

AWEPA Annual Report 2008



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Message from the President and Secretary General



Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, AWEPA President

The struggle continues on the African continent for democratic governments which seek to safeguard justice, equality, public goods and human rights. Parliaments lie at the heart of this struggle. Strong legislative institutions in balance with executive power underpin equitable society; government that preserves democratic principles beyond the precarious moment of election.

Accordingly, AWEPA strives to empower parliaments through capacity building programmes. In partnership with 28 African parliaments, AWEPA's initiatives strengthen parliamentary institutions and act as a catalyst for legislative action to promote justice and human dignity, in the interest of children, women and men.

2008 was a full and eventful year, which saw AWEPA stride into new territories. AWEPA launched a programme which engages African and European parliamentarians in the Aid Effectiveness debate. This programme facilitated a major breakthrough when an AWEPA delegation of parliamentarians influenced the Accra Agenda for Action, enhancing parliamentary oversight of aid disbursements. AWEPA also established a programme to reinforce the institutional capacity of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

At a parliamentary forum in Nairobi in August, the African European Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate, Food Security and Development was launched by AWEPA, the Pan African Parliament and other major parliamentary actors in Africa. Through a number of meetings in Africa and Europe a parliamentary Agenda for Climate Justice is being formulated and will be delivered to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009.

In Central Africa, AWEPA continues to support peace and stability efforts. A conference that AWEPA facilitated in Kigali saw parliaments of the Great Lakes Region establish a Forum of Parliaments. This Forum provides a framework for dialogue and experience-sharing and serves as a peace tool insofar as it aids parliamentary diplomacy and problem-solving amongst diverse country representatives.



Mr. Pär Granstedt, AWEPA Secretary General

Our European sections continued to advocate for and elevate African issues in their political agendas. Sections in new EU member states, such as Latvia and Estonia, were particularly active, as were the Austrian and Irish sections. On the occasion of the Slovenian EU Presidency, new EU member states attended a seminar and demonstrated the unique role they play in EU-African development policy.

We were delighted to welcome distinguished new members, Professor Albert Tevoedjre from Benin and His Excellency Mohamed A. Sahnoun from Algeria, to the Eminent Advisory Board. Further organisational changes took place with the appointment of Senior Parliamentary Advisers (SPA's). In support of the Political Coordinators, SPA's will work on AWEPA programmes as parliamentary experts.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank AWEPA's donors and partners for their unremitting support. In addition, we offer our sincere gratitude to the AWEPA staff who work in multiple locations and political environments across Africa and Europe. Without the commitment of all these key players, who constitute AWEPA as association and network, AWEPA could not perform the capacity support role that it does.

Looking ahead, we have made the first preparations for AWEPA's 25th anniversary in 2009 under the theme of "promoting parliamentary democracy". With great anticipation we look forward to our jubilee conference in Cape Town in October 2009.

It is with pleasure that we present the Annual Report 2008. This Report reflects the achievements of many, especially AWEPA's African and European partners, who have helped enlarge the democratic space in Africa.

Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, AWEPA President and Mr. Pär Granstedt, AWEPA Secretary General

About AWEPA

The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) works in cooperation with African parliaments to strengthen parliamentary democracy in Africa, keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe, and facilitate African-European parliamentary dialogue.

Strong parliaments lie at the heart of Africa's long-term development; they serve as the arbiters of peace, stability and prosperity. AWEPA strives to strengthen African parliaments and promote human dignity. For 25 years, AWEPA has served as a unique tool for complex democratisation operations, from South Sudan to South Africa. The pillars that support AWEPA's mission include:

A membership skills base of more than 1500 European parliamentarians, who devote their wide-ranging expertise to peer-learning with African colleagues;

Long-term partnerships with African parliamentary colleagues, which ensure local ownership and accountability;

An infrastructure of political and parliamentary entry points, which spans 9 African and 2 European offices as well as 25 parliaments in Africa and 28 in Europe, including the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament.

AWEPA's overarching goal is to eradicate poverty and support the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, through the realisation of human rights, democracy and development in Africa.

AWEPA aims to achieve this objective by promoting:

- parliamentary competency and authority
- good governance based on separation of powers
- increased participation of women in decision-making
- participation of civil society in the political process
- independent and qualified media, as a component of the democratic process

AWEPA is an international non-governmental organisation that is strictly non-partisan. AWEPA has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council and is on the list of ODA Eligible Organisations of OECD/DAC.

Acronyms

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action	OECD-DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
APNAC	African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption	OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
AWEPA	Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa	PAP	Pan-African Parliament
BINUB	Bureau Intégré des Nations Unies au Burundi (United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi)	PLWH	People living with HIV/AIDS
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
CSO	Civil Society Organisations	PSD	Private Sector Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	RFPAC	Réseau de Femmes Parlementaires d'Afrique Centrale (Network of Women Parliamentarians of Central Africa)
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly	SAPL	South Africa Provincial Legislatures
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	SID	Society for International Development
HLF-3	Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra, Ghana (September 2008)	SPA	Senior Parliamentary Adviser
IAVI	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative	SSLA	Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region	TMF	Thematische Mede Financiering (Thematic Co-Financing)
KEWOPA	Kenya Women Parliamentary Association	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MDG	Millennium Development Goal	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
MPN	Mobilising Parliaments for NEPAD	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development	UWOPA	Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association
ODA	Official Development Assistance		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		

Regional African Programmes and Partners

AWEPA supports regional parliamentary cooperation in Africa, and promotes exchange of expertise between African and European parliaments.



Engaging Parliamentarians in the Aid Effectiveness Debate

Donors

Germany (GTZ)

Sweden (SIDA)

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Background Donors and aid recipients alike question the impact of development assistance on poverty reduction, health care and economic growth. In spite of parliaments' inherent importance in the aid disbursement process, few national executives and inter-government institutions have sufficiently engaged parliamentarians in development cooperation debates. Representatives from governments and donor agencies signed the Paris Declaration in 2005, but faced little incentive to consult their parliaments. Engaging parliamentarians, particularly in partner countries, in the debate around the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was essential to both inform them about developments, and collect parliamentary input and recommendations for the 2008 High Level Forum.

Objective As an overarching objective, the programme has sought to strengthen parliamentary engagement in the 2008 consultations on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action in order to strengthen, widen and democratise the scope of the aid effectiveness debate.

Results

- Parliamentarians in target countries acquired greater understanding of their role in the context of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA);
- Parliamentarians engaged in dialogue and debate on the topic of aid effectiveness, which resulted in a series of recommendations for the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Highlights of recommendations include:
 - We recommend that in the lead up to the review of the Paris Declaration in 2010, an indicator of Parliamentary control is added to the Paris Declaration Monitoring Indicators;
 - We recommend that teams consisting of parliamentarians from both donor and recipient countries be established in order to conduct joint assessments of aid use and effectiveness in accordance with accepted national parliamentary procedures.
 - A parliamentary delegation submitted a joint parliamentary communiqué to the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness which may have contributed to the final addition to the AAA of article 24 (see box);
 - Parliamentary experts compiled knowledge and products from programme activities into a parliamentary handbook on the role of parliaments in Aid Effectiveness, for distribution in 2009;
 - The programme secured parliamentary representation at the OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

Parliamentary Delegation to the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra, Ghana, 2-4 September 2008

“As world economic conditions become more difficult, there is intense international debate on the effectiveness of aid delivered to developing countries. This analysis and debate is well advanced within governments and civil society. However parliaments, the elected representatives of the people - whose principal function is oversight - must be at the heart of this review.”

Hon. Brendan Howlin

From 2-4 September, 2008, AWEPA, along with its partners, organised a parliamentary delegation to attend the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-3) in Accra, Ghana. Brendan Howlin, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Ireland, led the delegation, which brought together parliamentary representatives from across the globe including from Niger, Liberia, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Senegal, South Africa, Kenya, Sweden, Benin, Columbia and Nepal.

The parliamentarians present at the Forum represented a diverse parliamentary voice in each of the nine roundtables and delivered the Parliamentary Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to the Ministerial and CSO participants. This Declaration drew from recommendations which parliamentarians formulated during regional parliamentary deliberations in Brussels, Washington, Nairobi, Dakar, and AWEPA's Pan-African Forum in Kenya. The HLF-3 concluded with adoption of the final Accra Agenda for Action, which explicitly acknowledges parliamentary oversight as a precondition for equitable aid relationships.

Highlights Accra Agenda for Action

- (13a, 13b) “We acknowledge the critical role and responsibility of parliaments in ensuring country ownership of development processes...Developing country governments will work more closely with parliaments and local authorities in preparing, implementing and monitoring national development policies and plans. Donors will support efforts to increase the capacity of all development actors' parliaments....”

- (24a, 24b) “Developing countries will facilitate parliamentary oversight by implementing greater transparency in public financial management, including public disclosure of revenues, budgets, expenditures, procurement and audits. We will step up our efforts to ensure that - as agreed in the Paris Declaration - mutual assessment reviews are in place by 2010 in all countries that have endorsed the Declaration. These reviews...will draw on emerging good practice with stronger parliamentary scrutiny and citizen engagement.”

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Mobilising Parliaments for NEPAD (MPN)



Donors

Denmark (DANIDA)

Germany (GTZ)

Sweden (SIDA)

Background In 2001, five Heads of State from Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa initiated the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Subsequently, the Organisation of African Unity (now African Union) formally adopted NEPAD as its socio-economic programme, which is strongly linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). NEPAD's four primary objectives are: to eradicate poverty; to place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development; to halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the world economy; and to accelerate the empowerment of women.

Objective After broad consultation with African partners and other stakeholders, AWEPA developed a five-year parliamentary support programme (2005-2010), Mobilising Parliaments for NEPAD (MPN): Towards the Millennium Development Goals. The MPN programme principally aims to enhance the thematic knowledge of African parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on NEPAD related issues, and thereby increase their capacity to act.

