respect, the Executive Committee authorised the Chairperson of the Executive Committee to speak on behalf of the Union whenever the international situation demands it.

The Report of the proceedings of the sessions of Rabat has been distributed to all members Parliaments.

2.2- 45th Session of the Executive Committee (27- 28 November 2004)

The session that we have just concluded here in Algiers was mainly focused on the Draft Budget for the financial year 2005 and on the Annual Work Programme.

To avoid reconsidering the contents of the proceedings, we will only say that the budget measures taken during the session will allow us to continue our activities concerning our internal organisation and the implementation of the decisions of the organs of the Union on the one hand, and our relations with other international institutions, on the other hand.

Regarding the preparation of the session of Algiers, since June 2003, the General Secretariat made the necessary arrangements with the host country's authorities for the 45th Session of the Executive Committee and the 27th Conference to be held in the best conditions. I would like to express my sincere thanks to our host country for all the facilities offered to the delegates.

III- INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1- Relations with the Inter-parliamentary Union

1.1. 110th Inter-parliamentary Assembly, Mexico (15-23 April 2004)

The African Parliamentary Union took part in the 110th Inter-parliamentary Conference which agenda comprised, in particular, the following items:

1. Promoting international reconciliation, helping to bring stability to regions of conflict, and assisting with post-conflict reconstruction.
2. Working towards an equitable environment for international trade: the issues of agricultural products and the access to basic medicines.
3. Furthering parliamentary democracy in order to protect human rights and encourage reconciliation among peoples and partnership among nations.

4. The role of parliaments in stopping acts of violence, and the building of a separation wall, in order to create conditions conducive to peace and a lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Resolutions on these items have been adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

On the fringes of the Conference, the African group convened a meeting on Sunday 18 April. The Co-ordination Committee of the Conference on Refugees held another meeting as well.

1. Meeting of the African Group

The African Group met on Sunday 18 April under the chairmanship of H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the APU. The following items were placed on the agenda of the meeting:

- Choice of an emergency item to be included in the agenda of the 110th Assembly;
- Filling of vacant seats
- Information on the date and venue of the Conference on Refugees in Africa.

As regards the first item, the African Group decided to support the proposal of Lebanon and Indonesia in support to the request of Arab Group.

This item was adopted by the Assembly in the plenary session and was worded as follows: *“The role of parliaments in stopping acts of violence, and the building of a separation wall, in order to create conditions conducive to peace and a lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.”* (Emergency item).

Concerning the second item relating to the vacant posts, all the applications submitted by the African Group for the different bodies of the IPU have been approved.

Regarding the third item, the African Group has been informed that the Conference on Refugees in Africa will be held in Cotonou from 1st to 3rd June 2004.

2. Meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of the Conference on Refugees.

The Co-ordination Committee convened its meeting on Wednesday 21 April 2004 from 4.00 to 5.00 p.m. under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin, H.E. Kolawole A. IDJI, replacing the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the APU, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who was busy in another meeting.

During the meeting, which focused on the preparation of the Conference, the members of the Co-ordination Committee considered the theme of the conference and the work programme previously prepared by a committee composed of the IPU and the APU Secretariat, the UNHCR and the ICRC. After thorough discussions the members of the co-ordinating committee adopted the programme.

At the end of the meeting, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin invited all African members, as well as all international organisations to participate in the Conference of Cotonou.

*1.2. 111th Inter-parliamentary Assembly
(Geneva September 28 – October 1, 2004)*

The APU took part in the 111th Assembly of the IPU, which was convened in Geneva from September 28 to October 1, 2004.

The following items were on the agenda of this Assembly:

- The role of parliaments in strengthening multilateral regimes for non-proliferation of weapons and for disarmament, in the light of new security challenges
- The role of parliaments in preserving biodiversity
- Beijing + 10: An evaluation from a parliamentary perspective
- The alarming situation in Iraq and the need for parliamentary action to contribute to restoring peace and security in that country (emergency item)

The items have been discussed in the committees of the Assembly. The African Group participated actively in the proceedings of each of the four committees.

In his capacity as co-ordinator of the African Group, the Secretary General of the APU made the necessary provisions with the different African parliamentary delegations for the continent to be represented in each of the drafting committees.

The meeting of the African Group

The African Group met on September 27 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali and Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the APU.

The African Group adopted an agenda, which included the following items:

- *Report presented by the representatives of the African Group in the IPU Executive Committee*
- *Emergency item to be included in the agenda of the IPU Conference*
- *Commission for Africa*
- *Other.*

Members of the Executive Committee of the IPU representing the African Group (Kenya, Togo, Namibia and Libya) have informed the African Group of the issues that has been considered by the Executive Committee. They expressed the IPU's concerns about the venue

of the next meeting of the Speakers of Parliaments and the Cardoso Report on the relationship between the IPU and UNO.

The African Group has urged the African members of the Executive Committee to present in future meetings a joint report on the issues considered and which concern our continent.

Regarding the emergency item proposed by the South African Parliament on the situation in Darfour (Sudan), the delegates of the African Group announced through the representative of the said Parliament, the withdrawal of the proposition to include this item in the agenda of the IPU Assembly. In fact, the decision was made further to the Pan-African Parliaments' commitment to consider African issues in the framework of continental institutions.

