



# CONFERENCE REPORT

## Private Sector Development, Agriculture and Poverty Reduction

REPORT ON THE SEMINAR "UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PARLIAMENTARY AND PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE IN EAST AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION"

**NAIROBI, 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2007**



### Delegates integrate Corporate Social Responsibility in Code of Conduct for parliamentary-business relationships

Parliamentarians stress importance of encouraging African businesses to embrace international CSR recommendations P 3

### MPs support efforts to strengthen agriculture as a catalyst for poverty reduction

National action plans to stimulate agricultural development in line with CAADP will be high on the parliamentary agenda P 4

#### CONTENT

• Introduction	2
• Results of the seminar	3
• Background to the seminar topics	4-5
• Speeches and debates	6-12
• Progress reports and action plans	13-14
• Code of Conduct	15-16
• Framework for Action	17
• Participants	18-19
• AWEPA and seminar info	20

NO. 10

Seminar inspires plans for private sector development

## Supporting business

In September 2006, AWEPA organised a seminar in Arusha, Tanzania called *Parliamentary and Private Sector Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction in the Great Lakes Region*. At this seminar, parliamentarians made recommendations on creating an environment conducive to business and improving access to finance. In addition, they discussed a draft code of conduct for parliamentary and private sector relations, which, they agreed, should be finalised in 2007.

These additional steps were taken at the seminar *'Unfinished Business: Parliamentary and private sector dialogue on economic development and agriculture in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region'*, which was held in September 2007 in Nairobi. At this meeting, parliamentarians and entrepreneurs added agriculture to the agenda as a topic vital to private sector development and poverty reduction in Africa.

"It is probably impossible to build a prosperous society if one ignores agriculture," said Egidius Vareikis, AWEPA Vice-President and Member of Parliament in Lithuania, explaining the strong focus on agriculture. "Almost all major civilizations have an agricultural background," he added.

### RESULTS

The seminar resulted in a 'Framework on Parliamentary Action' to enhance agriculture and adherence to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The Code of Conduct for relations between parliamentarians and entrepreneurs, drafted in 2006, was fine-tuned and improved.

In addition, the seminar was extremely valuable as a means of deepening relations between parliamentarians and business representatives in the region, as well as between African and European parliamentarians.

### NATIONAL ACTION

The Nairobi seminar will be followed by national parliamentary initiatives, as was the case after the Arusha seminar. MPs will inform national media about the importance of CAADP and have promised to make related agricultural issues part of the agenda of their national parliamentary committees. In addition, the Code of Conduct will now be taken forward to national level.

### FUTURE INITIATIVES

"The seminar in Nairobi will facilitate intense exchange between parliamentarians and the business sector," said Pär



Mr Pär Granstedt, AWEPA Secretary General: "Private sector and politicians can develop a good infrastructure together"

Granstedt, AWEPA Secretary General, who opened the seminar. "Cooperation between the private sector and politicians is crucial. It is a matter of good governance, and is necessary to develop a proper infrastructure in each of the countries in the region," he added.

AWEPA and its partners will continue to enhance interaction between politicians and entrepreneurs over the next years, Granstedt said. "Economic development is kicking off in Africa. It is our common responsibility to make sure all regions and countries benefit from this positive trend in a responsible and sustainable way."

AWEPA would like to thank the Dutch, Swedish and Belgian Governments for funding this seminar. •

## Keeping the momentum

The seminar was a combined activity of two major AWEPA programmes. The first, called "**Fostering the Impact of Parliamentary Democracy in Africa**", is a programme of regional seminars and national follow-up workshops that aim to strengthen stability and development in the Great Lakes Region. Funded by the Dutch Government, and running for a five-year period (2005-2009), this series of meetings stimulates parliamentary activity in this dynamic region of Africa to improve humanitarian and socio-economic development, and strengthen parliamentary democracy. AWEPA cooperates with its partners to facilitate the meetings and to enable all relevant topics to be discussed in-depth. The Nairobi seminar focused on two of the

programme's four key themes: private sector development and poverty reduction.

The second programme area covered by this seminar is the parliamentary support programme "**Mobilising Parliaments for NEPAD (MPN): Towards the MDGs**," which is being implemented with the support of SIDA and DANIDA as its main donors. This five-year programme aims to facilitate a greater involvement in the NEPAD process for African and European parliaments, by raising awareness and promoting parliamentary action in various areas of development relating to the NEPAD initiative. It was endorsed by several main African parliamentary forums: the Pan-African Parliament, the

African Parliamentarians Forum on NEPAD, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the ECOWAS Parliament, the NEPAD Contact Group of African parliamentarians (NCGAP), and SADC-Parliamentary Forum. The Nairobi seminar focused on one of the MPN programme's crosscutting themes for 2007, 'Trade and Development: Special Focus on Agriculture and Private Sector Development'. Regional seminars on this theme were also organised for Southern Africa (Cape Town, March 07) and West Africa (Cotonou, October 07). •

See [www.awepa.org](http://www.awepa.org) for more information about these programmes, related activities, and AWEPA's other work.

Seminar increases awareness of important agricultural improvements

## Forging ties between parliamentarians and business

**A** new version of the Code of Conduct for the relationship between parliamentarians and businesses, a parliamentary action plan to enhance the agricultural sector, and an evaluation of national initiatives and goals in this area; these were some of the key results of the AWEPA-seminar “Unfinished Business: Parliamentary and Private Sector Dialogue on Economic Development and Agriculture in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region”, held in Nairobi on 27-28 September 2007.

Laying the groundwork for an environment conducive to business and poverty reduction, parliamentarians and representatives of the private sector in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region used the ‘Unfinished Business’ seminar to strengthen relations. Enhancing private sector development, agricultural growth and poverty reduction were among the seminar’s most important goals.

### CODE OF CONDUCT: PROMOTING CSR

The participants discussed the draft Code of Conduct for Parliamentary and Private Sector Engagement, originally developed in September 2006 at AWEPA’s parliamentary and private sector seminar in Arusha, Tanzania. As a result of the working group and plenary discussions in Nairobi, the Code now embraces areas of accountability for the private sector, including the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). See page 15-16 for the full Code of Conduct.

The draft Code of Conduct, which strongly emphasises fighting corruption, will be discussed by national ad-hoc committees that have been established between parliamentarians and the private sector. Delegates committed themselves to promoting the Code on the agenda of national and regional parliaments, and to seeking its endorsement by prominent business associations in the region.

### FRAMEWORK FOR PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

In addition, the seminar focussed on how parliamentarians and the private sector can co-operate to make agriculture a driving force for poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. Delegates critically reviewed a Framework for Parliamentary Action on CAADP, the

Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme adopted in 2003, in cooperation with NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development). Participants said they supported CAADP’s agricultural initiatives in the region.

The Framework for Parliamentary Action on CAADP, discussed in a working group and adopted in the plenary meeting, provides parliamentarians with a programme of action to increase parliamentary awareness of both NEPAD and the CAADP agenda. This includes gender perspectives and the integration of CAADP into parliamentary work. As part of the Framework, parliamentarians agreed to give press interviews with national and local media to inform people about the importance of enhancing agricultural development. They also said they would put agricultural policy on the agenda as soon as scheduling permits and would work with agricultural research organisations to make sure the newest insights into farming methods and agricultural technology are shared with their constituencies. See page 17 for the full Framework.

### PARLIAMENTARY PROGRESS

During country-level working groups, delegates from participating African countries and the East African Legislative

Assembly conducted a detailed evaluation of the existing legislative and regulatory framework supporting business and investment in the region. They identified achievements made following the 2006 Arusha guidelines on creating an environment conducive to business, and promoting entrepreneurship, investment and trade. Delegates also identified progress made by parliaments in areas of legislation, oversight, budget, representation and poverty reduction strategies, and then outlined areas of future improvement. See page 12 for summaries of these progress reports and action plans.

Closing the seminar, Pär Granstedt pointed out that the two-day meeting had also been extremely valuable as a means of deepening relations between parliamentarians and business representatives in the region. Parliamentarians had an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the private sector’s needs, and business people gained more awareness of how they can contribute to national policies on fighting poverty. The meeting in Nairobi also facilitated exchange between African and European parliamentarians on best practices in the area of legislation and regulation to support sustainable economic development. ●



*Participants agree Code of Conduct and Framework for Parliamentary Action*



Poverty reduction, private sector development and agriculture are intertwined

## Agriculture can be a catalyst for private sector development

**A**gricultural and private sector development go hand in hand in Africa. Although manufacturing and service industries are growing fast, agriculture is still one of the biggest economic sectors, and biggest employers, in most sub-Saharan countries. Unlocking the potential of Africa's farmers can play a pivotal role in reducing poverty and creating sustainable economic growth.