Results

- The programme has raised awareness about NEPAD amongst European and African parliamentarians, and parliamentarians identified concrete measures to integrate NEPAD principles into parliamentary work in Africa;
- AWEPA facilitated the exchange of NEPAD perspectives between African and European parliamentarians for identification of parliamentary action;
- In the 2008 programme, special attention has been given to Sustainable Development, through a focus on climate. Activities to support action in these areas included the Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development and Aid Effectiveness in Nairobi, Kenya and the SADC Regional Parliamentary Seminar on Climate, Food Security and Water in Somerset West, South Africa.

Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development and Aid Effectiveness, Kenya, Nairobi, 26-28 August 2008

Global warming currently constitutes one of the greatest challenges to humanity. Developed nations are the main contributors to the problem, while developing regions are destined to suffer most. Food scarcity and security have complex links to Climate Change and are in danger of severe decline.

From 26-28 August, AWEPA co-organised a Forum to reinforce dialogue between parliamentarians and increase parliamentary action related to the global responsibilities of Sustainable Development, Poverty Reduction and Aid Effectiveness. Delegates attended from 14 African countries, 14 European countries and Japan.

The effective delivery of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is a prerequisite for the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, as such, discussions served to highlight this issue as well. This Forum focussed particularly on MDG 7: to "ensure environmental sustainability" and MDG 1: to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger." Parliamentarians addressed four key areas of parliamentary responsibility:

- Climate Change
- Economic Development and Food Security
- Human Livelihood - Perspectives of the Poor in Rural and Urban Environments
- Parliamentary oversight of ODA in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action



Parliamentarians concluded by launching the African-European Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change. This Forum was also the start of a wider African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, which will continue through sub-regional seminars and national workshops throughout Africa and Europe, leading up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference at the end of 2009. Partners involved in this Dialogue include African parliamentarians, UN agencies, and global and regional parliamentary networks.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)



Donors

IAVI
Ireland (Irish Aid)
The Netherlands (DGIS)
UNHCR
UNICEF ESARO
UNICEF Uganda

Background HIV and AIDS threaten the safety and survival of millions of children across sub-Saharan Africa. The sheer size of the problem makes it impossible to combat at family, or even small community, levels. African governments and parliaments recognise that they must take action on a larger scale, yet lack the capacity and financial means to address the effects of this continuing disaster.

Objective This programme aims to scale up parliamentary efforts on behalf of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). In 2004, AWEPA launched a five-year campaign on Children and AIDS, in cooperation with UNICEF and other partners. The campaign started with the Parliamentary Consultation on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Cape Town, resulting in the Cape Town Declaration. This Declaration contains guidelines on how parliamentarians can make a unique contribution to scaling up efforts on behalf of OVCs. The second phase of the campaign comprised of a regional seminar series in Eastern and Southern Africa. The third phase involves the organisation of workshops in African and European national and regional parliaments to bring Children and AIDS to the top of the political agenda.

Results With the support of AWEPA, our partners accomplished the following results in 2008:

Implementation and/or improvement of legislation in African Parliaments:

- Mozambique: In April-May 2008, parliament approved the Child Protection Law, the Instrumental Law on Child Protection and the Law Against People Trafficking, especially Women and Children.
- Rwanda: In July 2008, parliament amended the Law related to Children's Rights and Protection against Violence. The amendment includes children orphaned and made vulnerable by genocide and HIV/AIDS.
- Malawi: In December 2008, parliament debated an Amendment to the Wills and Inheritance Act (protecting property rights of orphans and widows).
- Zambia: Parliament amended the Penal Code to provide stiffer penalties for sexual violence including for such crimes against minor girls. The amendment also classified property grabbing as a criminal offence.

Implementation and/or improvement of parliamentary oversight and scrutiny in African Parliaments:

- Tanzania: In May 2008, parliament established a Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS.
- Zambia: In August 2008, parliament established a Parliamentary Caucus on Children.

Regional Parliamentary Conference for the Great Lakes Region: "Towards an AIDS Free Generation," Kampala, Uganda, 23-25 October 2008

"According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) it is 'in the best interest of the child' that their parents live as long as possible to avoid orphan hood. It is therefore the right of the child to have their parents alive!"
Dr. Urban Jonsson, Executive Director of The Owls and former Regional Director of UNICEF in East and Southern Africa

"Towards an AIDS Free Generation" brought together over one hundred and forty participants who sought to explore how parliamentarians can address the needs of children that HIV/AIDS has orphaned or affected. Conference participants included Members from nine African parliaments and seven European parliaments, international experts, development partners, journalists and representatives from the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI).

Topics of discussion included social protection through the use of cash transfer systems, birth and death registration, prevention of mother to child transmission, and developments in the search for an AIDS vaccine. Parliamentarians also used the occasion to update National Parliamentary Plans of Action for OVC.

Prior to the conference, IAVI and AWEPA co-organised a parliamentary field visit to the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe. During this visit, parliamentarians gathered information on HIV vaccine research and the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst Uganda's fishing communities.



Examples of other activities:

OVC activities in 2008 took place at Pan-African, regional and national levels, mainly in Africa, but also in Europe.

- National workshops on OVC in Malawi, May 2008, Swaziland, May 2008, and South Africa, September 2008;
- Seminar on "HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Children - A call to parliamentary action", Vienna, Austria, 21 November 2008;
- World AIDS Day: A number of European sections organised awareness raising meetings in their national parliament on the 1st of December 2008, or as close as possible to this date. Amongst those sections that hosted events were those in Latvia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Ireland and Germany.

Réseau de Femmes Parlementaires d'Afrique Centrale (RFPAC)

Donors
Belgium (Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Background In March 2002, the Network of Women Parliamentarians of Central Africa (Réseau de Femmes Parlementaires d'Afrique Centrale) was established on the request of women parliamentarians in the region. The following parliaments are members of the Network: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

RFPAC aims to contribute to the political, economic and social promotion of Central African women, through strengthening of parliamentary women and supporting them in their legislative, executive oversight, and constituent's representation functions, and in representing the voice of women in their home countries. The establishment of RFPAC also contributes to peace preservation and stability of the region, as women parliamentarians come together during regional activities, each representing people from the different Central African countries.

Objective Through supporting RFPAC, AWEPA aims to build the capacity of women parliamentarians in the Central African region, and consequently improve the position of all women in the region. AWEPA facilitates meetings of the Network, enabling women parliamentarians to exchange experiences and best practices on support to women candidates in elections, support for the economic position of women, and promotion of women's access to medical care, among other issues.

Results

- Women parliamentarians, along with female-empowerment and gender civil society organisations, set up micro-credit facilities for the most vulnerable women;
- Workshops engaged and empowered women parliamentarians, strengthening their role within their national parliaments:
 - Following the results of the last elections in Angola, AWEPA co-organised a seminar on ways of strengthening women candidates in the electoral processes.
 - AWEPA co-organised a workshop on women's leadership for women parliamentarians elected in Chad.
- Women conducted a close follow up investigation of pre-election processes, which meant that the number and capacity of Women Representatives in the DRC improved.
- Through the presentation and passing of resolutions and/or laws, women parliamentarians have taken political action on demography and family planning:
 - In the Central African Republic, women parliamentarians' actions resulted in the passing of an Amendment to the Law on Reproductive Health.
 - Women parliamentarians drafted a strategic plan on sexual and reproductive health (2009-2012) for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in August 2008, which was then transformed into a resolution in January 2009.

Regional Conference of the RFPAC on Demography and Economy, Libreville, Gabon, 24-25 November 2008

RFPAC's bi-annual regional meeting took place in November 2008, in Libreville, Gabon. Delegates from all member parliaments gathered with Gabonese women parliamentarians to address the important subjects of Demography and Economy. The meetings each explored a theme related to women's leadership and empowerment, and included follow-up of previous meetings in order to consolidate the Network's strategic action.

Women parliamentarians had the opportunity to confront issues they faced and share observations. Questions could be explored by women parliamentarians both with fellow parliamentarians and with civil society women experts in a number of fields, including: demography, birth control, land ownership, micro-credit projects and women's economy issues. On the last day of the conference, participants visited field projects to gain a better understanding of grassroots demands.



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Gender

AWEPA focuses on gender mainstreaming in parliaments and the participation and empowerment of women through:

- workshops on the empowerment of women parliamentarians and gender mainstreaming;
- support of national and regional women's caucuses and gender networks;
- support for the active participation of national and regional women's caucuses and gender networks in conferences;
- ensuring gender-balanced delegations to AWEPA conferences.

AWEPA's different programme areas also accord specific attention to gender imbalances. Areas AWEPA focuses on regarding gender include the following:



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Poverty Eradication

Women constitute a large proportion of those living in absolute poverty. Governments cannot overcome so-called feminisation of poverty unless they ensure democratic participation for women and adjust economic structures, so that women can access resources, opportunities and public services. Accordingly, women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies.

Private sector development

Women require equal participation to men in private sector activities. Parliaments should strive to remove obstacles to female entrepreneurship and increase women's engagement in economic activities. Women have the potential to play a significant role in raising productivity and thus stimulate many African countries' economic growth.

Environment and water:

Women and girls, most often the guardians of family health and livelihood, bear the brunt of water penury and lack of clean sources. Governments must give women's voices credence in policy making and public goods provision.

Conflict Management and Peace building:

AWEPA endorses the UN General Assembly Resolution 1325, which declares that governments should no longer exclude women from political processes, and recognises that women make important and unique contributions to peace building and conflict management initiatives.