Concerning the Report of the Commission for Africa, there was a document made available in English only which has been sent by the Secretary General of the IPU on the request of the British Group to African national Parliaments, the African Group requested that this document be forwarded by the IPU to the Parliaments in the working languages of the APU.

The African Group, then held a debate on the items to be deliberated in the next session of the IPU. In this respect the African Group laid special emphasis on the questions relating to the IHV/AIDS pandemic and to disarmament.

Concerning our meetings today, Mr. SAADANI Amar, Speaker of the Popular National Assembly of Algeria reiterated the invitation of the Parliament of Algeria to all the Parliaments of the continent to participate in the 27th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union scheduled to take place in Algiers from November 27 to December 1, 2004.

Lastly, the African Group, responding to the request of the Arab Group, expressed its support to the candidacy of H.E. Abdel Wahid AL RADI Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco for the membership of the Executive Committee of the IPU in replacement of the representative of Kuwait.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the APU, expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the African Parliaments for their valuable contribution and solidarity in the IPU geopolitical Group and expressed wish and aspiration that this approach and unshakable support to all African issues will continue in order to have the African voice heard.

2- Relation with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union

The African Parliamentary Union participated in the 11th Conference of the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union held in Damascus, Syria 1-3 March 2004. The Conference deliberated various political, economic and organizational issues where it:

1. Paid tribute to the struggle of the Palestinian people, strongly condemned massacres, acts of suppression, grave violations of human rights visited on the Palestinian people, called on the international community to protect them, denounced building the separation wall and welcomed international efforts to revive the peace process.

2. Reiterated support to and solidarity with Syria and Lebanon. Regarding the situation in Iraq, the conference emphasized the need to protect the integrity of this country, respect its sovereignty and independence and protect its natural wealth.
3. Condemned all forms and practices of terrorism, calling for differentiation between terrorism and legitimate struggle of the peoples to liberate their territories and restore their legitimate rights, reaffirming that terrorism is an international phenomena that need to be dealt with in an international collective form through the United Nations and in accordance with the principles and standards in line with the United Nations Charter and the basic rules of international law.
4. The Conference dealt with other issues some of which are those pertaining to Afro-Arab parliamentary dialogue, where the Conference decided to hold the 11th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference in one of the Arab capitals and recommended the holding of a joint symposium between African Parliamentary Union and the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union on a subject of interest to both sides.

3- Relation with the Union of the OIC member states

The African Parliamentary Union took part in the third Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States held in Dakar 9-10 March 2004. This Session deliberated a large number of political, economic and cultural issues. The final declaration of the Conference embodied a large number of resolutions on diverse issues and areas, a summary of which is as follows:

1. Situation in Iraq and the need for the full restoration of the political and economic sovereignty of the people of Iraq and rebuilding of their country, the Palestinian question, the Holy Quds, the occupied Arab territories in Syria and Lebanon and the international efforts aimed at reviving the peace process in the middle east.
2. The need for the fight against terrorism under the umbrella of the United Nations, reaffirmation of the legitimate right to resist occupation and foreign aggression in accordance with article 51 of the United Nations Charter and other relevant documents and arrangements pertaining to the liquidation of colonialism and racism.
3. Consolidation of efforts aimed at establishing a durable forum of dialogue between the parliamentarians from the Islamic world and their counterparts in the western world, and equally setting up of mechanisms and channels of dialogue concentrating on cultural issues and on the realities of common issues in civilizations.
4. The need to alleviate the impact of globalization on developing countries through the promotion of the means of production, allocation of more financial resources to development projects, establishment of Islamic

common market and facilitating exchange of economic data and information and feasibility studies.

4- Relations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Parliamentary Conference of African Parliaments on "**Refugees in Africa: the challenges of protection and solutions**" took place in Cotonou, Benin, from 1 to 3 June 2004. The Conference, hosted by the National Assembly of Benin, organized by the **African Parliamentary Union**, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and with the sponsorship of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, aimed to permit an exchange of views among parliamentarians on a subject which is of particular interest in Africa, and to outline lasting future parliamentary and inter-parliamentary action. The main objectives of the Conference were to:

- Promote awareness of international and regional refugee law.
- Share best practices relating to preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, the physical protection of refugees, as well as local capacity-building.
- Exchange views on new initiatives regarding durable solutions for refugees.
- Assess progress on follow-up to the 2002 APU/IPU/ICRC Niamey Conference on International Humanitarian Law for the Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict.

The Conference was attended by a large number of Parliamentary delegations representing National Parliamentary Assemblies of Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, and Uganda.

The Conference concluded its work in the universal adoption of a **Declaration** and a **Programme of Action** that tackled a number of issues pertaining to questions relating to refugee situations in numerous African countries. These issues focused on :

1. Honouring and strengthening of international refugee, human rights and humanitarian principles,
2. Finding durable solutions through promoting and applying measures relating to self reliance of refugees to decrease dependency,
3. Ensuring physical and legal protection and maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum,
4. Strengthening the role of Parliaments in ensuring that parliaments fulfil their role in the process of acceding to the instruments of international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law, undertaking to encourage a wide-ranging debate on the state of national legislation to implement international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law, and establishing standing committees, or

sub-committees, dealing with all matters related to refugees and international humanitarian law,

5. Promoting a change in attitudes towards refugees by undertaking to foster a positive attitude towards refugees and displaced persons.

