



## PAP Announced Permanent Committee Sitzings for August

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) officially resumed its parliamentary activities as it held August Sitzings of the Permanent Committees and other organs of the sixth Parliament. The sitting was scheduled for 22 August to 02 September 2022 at the seat of the continental Parliament in Midrand, South Africa. Anchored on the African Union theme for 2022 "Building resilience in nutrition on the African continent: Accelerate the human capital, social and economic development." PAP committees and relevant organs aimed to make progress in key priority areas i.e. Peace and Security, Covid-19 Pandemic Response and Recovery, AfCFTA, eradication of Child Labour and Human Trafficking, and model laws on Gender Parity, Food Security, and Nutrition.

The PAP Committee sittings coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the first phase of the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 Strategic Framework for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development. This afforded Members of Parliament an opportunity to review Africa's development blueprint in relation to set goals and targets.

The assembly of African Parliamentarians was held alongside a strategic reorientation workshop for members in line against the PAP institutional reform and rebranding agenda led by the President and members of the Bureau. The PAP resumed its parliamentary activities after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19 related challenges and also an impasse over Bureau elections. With a new and purposeful leadership in place and these hurdles behind, the PAP Bureau has engaged in a multi-faceted strategy for institutional reform in order to improve the legitimacy and integrity of the PAP.



**Conference of Speakers of Parliaments concludes with a pledge to strengthen continental solidarity** ..... Page 10



**THE YEAR OF NUTRITION**  
**Strengthening Resilience in**  
**Nutrition & Food Security**  
**on the African continent:**  
Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health & Social  
Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human,  
Social & Economic Capital Development

## The AU 2022 theme - "Building resilience in nutrition on the African continent: Accelerate the human capital, social and economic development"

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) held a joint workshop on the African Union theme for 2022, organized in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The general objective of the workshop was to sensitize and update African parliamentarians on the AU Theme of the Year, the AUDA-NEPAD Nutrition and Food Systems Strategy, and their contribution toward the achievement of development through food and nutrition security.

The event provided a platform to discuss the expected roles of stakeholders in popularizing the theme at the national level and sharing experiences and best practices. Synergies were formed and means of collaboration were explored. Participants were updated on the progress of the PAP Model Law which envisaged making a significant contribution to improving food security and nutrition in the continent and complementing other African Union and regional efforts.

The AU was urged to accelerate the adoption of the model law, given its potential to influence national policies and legislations to be nutrition sensitive. The inclusion of Parliamentarians in multisectoral approaches was recommended as a more sustainable practice to deliver healthier diets to communities.

The PAP recognized the King of Lesotho (AU Nutrition Champion), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), CIEFFA, WFP Africa Union Global Office, International Federation of Red Cross (Southern Africa Cluster Office), for their valuable insights and contribution to the program of the workshop.



## PAP held Reorientation Workshop for legislators

On August 20th, the President of the Pan-African Parliament, H.E Chief Fortune Charumbira announced a three-day Reorientation Capacity Building Workshop for African legislators to open the Sitting of the Permanent Committees of the sixth Parliament. The Strategic Reorientation workshop for the PAP Parliamentarians ran under the theme “Reviving, Renewing, Repositioning and Reinvigorating the Pan-African Parliament.” The workshop presented the PAP with an opportunity to revitalize and reposition the institution after 16 years of its establishment as the third organ of the African Union.

The PAP had not been in session for two years due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and an institutional disagreement over Bureau elections in 2021. In addition to this, the PAP had a composition of more than 50 percent of new Members of Parliament (MPs) with relatively minimal continental Parliamentary experience. The workshop sought to critically analyse the achievements, opportunities and challenges faced by the PAP in advancing the objectives of the African Union and to deliberate on what the PAP should do in order to fulfil its mandate and respond more effectively to the expectations of the African citizenry.

The central objective of the workshop which was to enhance knowledge of the principal issues and challenges affecting the PAP. The workshop identified significant contradictions, failures, challenges and bottlenecks in the actualization of the PAP mandate. These issues were redirected to the relevant Committee for resolution.

## Bureau’s achievements presented



As the August Sitzings of the Permanent Committees of the sixth Parliament successfully commenced on August 22nd, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) President, H.E Chief Charumbira presented the Bureau’s performance to stakeholders. The presentation revealed strides made in response to calls for values of fairness, equity, and justice as critical to the restoration of the Pan-African Parliament as an effective legislative body of the African Union.

