



KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
NINTH PARLIAMENT- SIXTH SESSION

**REPORT OF THE 50TH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN
PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

KHARTOUM, SUDAN

26 TO 27 MAY, 2007



CLERK'S CHAMBERS
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

August 2007

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APU - African Parliamentary Union

AIPU- Arab-Inter Parliamentary Union

PREFACE

Hon. Speaker Sir,

The 50th Session of the Executive committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held in Khartoum (Sudan) on 26 and 27 May 2007.

The Kenya parliamentary delegation to the Session comprised;

- (i) The Hon. Kirugi M'Mukindia, MP – Leader of the delegation
- (ii) Mr. M. A. Mohamed - Clerk Assistant/Secretary to the delegation

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The delegation is grateful to you for entrusting it with the task of representing the National Assembly at the Session. The delegation also wishes to express its gratitude to the office of the Clerk for providing technical and logistical support.

Hon. Speaker Sir,

It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the delegation, to present to the House, a report on the proceedings of the Session.



Hon. Kirugi M'Mukindia, MP

Leader of Delegation

Date: 30th August 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held in Khartoum (Sudan) on 26 and 27 May 2007.

The formal opening ceremony took place in the presence of His Excellency Omar Hassan Ahmed AL-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan accompanied by the Honourable Ebenezer Begyian Sekyi Hughes, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir, Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan, Mr. Pierre Ngolo, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee and Honourable Abdulgadir Abdalla, Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union.

The Delegates that participated in the proceedings of the 50th Session of the Executive Committee are from the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Honourable Nourredine Bouchkouj, Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary took part in the deliberations of this session.

The Speaker of the National assembly of Sudan gave a key note speech and emphasized that the 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union is being held at a time when Sudan is living in an era characterised by the end of one of the longest wars in Africa following the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement. In this regard, he hailed the efforts of all those who helped to sign this agreement which established the ethnic, religion and linguistic of Sudan.

The Speaker also underscored the need to strengthen parliamentary institutions in Africa and improve democratic practices with a view to establishing lasting peace. In addition, he expressed his confidence in the capacity of the Parliamentarians to achieve the objectives of development, modernizations and progress for which the African peoples are aspiring. To this end, he underlined the need to strengthen cooperation between Africans, privilege dialogue for settling armed and political conflicts, consolidate democracy and promote good governance, fight against corruption, promote cultures and strengthen the role of women in Africa.

The Vice- Chairperson of the Executive Committee, in turn, gave a speech in which he thanked the Sudanese parliamentary authorities for the warm welcome and facilities provided the parliamentarians for the purpose of holding their session in Khartoum.

In view of women participation, the vice-chairperson of the Executive commended the presence of women parliamentarians within the organ of the APU. Moreover, he appealed for the strengthening of the African National Parliaments, on the one hand, and as an organ of coordination of our activities at regional and international levels.

He called on parliamentarians to pursue their efforts with a view to strengthening the APU and to mobilize all energies to build an Africa where, democracy, development and social justice rein.

The President of the Republic of Sudan, His Excellency Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir delivered a keynote speech. He also hailed the African fight of the leaders and parliamentarians of the continent which contribute to the championing of democracy and governance, such as the African Parliamentary Union is so well promoting.

The President also hailed the African Union, particularly, in regarding the preservation of security and peace in our continent, thereby, emphasizing the right of African to manage their affairs and object the temptations of marginalization of this role for the benefit of the United Nations. Such visions will only complicate the problem and render solutions more difficult to obtain.

Concerning the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement for peace in Darfur, he emphasized that this issue falls within the competence of the African Union in spite of fruitless attempts to withdraw this case.

He also assured the parliamentarians that the issue of Darfur has been resolved in conformity with the plan of the secretary General of the United Nations and modified by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and this, under the command of the forces of this institution.

The President further said that the end of the long war which Sudan experienced has opened up great prospects of sustainable economic growth supported by the Sudanese parliament which are favouring African cooperation.

The Secretary General presented the following agenda for the Session which was subsequently adopted by the delegates:

1. Admission(s) and re-admission(s)
2. Consideration of the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Conference.
3. Consideration of the Management Audited Account for 2006
4. Proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of procedure.

5. Preparation of the draft agenda for the 30th Conference.
6. Draft agenda for the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.
7. Date and venue of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.
8. Election of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

The delegates considered the items on the agenda and made various resolutions;

In admission (s) and re-admission(s), the Secretary General informed the members of the Executive Committee that contacts with non-member parliaments are ongoing with a view to encouraging them to become members of the Union.

The meeting considered the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference. At the end of the presentation by the Secretary General of the documents on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference, the members of the Executive pointed out that considering that APU is an instrument of the Inter-parliamentary and international coordination and cooperation and that Pan African Parliament is a legislative organ of the African Union. These differences in nature although stipulated in Libreville in 2002, should be recalled in future discussions. It was also noted that it is also necessary to see to the observance of the objectives of each other organization in accordance with their respective role and this, with a view to establishing and advantageous mutual cooperation.

The meeting discussed and adopted the audited Management account for 2006 and the report of the Auditors and raised concern over issue of contributions in arrears. This subject, on which the Auditors made remarks in order to find a solution, raised several questions on the efficiency of the measures which may be recommended. Although some countries had difficulties in fulfilling their commitments, efforts should be made to start paying up their contributions in arrears.

In order to preserve the statutory provisions, the members of the concerned Executive committee suggested that the general secretariat should contact the countries concerned in order to adopt in case by case bases, a procedure for payment of contributions with the possibility of drawing up a payment schedule with the assurance of settlement of the contributions of the current financial year. By so doing the Executive Committee convinced that the financial resources of the Union will be better assured and that the existence of APU will be guaranteed.