With regard to implementation and follow-up actions the Secretariat General distributed widely among African Parliaments and regional, parliamentary and international organisations the Final Declaration and the Programme of action which have been adopted by the Conference. The Secretariat General takes this opportunity to urge all African Parliaments to implement the recommendations made in Cotonou as well as the programme of action adopted by the Conference.

5- Relations with the Economic Commission for Africa

In the context of the relations of co-operation between the APU and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) an invitation has been forwarded to the African Parliamentary Union to participate in the meetings of the African Development Forum IV which was held in Addis Ababa 11-15 October 2004 to deliberate on the theme of *Governance for a Progressing Africa*.

The African Development Forum (ADF), an initiative led by Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to set up an Africa-driven development agenda, co-sponsored by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Union (AU) is designed to provide the political space for a broad spectrum of interested parties to gain a deeper understanding of the dimensions of governance, address key challenges, co-ordinate existing initiatives, and develop strategies for the implementation and monitoring of good governance practices at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

To achieve this objective, the African Development Forum has been structured to work through nine Focus Groups given a more central and integrated role, one of these Focus Groups is the Parliamentary group. During the Forum, the Focus Groups facilitated a focused discussion in the short amount of time allocated in the breakout session.

The ADF IV building on the fact that good governance and sustainable development are two sides of the same coin, tried to set the key challenges to good governance in Africa considering that Africa's overarching challenge is to create strong, capable, developmental states, the ADF IV could successfully set the **challenges to good governance and an agenda for action** to defy these challenges and to address capacity deficits in key areas. The main features of this agenda for action are:

1. *Improving Checks and Balances*: by strengthening the capacity of parliaments to perform their key functions, reforming the judicial systems and increasing the capacity of political parties.
2. *Strengthening African Media*: by accepting an obligation that media is to be transparent and accountable by providing information to it when it is sought and answering questions about their performance to the best of their ability, by allowing both the private and public media to function without interference and to respect media workers' freedoms and rights without resort to violence, intimidation or detention to curtail reporters' activities

3. ***Harnessing Traditional Governance Institutions:*** Traditional governance structures and systems should continue to enshrine the devolution of power with the ruler subject to laws and codes of conduct.
4. ***Tackling Corruption:*** by applying both short-term and longer-term measures to eradicate corruption across all levels of society, ensuring that budgets at all levels of government are published, comprehensible and accessible to all citizens, and that government procurement practices are both competitive and transparent.
5. ***Reforming the Public Sector and Improving Service Delivery:*** by improving the quality of information available to citizens and simplifying procedures for citizens inquiring and accessing government services.
6. ***Unleashing the Potential of the Private Sector:*** by creating an enabling environment through effective partnerships between the government, the private sector, and civil society to enhance the spirit of participatory development and increase citizen engagement in creating a secure and stable environment in which corporations can grow and thrive.
7. ***Fighting HIV/AIDS as a Governance Issue:*** Fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa implies an urgent recognition of its devastating impacts on governance, as well as concerted and coordinated action to mitigate its effects. In the next ten years, Africa could lose over ten million of its work force if urgent actions are not taken. Ongoing initiatives, such as the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA), should be supported while national governments must develop practical but effective strategies to combat the disease. Organizations like UNAIDS, CHGA, and WHO need to better coordinate their efforts and work in collaboration with the AU, sub-regional organizations and national governments in evolving a common workable strategy to arrest the spread of the disease and provide adequate treatment for people living with AIDS.
8. ***Mainstreaming Gender Concerns:*** All political and governance bodies must institutionalize policies that guarantee gender equality. Leadership training programmes for women should be developed and supported to enable them to rise to the challenges of elected or appointed office.
9. ***Building Strong, Effective Partnerships within Africa:*** in line with the shared aspiration to develop an African-owned agenda for good governance, work is needed to forge partnerships with institutions and networks that focus on pillars of governance, such as the African Parliamentary Union, African Parliamentarians Against Corruption, African Association of Ombudsman, the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa, African Human Rights Commission, the regional Local Government Associations, the African Women Parliamentarians and African Youth Parliament. Building alliances around such institutions will help to deepen governance principles and standards and build consensus on best practices as such coalitions help to reinforce commitment and encourage experience sharing

IV- OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE APU

1-Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments on democracy and development

Upon the invitation of the People's Assembly of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in partnership with the African Parliamentary Union the **Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments on Democracy and Development** was held in Cairo from 5 to 7 January 2004. A considerable number of Speakers of African Parliaments took part in this conference which focused its deliberations on the following areas:

1. The need to establish peace and security in the African continent through the settlement of disputes among its sister countries and to improve the African conditions through the strengthening of peace and security mechanisms and initiatives in Africa.
2. Democracy and development have to take into consideration the historic, cultural particularities and civilizations of all the peoples of the continent and respect of the inalienable rights of the African peoples.
3. The International Community should assume its responsibility and participate in achieving development in Africa through the search for a rapid solution to the debt problem and the transfer of technology needed for development in Africa under reasonable legal and financial conditions.
4. The need to strengthen the democratic process by ensuring transparent and free electoral process, improving, at the legislative and oversight levels, of parliamentary action as a pillar of democratic practice, strengthening of the role of the civil society, protecting human rights by means such as parliamentary committees or national councils charged with human rights and encouraging participation of women and increasing their political and economic capacity.
5. The need to achieve sustainable development and strengthen African economic complementarity through doubling efforts to speed up establishment of joint African financial and economic institutions.
6. Striving to find a decisive and global solution to the external debt burden, encouraging national and foreign investments through a stable legislative system, increasing effectiveness in the fight against corruption, and continuing their efforts to implement African complementarity projects.