The administration successfully re-engaged the Executive Council of the African Union and the African Union Commission, particularly on the reversal of budgetary constraints and austerity measures imposed on the organ during the crisis in hindsight. The scorecard presented the actualized goals in areas of the institutional agenda and administrative strategic principles.

The application of the rotation principle in electoral processes, and regional representation in parliamentary committees were key deliverables. In its first 8 weeks, the Bureau had successfully restored parliamentary cooperation with regional bodies such as SADC PF and ECOWAS Parliament, while resuming working relations with other AU institutions including the African Union Commission African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), AUDA-NEPAD, and African Governance Architecture (AGA).

The Bureau has also facilitated two election observation missions (EOMs) in Kenya and Angola, and resumed AU thematic holidays celebrations. The third Vice-President of the PAP, Hon. Lucia Maria Mendes Goncalves dos Passos, held a Pan-African Women’s Day event at the National Assembly of Cabo Verde.

The President assured stakeholders that his Bureau will continue to engage the Union to ensure the PAP is adequately funded to enable the implementation of programs in fulfilment of its mandate as a people-centred institution. H.E Chief Charumbira further mentioned his Bureau’s intention to convene a Strategic Retreat with the PRC in 2022.



## Regional Caucuses make proposals on reviving, renewing, repositioning, and reinvigorating the Pan-African Parliament

The Bureau of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) applauded submissions by the Regional Caucuses at the Strategic Reorientation Workshop, after they were tasked to revisit the question of the role of PAP and its duty to African citizenry. The presentations were noted for their educational, informative, and high quality, assuring stakeholders of a renewed common stance and commitment to the resumption of PAP business by its members from across all regional caucuses.

The caucuses jointly agreed on the need for PAP to search itself and reform as it pivots in a new direction while fostering multi-lateral collaboration, especially with the AU. Highlighted was the need to engage the media in order to improve the accessibility, inclusivity, and visibility of parliament to the African citizenry down to the grassroots, a group identified to be central and priority to PAP business going forward. Parliamentarians acknowledged the need for the immediate ratification of the Malabo protocol which is hoped to empower the PAP to perform an effective oversight role; promote peace, security, and stability; and as well as enforce accountability in issues of corruption, security, and stability.





## Evaluation of Agenda 2063 Special Project by Members of Parliament

The African Union Commission (AUC) briefed members of the PAP on Agenda 2063 Special Project: Evaluation of the First Ten Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) and the Development of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan. Discussions were also held on the role of the PAP in the achievement of Agenda 2063.

The overall objective of the Agenda 2063 Special Project is to assess performance and progress in terms of quality of implementation and delivery of tangible impacts along Agenda 2063 Goals and related set targets and indicators. More specifically, the special project seeks to assess the level of achievement/non-achievement of the targets set in the FTYIP at the Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU levels. Performance of AU Organs (including PAP) and Agencies, and RECs in the institutional coordination, partnership and resource mobilization for FTYIP will also be looked into.

The delivery of the Agenda 2063 Special Project hinges on a huge political, financial, human and technical resource outlay. The roles of the PAP were recognised as legislative, monitoring and evaluation, communication and advocacy, national level consultations, and implementation of Agenda 2063. The PAP Parliamentarians were sensitized to the importance of engagement of all stakeholders, namely, the private sector, academia, youth, women, civil society, and the diaspora.

The AUC also called on the mobilization of political, financial, human, and technical resources through the alignment of national development programs and budgets to Agenda 2063. Parliamentarians pledged improvement in respective areas in the 2022-2023 period.



## PAP Sitzings opened with Strategic Reorientation Workshop for members

On the 22nd of August 2022, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) kicked off with a Strategic Reorientation Workshop for Parliamentarians themed: "reviving, renewing, repositioning and reinvigorating the Pan-African Parliament"

The three-day workshop marked the resumption of parliamentary business as part of a 10-day session of the August Sitzings of the Permanent Committees of the sixth Parliament of the PAP informed by the Union's theme of 2022; 'Building resilience in nutrition on the African continent: Accelerate the human capital, social and economic development.

This epoch-defining workshop was a display of PAP stakeholders and stockholders' renewed commitment to the revival of the Pan African Parliament, evidenced by the huge turnout, attendance, and presentation.

## PAP leadership lauded presentations by AUC Departments



At the close of the three-day Strategic Reorientation Workshop for Parliamentarians, the 4th Vice-President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Hon. Francois Ango Ndoutoume lauded the presentations submitted by relevant Organs and Departments of the AU.

The Vice President commended the submissions as informative and constructive while chairing a session on institutional collaboration whereby presentations were made to unpack the continent's developmental blueprint, Agenda 2063, and the role that the PAP should play.