The meeting discussed an opinion of the Bureau of the Executive Committee on the amendments proposed by the National Group of Burundi to the Rules of Procedure. The Executive deliberated on the proposal and adopted the following amendments;

Add an Article 28 worded as follows: *“The Statutes enter into force on the day of their adoption by the conference of the APU”*

Rule 31, rewrite it to read: *“For the final drawing up of s draft text, the Committee shall set up within it a Drafting Committee composed of six members at most. This composition shall take into account equitable geographical and gender distribution”.*

The meeting resolved to adopt the following draft agenda of the 30th Conference.

1. Election of the President of the Conference
2. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
3. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
4. Activity Report of the Secretary General
5. Approval of the amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
6. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
7. The role of Parliaments in the protection of environment and the implementation of sustainable development.
8. Development of inter-African trade with a view to speeding up the process of integration.
9. Date and venue of the 31st Conference.

In addition the Executive Committee took note of the themes proposed by the Women Parliamentarians within the framework of their meeting scheduled to take place the day before the next Conference of the APU, as follows:

1. School drop- out as a major cause of the spread of illiteracy and homelessness in Africa countries: role of Parliaments
2. Role of Parliaments in the promotion of the health services, combating the phenomena of mortality among women on delivery and the protection of infants from diseases transmitted from mothers.

The meeting resolved to adopt the following draft agenda of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.

1. Admission (s) and readmission (s)
2. Consideration of implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
3. Consideration and adoption of the annual work programme
4. Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for 2008
5. Consideration and adoption of the agenda of the 30th Conference

6. Draft agenda of the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee
7. Date and venue of the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee resolved to hold the 51st session in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on a date to be fixed on a common accord between the House of the People's Representative of Ethiopia and the General Secretariat.

The Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) Hon. Nourre Bouchkouj also addressed the meeting.

The meeting discussed the need to elect a Chairperson of the Executive Committee and resolved to postpone the election to the next 51st Session of the Executive Committee. However, the delegates noted that there no provisions in the Rules of procedure providing for mechanisms of electing a chairperson when the sitting Chairperson seizes to be the Speaker of his/her National Assembly before end of the term and that there is a need form a caucus comprising of one member from each regional Parliaments to review the Rules of Procedure ahead of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.

REPORT OF THE 50TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held in Khartoum (Sudan) on 26 and 27 May 20007.

The formal opening ceremony took place in the presence of His Excellency Omar Hassan Ahmed AL-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan accompaied by the Honourable Ebenezer Begyian Sekyi Hughes, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir, Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan, Mr. Pierre Ngolo, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee and Honourable Abdulgadir Abdalla, Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union.

Members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Sudan, took part in the formal opening ceremony.

The Delegates that participated in the proceedings of the 50th Session of the Executive Committee are from the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Honourable Nourredine Bouchkouj, Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary took part in the deliberations of this session.

1.0: OPENING CEREMONY

The Speaker of the National assembly of Sudan, in his speech, expressed the delight of the Sudanese National Group in welcoming the African Parliamentarians to Sudan.

He emphasized that the 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union is being held at a time when Sudan is living in an era characterised by the end of one of the longest wars in Africa following the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement. In this regard, he hailed the efforts of all those who helped to sign this agreement which established the ethnic, religion and linguistic of Sudan.

The Speaker also underscored the need to strengthen parliamentary institutions in Africa and improve democratic practices with a view to establishing lasting peace. In addition, he expressed his confidence in the capacity of the Parliamentarians to achieve the objectives of development, modernizations and progress for which the African peoples are aspiring. To this end, he underlined the need to strengthen cooperation between Africans, privilege dialogue for settling armed and political conflicts, consolidate democracy and promote good governance, fight against corruption, promote cultures and strengthen the role of women in Africa.

The Vice- Chairperson of the Executive Committee, in turn, gave a speech in which he thanked the Sudanese parliamentary authorities for the warm welcome and facilities provided the parliamentarians for the purpose of holding their session in Khartoum.

He then tackled the agenda of the 50th Session of the Executive Committee which contained important items such as the preparation of the 30th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union.

Concerning membership in the APU, he pointed out the efforts being made to bring together all the national parliaments of the continent within the union which will further contribute to the promotion of democracy and sustainable development.

On implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conferences the vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee called on parliaments to develop mechanisms for implementing resolutions and forward the relevant reports to the Secretary General of the APU.

The Vice Chairperson also informed the delegates that financing of the Union as a vital requirement. With regard to this item he pointed out that

the implementation of the work programme and the efficiency of our organization largely depend on the availability of resources, hence there is need for improving the rate of recovery of contributions and avoiding accumulation of arrears.

In addition to the choice of themes to be discussed at the next conference, further, he stated that the members of the Executive Committee will have to elect their chairperson to replace Mrs. Immaculee NAHAYO who is no longer the speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi.

In view of women participation, the vice-chairperson of the Executive commended the presence of women parliamentarians within the organ of the APU. Moreover, he appealed for the strengthening of the African National Parliaments, on the one hand, and as an organ of coordination of our activities at regional and international levels.

He called on parliamentarians to pursue their efforts with a view to strengthening the APU and to mobilize all energies to build an Africa where, democracy, development and social justice rein.

Lastly, he prayed that the deliberations in Khartoum become fruitful and declared the 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union open.

After the two speeches, the president of the Republic of Sudan, His Excellency Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir delivered his speech.

First of all, he welcomed the parliamentarians to Sudan, crossroad of cultures and civilizations, African and Arab country. He recalled that it was from Sudan that the most important liberation movements and the fight against colonialism triggered off in Africa, colonialism which has today put on new clothes, called humanitarian action has established itself in our continent.

He also hailed the African fight of the leaders and parliamentarians of the continent which contribute to the championing of democracy and governance, such as the African Parliamentary Union is so well promoting.

He also hailed the African Union, particularly, in regarding the preservation of security and peace in our continent, thereby, emphasizing the right of African to manage their affairs and object the temptations of marginalization of this role for the benefit of the United Nations. Such visions will only complicate the problem and render solutions more difficult to obtain.

Concerning the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement for peace in Darfur, he emphasized that this issue falls within

the competence of the African Union in spite of fruitless attempts to withdraw this case.