2 – Conference on Democracy, Human rights, and the role of the International Criminal Court

This Conference is held in co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Yemen from 10 to 12 January 2004 in partnership with the European Commission, and an NGO named “No Peace Without Justice”. It was held to address the issues of democratisation and human rights preservation and the role of the civil society in this respect, and the process of ratification of the statutes of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The conference was attended by representatives of government (on the level of the ministry of foreign affairs and ministry of justice), members of Parliaments, representatives of the Civil Society and representatives of Governmental and Parliamentary Organisations namely the Arab League, OIC, African Parliamentary Union, Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC (PUOIC).

The main theme of the Conference was to promote a common understanding on the issues of the rule of law, democracy and human rights and the need to speed up the process of ratification of the statutes of the International Criminal Court (ICC). In this respect the Conference :

1. Recognized the diverse cultural and religious values as a source of strength in understanding and implementing the principles of democracy and human rights.
2. Emphasized the importance of creating elected legislatures truly representing the people, accountable executive authorities bound by the basic rule of good governance and an independent judiciary.
3. Stressed the importance of strengthening the role of women in societies, the need to strengthen the role of the civil society, organize and create an independent and a free media.
4. Reaffirmed the role of the ICC, drew attention to the importance of compatibility of requirements of the ICC statutes with the national constitutions and laws.
5. Emphasized the need to differentiate between terrorist actions and national struggle and to further state the relationship between the ICC and the UN organs especially the Security Council.

3 – Inauguration of the of the Pan African Parliament

In response to the invitation extended to the Secretary General of the APU by H.E. the Commissioner of the African Union, the African Parliamentary Union observed the ceremonies of the inauguration of the Pan African Parliament. This historic event which took place in Addis Ababa on 18th March 2004, has been widely attended by participants from all over Africa, notably by honourable Speakers and members of parliaments. The Pan-African

Parliament elected Mrs. Gertrude MONGELLA as President and also elected a bureau composed of four deputies.

It is a source of satisfaction to recall the huge efforts exerted by the African Parliamentary Union in establishing direct contacts, through its Follow-up Committee, to speed up the whole process of ratification by national parliaments of the protocol establishing the Pan-African Parliament. In the framework of endeavours aimed at establishing relations of co-operation with the Pan-African Parliament, we invited the Pan-African Parliament to attend this conference. We hail the presence of Honourable Gertrude MONGELLA, President of the Pan African Parliament among us.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

27th CONFERENCE

Algiers, 29-30 November 2004

REPORT OF COMMITTEE I

The Committee I set up by the 27th Conference of the Union was entrusted with consideration of items 5 and 7 of the agenda concerning on the one hand, the Promotion of Good Governance and on the other hand, the Representation of African Women in the decision-making bodies.

The Committee met on Tuesday 29 November 2004 and set up its bureau as follows:

- Chairperson: Mrs BITAT of Algeria
- Rapporteur: Mrs ALAZA LAMATOU of Benin

During the session, it set up a Draft Committee in order to draw draft resolutions on the items of the agenda of the Committee. This Committee was composed of delegates from: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Senegal Sudan and Togo.

The speech of the President of the Republic as well as the contributions made by National groups, either written or oral was used as basic documents.

After fruitful debates by the Draft Committee and the Committee, the latter proposed to the 27th Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. Draft resolution on the Promotion of Good Governance: Role of African Parliaments

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 27th Conference in Algiers, (Algeria), on 29 and 30 November 2004,

- a) Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 in New York.
- b) Recalling its relevant resolutions, especially :
 - on Parliament and Democracy (Praia, June 1994)
 - on Public Administration (Luanda, September 1999)
 - on the Fight against corruption (Abuja, October 2001)
- c) Emphasising that good governance comprises :
 - the political governance which involves democracy, rule of law, fundamental freedom and separation of powers, etc...
 - the economic governance which demands essentially good management and the fight against corruption
- d) Considering that good governance is achieved through the legislative power, the executive power and judicial power, and that it must be analysed according to the trend of the democratic process, human rights, the pre-eminence of law, in comparison with mismanagement and corruption.
- e) Aware that democracy enables each citizen to enhance his creativity and his participation in the development and sustainability of the society.
- f) Emphasising that democracy particularly implies the people's power to determine, either directly or through their representatives, the government's political responsibility before them and to provide the leaders with the necessary resources to run State affairs.
- g) Considering African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is an innovative instrument of the NEPAD for a better inducement of our states to development.
- h) Deploring that in some cases, Africa's huge resources are mismanaged and squandered and that this mismanagement jeopardises the rigorous allocation of resources and weakens the boom of the vital sectors of the economy.
- i) Recalling the importance of the New partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD), one of its main requirements being good governance both from the political and economic standpoints.