Highlights 2008

In 2008 several AWEPA programmes had a particularly strong focus on supporting gender-related activities. Below are some of the highlights where AWEPA has acted as facilitator:

- On 10 May 2008, AWEPA supported the drafting of the Statutes for the Pan African Parliament Women's Caucus in Midrand, South Africa.
- From 22-23 May 2008 in Gauteng, South Africa, female Members from eight Provincial Legislatures and the National Parliament met at the South Africa Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (SACWP) Annual Meeting to create a platform for information exchange on issues of common concern amongst women, finalise the SACWP constitution and elect the executive.
- On 18 July 2008 at the National Conference on the role of women in Democracy and Good Governance in Kigali, Rwanda, women evaluated the input of Rwandan women parliamentarians, and learned how to participate more effectively in future legislative elections.
- In cooperation with Club de Madrid, AWEPA implemented a ten-month project empowering women parliamentarians and leaders in Uganda;
- AWEPA helped organise workshops and conferences on demography and the economy, among other issues, with the Network of Women Parliamentarians of Central Africa.

Support to the Pact of Stability, Security and Development for the Great Lakes Region

Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

The Netherlands (DGIS),

Switzerland (SDC)

Background Following serious incidents in Africa in general, and in the Great Lakes region in particular, the African Union and the United Nations took the initiative of bringing together the States which had been, closely or distantly, involved in armed conflicts in Central Africa. The relevant States had already initiated bilateral peace processes. They nevertheless agreed to contribute to the return to stability in a multilateral framework.

The upheavals in Rwanda, Burundi as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were the hotbeds of regional conflicts. In order for long-term solutions to be implemented, problems related to armed groups as well as refugees or sovereignty issues needed the involvement of the major actors of the region who established the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) through the Pact on Security, Stability and Development signed by the Heads of State of the 11 Member States in Nairobi in December 2006.

This inter-state organisation is based on the Pact on Security, Stability and Development of the Great Lakes Region. It originally comprised, as exclusive actors, the States as represented by their executive branches. Gradually, as the States which had been involved in armed conflicts and their neighbours committed themselves to a multilateral framework, it became important for the elected representatives of the populations to be involved in the peace process.

Objective AWEPA, which has closely collaborated with national parliaments for several years, was invited to organise regional parliamentary conferences in cooperation with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Ambassador Ibrahima Fall, whose objectives were to build capacity and raise awareness in order to strengthen the parliament's role in regional peace initiatives.

In February 2007 the first parliamentary conference took place in Kinshasa, DRC, with the objective of promoting the role that parliaments could play in the regional framework. In conformity with the decisions taken at the second regional parliamentary conference of Bujumbura, March 2008, a Follow-Up Committee, composed of one parliamentarian from each ICGLR Member-State, was established with a view to preparing the governing documents for a Forum of Parliaments. These meetings were held in full cooperation with the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR as represented by Ambassador Liberata Mulamula.

The first meeting of the follow-up Committee was held in Kinshasa, in mid-September 2008. A second meeting took place, on 2 December 2008 in preparation for the Conference of Parliaments of the ICGLR Member-States, organised on 3 to 4 December 2008. On this occasion, the document prepared in Kinshasa, and finalised in Kigali, was signed by the Speakers of Parliaments in attendance or their authorised representatives.

Results ■ The number of signatures required to enable the establishment of the Forum has been attained, and as a consequence, this new framework for discussions of the Parliaments of the ICGLR Member-States has been created. Today, the Forum is a reality. It is useful to underscore that direct institutional links exist between national parliaments and the new Forum, insofar as each Parliament will designate 6 delegates, including the Speakers of the different Parliaments, who are a part of the structure of the Forum.

■ Upon request of the Forum of Parliaments, AWEPA has pledged to support this ambitious parliamentary cooperation process. Furthermore, AWEPA congratulates the Parliaments of the region for the outstanding results reached, which are principally attributable to their appropriation of the process, in order to ensure peace building and the reinforcement of democratic practices through the Forum's member States. As a matter of fact, as stipulated in Article 2 of the Inter-parliamentary Accord establishing the Forum, this is a completely new framework for dialogue and experience sharing and also a great instrument for peace insofar as it allows parliamentary diplomacy and contributes to preventing potential future conflicts as well as to contributing towards the resolution of present conflicts. The Forum also ensures that permanent contacts are maintained between the Parliaments of the region.

Bilateral African Programmes and Partners

AWEPA implements capacity building programmes to strengthen the functioning of parliaments, parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.



Pan-African Parliament (PAP)



Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

The Netherlands (Dutch Embassy Pretoria)

Background The Pan-African Parliament, formally inaugurated on the 18th March 2004, serves as a consultative body to the African Union Commission. National delegations, made up of five parliamentarians each, represent every African Union Member state. The PAP provides a common platform for African people and their grassroots organisations to participate in discussions and decision-making on problems and challenges facing the continent. In addition, the parliament's committees strive to harmonise policies and laws across Africa. The ultimate aim of PAP is to become an institution with full legislative powers, with members elected by universal adult suffrage. PAP's headquarters are in Midrand, South Africa.

Objective Since 2006, AWEPA has worked with PAP with the overarching aim of capacitating the parliament to exercise full legislative powers. Through its institutional capacity building programme, AWEPA helps strengthen parliamentary staff capacity and PAP's ability to communicate with its diverse constituencies. AWEPA also works with the PAP Committee and its Members to enhance PAP's oversight capacity, to deepen Members' knowledge in specific policy areas and to promote principles of gender parity.

Results

- Staff have acquired professional competencies and clear knowledge of management processes.
- Website designed and launched, whilst ICT Officer completed training and undertakes continuous website updates, which ensures that PAP can better engage with its members, other African inter-governmental institutions and the general public.
- Draft protocols on staff regulations, financial procedures and procurement procedures produced.
- Newsletter produced in six PAP official languages.
- Members enriched their knowledge in key policy areas, including conflict resolution and providing for orphans and vulnerable children.
- PAP Women's Caucus drafted and adopted statutes, and elected a bureau. The Caucus also visited Rwanda to celebrate the women parliamentarians' achievement of a 56% majority in parliament.

East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)



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Donors

Sweden (SIDA)

Norway (Norwegian Embassy
Dar es Salaam)

Ireland (Irish Aid)

Background The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) was established in November 2001 as the legislative arm of the East African Community (EAC) and originally composed of representatives from three East African States: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2007, the EAC admitted Rwanda and Burundi, who are now also represented in the EALA. The EAC's Development Strategy 2006 - 2010 stipulates that EALA's mandate should be enhanced so that EALA can play a greater role in EAC affairs.

Objective Linking with the EALA's (EAC) vision of a prosperous, competitive, secure and politically united East Africa, the programme's overall objective is to contribute to strengthening democracies in East Africa in order to reduce poverty and uphold the Human Rights of the citizens of the EAC.

Since EALA's inauguration in 2001, AWEPA has been a major partner in supporting the parliament's development towards a modern, critical and effective regional parliamentary body. AWEPA aims to strengthen the capacity of EALA to effectively and efficiently carry out its functions of representation, law-making and oversight in all matters related to enhancing the integration of Partner States into the EAC and to furthering democratisation in the region.

Results

- EALA Members and staff increased their professional capacities through ameliorating and updating their knowledge and skills. Among other activities, team building workshops improved Members' working relationships.
- EALA improved its capacity to communicate the institution's work widely to the citizens of East Africa, and to engage citizens and civil society organisations in consultations and decision making processes. To further support communication with citizens, Swahili Training took place for Members from Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda in Zanzibar.
- Through workshops, EALA Committees, such as the Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee and the Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Committee, increased their capacity to execute specific functions and carry out oversight of both the EAC and the Partner States.
- EALA improved its administrative capabilities through systematic documentation and records management, and the development of enhanced internal processes.
- Networking events and exchanges enhanced the capacity of EALA Members and staff to exchange information and policy ideas with their counterparts in the National Assemblies of partner states, other regional parliamentary assemblies and international partners.

Nanyuki IV Seminar, Kigali, Rwanda, 1-5 October 2008

Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community stipulates that EALA must liaise with the National Assemblies of the EAC Partner States on matters regarding the Community. With the absence of a prescribed form in which EALA may conduct these consultations, EALA devised an annual series of "inter-parliamentary seminars" which provide a practical means to fulfil this mandate. These seminars are popularly known as the Nanyuki Series, after the first seminar was held in Nanyuki, Kenya.

The Nanyuki Series strengthens the functional relationship and existing structures for communication and information exchange between the EALA, as the regional legislature, and the five National Assemblies of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Following three previous seminars, a fourth inter-parliamentary relations seminar – Nanyuki IV – occurred in Kigali Rwanda, from 4-5 October 2008. Nanyuki IV aimed to address the prospects and challenges for the EAC in moving from a customs union to a common market. Delegates from each of the member parliaments of EALA participated.

The outcome of this seminar included a joint communiqué which reiterated National Assemblies' support for enhancing the integration process towards an expanded EAC. Furthermore, delegates adopted new action plans detailing the responsibilities of the five National Assemblies in the process, including responsibilities to: arrange consultations involving National Parliaments and EALA regarding the Common Market Draft Protocol; conduct studies on the performance of the EAC Customs Union; and institutionalise reporting mechanisms of Nanyuki recommendations.



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Parliament of Burundi



Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
The Netherlands (DGIS)
UNDP

Background Since 1 July 1962, Burundi has been an independent state. After a turbulent period in the political, social and economic landscape, which culminated in the civil war of 1994, a historic peace accord was signed in Arusha, Tanzania, on 29 August 2000, under the aegis of President Nelson Mandela. This accord gave rise to hope as it constituted, and still does today, the basis for a consensus which reunited all Burundian parties formerly engaged in conflict.

AWEPA has supported the transition process initiated with the signing of the Arusha Accord, and contributed to the observation of legislative elections in July 2005. AWEPA's engagement started early on in 1996, in order to support the Burundian Parliament in sustaining the peace process. The political succession which followed community, legislative and presidential elections placed Burundi at the head of the African States, where the success of its transition process has laid the foundation for a lasting peace.