He also assured the parliamentarians that the issue of Darfur has been resolved in conformity with the plan of the secretary General of the United Nations and modified by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and this, under the command of the forces of this institution.

The President further said that the end of the long war which Sudan experienced has opened up great prospects of sustainable economic growth supported by the Sudanese parliament which are favouring African cooperation.

2.0: ADOPTING OF THE AGENDA

The Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee before inviting the Secretary General to read out the agenda items proposed that an item relating to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee be included in the agenda. The Secretary General then presented the following amended agenda which was subsequently adopted by the delegates:

- (i) Admission(s) and re-admission(s)
- (ii) Consideration of the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Conference.
- (iii) Consideration of the Management Audited Account for 2006
- (iv) Proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of procedure.
- (v) Preparation of the draft agenda for the 30th Conference.
- (vi) Draft agenda for the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.
- (vii) Date and venue of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.
- (viii) Election of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

3.0: CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA ITEMS

3.1: Admission (s) and readmissions (s)

The Secretary General informed the members of the Executive Committee that contacts with non-member parliaments are ongoing with a view to encouraging them to become members of the Union.

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

At the end of the presentation by the Secretary General of the documents on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference, the members of the Executive pointed out that considering that APU is an instrument of the Inter-parliamentary and international coordination and cooperation and that Pan African Parliament is a legislative organ of the African Union. These differences in nature although stipulated in Libreville in 2002, should be recalled in future discussions. It was also noted that it is also necessary to see to the observance of the objectives of each other organization in accordance with their respective role and this, with a view to establishing and advantageous mutual cooperation.

3.3: Consideration of the audited Management Account for 2006

The Secretary General presented the audited Management account for 2006 and the reading out of the report of the Auditors.

The delegates discussed the issue of contributions in arrears. This subject, on which the Auditors made remarks in order to find a solution, raised several questions on the efficiency of the measures which may be recommended. Although some countries had difficulties in fulfilling their commitments, efforts should be made to start paying up their contributions in arrears. Thus, in order to preserve the statutory provisions, the members of the concerned Executive committee suggested that the general secretariat should contact the countries concerned in order to adopt in case by case bases, a procedure for payment of contributions with the possibility of drawing up a payment schedule with the assurance of settlement of the contributions of the current financial year. By so doing the Executive Committee convinced that the financial resources of the Union will be better assured and that the existence of APU will be guaranteed.

The Executive committee after long deliberations adopted and subsequently approved the Management Account as well as the report of Auditors.

3.4: Proposal for amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

The Secretary General presented the opinion of the Bureau of the Executive Committee on the amendments proposed by the National Group of Burundi to the Rules of Procedure. The Executive deliberated on the proposal and adopted the following amendments;

Add an Article 28 worded as follows: *“The Statutes enter into force on the day of their adoption by the conference of the APU”*

Rule 31, rewrite it to read: *“For the final drawing up of s draft text, the Committee shall set up within it a Drafting Committee composed of six members at most. This composition shall take into account equitable geographical and gender distribution”.*

3.5: Draft agenda of the 30th Conference.

The Secretary General presented the following draft agenda:

- (i) Election of the President of the Conference
- (ii) Admission (s) and readmission (s)
- (iii) Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
- (iv) Activity Report of the Secretary General
- (v) Approval of the amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
- (vi) Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
- (vii) The role of Parliaments in the protection of environment and the implementation of sustainable development.
- (viii) Development of inter-African trade with a view to speeding up the process of integration.
- (ix) Date and venue of the 31st Conference.

In addition the Executive Committee took note of the themes proposed by the Women Parliamentarians within the framework of their meeting scheduled to take place the day before the next Conference of the APU, as follows:

- (i) School drop- out as a major cause of the spread of illiteracy and homelessness in Africa countries: role of Parliaments
- (ii) Role of Parliaments in the promotion of the health services, combating the phenomena of mortality among women on delivery and the protection of infants from diseases transmitted from mothers.

The Executive Committee subsequently adopted the draft agenda for the 30th Conference.

3.6: Draft agenda of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.

The Secretary General presented the following draft agenda and was approved by the Executive Committee.

- (i) Admission (s) and readmission (s)

- (ii) Consideration of implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
- (iii) Consideration and adoption of the annual work programme
- (iv) Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for 2008
- (v) Consideration and adoption of the agenda of the 30th Conference
- (vi) Draft agenda of the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee
- (vii) Date and venue of the 52nd Session of the Executive Committee

3.7: Date and venue of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee resolved to hold the 51st session in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on a date to be fixed on a common accord between the House of the People's Representative of Ethiopia and the General Secretariat.

The President of the National Group of Ethiopia confirmed the invitation of his Parliament and said that this meeting will coincide with the celebration of the Millennium of Ethiopia.

The Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee invited the Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) Hon. Nourre Bouchkouj to address the delegates.

In his speech, the Secretary General of the AIPU expressed the great interest of his organization in following the proceedings of the Session of the Executive Committee of the APU. He recalled the importance of the Afro-Arab cooperation as regards the link which unites the African continent and the Arab world. He also underscored the close relations between the APU and the AIPU and announced that the next Afro-Arab Parliamentary conference will be held in Damascus (Syria) from 26 to 28 July 2007.

3.8: Election of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee

The delegates discussed the need to elect a Chairperson of the Executive Committee and resolved to postpone the election to the next 51st Session of the Executive Committee. However, the delegates noted that there no provisions in the Rules of procedure providing for mechanisms of electing a chairperson when the sitting Chairperson seizes to be the Speaker of his/her National Assembly before end of the term and that there is a need form a caucus comprising of one member from each regional Parliaments to review the Rules of Procedure ahead of the 51st Session of the Executive Committee.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

50th Session of the Executive Committee
Khartoum, 26-27 May 2007

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

I – SESSIONS OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)

1. Results of the 49th Session of the Executive Committee and the 29th Conference (Bujumbura, 27 – 28 November 2006)

After the sessions of Bujumbura, the General Secretariat sent to the members National Parliaments of the Union and to the non members, as well as to the inter-parliamentary and international Organisations the results of the proceedings of the 29th Conference of the APU, and particularly, the resolution on “the role of Parliaments in process of national reconciliation and preservation and strengthening of the social cohesion” and the resolution on the “role of Parliaments in the promotion of education and culture in Africa”

The General Secretariat also sent to the members of the Union the Report of Proceedings of the 49th Session of the Executive Committee.