- j) Emphasising that good governance goes hand in hand with the political will to establish a good governance, and the responsibility of the parliamentarians to control governmental action, assess its performance and verify if the funds were spent in accordance with the law.
- k) Considering that decentralisation enables a participation of the populations to manage public affairs and their localities.
- l) Noting that sluggish implementation of the decentralisation exercise in our states does not permit development and local governance.
- m) Regretting that the parliamentary control is limited by several factors such as the lack of material, financial and human resources, the low participation of the civil society and the press and by the right of reserve or professional secrecy.
- n) Aware that good governance is one of the major conditions required to prevent conflicts.
- o) Considering that one of the basic principles of good governance is to have all the components of the society participate in the definition of strategies and programmes and in decision making and Wishing that this participation be meaningful and beneficial to the society.
- p) Regretting, especially, the high rate of illiterate women, the low participation of women in the decision-making bodies and in the economic area.
- q) Regretting further the inadequate and inappropriate products of the education, technical and vocational training system and brain drain.
- r) Noting that the mismanagement of resources and, particularly, corruption has a serious impact on African economies, as corruption hinders economic growth, considerably impoverishes the peoples and leads to a sort of parallel economy.
- s) Considering that corruption is an impediment to progress, favours disorder and violence and maintains impunity, distorts the political game and deprives all the mechanisms of control of their meaning.
- t) Considering also that the fight against corruption is at present a prerequisite for assistance to development.
- u) Emphasising that an independent magistrature has considerable impacts on good governance, and more particularly, on private investments and the respect of laws.
- v) Noting the impact that the new information and communication technologies can have on good governance.

- w) Convinced that the parliamentarians, as legitimate representatives of the peoples, have an essential role to play in the management of internal and external resources required for the development of the continent.
- x) Concerned about the weak consultation framework of discussions of African parliamentarians at the regional and continental levels and Anxious to achieve good governance throughout the continent.
1. **ENDORSES** all the recommendations stated in the Millennium Declaration and in all the pertinent conventions of the United Nations Organisation (UNO), the African Union and all the UN specialised agencies.
 2. **URGES** parliaments to promote democracy and human and peoples rights, including minorities rights, by enacting rules that guarantee the rule of law and take account of the voices of the poor and the most vulnerable.
 3. **CALLS ON** parliamentarians to create a healthy political and legal environment by carrying out institutional and organisational reforms, adopting norms and codes of good conduct for good governance, and most particularly, by strengthening the parliamentary control through reform of the judicial system and fighting against corruption and embezzlement.
 4. **CALLS ON** parliaments to create and strengthen national, regional and continental structures that ensure good governance and democratic life.
 5. **URGES** parliaments to work together to have all African countries adopt more egalitarian political processes that would allow the effective participation of all citizens in public life.
 6. **REQUESTS** parliaments to set up schemes aimed at ensuring state capacity building with a view to improving the economic governance and allowing the private sector to participate in the conception and achievement of poverty alleviation programmes by creating a favourable investment environment.
 7. **CALLS ON** parliaments to reinforce the separation of powers in order to make the control mechanisms and the opposition forces work more effectively and **EMPHASISES** the need for a real political will to implement the various functioning mechanisms and processes, and the need for an individual and collective sense of responsibility.
 8. **REQUESTS** countries which have no opposition statute to have this instituted and to make it functional.

9. **URGES** parliaments to embark on a dialogue with the civil society, including research centres, NGOs and unions, in order to make the laws comply more with their aspirations and open their doors to the citizens for transparency and information.
10. **URGES** also parliaments to lend support to the establishment and strengthening of Children's Parliament which allows them to express their concerns on state laws and policies.
11. **STRESSES** the importance of the role of a responsible press and that of the press in the control of governmental action and **CALLS ON** parliaments of countries which have no press regulation entities to establish them and to make sure that the press observes its own codes of ethics and contributes effectively to the correct information of the public and to the awakening of a strong civil society.
12. **CALLS ON** parliaments to consolidate conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms at the regional and continental levels for peace to prevail.
13. **REMINDS** parliaments that legislative success depends on the technical capacities of the houses, the efficient management of the parliamentary agenda and, mostly, the use of the means they constitutionally have to control the government and **CALLS ON** them to atone for their structural and institutional weaknesses particularly by being financially autonomous.
14. **CALLS ON** parliaments to acquire appropriate infrastructures, departments and commissions with high-performance equipment and qualified personnel.
15. **HAILS** the initiatives of countries and organisations which support the strengthening programmes of some parliaments by providing them with sufficient technical, financial and material assistance.
16. **URGES** parliaments to work in order to successfully implement the decentralisation programme and **CALLS ON** governments to effect the transfer of skills and resources to local communities.
17. **CALLS ON** parliaments to urge governments to adhere to the African Peer Review Mechanism.
18. **CALLS ON** all the APU organs to contribute actively in the implementation of NEPAD and to its endorsement by Parliaments and the African Peoples.
19. **REQUESTS** the state to include the information and communication new technologies in the sound management of public affairs and in the administrative reform programme.
20. **URGES** parliaments to make use of all the means of constitutional control for checking governmental action. It concerns mainly oral questions to the governments,

commissions of enquiry, questioning and account rendering and **REQUESTS** the Executive power to furnish all the necessary information to parliaments in order to accomplish their tasks.