As Hon. Catherine Kimura, representative of the East African Legislative Assembly, said in her opening speech at the seminar in Nairobi, agriculture is not only extremely important to safeguard food security in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region, but is also a major contributor to export and thus to foreign exchange earnings. Agriculture is also vital to private sector development in sub-Saharan Africa.

The farming industry still employs the majority of the African workforce. According to experts cited by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the agricultural sector in Africa accounts for about 60% of the total labour force, 20% of total merchandise exports and 17% of GDP. Bringing agriculture to higher levels of efficiency, productivity and profitability would positively affect the largest possible numbers of the population and would create a base for growth in other economic sectors as well.

Millions of Africans still face undernourishment due to droughts, floods and war.

Many continue to be dependent on food aid. "Imports of agricultural products have been rising faster than exports since the 1960s and Africa as a whole has been a net agricultural importing region since 1980," according to a CAADP analysis.

### INVESTING IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Investing in agricultural development is necessary to fight hunger, reduce poverty, generate economic growth, reduce food imports and increase exports.

One of the main reasons why Africa still lags behind other regions in its development, is the continent's poor quality of transportation and energy infrastructures, which places a heavy burden both on business costs and household incomes. It is crucial to invest in rural infrastructure, as this is the key to unlocking the potential of the agricultural sector. Improving rural roads and other transport facilities will make it easier and cheaper to take produce to national, regional or international markets. Creating regional markets, by cutting import regulations, will make it easier to sell agricultural products across borders.

### ENHANCING ACCESS TO FINANCE

Just like all entrepreneurs, farmers will be able to operate more efficiently and successfully under a transparent and straightforward framework of economic governance, such as clear rules regarding establishing a private company, a fair and consistent tax system and other economic regulations. Access to finance is another important requirement. The financing of small and medium sized companies, especially those managed by small farmers, female entrepreneurs and artisans, requires that the conditions of access to credit become more flexible and that banks provide a wider range of products and micro-financing initiatives. Creating a mature financial market and developing a strong infrastructure, have therefore been on the agenda of most African and international efforts to fight poverty and boost private sector development.

### FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

A large number of organisations have been working to enhance private sector development over the past few years. Their approaches and scope of activities, which were explained during the Nairobi seminar, give a good overview of the issues that have been identified and are being addressed in the area of private sector development, agriculture, and poverty reduction. ●

## CAADP: Revitalising African agriculture

**A**dopted in 2002 by African Agricultural Ministers and developed in cooperation with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the NEPAD Secretariat, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is a programme to revitalise African agriculture.

CAADP is a 'living' programme, which means it is open to continuous improvement and change, responding to new economic and technological developments.

Its supporters envision investment in four 'pillars' on which to base improvement of Africa's agriculture:



1 Extending the amount of land under sustainable land and water management, thereby increasing the percentage of arable land that is irrigated.

2 Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access. This means building more and better roads to bring products to market, raising the capacity to participate in trade negotiations and meeting the increasingly stringent quality requirements of world trade.

3 Increasing food supply and reducing hunger. This goal should be realised through increasing farm productivity, mostly by introducing improved technology.

4 Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. Research should enhance gains in productivity for the long-term. ●

### NEPAD-OECD AFRICA INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

The NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative aims to foster sustainable growth and poverty reduction by advancing private sector development in African countries. Launched in Johannesburg in November 2003, the initiative helps African governments to develop concrete measures for improving the investment climate and design comprehensive economic reform programmes. The Initiative uses the Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) and other tools and instruments to identify where the obstacles to investment lie. Many African countries are now using the PFI to assess their investment climate. The latest meeting of the initiative in November 2007 in Lusaka resulted in guidelines for attracting private investment in the water and sanitation sector.

### BIZCLIM

BizClim analyses the environment for private sector development in African, Caribbean and Pacific states and regions, and conducts studies on investment prospects. Funded by the European Union, BizClim aspires to be a think-tank in areas such as public-private partnerships, state owned enterprise reforms and privatisation, as well as poverty reduction.

### THE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Africa Partnership Forum (APF), established in November 2003, discusses and monitors policy issues, strategies and priorities in support of Africa's development. Its members – African countries, G8, OECD and other development partners – work together to ensure synergies and coherence with other international forums. The role of the Forum is to catalyse action and to coordinate support behind African priorities and NEPAD. Recent discussions at the forum focused on climate change; Africa is the continent which contributes least to this problem, and yet which is most vulnerable.

### THE EU-AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM

The EU-Africa Business Forum is an annual meeting, organised by the African Union Commission and the European Commission, to improve the business climate in Africa and promote investment. The first Forum was held in Brussels in November 2006, the second, in June 2007 in Accra, Ghana. The meetings led to a private sector

declaration and recommendations on ways of improving Africa's business climate.

### THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE FACILITY

Aimed at making Africa a better place to do business, the Investment Climate Facility seeks to remove obstacles to domestic and foreign investment and pro-

motes Africa as an attractive investment destination. The ICF is an independent trust with strong African representation. Its chief executive is Omari Issa, a Tanzanian national and former chief director of Celtel, a telecommunications company that is one of the most successful entrepreneurial ventures in Africa in the last two decades. •

## EU aspires to be leader in CSR

In March 2007, the European Parliament adopted a resolution supporting mandatory reporting on the social and environmental impact of business. The resolution also confirmed the EU's ambition to be a global leader in promoting worldwide standards on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and provides an overview of requirements and issues regarding CSR.

"A one-size-fits-all method for corporate behaviour is not appropriate," the resolution stated, acknowledging that European countries have reached different stages of adopting CSR practices. MPs supporting the resolution said that, in order to stimulate CSR, emphasis should be placed on

developing civil society, particularly consumer awareness and responsible production methods.

The resolution is considered to be a major step towards bridging the divide between voluntary and regulatory approaches to CSR. •

#### What is CSR?

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the voluntary integration of environmental and social considerations into business operations, over and above legal requirements and contractual obligations (definition European Commission). •



### Useful links

- African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption** – [www.apnacafrika.org](http://www.apnacafrika.org)
- Africa Partnership Forum** – <http://www.africapartnershipforum.org/>
- AWEPA** – [www.awepa.org](http://www.awepa.org)
- Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)** – [www.cgap.org](http://www.cgap.org)
- Eastern Africa Business Council** – [www.eabc-online.com](http://www.eabc-online.com)
- EU-Africa Business Forum** – [http://ec.europa.eu/development/Geographical/europecares/africa/business\\_forum\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/development/Geographical/europecares/africa/business_forum_en.html)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation** – [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)
- International Finance Corporation** – [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org)
- Investment Climate Facility** – <http://www.investmentclimatefacility.org/>
- NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative** – [www.oecd.org/daf/investment/africa](http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/africa)
- Research Into Use** – [www.researchintouse.com](http://www.researchintouse.com)
- UN Environment Programme** – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
- World Bank Doing Business Database** – [www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org)
- World Savings Banks Institute** – [www.savings-banks.com](http://www.savings-banks.com)

## Opening Session

Mr Samuel Ndindiri, Clerk of the Kenyan National Assembly

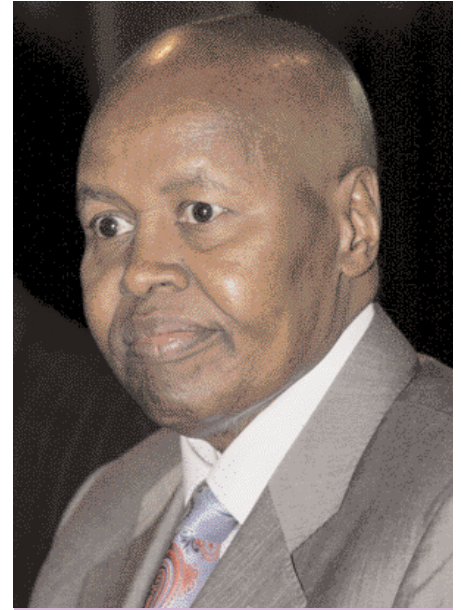
### Enhancing regional free trade

**T**he private sector in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region can stimulate trade if it cooperates across borders to remove infrastructural, immigration and customs bottlenecks, according to Mr Samuel Ndindiri, Clerk of the Kenyan National Assembly.