The report of the sessions of Bujumbura was also sent to the member parliaments and to the non members who took part in the proceedings

2 Preparation of the 50th Session of the Executive Committee

At the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Sudan to host the 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the APU, the Secretary General of the APU, accompanied by one of his administrators, traveled to Khartoum in March 2007 to discuss the organization and the preparation of the Session

The Secretary General expressed, on behalf of the APU, his thanks and gratitude to the Sudanese authorities and Parliament for their readiness and support and assured them of the arrangements that would be made by the General Secretariat of the APU in order to make information concerning the 50th Session of the Executive Committee available for the members of the Union. The Parliament of Sudan, expressed its readiness to provide the African parliamentarians with all the means for the proceedings to take place in the best conditions

3. **51st Session of the Executive Committee and 30th Conference**

During the sessions of the APU in Bujumbura, the National Group of Ethiopia renewed and confirmed its invitation to host the 51st Session of the Executive Committee and the 30th Conference of the APU in Addis Abeba. The 29th Conference took note of the invitation.

II – INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4. **The 49th Session of the Council of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union**

The African Parliamentary Union took part in the 49th Session of the Council of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union which was held in Akaba (Jordan) on 26 and 27 February 2007. Resolutions adopted in this session have dealt with several political issues. Moreover, the session decided that coordination with the APU General Secretariat should continue with a view to convening the 11th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference in Damascus.

(The text of the Declaration will be made available to delegates)

5. **The 9th Session of the Council of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member countries**

At the invitation of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member countries (PUIC) and the Parliament of Malaysia, the General Secretariat of the APU took part in the 9th Session of the Council of the PUIC which was held in Kuala Lumpur on the 15 and 16 February 2007. The results of the session, and namely the Declaration of Kuala Lumpur which was adopted, are available for the members of the APU at the General Secretariat.

(the text of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration is available for delegates)

6. **The 116th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Bali, Indonesia, April 29-May 4, 2007)**

At the invitation of the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Speaker of the Parliament of Indonesia, the APU took part, as observer, in the 180th session of the Governing Council and the 116th Assembly in Bali, Indonesia from April 29 to May 4, 2007.

The Governing Council considered and adopted the report on the consolidation of the reforms of the IPU. This important report modifies the shape of the Assemblies of the IPU as follows:

- The first Assembly will become the only major political event of the IPU and the second meeting of the Assembly will devote more time to the Governing Council and will deal with a major political issue.

- The Standing Committees will no longer meet in plenary sessions during the 2nd Assembly which will last three days; the Governing Council, the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women MPs and the Committee on the Middle-East Questions will meet during the session of the 2nd Assembly. The 2nd Assembly will choose and debate an emergency item.
- A Committee on the United Nations affairs will be established in order to ensure a wider parliamentary dimension and stronger support on the part of Parliaments to the activities of the U.N.. Each parliament will appoint two members to this Committee

Meetings and activities of the African geopolitical Group:

On the sidelines of the sessions of the IPU, the General Secretariat of the African Parliamentary Union held a meeting with the African Geopolitical Group on the 28th and 29th April 2007 in order to reach a common position on the items of the Assembly's agenda. The first session of the meeting of April 28 was chaired by Honourable Francis OLE-KAPARO, Speaker of the Parliament of Kenya, member of the Executive Committee of the IPU, on behalf of Honourable Ebenezer Begyina SEKYE HUGHES, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the APU. The second session of the meeting was held on April 29 and was chaired by Mrs Margaret MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the IPU.

Concerning the emergency item, the African Group decided to support the items presented by India and Algeria on terrorism. Both proposals were merged as follows: *International cooperation to combat terrorism, its root causes and its financing, including cross-border funding*. This item was adopted by the Assembly and included in the agenda.

The African Group meeting heard a detailed report on the activities of the IPU Executive Committee, particularly with respect to the implementation of the Reports on the Reform of the IPU (as mentioned above in this report).

In addition, the African Group appointed its representatives in the bureaux of the Standing Committee and of the drafting committees of the IPU.

Lastly, the Secretary General informed the delegates that the amendments to the Rules of the African Group must be sent to the General Secretariat of the APU amply prior to the next meeting of the Group in October 2007.

7. 11th Afro-Arab Conference

In order to maintain and enhance the relations of cooperation and solidarity between the African Parliamentary Union and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the General Secretariat of the APU is constantly in touch with the General Secretariat of the AIPU to speed up the preparations of the 11th Afro-Arab parliamentary conference.

8. Preparation of the African Parliamentary Conference on migration

The General Secretariat of the APU is in contact with its partner, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to define the goals and the content of this conference. This step is necessary to have international organizations like the International Organisation for Migration and those of the system of the United Nations support this parliamentary meeting

9. Other activities

At the invitation of H.E Ebenezer Begyina Sekyi Hughes, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, the Secretary General of the APU took part in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Ghana's independence. It was an occasion attended by a number of Heads of States and Speakers of African Parliaments. The Parliament of Ghana held a special sitting on the eve of the independence anniversary in addition to other functions to commemorate the independence day.

Furthermore, the APU General Secretariat prepared a memoir on the prospect of relations between the African Parliamentary Union and the Pan-African Parliament. This document which is at your disposal for any eventual remarks will be also communicated to the Pan-African Parliament.