21. **REQUESTS** the states to include parliaments in signing of international agreements, treaties, conventions and protocols signed by their governments.
22. **SUPPORTS** the initiative of the President of the Republic of Senegal for the establishment of a Pan African institute for good governance.
23. **CALLS ON** parliaments to support the African Union in the objectives set, by conferring on the Pan African Parliament all the powers need for the development of the African continent

2. **Draft resolution on the representation of women in decision-making bodies: obstacles and strategies**

The African Parliamentary Union (APU), meeting at its 27th Conference in Algiers (Algeria) on the 29 and 30 November 2004,

- a) Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter Declaration on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights relating to women rights.
- b) Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of action adopted during 4th World Conference on women held in Beijing, on September 1995 and the final document adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its extraordinary session on the theme "Women in the year 2000: gender equality, development and peace".
- c) Recalling the Beijing parliamentary declaration adopted by the participants at the Parliamentary Day held on the occasion of the 4th World Conference on Women.
- d) Reaffirming the Millennium Declaration proclaimed by the United Nations and Heads of state and the development objectives contained in it, especially, the gender equal opportunity, the integration of women in active life, both economically and politically, needed for the consolidation and the democratic process.
- e) Recalling the Universal Declaration adopted by the Inter-parliamentary Union in 1997.
- f) Being delighted by the implementation of the African Union recommendation aimed at establishing a parity policy in the decision-making bodies

- g) Bearing in mind the resolution 1325 adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th session of 31 October 2000 and relating to the effects of armed conflicts on women and young girls.
 - h) Considering that women account for about half of the African population.
 - i) Emphasising the fact that women, because of the importance of school attendance, their level of education, their traditional know-how, constitute an inadequately used skill reserve.
 - j) Convinced that women are mostly bearer of values based on a spirit of solidarity, social justice and peace.
 - k) Noting that in spite of constitutional provisions instituting the principles of equality between man and women, in practice, discrimination prevails between genders.
 - l) Noting that women are always under-represented in decision-making bodies in governments, public administrations, judicial systems, economy and in elections, particularly in Parliament.
 - m) Considering that the equal participation of women and men in decision-making bodies, constitutes the basic element of the implementation of principle of Human rights, justice of democratic legitimacy.
 - n) Considering the inadequate perceptibility of the contribution of women in political, economic and public life in general.
 - o) Considering the lack of reliable data on the breakdown of gender in decision-making bodies in the economic sector and in political parties, unions and associations.
 - p) Emphasising the key role that parliaments can play in promoting equal opportunity thanks to their legislative, governmental control and public opinion gathering mission.
 - q) Taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc commission of APU women parliamentarians.
1. **CALLS ON** men and women parliamentarians to involve themselves in strengthening the parliamentary action intended to achieve gender equality at the national and international level and to follow-up closely the implementation of Beijing platform and the final document of the

extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations held in 2000.

2. **CALLS ON** parliamentarians to pay more attention to issues of equality and partnership by the effective participation of women in the mechanisms of Parliamentary Assemblies, notably, in the commissions by targeting a minimum representation of 30%.
3. **CALLS ON** the APU to take necessary measures to sanction the delegations which do not include a woman parliamentary representative.
4. **REQUESTS** governments to establish systematic policies of integration of equal chances.
5. **RECOMMENDS** to Parliaments to review the law instruments in order to include, when necessary, the concerns relating to equality between men and women.
6. **RECOMMENDS** to encourage the different ministerial sectors to consider the specific needs of women during the drawing up of policies, particularly, budgetary policies and facilitate the analysis of the implication of budgetary choices on women.
7. **REQUESTS** Heads of state and government as well as political party leaders to decide a quota policy to impose the presence of larger number of women at all levels of decision-making.
8. **REQUESTS** parliaments to see to it that international commitments undertaken by their governments be fulfilled and implemented especially those relating to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discriminations against women.
9. **RECOMMENDS** that the international treaties and commitments on gender issues including the conventions against all forms of discriminations on women be ratified and implemented.
10. **RECOMMENDS** the setting up of a system of information and reliable data basis divided according to gender at the sub-regional and regional levels.
11. **RECOMMENDS** the harmonisation at the continental level assessment indicators relating to gender equality, particularly those relating to the implementation of the Beijing platform.
12. **RECOMMENDS** the development of network of exchange, information and data among the different parliaments in order to make known and propagate the useful progress for equal chances in each countries.

13. **CALLS ON** governments to involve women in the fight against poverty and the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts.
14. **CONDEMNS** the belittlement of the image of women and **CALLS ON** governments to raise the image of women in the society by making use of all communication technologies.
15. **CALLS FOR** the setting up of a standing committee of women parliamentarians within the African Parliamentary Union.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

REPORT OF COMMITTEE 2

The committee 2, constituted by the 27th Conference, met on 29 and 30 November, 2004. The committee elected its bureau as follows:

President: Hon. Mohamed Abdel Mati from Egypt
Rapporteur: Hon. Daniel Khamasi from Kenya

The delegates from the following countries took part in the proceedings: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gabon, Congo, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, the Sudan, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

The committee examined the item on “**the role of African Parliaments in the promotion of an equitable international trade**”.