It is disturbing to see that states in the region have failed to formulate or implement treaties and policies to fully open up their borders for free movement of people, goods and services, Ndindiri said. This situation is being exploited by foreigners managing to make more money from trade with the region than locals from the region itself.

Several horticultural products from Kenya are exported to Europe and then re-exported to countries in Africa at great cost. It would be much more convenient to send these across common borders, cutting down cost and time, Ndindiri explained.

“There must be deliberate efforts to promote and encourage intra-regional trade, joint infrastructural development and free movement of people and services across borders as has happened among European and American States,” he said.



Mr Samuel Ndindiri: “Promote and encourage intra-regional trade”

Mr Sammy Mwaura, CEO,  
Kenya Private Sector Alliance

### Progress made in regulatory reforms

**M**r Sammy Mwaura emphasised parliament’s mandate, in particular its legislative and oversight role. Concerning legislation, Mwaura noted that Kenya’s Parliament passes, on average, five to seven bills per annum, whilst the Commonwealth average is 30+ bills per annum. As for overseeing the Executive, Mwaura is of the opinion that it is “weak and undermined by bad politics.”

There had, however, also been some “positive progress in a number of public sector reforms, such as those separating the roles of policy, regulation, and service delivery, whereby policy became the main function of ministries, and semi-autonomous government agencies were created for regulation and for service delivery,” he said.

Reforms were also implemented under the Water Act 2002, which led to improvements in the sector’s performance and strengthened accountability. “Addressing legislation and oversight effectively will improve the country’s business environment as a whole,” Mwaura concluded.

Hon Catherine Kimura, Representative of the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

### ‘Unlock the potential of agriculture’

**A**griculture is rightly a focal point when seeking private sector growth in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region, said Hon Catherine Kimura, who spoke on behalf of Hon. Abdurahin Abdi, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly.

“I urge this seminar to express its recognition of the crucial role of agriculture for food security, economic growth and for underpinning the processes of economic diversification. Unlocking the potential of agriculture is – and must continue to be – a major priority for national governments, parliamentarians, donors ... and the private sector,” she said.

The benefit of dialogue between parliamentarians and entrepreneurs, Hon Kimura pointed out, lies in building solid foundations for business climate reforms. A continued dialogue between the two is likely to make governments more sensitive to the constraints and views of the private sector, leading to better plans and workable reforms.



Hon Catherine Kimura: “Agriculture a priority for parliamentarians”

Parliamentarians should support the private sector, and create checks and balances. “I urge that your deliberations should be sufficiently broad-based so as not to reinforce vested interests,” Hon. Kimura said. Efforts should be made to include small and medium sized enterprises to build broad support for private sector development in East Africa, she explained.



Session Two: The state of the business environment in East Africa

Mr M'Hamed Chérif, BizClim (ACP Business Climate)

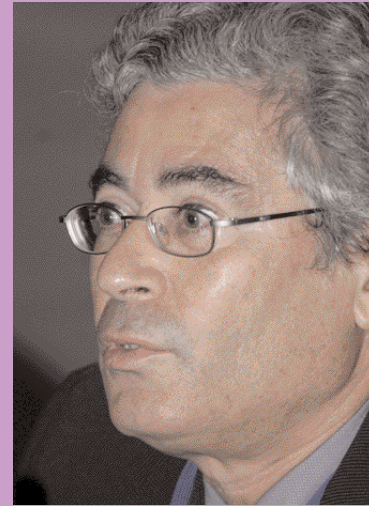
**'Parliamentarians should implement reform and resolve complaints'**

**B**izClim's CEO, Mr M'Hamed Chérif, told participants that his organisation has been helping a number of African governments improve their country's business climate and boost the private sector. Mr Chérif also said that many mistakes had been made in agricultural policies, such as having fixed or stabilizer prices.

**H**e advised that regional agreements on free trade with a regulatory framework are the way forward. "One has to pay attention to the needs of the rural poor, as they are a large consumer market." The decision for or against bio-fuels is another important challenge. Harvesting land for bio fuel plants, rather than for food crops, is a dilemma

that is already being addressed by Kenya and Mozambique in the WTO negotiations. Here, Chérif pointed out that parliamentarians have an important and influential role to play in drafting and passing legislation.

BizClim currently runs 25 projects throughout Africa addressing the issues of improving the continent's business climate and regulatory frameworks. Chérif noted that "it is not merely a matter of good governance according to the World Bank, nor corruption policies according to Transparency International, but also a need to actually implement the reforms and have a system whereby complaints can be resolved."



Mr M'Hamed Chérif: "The bio-fuel debate is important for parliamentarians"

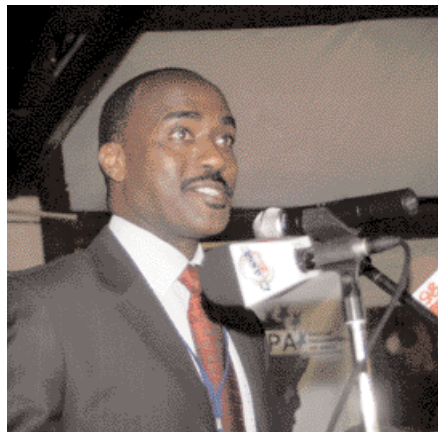
Mr Linus Gitahi, CEO of the Nation Media Group, Kenya

**'Media freedom sustains food security'**

**M**edia can contribute to fighting famine and ensuring food security, said Mr Linus Gitahi, CEO of the Nation Media Group, Kenya.

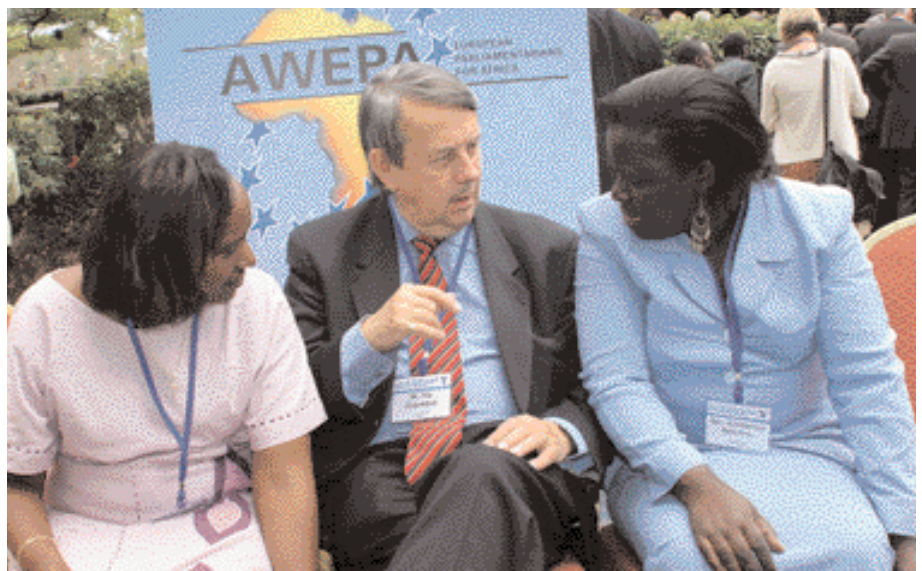
**K**enyan newspapers, such as Mr Linus Gitahi's Daily Nation, played a crucial role in preventing a major disaster in Kenya in 1998 by publishing stories about famine in the Turkana region, a crisis that the national government appeared to be trying to ignore and deny. Thanks to media attention, Gitahi said, a help operation significantly reduced the number of victims.

He explained that investing in resources to deepen democracy and support popular accountability and media freedom will protect more people against the consequences of agricultural failure. "No famine has ever occurred in a country with a free press and regular elections," said Gitahi, referring to a well-known statement by Nobel Prize winner for



economics Amartya Sen. Gitahi also emphasised the need for European parliamentarians to pressure governments into ending farm subsidies in order to create a truly free market for agricultural products. Reducing trade barriers will bring in large funds for investment, and create jobs in farming communities.

Mr Linus Gitahi: "Democracy and a free press reduce famine"





Mr Victor Mathale, NEPAD/OECD Africa Investment Initiative, NEPAD Secretariat Advisor on Private Sector Initiatives

## ‘NEPAD promotes regional economic integration’

**E**conomic integration and cooperation can reverse the decline of African products in the increasingly competitive global market, said Mr Victor Mathale. The NEPAD initiative (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) encourages African leaders to mainstream integration in development efforts.