The session sealed the foundation for strengthened linkages between the PAP, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and other AU Policy Organs. Among entities present were the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Governance Architecture (AGA), Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, Department of Infrastructure and Energy, Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and Department of Health and Humanitarian Services.

The submissions made at this session are expected to inform the restructuring of the PAP and maximize linkages paramount in the execution of the African Union's targets towards the attainment of Agenda 2063.

The majority of Parliamentarians of permanent committees and invited AU Commissioners, and officials from the African Union's organs and Regional Economic Communities turned out for the opening session. The Bureau commended delegates for honoring the Pan African Parliament with their presence and lauded the concerted efforts in organizing and coordinating the workshop. The draft program for the workshop was filled with activities aimed at the internal and external rehabilitation of the PAP.

Establishing the institutional framework was at the top of the agenda to actualize the organ's mandate as the organ to restore the PAP to its prominent position as the third organ of the African Union with tangible legislative and institutional competence in service of the African People. For the new administration, the Strategic Reorientation Workshop was a first step towards motivating Parliamentarians, as well as fostering genuine and result-oriented collaboration between a reformed PAP and partner institutions.



## **AUDA- NEPAD cooperation with PAP key to economic development**

The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD committed itself to working with the Pan-African Parliament to ensure the full participation of all Africans in the economic development and integration of the continent. On the second day of the Strategic Reorientation Workshop, the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD Dr Nardos Bekele-Thomas's presentation on the continental COVID-19 recovery strategy emphasized the importance of continental integration, socio-economic growth, and development, underpinned by trade. She encouraged parliamentarians to act as the voice of the African people and be responsive to their needs.

The presentation and discussions revolved around the need to prioritize; coordination and industrialization as drivers of economic development, and the need to involve the youth and harness the creative mind of the younger generation of Africans. Parliamentarians were challenged to engender continental frameworks into national plans and budgets, as well as to empower African research institutions to come up with African homegrown solutions in development forecasts and scenario building for a more proactive future.

## **Africa's initiatives to transform education bearing fruit**



PAP committed to advocate for the ratification of enabling instruments that promote increased mobility and portability of skills and boosting intra-Africa collaboration in the education sector. This deliberation was made after the Director of the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation at the African Union Commission, Mr Hamai Masheleni, called for concerted efforts to ensure the transformation of the education sector to meet the continental market needs.

In a presentation delivered on the second day of the PAP Strategic Reorientation Workshop, the AUC department noted that initiatives to reorient education and training to meet the knowledge, skills and innovation towards Agenda 2063 were starting to yield results through the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), a driving arm for human resources development.

He encouraged Parliamentarians to work on policies that benefit Africa by implementing policy initiatives that will improve access to basic and secondary education, higher education, technical and vocational education on the continent. These areas are to be guided by the urgent need for the continent to build and harness science, technology, human capital and innovation.

The Pan-African Parliament's role in this education strategy is to encourage national parliaments' investment in education, science, technology and innovation through dedicating of 20% of national budgets recommended by the UNESCO.



## **PAP engages with the African Governance Architecture**

The Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA), Amb Salah Hammad, unpacked the role of his organization on the second day of the Strategic Reorientation workshop for Members of Parliament. AGA bears the mandate to strengthen democracy in Africa through translating the objectives of the legal and policy pronouncements in the AU Shared Values. Through collaboration with the PAP, AGA will seek the acceleration of the ratification, domestication, implementation, and monitoring of African Shared Value instruments.

The interaction of PAP stakeholders with AGA during the workshop was part of efforts meant to revive, renew, reposition and reinvigorate the PAP as it aims to be a people-centered institution. AGA's generation and dissemination of information on democratic governance practices will aid the PAP as a vehicle for citizens' engagement.

Committees of the PAP were sensitized on the mainstreaming of youth, women, media, and civil society in democratic governance processes, with the outcome being a commitment by the PAP to position itself for more effective cooperation that positively impacts the lives of the African citizenry.

## **PAP establishes a new Subcommittee to promote the ratification of the African Model Law on Disability**

The final day of the Strategic Reorientation workshop for Members of Parliament concluded with the setting up of a special subcommittee, tasked with ensuring the ratification and domestication of the African Model Law on Disability under the Committee on Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability.

The meeting was jointly held with the AU Department of Social Affairs, Africa Disability Alliance (ADA) in consultation with African Disability Organisations i.e. Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA), Foundation of Persons with Albinism in Senegal and Africa (FASA Foundation), and the Disability Unit of the University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights.