Objective In 2008, AWEPA and the Burundian Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) worked together to implement the programme in a politically delicate context. Negotiations were still ongoing with the Palipehutu-National Liberation Front (FNL), the last armed group remaining active after finalisation of the Arusha peace process. This situation led to serious incidents which took place in Bujumbura in April 2008.

After disagreements arose within the major party (CNDD-FDD), there have been changes in the highest levels of the State in Burundi, since February 2007. As a consequence of these upheavals, the National Assembly was paralysed to the point where it was practically impossible to attain a quorum to conduct the Assembly's work. Meanwhile, the opposition has frequently conducted boycotts, as they denounce the formation of the government as unconstitutional.

The political situation led to information missions by the Political Coordinator alongside the Burundi programme activities. Intent on remaining neutral and efficient, AWEPA increased its activities with a view to bringing the different parties closer in Burundi, as well as in Belgium, at a meeting which saw the coming together of Burundian Diaspora.

The impasse that lasted from March 2007 to May 2008 prompted AWEPA to focus its work related to parliamentary capacity building on the execution of the decentralisation programme introduced by the Senate in January 2007. This ambitious programme specifically targets enhancement of the framework within

which dialogue takes place between senators and local elected representatives. AWEPA also organised capacity-building workshops for staff members from the two legislative assemblies.

Results ■ Two parliamentary activities were organised in partnership with UNICEF and in collaboration with the elected representatives at the municipal and provincial levels. The goal was to assess the situation of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children, as well as promote the implementation of a Forum bringing these children together. These awareness raising activities resulted in the increased participation of civil society and the creation of a Children's Forum, allowing the OVC to express themselves in a formal democratic framework.

■ A preparatory mission for the members of the Burundian Diaspora living in Belgium was organised by AWEPA for a new conference of the Diaspora, bringing together elected representatives and members of civil society from Burundi as well as people of Burundian origin living in Europe. The mission allowed for additional information to be brought to the attention of the Burundian authorities, who delegated a representative number of elected nationals to Brussels.

■ Following an important regional seminar which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 23-25 May 2008, a follow-up workshop was co-hosted by AWEPA and BINUB (United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi), with the participation of the Parliament of Burundi. The workshop was highly successful. Upon its conclusion, the members of Parliament committed themselves to collaborating with the media in order to promote democracy and good governance, as well as to publicise their work, of which they believe grassroots voters are insufficiently informed.

Parliament of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

The Netherlands (DGIS)

Background The DRC is the largest francophone country in Sub-Saharan Africa and has been independent since 1960. After a long period of instability, punctuated by great insecurity, the government, rebel groups, political opposition parties and civil society agreed upon an historic peace accord. A period of transition followed, which culminated in 2006 with the organisation of the first democratic elections in forty years.

AWEPA started its work in DRC through support of the constituent legislative Assembly – the transitional parliament (ACL-PT). Since then, AWEPA has principally supported the DRC National Parliament, and helped strengthen the capacity of its members and staff. Long-time observers of Congolese politics, at national as well as international levels, have asserted that the Parliament in 2008 has functioned better than ever as an institution. The Congolese Parliament serves as a democratic symbol for the young Congolese democracy, and the institution exercises its legislative powers with vigour, whilst employing authority to monitor and control government action. AWEPA organised observation missions for the legislative and presidential elections in 2006. Many Members of diverse European Parliaments participated and played an important role in this context.

Objective AWEPA's main objective in DRC is strengthening the capacities of the bicameral Parliament, which is composed of a lower chamber - the National Assembly, and an upper chamber – the Senate. In 2008, AWEPA's activities were focused on strengthening the legislative competences of the parliament, such as budgetary oversight. AWEPA has also provided support for women parliamentarians, with a view to strengthening female leadership, since women are acutely underrepresented in the National Parliament. In cooperation with the Senate, AWEPA is also investigating how best to support provincial assemblies.

In the framework of assisting the National Assembly and Senate to reinforce their institutional capacities. AWEPA also attaches great importance to supporting the initiatives of the administrations and staffs of the two institutions. The administration of a Parliament is of course a guarantee of continuity in a changing environment. In this respect AWEPA has organised training seminars for professional staff as well as for the assistants of Senators (a new development).

AWEPA has also helped organise activities in the following areas with the aim of making parliamentarians aware of their role in terms of developing adequate legislation:

- The eradication of HIV/AIDS
- Protection of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)
- Private Sector Development

As the decentralisation process developed over 2008, AWEPA organised parliamentary activities with a view to involving the whole population in contributing to and consolidating spaces where parliamentarians can be in touch with their constituency bases.

Results ■ Following a regional conference on HIV/AIDS and OVC, organised by AWEPA in Nairobi in 2007, the DRC Parliament arranged a follow-up workshop in cooperation with AWEPA. This workshop mobilised a large number of parliamentarians to create a Law on the Protection of Children, which the Parliament voted on and passed in plenary. The DRC President has accepted the Law for promulgation. ■ Due to the devastating consequences of past instability (lack of security, violence and deaths), particularly in the west of DRC, AWEPA organised a seminar on parliamentarians' role in the fight against impunity and the proliferation of HIV/AIDS. In addition to the general success of this seminar, it is important to underline that parliamentarians have finalised the conclusion reached at the end of the seminar to amend the existing Law. Thus, in July 2008, parliament voted on, passed and enacted a Law on the protection of people suffering from HIV/AIDS.

■ AWEPA helped organise the first conference involving the 11 Member States of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) from 26 to 28 February 2007. To follow up on this conference, another meeting took place in Bujumbura on 3 and 4 March 2008. The DRC Parliament sent delegates from all political levels. As the DRC is particularly involved in regional processes, the DRC Parliament solicited AWEPA's support in organising a series of reconciliation workshops with the aim of increasing the knowledge and understanding of such processes among as many elected parliamentarians as possible. These reconciliation workshops have rallied support from the majority of parliamentarians who initially ratified the Pact of Security, Stability and Development. The Congolese parliamentarians have followed this up by engaging in regional security issues and passing resolutions to ease tensions.

Parliament of Kenya



Donors

The Netherlands (DGIS)
United Kingdom (DfID) Natural Resources International Limited

Background After independence in 1963, Kenya was a de facto one-party state from 1969 to 1982. The country has had fragile democratic foundations ever since, and Kenyan society has been forced to cope with political corruption, high unemployment and poverty. The 1990s saw violent unrest and international condemnation, leading to the restoration of multi-party democracy. The first fair and peaceful elections were held in 2002. In the wake of the election violence of December 2007, the new Kenyan coalition government faced a new challenge in the history of Kenyan politics. The Kenyan Parliament plays a key role in the reconciliation process, due to the necessary constitutional amendments that they must pass.

Objective Since 2002, AWEPA's aim has been to assist Kenya's transition into a multi-party democracy and support the effective separation of powers. AWEPA has aimed to build the capacities of parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and parliamentary staff in effectively executing their mandates. After the post election violence in 2007, AWEPA has integrated into its activities new focal points related to the Kenyan Parliament's role in the reconciliation process. AWEPA is also working to support the challenges the Kenyan Parliament faces in working with the new coalition government.

Results Through training workshops and seminars, AWEPA has helped improve the functioning of the Kenyan Parliament and its institutions, and Parliamentary Committees are able to execute their mandates more effectively.

- The Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources improved its oversight role and increased awareness on Climate Change and Food Security issues. As a result, the Committee is able to address pertinent Food Security issues more effectively during parliamentary sessions.
- The Committee on the Administration of Justice and Legal Affairs increased its understanding of processes to improve Race and Ethnic Relations through a study visit to Belgium and Sweden. The Committee gathered information on Good Practices, which contributed to the Amendment of the National Ethnic and Race Relations Commission Bill.
- The Parliamentary Health Committee successfully facilitated the establishment of a National Social Protection Policy and Strategy on HIV/AIDS and OVCs.
- An Act of Parliament established the National AIDS Control Council, through which Constituency HIV/AIDS Committees were formed. These have improved outreach to, and representation of people living with HIV/AIDS and OVCs.

- Parliamentary engagement with Civil Society and the Executive Branch has improved through seminars and forums that AWEPA organised.
- Through AWEPA's women voter education activities, an increased number of women parliamentarians have been elected to parliament, from 15 in 2002 to 18 in 2008. In addition, an Act of Parliament established a Women's Economic Empowerment Fund.

Parliament of Mozambique



Donors

Austria (ADA)
Denmark (DANIDA)
Ireland (Irish Embassy Maputo)
Sweden (Swedish Embassy Maputo, SIDA)
UNICEF Mozambique

Background After almost five centuries as a Portuguese colony, Mozambique claimed independence in 1975. In the following decades the country faced large-scale emigration by Portuguese, economic dependence on South Africa, severe drought and prolonged civil war, impeding its path to development. Since 1992, when FRELIMO and RENAMO negotiated the peace agreement which ended the fighting, AWEPA has supported the peace building, reconciliation and democratisation processes in Mozambique. In the early stages, AWEPA established cooperation programmes with Mozambican NGOs, and then implemented programmes to support the National Assembly, Political Parties, Local Government and the media.

Objective The aim of the AWEPA Programme in Mozambique is to support the development of a democratic society, with properly functioning democratic institutions, a fair knowledge of and respect for the rule of law and human rights, for the benefit of the Mozambican population. AWEPA works to achieve this aim in cooperation with different partners, primarily with the Parliament, Municipalities and Political Parties, by building their capacities and by creating opportunities for the exchange of information and experiences on best practice.