**W**hile African economic growth rates have been rising, significant

progress is still required to reach the 0.7% required to attain the UN Millennium Development Goals and improve living standards. The Heads of State have called for “more and active participation of the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD projects”, especially in regional integration processes which are too important to be left to governments alone.



Mr. Victor Mathale

Professor Maggie Kigozi, Executive Director, Uganda Investment Authority

## ‘East Africa an ideal location for investment’

**D**ue to its political stability and security, East Africa is an ideal location to invest in, said Prof. Maggie Kigozi. It also offers a range of other incentives to private sector investors such as a stable economy, good infrastructure, diverse markets, high productivity, a competitive labour force, liberalised banking & finance, justice, open dialogue, and a good quality of life.

**H**ighlighting achievements in political stability and security, Prof. Kigozi spoke of the “improvements in democracy, a free press, human rights and gender equality”, as well as the constitution and decentralization of government. The challenges to be addressed in the future are “having more political parties in government, strengthening the electorate, as well as modernising the police force and the army”, she said. There is also a need for more cooperation between

Uganda, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.



Prof Maggie Kigozi: “East Africa is a safe place to do business”

## Debate

**I**n the discussions that followed, Prof Kigozi was asked about investments in Uganda’s transportation infrastructure, given that businesses prefer quick profits, as in telecommunications, to road construction projects, such as a good road linking Uganda and the DRC. Prof Kigozi agreed there is the need for significant road improvements with private sector involvement, and suggested that road tolls could be used to recoup investments quickly. Another MP mentioned that while African countries are struggling for a position in the world markets, they find it easier to trade with the West, even though stringent conditions are set, than to trade regionally, especially in the COMESA. Prof Kigozi explained that regional trade does take place, but that it was not documented anywhere and computerised records are needed.





## Session Three: Parliamentary Engagement with the CAADP

Mr Tesfai Tecele, Assistant Director General, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

### 'Africans must invest more in agriculture and research'

Mr Tecele's presentation looked at what African and European parliamentarians can do to contribute to CAADP (the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme), and why agriculture is so important. He said that agricultural development should be given top priority in the continent's overall development, if Africa is to tackle poverty effectively. "Factors hampering agricultural development, and which parliamentarians need to address, are: natural hazards, the low integration of markets both regionally and internationally, not enough private investments, and poor infrastructure," he explained.

Implementation of CAADP policies has so far resulted in both national and external funding. The AU, NEPAD and the FAO are also collaborating on obtaining external funds, and both COMESA and ECOWAS are planning to hold round-table meetings to discuss funding.

Tecele called on African parliamentarians to push for increased domestic resources for agricultural development and to campaign to put agriculture at the top of their government's development agenda. •



Mr Tesfai Tecele: "Parliamentarians must support the CAADP"

### Agriculture reforms and land reforms are necessary

Hon Lwanyantika Masha, Chair of the EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, noted that "African countries have a promising agricultural potential with vast natural resources, some of which are not yet fully utilized. There is much good, arable land, as well as rainfalls and waterways for irrigation," said Hon Masha.

He commended those parliamentarians who are holding talks with businesses interested in providing capital and financing for agricultural projects. He explained that his Committee is exploring legislation to increase food security in the EAC, and that the EALA is already considering a comprehensive bill on the Lake Victoria Basin Commission which promotes sustainable development of this vital region.

According to Masha, agricultural development will require agrarian reform as well as land reform, in which land is translated into capital. He urged participants to move away from traditional methods of land ownership



as this constrained access to capital needed for agricultural development, and to furthermore ensure that landowners have security of ownership and land titles.

Also in this session, Mr Philip Kiroo, President of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, said that, "with agriculture performing well in Africa, it would be possible to realise economic growth, reduce poverty and enhance food security." He stressed the importance of farmers' associations in adding value to the food chain and improving commercial farming. •

### Debate

One participant noted that if CAADP was seeking external funding, it would not be owned by Africans. This is contrary to development in Asian countries, which succeeded without subsidies from the West. Africa can learn from Asia in this respect, the participant said. Tecele pointed out that in the Asian case national institutions are stable, and that in Africa this is not the case. He also noted that there is a need to invest in research and development so that Africans can rely on their own capabilities. As for borrowing money, he noted that both India and China had done so with great success. A participant from the DRC said agriculture was a major concern for all African countries, but that each country had its own unique problems and therefore needed its own tailor-made solution. So far, international organisations, such as the World Bank and the IMF advised all nations alike simply to privatise. •

#### More information

For more information on CAADP see [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org) and [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## Session Four: Encouraging entrepreneurship for poverty reduction

Hon Pétronie Habanabashaka, MP Burundi, Réseau des Femmes Parlementaires d'Afrique Centrale and Prof Cyrille Sigejeje, Secretary General of the Burundi Chamber of Commerce

### Burundi is on the road to recovery

**H**aving endured a devastating war in Burundi the women who survived organized themselves into agricultural associations, and thus were able to engage themselves in income-generating activities.

They were able to do this due to micro-financing, said Hon. Pétronie Habanabashaka, despite the fact that the agricultural sector was seriously affected

by the war. "In Burundi there are currently 26 institutions providing micro-finance, and the government has authorized the establishment of more institutions according to a national strategy to promote micro-financing, in an effort to fight poverty," she said.

Prof Cyrille Sigejeje, Secretary-General of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and

Crafts for Burundi, furthermore said that the private sector in Burundi "welcomes the idea of private sector and parliament joining their efforts in favour of poverty reduction and socio-economic development." He confirmed that the Burundian private sector were pleased with the development of the draft Code of Conduct, and looked forward to working with parliamentarians to deepen reflections about this important initiative.

Dr J. Riria, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Women's Finance Trust

### 'Invest in Agriculture, provide Finance to Women'

**"W**ho lost Africa, and who will reclaim it?" asked Dr Jennifer Riria, CEO of the Kenya Women's Finance Trust (KWFT), in her presentation. Her answer was that it was Africans who lost Africa, and it shall be Africans who reclaim Africa.

Dr Riria said she is an advocate of market diversification, but pointed out that 90% of shamba work (farming) is done by women, and that if women continue to be left out of development

programmes and agendas, nothing will be achieved. Lack of resources to invest in agriculture is a major problem, said Riria, and there is limited access to affordable financial credit, especially for women.

"Everybody has a role to play in tackling this problem," said Riria, "from governments to parliamentarians, to institutions like the KWFT." Riria called on parliamentarians to be continuously involved in finding funds, not only during election time. KWFT is doing its part, she said, and has set up an infrastructure which understands the specific needs of women. The organisation currently has 83 offices throughout the country which help women get access to funds. It has also set up a health insurance system with the private sector, specifically for women with low-incomes.

Riria reminded MPs that women are not looking for handouts, but for an efficient disbursement of funding to enable them to work to improve their own quality of life. She also called on development partners to assist.



Dr Jennifer Riria: "Women must be engaged in rural development"

Mrs. Nyambura Koigi, Managing Director, Post Bank Kenya, Chair of the World Savings Banks Institute Africa Group

### Entrepreneurs are crucial for a healthy economy

**"A**n entrepreneur is a risk taker, someone who is innovative in a business undertaking and knows how to maximize profits. It is someone who responds to a market need by undertaking and operating a new venture, and thereby assuming financial, professional and personal accountability for the risks involved".

Mrs. Nyambura Koigi, Managing Director, Post Bank, said that banks and other financial institutions are continually involved in training and mentoring entrepreneurs, as well as in advancing credit and capital. These services, which play a significant role in poverty reduction, are also widely available to small and medium sized enterprises and students.

Providing access to finance is "a powerful tool in giving poor people access to opportunity" she said. "Handouts are not the answer; affordable products and services are needed, and these can only be given where people are entrepreneurial and where it is demand-driven." Although women entrepreneurs can face cultural difficulties and lack of support, women's support groups noted that men are beginning to appreciate the value of women's enterprise for the whole family. Of the Post Bank's one million clients, 49% are women.

### Debate

In the plenary discussions that followed, many questions were raised, such as whether the KWFT also enhanced job creation for women in areas other than agriculture. Dr Riria explained that

currently the KWFT primarily deals with low-income women who have no access to specifically adapted ICT products. In the long run, she hopes that, "with better access to education, ICT, and financing, women will be able to branch out into more diverse fields of work."