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

**ANNUAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT
FOR 2006**

In conformity with the provisions of articles 15 and 16 of the Financial Regulation of the African Parliamentary Union, the Annual Management Account for the financial year 2006 drawn up on 31st December 2006 is divided in four parts:

- I. Execution of the 2006 Budget
- II. Results of the financial year 2006
- III. Funding of extra-budgetary activities
- IV. Annexes

I. EXECUTION OF THE 2006 BUDGET

A - RECEIPTS

1. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006

Twenty two (22) National Groups out of 39 included in the table of contributions have made payments for the financial 2006. They are the following:

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Uganda, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Sudan Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

The amount of the contributions settled for the financial year 2006 was **US \$ 574, 603, which equals a collection rate of 59, 67 %** .

The amount of the contributions that have not been paid is therefore 388 290 dollars (see table 1, appendix)

2. CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARREAR

Following are the payments for outstanding contributions which totalled **US \$ 178, 910** :

- ◆ US \$ 11 581, paid by Congo for its 2005 contribution;
- ◆ US \$13 868, paid by Niger for 2005 contribution ;
- ◆ US \$ 73 602 , paid by Nigeria for 2004 contribution;
- ◆ US \$ 34 549, paid by the Republic Democratic of Congo for its 2005 contribution;
- ◆ US \$ 13 420, paid by Rwanda for its 2005 contribution;
- ◆ US \$ 4 135 , paid by Togo for its 2002 contribution ;
- ◆ US \$ 27, 755, paid by Zimbabwe for its 2005 contribution.

3. OTHER RECEIPTS

As for the other receipts, the APU received from Cote d'Ivoire, the remainder of it's subvention for 2005, which is US \$ 57,523. It also received a financial aid of US \$ 25, 000 from the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union. The total receipt is therefore US \$ 82, 523 .

In brief, Receipts for the financial year 2006 reached US \$ 836, 036 distributed as follows:

• Contribution for the financial year 2006	US \$ 574, 603
• Outstanding contributions	US \$ 178, 910
• Other receipts	US \$ 82,523
Total	US \$ 836, 036

B - EXPENDITURE

For the financial year 2006, expenses drawn up on 31 December, amounted to US \$ 743, 668, that's a rate of 68 % of budget estimates. The table II in appendix gives the details of these expenses

1 Staff Expenses

Budget allocation	US \$ 524, 423
Expenses	US \$ 440, 137
<i>Credit balance</i>	US \$ 84, 286

The under-spending of the budget allocation in this heading is due to unchanged staff social charges, that which resulted in fewer expenses in comparison with budget estimates

2 Travelling allowances

Budget allocation	US \$ 63, 340
Expenses	US \$ 37, 550
<i>Credit balance</i>	US \$ 25, 790

In this heading, the budget allocation has been used for the participation of the Union in international conferences. As for the previous year, the APU maintained its participation at the same level and gave priority to inter-parliamentary activities

3 Equipment, Supplies, External Services

Budget allocation	US \$ 160, 300
Expenses	US \$ 90, 970
<i>Credit balance</i>	US \$ 69, 330

At this heading, the budget allocation was used in conformity with the state of receipts during the year. Considering that the receipts decreased in comparison with the year 2005, it was therefore prudent to use the budget allocation with the constant care of balancing the expenses and the receipts

4. Transports

Budget allocation	US \$ 57, 000
Expenses	US \$ 26, 119
<i>Credit balance</i>	US \$ 30, 881

This heading which varies with the activities of the APU at the international level shows that the transport costs have not changed owing to the budget surplus recorded during the year.

5. Meetings and Sessions of the Union

Budget allocation	US \$ 182, 000
Expenses	US \$ 115, 406
<i>Credit balance</i>	US \$ 66, 594

The 48th Session of the Executive Committee of the APU in Algiers (May 2006), the 49th Session of the Executive Committee and the 29th Conference of the APU in Bujumbura (November 2006) were statutory meetings we held in 2006. The budget allocation was used to cover the expenses in the charge of the APU such as interpretation, transport, travelling allowance. This explains the credit balance recorded at this heading.

6. General expenses

Budget allocation	US \$ 106, 500
Expenses	US \$ 33, 486
<i>Credit balance</i>	US \$ 73, 014

The budget allocation in this heading was used to cope with unforeseen expenses, exchange losses and financial costs.

II. RESULTS OF THE 2006 FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial results of the year 2006 were the following:

Total receipts-----	US \$ 836, 036
Total expenditure-----	US \$ 743, 668
<i>Credit balance</i> -----	US \$ 92, 368

At the end of the 2006 financial year , the Working Capital was as follows:

Working Capital at the beginning of the financial year-----	US \$ 747, 820
Financial results -----	US \$ 92, 368

Working Capital at the end of the financial year-----US \$ 840, 188

III. FUNDING OF EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

The APU received from the Inter-Parliamentary Union US \$ 19, 987 for the reimbursement of the expenses executed to organise the conference on female genital mutilation (Dakar, December 2005), out of a total amount of US \$ 21, 440 . The balance, which is US \$ 1, 453 as well as the exchange losses for US \$ 4, 120 were covered by the funds available in the "Extra-budgetary activities" heading (See Tables 4 & 5).