Results

- AWEPA activities supported and improved the legitimacy, functioning and development of democratic institutions through, for instance, National Assembly workshops on Child Rights, and a roundtable on OVC and HIV/AIDS. These resulted in Acts on Child Protection, Human Trafficking against Women and Children, a Child Jurisdictional Statute, and a Bill on protection of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, all of which the National Assembly approved in 2008.
- AWEPA helped improve involvement and active participation of the general public and civil society in the democratic process, as well as in democratic institutions at both national and local levels.
- Through an exchange visit by mayors and local authorities' staff to Brazil, local government improved its planning and budget skills, and the municipal community became more involved in local government planning and budgeting.
- AWEPA stimulated the availability and exchange of information on the Mozambican democratisation process through carrying out research and disseminating publications and other educational materials.
- AWEPA supported the consolidation of peace and harmonious socio-economic development through research and publications on subjects such as electoral observation, Election Process Bulletins, and democratic developments in Mozambique over the last 15 years.

Municipal Election Observation, Mozambique, 19 November 2008

On 19 November 2008 municipal elections took place in Mozambique. For 10 of the 43 municipalities these were the first elections ever to be held. The president of National Commission of Elections (CNE) announced the results on 4 December: the ruling party FRELIMO won in 41 municipalities. Overall turnout was 46% of registered voters, compared to 28% in the 2003 municipal elections and 43% in the 2004 national elections.

“The International Observer Mission found that, in general, the elections on 19 November were conducted well” reported the group of 89 foreign diplomats who observed the local elections in 18 municipalities. “In general, the electoral rules were followed and the process was transparent.” But the observers did raise some criticisms, such as the huge number of voters that each polling station had to handle in one day and called on the CNE to “adjust the voting process in advance of future elections”.

Through a joint initiative of the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP) and AWEPA, “citizen correspondents” also actively participated in the oversight of the elections. They could monitor the electoral process by sending information about irregularities by email and via mobile over the course of the campaign and on the voting day. This information has been published in the Political Process in Mozambique blog, which is accessible on the CIP website http://www.cip.org.mz/pub2008/index_en.asp



Parliament of the Republic of Rwanda



Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
The Netherlands (DGIS)
UNICEF

Background Since reaching independence in 1961, interethnic rivalry has led to serious political problems in Rwanda. The height of interethnic tensions occurred when genocide was committed against Tutsi's and moderate Hutu's in 1994. Since these atrocities, a new political order has reigned in Rwanda.

AWEPA commenced its activities in 1996. The programme has focused on the reconciliation process and reconstruction of the country, with an emphasis on the role parliamentarians shall play in this regard.

Objective In general, AWEPA's objectives through its partnership with the Rwandan Parliament are in keeping with the three-fold mission of the Parliament: increasing the Parliament's capacity to legislate, monitor and oversee government action, and represent the people. There are also specific objectives to strengthen the Senate's role in supervising application of respect for the fundamental principles of the Rwandan Constitution, particularly in combating the genocide and its ideology. AWEPA has also supported the creation of a framework for dialogue within which exchanges can take place between the Parliament, the private sector and civil society.

To strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians:

- AWEPA organised national seminars on the several themes, including Peace and Security and Private Sector Development. A group of permanent committee members organised study visits to Sweden and Belgium.
- Field visits also took place within the framework of oversight of government action and representation of the people.
- In partnership with UNICEF Rwanda, AWEPA supported the creation of a Law on the Protection of Children. This law is being voted on.

AWEPA also aims to strengthen the capacity of parliamentary staff. The following trainings were organised to acquire and improve skills of the administrative services of the Parliament of Rwanda: electronic archiving, audiovisual editing, and the analysis of international treaties that the parliament has to ratify.

To support the Network of Parliamentary Forums, AWEPA has helped organise seminars for the African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC), in order to draft a strategic plan for the network to become operational.

To promote gender equality, AWEPA co-organised a seminar with the Rwandan Forum of Women Parliamentarians, with the aim of mobilising women to participate in the elections for the Lower Chamber, which took place in September 2008.

Results ■ Following the activities by AWEPA, an *ad hoc* Parliament/Private Sector committee was put in place to follow up initiatives to be implemented at parliamentary and private sector levels; the Senate recommended a situation analysis of public-private partnerships, to be carried out with support of AWEPA in 2009;

■ Following study visits to Belgium and Sweden, participants' capacities were strengthened through exchanges with parliamentarians of these states. Especially in the area of parliamentary oversight of government and petition procedures;

■ The activities carried out within the framework of decentralisation have borne fruit. Most notably, the number of Ministers who have been called to Parliament to provide explanations regarding problematic situations has increased, particularly the living conditions of the security forces.

■ Following seminars to strengthen technical capacity, the parliamentary staff acquired competences in drafting strategic plans, autonomy in editing documentary films on the Parliament and creating publications on parliamentary activities for the Parliament's magazine. It is now easier to find documentation because of electronic archiving.

■ AWEPA organised activities to strengthen the role of female members in the Lower Chamber and the Senate, as they associated within a Forum of Women Parliamentarians. On 18 July 2008, a seminar was organised on the role of women in good governance, with the objective of mobilising women to participate in the elections. Following the partial legislative elections in September 2008, female representation has remained at exemplary levels globally.

Somalia

Background AWEPA has been active supporting the legislative institutions in Somalia since 2004.

Objective The overall objective of this European Commission and Netherlands financed project is to contribute towards democratic development of a modern state, which embodies the principles of good governance, effective representation, respect for human rights, accountability and transparency. This is done through supporting the capacity and development of Somali Legislative Institutions to perform their functions. Besides the traditional functions of representing constituents, debating, amending and passing legislation, and exercising oversight over executive actions, in the Somali context, an additional function can be added; to reconcile opposing parties.

Results Specifically, attention is given to develop the capacity of the Legislative Institutions, their office holders, Committees, Members and staff, in order that they may effectively respond to challenges faced in carrying out their legislative, representative, oversight, and reconciliation functions and to be better able to respond to the many challenges they face in addressing often difficult situations.

Donors

European Commission
The Netherlands (DGIS)



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Parliament of Uganda



Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Club de Madrid

Finland (Finnish Embassy Nairobi)

Ireland (Irish Aid)

The Netherlands (DGIS)

UNHCR

UNICEF Uganda

Background Since 1986, Uganda has experienced relative stability and economic growth, although multi-party democracy did not become a reality until 2005. In May of that year, the Ugandan Constitution was revised and political parties could operate freely. The first multi-party Parliament was sworn-in in 2006. The current Parliament contains a spectrum of views, covering various parties. Over a third of the Parliament's Members serve as first-time parliamentarians. Therefore, Members have an apparent need for guidance on basic principles of parliamentary practice and legislative procedure.

Objective AWEPA works with the Parliament's Members and its staff in order to improve the institution's capacity for oversight, representation and legislation, thus strengthening and deepening multi-party democracy in Uganda. Attention is also given to supporting parliamentary committees and women parliamentarians, and strengthening the Parliament's role in several areas including: poverty reduction, peace consolidation, media relations with political parties, HIV/AIDS and OVC, and private sector development.

Results

- Through the African Women Leaders Project, women parliamentarians received training and improved their lobbying and advocacy capacity. As a result of the project, Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) Members internalised and finalised the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Bills and educated their constituents regarding these bills. The women Members also displayed high level commitment to passing and enacting pending Bills on Domestic Violence, Domestic Relations and Maternal Health.
- During the Staff Training Course in Policy Analysis, Kampala, 30 July-2 August 2008, parliamentary researchers acquired skills to help them provide better research services, conduct analytical studies of new bills and policies, and monitor government programmes. Participants developed a resource manual which documents key aspects of policy formulation, analysis and evaluation.

African Women Leaders Project

In cooperation with Club de Madrid, AWEPA implemented a ten month project entitled "African Women Leaders Project (AWLP)", underpinning and developing democratic electoral processes through the empowerment of women parliamentarians and leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This project aimed to strengthen Ugandan women parliamentarians' political leadership skills, increase women's political participation, and build public confidence in women political leaders. Through this project, women parliamentarians underwent training in budgeting and policy analysis from a gender perspective. The training provided women political leaders with new resources and skills that would enhance and facilitate their political leadership and oversight role, and to enable more active participation in the discussions on the national budget and the ministerial policy statements for 2008 and 2009.

In addition, the project introduced women parliamentarians to the gaps that exist within the maternal health laws, the archaic nature of the current laws that need to be replaced or amended, and the role of Members of Parliament in relation to maternal health. Subsequently, the Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) conducted constituency outreach visits to reproductive health care service delivery sites in 12 districts across Uganda.

The project enhanced the lobbying and advocacy capacity of women parliamentarians and facilitated the implementation of UWOPA's gender legislation priorities, with a special focus on the Domestic Violence Bill, Domestic Relations Bill, and issues related to maternal health.

These priorities gained popularity and high level commitment, especially from the President of Uganda, who for the first time publicly pledged total support and commitment towards the passing and enactment of the pending Bills on Domestic Violence, Domestic Relations, and Sexual Offences and Trafficking in Persons, some of which had been pending for over 30 years. Furthermore, two months after the project, UWOPA's policy recommendations on maternal health were incorporated into the national Road Map on Maternal Health. The two bills on Domestic Violence and Domestic Relations were discussed and cleared by Cabinet in March 2009. They are expected to be presented in Parliament in May 2009.

The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA)



Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

European Commission (Delegation Khartoum)

Ireland (Irish Aid)

Background Since 1956, when Sudan gained independence from the United Kingdom, Sudan has faced two prolonged civil wars. In 2002-04 peace talks gained momentum and yielded several accords. Warring parties signed the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, which granted southern rebels six years of autonomy to culminate in a referendum for independence.

The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly is the legislative arm of the Government of Southern Sudan, which was established as a result of the CPA and exercises authority over the people and the states of the South. The SSLA faces huge challenges operating in a post-conflict environment as a completely new parliamentary institution.

Objective In 2007, AWEPA established an office in Juba and began implementing a broad programme of support for the SSLA with the main aim of building the capacity of staff and members of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly. AWEPA provides this support through workshops, seminars and study visits.

