

Programme Descriptions

This conference forms part of a series of regional and national trainings and dialogues under the programme 'Fostering the Values of Democracy in the Great Lakes Region', which aims to deepen parliamentary democracy in Africa through parliamentary institutional capacity building, human resource development and capacity building of individual parliamentarians. Through this programme, supported by the Netherlands Development Cooperation, AWEPA facilitates

parliamentary dialogues, exchange of views and experiences, and constructive debates among parliamentarians which is a contribution to strengthening parliamentary democracies as well as for the enhancement of peace, stability and progress. The programme has been instrumental in shaping these dialogues and contributed to improved function of parliaments and made a constructive contribution to parliamentary business and debates. •



Hon. Margret Ziwa, East African Legislative Assembly



Mr. Aidan Eyakuze, Director, Serengeti Advisers



Mr. Par Granstedt, Dr. Jeff Balch, Mr. Omari Issa, Mr. Patrick Orr

About AWEPA

AWEPA is an international parliamentary association which 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. AWEPA has served as a unique tool for complex democratisation operations through: **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 African and 28 in Europe, including the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament. •

The Way Forward

Participants expressed continued commitment to exchange experiences within the region; toward adoption of best practices; and supportive legislation to ensure that the region stands to benefit from a balanced and focused development of the private sector, agricultural sustenance and environmental quality assurances. Participants agreed on the resolutions of the conference and to the drafted joint parliamentary and private sector plans of action, and to include gender mainstreaming and improved access to credit amongst women and vulnerable groups. AWEPA and EALA confirmed continued cooperation in the promotion of private sector development. •



The Role of Parliamentarians in Private Sector Development and Climate Change Adaptation

Dar es Salaam, 15-16 June 2009



Parliamentarians from the Great Lakes Region commit to enhance engagement with the private sector in order to improve the business and investment environment and monitor climate change adaptation in the region

The Role of Parliamentarians in Private Sector Development and Climate Change Adaptation regional conference, held on 15-16 June 2009 in Dar es Salaam, focussed on enhancing the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in improving the business and investment environment in the Great Lakes Region. Over eighty people attended, including delegations representing the Parliaments in the Great Lakes Region and the East Africa Common Market, which stands to offer considerable opportunities that need to be fully understood by parliamentarians and the business community – in order to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty in the region. The conference also provided opportunities for parliamentarians to examine the impact of climate change on private sector development (PSD) and agriculture developments with a view to undertake policy and legislative action in support of adaptation, mitigation and food security initiatives.



The conference sought to support MDGs 1, 7 and 8, which respectively aim to address extreme poverty and hunger, environmental sustainability, and the creation of a global partnership for development, that is supportive to commercially viable business ideas that enhance growth, wealth and job creation. Parliaments are key institutions in ensuring conducive business environments and equitable socio-economic growth that is pro-poor, a fundamental requirement in poverty reduction strategies. •

Results

Thirteen papers were presented during the conference and discussed in plenary to initiate a dialogue process on the impact of climate change on food security and to enhance economic activity in the region. Some of the proposed outcomes included: policy linkages, harmonised legislation and policies supportive of the new East Africa Common Market; climate change adaptation and agriculture development; increased incorporation of gender concerns in Private Sector Development (PSD) processes and enhanced access to credit among vulnerable women; enhanced economic activities and job creation as a result of a more conducive regional business environment; enhanced understanding of the effects of climate change in PSD and

food security and improved engagement between parliamentarians and the private sector. •

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The important role of the private sector in sustainable economies and The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation cannot be overlooked; However it was observed that corruption is a major obstacle to its development. It was recommended to follow the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) trend curb forms of fraudulence within the sector, through for example; codes of conduct, to ensure good corporate governance. It was also noted that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), governments will have to allocate more funding towards private sector development and that there was need to remove

barriers that hinder the growth of the private sector from production points to the market. •

CLIMATE CHANGE

Africa suffers the worst consequences of climate change and the economic constraints caused thereby. If the MDGs are to be attained, all key stakeholders have a supportive role to play. It was noted that dialogue and coordination frameworks can stimulate progress towards effective responses to climate change adaptation and the attainment of food security. It was also noted that climate change implications on human settlements and urban migration also pose risks to food security. Climate change challenges parliamentarians to adopt policies for capacity building of women and girls to support increasing gender equality in private sector development. •



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Opening Session

Mr. Pär Granstedt, Secretary General of the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) chaired the opening session and thanked the Parliament of Tanzania, East Africa Legislative Assembly and the East African Business Council for their role played in facilitating the workshop, which he said aimed to engender dialogue *“to enhance the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in improving the business and investment environment in the Great Lakes Region, climate change adaptation and agricultural development.”*

Hon. Asman Janguo, MP, Tanzania, reiterated that MDGs could only be attained through supportive key stakeholders. He advocated for a dialogue and coordination framework that would enable stakeholders to contribute significantly to climate change adaption and the attainment of food security.