## Session Five: Best practices for parliamentary and private sector cooperation

Mr Augustine Ruzindana, Chairman of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption, Former Ugandan MP

### Enforce the codes of conduct

**T**he aim of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC), said its Chairman, Mr Augustine Ruzindana, is to fight corruption on the African continent by bringing together Africa's parliamentarians in national, regional and international seminars, conferences and workshops in an effort to empower and make them appreciate their role in controlling the spread and entrenchment of corruption.

These gatherings of parliamentarians enable them to develop links with oversight committees in other parliaments across Africa, and sensitises them to the various codes of conduct, such as those

of Corporate Social Responsibility. The APNAC hopes "parliamentarians will become part of their country's solutions, rather than being part of the problem, which is how they are perceived by the public in Africa."

In many situations, Ruzindana said, parliamentarians will have to make decisions which may affect their private interests and those of their friends, relatives and associates and they need to realize that, at times, this could lead to a conflict of interest. "All parliamentarians are bound by codes of conduct for such situations, but the problem is that these codes are not upheld," he said. ●

Mr Peter Acquah, Deputy Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Africa

### 'Create a sound basis for Sustainable Development'

**T**he 1972 Stockholm Conference on the environment caused many to "reflect, for the first time, on our planet's sustainability," said Mr Peter Acquah, Deputy Director of the UNEP Regional office for Africa. Twenty years later, the UN conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, helped governments rethink their economic development and find ways to put an end to the destruction of natural resources and reduce pollution. At the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, world leaders met to review the progress

that had been made thus far, and to reaffirm their commitment to the agreements made in Rio. "Parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in all efforts that could lead to sustainable development," said Acquah. Parliamentarians can ensure that effective policies, legislation and procedures are in place to achieve their country's development objectives and the Millennium Development Goals. Equally crucial, said Acquah, is the oversight role of parliamentarians.

The private sector also has a central role in development and poverty reduction. Where there is a healthy, vibrant and responsible private sector, there are greater possibilities for sustainable development and economic growth, Acquah explained. Concluding, Acquah said that "it is incumbent on parliamentarians and the private sector alike to co-operate in establishing a sound basis for sustainable development." ●



Mr Peter Acquah: "Parliamentarians crucial for sustainable development policies"

### Private Sector is the way forward

Hon **Hubert Masala**, Deputy Chair of the Finance and Economy Committee of the DRC, argued that market forces in the DRC should be followed, pointing out that this is the best way to use the country's vast amount of natural resources. "The private sector," he said, "plays a very important role in the economy", and added that there is a provision in the DRC's Constitution which stipulates that the state should encourage public-private partnerships and investments, and that no-one can lose private property without being adequately compensated. The Constitution also has a significant provision on agriculture, which parliamentarians should use in their collaboration with the private sector, he said.

Mr **Isaac Dallushi**, Vice-President of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, explained that over time in Tanzania, the private sector had built up a strong relationship with the government. Relations at the grass-roots level, for example between MPs and farmers, are also very important and should be strengthened.

Mr **Arun Devani**, Chairman of the East Africa Business Council, voiced his concerns about the large-scale movement of people from rural areas to urban areas, leaving the elderly behind to tend to the farming. He said innovative micro-finance schemes should be shared across the region, and that projects should be assessed on their sustainability, effectiveness and potential for improving quality of life and reducing poverty. ●

### Debate

**A** participant from the DRC said the World Bank had pushed the DRC to liberalise the extraction of minerals. She referred to these mining regions as places of "human catastrophe" because the mining had resulted in deforestation. Acquah replied that the UNEP had a mission in the DRC to help with environmental law and capacity building, and that mining companies should follow Corporate Social Responsibility standards. ●

## Closing

### 'Intensify contacts between African and European MPs'

**H**on Mike Rugema, Member of Parliament in Rwanda, who had also attended AWEPA's Arusha seminar in 2006, was pleased that the private sector had been fully engaged in the seminar, and that constructive dialogues had resulted. **Hon Egidijus Vareikis**, Member of Parliament in Lithuania and AWEPA Vice-President, praised MPs for the commendable work done in the working groups and voiced his optimism about the future of African agriculture. **Mr Samuel Ndindiri**, Clerk of the Kenyan Parliament, urged participants to consider the 'unfinished' business by carefully following up the Code of Conduct and Framework for Parliamentary Action at a national level. At the close of the seminar,



*Hon Mary Mugenyi: Pan-African Parliament Member closed the seminar*

**Hon Mary Mugenyi**, Member of the Pan-African Parliament and MP in Uganda, called on African and European parliamentarians to intensify their contacts to "learn from each other".

*AWEPA would also like to thank the following Session Chairs for their invaluable efforts: **Hon Professor A. Olweny**, MP for Kenya; **Hon Winifred Masiko**, MP for Uganda and Member of the NEPAD Contact Group of African Parliamentarians; **Hon Kilontsi Mporogomyi**, MP for Tanzania; and **Mr John Corrie**, former Member of the European Parliament; **Mr Tony Worthington**, former UK MP and consultant, Research Into Use.* •

## Aid Effectiveness

**T**he Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness can be an inspiration to enhance private sector development, indicated **Mr Joe Frans**, former MP from Sweden.

**T**he Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was adopted in March 2003 by more than one hundred donor and developing countries. By signing the document, they agreed for the first time to measure their success at making aid more effective, with a set of indicators

and targets. The Paris Declaration promotes a model of partnership that improves transparency and accountability on the use of development resources. It recognises that for aid to become truly effective, stronger and more balanced, accountability mechanisms are required.

Some of the wealthiest and poorest countries from across the world signed up to some fifty commitments to make aid more effective. Commitments are broken down into five areas: ownership,

alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability. Donor countries, for example, agreed to base any conditions on aid to developing countries on that country's own Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). In turn, developing countries, with the assistance of donors, agreed to reform national systems wherever necessary to improve their capacity to manage development resources.

Indicators to measure progress were also established and an ongoing evaluation process of the Declaration is being coordinated by the OECD-DAC. •

For more information see: [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org) – Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD-DAC)/Aid Effectiveness



*Mr. Joe Frans, former MP from Sweden*



During the seminar participants broke down into country-level working groups to evaluate progress made towards improving the business environment, particularly since the 2006 Arusha seminar. In addition, key points for future action were outlined. A summary of the key elements of these discussions is as follows:

<b>Burundi</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliamentary questions raised to the government regarding private sector issues</li> <li>• Law passed to simplify administrative and tax operations</li> <li>• Parliamentarians actively lobby to promote business in their regions and attract investment in their constituencies</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan workshop about how to further simplify administrative and tax operation;</li> <li>• Promote exchanges of information and dialogue between parliamentarians and the private sector</li> <li>• Parliamentarians and the private sector commit to attend joint meetings concerning NEPAD and other multilateral institutions</li> </ul>
<b>Eritrea</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax laws were revised in 2005 and there is a stop investment centre</li> <li>• Community development bank established</li> <li>• Zero tolerance corruption laws</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder meetings planned</li> </ul>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax policy was amended in 2006 and there is a stop investment centre</li> <li>• Corruption commission established in parliament, with an Ombudsman</li> <li>• Agency to promote SMEs (especially youth and women) reports to parliament</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops held on COMESA and the WTO</li> <li>• Parliamentary quarterly spending check, and semi-annual field visits</li> </ul>
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is now a joint committee of MPs/Private sector in the National Assembly of the DRC</li> <li>• Parliamentary Border Trade committees have been formed</li> <li>• MPs are in the process of voting for a Bill to fight against corruption</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings between MPs and representatives of the private sector will be organized 3 times per year</li> <li>• Harmonization of legislation concerning tax and border trade</li> </ul>
<b>Djibouti</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After UNDP study on trade and investment obstacles, parliament discussed and adopted solutions e.g. Investment code, labour laws, arbitration, one stop investment centre</li> <li>• Corruption hotline</li> <li>• Fund established for SMEs with a microfinance system focused on women and an anti-poverty programme</li> <li>• Regular annual workshop on COMESA</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake study to evaluate what solutions have achieved</li> <li>• Parliamentary enquiry on inflation planned</li> <li>• Prioritise youth, women and rural communities in PRSP</li> </ul>
<b>Kenya</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliamentary stakeholders, such as KEPSA, lobby Parliament on private sector bills under discussion</li> <li>• Parliament has supported the business sector, e.g. ICT goods have been 'zero-rated', trade regulations improved</li> <li>• Parliament has passed a National Youth Policy – Youth Fund and a Women's Fund to stimulate the growth of entrepreneurs</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although civil society representatives made inputs into the action plan, it will only be finalised with parliamentarians after the election</li> </ul>

