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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

(Second Session)

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)



Gallagher Convention Centre
Midrand, South Africa
15TH MAY TO 2ND JUNE, 2023

Clerk's Chambers,
Parliament Buildings,
Nairobi.

JULY, 2022

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AfCFTA:	African Continental Free Trade Area
AU:	African Union
AU/CIEFFA:	African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa
AUC:	African Union Commission
CAPA:	Committee on Audit and Public Accounts
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
IGAD:	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
NCD:	National Determined Contributions
OAU:	Organization of African Unity
PACSF:	Pan-African Civil Society Forum
PAP:	Pan African Parliament
PRC:	Permanent Representatives' Council
RSF:	Rapid Support Forces
UN:	United Nations
UNICEF:	United Nation Children's Fund
USA:	United States of America
WHO:	World Health Organization

PREFACE

The Second Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) took place from 15th May, 2023 to 2nd June, 2023 at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, South Africa. The Session was held under the African Union (AU) theme of the year – ***“Accelerating the implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”***.

The Kenya delegation to this meeting comprised of the following –

1. Sen. Danson Mungatana, MGH, MP – Leader of the Delegation;
2. Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, EGH, MP;
3. Hon. Esther Muthoni Passaris, OGW, MP;
4. Hon. Joseph Kalasinga Majimbo, MP;
5. Hon. Rahab Mukami Wachira, MP;

The delegation was supported by Mrs. Lillian Osundwa, First Clerk Assistant, Senate; and Ms. Racheal Kairu, Principal Clerk Assistant, National Assembly.

The official opening ceremony of the Session was graced by the Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency President Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros. The Session also received messages of solidarity from three invited guests, including the Speaker of the Senate of Kenya.

During the Session, the PAP undertook swearing in of twenty-one (21) new members from Botswana, Cameroun, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Saharawi Republic and Somalia to the Pan-African Parliament.

Additionally, issues deliberated by Hon. Members during the Session included the implementation of the AfCFTA; Climate Change justice; Dialogue with the Pan African Justice Network and the status of peace and security on the continent. In addition, MPs debated the report on the performance of the PAP and the reports from Permanent Committees.

Thereafter, the Clerk made a presentation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Second Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the

Pan-African Parliament and, in total, eight (8) resolutions and seven (7) recommendations were adopted.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the delegation for bestowing upon us the important task of representing Kenya in one of the most important fora in the associations of Parliaments.

Hon. Speaker, it is now my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, the summary of proceedings and resolutions of the Second Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament.



Sen. Danson Buya Mungatana, MGH, MP
Leader of the Delegation



Members of the Delegation keenly follow proceedings during the Climate Change Summit (held on 16th & 17th May, 2023) where H.E. President (Dr.) William Ruto, CGH, Commander-in-Chief of Kenya Defense Forces, was the Chief Guest

INTRODUCTION

1. The Pan African Parliament is established in the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. Article 2 of the Protocol provides;

“Member States hereby establish a Pan African Parliament, the composition, functions, power and organization of which shall be governed by the present Protocol.”

2. The vision and purpose of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) can be traced to the Pan African ideals of cooperation and unity among African States. These ideals inspired the signing of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty) on 3rd June, 1991 and the adoption of the Sirte declaration of 1999. The Sirte declaration called for speedy implementation of the provisions of the Abuja Treaty to establish nine (9) institutions of the African Union which include-

- a) The Assembly of the Union
- b) The Executive Council
- c) The Pan-African Parliament
- d) The Court of Justice
- e) The Commission
- f) The Permanent Representatives Committee
- g) The Specialized Technical Committees
- h) The Economic, Social and Cultural Council
- i) The Financial Institutions

3. The purpose of the PAP, as set out in Article 17 of the African Union (AU) Constitutive Act, is to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent. Also known as the African Parliament, the PAP is the legislative body of the African Union. The PAP held its inaugural session in March 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The seat of the Pan-African Parliament is in Midrand, South Africa. The Parliament is intended as a platform for people from all African states to be involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

Objectives of the Pan-African Parliament

4. The objectives of the Pan African Parliament are spelt out in Article 3 of the PAP Protocol and include to –
- a) Facilitate effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the OAU/AEC and ultimately, of the AU.
 - b) Promote the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa.
 - c) Encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States.
 - d) Familiarise the peoples of Africa with the objectives and policies aimed at integrating the African continent within the framework of the establishment of the African Union.
 - e) Promote peace, security and stability.
 - f) Contribute to a more prosperous future for the people of Africa by promoting collective self-reliance and economic recovery.
 - g) Facilitate co-operation and development in Africa.
 - h) Strengthen continental solidarity and build a sense of common destiny among the peoples of Africa.
 - i) Facilitate co-operation among Regional Economic Communities and their Parliamentary fora.

Members of the Pan-African Parliament

5. The PAP is made up of 250 members, with each of the 50 AU Member States that have ratified the PAP Protocol represented by five (5) members. The representatives are elected by the legislatures of AU Member States, rather than being directly elected in their own capacity. The *Protocol on the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan-African Parliament* (Malabo Protocol) has however proposed for election of PAP Members through universal suffrage. Once ratified, membership to the PAP will be through election in respective countries similar to the election of MP to the European Parliament. PAP MPs will also be barred from serving as MPs in their respective national legislatures as is the current situation. These are some of the changes, including the transformation of the PAP to a fully legislative organ once the protocol is ratified by the requisite membership. Kenya has not ratified this protocol.

6. The protocol stipulates that the composition of a country's delegation reflects the diversity of political opinions of the Member State's legislature, with at least one of the Members being a woman.

Operations of the Pan-African Parliament

7. The PAP is made up of three (3) main bodies, i.e. the Plenary, the Bureau and the Secretariat. There are also ten (10) Permanent Committees which deal with different sectors aligned to the agencies of the AU.

a) The Plenary

8. The Plenary is the main decision-making body of the PAP and passes resolutions which are then transmitted for implementation by relevant agencies of the AU and by Member States. It brings together all the elected Members, and is chaired by the President (Speaker), assisted by 4 Vice-Presidents.

b) The Bureau

9. The Bureau is the leadership organ of the PAP and comprises the President and the four Vice-Presidents. Each member of the Bureau represents a different region of Africa. The Bureau of the PAP is ultimately responsible for the organisation and operations of the Parliament as an institution. It is composed of the President and four Vice-Presidents representing the five regions (North, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) of the African continent.

c) The Secretariat

10. The Secretariat provides technical support to and assists in the day-to-day running of the Parliament. The Secretariat is headed by a Clerk assisted by two Deputy Clerks.

d) Committees of the Pan-African Parliament

11. The PAP has eleven Permanent Committees whose mandates and functions are set out in Rules 22 to 27 of the *PAP Rules of Procedure*. The functions of the committees correspond to those of the African Union Specialised Technical Committees.

12. The PAP Committees are –

- a) Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
- b) Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs
- c) Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters
- d) Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolutions
- e) Committee on Transport, Industry, Communications, Energy, Science and Technology
- f) Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs
- g) Committee on Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources
- h) Committee on Gender, Family, Youths and People with Disabilities
- i) Committee on Justice and Human Rights
- j) Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline
- k) Committee on Audit and Public Accounts

13. The general membership and composition of Committees of the PAP are regulated by the Rules of Procedure. Under Rule 22(5), a committee of the PAP comprises of up to thirty (30) members.

e) Calendar of the Pan-African Parliament activities

14. The key annual activities of PAP are as follows –

- a) Meetings of the Permanent Committees and Bureau – *held in March;*
- b) Meetings of the Plenary, Permanent Committees and the Bureau – *held in May;*
- c) Meetings of the Permanent Committees and Bureau – *held in August;*
- d) Meetings of the Forum of Clerks and Secretaries General of Member Parliaments – *held in August;* and
- e) Meetings of the Plenary, Permanent Committees and the Bureau – *held in October.*

15. Additionally, the PAP from time to time organizes seminars and workshops on areas of interest to Members falling within the objectives of the PAP. The PAP also nominates Members to participate in AU election observation and fact-finding missions to Member States.

RECORD OF THE PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

Opening Ceremony

16. The official opening of the session was conducted on 15th May, 2023 by the PAP President, **Hon. Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira**. The opening ceremony was held at the Idriss Ndele Plenary Room and was attended by, among others, the Chairperson of the African Union, **H.E. President Azali Assoumani**, President of the Republic of Comoros, who graced the official opening ceremony as the guest of honour; **Ms. Candith Mashego-Dlamini**, the South African Deputy Minister of International Cooperation; **H.E. André Nzapayéké**, Dean of the Diplomatic Corp in South Africa; **Hon. Naama Mayara**, Speaker of the House of Advisors of Morocco & President of the Senate of Morocco; **Hon. Modeste Bahati Lukwebo**, Speaker of the Senate of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); **Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi**, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya; **Hon. Senanu Koku Alipui**, 2nd Rapporteur of the Committee on Agriculture representing the Rt. Hon. Sidie Mohamed Tunis, Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament; members of the diplomatic corps in the South Africa, as well as PAP Members of Parliament from forty-nine (49) Member States.

In his welcome remarks, the President of the PAP, Hon. Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira, expressed gratitude to the President of the AU, for gracing the official opening of the Session noting that it had taken a long time since an AU President attended the official opening at PAP.

The President reflected on the mandate of PAP as provided for in the AU constitutive Act and the PAP Protocol. He mentioned that at the launch of the PAP, Heads of States committed to hold a conference after 5 years to decide on the powers of PAP. However, the conference did not take place but instead the PAP led the process of developing a revised Protocol. However, despite the Heads of States adopting the Protocol, the ratification process for the revised version of the Protocol was slow as only 15 countries had ratified it.

President Charumbira noted that PAP was not well supported as evidenced by the small number of Members of PAP participating in election observer

missions as well as the low budget allocated to PAP which could not adequately finance PAP programs. The PAP President stated that such challenges notwithstanding, the PAP had emerged strong and reinvigorated.

The PAP President pointed out that in the program of the Session, the PAP had provided space for discussion of the AU theme of the year, which he considered one of the major endeavors towards the achievement of AU's Agenda 2063.

The PAP President also reflected on the state of democracy and good governance on the continent and bemoaned the proliferation of unconstitutional changes of government, the latest one being the armed conflict in the Sudan. He mentioned that PAP had provided space for debate on peace and security on the continent.

In conclusion, President Charumbira noted that prior to the presidency of H.E. President Azali Assoumani, the Comoros was marred with frequent unconstitutional changes of government but that the President had brought stability to his country. He urged the AU president to use the skills he employed in bringing stability to his country towards addressing the peace and security challenges affecting the continent.

Remarks and Solidarity Messages by Dignitaries during the Opening session

Ms. Candith Mashego-Dlamini, South Africa's Deputy Minister of International Co-operation

The Deputy Minister, Ms. Candith Mashego-Dlamini, acknowledged the presence of the President of Comoros and welcomed participants to South Africa. She informed MPs that PAP had a crucial role to play in dealing with challenges faced by the African People. She mentioned the challenges of climate change as well as movement of goods and persons and intra-Africa trade.

While reflecting on the program of the Session, the Deputy Minister applauded PAP for organizing a Summit on Climate Change and called on PAP

to facilitate the building of a common African position on climate change issues towards COP 28.

She also alluded to the discussions on the AfCFTA scheduled for discussion during the Session and urged PAP to ensure the domestication of instruments on the AfCFTA as adopted by the AU. She stated that she looked forward to the outcomes of the workshop on the Model Law on Women in Trade, digital governance and integration of African traditional medicine. She concluded her remarks by expressing the commitment of the Republic of South Africa to hosting the PAP and providing the necessary facilities to that effect.

H.E André Nzapayéké, Dean of Diplomatic Corps in South Africa

The Ambassador congratulated PAP for joining the ambassadors in commemorating Africa Day to celebrate 60 years since the establishment of the OAU. He, however, noted that while 60 years had elapsed, African continued to face challenges such as peace and security, migration and food insecurity, among others.

Amb. Nzapayéké acknowledged the efforts made by the AU to address these challenges and expressed optimism that, with the commitment of AU organs and African Leaders, the challenges could be overcome. He noted that PAP was the right forum for the discussion of these challenges and congratulated the PAP President on his efforts to re-invigorate PAP.

Hon. Naama Mayara, Speaker of the House of Advisors of Morocco, President of the Senate of Morocco

Hon. Naama Mayara expressed gratitude to the Bureau of PAP for inviting him to attend the official opening ceremony of the Session. He challenged the PAP MPs to ensure the establishment of a common African Agenda and expressed the commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco in contributing to that agenda.

He reflected on the benefits of the AfCFTA in creating the largest market, which would enhance African integration. The Senate President shared the efforts made by Morocco in the context of the AfCFTA, particularly on the creation of value chains to allow Africa to have access to fertilizer, among others. He affirmed the commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco towards mutual assistance with other African countries.

Hon. Modeste Bahati Lukwebo, Speaker of the Senate of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Rt. Hon. Speaker Lukwebo thanked PAP for the warm welcome and the opportunity to take the floor. He started by observing that PAP should have an important role in ensuring peace and security and economic development in

Africa, given its mandate of ensuring that programs and policies were responsive to the needs of the people.