IV. ANNEXES

**TABLE 1: SETTLEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006**

COUNTRY	(in US Dollars)		
	CONTRIBUTION 2006	SETTLEMENT	STILL DUE ON 12/31/2006
1 ALGERIA	67,158	67,158	-
2 ANGOLA	22,316	-	22,316
3 BENIN	13,002	13,002	-
4 BURKINA FASO	13,002	13,002	-
5 BURUNDI	13,002	13,002	-
6 CABO VERDE	13,002	-	13,002
7 CAMEROON	31,146	-	31,146
8 CENTRAL AFRICA	13,002	-	13,002
9 CHAD	13,002	-	13,002
10 CONGO	15,142	15,142	-
11 COTE D'IVOIRE	32,527	32,527	-
12 DJIBOUTI	13,002	-	13,002
13 D.R. CONGO	32,664	-	32,664
14. EGYPT	67,158	67,158	-
15 EQUATORIAL GUINEA	13,002	13,002	-
16 ETHIOPIA	32,664	32,664	-
17 GABON	17,969	17,969	-
18 GAMBIA	13,002	-	13,002
19. GHANA	37,631	37,631	-
20. GUINEA BISSAU	13,002	-	13,002
21 GUINEA (CONAKRY)	14,658	-	14,658
22 KENYA	31,767	31,767	-
23 LIBERIA	13,002	-	13,002
24 LIBYA	63,502	-	63,502
25 MALI	14,382	-	14,382
26. MOROCCO	54,602	54,602	-
27 NAMIBIA	15,142	15,142	-
28 NIGER	13,416	13,416	-
29 NIGERIA	67,158	-	67,158
30. RWANDA	13,002	3,180	9,822
31 SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	13,002	13,002	-
32 SENEGAL	15,624	-	15,624
33. SIERRA LEONE	13,002	-	13,002
34 SOMALIA	13,002	-	13,002
35 SUDAN	32,940	32,940	-
36 TOGO	13,002	13,002	-
37 TUNISIE	30,940	30,940	-
38 UGANDA	18,038	18,038	-
39 ZIMBABWE	26,317	26,317	-
TOTAL	962,893	574,603	388,290

**TABLE 2: BREAKING DOWN OF THE 2006 EXPENSES
(IN US DOLLARS)**

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>PAR</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>BUDGET ALLOCATION</i>	<i>EXPENSES</i>
		<u>Heading I : Staff Expenses</u>		
1		<i>Salaries</i>		
	01	General Secretary	72, 000	72, 000
	02	Staff	242, 000	220, 185
			6, 000	1, 120
2		Social security		
	01	Health insurance	35, 000	21, 126
	02	Family allowances	8, 400	6, 602
	03	Housing allowances	32, 470	30, 101
	04	School fees	45, 000	30, 223
	05	Travel expenses	20, 000	6, 264
	06	Clothes	753	646
	07	Retirement insurance	62, 800	52, 870
	08	Representation costs	6, 000	120
		Total Heading I	524, 423	440, 137
		<u>Heading II : Travelling Allowances</u>		
1		<i>General Secretariat</i>		
	01	Participation in International Conferences	33, 000	17, 300
	02	Preparation of Meetings and Sessions	12, 000	2, 250
2		<i>Audit of Accounts</i>	8, 340	8, 000
3		Chairmanship	10, 000	10, 000
		Total Heading II	63, 340	37, 550
		Total	587, 763	477, 687

TABLEAU II (continued 2)

ITEM	PAR.	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET ALLOCATION	EXPENSES
		Total carried over	748, 063	568, 657
		Heading IV : Transport		
1		General Secretariat		
	01	Participation in International Conferences	24, 000	14, 275
	02	Preparation of Meetings and Sessions	12, 000	5, 363
2		Audit of Accounts	9, 000	6, 481
3		Chairmanship	12, 000	-
		Total Heading IV	57, 000	26, 119
		<u>Heading V : Meetings and Sessions</u>		
1		Interpreters and Translators		
	01	Remuneration	56, 000	34, 576
	02	Per diem	36, 000	23, 413
	03	Transport charges	35, 000	17, 182
2		Secretariat		
	01	Travelling allowances	28, 000	19, 650
		Transport charges	25, 000	20, 249
3		Gratuities	2, 000	336
		Total Heading	182, 000	115, 406
		Heading VI : General Expenses		
1		Provisions in receipts account	75, 000	32, 415
2		Financial costs	1, 500	1, 071
3		Other expenses	30, 000	-
		Total Heading VI	106, 500	33, 486
		GENERAL TOTAL	1, 093, 563	743, 668

TABLE 3: STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARREARS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS
(US Dollars)

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	Years									Still due on 31/12/2006
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1. ANGOLA									22,316	22,316
2. BURUNDI						10,616		13,420		24,036
3. CAMEROON					34,597		33,855	32,907	31,146	132,505
4. CAP VERDE						13,982	13,943	13,420	13,002	54,347
5. CENTRAL AFRICA					14,134	13,982			13,002	41,118
6. DJIBOUTI	10,749	11,005	11,574	14,066	14,134	13,982	13,943	13,420	13,002	115,875
7. GAMBIA								13,420	13,002	26,422
8. GUINEA		1,519	6,762	15,993	16,078	16,039	16,002	15,212	14,658	102,263
9. GUINEA Bissau		11,005	11,574	14,066	14,134	13,982	13,943	13,420	13,002	105,126
10. LIBERIA			11,574	14,066	14,134	13,982	13,943	13,420	13,002	94,121
11. LIBYA							69,559	67,622	63,502	200,683
12. MALI								14,913	14,382	29,295
13. NIGERIA								71,578	67,158	138,736
14. D.R. CONGO									32,664	32,664
15. RWANDA									9,822	9,822
16. SAO TOME & P.					14,134	13,982	13,943			42,059
17. SENEGAL									15,624	15,624
18. SIERRA LEONE								13,420	13,002	26,422
19. SOMALIA							13,943	13,420	13,002	40,365
20. CHAD				14,066	14,134	13,982	13,943	5,160	13,002	74,287
21. TOGO		11,005	11,574	14,066	9,999					46,644
TOTAL	10,749	34,534	53,058	86,323	145,478	124,529	217,017	314,752	388,290	1,374,730

TABLE 4: EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

		<i>US Dollars</i>	
FUNDING		EXPENDITURE	
Balance of Extra-budgetary activities account on 1/01/2006	10, 007	Expenditure for the Conference on FGM	21, 440
IPU	19, 987	Exchange losses	4, 129
		<i>Balance of Extra-budgetary activities account on 31/12/2006</i>	<i>4, 425</i>
TOTAL	29, 994		29, 994