According to General Provisions, Article 1, the purpose of the African Model Law on Disability is to provide the legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the existing international and regional legal and policy instruments.

The subcommittee constitutes representatives from across five regions of Africa with Hon. Kgosi Mosadi Seboko from Botswana representing the Southern Africa region, Hon. Eric Ngalula ILUNGA (DRC) representing Central Africa region, Hon. Maimuna Ceesay (Gambia) representing the West Africa region, Hon. Marie Sandra Monia Mayotte (Mauritius) representing the East Africa region, Hon. Dr. Randa Mohamed Ahmed Mostafa (Egypt) represents the Northern African region.

## Engagement with AUC's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security



Ahead of the August Sitzings of Permanent Committees, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Bureau held a meeting with the African Union Commission Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) ahead of the Sitting of the Permanent Committees of the sixth Parliament. In recognition of the intertwined mandates of the PAP and PAPS, this meeting aimed to forge common areas of partnership towards the goal of building an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.

The meeting signaled the opening of a new chapter between PAP and the AUC as the Bureau worked on repositioning the PAP within the African Union (AU) architecture with a renewed resolve to unequivocally represent African citizens on matters of peace and security, human rights and democracy. Officials from the African Union Commission applauded the PAP Bureau for steering the initiative of the meeting. Among the agreements reached was the official resuscitation of the African Union Election Observation Missions (AUEOM) program at PAP.

## COVID 19 pandemic hampers TB eradication efforts



The Global TB Caucus presentation delivered on August 28th, to the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs, parliamentarians learned about the retrogressive effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on Tuberculosis (TB) response, evidenced by the increase in TB deaths in 2020.

The Advisor to the African Parliamentary TB Caucus Ms. Evaline Kibuchi urged parliamentarians to restore TB as a priority on the political agenda.

The PAP reaffirmed its partnership with the world's largest independent parliamentary network, The Global TB Caucus, to facilitate coordinated messaging and calls for action as member states work collectively and individually to accelerate progress against TB.

The session will see the formation of platforms to learn, share ideas, and agree on joint and individual actions that will enhance the response to TB in Africa. Such platforms will include National TB Caucuses that are expected to steer advocacy efforts. The Health Committee Chairperson Honorable Jean Patrice Quirin revealed his committee's intention to facilitate the consolidation of initiatives to end TB infections, financing and scaling efforts towards reaching the target of zero TB infections globally.

## Continued fruitful collaboration between PAP and Africa CDC in health emergencies



The Africa Center for Disease Control has expressed its keenness to continue working closely with the Pan-African Parliament to ensure that African Union policies and decisions on health emergencies are formulated, advocated and implemented.

Speaking at the ongoing capacitation programme for PAP legislators in Midrand, South Africa, Dr Lul Riek, Regional Coordinator for Africa CDC, said the synergies for cooperation have come at an opportune time as the African continent is working towards moving into the post-Covid 19 era.

To date, Africa has more than 12 million confirmed Covid 19 cases and around 254 000 deaths. The AU targets to have around 900 million Africans vaccinated. The AU interventions included coming up with a Covid 19 Response Fund and a Consortium for Covid 19 Clinical Vaccine Trials.

PAP will provide the necessary support, leadership and advocacy in supporting the efforts of AU Member States in the Covid 19 fight and will ensure that no single country is left behind. The PAP is also committed to creating an enabling environment for championing the full implementation of the New Public Health order towards self-reliance through various platforms, voices, leaderships, legislations, and engagement of national and regional parliaments.

The New Public Health order seeks to have a strengthened public health workforce, increased domestic health financing, strengthened public health institutions, and expanded local medicine manufacturing.

## PAP against unconstitutional change of governments in Africa

The Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Committee on Justice and Human Rights condemned unconstitutional change of governments in some parts of Africa during its sitting on August 25th.

Parliamentarians implored the increasing practice of coups, and Hon. Jean Marie Nibirantije, Chairperson of Committee on Justice and Human Rights, encouraged member states to exercise zero tolerance towards this cancer to democracy on the continent. He underscored the need to respect elected governments to achieve stability on the continent, and encouraged parliamentarians to work towards maintaining peace, order, democracy, and constitutionalism. I emphasise a need.

This followed a report presentation by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Continental Secretariat Dr McBride P Nkhalamba, which lambasted unconstitutional change of governments in some African countries.