He noted that the challenges that Africa faced such as COVID-19, climate change and peace and security required concerted efforts among countries. While reflecting on the security situation in DRC, the Speaker lamented that Congo was a victim of aggression and was suffering the effects of climate change affecting food production. He thanked SADC countries for expressing solidarity with DRC and offering to send a peacekeeping mission to Eastern DRC.

On food insecurity, the Speaker observed that while Africa had 60% of arable land, only 20% of its GDP came from agriculture. He called for a paradigm shift to ensure increased agricultural production and by making AfCFTA operational. He concluded by expressing hope that the constraints that PAP faced would be addressed through the allocation of sufficient budget.

Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya

Rt. Hon. Speaker Amason Kingi, in his solidarity remarks, observed that the PAP occupied an important space on the continent in the context of the governance architecture of the AU. He noted that PAP, as a legislative body, set the agenda for all parliaments towards a common legal position on matters affecting African people.

While commenting on the program for the Session, the Speaker zeroed in on the scheduled Climate Change Summit as he talked about the effects of climate change and the international instruments for dealing with the matter.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker then noted that all the wonderful plans and programs developed by the AU and Member countries could only be achieved in a stable and peaceful atmosphere. He expressed disappointment that conflicts such as the one in South Sudan went on for months without being resolved.

With regard to AfCFTA, Speaker Kingi noted that there were certain infrastructural pillars which ought to be put in place for AfCFTA to succeed. These included connectivity in terms of road and air transport and telecommunication infrastructure. He noted, with concern, that the structure of the continent was such that it was more difficult to do intra-Africa trade than with other continents since it was easier to transport goods outside Africa as opposed to within Africa.

Hon. Senanu Koku Alipui, 2nd Rapporteur of the Committee on Agriculture representing the Rt. Hon. Sidie Mohamed Tunis, Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament

Hon. Senanu Koku Alipui observed that the economic development of Africa rested on integration and that the AfCFTA would bring Africa closer to the

dream of African economic integration. He argued that the onus was on African Countries to begin negotiating multilateral and bilateral agreements to eliminate trade barriers.

He joined previous speakers in reflecting on the effects of climate change and the inadequacy of international response to address its impact.

Hon. Alipui noted that the peace and security situation in Sudan required collective and immediate action and concluded by assuring the PAP that ECOWAS would stand with PAP in its work as the two parliaments were partners in advancing the African agenda.

Swearing-in of New Members of Parliament

17. In line with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, newly elected Members were sworn in during the plenary sitting. In total, Members from eight (8) countries were sworn in as Members of the Pan-African Parliament. The Members were from the following member States -

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) One (1) MP from Botswana | 5) One (1) MP from Madagascar |
| 2) Two (2) MPs from Cameroun | 6) Five (5) MPs from Mauritania |
| 3) Five (5) MPs from Djibouti | 7) One (1) MP from Saharawi |
| 4) Five (5) MPs from E/Guinea | 8) One (1) MP from Somalia |

Keynote address by Guest of Honour, His Excellency President Azali Assoumani, President of the Republic of Comoros

18. The Keynote address was delivered by the President of the Republic of Comoros, **H.E. Hon. Azali Assoumani**, who expressed gratitude to PAP for inviting him to address ceremony. He further expressed gratitude to the Republic of South Africa for the warm welcome he had been accorded.

With reference to the challenges facing PAP as outlined by the PAP President, the H.E. President Assoumani committed to do his best to give the PAP what was necessary towards the consolidation of democracy in the context of the mandate of the PAP. He mentioned that he had assumed the AU Presidency at a time when the world was changing and stated that this required AU institutions to work together to confront the new challenges.

He informed the plenary that AfCFTA had become an African priority and, by extension, his priority in the course of his term as AU President. He noted the need for African countries to come together to achieve mutual development and expressed optimism that AfCFTA would help achieve that goal in record time. The President argued that with AfCFTA, Africa would be able to eliminate trade barriers and achieve economic development, given that Africa had the requisite resources that was sufficient to enable it to do so.

He urged PAP to facilitate the promotion of accelerated ratification of instruments relating to the AfCFTA as this would ease the implementation of its roadmap. He expressed confidence that, with proper engagement and collaboration among AU organs, PAP would be supported to deliver on its mandate.

H.E. President Assoumani observed that Africa could not achieve accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA without peace and security. He noted that the war in Sudan had worsened an already bad situation and that this threatened to destabilize neighbouring countries. He revealed that he was working on offers to force the warring parties to cease fire and turn to negotiations.

With regards to how he managed to restore peace and stability in the Comoros, the President observed that African people had a culture of discussing among themselves when faced problems. He stated that he capitalized on that culture to have people talk among themselves to find sustainable solutions. He concluded by expressing hope that the Session would contribute towards achievement of peace and security and a prosperous Africa.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS HELD DURING THE SESSION

19. During the Session, the PAP held five activities involving all Members of PAP. These were-

- (i) 3rd PAP Summit on Climate Policy and Equity
- (ii) Workshop on the theme of the Session
- (iii) Commemoration of the Africa Day
- (iv) Dialogue with the Pan-African Civil Society Forum; and
- (v) Workshop for the national implementation of the Africa Educates Her Campaign.

Below is a summary of the proceedings during these activities:-

Third Pan-African Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Policy and Equity

- 20.** The 3rd Pan-African Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Policy and Equity was held in the Chamber of the PAP from 16th to 17th May, 2023. The Summit was held under the theme, *"The continent at crossroads: Graceful just transition and NDCs implementation responsive to African development aspirations and economic realities"*.
- 21.** The Summit, which was hosted jointly by PAP and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), brought together 350 delegates drawn from PAP, individual National Parliamentary Committees responsible for environment from all countries, parliaments of the Regional Economic Integration Communities as well as various parliamentary networks on climate change in Africa.
- 22.** H.E. President (Dr.) William Ruto, CGH and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defense Forces, who is also the Coordinator of the African Union's Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), was the keynote Speaker.

In his remarks, H.E. President Ruto lauded the Pan African Parliament as a critical organ of the African Union, whose full institutional potential was set to become manifest as its Members rallied to formulate effective and sustainable solutions to the tremendous crises confronting African peoples and humanity in general. He stated that the PAP had risen higher and gone farther than the sum of its legislative, representative and oversight mandates for Africa. H. E. President Ruto further stated that the PAP provided a fundamental deliberative forum where the peoples of Africa gathered to reason exhaustively together to develop African Solutions to Africa's Problems.

Stating that the PAP legislators had taken their seats at a very critical time for Africa and the world, President Ruto informed the House that the world was presently confronted with a daunting array of multifaceted challenges, ranging from post-pandemic recovery to the existential threat of climate change. He further informed the Members that there was also the prevailing adverse financial environment characterised by increasing interest rates and looming debt distress affecting Africa and many other regions, not forgetting the complex security implications of a delicate geopolitical crisis.

He reminded the legislators that their leadership as members of PAP was vital now more than ever to guide and support all other institutions of the African Union in the pursuit of a new, ambitious and inspiring vision. He exhorted them to be bold, strong and resolute enough to confront the stated challenges with greater unity and commitment.

H.E. President Ruto averred that the single most important priority commitment that would propel Africa to lasting security, sustainable stability and shared prosperity was an opportunity-oriented focus on climate action, noting that the continent's abundant wealth of natural resources, immense endowments of untapped green renewable energy and youthful demographic profile constituted the fundamental elements required to mitigate and reverse climate change while driving a new, green industrial revolution.

President Ruto posited that the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement was a major step in the right direction to the extent that it sought to enhance trade within the continent and presented the continent as one large trading area; and that it was absolutely essential to set up a sound global regime of trade and market with robust incentives for low-emission production of goods and services with lower emissions. Such a framework would position Africa as the world's most competitive industrial, investment and trade destination.

The President proceeded to outline other measures that he felt if the PAP took with a degree of both urgency and resolve, Africa's leaders could energise their economies and inspire the people with a new vision centred on investment and growth in harmony with the planet. In conclusion, he stated that doing so would ensure this would be the generation that would have discharged a tremendous historic developmental mandate, while realising a common global ambition to arrest and ultimately reverse climate change while also making it possible for African economies to meet the needs and fulfil the hopes of Africa's young workforce.

- 23.** The Summit proposed resolutions and recommendations that defined the next steps and action points for parliamentarians across Africa and their partners. These would enable them to participate effectively in the discussions about the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, inclusive, fair and equitable development pathways and facilitate debate and input from respective countries.
- 24.** The PAP requested all Assemblies to provide feedback by the end of July, 2023. This feedback would be integrated into the final submission to be discussed during the Pan-African Parliamentarians Pre-event on the side-lines of the Africa Climate Summit. The Africa Climate summit was scheduled to be hosted by the AU and the Government of the Republic of Kenya on September 4 to 6, 2023.

Workshop on the AU theme of the year: “Acceleration of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): the strategic importance of the Pan-African Parliament”

- 25.** During the Session, the PAP held a workshop on the theme of the session on 22nd and 23rd May, 2023. The workshop was held under the theme: *“Acceleration of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): the strategic importance of the Pan-African Parliament”*. Participants to the workshop included all members of the PAP, officials from the AU and the AfCFTA Secretariat and other high-level African executives.
- 26.** The workshop was officially opened by the President of PAP, Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira. Prior to the remarks by the President, two speakers made some remarks, namely; Hon John Bideri, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters and Dr. Amany Asfour, President of the African Business Council.
- 27.** In his opening remarks, the President joined the Chairperson of the Committee on Trade in observing that the AfCFTA would bring prosperity and strengthen integration of the African continent. He, however, noted that several challenges affected the realization of that goal. On this note, he informed delegates that the purpose of the workshop was for MPs to interrogate the challenges and propose solution towards the realization of the goals set out through the implementation of the AfCFTA. He, therefore, called upon the delegates to take the opportunity to discuss and identify possible solutions to the challenges affecting the implementation of the AfCFTA.
- 28.** The Workshop was organized along four sessions as follows-
- (i) Unbundling the AfCFTA Agreement;
 - (ii) Opportunities and Challenges of the AfCFTA;
 - (iii) The Role of the PAP in the acceleration and implementation of the AfCFTA; and
 - (iv) PAP strategies towards accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA.
- 29.** In summary, the presenters acknowledged that Africa was a huge but fragmented market. As a result, no single African economy could effectively compete on the international market. As such, the AfCFTA

provided an opportunity to aggregate the economies into one big economy that could compete on the international stage.

In terms of challenges, the following were identified-

- (i) Difficulty in the movement of goods and persons across borders because of visa requirements;
- (ii) High cost of intra-Africa trade due to policy gaps and poor communication infrastructure across African countries such that it was cheaper to transport goods to Europe than to some countries in Africa;
- (iii) Low use of digital tools for trading affecting the ease of trading;
- (iv) Reluctance to ratify protocols supporting the AfCFTA; and
- (v) Lack of awareness among SMEs and local traders.

30. Through the presentations, panel discussions and debate during plenary, the following roles of the PAP were identified-

- (i) Oversee the implementation of AfCFTA to ensure that it benefits the people;
- (ii) Contribute towards the harmonization of trade laws for ease of trade;
- (iii) Raise awareness on the AfCFTA;
- (iv) Advocate for the ratification of protocols necessary for the implementation of the agreement;
- (v) Conduct missions to selected borders of African countries to appreciate the challenges in trade facilitation, particularly, the movement of goods and persons;
- (vi) Advocate for the development of a Women and Youth protocol to focus on development of human resources;
- (vii) Raise awareness among the youth to understand the opportunities that AfCFTA brings while at the same time encouraging countries to empower them to take up the opportunities;
- (viii) The secretariat and partners should come up with well researched papers on trade matters affecting the AfCFTA to assist members in their work;
- (ix) Cause debate in regional parliaments;
- (x) Ensure harmonization of legal frameworks;
- (xi) MPs should familiarize themselves with the agreement;
- (xii) Encourage speedy convergence of tax regimes; and
- (xiii) Advocate for the simplification of customs procedures.

Parliamentary Dialogue with the Pan-African Civil Society Forum

- 31.** On Friday, 19th May, 2023, the PAP hosted a parliamentary dialogue with the Pan-African Civil Society Forum (PACSF). During the dialogue, the PACSF presented recommendations to the PAP on how to strengthen the collaboration between the PAP and the Forum. The fourth Vice-President of the PAP officially opened the dialogue.

In his opening remarks, the Vice President welcomed the initiative of dialogue between the PAP and the civil society. He stated that it was the wish of the PAP to see CSOs playing their role in the promotion of democracy, peace, security, the rule of law and human rights.

- 32.** Thereafter, Ms. Bonolo Magkale, Program Manager, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria and organizer of the PAP Civil Society Forum, while making her remarks, pointed out that African integration was only possible with the involvement of the people. In this regard, she urged the PAP to take into account the will of the African people in all its activities. Ms. Bonolo commended PAP for commitment to the dialogue and called for further strengthening of the collaboration between PAP and the Civil Society to achieve the vision of an integrated Africa respectful of human rights, transparency and democratic values at all levels.