# Country Progress Reports and Action Plans

<b>Republic of Congo</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bills voted on in the 10 and 11th Session of the RC's Parliament, and conventions ratified concerning harmonization of legislation on tax and border trade</li> <li>• In cooperation with the Ministry of Women, MPs support SMEs</li> <li>• Parliamentary Committee on the Economy now cooperates closely with the Dep. of Agriculture</li> <li>• Simplify visa delivery systems to improve cross-border trade</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPs will sustain and promote policies to further support SMEs, especially for women and young people</li> <li>• MPs will promote companies which offer best practice examples for the agricultural sector</li> </ul>
<b>Rwanda</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations between Parliament and the Rwanda Private Sector Federation have taken place</li> <li>• Key laws have been enacted on corruption, money laundering, facilitating investment, a code of conduct of political leaders, land registration, environment and company registration</li> <li>• Rwanda was the 1st country to be Peer Reviewed by the APRM</li> <li>• A Research Unit to better inform parliamentarians is established</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key institutions to support investment have been set up e.g. RIEPA, RBS and RURA</li> <li>• National Parliamentary and Private Sector workshop (Nov 07)</li> <li>• Parliamentary meetings with stakeholders</li> <li>• Analysis of the 2008 budget in support of Rwanda's Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS)</li> </ul>
<b>Tanzania</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Anti-Corruption Act 2007 was passed in April 2007</li> <li>• Tanzania has begun the APRM process</li> <li>• The Tanzania Investment Centre has reduced the time taken to license a business from 6 months to 14 days</li> <li>• Parliamentary Committees are involved in supporting the President's actions to improve the private sector</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up a formal consultation structure with the private sector for relevant bills</li> <li>• The Committee on Trade and Investment will initiate meetings with the NEPAD Secretariat and establish a NEPAD Unit in the Parliament</li> <li>• Parliamentary Committees will follow up on the EAC Customs Union, investment streamlining in the EAC, and the APRM process</li> <li>• Review laws relating to private sector development and agriculture to propose amendments and reviews where necessary</li> <li>• Distribute and review PRSP/NDP documents in Parliament</li> </ul>
<b>Uganda</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parliament has established the following: IGG Statute, Leadership Code, Court Tribunal, Commercial Court and Tax Appeal Tribunal</li> <li>• An industrialization policy is in draft form</li> <li>• The Parliament supports model business enterprises such as NAADS, BIDCO, Sugercane industries, coffee growing scheme</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliamentary Committees consult stakeholders on specific issues</li> <li>• Improve the Investment Code and other commercial laws, and urge a speeding up of such bills through Parliament</li> <li>• Reduce non-tariff barriers e.g. police stopping of commercial vehicles</li> <li>• Develop a position paper to enhance and influence a favourable budget for private sector performance</li> </ul>
<b>EALA</b>	
Progress Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Trade and Investment Committees visited Lake Victoria ports before passing the law to regulate the Lake Basin</li> <li>• Consultations in Mombasa and Dar es Salaam during the harmonisation of the EA Customs Union</li> <li>• Consultations with the East African Business Council, the World Bank and the African Development Bank</li> <li>• Trade regulations and security surveillance implemented along common borders to improve business</li> </ul>
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further consultations with business and agricultural stakeholders</li> <li>• Further harmonisation of cross-border trade and taxation policy across the EAC with Rwanda and Burundi joining</li> <li>• Support policies to promote safe and economic development of the Lake Victoria Basin, the East African coastline and infrastructure</li> <li>• Set up a parliamentary information centre over the next 3 years</li> </ul>



# Towards a Code of Conduct for Parliamentary and Private Sector Engagement

NAIROBI, KENYA, 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2007

## Draft code of Conduct – For Discussion

### PREAMBLE

We, participants at the AWEPA seminar in Nairobi, have set out to establish principled co-operation between business and parliaments in the interests of furthering sustainable development within Africa.

This document is a reflection of discussions that have taken place in expert drafting committees and during the plenary sessions of both the Arusha seminar in September 2006, and the Nairobi seminar in September 2007. It is expected that this document will now be discussed and adapted at national level.

We are mindful of a number of the most important legislative foundations for sustainable development and human rights in Africa, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Revised Version).

### PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

We respect democratic principles, democratic institutions, the rule of law, including the independence of the parliament, judiciary and electoral commission, and the principles of good governance

We will build relationships based on a shared trust and a personal and professional commitment to cooperating ethically.

We are committed to cooperating legally, honestly and transparently.

We embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

We respect one another and strive for an inclusive, tolerant environment free from violence, discrimination, intimidation, and harassment.

We recognise the legitimacy of interest of defined stakeholders and we respect human rights in all circumstances.

We reject both corruption and immunity from prosecution.

### IMPLEMENTING OUR AIMS

We will endeavour to prevent the illegal and destructive exploitation of resources, the destruction of livelihoods, the violation of human rights, the violation of employment rights and labour rights, the violation of land rights and we will seek to safeguard environmental justice.

We will strive to prevent excessive price increases for goods or services which will adversely affect society.

We will promote business practices which are not destructive to the environment. We will prohibit use of environmental harmful products and processes. We will promote the respect of the rights of communities and in particular the disadvantaged sections of society.

Account should be taken of the views and interests of local communities:

- Tapping local and indigenous knowledge in project development and implementation
- Encouraging effective participation among all stakeholders in decision-making
- Involving all stakeholders, including women, youth and local communities, in integrated planning and management of land and water resources
- Encouraging the role of the local media and of local communities as watchdogs for effective and transparent delivery of projects
- Provide legal advice to local communities where necessary to help them protect their property and intellectual property rights all within local and national laws.

We will seek to ensure the financial, social and environmental prudence of entering into public-private partnership (PPPs) projects, advocating prior measures such as thorough needs analyses, budget analyses and feasibility studies.

We will seek to ensure that the best principles and practices are upheld in relation to safety, health, the environment and sustainable service delivery management on projects.

We will seek to encourage, facilitate and provide incentives for socially-conscious and environmentally-conscious entrepreneurship whose aims are not purely profit-motivated.

### IMPLEMENTING OUR PRINCIPLES

We undertake to comply with all laws, regulations and standards that apply to the various activities.

We will uphold the professional standards and rules applicable to us.

We will satisfy all the relevant requirements established in procurement documents and behave ethically and legally in all procurement processes, including the tendering process.

We will adopt codes to tackle corruption and persist in the enforcement thereof, in accordance with the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

Where we are of the opinion that the objectives or activities of any party may be unethical, illegal or contrary to good professional practice, including this Code of Conduct, we are obliged to inform the relevant authority.

We will not tolerate the recommendation of any services of any business or organisation in which there is an undisclosed financial, commercial or other interest on behalf of one of the parties.

We will not seek to use our influence, including financial influence, directly or indirectly to secure an undue advantage.

We will behave at all times in a professional, ethical and reasonable manner and shall not bring unreasonable or undue pressure or influence to bear on our activities. We will treat all public officials, at all times, with courtesy and respect.

We will respect and protect confidential information in accordance with local and national law and professional standards.

We acknowledge that each of us is responsible for keeping our professional knowledge up-to-date, for sharing best practices, and for not using confidential information for personal gain.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

We emphasise the need to use easily understandable language so as to encourage companies to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). >>

We believe that increasing social and environmental responsibility by business, linked to the principle of corporate accountability, represents an essential element in meeting the social challenges of economic globalisation;

We recognise that a debate remains open among different stakeholder groups on an appropriate definition of CSR and that the concept of 'beyond compliance' may enable some companies to claim social responsibility while at the same time not respecting local or international laws.

We recognise that CSR is the voluntary integration of environmental and social considerations into business operations, over and above legal requirements and contractual obligations; believe that CSR policies should be promoted on their own merits and should represent neither a substitute for appropriate regulation in relevant fields, nor a covert approach to introducing such legislation;

We believe that CSR should tackle new areas such as lifelong learning, the organisation of work, equal opportunities, social inclusion, sustainable development and ethics, so as to operate as an additional instrument for managing industrial change.

We note a contradiction between competitive sourcing strategies by companies seeking continuous improvements in flexibility and cost on the one hand and voluntary CSR commitments seeking to avoid exploitative employment practices on the other; we welcome further dialogue on this point;

We recognise that CSR is an important driver of business and calls for the integration of social policies such as the

respect for workers' rights, a fair wages policy and non-discrimination.