The APRM recommended the PAP to administer mechanisms to punish anyone who pioneers illegal change of government including imposition of economic sanctions, banning from elections and trials at the African court. Dr Nkhalamba discouraged State Parties from harbouring perpetrators of unconstitutional changes of government, but instead deliver justice and assist with extradition processes for offenders.

## PAP holds capacity-building workshop for media



A capacity-building workshop for the media was held from 26 to 27 August 2022, as part of the PAP's effort to improve reporting of parliamentary activities and increase African citizens' awareness of the PAP's mandate and activities while enhancing public access to information.

Held as a joint project with the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Project, selected journalists representing the 5 regions of the union were trained on the role and mandate of the PAP; the AGA project and platform; how to access, re-use, and publish the PAP's information, effective media engagements, as well as how to engage PAP MPs. H.E. Hon. Chief Charumbira emphasized that the relationship between the PAP and national Parliaments; its mandate, and business are well appreciated, constructively and objectively interrogated and that Parliamentarians are held accountable by the people of Africa.

The workshop laid a foundation for democratized participation and enhanced awareness of PAP and its impact on African governance architecture. The press was challenged to consider their role in sustainability and constructively changing the African narrative. H.E. Chief Charumbira invited the press to develop a closer rapport with the PAP as the continental legislative body embarks on a process of reinventing itself.

Hon. Lucia Dos Passos, 3rd Vice-President of the PAP overseeing media and communications, conveyed the PAP political leadership's commitment to continuously work with journalists to improve relations and access to information.

## PACJA capacitates PAP Rural Economy Committee

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Committee on the Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment has undergone a capacitation exercise to equip the Parliamentarians to play a significant role in transforming climate change-related protocols into laws and regulations in their respective countries.

This exercise was conducted in partnership with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) at a workshop held on 29 August 2022. It was recognized that legislators' participation was increasingly becoming relevant as the focus shifts to implementation and partnerships with like-minded institutions, as they push for translation of the protocols and policies into legislation and laws.



## Model law on nationality and statelessness on the cards

The Pan-African Parliament Permanent is pushing for a Model Law for Africa on nationality and statelessness. Following a presentation delivered on August 25 by the Senior Regional Protection Officer for UNHCR, Ms. Emmanuelle Mitte, the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution explored gaps in nationality laws that resulted in stateless persons being deprived of identity documents, employment opportunities as well as public services such as education and health, among other social benefits.

The committee session shone a light on the social vulnerability of stateless persons and their high likelihood of being detained in host countries, and the lack of mechanisms to record statelessness that impede interventions. UNHCR challenged parliamentarians to push for reform legislation on nationality.

Hon. Dr. Eng. Sherif El Gabaly, Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution said the proposed Model Law would add to the missions of the Committee, by facilitating the consideration of policy issues on international cooperation and international relations on behalf of the Parliament and the African Union (AU).

Under a standing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) signed in 2019, the PAP has a commitment to resolve major situations of statelessness, preventing new cases of statelessness, and protecting stateless populations.



Parliamentarians were urged to When we keep conversations on climate going in their respective countries.

The Executive Director of PACJA, Dr Mithika Mwenda, said it was paramount that Africa moves from endless negotiations and conversations on climate change and starts producing its own solutions to address climate change as the continent has the skills and expertise. The PAP committee pledged to continuously working to increase the profile of climate change and to identify and raise awareness of interventions and their impacts on economies in Africa.



## **PAP discusses Charter for African Cultural Renaissance**

In a meeting held on August 29th, the Pan African Parliament's Committee on Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources was commended for its work on the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. Adopted by the 6th AU Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan in 2006, the charter and related initiatives engender inclusive development, good governance, cohesion, peacebuilding, economic empowerment, poverty alleviation, job creation, trade and regional integration.

The instrument aims to eradicate the effects of colonization on Africa and reassert the dignity of African men and women as well as the popular foundations of their culture. The committee also worked on the revised African Union Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries, led by Ms Angela Martins, Head of Culture Division in the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development Division of Culture said the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.

The Charter will guide AU member states and Pan African cultural institutions working in the arts, culture, and heritage sectors. Member States were urged to strengthen cultural cooperation as a key component of African Unity, especially in promoting African languages and intercultural dialogue. She added that the revised AU Plan of Action is based on stimulating economic growth, promoting social inclusion, cohesion, peacebuilding, and African integration.

The Chairperson of the PAP Education and Culture Committee, Hon Amina Abdou Souma encouraged countries that do not have cultural policies to develop one and use the Charter to better their existing legislation.