- 33.** The Minister of Justice of the Republic of Namibia, Hon. Yvonne Dausab, addressed the meeting on the role of civil society in promoting democracy, human rights, peace and security within the institutional architecture of the AU. She started by arguing that the language barriers among African societies hindered African integration. She deplored the colonial legacy, which she considered one of the impediments to African integration. Hon. Dausab further bemoaned the instability in various parts of the continent as impinging on the promotion of democracy and human rights.

The Honourable Minister observed that while the AU insisted on the inclusion of CSOs, in practice, governments were reluctant to do so because they saw CSOs as enemies of governments. She then expressed hope that the forum would break the barriers of mistrust. Hon. Dausab emphasized that dynamic African leadership required the creation of strong institutions. She proceeded to outline the various challenges that affected the promotion of democracy and human rights on the continent and called on PAP and the CSOs to strengthen collaboration in confronting those challenges.

- 34.** After the opening speeches, representatives from the CSO Forum presented their recommendations to the PAP. On behalf of the legislators, Hon. Pemmy Majodina, Chairperson of the Southern

Caucus of the PAP assured the CSOs that, once received, the PAP would, through its internal structures, consider the recommendations and provide appropriate feedback.

In closing, Mr. Gali Massa Harou, the Acting Clerk to the PAP, thanked the PACSF for its commitment to the engagement with PAP and expressed optimism for stronger collaboration between the two bodies.

Commemoration of Africa Day

- 35.** The Pan African Parliament celebrated Africa Day on 25th May, 2023 in commemoration of 60 years since the establishment of the OAU. At the beginning, the meeting was treated to a documentary on the establishment of the OAU and, thereafter, the AU and the establishment of the PAP. The Acting Clerk of Parliament, Mr. Harou welcomed members to the event and informed them that the celebration of Africa Day was an opportunity for parliamentarians to take stock of the activities of the OAU and AU.
- 36.** The Chairperson of PAP Committee on Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources Hon. Amina Souna, made some opening remarks. In her remarks, the Hon Chairperson reflected on the history of the African Continent and the legacy that the history left on African Countries. She then expressed optimism that given the various frameworks adopted by the AU, particularly; the agenda 2063, the losses occasioned during the colonial period would be solved.
- 37.** Events marking the commemoration of the day involved a video documentary on the establishment of the OAU and later the AU, live performances and messages delivered by the following speakers;
 - (i) Mr. Chiyeb Zayani, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Tunisia;
 - (ii) H.E. Maria Manuela Dos Santos Lucas, High Commissioner of Mozambique;
 - (iii) H.E. Dr Sanji Mmasenono Monageng, High Commissioner of Botswana;
 - (iv) H.H Andre Nzapayeke, Dean of the Diplomatic Cops in SouthAfrica MR. Bakloka; and
 - (v) Hon. Prof. Mathole Motshekga, Executive Director of Kara Heritage Institute.
- 38.** In his statement, Hon. Prof. Mathole Motshekga, discussed the origins of Pan Africanism. He explained the concept of Pan Africanism as a political ideology rooted in the shared experience of rational oppression of the African people. Professor Matole called for Africans to respect themselves as Africans. He emphasized that the loss of African cultural

integrity had led to the loss of the African soul that then made Africans less respectful of fellow Africans.

- 39.** Prof. Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, the Director of the Kenya Law School, delivered a keynote address virtually. In his address, Prof. PLO Lumumba outlined the history of the negotiations that led to the creation of the OAU. He cited the two groups of African leaders behind the creation of the Organization: the Casablanca Group and the Monrovia Group. He then wondered if the AU, an organization born out of the OAU, was really working to achieve the objectives that it set for itself because, among others, African institutions operated with financial support from foreign powers. He cited the construction of the AU headquarters by the Republic of China and funding of peace initiatives by the United States of America (USA) and the European Union. He, therefore, argued that given the overreliance on foreign support, Africa was still under foreign economic domination. On the same note, he posited that Pan-African institutions were not known to Africans.

On the security front, Professor Lumumba noted the remarkable absence of the PAP and the AU in the resolution of the ongoing conflict in Sudan and wondered why outsiders were the ones in the forefront in the mediation process to settle the conflict. He called upon the PAP and the AU to weigh in on the settlement of African conflicts to ensure African solutions to African problems.

- 40.** During the ensuing debate, the MPs requested the PAP Bureau to explore the possibility of commemorating Africa Day outside the PAP precincts in order to raise awareness on the PAP. Members further shared experiences on the challenges regarding African integration, which included problems with free movement of goods and people.
- 41.** While weighing in on the debate, the President of PAP shared the journey leading to the establishment of the Pan African Parliament. He opined that, 60 years after the creation of the OAU, the AU had not done well. The President argued that the poor state of performance was because decolonization and establishment of the continental institutions were taken as ends in themselves. He conceded that PAP had not performed according to expectations even as he noted that the PAP, along with many other AU institutions, were facing financial challenges that affected the realization of their mandates.
- 42.** In closing, Hon. Dr. Gayo, the Second Vice President of the PAP, applauded all those that played a role in the establishment of the OAU and the fight for independence.

PRESENTATION AND DEBATE ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

Presentation on the Status of peace and security in Africa

43. Mr. Cecilio Jesus Jean Mba Mesi Akele, Senior Policy Specialist at the Conflict Management Directorate, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the AUC, addressed the plenary on the state of security on behalf of the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security. Mr. Akele gave an account of the security situation in the five regions of Africa.

He reported that the situation in the Southern Africa region was relatively peaceful. However, countries were facing challenges that would likely affect their peace, such as climate change and terrorism. He reported that the AU had approved a peacekeeping mission to Mozambique. In addition, the AU had asked the AU chairperson to condemn internal violent activities in Eswatini, particularly, the killing of a human rights advocate.

In the Eastern Africa region, the Mr. Akele reported the conflict in Sudan and the relative calm in Ethiopia following the signing of a peace agreement.

With regards to Central and West Africa, the presenter reported that conflicts still existed in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali, Central Africa Republic and Guinea. He further reported that with regard to the unconstitutional changes of government in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, the Peace and Security Council was liaising with the countries concerned to ensure the return of peace and proper transition for the return to civilian government. Mr. Akele then reported that terrorist activities remained active in the Sahel region.

In North Africa, the presenter reported that the AU was looking at the security situation in Tunisia and the migrant situation in that region.

Regarding solutions, Mr. Akele indicated that the AU was working with Regional Economic Communities and partners in resolving the conflicts.

In conclusion, Mr. Akele noted that some salient issues affected the ability of the AU to effectively prevent conflicts even when the conflicts were anticipated. The issues included: sovereignty, lack of willingness by governments to prevent crises, resistance to mediation and lack of meaningful economic development.

Presentation and debate on the current situation in Sudan

- 44.** The Chairperson of the Sudanese Community in South Africa Mr. Khalid Dahab, addressed the plenary on the situation in Sudan. In his presentation, he informed the Parliamentarians as follows:-
- a) That the Darfur conflict started in 2003. Various agreements were signed between the conflicting parties while a few other factions did not sign the agreements. A paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), created by the former President of Sudan, was involved in the Darfur conflict. After the Darfur conflict eased, the RSF became a mercenary group that was hired by various countries. The group turned against the former president and was instrumental in his overthrow along with the Sudanese Military.
 - b) That the current conflict was between the Sudanese Army and the RSF and that tension started on 15th April, 2023 in the southern suburbs of Khartoum at an RSF barracks and fighting immediately spread.
 - c) That, in terms of the humanitarian situation, 705 people were killed, 200,000 injured, 936,000 internally displaced and 736,000 internationally displaced as hospitals and educational infrastructure was destroyed coupled with widespread looting. There was huge destruction of basic infrastructure in Khartoum as the army was using heavy artillery, tanks and air strikes against the RSF while criminals took advantage of the situation to loot private businesses.
 - d) That the USA and Saudi Arabia had brokered a temporary cease-fire for one week from 22nd May, 2023 and that, unfortunately, there were still hostilities being exhibited by both parties. The cease-fire was to

allow for safe passage of humanitarian aid and collecting dead bodies that were all over in the streets of Khartoum.

Mr. Khalid concluded by calling upon the PAP to work with the AU and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to put pressure on the two groups for a permanent cease-fire and for the parties to resolve their differences through peaceful means.

Message from H.E. Osama Majoub Dirar, Ambassador of Sudan to South Africa

- 45.** The Ambassador of Sudan to South Africa, H.E. Osama Majoub Dirar, commended Pap for the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the OAU/AU. The Ambassador acknowledged the effort that the PAP was exerting in the rebirth of the Continent as well as in the resolution of conflicts on the continent.

Turning to the conflict in Sudan, the Ambassador indicated that the Sudanese army was working hard to unite the Sudanese people against the rebel forces. On this note, he presented a document on the situation in Sudan to the PAP for reference by Parliamentarians.

The Ambassador commended the efforts by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Saudi Arabia and the USA in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the conflict despite the defiance of the cease-fire by the warring parties. The Ambassador informed plenary that the rebels had taken over 20 hospitals and turned them into their bases. He reported that the humanitarian situation in the country had gotten worse.

H.E. Amb. Dirar indicated that although the conflict was an internal affair, Sudan welcomed international support in resolving the conflict and provision of humanitarian support. He concluded his remarks by expressing his appreciation to the PAP, the countries that hosted the Sudanese refugees and to all those who provided support and assistance.

He invited the PAP to take all initiatives deemed necessary to stop the war.

Message from the representative of the Ambassador of Palestine

46. The Speaker thanked the PAP for giving him the opportunity to speak to the African parliamentarians. He presented the situation in Palestinian settlements under Israeli occupation, the abuse of human rights and general suffering in those settlements. He then denounced apartheid and the violation of the Geneva Convention in terms of the denial of the right to self-determination to the Palestinian people. He concluded his remarks by inviting PAP members to visit Palestine.

COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS MEETINGS AND REPORTS

The following is a summary of reports of Committees and caucuses during the Session-

Report of the Women Caucus

47. The Second Vice-Chairperson of the Women Caucus, Hon Victoria Kingstone, presented a report of the activities of the Women Caucus undertaken from November 2022 to March 2023. The Vice-Chairperson informed the House that during the period, the Women caucus conducted the following activities-

- (i) Thirteenth Conference on Women's Rights held from the 3^d to 4th of November, 2022 in Midrand, South Africa, under the theme "*Empowerment and inclusion of women in governance*".
- (ii) Celebration of the International Women's Day (IWD) held on 8th March, 2023 under the theme "*For an Inclusive Digital World: Innovation and Technologies for Gender Equality*".
- (iii) Participated at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67), held from 12th to 18th of March, 2023 in New York, USA, under the theme "*Innovation and technological change, and*

education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”.

The Vice-Chairperson presented resolutions of the Caucus, with particular emphasis on the resolutions on Sudan. During debate, MPs welcomed the resolutions made by the Caucus and recommended that women should be included in the team involved in the mediation process on the conflict in the Sudan.

Report of the Committee on Trade and Immigration Matters

48. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. McHenry Venaani, presented the report of the capacity-building workshop on governance and management of labour.

In his report, the Vice-Chairperson reported that the workshop had deliberated on international and regional instruments relating to national laws on immigration. Further, the workshop had considered frameworks for the governance of labour migration at AU level.

He reported that the workshop noted that African integration remained at the level of political propaganda, given the barriers to the movement of people across African borders. He gave an example of the difficulties that some MPs faced to obtain visas for purposes of travelling to South Africa to attend PAP sessions.

Noting that most countries had weak migration policies, Hon. Venaani reported that the workshop had considered the situation in Libya, which had become a gateway for immigrants to the EU, and called for the integration of migration in university curricula.

The Vice-Chairperson concluded by sharing the recommendations of the workshop.

During debate, MPs discussed the problem of transporting livestock across borders and the problem with visas, particularly for travel to South Africa. In contributing to the debate, the PAP President advised the Committee to isolate issues/problems facing Africa and come up with a

position on those matters to stimulate debate in the House as opposed to just reporting on its activities.

Report on PAP Budget for 2024 and the Draft Model Law on Cooperatives

49. The Chairperson of the Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs, Hon. Mohammed Mubarak Muntaka, presented the report on the 2024 PAP budget and a proposed Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa. The Chairperson reported as follows-

- (a) that in March, 2023, the Committee presented to plenary a draft budget of \$25.5 million for submission to the AU. Subsequently, the AU gave PAP a budget ceiling of 11.9 million. On this note, the Chairperson observed that during the early years, the PAP was getting 9% of the total AU Budget but the budget had consistently declined to less than 2%. He submitted that before the COVID-19 pandemic the PAP budget stood at \$16.4 million.
- (b) that, noting the inadequacy of the budget, the PAP made an appeal for additional funds to Heads of States who, thereafter, instructed the Executive Council to provide PAP with adequate funds. In the end, Hon. Muntaka stated, the PAP was given an additional \$600 million and was allowed to vire \$252 million. He informed Members that the PAP now had an operational budget of \$12.6 million out of which plenary was allocated \$900 thousand whereas Committees were allocated \$500 thousand.
- (c) that the PAP would face serious challenges as every budget item had been drastically reduced and that if something was not done at the level of the AU or in terms of resource mobilization, PAP would not be able to operate. The Chairperson, thus, recommended that the PAP Bureau should escalated the matter to the Executive Council and the Heads of States. He further recommended that the PAP Bureau should establish a trust fund as a matter of urgency to enable the PAP to mobilise resources from external partners and called on MPs to engage their ambassadors in Addis Abba to make them understand that PAP was not a rival to the PRC. The Chairperson further advised

the bureau to take keen interest on how funds were utilized in order to safeguard the already available funds.