Results and examples of activities

- In November 2008, the Workshop on Environmental Management created awareness among parliamentarians of environmental issues and waste management. Parliament and Executive are now uniform in their focus on environmental legislation and its impact on the new nation. As a result of the workshop, the SSLA requested the creation of a separate Ministry for Environment. The President has agreed. Furthermore, a draft bill is pending in Committee.
- From 10-14 November 2008, five staff members of SSLA visited the Ugandan Parliament to improve their understanding of the working of parliamentary institutions.
- In December 2008, a delegation of five Members of the SSLA Women's Forum visited the Rwandan Parliament. The SSLA women parliamentarians and their counterparts in the Rwandan Parliament exchanged experiences. As a result of the visit, the delegation put forward a set of recommendations, which will enable women parliamentarians to pursue legislation favourable to women and girls. The SSLA Women's Forum presented the report from their visit in Juba and launched a constitution for the Forum. Furthermore, women parliamentarians presented a draft Bill for the establishment of a Women's Council to the Committee on Legislation and Legal Affairs for scrutiny.
- In December 2008, clerks attended a workshop to help them become familiar with the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan, the state constitution and rules of conduct of business. The workshop helped the clerks perform an advisory role to the Speaker and provide efficient support services for committee operations. The workshop further helped rationalise staff roles in assemblies to increase institutional efficiency.

The South Africa Provincial Legislatures (SAPL) Support Programme



Donors

Austria (ADA)

Belgium (Flanders)

Background South Africa's nine Provincial Legislatures were established through the interim constitution during the peaceful democratic transition of 1994. As these Legislatures had no institutional predecessor, they face a process of constant development whilst under pressure to fulfil their constitutional mandate. AWEPA has been supporting the SAPL's since 1995 through a partnership with the Speakers' Forum and its Human Resources Development (HRD) Committee, which played a vital role in guiding the programme towards improving the Legislatures' performance.

Objective The purpose of the programme is to enable all nine provincial legislatures to accomplish their legislative duties, particularly in carrying out their government oversight responsibilities and representing the people who elected them.

Results Based on interviews with partners and participants of AWEPA activities, AWEPA has observed notable visible impact of the programme in the following key areas:

- Gender: The programme played a significant role in creating awareness of gender issues and ensuring that gender issues were high on the agenda of politicians and the legislative sector. Activities also contributed to reviving women's structures in the legislative sector including setting-up gender desks in each legislature for a more coordinated response to the gender agenda. The Eastern Cape Legislature Women's Caucus took the initiative of compiling women's charters into a single resource, which will serve as a useful tool for orientation of new women Members after the elections of April 2009.
- Women, youth and people with disabilities: The Gauteng Legislature Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and People with Disabilities created a platform for interaction and debate between civil society and relevant provincial government departments on issues affecting women, youth and people with disabilities.
- Local Government Speakers Forums: Since the establishment of the Provincial Speakers Forums, there has been visible cooperation and knowledge-sharing between the Gauteng and Limpopo provincial legislatures and the respective municipalities in those provinces. Relations among Speakers of the different institutions have provided a platform for genuine sharing of challenges and best practices. Interaction of office bearers from all the three spheres of government - local, provincial and national - have enhanced inter-governmental relations.
- Staff support: AWEPA, in cooperation with the Committee Staff Forum, helped produce an oversight guide which has enhanced the capacity of committees to scrutinise annual reports of government departments tabled in the legislatures. The guide has also stimulated an integrated approach to the oversight function of the legislatures and has encouraged proactive research by the various legislatures. There is also a greater clarity on the role of the different sections of the legislature in oversight processes.

European Partners

AWEPA has built up a broad member network of European parliamentarians that are supportive of its work. These members form a section within the different parliaments in Europe and work to keep Africa high on the political agenda.



European Programme

Donors

Belgium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Denmark (DANIDA)

The Netherlands (DGIS)

Sweden (SIDA)

IAVI

SID

Background For 25 years AWEPA has been active in Europe, mobilising parliamentarians to influence policy in favour of the African people. Commencing as the ‘Association of West-European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid’, democratically elected European parliamentarians were mobilised in the struggle against apartheid. Once the apartheid regime ended, AWEPA extended its mandate and changed its name to the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa, initiating programmes across Europe and Africa to strengthen parliaments in Africa and elevate African issues in the political agendas of European parliaments.

Objective The current European Programme has three main objectives:

- To increase parliamentary action in Africa and Europe in areas of development cooperation related to NEPAD;
- To encourage and enable parliamentarians in Africa and Europe to play an active role in supporting NEPAD in their daily work;
- To facilitate intensified co-operation and exchange of experiences among politicians and members of parliament concerning issues pertinent to socio-economic problems facing Africa: poverty alleviation, HIV/AIDS and private sector development.

Results ■ As an outcome of the “Political Hearing and Debate on Social Protection of OVC in Africa” in the Hague, the Netherlands, June 2007, an Amendment to earmark €5 million for social protection of OVC was approved in the Netherlands for the 2008 budget for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Highlights ■ MEP Johan Van Hecke, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Development and AWEPA Council, drafted a report as a follow-up to the Paris Declaration of 2005 on Aid Effectiveness on 13 March 2008.

EU Presidency Seminars

Slovenian EU Presidency Seminar on Africa: The Role of New EU Member States in EU-Africa Development Policy, Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 February 2008

On the occasion of the EU Presidency of Slovenia, AWEPA, in cooperation with the European Parliament and in partnership with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and the Society for International Development (SID), organised a seminar to identify the role and responsibilities of the New EU Member States in EU-Africa development policy.

Over 70 parliamentarians from 16 European and African countries, African regional parliamentary organisations and civil society organisations participated in the seminar to discuss the state of preparedness on the part of the new EU donors and to equip new donors to play a full part in the development of Africa.



The New EU Member States have a great deal of experience in transformation-related issues - an asset to the EU-African development policy. To some degree, these states have faced problems similar to those seen on the African continent and thus have valuable experiences to exchange.

The seminar highlighted three key areas of parliamentary responsibility, including:

- The Joint Africa-EU Strategy and NEPAD/MDG developments
- Parliamentary Oversight of Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- MDG 6, the Fight Against AIDS as a Critical Part of the Global Health Agenda

At the closing of the seminar the participants adopted the recommendations following the presidency seminar on the topics discussed including the monitoring of ODA and eradicating AIDS.

AWEPA French EU Presidency Event: African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate and Food Security, Paris, France, 20-22 November 2008

“Africa and other least developed regions contribute very modestly to climate emissions. But we already know that people in developing countries will suffer the most severely from Climate Change. Inevitably, the poor of the world will bear the consequence of the unwise overconsumption of the rich. North and South must work jointly in mitigation as well as adaptation to avoid further catastrophe”
Pär Granstedt, Secretary General of AWEPA.

AWEPA introduced the African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate and Food Security at a side event to the annual conference of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank. Parliamentarians made a plea to donors for substantial financial aid to tackle the immediate effects of Climate Change, adding that this financial support should not be at the cost of existing aid flows.

As the largest share of financial flows will most probably be private funds, parliamentarians also stressed the need for parliamentary oversight over these resources. Furthermore, parliamentarians concluded that developed countries should also provide full access to low carbon technologies. Additionally, Members of Parliament discussed the link between Food Security and Climate Change. Female parliamentarians from West Africa highlighted women’s need for wider access to land and micro credit facilities, since research shows that women are successfully managing many small scale agricultural projects.



HIV/AIDS and OVC

Seminar on HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Children - A Call to Parliamentary Action, Palais Epstein, Vienna, Austria, 21 November 2008

The Parliament of Austria, supported by UNICEF Austria and AWEPA, hosted a seminar within the framework of the North-South Dialogue of Parliaments on “HIV/AIDS and the social impacts on children in Africa - Poverty is the issue and Social Protection the solution”. What can parliamentarians in the North and the South do to improve the situation?

Over 70 parliamentarians from Austria and other Eastern European countries, African experts and civil society organisations participated in the seminar to scale up parliamentary actions to fight AIDS, with a special focus on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Africa, in alignment with UNICEF’s Global “Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS” Campaign.



During the seminar, participants addressed the following key issues:

- The role of Parliaments in the North and South to promote an effective response to Children and HIV/AIDS
- Best practice in country level campaigns
- Guidance to the international AIDS conference in Vienna in 2010



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World Aids Day, 1 December 2008

In commemoration of World AIDS Day 2008, AWEPA highlighted the crucial role that European parliaments play in the protection, care and support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) affected by HIV/ AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. In line with the UNICEF Global Campaign 'Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS' AWEPA Sections across Europe organised, together with UNICEF, OVC information briefings and updates on OVC in each of the European parliaments. A number of Sections also organised awareness raising meetings in their national parliaments on the 1 December 2008, or as close as possible to this date. Section activities took place in Latvia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Ireland, and Germany.

European Sections

Background AWEPA has a broad network of parliamentarians and former parliamentarians from across Europe. In 2008, AWEPA had over 1500 members from parliaments from almost all EU member states, the European Parliament, and Norway and Switzerland. These members are grouped into a Section within their respective parliaments.

Objective The European Sections seek to keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe, and facilitate African-European Parliamentary dialogue. AWEPA works to support its existing and new Sections so that they may perform advocacy and support functions. By promoting African issues on the political agendas of the EU and separate EU Member States, and by lobbying on decision-making, AWEPA can contribute to more favourable and more coherent trade, aid, investment and agricultural policies towards Africa. AWEPA believes that these advocacy efforts can have a powerful impact on structural poverty reduction.