Mr. Reginald Mengi, Chairman, East African Business Council, noted the important role of the private sector and the need to curb corruption through established codes of business conduct. He emphasised that parliamentarians can also play a key role through protective legislation, transparency and accountability in government.



Mr. Par Granstedt, former Secretary General AWEPA

Session 1: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT – TOWARDS THE EAST AFRICAN COMMON MARKET

Mr. Aidan Eyakuze, Director, Serengeti Advisers, underscored the main concerns of private sector development stating that allocation of government budgets is inadequate to finance activities geared towards meeting the MDGs and has resulted in donor dependency. He noted the significant role of the Private Sector in socio-economic development.

Mr. Omari Issa, Cheif Executive, Investment Climate Facility for Africa, pointed out that there was still a need to remove barriers to private sector growth and sought parliamentarian support through legislation reforms in the business sector. He advocated for the adoption of best practices noting that political will contributes significantly to results delivery.

Mr. Fernando Matos Rosa, Secretary General, European Business Council for Africa, explained the unique roles played by the private sector in the promotion of the business and summarised the roadmap to East Africa business as including better investment, good governance, entrepreneurship, improved policies and infrastructure, human capital and risk mitigation.



Hon. Janet Mmari, MPEALA



Mr. Omari Issa, Chief Executive, The Investment Climate Facility for Africa

Mr. David Robertson, Resident Representative of the East Africa Association, spoke on alternative sources of energy such as bio fuel and geothermal, noting that investors needed practical solutions to deal with climate change and that changed ecological patterns and decreasing access to water was a global concern. ●

Session 2: CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Halifa Omar Drammeh, Special Advisor to the Executive Director of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), said there is *“No sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation and we should involve every person for effective results in climate change”*. He further added that *“Africans should form the bases of negotiation of COP15 in Copenhagen”*.

Dr. Markandey Rai, United Nations HABITAT, presented a paper on climate change and human settlement. Dr. Rai explained about a new program known as Sustainable Urban Development Network that includes the medium term plan focussed on the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), which intends to promote active multi-stakeholder climate change collaboration, awareness raising, education, and capacity building strategies.

Ms. Mary Swai, Head of Department, Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation (TaTEDO), spoke on climate change and sustainable energy. Her presentation focussed on the effects of climate change in the energy sector in Tanzania, and efforts to address them.

Professor Maggie Kigozi, Executive Director, Uganda Investment Authority, highlighted the administrative barriers to investment and spoke on the Ten Commandments for ideal investment climates, which included political stability/security, economic stability, good infrastructure and streamlined government machinery. ●

Session 3: ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS FOR PSD AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

Hon. Dr. James Ndahiro, MP East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), underscored the role of parliamentarians in the integration process to act as direct channels of communication between governments, private sector, civil society and all other interest groups to enhance, accelerate and promote a competitive business environment through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Hon. Bazatoha Adolphe, MP Rwanda, noted the important role parliament and parliamentarians can play in developing national and regional programmes for climate change adaptation and awareness creation among the public and all stakeholders. He emphasised that climate change has the potential to impact negatively on the attainment of the MDGs.

Mr. John McIntire, Country Director for Tanzania and Uganda, the World Bank, spoke on *“the global financial crisis, Africa’s developing economies and International Development Assistance”*. He said that *“members of parliament have the responsibility to respond to the needs of the people, and public spending must be adjusted in various sectors”*. ●

Session 4: GENDER EQUALITY IN PSD, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Lotta Hedström, MP Sweden, spoke on *“Europe and Gender Equality in Climate Change and Entrepreneurship”*. She explained that the Parliament of Sweden has to make an important decision on the issue of climate change noting that people need ethical food more than industrial food, and promotes the increase of female representation in all sectors. She highlighted the potential of biogas, women entrepreneurship and the green house development plan as some of the possible solutions.

Ms. Judy Kimamo, Project Officer, the Green Belt Movement, noted that climate change and limited environmental resources cut back on the gains made by the women’s movement towards welfare and social support, and economic empowerment of women. ●



Hon. Abdirahim Haithar Abdi, Speaker East African Legislative Assembly



Ms. Lotta Hedström, former MP, Sweden

Closing Remarks

Hon. Abdirahim Haithar Abdi, Speaker East African Legislative Assembly, commended the Secretary General of AWEPA and the entire AWEPA leadership for the continued support to parliaments and parliamentarians in Africa, and specifically to EALA. He further said that EALA has been and will continue to be instrumental in passing the necessary legislation aimed at promoting private sector development, improved agriculture and climate change adaptation.

He urged parliamentarians to ensure that the region stands to benefit from a balanced and focussed development of the private sector, agricultural sustenance and environmental quality assurance as reflected in debates. He concluded by urging participants to implement the resolutions of the conference to assist in the drafting of joint parliamentary and private sector plans of action, which should also include gender balance in private sector development and improved access to credit amongst women and vulnerable groups. ●