- 50.** The Chairperson then proceeded to present a progress report on the proposed Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa. He started by reminding Members that in March, 2023 the Committee had sought the approval of the House for it to develop a Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa and that, following a resolution of the House, the Committee proceeded to meet various partners/experts that helped the Committee to develop the draft Model Law.

Hon. Muntaka reported that as per the rules of the PAP, the Committee was required to present the Model Law before the House for further approval before the Committee could proceed with wider consultations. He, thereafter, presented the Model Law and requested the approval of the House for the Committee to engage stakeholders for them to provide their input on the draft Model Law towards the development of a final draft Model Law for consideration by the House.

During debate on the report of the Committee, the Chairperson for the Committee on Gender in seeking to suggest ways of working with the available budget, proposed a motion for a reduction of the number of days for PAP Plenary Sessions from three to two weeks and Committee sittings from two to one week. The motion further proposed holding of sessions virtually and conducting missions to advocate for the ratification of the Malabo Protocol and the general operations of PAP. Members expressed concern on the dwindling budget and called on the Bureau to engage the relevant authorities such as the Executive Council and the Heads of States at AU to make them understand the situation that PAP faced. Members joined the Chairperson in urging the Bureau to explore the possibility of mobilising funds from other partners. In conclusion, the PAP President ruled that the Motion by the Chairperson of the Committee on Gender could not be considered because the Committee was not competent to raise such Motion.

Report of the Committee on Audit and Public Accounts

- 51.** The Chairperson of the Committee on Audit and Public Accounts (CAPA), Hon. Myles Sampa, presented a report of the Committee covering the work done from March, 2023. Hon. Sampa began by recalling that in the last report, the Committee had reported that the office of the Internal Auditor was vacant. He updated the House that the AU had since seconded an auditor to PAP.
- 52.** The Chairperson then proceeded to raise several issues, including matters to do with the host agreement of the PAP, VAT refund owed to PAP by the South African Revenue Authority, inadequate staffing levels at the PAP as well as non-implementation of CAPA recommendations among others.

During debate, Members noted that some of the audit issues bordered on criminality, particularly, failure to retire imprests under fraudulent transactions. Members wondered why those issues were not reported to police for prosecution. Regarding the restaurant, Members complained that the food in the restaurant was not diverse to cater for food preferences of different regions. Members recommended that more carters should be engaged to ensure competition. Members sought explanation on the status of recruitment at PAP as well as the numbers and how PAP engaged support staff during sessions.

In response, the Chairperson informed members that, with regard to the internal auditor and the issue of fraudulent transactions, there was need for a report on what transpired. He further informed Members that PAP, as an AU institution could not just report matters to the police without exhausting internal processes. On support staff, the President briefed Members on how PAP engaged support staff during sessions.

Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

- 53.** Hon. Didier Molishpo, the Chairperson of the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment presented

the report on activities of the Committee at COP27, which took place in Sharma El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6th to 18th November, 2022.

In his presentation, Hon. Molishpo briefed the House on the important outcomes of COP 27 for Africa and the importance of the issue of climate change in the agenda of the PAP, stating that Africa was the major victim of climate change despite being the continent that emits the lowest amount of greenhouse gases as compared to other continents. He then outlined the effects of climate change on agriculture, water and soil management, among others.

The Chairperson suggested the development of a Model Law on climate change as well as creation of a tax on financial transactions as was the case with the European Parliament as a possible resolution of the challenges brought about by climate change. Finally, he recalled the conclusions of the Summit jointly organized by PAP and PACJA on climate policy and equity on 16th and 17th May, 2023.

During debate, Members wondered whether there were any benefits accruing from Africa's participation at the COPs since their inception. They further inquired how the model law on climate change would be developed and transmitted to national parliaments for consideration and possible adoption/domestication. In response, the President explained the procedure for sending the Model Laws passed by PAP to the AU and, thereafter, to national parliaments. With regard to the benefit of COPs, the Chairperson cited the establishment of the Climate Fund as well as the Loss and Damage Fund as some of the benefits arising from the COPs.

Committee on Transport, Industry, Energy, Science and Technology

- 54.** The Rapporteur of the Committee on Transport, Industry, Communications, Energy, Science and Technology presented a report of the Committee on a combined workshop on access to information and digital rights at the Internet Governance Forum. The activity was the culmination of a three-day workshop Committee Members undertook on

the sidelines of participation at the UN 17th Internet Governance Forum held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28th November to 2nd December 2022.

The Rapporteur reported that the workshop had discussed the significance of internet and digital rights to democracy and Human rights as well as the notion of cyber security. He further reported that the workshop had discussed regulation of access to internet, access to legal information and the role of open data. The workshop also considered a plan of action on promoting access to information, digital rights and cyber security.

The presenter concluded by outlining the resolutions adopted by the Committee after the two combined activities.

During debate, MPs noted that, in future, machines could do 40% of the work being done by human beings and that it was, therefore, imperative for the Committee to include in its agenda the issue of artificial intelligence to prepare for its imminent impact. The regulation of the digital space also attracted debate, with focus being on the need to eliminate abuse through propaganda and fake news. The PAP President advised the Committee that it should give due consideration to the pros and cons of the promotion of digital rights and access to information.

Report of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs

- 55.** Hon. Jean Patrice Quirin, Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs, presented a report of its workshop on the place of traditional medicine in health systems in Africa, held on 15th March, 2023.

The Chairperson reported that the workshop was held to assess the status of implementation of the AU plan of action adopted for the second decade of traditional medicine from 2011 to 2020 as well as the WHO strategy for the development of traditional medicine in Africa focusing on the benefits and limitations of an integrated health systems perspective.

The main objective of the workshop was to develop and facilitate the integration of traditional medicine into public health systems.

On outcomes of the workshop, the Chairperson reported that the workshop was informed that the nature of the use of traditional medicine meant that it could not be precisely defined or described and that new technological discovery and scientific progress in modern medicine had led to the marginalization of traditional medicine. The Chairperson then listed several plants and the diseases that these plants could cure as well as some testimonies to that effect.

The chairperson concluded by noting that traditional medicine would not take the place of modern medicine but could be complementary in therapeutic processes. The chairperson thereafter presented the recommendations made by the Committee, which largely called for research and development focused on traditional medicine.

During debate, MPs recognized the benefits of traditional medicine and the ease with which these medicines could be found and used. However, they called for a sustainable way of extracting the traditional medicine. It was noted during debate that, historically, Africans used traditional medicine with great effectiveness in treating ailments. While bemoaning the fact that western medicine had replaced traditional medicine and brought a perception that traditional medicine was inferior, Members averred that the use of traditional medicine had greatly helped African countries to deal with the debilitating symptoms of the COVID-19 pandemic. The MPs recognized that most modern medicines were extracted from plants based in Africa, which plants were traditionally used for traditional medicine. Members recommended that the PAP should start promoting the use of traditional medicine and come up with a model law to regulate the use of traditional medicine.

Report of the Committee on Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability

- 56.** Hon. Dao Gabala Mariam, the Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability, presented two reports of the Committee. The first report was on a Joint Capacity-Building Workshop

on the ratification of AU Legal instruments while the second report was on the first partners' engagement on conceptual framework for the Model Law on gender equality.

The Chairperson informed the House that during the workshop on capacity building on ratification of AU legal instruments, the Committee assessed the legal instruments related to the Committee's mandate with the help of experts. The Committee had also considered the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Protocol on Older Persons and the Protocol on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security in Africa.

The Chairperson reported that the workshop noted that the Protocol on Older Persons had been ratified by 10 countries only. She, therefore, called on Member States to ratify the Protocol as well as the other two Protocols. In its recommendations, the Committee called for the establishment of a unit at AU to provide reports on the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and proposed the drafting of a Model Law on family.

- 57.** With regards to the preliminary report on the development of a Model Law on gender equality, the chairperson outlined the process to be followed in coming up with the model law. She reported that the Committee had opened talks with some partners to enlighten it on the existing international conventions and recent studies on issues of gender equality and that these consultations would during the process of drafting the model law.

Based on the consultations done so far, Hon. Mariam reported that the Committee had suggested that the draft Model Law on gender equality should integrate the following:

- (i) Clearly define the responsibilities of the state to change the social and cultural behaviours based on stereotypes;
- (ii) Propose incentives that can be implemented as actions;
- (iii) Create women networks as disadvantaged groups to benefit from special legal measures; and
- (iv) Do away with the quota system of women representation as the only target of formal equality.

During debate, the Committee was advised to pay attention to the strengthening of the existing social systems and structures. MPs wondered whether the Model Law would take into account the religious values of different societies. The Committee was further advised to incorporate measures to deal with discrimination against women and access to basic rights such as education, health, social and economic inclusion. On the quota system, the Chairperson clarified that the report contained recommendations from partners and that the Committee would sit to scrutinize these submissions from partners and come up with the best way forward.

Presentation and debate on the report of the Caucus on Youth

58. The Chairperson of the Youth Caucus, Hon. Dali Laila, presented a report of the Caucus on the International Youth Dialogue organized by the PAP and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Hon. Laila reported that the objective of the dialogue was to raise awareness among young African parliamentarians and participants on the AU policies, objectives and programs related to the youth and to reflect on the eradication of malnutrition and famine. The dialogue further discussed the situation analysis on nutrition on the continent and the efforts by partners regarding food and nutrition security.

The Chairperson reported that the dialogue noted, with concern, the findings from studies which showed that young people's lack of access to finance negatively affected their entrepreneurial potential, thus acting as a barrier to the economic empowerment of the youth. The Chairperson concluded by recommending that countries should invest in agriculture and other productive industries with the view of creating jobs for the youth.

During debate, Members noted the difficulties in African integration and advised the committee to concentrate on inculcating an African mentality in the African youth to avoid the youth turning against each other. Members welcomed the recommendation calling for investment in productive industries for purposes of creating jobs as a panacea for

alleviating the challenges being faced by the youth, which would then help eradicate radical extremism and youth migration.

All the reports of the Committees and Caucuses were put to the vote and adopted.

PRESENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

59. H.E. President Chief Fortune Charumbira presented a Performance Review Report of the PAP. The report reflected on the work of the Bureau of the PAP, the Permanent Standing Committees and the Secretariat of the PAP from January to May 2023. The report covered activities and outputs achieved on the four thematic objectives of the Pan-African Parliament as espoused in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

Below is a summary of the activities that were undertaken during the period as reported by the President:

Strategic Objective	Activities
Strategic Objective 1: Transforming the PAP to make it more effective and functional in the fulfilment of its mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Meetings and summits of Policy Organs of the African Union (ii) 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and the 5th Congress of Speakers of Arab Councils (iii) Permanent Committees met from 06 to 17 March
Strategic Objective 2: Strengthening partnership, coordination, outreach, and institutional capacity of the PAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 17th Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) (ii) Official Visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria & the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (iii) Visit of the African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson to the Pan-African Parliament (iv) Visit of the PAP President to the Republic of Kenya

<p>Strategic Objective 3: Promotion and Support of Human Rights and Social Inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Participation in the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (ii) Pan-African Parliament Observed International Women's Day (IWD) (iii) Participated and convened a Side Event at the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)
<p>Strategic Objective 4: Strengthening learning and sharing, knowledge management, communication, and advocacy of the PAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Media Engagement during the Thirty-sixth (36th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union. (ii) Commemoration of the 2023 PAP Day (iii) Participation of the PAP in the African Union Model AU Summit (iv) Collaboration between the PAP and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa

- 60.** Over and above the above activities, the President reported that the PAP Bureau met with various officials from other organs of the AU Commission, engaged with the AU/Deloitte Reform Team, participated in the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as well participating in election observer missions.
- 61.** On administrative matters, the President reported that the tenure of the Acting Clerk, Mr. Gali Massa Harou, ended on 31st May, 2023. However, in line with the AU staff rules, the Bureau had extended the tenure until a new clerk was approved. On this note, the President reported to the House that the Bureau had conducted interviews for the position Clerk. As per the results of the interview, the three candidates that came on top were as follows: Ms. Lindiwe Khumalo from South Africa, Dr. Dialo from Mali and Mr. Sadi Ali from Saharawi Republic. The President informed the House that the Bureau had resolved to recommend the first candidate, Ms Lindiwe Khumalo, for appointments as Clerk. A motion was moved to that effect and agreed to.
- 62.** In the ensuing debate, the Legislators made robust submissions centred on commending the President and Bureau on the work that PAP had

undertaken, given the background of the PAP and some members urged the president to reduce the duration of the session in order to ensure attendance of members. They recommended that time should be allocated on the program for reporting on the recommendations and resolutions of PAP.

They further recommended that the bureau should meet Heads of States to promote the work of PAP.