## **PAP to collaborate with AU-LMAC in strengthening the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers**

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Permanent Committees and the African Union Labour Migration Advisory Committee (AU-LMAC) on August 29th, held a joint Hybrid Seminar titled 'Addressing gaps in women and men migrant workers' protection in Africa through advocacy for the use of legal instruments: the role of Pan-African Parliament and the African Union Labour Migration Advisor Committee'.

The seminar aimed to foster dialogue for PAP to collaborate with AU-LMAC in strengthening the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers through collaborative measures and strategies and to continue to promote the mainstreaming of labour migration issues within the overall dialogue on migration at national, regional and continental levels.

The 4th Vice President Hon. Francois Ango Ndoutoume welcomed this initiative, which set the stage for dynamic cooperation between PAP and the AU-LMAC to meet the high expectations and needs of the African people.



## **PAP Committee on Trade to tour Africa's busiest border posts**

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Permanent Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters agreed to take a tour around various busiest Border Posts across Africa. A consensus on the committee's Activity Plan was reached during a sitting held on August 30, 2022, as parliamentarians work towards being proactive, responsive and visible at a time when PAP is undergoing reform to be a people-centred organization.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Sen. John Bonds Bideri presented planned activities one of which includes the visiting Africa's busiest border posts and problem areas, as inspired by a presentation titled African Continental Free Trade Area by Mr. Mohamed Ali, the Director, Trade in Goods and Competition, AfCFTA Secretariat.

Parliamentarian Hon Amos Masondo from South Africa recommended proposed a vibrant media engagement strategy, including enhancing the committee's presence on social media to connect to the grassroots. Other activities lined up include field trips, public hearings and stakeholder interviews.

The activity plan is geared towards increasing the committee's appreciation of issues on the ground, as well as improve the committee's visibility and accessibility to all African people in line with the PAP's reform agenda. The Committee session also agreed to create partnerships with universities and leading Research Institutions, Institutions of Higher Learning on Trade and Migration.

The Committee chairperson also underscored the importance of partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC) Departments on Trade and Social Affairs, and the need for the participation of the PAP in all policy-making processes on trade and migration issues.



Outcomes of the seminar are expected to strengthen effective governance, regulation of migration and labour mobility for sustainable development towards inclusive economic growth and regional integration of the African continent.

Parliamentarians were urged to play a leading role in the process of ratification and legislative incorporation of relevant legal instruments on labour mobility and protection. Notably, Ms. Barbara Banda from the National Association of Businesswomen in Malawi called for legal protection for Migrants in the Informal Sector.



## CAPA welcomes AUC, AFROSAI-E presentations as Committee holds an orientation session



The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Permanent Committee on Audit and Public Accounts (CAPA) applauded deliberations and submissions by the African Union (AU) Office of Internal Audit and Oversight (OIA) and AFROSAI-E.

The CAPA Chairperson, Hon. Miles Sampa welcomed the audit results that revealed his committee members were not implicated in cases of financial mismanagement hence demonstrating their capability in running the business of the key Committee for the PAP and AU.

Committee members were challenged to be committed to their mandate by reforming and dedicating more time to CAPA as it implements its work plans. The representative of OIA, Ms Sylvia Chilwana, urged CAPA to strictly adhere to the prevailing AU Staff and Financial Regulations and Rules in the management of the Union Resources and ensure that sanctions are enforced on violation of these Regulations and Rules, to comply with AU Staff Rules and Regulations in handling and resolving Staff issues and avoid adoption or application of any rules that are not in line with the AU Constitutive Act, AU Financial Rules and Regulations.

For effective financial management and in line with the relevant Executive Council Decision CAPA was advised to ensure that PAP adheres to the AUFRR, Procurement Manuals, Financial Reporting and other financial management processes in the utilization of financial resources and ensure that payments made have all required supporting documents.

## AFRODAD urges African states to avoid the debt trap



Several countries are facing a debt trap, warned the Executive Director of the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Mr. Jason Rozario Braganza at a joint committee sitting on August 31st. Parliamentarians from the four committees namely, Rules, Discipline, and Privileges; Audit and Public Accounts; Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability; and Health, Labour and Social Affairs were sensitized on the economic impact of COVID-19 on increased borrowing already indebted AU members states.

Noting that Africa was in a pivotal moment with regard to public debt, AFRODAD's presentation revealed how a majority of low-income economies in Africa are spending more to service their international debts than on strengthening their local health and education systems, it was revealed.