List of sections and section heads

Section	Section Head
Austria	Ms. Barbara Prammer
Belgium	Hon. Sabine de Bethune
Denmark	Hon. Karsten Lauritzen
Finland	Hon. Krista Kiuru
France	Contact person: Hon. Nicole Ameline
Germany	Hon. Brunhilde Irber
Greece	Mr. Theodossis Georgiou
Ireland	Hon. Brendan Howlin
Italy	Hon. Enrico Pianetta
Netherlands	Hon. Chantal Gill'ard
Norway	Contact person: Hon. Marianne Marthinsen
Portugal	Hon. Maria Antónia Almeida Santos
Spain	Mr. Francisco Arnau Navarro
Sweden	Hon. Rosita Runegrund
Switzerland	Hon. Brigitta Gadiant
United Kingdom	Lord David Chidgey
Cyprus	Contact person: Hon. Antigoni Papadopoulus
Estonia	Hon. Mart Nutt
Latvia	Hon. Ingrida Circene
Lithuania	Hon. Egidijus Vareikis
Malta	Contact person: Hon. Leo Brincat
Poland	Hon. Tadeusz Iwiński
Romania	Ms. Minodora Cliveti
Slovakia	Hon. Boris Zala
Slovenia	Contact person: Ms. Stasa Kobi Smid
Czech Republic	Hon. Jan Hamáček

Section Countries



European Section Highlights

In 2008 AWEPA gained a total of 247 new members. 15 European sections were strengthened or re-established (Ireland, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom, Finland, The Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, France, Estonia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia), and three new section heads took up their positions in Finland, Germany and The Netherlands.



Daily Nation Series on Constitutional Change:

European parliamentarians from several AWEPA sections contributed to a series on constitutional change in the Kenyan newspaper - the Daily Nation. Kenya was shaken to its core after the violence that erupted following the December 2007 elections. In the power-sharing agreement that followed, negotiated by Kofi Annan, the position of Prime Minister was imbedded in the current constitution. However, there was no real definition of powers between President and Prime Minister - an uncertainty which needs to be clarified well in advance of 2012, the year of the next elections.

For many in Kenya, the system of first past the post, bequeathed by the British, is a dangerous one in an ethnically divided society - particularly when the result is close. Are there lessons to be drawn from other political systems? The Nation Media Group, East Africa's largest publishing house, asked AWEPA for its views - and as a result five parliamentarians, Pär Granstedt (Sweden), Brendan Howlin (Ireland), Patrick Meinhardt (Germany), Jeppe Kofod (Denmark) and Inge Jäger (Austria), contributed articles on their own constitutions and parliamentary systems.

The Irish AWEPA Section:

The Irish AWEPA Section was very active in spurring on parliamentary activity relating to Africa in 2008.

Workshop “What does Climate Change mean for Africa?”, 5 March 2008

In response to concern among the Irish members of AWEPA regarding the threat posed to Africa by Climate Change, AWEPA organised a workshop on the subject in the Irish Parliament. The aim of the workshop was to educate Irish parliamentarians and suggest actions they can take to help mitigate the threat of Climate Change for Africa.

ODA Briefing Irish Section, 20 May 2008

On 20 May, the Irish Section of AWEPA held a special meeting in the Irish parliament focusing on the question of Aid Effectiveness. Billed under the title “How effective is Irish Aid?” the importance of the meeting was reflected by an attendance of twenty Irish parliamentarians and senators, including the new Minister of State for Development and Irish Aid, Peter Power, TD.

Head of Section and AWEPA Vice-President: Brendan Howlin



The Irish Head of Section and Deputy Speaker of the Irish Parliament, Mr. Brendan Howlin, has represented AWEPA at a number of fora. He participated in the 4th Global Partners Forum on Children affected by HIV/AIDS ‘Together for Children’ from 6-7 October 2008

at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin, Ireland. Mr. Howlin also participated as discussant in the afternoon plenary “Challenges of government leadership around children and HIV/AIDS” of the International Symposium “Children and HIV/AIDS: Action Now, Action How”, Mexico City, 1-2 August 2008.

AWEPA Sections in the new EU Member States: Latvia and Estonia

Sections in the new member states increased their activities. Their experiences of successful transition from totalitarian rule to working democracies are valuable for AWEPA’s African partners. Latvian and Estonian sections were particularly active.

Seminar “Africa and AIDS”, World AIDS Day, Riga, Latvia, 1 December 2008



In commemoration of World AIDS Day Hon. Ingrida Circene, Head of the AWEPA Section in the Latvian Parliament, together with the Latvian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Riga School of Economics, organised an international seminar. The seminar was attended by over twenty

five participants from the Parliament of Latvia, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, AWEPA, African Embassies and Latvian NGOs. The main topics of the seminar were preventing and combating AIDS, and providing assistance to African states. In addition, participants discussed possible avenues of cooperation between African and Latvian NGOs.

Seminar: Partnering with Africa, Tallinn, Estonia, 17 April 2008



The Riigikogu (the Estonian Parliament), supported by Mr. Silvar Meikar, Head of Section, AWEPA, and NGO Mondo organised a seminar with support from the Swedish and Danish Embassies in Tallinn and the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute. The key issues under discussion

tackled the latest developments in the relations between Africa and the European Union. The main purpose of the seminar was to contribute to a future partnership between Estonia and Africa, by trying to look beyond the out-dated “donor-recipient” dynamic and bring diverse perspectives to the fore.

The Netherlands AWEPA Section: Parliamentary Action on Maternal and Newborn Health



The Netherlands AWEPA Section was re-established in 2008 with a new Section Head, Ms. Chantal Gill'ard. Hon. Gill'ard would like to strengthen the commitment of Dutch parliamentarians to achiev-

ing the MDGs. The Dutch Section commenced by focusing on MDG 4 and MDG 5 – reducing child and maternal mortality, through organising a conference on Safe Motherhood in November 2008. Through the conference, the section aimed to increase global and political awareness of child and maternal mortality and set up global strategic networks to reduce them. Representatives from 65 countries gathered to exchange strategies, start partnerships and consult with representatives from the UN about opportunities for support and advocacy.

Chantal Gill'ard (Head of Section) and Princess Maxima of The Netherlands

The Austria Section:



The Austrian Section, lead by Ms. Inge Jäger, AWEPA Council Member, hosted a seminar on HIV/AIDS and the social impacts on children in Africa, and discussed what parliamentarians can do to improve the situation (see case study European programme).

AWEPA Publications

Regional Interparliamentary Conference on the Great Lakes Region
 BRUSSELS, 26 - 28 FEBRUARY 2007

Part One: The historical background
 From the UN-World Bank Declaration to the Kinshasa Declaration

Part Two: The reactivation of the ECGLC
 The European Union supports regional development

NR 6

RAPPORT DE LA CONFÉRENCE
 Développement du secteur privé, agriculture et réduction de la pauvreté

Les participants intègrent la Responsabilité sociale des entreprises dans le Code de conduite pour les relations entre les parlementaires et le secteur privé

Les députés soutiennent les efforts visant à renforcer l'agriculture en tant que catalyseur pour la réduction de la pauvreté

N° 10

EU Presidency Seminar on Africa "Strengthening Euro-Africa Partnerships: The Role of Parliaments"
 LISBON, PORTUGAL, 27 - 6 NOVEMBER 2007

AWEPA assesses importance of strengthening dialogue between African and European parliamentarians in light of the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon

Results

bulletin

Regional Seminar on Private Sector Development and Agriculture

The AWEPA German Section

The AWEPA Belgium Office

Tracking European Aid, Debt, and Trade Commitments to Africa

bulletin

EU Presidency Seminar: Strengthening Euro-African Partnerships

The AWEPA Irish Section

The AWEPA South African Office

Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children

Slovenian EU Presidency Seminar on Africa "The Role of New EU Member States in EU-Africa Development Policy"
 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 17-18 FEBRUARY 2008

Parliamentarians mobilize for joint Africa-EU Strategic Action Plan and call for new EU member states to play a prominent role in African development policy

Results

Aid Effectiveness, Political Parties and Media
 BRUSSELS, 12 - 14 MAY 2008

Parliamentarians from East and Central Africa call for greater involvement in the oversight of aid and the need for continued discussions about the relationship between parliamentarians and the media

Results

Organisational Developments

AWEPA Eminent Advisory Board

AWEPA's relations with Africa are guided by the advice of the Eminent Advisory Board. This Board meets annually to discuss the policy and programmes of AWEPA, and to make suggestions for future priorities regarding developments in Africa. This Board is appointed for an indefinite period of time and consists of the following members:



Archbishop Desmond Tutu (*Honorary Chair*)

A theologian and educator, Archbishop Desmond Tutu served as Archbishop of Cape Town and Head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Tutu received the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for the role he played as a pioneer of peaceful resistance methods in the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa. He now plays a leading role in The Elders: an independent group of eminent global leaders, brought together by Nelson Mandela, who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.



Ms. Graça Machel (*Chairperson*)

Ms. Graça Machel has campaigned as a global advocate for war-affected children and serves as spokesperson for the Global Movement for Children. Following the independence struggle, Machel served as Education Minister of Mozambique. She is currently a member of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the African Peer Review Mechanism, a system introduced by the African Union to help countries improve their governance.



Hon. Prof. Wangari Maathai

Prof. Wangari Maathai received the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her pro-democracy, human rights and environmental conservation efforts. In 1976, Maathai founded the grassroots Green Belt Movement, which has helped women's groups plant over 20 million trees to conserve the environment and improve quality of life. Maathai was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree and has served as Assistant Minister of Environment in Kenya.



Ms. Mary Robinson

Ms. Mary Robinson was a member of the Irish Parliament from 1969 to 1989 and became a member of AWEPA in the 1980s. She was elected the first woman President of Ireland (1990-1997) and served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002). A human rights advocate, Robinson serves as President and Founder of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative.



Prof. Albert Tevoedjre

Professor Albert Tevoedjre has been the Special Envoy for the United Nations Secretary-General to the Ivory Coast since 2003. Before his current responsibility, Tevoedjre chaired the Commission on the "Millennium for Africa" Project, which completed its report in May 2002. Tevoedjre also played a prominent role as "Head of Government" in Benin. A political scientist by training, his book "Poverty, Wealth of Mankind" was awarded the "Prix de la vie économique".