63. With regards to the recruitment of the Clerk of Parliament, the Legislators stated that the process had been too slow and that the Bureau should expedite the process of filling up all the existing vacancies to enable better service delivery. Further noting that the incoming Clerk had never served in any capacity in a parliament, they recommended that she should undergo orientation to bring her up to speed with Parliamentary work.
64. Finally, the Members recommended that the Bureau should put in place a fundraising framework to supplement funding from the AU and help facilitate the working of the PAP.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

65. At the end of the session, the PAP adopted resolutions and recommendations on the following-

Resolutions:

- (i) Resolution on climate policy and equity in Africa;
- (ii) Resolution on the development of a Model Law on climate change for Africa;
- (iii) Resolution on the Pan African Parliament support of the financial transactions tax on climate action;
- (iv) Resolution on the place of traditional medicine in the African health systems;
- (v) Resolution on the update report on the Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa;
- (vi) Resolution on *“Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA): the strategic significance of the Pan-African Parliament”*;
- (vii) Resolution on promotion of peace and security in Africa; and
- (viii) Resolution on the current war in Sudan and its effects on women and children.

Recommendations:

- (i) Recommendation *“for an inclusive digital world: innovation and technologies at the service of equality between women and men”*;
- (ii) Recommendation on the Youth Dialogue held in the Kingdom of Morocco (Rabat) 4-6 December, 2022;
- (iii) Recommendations on *“Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA): the strategic significance of the Pan-African Parliament”*;
- (iv) Recommendation on resolving the ongoing conflict in Sudan and promoting peace and stability in the Region;
- (v) Recommendation on Climate Policy and Equity in Africa;
- (vi) Recommendation on labour migration governance in Africa; and
- (vii) Recommendation on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Africa.

%%%END%%%

ANNEXTURES

Annex 1 – Resolutions

- (i) *Resolution on climate policy and equity in Africa;*
- (ii) *Resolution on the development of a Model Law on climate change for Africa;*
- (iii) *Resolution on the Pan African Parliament support of the financial transactions tax on climate action;*
- (iv) *Resolution on the place of traditional medicine in the African health systems;*
- (v) *Resolution on the update report on the Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa;*
- (vi) *Resolution on “Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA): the strategic significance of the Pan-African Parliament”;*
- (vii) *Resolution on promotion of peace and security in Africa; and*
- (viii) *Resolution on the current war in Sudan and its effects on women and children.*

Annex 2 – Recommendations

- (i) *Recommendation “for an inclusive digital world: innovation and technologies at the service of equality between women and men”;*
- (ii) *Recommendation on the Youth Dialogue held in the Kingdom of Morocco (Rabat) 4-6 December, 2022;*
- (iii) *Recommendations on “Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA): the strategic significance of the Pan-African Parliament”;*
- (iv) *Recommendation on resolving the ongoing conflict in Sudan and promoting peace and stability in the Region;*
- (v) *Recommendation on Climate Policy and Equity in Africa;*
- (vi) *Recommendation on labour migration governance in Africa; and*
- (vii) *Recommendation on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Africa.*

PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

البرلمان الأفريقي



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RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM

THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT

HELD ON 15TH MAY TO 2ND JUNE 2023

*Under the African Union theme for 2023: "Accelerating the implementation
of African Continental Free Trade Area"*

One Africa, One Voice!

0 of 48

MIDRAND, 1 JUNE 2023

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ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

PAP.6(II)/PLN/RES/01/JUN.23

RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE POLICY AND EQUITY IN AFRICA

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which establishes the Pan-African Parliament;

CONSIDERING also Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP Protocol), and Rule 3 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament;

RECALLING the African Union Agenda 2063 Aspiration 1, which envisages a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, an Africa to speak a unity of purpose in advancing its position and interests on climate change and which participate in global efforts for climate change mitigation that support and broaden the policy space for sustainable development on the continent;

RECALLING also the Sustainable Development Goals/ SDGs, particularly goals 13, which require member states to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

NOTING the various submissions and proposals made by various stakeholders at the Summit on Climate Policy and Equity, co-organised by the Pan-African Parliament and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, in Midrand, South Africa, on 16 and 17 May 2023;

RECOGNISING that climate change is a global challenge that requires collective action and solidarity among all nations and peoples; and referencing the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report's (AR6) conclusion the Africa will experience extremes of climate change triggered events under all emission scenarios;

REAFFIRMING commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to the adverse impacts of climate change, which threaten its socio-economic development, peace and security, human rights and dignity, and that it is a region with special needs and circumstances under international climate law;

REITERATING our call for climate justice and equity, which demand that historical responsibilities, differentiated capabilities and respective circumstances of countries are taken into account in addressing climate change;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the missing global solidarity, worsening debt crisis, and extra taxation measures being implemented by African Governments to raise funds for humanitarian crises caused by climate-related occurrences. Further disturbed by the international architecture of climate finance which does not inspire hope in delivering a mechanism that is responsive to the needs of African countries;

DRAWING on the prospects presented by progressive policy legislations for Africa to advance reforms in global governance of climate change agenda, and that effective national and global response to climate change is premised on transformative laws and policies;

EMPHASISING our role as legislators in enacting laws, overseeing policies and budgets, and representing the interests and aspirations of our constituencies;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Article 11 (1) of the PAP Protocol, which empowers the PAP to make recommendations and formulate resolutions on any matter relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities and their respective organs, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVES TO:

1. **ADVOCATE** for enhanced ambition and action by all parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, especially developed countries, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in accordance with the best available science.
2. **URGE** developed countries to fulfil their obligations to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable finance, technology transfer and capacity building support to developing

countries, especially African countries, to enable them to adapt to climate change, mitigate their emissions and address loss and damage.

3. **PROMOTE** a just transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways that are aligned with national priorities, inclusive of all stakeholders, respectful of Human rights and responsive to gender equality.
4. **STRENGTHEN** our legislative frameworks and oversight functions to ensure effective implementation of national climate policies and plans, as well as alignment with regional and continental frameworks such as Agenda 2063 and the African Green Stimulus Programme.
5. **COMMIT** to work in the interests of communities at the frontline of the climate crisis and ensure that climate responses, including climate finance, are needs-based, supporting locally led projects, and integrating gender considerations to advance equitable access for women and children.
6. **JOIN** other arms of governments, pan-African institutions and non-state actors and through legislative front support actions that strengthen and hasten the global reform process for climate response mechanisms, advancing Africa's interests.
7. **SUPPORT** regional integration and meaningful cooperation among African countries and regions to harness opportunities, share experiences and address common challenges related to climate change.
8. **PARTICIPATE** actively in the upcoming Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the UNFCCC in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November 2023, as well as in other relevant international fora, to amplify the voices and interests of Africa and its people.
9. **INSTITUTIONALISE** the Pan-African Parliamentary Summit on Climate Policy and Equity an annual gathering to foster collaboration, dialogue and sharing of best practices among African leaders, Parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities relating to the climate crisis and harmonisation of the African climate change position and actions with the global goals and commitments on climate action.
10. **MOBILISE** all African Parliamentarians to join us in this historic and moral duty to protect our continent and our people from the existential threat of climate change, with a view to

overcoming this challenge and securing a prosperous, peaceful and sustainable future for Africa.

11. **STRENGTHEN** our engagement with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, youth groups, women's movements, indigenous peoples, local communities, academia, media and other relevant actors to raise awareness, foster dialogue and build partnerships on climate action.

12. **INTENSIFY** efforts towards the development of a Model Law on Climate Change in Africa, to ensure the relevance and responsiveness of African national laws with emerging climate change realities, in line with international and African Union policy and legal frameworks.

13. **WORK** with His Excellency William Ruto as the chair of Committee of the Africa Head of States on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to strengthen the capacity of the African Union to execute its mandate in representing and articulating issues pertinent to the continent especially in climate change.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa.

On 1 June 2023

**RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODEL LAW ON CLIMATE CHANGE
FOR AFRICA**

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the PAP to facilitate regional cooperation, development and promotion of “collective self-reliance and economic recovery” as well as the implementation of the policies, objectives and programmes” of the African Union;

CONSIDERING FURTHER Article 11 (3) of the PAP Protocol and Rule 4 (1) (d) & (e) of the PAP Rules of Procedure, which empowers the PAP to work towards the harmonization or co-ordination of the laws of Member States;

NOTING the outcomes of the various Conference of Parties (COPs) held so far which underscore the importance of the development and strengthening of legal frameworks on climate change at all levels: local, national, regional, and global;

NOTING ALSO the recommendations and resolutions of the Third Pan-African Parliamentarians’ Summit on Climate Policy and Equity held on 16 and 17 May 2023, which highlighted that Africa is the least polluter but the most affected by the climate crisis;

RECOGNISING that a model legislation on climate change in Africa will inform and trigger climate action, and guide policy formulation and implementation frameworks to ensure coordination and collaboration among African Union Member States in climate change actions;

ALSO RECOGNISING that such legislation will provide for regulatory framework that will enhance response to climate change through deliberate mechanisms and measures geared towards achieving low carbon climate;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that an African model legislation on climate change will take into account international treaties, agreements, protocols, and resolutions on climate change so that African countries do not operate in isolation;

COGNISANT of the fact that implementation of climate solutions requires financial resources; and that there is need to mobilise financial resources from within Africa to reduce dependence on external partners;

AWARE that there are some African Union Member States like Kenya that have made strides by enacting legislation on climate change; this motivates and adds impetus to the need for a model legislation at continental level that will provide guidance to member countries that are yet to enact their own climate legislation.

ACKNOWLEDGING the existence of the African Climate Legislation Initiative (ACLI) which is a joint initiative between the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), the Pan-African Parliamentarians Network on Climate Change (PAPNCC) and Pan African Parliament; and whose key projects include the development of a Model law on Climate Change.

RECALLING Rule 5 (b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, among other, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Article 11(3) and (7) of the PAP Protocol and Rule 4 (d) & (e) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the Pan-African Parliament to harmonise laws of the African Union Member States;

NOW HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **APPROVE** the proposal for the development of a Model Law on Climate Change for Africa;
2. **MANDATE** the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources to lead the formulation of the proposed Model Law, taking into account the diverse legal traditions within the African continent, and to present the draft Model Law for consideration by the Plenary of the PAP;

3. **WELCOME** the technical and financial support from Food and Agriculture Organisation, PACJA, PACLI and other stakeholders.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 2023



**RESOLUTION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT SUPPORT OF THE FINANCIAL
TRANSACTIONS TAX ON CLIMATE ACTION**

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the PAP to facilitate regional cooperation, development and promotion of “collective self-reliance and economic recovery” as well as the implementation of the policies, objectives and programmes” of the African Union;

NOTING that, climate change continues to ravage humanity globally, and that in Africa in particular, more than twenty million people suffer from climatic catastrophes such as drought, famine, and environmental degradation;

NOTING ALSO that, countries of the Global North are the main contributors to the climate change crisis, yet it is Africa that bears the brunt of the crisis;

COGNIZANT of the fact that the COP27 created a “Loss and Damages” Fund to assist the most affected countries by climate change which was an important step in the right direction;

ALSO COGNIZANT of the fact that there is a risk of a deep rift between countries of the Global North and those of the Global South if this Fund account remains empty;

FURTHER COGNIZANT of the fact that the tensions that have accumulated in the last years between countries in the Global North and those in the Global South are primarily as a result of non-financing of climate action by the Global North who are the main polluters;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the creation of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) before the end of June 2023 would not only concern exchanges on European financial markets, but would also be used to finance climate policies in Europe and in the countries in the Global South;

REITERATING the call made by H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto (CGH, PhD), President of the Republic of Kenya at the Third Pan African Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Policy and Equity on May 17, 2023 that it is now more urgent than ever to find financial resources to accelerate the economic development of all African countries to win the climate change battle;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5 (b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, among other functions, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **SUPPORT** the European Parliament's Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) law, and **URGES** European Union member countries to adopt the Tax;
2. **PLEDGE** to work with the European Parliament in canvassing support for the adoption of the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), on condition that the funds will benefit African countries in their efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change;
3. **ENCOURAGE** African regional and national parliaments, together with their governments to effectively lobby the European Union to adopt the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) on Climate Action;
4. **URGE** other Member States of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to follow suit to adopt the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), with a view to fulfilling their commitment to funding climate change solutions in African countries.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 2023

**RESOLUTION ON THE PLACE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN THE AFRICAN
HEALTH SYSTEMS**

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the *“full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”*;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan African Parliament, which empower the PAP to, inter alia, facilitate regional cooperation, development and promotion of *“collective self-reliance and economic recovery”* as well as the implementation of the policies, objectives and programmes” of the African Union ;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 11 (3) of the PAP Protocol and Rule 4 (1) (d) & (e) of the PAP Rules of Procedure, which empowers the PAP to work towards the harmonization or co-ordination of the laws of AU Member States ;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of traditional medicine which constitutes the first source of healthcare for about 80% of the population in developing countries according to many researchers ;

MINDFUL of the continent’s abundant natural resources, which informed the Declaration of two consecutive Decades of Traditional Medicine from 2001 to 2020 by the AU Heads of State and Government to promote research in this area in order to strengthen African health systems;

CONCERNED about significant disruption of the climate change on the natural ecosystems, agriculture and the change in medicinal content of plants, which could affect the quality and safety of products from traditional medicine;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the forced displacement of indigenous populations due to the effects of climate change and more so activities of deforestation which compel them to migrate and abandon their culture;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5 (b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions ;

NOW HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **INTENSIFY** parliamentary advocacy to establish a comprehensive legal framework for continental herbal trade, and to promote the establishment or strengthening, where applicable, of national and regional research centres and the development of traditional medicine towards its integration in African Health Systems;
2. **ADVOCATE** for the allocation of adequate resources for the progressive realization of Universal Health Coverage through sustainable health financing;
3. **PROMOTE** the establishment of an African Union Herbal Trade Network to facilitate the exchange of information, resources and products among African Union Member States and further, to increase public awareness on the benefit of traditional African herbal medicine;
4. **PROMOTE** an African Herbal Trade Certification program to ensure the safety and quality of herbal products produced in Africa;
5. **FACILITATE** a consultative process with Regional Health Institutions to foster collaboration between traditional and conventional medicine practitioners.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 2023

**RESOLUTION ON THE UPDATE REPORT ON THE MODEL LAW ON
COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA**

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the establishment of the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the PAP to facilitate the implementation of policies, objectives and programmes of the African Union and to oversee their effective implementation;

RECALLING One of the core objectives of establishing the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) was to liberate Africa from colonial domination, exploitation and oppression (*Article II of the OAU Charter, 1963*).