Furthermore, a briefing prepared by the civil society organizations including the Open Society Foundation, Christian Aid, AFRODAD, and Atrocities Watch Africa, it is expected that member states will default on repayments over the next 2-3 year period thereby locking them in a vicious cycle. Parliamentarians were challenged to advocate for self-reliance in vaccine production and cement the urgency of their countries' own resource mobilization that can fund essential public services and climate action.

The Chairperson of the Justice and Human Rights Committee Hon Jean-Marie Nibirantije, imported parliamentarians to start considering policies that will help the continent get solutions to public debt.

## PAP'S Women's Caucus to host annual Conference for women

At a meeting held on August 31st, the Pan-African Parliament's Women's Caucus announced its intention to host a one-day Conference for Women in October.

The caucus hopes to draw conference a diverse group of participants, from Parliamentarians from the AU Member States, Members of Parliament of PAP, and representatives of the African Union, to officials from the UN agencies, particularly UN Women.

This special event will afford influential women from across the continent a unified platform to review women's issues in regards to legislation.

The Pan African Conference on Women's Rights will focus on women empowerment and inclusion in governance. Chairperson of the Women's Caucus, Hon Amina Tidjani Yaya emphasized the significant role in many aspects of the African continent hence the necessity of the PAP conference for Women where they will acquire knowledge of initiatives in place to promote women's economic empowerment.



The Chairperson revealed her committee's plan to dedicate a special time to women and their commitment to successfully hold the event where they hope to produce a tangible roadmap after interrogating Issues to do with fighting poverty, governance and legal protection, as well as initiatives for the implementation of economic empowerment and gender-sensitive budgets in national and regional parliaments.

The chairperson also outlined the need for tools on mentoring the youth, men and women, to be champions of gender equality and women's empowerment, a subject which is lined up for debate at the conference.



## Climate Change has adverse effects on Human Rights

In a presentation delivered in a joint sitting of committees of the PAP on August 28th, the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights urged parliamentarians to act on climate change as it is an apparent threat to Human Rights. It was acknowledged that extreme weather conditions as a result of climate change continue to disproportionately affect the poorest and most marginalized communities in Africa as they do not have the capacity and resources to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change.

The relevant committees on Justice and Human Rights; Rules, Discipline, and Privileges; Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; and Education, Culture, Tourism, and Human Resources, were thus urged to take urgent action on issues of food security, loss of houses, destruction of infrastructure and debilitating droughts with a special focus on marginalized, poor and vulnerable communities.

There was general consensus on the fact that mitigation in these areas would minimize the harm caused by climate-induced disasters thus guaranteeing the protection of human rights. The chairperson of the Justice and Human Rights Committee Hon Jean Marie Nibirantje reiterated the PAP's commitment to protecting the environment against adverse effects of climate change and encouraged member states to allocate budgets toward green projects.

## Protecting Rights of Persons with Albinism

In a presentation delivered in a joint sitting of committees of the PAP on August 28th, the UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Rights by Persons with Albinism Ms. Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond hailed the proposed PAP guidelines on harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks. The PAP's guidelines were commended for their holistic approach which ensures an enabling legal environment as well as non-legal and community-based responses.

The PAP recommended the review of laws, the repeal of inappropriate laws, as well as the adoption of appropriate laws. For example, those relating to trafficking in body parts, possession of body parts, and the regulation of religious and traditional healers. The non-legal and community-based measures recommended by the guidelines include education and awareness raising targeting the general population, the health sector, the justice sector, educators, and the media.

The chairperson of the Justice and Human Rights Committee, Hon Jean Marie Nibirantje, reaffirmed her committee's commitment to work on policy initiatives geared towards the banning of harmful practices against people with albinism in member states.



## PAP hosts 4th meeting of Secretaries-General of African Parliaments

The Pan-African Parliament hosted the 4th meeting of Secretaries-General of African Parliaments (ASGAP) from 30 – 31 August as part of the August Sitzings of the Permanent Committees of the sixth Parliament of the PAP. Opened by the Clerk of PAP, Hon. Gali Massa Harou, 4th ASGAP served as a build-up to the 11th Annual Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments which was slated for 1-3 September and aimed at promoting coordination and harmonization of legal and policy frameworks, as well as, advocacy in relation to the national and regional implementation of the African Union theme of the Year 2022.

The ratification of African Union treaties, particularly the PAP Malabo Protocol, food and nutrition insecurity, and sustainable responses to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were also key subjects of discussion. The 11th Annual Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments and the 4th Meeting of the ASGAP brought together Speakers of national and regional parliaments, and Secretaries-General of National and Regional Parliaments to reflect and proffer parliamentary solutions to contemporary challenges facing the African continent.