We emphasise that social and environmental responsibility applies to governmental and non-governmental organisations as much as it does to business.

We consider that, as part of CSR, companies could sponsor cultural and educational activities that offer added value to national and regional policies in the field of culture and lifelong learning; We call on national governments and regional organisations to take the experience of the fair trade movement into account and to explore systematically how that experience could be used in the context of CSR;

We call on transnational companies with production facilities in third countries to, abide by core ILO standards, social and environmental covenants and international agreements to achieve a worldwide balance between economic growth and higher social and environmental standards; We emphasise the importance of promoting women's employment while combating discrimination within a CSR framework, to encourage increased participation of women in all levels of leadership.

We believe that the potential impact of CSR policies remains greatest in relation to companies' global supply chains, to enable responsible investment by companies to assist in the fight against poverty in developing countries, to promote good working conditions, to support principles of fair trade and good governance, as well as to reduce the incidence of breaches of international standards, including labour standards, by corporations in countries where regulatory regimes are weak or non-existent;

We believe that there should be an ongoing dialogue between parliamentarians and the private sector on all aspects of CSR.

## RESPECTING THE CODE

The Code of Conduct applies to everyone involved in Private Sector/Parliamentary Engagement, regardless of their individual role or position.

We promote and support the Code of Conduct in our day-to-day activities, through both personal leadership and professional practice.

We encourage consultation and seek advice, as appropriate, from the resources available to assist in the application and monitoring of the Code.

We will protect against discrimination or retaliation of any kind for reports of illegal or unethical behaviour, made in good faith.

We will protect against any malicious or false allegations of corruption.

## APPLICATION OF THE CODE

We propose that the Draft Code be tabled for discussion in each Parliament and in the Pan-African and European Parliaments, regional parliaments and ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

We propose AWEPA to provide an Ethics Hotline to deal with sensitive ethical issues raised in the Code. This will be used, for example, to notify AWEPA about any inappropriate pressure exerted on us.

We propose AWEPA to help train our staff about the Code's principles, and to assist in developing continuous training in this area.

We aim to achieve mutual international co-operation in enforcing the code throughout the continent of Africa and Europe.

We aim to harmonise the Code of Conduct with existing treaties and laws, or vice versa.

We recommend that the code is circulated to business associations and chamber of commerce for guidance and discussions.

The Code of Conduct can also be found on the AWEPA website at [www.awepa.org](http://www.awepa.org).





# Framework for Parliamentary Action on CAADP

NAIROBI, KENYA, 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2007

## PREAMBLE

Agricultural development in Africa is a vital component of poverty reduction, as recognised in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) adopted in 2003. In order to ensure the implementation of CAADP, parliamentarians have a crucial role to play, at national, regional and Pan-African level, in cooperation with initiatives by the Regional Economic Communities.

**Considering** the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa at the African Union Summit (July 2003) where African Heads of State and Government agreed to implement the CAADP by making agriculture a top priority and raising budget allocations for agriculture to a minimum of 10% of their individual countries' total public spending by 2008 in order to contribute to economic growth throughout the region;

**Convinced** of the importance of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) stating that women have the right to nutritious and adequate food, and that all appropriate measures should be taken to facilitate women's access to land and to guarantee their right to property, whatever their marital status;

**Mindful** of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD adopted by African Heads of State and Government at the African Union Summit in Maputo (2003) which provides an appropriate framework for the establishment of a strong partnership for the protection of the environment between Africa and its partners, based on the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

**Noting** the important work and recommendations of the Cape Town Proclamation: "Parliamentarians' Recommendations Supporting CAADP Goals in Championing Agricultural Successes for Africa's Future" (May 2006) which identifies actions that should be carried out by various actors, including parliamentarians;

**Recalling** the resolutions of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the Abuja Food Security Summit, the Fish

for All Summit, the Africa Fertilizer Summit and the Cocoa Summit (2006);

It is resolved that:

At the request of the African Union Commission, in keeping with the urgent appeal of the AU Heads of State, and in alignment with the NEPAD and AWEPA commitment to the promotion of parliamentary action on MDGs,

Parliamentarians attending the above seminar commit themselves to undertake one or more of the following actions and to promote the broad participation of fellow parliamentarians in such actions, within the next twelve months:

- *National and Constituency Press Conferences*  
Immediately upon return from this meeting, interviews will be given with national and local media representatives to inform people about developments. Subsequent briefings will endeavour to share success stories of agricultural innovation, which contribute to the CAADP agenda.
  - *Parliamentary and Public Hearings on CAADP and incorporated national plans*  
As soon as scheduling permits, hearings will be held to comprehensively inform parliamentary colleagues in a multi-sectoral and integrated manner, and to listen to the views of civil society, the private sector and the international community on agricultural policy recommendations.
  - *Debate in Standing Committee on Agriculture and other relevant portfolio Committees*  
Seminar participants who sit on the Agricultural Committee in parliament will agree with the Chair on adding CAADP as an agenda item.
  - *Parliamentary Resolution on a White Paper*  
Where a current White Paper on Agriculture is not yet available, seminar participants will formally request this by parliamentary resolution.
  - *Capacity Building and Research to support parliamentarians*  
Continuous capacity building for parliamentarians to provide them with updated information to facilitate informed debate and decision making is
- a crucial part of the NEPAD and CAADP implementation processes and should be facilitated. Special attention should be given to training and information in this field for newly-elected parliamentarians.
- *Role of Research*  
National and International Agricultural Research Organisations are urged to work with parliamentarians so that they may all bring together the benefits of existing research to their country and to their constituencies and thus reduce poverty and promote economic development.
  - *Local work*  
Parliamentarians should work actively in support of rural and agricultural development in their own constituencies. This could include encouraging research, training, extension services and private sector development.
  - *Monitoring and Evaluation*  
The programme partners of the Mobilising Parliamentarians for NEPAD (MPN) programme will undertake an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process, in cooperation with existing initiatives such as the NEPAD Secretariat tracking mechanism on agricultural budgets, and tracking mechanisms of Regional Economic Communities (REC's) including Regional Strategic Analysis & Knowledge Support Systems (RESAKSS).
  - *Parliamentary Joint-Initiative on Agriculture*  
Call for a joint-initiative of Parliamentary Committees on Agriculture, Gender, Environment, Finance, Trade & Industry (and other committees where appropriate) to come to joint recommendations to provide synergies with regard to implementation on budgetary issues, legislation, poverty reduction strategies, national development plans etc.
  - *Incorporate Global issues*  
Seminar participants should make concerted efforts to have global issues affecting agriculture (e.g. trade negotiations, climate change, bio-energy and related issues) included in parliamentary debates.
  - *Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the implementation of CAADP*  
As needed, a Commission of Inquiry will be called (see annex for example Terms of Reference).

# Participants

Participant	Institution
<b>PARLIAMENTARIANS</b>	
Senator Els Schelfhout	Belgian Parliament
Hon Audace Cegetera	Burundi Parliament
Hon Pétronie Habanabashaka	Burundi Parliament
Senator Charles Masabo	Burundi Parliament
Hon Pierre – Claver Nahimana	Burundi Parliament
Hon Shadrack Niyonkuru	Burundi Parliament
Hon Evariste Nsabiyumva	Burundi Parliament
Hon Antoine Michel Barthelemy	Djibouti Parliament
Hon Ali Mohamed Daoud	Djibouti Parliament
Hon Houssein Omar Kawalieh	Djibouti Parliament
Hon Marie Claire Kikontwe	Democratic Republic of Congo Parliament
Hon Helene Mikobi Mbokashanga	Democratic Republic of Congo Parliament
Hon Hubert Masala Loka Mutombo	Democratic Republic of Congo Parliament
Hon F Lwanyantika Masha	East African Legislative Assembly
Hon Catherine Kimura	East African Legislative Assembly
Hon Lydia Wanyoto	East African Legislative Assembly
Hon Ato Ayele Seuoum	Ethiopian Parliament
Hon Musa Hussein Naib	Eritrean Parliament
Hon Patrick Meinhardt	German Parliament
Hon Prof P. Olweny	Kenyan Parliament
Hon Egidijus Vareikis	Lithuanian Parliament, AWEPA Vice-President
Hon Casimiro Pedro Huate	Mozambique Parliament
Hon Anselmo Victor	Mozambique Parliament
Hon Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi	Pan African Parliament and Ugandan Parliament
Senator Marcel Dzangue Ombissa	Republic of Congo Parliament
Senator Speciose Ayinkamiye	Rwandan Parliament
Hon Esperance Mwiza	Rwandan Parliament
Hon Mike Rugema	Rwandan Parliament
Hon Adam Kighoma Malima	Tanzanian Parliament
Hon Herbert James Mntangi	Tanzanian Parliament
Hon Kilontsi Mporogomyi	Tanzanian Parliament
Hon Mwanawetu Zarafi	Tanzanian Parliament