RECALLING ALSO a concerted effort is required in to ensure the impact of AU's plans and policies are felt at the grassroots level and that one of the key mechanisms that can contribute to this effort is the cooperative business model;

RECALLING FURTHER Resolution PAP.6/PLN/RES/1-18/NOV.22 on the Formulation of a model law on cooperatives in Africa, adopted on 11 November 2023 by the Pan African Parliament;

NOTING the progress made by the Committee on Finance and Monetary Affairs in the implementation of the abovementioned Resolution following fruitful collaboration with the International Cooperatives Alliance-Africa (ICA-A);

REITERATING the need to provide normative guidance to states when adopting new legislation or reviewing existing within the realm of cooperatives;

RETITERATING FURTHER that a model law on cooperatives for Africa allows cooperatives to advocate for unity, economic prosperity and solidarity, and contribute to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

APPRECIATING the contributions from the technical consultations on the Draft Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa, which provided an opportunity for Cooperatives across the continent to engage with the proposed draft Model Law;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5 (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **APPROVE** on First Reading the revised Draft Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa.
2. **MANDATE** the Committee to proceed to the Regional Consultations to enable the various stakeholders to make inputs into the draft Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa. These would include the relevant departments of the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, national Cooperatives management institutions and civil society organizations.
3. **FURTHER MANDATE** the Committee to submit for final consideration and adoption the draft Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa, after integrating inputs received from the regional consultations.
4. **COMMEND** ICA-I and the PAP Secretariat for the technical support received for the formulation of the Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 2023

RESOLUTION ON “ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)”: THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which establishes the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament;

CONSIDERING FURTHER Chapter VI of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty), devoted to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment;

RECALLING Recommendation PAP.4/PL/Recom.02(III) of the Pan-African Parliament on the Free Movement of People and the new African Passport; Resolution PAP.4/PLN/RES/02/MAY.17 of the Pan-African Parliament on the Free Movement of People in Africa and the African Passport and Resolution On The African Continental Free Trade Area and the free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment (PAP.4/PLN/RES/03/MAY.18);

RECALLING ALSO the African Union Agenda 2063, which envisions Africa as a continent where the free movement of people, capital, goods and services will significantly increase trade and investments amongst African countries and improve Africa’s situation in global trade;

RECALLING FURTHER AU Decision *Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(X)* adopted in March 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda on the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);

NOTING WITH CONCERN the huge income inequalities and deepening poverty levels across the continent, which have lent fertile ground for social, economic and political instability, clandestine migrations and the use of unemployed and marginalised youth by armed and terrorist groups;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the adoption by the AU Assembly of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (“Protocol on Free Movement of Persons”) and its Draft Implementation Roadmap, in March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5(b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **UNDERTAKE** a robust advocacy in Member States, through inter alia, the National Parliaments and Speakers’ Forum to achieve full ratification, domestication and implementation of the AfCFTA, including the formulation of the AfCFTA National Implementation Strategies
2. **ADVOCATE** for the universal application of the AfCFTA Operational Instruments such as the Pan-African Payments and Settlements System (PAPSS), AfCFTA Adjustment Facility, African Trade Observatory (ATO), Online System of Monitoring, Reporting and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), AfCFTA Tariff Handbook, and the AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual;
3. **ORGANIZE** a High-level sensitization events on the Protocol on the Free Movement of People, Right of Residency and Right of Establishment in order to facilitate the full implementation of the AfCFTA;
4. **SENSITIZE** National and Regional Parliaments, judicial bodies, financial institutions, citizens and other relevant stakeholders on the benefits of accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA, emphasizing on job creation and mobilization of investments;
5. **ADVOCATE** for budgetary allocation of at least 5% of GDP for industrialization; in order to promote the Regional Value Chains (RVCs), including adoption of modern technology, and R&D to boost competitiveness;

6. **FURTHER ADVOCATE** for youth, women and people with disabilities to access trade information, digital and financial inclusion, services, and quality infrastructure;
7. **REGULARLY REQUEST** and **CONSIDER** the reports or updates from the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and other Partners on the development of trade-related infrastructure supporting the implementation of the AfCFTA African Union Digital Transformation Strategy;
8. **ADVOCATE** for at least 40% of public procurement for the African private sector to promote private sector development and the “Made in Africa” products and services;
9. **ADVOCATE ALSO** for at least 30% of public procurement to be allocated to Small and Medium Enterprises, Women, Youths, and People with Disabilities for their inclusion in accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA;
10. **ENSURE** sufficient budgetary allocation by Member States and Partners for the establishment of an integrated high-speed rail network spanning the entirety of the African continent, as espoused in Agenda 2063;

PROMOTE peacebuilding initiatives within the continent under the AfCFTA through dialogue and mediation by establishing platforms for constructive engagement between Member States, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 202

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING FURTHER Article 3 (a), (f) and (k) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union outlining the objectives of the Union to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the people of Africa, to promote peace, security and stability on the continent and to promote co-operation in all fields of human activities to raise the living standards of African peoples;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, which facilitates the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union; the promotion of the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa; and promotes peace, security and stability;

RECALLING the Assembly/AU/Dec.842(XXXVI) on the Report on the activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and state of peace and security in Africa;

APPLAUDING the commitments made in that decision in addressing governance, peace and security challenges in 2022 and beyond towards the continued efforts, mainly supporting countries in transition and those under suspension to facilitate their timely return to constitutional order;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the persistence of conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism on the Continent and that the Guns in Africa are not falling silent;

EMPHASISING the need for a robust response and collective security approaches, particularly inter-state and cross-border coordination and cooperation, to effectively address the intensity and transboundary nature of the threats to peace, security and stability of Africa;

FURTHER NOTING the concerns over the persistence of multiple and complex challenges that still undermines the achievement of silencing the guns in Africa, particularly gaps in governance and democracy; terrorism and violent extremism; the surge of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and mercenaries ; illicit circulation of arms/weapons; corruption; transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illicit financial flows and illegal exploitation of natural resources; foreign political and military interference; outbreaks of epidemics and pandemic; the impact of climate change and slow process of ratification of AU instruments, amongst others continue to hamper efforts to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063;

ECHOING the call by the AU Assembly for Member States and RECs/RMs to report on their actions and activities to silence the guns in the relevant dimensions within the five aspects of the AUMR for experience sharing and cross-learning to address the security challenges squarely;

APPRECIATING the call by civil society for the the Pan African Parliament to play its role in advancing peace and security in Africa and to assist in silencing the guns;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5(b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW THEREFORE RESOVES TO:

1. **SUPPORT** the Mandate of the High Level Representative on Silencing the Guns in Africa and **CALL** for State compliance with the principles and norms that aim to foster peace, security and sound democratic practice in Africa, particularly the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance;
2. **USE** its moral authority and advisory power to proactively engage with National Parliaments and other authorities to ensure that the trend of term elongation and constitutional tampering is halted at national levels;
3. **ALSO USE** its mandate to ensure that conflicts in Africa, especially those that threaten regional stability (Sahel, Grate Lakes-Eastern DRC, Cabo Delgado, Sudan -The Horn) are

addressed urgently in a holistic manner – instead of a military approach only- to bring about lasting peace in these theatres of war;

4. **SUPPORT** the clarion call by African citizens in solidarity with the people of Sudan to halt the war in that country, and ensure that the leaders of the warring factions (General Burhan - Sudanese Armed Forces, and General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemeti) immediately subject themselves to peace talks, (under the mediation of the AU and IGAD), thus delivering on the mantra of African solutions for African problems;
5. **FURTHER SUPPORT** the call made by African Human Rights Defenders and PAP Civil Society Forum for the relevant African Union organs and institutions to take more decisive actions to prevent the loss of life, property and critical infrastructure, to protect civilians, including refugees, women, children and other vulnerable persons and to ensure a speedy return to peace and stability.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 of June 2023

RESOLUTION ON CURRENT WAR IN SUDAN AND ITS EFFECTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the PAP to facilitate the implementation of policies, objectives and programmes of the African Union and to oversee their effective implementation;

CONSIDERING Article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which states: The Union shall be guided by the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and good governance, the rule of law, the protection of human dignity, the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of sustainable development;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING Article 13(2), which mandates the Union to foster gender equality and the empowerment of women;

STRONGLY REAFFIRMING that safeguarding the welfare of women and children, particularly that of young girls in Sudan, remains a paramount priority amid the ongoing conflict that commenced on 15 April 2023;

DEEPLY DISTURBED by the prevailing crisis in Sudan, which has culminated in innumerable fatalities and the displacement of thousands both within the country and beyond its borders, compelling them to seek sanctuary in neighbouring nations;

RECOGNIZING that the women and children of Sudan remain disproportionately affected by the current conflict;

NOTING Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council which urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts;

RECOGNIZING the heightened duty incumbent upon parliamentarians to actively engage in the cultivation of awareness regarding the detrimental effects borne by women and girls in the face of armed conflict and other manifestations of violence;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the distinct requirements and susceptibility of women and girls amidst armed conflict and diverse situations of violence, Parliaments are thus urged to intensify collaboration with regional and parliamentary entities. This concerted effort is geared towards the identification and implementation of tangible measures to advocate for the exceptional protection of women and girls in instances of armed conflict and other forms of violence;

UNANIMOUSLY CONVINCED of the necessity to take appropriate measures to ensure full and efficient coordination of international efforts on the current conflict in Sudan;

NOTING that the establishment of the Women caucus, designed to bolster and enhance the exchange of experiences, cooperative ties, and strategic alliances with groups and networks on sub-regional, regional, and global stages. This initiative is primarily purposed for the protection of human rights overall, with specific emphasis on safeguarding the rights of women and children;

RECOGNIZING that the mandate of the Women's Caucus entails the responsibility to contribute to the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights principles, with a specific focus on gender equality, while also actively fostering good governance, democracy, peace, and security;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY:

1. **ASSERTS**, with unambiguous intensity, vehement condemnation of all instances of violence perpetrated against women. It emphatically urges all Member States to render humanitarian, financial, and logistical support to the Sudan during this particularly difficult time.
2. **DEMANDS** an immediate cessation of hostilities and the implementation of de-escalation measures to restore peace and security within the country. Encourages the two warring factions, namely the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), to engage in dialogue with the necessary stakeholders
3. **UNDERLINES** the immediate and imperative necessity for the international community to unite their robust and expeditious efforts through collective action, thereby demonstrating unwavering solidarity with the Sudanese people, with specific attention to women and girls. This solidarity is essential in fostering peace, democracy, and development.