## New leadership for Secretaries-General of African Parliaments



On August 31st, 2022, Secretaries-General of African Parliaments (ASGAP) elected its new leadership. The ASGAP assembled from 30th – 31st of August, with the aim of positioning the organ of the PAP to resume carrying out its mandate.

The meeting saw the Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson and 2nd Vice Chairperson being elected by consensus of regional representation. Hon. Lydia Tjihimise from Namibia was elected Chairperson, deputised by 1st Vice Chairperson Hon. Ngib El-Hadi from Egypt while Hon. Akissi Atse Ronald Olivier from Côte d'Ivoire became the 2nd Vice Chairperson.

The ASGAP is tasked with coordinating and harmonising parliamentary action and advocacy in relation to the national and regional implementation of the African Union theme of the Year 2022, the ratification of African Union treaties, particularly the PAP Malabo Protocol and advocating for sustainable responses to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am glad that we are making progress as a group and we need to continue pulling in the same direction for us to achieve our goals," said Hon. Lydia Tjihimise after being elected the Chairperson. She further expressed satisfaction with the engagements and submissions that continue to pour in from our membership and various speakers during the August Sitting of Permanent Committees.

## Pan-African Parliament holds workshop on AU theme for 2022

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) held a joint workshop on the African Union theme for 2022, organised in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the margins of August Sitzings of the Permanent Committees of the sixth Parliament in Midrand, South Africa. The workshop focused on: "Building resilience in nutrition on the African continent: Accelerate the human capital, social and economic development."

The AU theme was adopted as a unique opportunity to strengthen continental commitment to end malnutrition in all its forms and further improve food and security through implementing both Malabo Commitments and the goals and objectives of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025). The general objective of the workshop was to sensitise and update African parliamentarians on the AU Theme of the Year, the AUDA-NEPAD Nutrition and Food Systems Strategy, and their contribution toward the achievement of development through food and nutrition security. The workshop was also attended by all Members of the Permanent Committees of the PAP, resource persons from the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD, FAO, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and African Union International Center for Girls & Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA), WFP Africa Union Global Office, and staff from the Secretariat of the PAP.

## PAP President commends Speakers of African Parliaments



Speaking at the opening of the 11th Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) President, H.E. Senator Chief Fortune Charumbira commended the key role played by Speakers of African Parliaments in shaping, supporting and strengthening the existence of the PAP. Thanking the Speakers in attendance, PAP President acknowledged their commitment to motivate parliamentarians at a time of institutional reform, and their devotion to building institutional resilience and determination for sustainable development in our continent through collective parliamentary collaborations.

The conference presentations explored the implementation and domestication of the African Union seminal declarations and legal instruments such as ACDEG, Agenda 2063 and AfCFTA as key areas for Africa's economic fundamentals and post COVID-19 recovery, as well as curbing political instability. Following presentations by officials from the AUC and the Africa CDC, Speakers made declarations and joined discussions on various topics including improving our nutrition systems and ICT strategies.

H.E. Sidie Mohamed Tunis, Speaker of Economic Community of West African (ECOWAS) emphasized the importance of committed leadership going above and beyond in facilitating effective transition to operating procedures that conforms to current realities. Speakers were encouraged to mobilise their home governments to honour commitments made on various AU Declarations and Protocols.



## Conference of Speakers of Parliaments concludes with a pledge to strengthen continental solidarity

The high-level consultation between the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and Speakers of Regional and National Parliaments ended on a high note with calls for strengthening links through continental solidarity and support for the implementation of the continent's flagship development blueprint, the Agenda 2063. The 11th conference of heads of African legislatures endorsed Agenda 2063 as a mechanism to an integrated and prosperous Africa driven by its own citizens.

AU Member States were recommended to enact enabling legislation for effective implementation and realisation of the aspirations of Agenda 2063 against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the PAP was urged to establish formal frameworks and communication channels to regularly transmit information on AU treaties requiring signatures and ratification.

The meeting further called upon the removal of Trade Tariffs and other barriers. Ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by member states was recognised as critical to continental integration and economic development, along with the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance (ACDEG). Member States were also recommended to honor the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security by increase their annual budgetary allocations to the agriculture sector by at least 10 percent.

The meeting also saw the suggestion to host some of the PAP Sitzings in member countries as a means to enhance visibility of the PAP, among other programmes that sensitize citizens about the operations of the PAP. In closing the two-day meeting, the PAP President, H.E. Hon Chief Fortune Charumbira described the deliberations as fruitful while committing to improving information-sharing mechanisms with National and Regional Parliaments.