His Excellency Mohamed A. Sahnoun

H.E. Mohamed Sahnoun, the former Ambassador of Algeria to the United Nations, to the United States and to Morocco, has served as Special Representative for the Great Lakes region of Africa since 1997. Sahnoun is also a member of the Special Advisory Group of the War-torn Societies Project and served as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict from 1999 to 2002.

AWEPA Executive Committee

AWEPA's Executive Committee is the executive board of the organisation and meets four times a year. The Council elects the Executive Committee for a period of five years to prepare and execute AWEPA policy under the supervision of the Council. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, Vice-Presidents and the AWEPA Secretary General, Mr. Pär Granstedt, who serves as Chair.



Mr. Pär Granstedt
(Sweden)



Dr. Jan Nico Scholten
(Netherlands)



Ms. Lydia Maximus
(Belgium)



Ms. Miet Smet
(Belgium)



Mr. Jeppe Kofod
(Denmark)



Mr. Brendan Howlin
(Ireland)



Dr. Egidijus Vareikis
(Lithuania)



Ms. Brigitta Gadiet
(Switzerland)

AWEPA Council

The Council is the highest body within AWEPA. It consists of representatives of the AWEPA Sections in the European Parliament and the national parliaments of Europe. The Council operates as a general assembly for a five-year term and meets at least once a year. The Council decides on the overall policy of AWEPA and is chaired by the President, Dr. Jan Nico Scholten. It is composed of the members of the Executive Committee and the following persons:

Ms. Inge Jäger (Austria)

Ms. Sabine de Bethune (Belgium)

Ms. Magda de Meyer (Belgium)

Mr. Jan Hamáček (Czech Republic)

Mr. Karsten Lauritzen (Denmark)

Ms. Silver Meikar (Estonia)

Mr. Johan van Hecke (European Parliament)

Ms. Krista Kiuru (Finland)

Ms. Brunhilde Irber (Germany)

Mr. Theodissis Georgiou (Greece)

Mr. Charlie O'Connor (Ireland)

Mr. Enrico Pianetta (Italy)

Ms. Ingrida Circene (Latvia)

Ms. Chantal Gill'ard (Netherlands)

Ms. Maria Antónia Almeida Santos (Portugal)

Ms. Minodora Cliveti (Romania)

Ms. Carina Hägg (Sweden)

Ms. Rosita Runegrund (Sweden)

Lord David Chidgey (United Kingdom)

Dr. Luc Dhoore (Belgium)

Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland)

Ms. Katharine Bulbulia (Ireland)

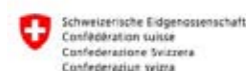
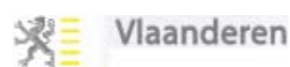
Mr. Jan Willem Bertens (Netherlands)

Ms. Barty Lührman Fuchs (Netherlands)

Mr. Francisco Arnau Navarro (Spain)

Mr. John Corrie (United Kingdom)

Donors



AWEPA Staff (December 2008)

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Dr. Jeff Balch,
Director Research and Evaluation

Mr. John McKendy,
Director Programme Development

Ms. Marion Verweij,
*Assistant to the President and
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Ms. Katrin Verstraete,
Project Officer

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Ms. Jocelyne Nahimana,
Head of Office /AWEPA Representative

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Driver

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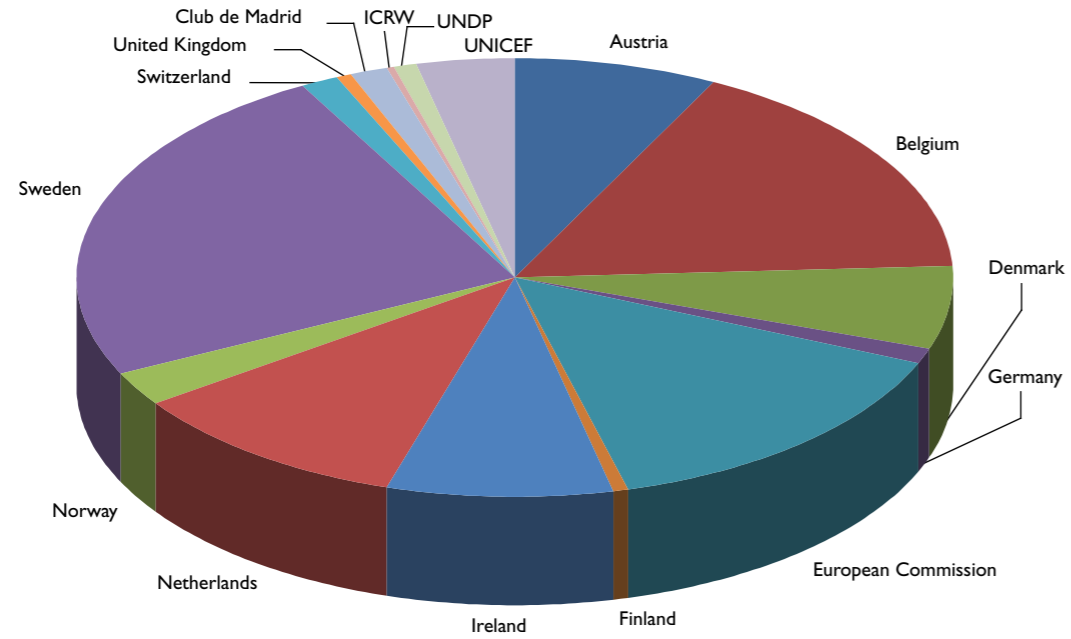
Uganda

Ms. Jeniffer Kwarisiima,
Project Officer / AWEPA Representative

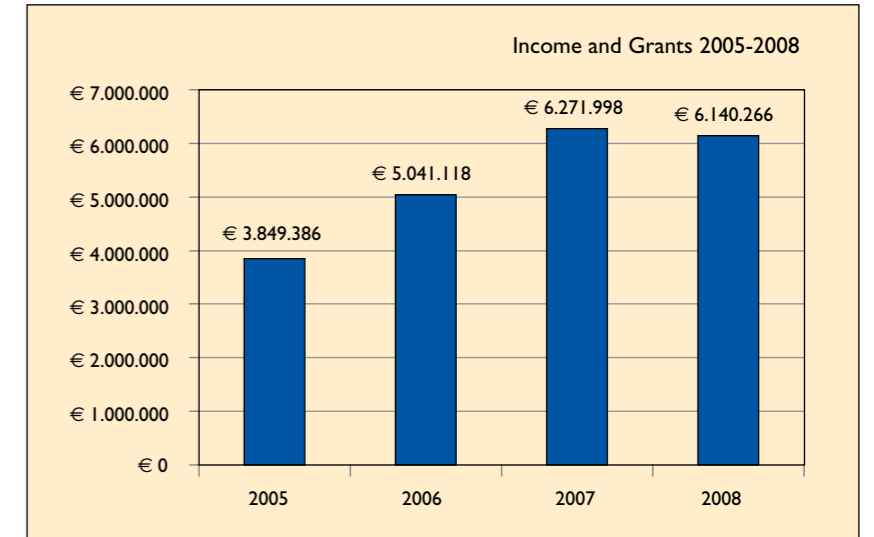
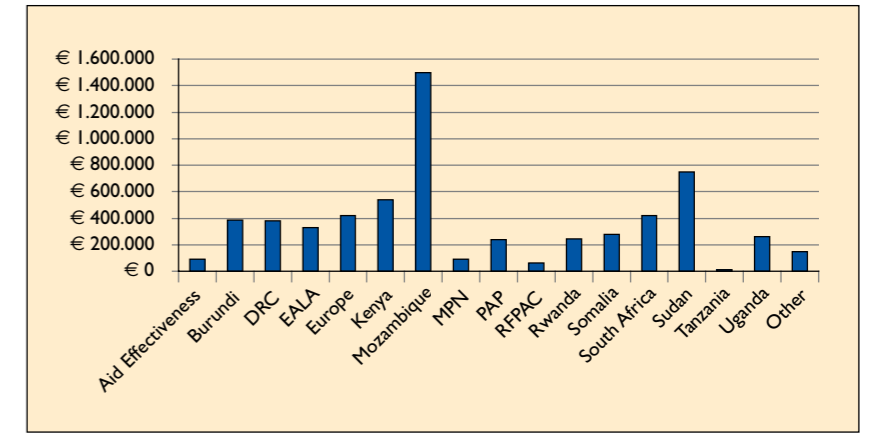
Income and Grants 2008

In 2008, AWEPA received funding from various European governments, through their development agencies and country embassies in Africa, UN organisations and foundations. AWEPA does not engage in public fundraising.

Donor	Amount spent 2008
Austria - ADA	€ 467,181
Belgium - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	€ 1,003,718
Belgium - Flanders	€ 18,961
Denmark - Danida	€ 212,284
Denmark - Danish Embassy Maputo	€ 157,325
Germany - GTZ	€ 63,047
European Commission - Nairobi	€ 289,477
European Commission - Khartoum	€ 596,815
Finland - Finnish Embassy Nairobi	€ 30,000
Ireland - Irish Aid	€ 523,944
Netherlands - DGIS	€ 529,330
Netherlands - Dutch Embassy Pretoria	€ 112,279
Norway - Norwegian Embassy Dar es Salaam	€ 147,111
Sweden - SIDA	€ 722,932
Sweden - Swedish Embassy Nairobi	€ 83,846
Sweden - Swedish Embassy Maputo	€ 679,297
Switzerland - SDC	€ 81,700
United Kingdom - Foreign and Commonwealth Office	€ 32,555
Club de Madrid	€ 91,412
International Center for Research on Women	€ 8,300
UNDP	€ 52,239
UNICEF	€ 227,636
Others	€ 8,877
TOTAL	€ 6,140,266



The income and grants received were spent on country/programmes as indicated in this chart.



For more financial information, the audited financial statement for 2008 is available upon request.

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