4. **WELCOMES** the recent advancements, notably the signing of the Jeddah Agreement on May 12, 2023, which marks a momentous stride in the cessation of conflict and the reinstatement of peace and stability within Sudan.
5. **PAYS** tribute to neighbouring countries, with regard to the treatment and hospitality granted to refugees in the host communities and calls on the international community to provide support to these countries in their efforts to host refugees.
6. **REAFFIRMS** the obligation of parties to adhere to International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, with the paramount objective of permanently ceasing hostilities in Sudan. This imperative action serves the supreme interest of the Sudanese people, specifically emphasizing the heightened vulnerability faced by women, children, and, in particular, the girl child during times of armed conflict.
7. **CALLS** upon all Organs of the African Union, the United Nations Security Council as well as the International Community to impress upon the parties involved to establish humanitarian corridors, return to political dialogue and negotiation towards the establishment of an inclusive civilian-led government, and strongly rejected all forms of external interference while committing to coordinate, collaborate and harmonize joint international action on Sudan.
8. **RESOLVES** to deploy to Sudan for a collaborative mediation mission a delegation consisting of Pan-African Parliamentarians, including the Women's Caucus, the Permanent Committee on Justice, Human Rights, and the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations, Peace, and Security.
9. **ALSO RESOLVES** that the mediation mission envisaged under Paragraph 8 shall be undertaken in coordination with the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Gender, Peace, and Security, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), and pertinent partners, as soon as the prevailing security situation permits.
10. **FURTHER RESOLVES** that the mediation mission shall be expected to:
 - i. Initiate a mediation endeavour aimed at bringing the parties involved in the conflict to engage in negotiations at the table of dialogue;

- ii. Commence an inquiry into the human rights situation in Sudan, with the objective of conducting a comprehensive investigation and formulating actionable recommendations for its improvement;
- iii. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the peace and security situation, prioritizing the well-being of women, children, and specifically the girl child, to gather operational information;
- iv. Mobilise support and deliver humanitarian assistance to women and girls profoundly impacted by the war.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 of June 2023



ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS

PAP.6(II)/PLN/RECOM/01/JUN.23

RECOMMENDATION ON "ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)": THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which establishes the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament;

CONSIDERING FURTHER Chapter VI of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, devoted to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment;

RECALLING Recommendation PAP.4/PL/Recom.02(III) of the Pan-African Parliament on the Free Movement of People and the new African Passport; Resolution PAP.4/PLN/RES/02/MAY.17 of the Pan-African Parliament on the Free Movement of People in Africa and the African Passport and Resolution On The African Continental Free Trade Area and the free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment (PAP.4/PLN/RES/03/MAY.18);

RECALLING ALSO the African Union Agenda 2063, which envisions Africa as a continent where the free movement of people, capital, goods and services will significantly increase trade and investments amongst African countries and improve Africa's situation in global trade;

RECALLING FURTHER AU Decision *Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(X)* adopted in March 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda on the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);

NOTING WITH CONCERN the huge income inequalities and deepening poverty levels across the continent, which have lent fertile ground for social, economic and political instability, clandestine migrations and the use of unemployed and marginalised youth by armed and terrorist groups;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the adoption by the AU Assembly of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (“Protocol on Free Movement of Persons”) and its Draft Implementation Roadmap, in March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5(b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, RECs, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. To the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area to:

- i. **DEVELOP** a monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanism on the implementation of the AfCFTA;
- ii. **ENSURE** the active participation of the Pan-African Parliament and the Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration matters in its activities, including the mid-term review of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA and its Protocols.
- iii. **ALSO ENSURE** the accessibility and user-friendliness of the African Trade Observatory to enhance the efficacy of the trade market and information intelligence on the continent and effective ownership by the African Union;

2. To African National and Regional Parliaments to:

- i. **DEPLOY** their legislative and oversight mandate to ensure the full ratification, domestication and implementation of the AfCFTA, including the formulation of the AfCFTA National Implementation Strategies;
- ii. **EFFECTIVELY OVERSEE** the national application of the AfCFTA Operational Instruments such as the Pan-African Payments and Settlements System (PAPSS), AfCFTA Adjustment Facility, African Trade Observatory (ATO), Online System of

Monitoring, Reporting and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), AfCFTA Tariff Handbook, and the AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual;

- iii. **SENSITIZE** African citizens, judicial bodies, financial institutions and all relevant stakeholders on the benefits of accelerating the implementation of AfCFTA, emphasizing on job creation and mobilization of investments;
 - iv. **DEPLOY** their budgetary power to ensure budgetary allocation of at least 5% of GDP for industrialization; in order to promote the Regional Value Chains (RVCs), including adoption of modern technology, and R&D to boost competitiveness;
 - v. **ALSO DEPLOY** their budgetary power to ensure sufficient budgetary allocation by Member States and Partners for the establishment of an integrated high-speed rail network spanning the entirety of the African continent, as espoused in Agenda 2063;
 - vi. **ADVOCATE** for youth, women and people with disabilities to access trade information, digital and financial inclusion, services, and quality infrastructure;
 - vii. **ADVOCATE ALSO** for at least 40% of public procurement for the African private sector to promote private sector development and the “Made in Africa” products and services;
 - viii. **ADVOCATE FURTHER** for at least 30% of public procurement to be allocated to SMEs, Women, Youths, and People with Disabilities for their inclusion in accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA;
 - ix. **PROMOTE** peacebuilding initiatives within their respective constituencies through dialogue and mediation by establishing platforms for constructive engagement between and within the Member States, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.
3. **To the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities and other Partners** to **DEVELOP** trade-related infrastructure supporting the implementation of the AfCFTA African Union Digital Transformation Strategy;
 4. **To the Economic, Social and Cultural Council and the African Business Council** to regularly **SUBMIT AND PRESENT** to the Committee on Trade, Customs

and Immigration Matters and to the Plenary reports and/or updates on their activities in relation to the promotion of AfCFTA.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa, On 1 June 2023



RECOMMENDATION ON LABOUR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the full participation of the African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent,

CONSIDERING Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers PAP to facilitate and oversee the effective implementation of the objectives and programmes of the African Union;

RECALLING the Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Decl.6(XXV) [2015]) adopted at the 25th Ordinary Session held on 14-15 June 2015 in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its commitments to accelerating mobility and integration on the continent, migration for development and the positive impact of migration on development;

RECALLING its recommendation Ref. PAP.6/PLN/RECOM/03/NOV.22 adopted in October 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa on the governance of labour migration in Africa;

GUIDED by the legal instruments and policy frameworks of the African Union, the regional economic communities and international organizations on labour and human rights, migration governance and administration, including the International Labour Standards of the International Labour Organization;

BEARING IN MIND the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community on the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and the Right of Establishment, the Agreement on the Establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention), Agenda 2063, the African Union Social Policy Framework, the Ouagadougou +10 Plan of Action, the Ouagadougou Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially

Women and Children, and the Strategic Framework for Migration in Africa and its Plan of Action (2018-2030);

CONCERNED ABOUT the slow pace of ratification and implementation of international, continental and regional legal instruments on labour, human rights and migration in Africa, which creates a significant gap in the protection of migrants, including migrant workers;

CONCERNED ALSO about the deplorable and worrying situation of migrants, including migrant workers, in many host countries and recognizing that reports of violations of labour and other rights of migrant workers, cases of xenophobic attacks on migrants and arbitrary expulsions, which highlight the difficulties in achieving decent work, equality of treatment and protection of human rights (including labour rights);

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers PAP to initiate debates, debate, deliver opinions, make recommendations and formulate resolutions on the objectives and all matters relating to the African Union and its organs, the Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions, among others;

HEREBY RECOMMENDS TO MEMBER STATES TO :

1. **ENHANCE** the education and training of the African Youth in order to make them competitive in the market.
2. **INTEGRATE** Migration in the education of youth for social inclusivity and acceptability of migrants.
3. **IMPROVE** socio-economic and political governance in order to create employment opportunities for young people and fight against poverty in all its forms.
4. **ACCELERATE** the process of ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community on the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and the Right of Establishment and encourage the signing multilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) to better regulate migration flows.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 2023

RECOMMENDATION ON CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERCRIME IN AFRICA

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the establishment of the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the PAP to facilitate the implementation of policies, objectives and programmes of the African Union and to oversee their effective implementation;

RECALLING the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection, which aimed at defining the objectives and broad orientations of the Information Society in Africa and strengthening existing legislations on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) of Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);

NOTING that the Internet and digital technologies increasingly shape our economies and societies, they also create vulnerabilities for individuals, public and private entities, critical infrastructures, and much more;

EMPHASIZING that “cybersecurity” and “cybercrime” are related but distinct issues, “cybersecurity” being something that needs to be improved and “cybercrime” being something to be prevented;

ACKNOWLEDGING that geopolitical concerns are never absent from discussions on cybersecurity, while affirming that all countries share a common interest in enhancing cybersecurity and combatting cybercrime;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that the cyberthreat landscape is complex and that African countries are at different levels of readiness to deal with cyberthreats;

REAFFIRMING that cybersecurity and cybercrime issues have cross-organizational and cross-border dimensions, and that tackling them requires (a) Whole-of-government and whole-of-society

approaches involving strong partnerships and coordinated efforts between relevant authorities and agencies, the private sector, the technical community, academia, and civil society, (b) Efficient and effective regional and international cooperation, both intergovernmental, multilateral and multistakeholder;

CONCERNED by the urgent need to put in place a mechanism to deal with the dangers and risks arising from the use of electronic data and files on individuals, with a view to respecting privacy and freedoms, while fostering the promotion and development of ICTs in the member states of the African Union;

EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN about the extent of cybercrime and the lack of legal frameworks for the protection of personal data in Africa;

IN ACCORDANCE with Rule 5 (d) of the Rules of Procedures of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organise debates, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and formulate resolutions on the objectives and on any matter relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW HEREBY RECOMMENDS TO MEMBER STATES TO:

1. DEVELOP policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks for enhancing cyber security and tackling cybercrime and *recommend* that such frameworks:

- i. **ARE DEVELOPED** with the involvement, from the onset, of all relevant governmental and non-governmental actors;
- ii. **EMBED** a human-centred security approach and incorporate the principles of rule of law, judicial oversight, proportionality, accountability and transparency;
- iii. **CLEARLY DEFINE** the roles and responsibilities of relevant public and private actors in a manner that allows meaningful and effective collaboration towards a more secure cyberspace;
- iv. **DRAW UPON** internationally agreed technical standards for cybersecurity.

2. ENSURE a proper balance between measures to enhance cybersecurity and tackle cybercrime, on the one hand, and the protection of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, on the other hand, and in particular to:

- i. **ENSURE** that cybersecurity frameworks are complemented by strong data protection laws;
- ii. **ENCOURAGE** effective cooperation between the intelligence services and other government departments, and seek transparency and accountability from intelligence services tasked with cybersecurity;
- iii. **AVOID** the use of cybersecurity measures for political purposes.

3. SIGN, RATIFY AND DOMESTICATE the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Protection of Personal Data.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 June 2023

**RECOMMENDATION FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN
SUDAN AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION**

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING FURTHER Article 3 (a), (f) and (k) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union outlining the objectives of the Union to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the people of Africa, to promote peace, security and stability on the continent and to promote co-operation in all fields of human activities to raise the living standards of African peoples;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, which facilitates the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union; the promotion of the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa; and promotes peace, security and stability;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the ongoing and unjustified conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a conflict that has engendered an unparalleled severe humanitarian predicament, the arbitrary annihilation of innocuous civilians and the destruction of infrastructure.

ACKNOWLEDGING the peacekeeping and negotiation efforts undertaken and conducted by the *Intergovernmental Authority on Development* (IGAD), the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and other regional and international stakeholders for the restoration of peace and security in Sudan;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5(b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY:

1. **CALLS** on Member States to support the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture, reinforcing the commitment to homegrown solutions to conflicts and urges the Africa Union to conduct a serious investigation into the conflict in Sudan, aimed at unveiling the actors, motivations, and dynamics fueling the crisis.
2. **URGES** the African Union to intensify and harmonise with other stakeholders such as IGAD diplomatic efforts to interact with the parties involved in the conflict, aiming to foster dialogue and a peaceful resolution to the Sudan crisis to facilitate discussions towards a ceasefire.
3. **ALSO URGES** the African Union for the development and implementation of a comprehensive African strategy to address the ongoing crisis in Sudan.
4. **CALLS UPON** the African Union to undertake a Field Mission to Sudan to engage comprehensively with all relevant Sudanese stakeholders, thereby gaining insights into the current state of affairs within the country and fostering peacekeeping dialogues to devise a sustainable resolution.
5. **CALLS** for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire by the warring parties, in the supreme interest of the Republic of Sudan and its people, in order to avoid further bloodshed and harm to civilians.
6. **URGES** regional countries and organisations such as IGAD to bolster existing endeavours to reinstate Sudan's progress towards a constitutional order.
7. **CALLS UPON** the African Union to extend indispensable support, consolidating these actions into a unified strategy for peace efforts in the Sudan crisis.