The Committee took note of the documents presented by national Parliaments and after debate, a drafting committee composed of delegates from Algeria, Gabon, Egypt and the Sudan was set up to prepare the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was submitted for discussion and approval to the committee at its 3rd sitting on 30 November.

Following is the draft resolution:



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

27th CONFERENCE

Algiers, 29-30 November 2004

CONF.27/P.6/PR

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN
THE PROMOTION OF AN EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 27th Conference in Algiers, (Algeria), on 29 and 30 November 2004,

Recalling:

- the Doha Declaration adopted at the WTO fourth ministerial Conference (Doha, November 2001),
- the objectives stated in the ACP countries-European Union partnership Agreement (Cotonou, June 2000),
- the Declaration of the WTO parliamentary Conference of Cancun (Cancun, September 2003),
- the resolution of the 110th General Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union on international trade (Mexico, April 2004),
- the Declaration of the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the UNCTAD XI (Sao Paulo, June 2004),
- the Declaration of WTO parliamentary Conference of Brussels (Brussels, November 2004),
- the framework agreement adopted by the WTO General Council on the removal of agriculture export subsidies and the reduction of tariffs barriers (Geneva, August 2004),

Noting that international trade can be an important factor for economic development and poverty reduction,

Considering that the majority of WTO members are developing countries,

Convinced that an equitable multilateral trading system would allow a deeper integration of African countries in the global economy and an improvement of the revenues necessary for their development needs,

Affirming that the objectives of the Millennium cannot be achieved without an equitable, open and non-discriminatory trade,

Noting with satisfaction that the voice of the emerging countries, developing countries (DC) and least-developed countries (LDC) gathered in negotiation groups, has become stronger at the WTO Ministerial Conferences and that they can better defend their vital interests,

Considering further that agriculture plays a major role in economic growth and in poverty reduction strategies of most African countries,

Noting that the present international trade mechanisms tend to maintain the African states and their populations in poverty,

Considering also, that external indebtedness impedes production and trade capacities of African countries,

Emphasising, the distinct declaration of the Doha's Conference Declaration on the application of the Agreement on trade-related aspects of intelligence property rights (TRIPS Agreement) aimed at promoting public health, access to drugs and research and development of new drugs,

Deploring agricultural products export subsidies in the developed countries are higher than the total amount of development aid to African countries,

Considering the importance of the African integration and the NEPAD,

Noting, that cotton production in West and Central African countries represent between 40% and 80% of the export revenues of these countries,

Noting, moreover, that sliding international cotton prices due to subsidies paid by rich countries to their farmers seriously jeopardise the economic growth potential of African cotton producing countries,

Considering that African countries have suffered a lot from the downswing in agricultural commodity prices which has not only led to a sharp drop in export revenue, but also a dislocation of agricultural production in countries which opted the agricultural trade liberalisation.

1. *Is very pleased* with the decisions of the WTO General Council adopted in Geneva on August 1, 2004 which reopened the talks started in Doha on agriculture, industrial products, services and other customs formalities;
2. *Calls on* African governments to continue to give priority to a multilateral approach of trade talks to have their interests better taken into consideration;
3. *Insists* on the right of developing countries, in general and of African countries in particular to play an active role in the international trade system in order to avoid their marginalisation,
4. *Emphasises* the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation and particularly among African countries,
5. *Requests* the WTO to take into account the various levels of development of its member States with a view to fostering the setting up of an equitable international trading system;
6. *Calls on* African national parliaments to get involved in trade talks beside their governments in order to give a human and democratic dimension to international trade rules;
7. Affirms that the WTO multilateral framework should, above all, protect the weakest trade actors and admit their specificities instead of favouring rich countries' interests and increase insecurity among the populations of developing countries;
8. *Requests the* WTO members, particularly, development partners, to enhance their contributions to the WTO Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund and give priority to technical cooperation and capacity building programmes in developing countries and least developed countries;
9. *Calls on* the WTO members to continue to make efforts, in accordance with the Doha Declaration, to achieve the objective of an access to duty-free and quota-free markets for products originating from least-developed countries;
10. *Urges* the WTO to take specific measures that would facilitate the integration of small and vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system;
11. *Calls on* the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank to work for the promotion of sound economic policies with a view to addressing the constraints faced by African countries to adapt to a more liberal trade environment;
12. *Emphasises* the relationship between trade, debt and finances and *Requests* the WTO and the Bretton Woods institutions to effectively adopt sound trade and financial measures that would allow the multilateral trading system to contribute to a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of African countries;