TABLE 5: BALANCE SHEET of the year 2006

		<i>US Dollars</i>	
ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Bank	762, 983	Available funds on 01/01/2004	747, 820
Cash in hand	27, 338		
Receiving contribution(s)	154, 162	Reserve	47, 000
Contributions in arrears		Retirement Insurance Fund	52, 870
▪ Unpaid 2004 contributions	388, 290	Contributions of National Groups	1, 374, 730
▪ Contributions previous to 2004	986, 440	Carried over balance of extra-budgetary activities	4, 425
		Financial Result	92, 368
TOTAL	2, 319, 213		2, 319, 213

**STAFF OF THE
AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION GENERAL SECRETARIAT
(YEAR 2006)**

FULL NAME	FUNCTION
APU permanent Staff	
1. ABDALLA Abdelgadir	Secretary General
2 CHEROUATI Samir	Director
3 DIAMANI Kalombo Mutumba	Director
4 EL MITWALLI Adel	Translator
7 BEDRANI Nacera	Secretary
8 KOUAME Veronique	Secretary
9 TIAKHO Jacqueline	Secretary
10 ANDOH Charles Willson	Office Employee
11 AHOUISSI Guy Venance	Office Employee
12 LASME GNAGNE Emile	Driver
13 ILBOUDO Saybou	Driver
14 ILBOUDO Tinfissi Vincent	Caretaker
15 KAKUY Louba Georges	Caretaker
16 ILBOUDO Yabyoure Paul	Labourer
External services	
1 DOS SANTOS Marie-José	Translator (freelance)
2 KAMUANGA Solange	Translator (freelance)

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY
(on 31/12/2006)

- 1 Three flats on sale

- 2 Photocopiers
 - 1 Canon NP photocopier with sorter (1996)
 - 1 Canon IR 5020 photocopier (2005)

3. Computer equipment
 - 1 HP Laptop computer (2005),
 - 3 HP Computers (2005, 2006),
 - 1 DELL computer (2002) .
 - 1 computer (2002),
 - 4 HP printers (2003),
 - 4 CANON printers three BJ 230 and one BJ 30 (1996)

4. Two Canon telecopiers (2003)

- 5 One mail obliteration machine

- 6 Conference equipment (Flags, Table Name plates)

- 7 Cars
 - one 406 Peugeot car (2001)
 - one 307 Peugeot car (2002)

- 8 Office equipment (8 offices, meeting room, welcome desk, waiting room)



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

50th Session of the Executive Committee
Khartoum, 26-27 May 2007

**COMPLEMENTARY NOTE
TO THE 2006 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT**

After the closure and the audit of accounts of the year 2006, the African Parliamentary Union received the following amounts:

- **US \$ 64 053** , amount paid by CAMEROON in settlement of its 2005 and 2006 contributions.

This settlement will be included in the management account for 2007.



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
APU**

**50th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Khartoum, 26-27 May 2007)**

**REPORT
OF THE AUDITORS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006**



1. In conformity with the provisions of article 17 of the Financial Regulations, the Auditors of the African Parliamentary Union examined the Annual Management Account for the financial 2006.
2. The audit of the accounts which was carried out at the closure of the financial year set for 31 December 2006 focused on the one hand, on the documents and vouchers relating to the receipts and expenditures, and on the other hand to the conformity of the management with the statutory and budgetary provisions.

I. RECEIPTS OPERATIONS

3. At the closure of the financial year 2006, the total receipts was US \$836 036, which is an 8.34% drop compared to 2005.

The breakdown of the receipts is as follows:

- US \$ 574 603 representing the 2006 contributions, this a collection rate of 59.67 % ;
- US \$ 178 910 for outstanding contributions ;
- US \$ 82 523 for other receipts.

II. EXPENDITURE OPERATIONS

4. The expenses incurred during the financial year 2006 added up to US \$743 668 from a budget of US \$ 1 093 563. The expenses were made within the limits of the budget allocated for the financial 2006 and 68% of the budget was used. Therefore, the expenses for the year 2006 were reduced by 18.32% compared to 2005. In fact, the budget for some expenditure headings was underused and amounted to US \$ 349 895.
5. The amount of the budget allocations that have not been used shows indeed the constant efforts made by the General Secretariat in order to ensure that the available funds allow the Union to carry on its activities.
6. Generally, the expenses were executed considering the receipts of the year. Therefore, the efforts made both by the National Groups and the General Secretariat have to be maintained in order to provide our Union with the resources that would allowed it to efficiently fulfil its mission as the organization of National Parliaments.



III. RESULTS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006

7. The financial year 2006 closed with a positive balance of US \$ 92 368. This credit balanced made it possible to bail out the Working Capital which was of US \$ 747 820 at the start of the year. Thus, the Working Capital increased to US \$ 840 188 at the closure of the year 2006.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

8. The amount of the receipts collected in 2006 has decreased compared to 2005, mainly because of the weak recovery of the contributions. However, the number of the countries that have settled their contributions in 2006 is slightly higher (22 countries) than in 2005 (21 countries)
9. Concerning the contributions relating to the financial year 2006, the members have made a constant effort to fulfil their commitments. However, more efforts need to be done concerning the unpaid contributions. In fact, only 7 countries have settled their overdue contributions.
10. The amount of the contributions prior to 2006 that the APU has recovered was US \$ 178 910, which is 18% of the total due. Therefore, the total amount of the outstanding contributions prior to 2006 was US \$ 986 440 at the closure of the year.
11. Once again, the Auditors remind that unpaid contributions weigh on the financial situation of the APU and prevent our organisation from carrying its activities. They deem that the contribution issue has to be settled through the payment of the arrears on examination of the situation of the countries facing difficulties to meet their obligations. Therefore, only the amount that is likely to be recovered will be reported. In this respect, the Auditors submit to the Executive Committee the case of the following countries: Cabo Verde, Central Africa, Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Togo.
In addition, all the members awareness, especially those mentioned above must be increased concerning the scrupulous respect of the payment of their contributions.
12. As for the heading « Other receipts », the Auditors have observed the constant financial support of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union on the one hand and have appreciated the payment of the remainder of the subvention of Cote d'Ivoire for 2005, in anticipation of the settlement of the contribution of the financial year 2006.
13. Concerning the Expenses, we have observed that the resources of the APU have been used with rigour in order to maintain a financial stability, this translated in an appreciable positive financial result.