Participant	Institution
Hon Pereza Godfrey Ahabwe	Ugandan Parliament
Hon Bikwasizehi Deusdedit	Ugandan Parliament
Hon Winifred Komuhangi Masiko	Ugandan Parliament
Hon Kamyia Beti Olive Namisango	Ugandan Parliament
Hon Achia Remigio	Ugandan Parliament
<b>PRESENTERS, EXPERTS AND RESOURCE PERSONS</b>	
Mr Steve Collins	ACDI-VOCA
Mr Augustine Ruzindana	African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption, Chairman
Mr Pär Granstedt	AWEPA, Secretary General and CEO
Mr Mhamed Cherif Initiative,	BizClim, ACP Business Climate Director
Mr Cyrille Sigejeje	Burundi Chamber of Commerce of Industry, Arts and Agriculture, Secretary General
Mr Okero Otieno	CIDA, Senior Programme Officer
Dr Wilfred Mwangi	CIMMYT, Principal Economist
Mr Arun Devani	East Africa Business Council, Chairman
Mr Philip Kirio	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, President
Mr Gayling May	Eastern Africa Association, Regional Representative
Mr Tesfai Teclé	Food and Agriculture Organisation, Assistant Director General
Ms Judy Kimamo	Green Belt Movement, Personal Assistant to Hon Wangari Maathai

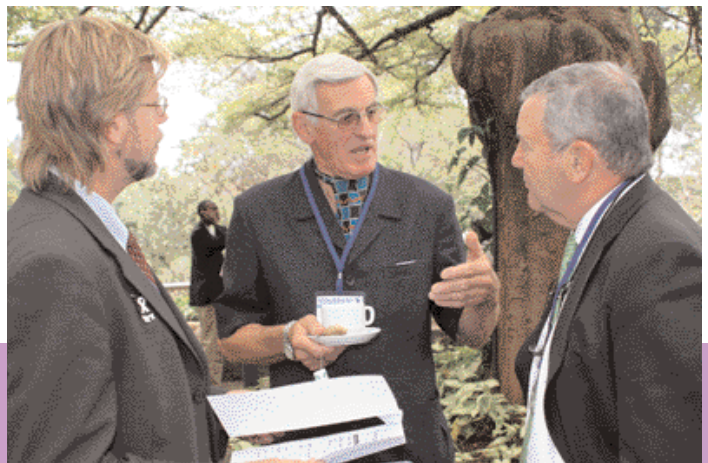


Participant	Institution
Mr Philip Wamahiu	Green Belt Movement
Mr Edward Kateiya	Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers, Programme Officer
Mr Samuel Ndiriri	Kenyan Parliament, Clerk
Mr Peter Chemweno	Kenyan Parliament, Clerk Assistant
Mr Sammy Mwaura	Kenya Private Sector Alliance, CEO
Mr Charles Kahuthu	Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Sector Coordinator
Dr Jennifer Riria	Kenya Women's Finance Trust, CEO
Mr Gary Moonsammy	Manto Management, Consultant
Ms Elise Pinnars	MDF East Africa
Mr John Lovdal	National Democratic Institute Nairobi
Mr Linus Gitahi	Nation Media Group, CEO
Mr Victor Mathale	NEPAD/OECD African Investment Initiative, Advisor
Professor Maggie Kigozi	Uganda Investment Authority, Executive Director

#### PRESENTERS, EXPERTS AND RESOURCE PERSONS

Ms Nyambura Koigi	Postbank Kenya, MD, World Savings Banks Institute Africa Group, Chairperson
Mr Alphonse Kihwele	Postbank Tanzania, CEO
Mr Stephen Mukweli	Postbank Uganda, MD
Mr Patrick Orr	Rait Orr Consultants, Executive Chairman
Mr Tony Worthington	Research into Use, Consultant
Ms Kerry Albright	Research into Use, Senior Advisor
Mr Joe Frans	Former Member of the Swedish Parliament
Mr Isaac Dallushi	Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Vice-President
Mr John Corrie	Former Member of the UK Parliament, AWEPA Council Member
Mr Peter Acquah	United Nations Environment Programme, Deputy Director of the Regional Office for Africa
Mr David Ombisi	United National Environment Programme, Programme Officer
Mr Gibson Nabuteya Aranya	University of Nairobi, Water Engineer

Participant	Institution
Ms Rosemary Olive Mbone Enie	WICO Africa, President
Ms Caroline Mwaura	WICO, Director General
Ms Margaret Kariuki	WICO, Executive Representative Kenya
<b>AWEPA STAFF</b>	
Dr Jeff Balch	AWEPA, Director of Research and Evaluation
Ms Zoë Ware	AWEPA, Project Officer
Mr Patrick M. Luabeya	AWEPA, Project Officer
Ms Marie Heuts	AWEPA, Project Officer
Ms Madelon Doesburg	AWEPA, Office Assistant
Mr Arend Huitzing	AWEPA, Consultant
Ms Angelina Nahimana	AWEPA Burundi, Project Officer
Ms Gertrude Bamba	AWEPA DRC, Project Officer
Ms Marianne Lateste	AWEPA Kenya, Head of Office
Mr Thiongo Kagicha	AWEPA Kenya, Project Officer
Ms Peninah Ogeto	AWEPA Kenya, Office Manager
Ms Ruth Mungai	AWEPA Kenya, Administrative Officer
Ms Beata Mukabaranga	AWEPA Rwanda, Project Officer
Mr Lawrence Makigi	AWEPA Tanzania, Office Representative
Ms Jeniffer Kwarisiima	AWEPA Uganda, Project Officer





# Colophon

Text Jos Havermans, Salwa de Vree, Zoë Ware  
Editing Salwa de Vree, Zoë Ware  
Photos Josiah Kagikah, GPS Media  
Design Lena Shafir, www.shafir-etcetera.com  
Printing Jubels bv

AWEPA International Office  
Prins Hendrikkade 48 -G  
1012 AC Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel +31 20 5245678  
Fax +31 20 6220130  
E-mail: amsterdam@awepa.org

AWEPA Nairobi Office  
Chaka Place, 2nd floor  
Argwings Kodhek/Chaka Road  
PO Box 1189-00606  
(Sarit Centre/Westlands)  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel +254 20 2733977  
Fax +254 20 2733473  
Email: awepakenya@accesskenya.com

© AWEPA, 2008



## Follow-up activities on Private Sector Development

As a result of the Arusha seminar in 2006, national follow-up workshops on private sector development and poverty reduction took place in Burundi, the DRC, Kenya, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The nature of each workshop was defined by the needs of the parliament concerned. In addition, during the course of 2007, small ad-hoc committees of key parliamentarians and private sector representatives were formed to discuss significant issues in more detail.

As a result of the Nairobi 'Unfinished Business' seminar, national follow-up parliamentary workshops will also be arranged in all the above-mentioned countries on private sector development, poverty reduction and agriculture. Again, the nature and focus of each workshop will be defined by each Parliament's needs. Parliamentarians and experts will have the opportunity to share experiences gained at the regional seminar and discuss the Code of Conduct and Framework for Action on CAADP in more detail. The ad-hoc committees will be fully engaged in this process. Uganda was the first country to hold its national follow-up workshop, which took place in December 2007.

In the latter part of 2008, a third regional seminar on private sector development will be arranged to follow up on the Nairobi seminar and the national level workshops.

In addition, under the Mobilising Parliamentarians for NEPAD programme, regional seminars on the theme of agricultural development took place for Southern Africa (Cape Town, March 07) and West Africa (Cotonou, October 07). In 2008, national level follow-up workshops on agriculture will take place for parliaments that participated in these regional seminars.

For more details on all past events and upcoming activities, please see the 'Projects' page on the AWEPA website: [www.awepa.org](http://www.awepa.org). Alternatively, please contact AWEPA at [amsterdam@awepa.org](mailto:amsterdam@awepa.org) for more information.