13. *Regrets* that the current WTO rules on public health do not foster competition in generic products which are essential and vital for the African populations plagued with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other life-threatening diseases;
14. *Encourages* national African parliaments to take the necessary legislative measures aimed at facilitating the transfer of technologies for the production of generic drugs;
15. *Requests* African national parliaments to take necessary legislative measures as part of the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement and the WTO subsequent decision of 30 August 2003, to promote public health, without prejudice to the actions to be undertaken to revise this complicated and inequitable system;
16. *Requests* therefore the WTO to relax the terms contained in its decision of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of the paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, in order to allow an effective access to generic products for countries with little drug manufacturing capacities or without pharmaceutical industry;
- * 17. *Requests* WTO, within the framework of the system stemming from the decision of 30 August 2003, to consider vaccines as pharmaceutical products just as drugs, active constituents, diagnosing equipment, given the economic aspect of these measures for the economies of African countries.
18. *Encourages* African parliaments to start a dialogue with government negotiators and the civil society in order to adopt stands that comply with the interests of the countries and the populations of the African continent;
19. *Stresses that* the WTO establishes a clear time table to remove domestic and export subsidies which distort competition, improve market access modalities, review the provisions on special and differential treatment for developing countries and least-developed countries with a view to anticipating longer transition periods;
20. *Calls on* the developed countries to favour a better integration of African countries into their markets by reducing or removing tariffs and non-tariffs barriers, and involve the African countries in the basic product price fixing process;
21. *Urges* African parliaments and governments to take measures aimed at encouraging the production of manufactured goods and promote intra-African trade through the development of continental infrastructures in order to speed up the process of the African integration and implementation of the NEPAD
22. *Supports* the Cotton Sectoral Initiative presented by Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad and urges the WTO to speed up the implementation of compensation measures for the losses of export revenues of cotton producer countries and other agricultural products while waiting for the removal of the subsidies;
23. *Affirms* that the objectives pursued by WTO members in terms of environment, preservation of natural resources, agricultural systems, food quality and safety should

not justify domestic support to agriculture to the detriment of an equitable international trade; flexible multilateral rules should be adopted to take into account the objectives of food security in African countries.

24. *Calls on* African governments to introduce a policy of promotion of executives through strategy of education, training, and development of research in order to meet the needs of the labour markets;
25. *Calls* also on the African economic communities to harmonise their stands during international trade negotiations;
26. *Urges* African parliaments to see to it that the legislation passed comply with the Agreements adopted and work with the governments to promote transparency of the WTO procedures and the strengthening the technical assistance.



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR 46TH SESSION OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Admission and re-admission in the Union
2. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Examination of the audited Management Account for the financial year 2004
4. Drawing up of the draft agenda for the 28th Conference
5. Draft agenda for the 47th Session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue for the 47th Session of the Executive Committee.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
27th Conference
(Algiers, 27th November-1st December 2004)

PROGRAMME

Friday, 26th November, 2004

Arrival and registration of Delegates

Saturday, 27th November, 2004

45th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9.00 a.m.: - Opening Session
10:15 a.m.: - Coffee Break

1st Working Session

10:45 a.m. : - Consideration and adoption of the Draft Agenda of the
45th Session of the Executive Committee
- Consideration of items on the agenda
1:00 p.m.: Break

2nd Working Session

4:00 p.m.: - Consideration of the items on the agenda (continuation)
6:00 p.m. : - Adjournment

Sunday, 28th November, 2004

9:00 a.m. : Meeting of women parliamentarians
12:30 Break

3rd Working Session

4:00 p.m.: Consideration and adoption of the Report of the 45th Session of the
Executive Committee
6:00 p.m.: Closing of the 45th Session of the Executive Committee

27th CONFERENCE OF APU

Monday, 29th November 2004

1st Plenary Session

- 9:00 a.m.: Opening of the 27th Conference
10:00 a.m.: Adjournment
10:15 a.m.: Coffee Break

2nd Plenary Session

- 10:45 a.m.: - Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda
- Consideration of the items on the agenda
- Constitution of committees
12:30 p.m.: Break

Committees

- 3:00 p.m.: Work in Committees
5:00 p.m.: Coffee Break
5:15 p.m.: Debates continue in Committees
7:00 p.m.: Adjournment

Tuesday, 30th November 2004

Resumption in Committees

- 9:00 a.m.: Debates resume in committees
10:30 a.m.: Coffee Break
10:45 a.m.: Resumption
12:30 p.m.: End of work in Committees

3rd Plenary Session

- 3:30 p.m.: Resumption in plenary Session
- Consideration of other items on the agenda
- Consideration of Committees Reports
- Consideration and adoption of Resolutions
5:00 p.m.: Coffee Break

Closing Session

- 5:30 p.m.: Closing of the 27th APU Conference

Wednesday, 1st December 2004

Excursion

Thursday, 2nd December 2004: Departures



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
27th Conference
(Algiers, 27th November - 1st December 2004)

DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 45TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Admission(s) and re-admission(s)
2. Consideration and implementation of the 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 2005
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda of the 27th Conference
6. Draft agenda for the 46th Session of the Executive Committee
7. Date and venue of the 46th Session of the Executive Committee.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU

45th Session of the Executive Committee
27th Conference
(Algiers, 27th November-1st December 2004)

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 27TH CONFERENCE

1. Election of the President of the Conference
2. Admission(s) and re-admission(s)
3. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
4. Report of the Secretary General
5. The promotion of Good Governance: role of African Parliaments
6. Role of African Parliaments in the promotion of an equitable international trade
7. Representation of African women in the decision making bodies: obstacles and strategies
8. Election of the members of the Executive Committee
9. Date and venue of the 28th Conference.