14. Therefore, at the closure of the year 2006, thanks to the careful management of the resources of the Union, the financial results manifest themselves in a positive balance. This made it possible to replenish the resources of the Working Capital which stabilises now at a level that meets the budget requirements. The members of the Union therefore have to maintain their efforts and increase their support not only to preserve the results of the year, which bring financial stability, but also allow the Union to strengthen its capacity.
15. In conclusion, the Auditors of the APU noted that the operation of receipts and expenditure for year 2004 have been properly reported in the Annual Management Account and were carried out in conformity with the statutory and budgetary provisions.
16. Considering that the financial results appearing in the Annual Management Account for the year 2006 reflect correctly the financial situation of the APU, the Auditors request final discharge for the Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union for the management of the financial year 2006.

The Auditors

Abidjan, le 16 April 2007

(signed)

GREMAH Boukar Koura

(signed)

DJOUHRI Chakib

**IN THE 50TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU), KHARTOUM -
SUDAN, 26-27 MAY 2007**

**ADDRESS BY RT. HON. EBENEZER BEGYINA SEKYI HUGHES,
SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA AND VICE-
CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE APU**

*Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir, Speaker of the National
Assembly of Sudan,
Honourable Members of the Executive Committee,
Honourable Secretary General of the APU,
Invited guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.*

I welcome you all to the 50th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union. I am pleased to see many of you once again, this time in the capital of Sudan, Khartoum. I sincerely thank the Sudan National Group especially the Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir, Speaker of the National Assembly and the entire people of Sudan for their very warm welcome and the resources mobilised to ensure a comfortable conduct of proceedings of this 50th Session of the Executive Committee. I also wish to thank the Secretary General for the successful organization of the Session.

Honourable Members of the Executive Committee,

In this Session, we are called upon to examine important items on the agenda and to prepare for the 30th Conference of our Union. I would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments on the agenda.

1. Membership Drive

With regard to membership of the African Parliamentary Union, the Executive Committee through the secretariat is making frantic efforts to ensure that the APU brings together all National Parliaments in Africa. Our efforts must be directed at urging Parliaments that are not yet members of the Union to join us. Member-states are also enjoined to be committed to strengthening the Union by participating

in its activities aimed at promoting democracy and sustainable development. The Pan African Parliament is also one institution which is contributing to the development of Africa through the realization of African integration. These two institutions must therefore complement each other in serving the interest of the continent. In this respect the Secretary General will brief us on new measures on achieving harmony and cooperation between the two institutions.

2. Implementation of Resolutions and Recommendations

On the implementation of resolutions and recommendations of our last Conference, I would like to state that we adopted themes of great importance, "**national reconciliation**", and "**culture and education**". These themes were adopted following extensive debate, exchange of ideas and experiences. The realization of the terms of these resolutions and recommendations would depend on the level of action we undertake in our individual Parliaments. I urge Member-Parliaments therefore to develop their own implementation mechanisms and inform the APU General Secretariat so that the Secretariat can report on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Conference.

I would also wish to assure you that you will be duly informed about action taken so far on the proposal at our last Session to organise a specialized conference on the issue of migration, in collaboration with other regional and international institutions.

3. Audited Management Account

We shall also be invited to examine the Audited Management Account of the Union for the year 2006, and we will have the opportunity to review the Report of the Auditors. This is an indication of the great importance we attach to the Union's finances because the implementation of our work programmes and the efficient functioning of our Union largely depend on the availability of material and financial resources. It is an undeniable fact that there is need to improve the rate of recovery and avoid accumulation of arrears.

4. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure

We shall also consider some proposals for amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the APU. Such amendments are intended to clarify the drafting of certain provisions to remove ambiguities.

5. Agenda for 31st Conference

The agenda for our next Conference scheduled for Addis Ababa will also be finalized here. Thus, we will have to consider the choice of themes with due cognisance to the priorities of our continent. We must particularly bear in mind that our efforts ought to be directed at realising the objectives of NEPAD as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of the UN. We must also be reminded that we are to set an agenda for the meeting of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians which will report on their meetings to the Conference.

6. Agenda for 51st Executive Committee

In accordance with our tradition, we will have to determine the agenda and venue for the next Session of the Executive Committee.

Honourable Members,

As you will recall, during the last Session of the Executive Committee, we elected Hon. Mrs. Immaculée NAHAYO, then President of the National Assembly of Burundi as Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Hon. Mrs. Immaculée NAHAYO is no longer in office. We are enjoined by our own Statutes, to consider the election of a Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Honourable Members,

I would like to remind you that we have continuously called for a more consolidated role of women parliamentarians in the work of the APU. We have implemented our recommendation adopted in Algiers regarding **“women representation in decision-making”**, by setting up the Committee of Women Parliamentarians within the APU. May I remind you here that this is the first meeting of the Executive

Committee after that amendment to our Statutes and Rules to increase representation of National Groups in the Executive Committee to include the representation of women parliamentarians.

On this occasion, I wish to salute women parliamentarians who are today participating in the deliberations of this important decision-making organ of our Union.

Honourable Members,

We have to strengthen the African Parliamentary Union as it remains an instrument of co-operation amongst national parliaments and a co-ordinating body of our activities at both regional and international levels, notably the IPU. We should do everything possible to pursue the noble objectives the APU has set for itself. We must continue in our efforts at strengthening the African Parliamentary Union. We must mobilize our energies to transform into reality, our noble dreams of providing the African peoples access to democracy, development and social justice and unity.

Honourable Members,

I pray that our deliberations in Khartoum become fruitful. On this note, I would like to welcome you once again to the 50th Session of the Executive Committee and declare the meeting duly open.

I thank you for your kind attention.