8. **IMPLORES** the African Union to extend support aimed at protecting civilians, particularly emphasizing the security of vulnerable groups like women and children, and ensuring their safety and well-being.
9. **ENDORSES** the drafting and implementation of a transitional framework, to include a provisional constitution which shall spell out the timeframe for the transition and define the priority tasks, as well as the institutions responsible for carrying them out.
10. **CALLS** for the establishment of a unity government that would have a minimum programme and action plan for restoring and rebuilding the country.
11. **ALSO CALLS** for increased representation of women in peace mediation processes, in line with the African Union's commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment.
12. **STRONGLY REJECTS** any external interference that could exacerbate the predicament in Sudan.
13. **ALSO URGES** United Nations bodies and humanitarian organizations to ensure the provision of necessary humanitarian aid to affected areas in Sudan, with unhindered access to those in need.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 of June 2023

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE YOUTH DIALOGUE HELD IN THE KINGDOM OF
MOROCCO (RABAT) 4-6 DECEMBER 2022

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING ALSO Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to ensure the “full participation of the African people in the development and economic integration of the continent”;

CONSIDERING FURTHER Article 3 (a), (f) and (k) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union outlining the objectives of the Union to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the people of Africa, to promote peace, security and stability on the continent and to promote co-operation in all fields of human activities to raise the living standards of African peoples;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, which facilitates the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union; the promotion of the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa; and promotes peace, security and stability;

RECALLING Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.601(XXVI) of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which called for “harnessing the demographic dividends through investment in the youth;

COGNIZANT of the need and opportunities for harnessing the demographic dividend, through investments in the youth, a vital resource that ought to be harnessed to meet Africa’s current and future challenges, by fully and actively involving them in all spheres of life - political, economic and social,

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the current situation, where young Africans continue to face socioeconomic inequalities, food and nutrition insecurity, lack of access to education, child marriage,

female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices, unemployment and dearth of investments;

NOTING WITH REGRET that young people continue to languish in poverty, famine and illiteracy; are quite often drafted to serve in armed groups, militias or terrorist movements; and engage in clandestine immigration,

NOTING WITH CONCERN the slow pace of ratification and domestication of African Union Instruments pertaining to the youth, which can play a key role in youth empowerment,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 5(b), (c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empowers the PAP to, inter alia, organize debate, discuss, express an opinion, make recommendations and take resolutions on the objectives and on any matters relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY:

1. **URGES** African Union Member States, national parliaments and all other relevant stakeholders to celebrate the Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day on 6 December (Rabat Declaration) with the aim of providing a platform for dialogue among various stakeholders to find solutions to food and nutrition security issues, while building momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.
2. **ALSO URGES** African Union Member States and all partners to translate food security and nutrition security **commitments** into concrete outcomes by sustaining political momentum and accelerating action to improve coordination, implementation capacity and accountability for youth nutrition across the continent.
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to develop sound and prioritized national strategies to invest more capital in youth and to fight hunger and malnutrition in all its forms on the continent;
4. **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission, Member States of the African Union and all partners to mobilize political action to recommit to food resilience programmes and to encourage the private sector to invest more in such programmes, and to reach out to

vulnerable communities, including the youth to ensure that they have access to safe food through initiatives that benefit the entire African community;

5. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission, Member States of the African Union and all partners to accelerate the development of an African youth participatory analytical tool to assess the social and economic impacts of food insecurity and malnutrition on the health, education and labour sectors, which will provide governments and partners with recommendations and key time-bound and achievable investment priorities for national youth human capital development goals.
6. **RECOMMENDS** the involvement of young African parliamentarians in multi-sectoral approaches to sustainably transforming food and nutrition systems to provide healthier diets.
7. **ALSO RECOMMENDS** multi-sectoral action and coordination in the implementation of nutrition programmes and initiatives at all levels, being convinced that the elimination of malnutrition cannot be achieved by isolated efforts but rather by joining forces and strategizing for integrated and concerted multi-sectoral actions with the involvement of youth.
8. **RECOMMENDS FURTHER** the establishment African Bank funding projects to support African youth in the industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors, in coordination with the African Parliament Youth Caucus Bureau and the African Union.
9. **RECOMMENDS FURTHER** the training and mentoring African youth through partnerships with international organizations.
10. **ENCOURAGES** the creation of digital platforms and physical meetings dedicated to exchanges and dialogue between African youth and their leaders.
11. **EXPRESSES** its deep gratitude to the King of Morocco and the Moroccan people for their hospitality and contributions to the successful holding of the Youth Dialogue in Rabat, on 5-6 December 2022.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa

On 1 of June 2023

RECOMMENDATION ON CLIMATE POLICY AND EQUITY IN AFRICA

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which establishes the Pan-African Parliament;

CONSIDERING also Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP Protocol), and Rule 3 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament;

RECALLING the African Union Agenda 2063 Aspiration 1, which envisages a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, an Africa to speak a unity of purpose in advancing its position and interests on climate change and which participate in global efforts for climate change mitigation that support and broaden the policy space for sustainable development on the continent;

RECALLING also the Sustainable Development Goals/ SDGs, particularly goals 13, which require member states to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

NOTING the various submissions and proposals made by various stakeholders at the Summit on Climate Policy and Equity, co-organised by the Pan-African Parliament and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, in Midrand, South Africa, on 16 and 17 May 2023;

RECOGNISING that climate change is a global challenge that requires collective action and solidarity among all nations and peoples; and referencing the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report's (AR6) conclusion the Africa will experience extremes of climate change triggered events under all emission scenarios;

REAFFIRMING commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to the adverse impacts of climate change, which threaten its socio-economic development, peace and security, human rights

and dignity, and that it is a region with special needs and circumstances under international climate law;

REITERATING our call for climate justice and equity, which demand that historical responsibilities, differentiated capabilities and respective circumstances of countries are taken into account in addressing climate change;

CONCERNED by the missing global solidarity, worsening debt crisis, and extra taxation measures being implemented by African Governments to raise funds for humanitarian crises caused by climate-related occurrences. Further disturbed by the international architecture of climate finance which does not inspire hope in delivering a mechanism that is responsive to the needs of African countries;

DRAWING on the prospects presented by progressive policy legislations for Africa to advance reforms in global governance of climate change agenda, and that effective national and global response to climate change is premised on transformative laws and policies;

EMPHASISING our role as legislators in enacting laws, overseeing policies and budgets, and representing the interests and aspirations of our constituencies;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Article 11 (1) of the PAP Protocol, which empowers the PAP to make recommendations and formulate resolutions on any matter relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities and their respective organs, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

I. To the African Union Member States to:

1. **UNDERTAKE** necessary institutional and legislative measures to ensure that big polluters to take responsibility for their emissions and its effect on African communities.
2. **DOMESTICATE** and **IMPLEMENT** the provisions of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement international as well as other relevant international environmental law instruments, including through development of a climate change implementation plan and strategy and allocation of adequate budgetary resources to address climate change remediation measures.

3. **IMPLEMENT** reforms in the current climate finance regime to ensure that it truly reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities, is commensurate with the ambition needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and aligned with the needs of Africa and other developing regions;
4. **STRENGTHEN** mechanisms for holding accountable corporate and other actors that are responsible for climate pollution and atrocities, including through implementation of taxation measures which ensures funding for reparation of victims of loss and damage;
5. **UNDERTAKE** a just transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways that are aligned with national priorities, inclusive of all stakeholders, respectful of human rights and responsive to gender equality.
6. **DEVELOP** and, where applicable, **REVIEW** their legal, policy and institutional frameworks to ensure increased private sector engagement in the financing of climate change adaptation and remediation measures.
7. **STAND** for a clear, coherent and coordinated set of continental priorities for COP28, including prioritized demands of highly indebted countries.
8. **MAKE** a strong call to action to deliver the doubling of adaptation funding by 2025 including individual donor pathways/plans for this and an accompanying best buys for investment, to be secured through elevating the Global Goal on Adaptation, to receive attention in decisions at COP28.
9. **LAUNCH** of a just transition pathway/pipeline of investments for African agriculture (resilient focus/low-carbon co-benefits) with donor funding.

II. To Governments of the Global North

1. **INITIATE** the necessary reforms as recommended by the Sharm el-Sheikh Action Plan, to make climate finance more accessible, needs-based and less likely to lead to indebtedness.
2. **ENHANCE** their ambitions and action, under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in accordance with the best available science.

3. **FULFIL** their obligations to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable finance, technology transfer and capacity building support to developing countries, especially African countries, to enable them to adapt to climate change, mitigate their emissions and address loss and damage.
4. **DEMONSTRATE** increased commitment in advancing climate justice and equity, and intaking ambitious and fair climate action that builds solidarity and resilient communities throughout the world.

III. To Civil Society Actors

1. **PROMOTE** and **SUPPORT**, in collaboration with the AU and PAP, platforms for the engagement of parliamentarians with judges, legal practitioners and other relevant stakeholders to reflect on the strengthening of existing legal and institutional regimes pertaining to climate change and ways and means of fostering their effective implementation on the continent;
2. **STRENGTHEN** evidence-based advocacy to elevate African priorities in the ongoing development of a Global Goal on Adaptation, the New Collective and Quantified Goal, Financing Arrangements for Loss and Damage and the overall process of Global Stock Take.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa.

On 1 June 2023

RECOMMENDATION “FOR AN INCLUSIVE DIGITAL WORLD: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGIES AT THE SERVICE OF EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN”

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT,

CONSIDERING Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 4 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament, which empower the PAP to facilitate the implementation of policies, objectives and programmes of the African Union and to oversee their effective implementation.

CONSIDERING Article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which states: The Union shall be guided by the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and good governance, the rule of law, the protection of human dignity, the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of sustainable development, and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

RECALLING the mandate of the PAP Women’s under Rule 85 of PAP Rules of Procedure which is to (i) contribute to greater participation of women in the political, economic, social and cultural life across the African continent and (ii) to promote and strengthen the exchange of experiences and collaborative links and strategic alliances with groups and networks at the sub-regional, regional and global levels for the defence of human rights in general and the rights of women and children in particular;

RECOGNIZING the United Nations International Women’s Day (IWD) celebrated by the Pan African Parliament on 8 March 2023, exploring the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities, in line with the United Nations’ celebration of the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education;

RECALLING also the participation of the PAP Members to the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of the Women, which have enabled them to engage and provide a platform for consultations with various stakeholders and evaluate the need to prioritize national strategies to improve women's access to digital technologies.

NOTING WITH CONCERN the existence of gender disparities in the access and use of technology in Africa countries where several women struggle to afford technology and internet access, and where

stereotypes around technology being ‘men’ and fear of being discriminated against stop women from using digital tools;

NOTING also that the Internet, digital platforms, mobile phones and digital financial services offer “leapfrog” opportunities for all and can help bridge the divide by giving women the possibility to earn additional income, increase their employment opportunities, and access knowledge and general information;

CONVINCED that that the digital transformation provides new avenues for the economic empowerment of women and can contribute to greater gender equality, including in the labour market, boost economic growth and build a more inclusive, digital world;

CONVINCED also that equal access to technologies and digital platforms could also be a powerful tool for women and girls to meaningfully participate in governance, associate, gather and speak out on digital rights issues that matter to them, and develop relevant content. for their empowerment.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Article 11 (1) of the PAP Protocol, which empowers the PAP to make recommendations and formulate resolutions on any matter relating to the African Union and its organs, Regional Economic Communities and their respective organs, Member States and their organs and institutions;

NOW HEREBY RECOMMENDS TO AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES TO:

1. **EMPOWER** women and girls through meaningful access to the internet and digital technologies could undoubtedly empower them to build businesses and access education, health, social and financial services.
2. **DESIGN and IMPLEMENT** legal, policy, administrative and practical measures to address existing structural inequalities in income, education, and employment opportunities, and remove political, economic, legal, cultural, technological and barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing and using the internet and ICTs.
3. **ACTIVELY INCLUDE** women and gender equality experts in policymaking, regulatory and governance processes to ensure fairer and fairer digital and data outcomes.
4. **TAKE** positive steps to ensure that more women and girls have access to affordable internet and digital devices, effective connectivity, and digital skills.

5. **SUPPORT and INVEST** in efforts to increase network coverage, capacity, and quality, particularly in underserved areas, to ensure universal and affordable access, and provide safe and accessible public access facilities to women and girls.
6. **PRIORITIZE** the collection and sharing of sex- and age-disaggregated data on access to and use of ICTs in order to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of progress and to develop policies aimed at promoting the enjoyment of digital rights by women and girls on the continent.
7. **INCLUDE** women-led organizations, including community networks and women-only focus groups, to get appropriate feedback on policy design and initiatives.
8. **IDENTIFY** specific policies, strategies and tools to stimulate girls' involvement in STEM, such as the use of female role models in STEM and learning resources that represent girls in STEM.
9. **PRIORITIZE** legislative and policy reforms aimed at accelerating equal access to basic education, inclusion of digital literacy from an early age, and retention of girls and women in secondary education and higher.
10. **SPOTLIGHT** the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT-facilitated gender-based violence.
11. **ENCOURAGE** the inclusion of women and other marginalized groups in the field of technology to foster more creative solutions and innovations that meet women's needs and promote gender equality.
12. **RAISE** awareness about the significant costs of excluding women from the digital world, as highlighted in the UN Women's Gender Snapshot 2022 report, which estimates a loss of \$1 trillion from the GDP of low- and middle-income countries in the last decade. Emphasize that without action, this loss is projected to grow to \$1.5 trillion by 2025.
13. **ADDRESS** the problem of online violence by implementing measures to protect women from online threats and harassment.
14. **ADVOCATE** for a gender-responsive approach to innovation, technology, and digital education to increase awareness of women and girls regarding their rights and promote their civic engagement.

15. **UTILIZE** advancements in digital technology to tackle development and humanitarian challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.
16. **RECOGNIZE** the risk of perpetuating existing patterns of gender inequality through the digital revolution and emphasize the need for inclusive and transformative technology and digital education.
17. **HIGHLIGHT** the growing inequalities in digital skills and access to technologies, particularly affecting women, and call for actions to bridge the digital gender divide.
18. **BRING** together technologists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and gender equality activists in a high-level event to showcase their roles in improving access to digital tools.
19. **ORGANIZE** a high-level panel discussion to delve deeper into the issues surrounding gender equality in technology and innovation.
20. **ENCOURAGE** the efforts by Member States and all stakeholders need to consider the social, political, and economic factors that drive the design, development, and use of digital technologies, and put women and girls at the center of technological change, innovation, and education.

Adopted in Midrand, South Africa.

On 1 June 2023