



PARLEMENT DU RWANDA



UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE

77th Session of the Executive Committee
Kigali, 10 – 11 March 2022

REPORT
OF THE 77th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Adopted)

The 77th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held on 10 and 11 March 2022 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, at the seat of Parliament, under the chairmanship of Hon. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker of the National Assembly of Djibouti and Chairperson of the Executive Committee of APU.

With the Chairperson of the Executive Committee were Rt Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Rwanda, Rt Honorable Femi Gbajabamila, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria and Mr. Boubacar Idi Gado, Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union.

Participants from the parliaments of the following countries attended the meeting: **Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.**

I – OPENING SESSION

In her welcome address, **Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies**, expressed her pleasure at welcoming all the African parliamentarians to Kigali and more so to the Parliament of Rwanda. It was also an honour, she said, for her to address the parliamentarians participating in this 77th Session of the Executive Committee. In the national language of Rwanda, she welcomed them, saying “Murakaza neza” on behalf of the Parliament of Rwanda.

She welcomed the fact that at its meeting in Djibouti, the Executive Committee gave the opportunity to Rwanda to host the current session.

She thanked the APU General Secretariat for the smooth running of the preparations for the Kigali session.

She thanked her counterparts, the Speakers of the National Assembly of Djibouti and the House of Representatives of Nigeria respectively, as well as all the delegates of the various APU member parliaments, for making the time to travel to Kigali, despite other commitments they might have had.

The Speaker expressed her satisfaction at observing that the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning to recede, thereby enabling the resumption of human contact, which was still irreplaceable. However, she stressed the need for continued efforts to overcome the pandemic and congratulated those countries that had shown commendable resilience.

The current meeting provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss the way forward for national economies, health systems and overall recovery, she added. It was also a time to look back critically at the past while reformulating the future for the continent and future generations.

The Speaker also said that the session would facilitate the sharing of experiences through a panel discussion on development, economic transformation, good governance, pandemic management, economic recovery and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) treaty. She was confident that APU would make its voice heard concerning the challenges of the

continent and the role that parliamentarians would have to play in the social transformation and living conditions of the people.

Lastly, the Speaker once again welcomed the parliamentarians to Kigali and wished them success in their meeting. She also invited them to discover Kigali and the values of Rwandan culture.

For his part, **Hon. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker of the National Assembly of Djibouti, Chairperson of the Executive Committee**, who, on behalf of the participants and all the members of the African Parliamentary Union, expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Rwanda for the honour and friendship it had bestowed on them by hosting the 77th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union.

The Speaker, from the outset, said that he was duty bound to go down memory lane to recall humbly that nearly 30 years ago, the Rwandan people were profoundly scarred by a tragedy, a massacre of massive proportions with the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. It was a painful page in the recent history of Rwanda that had bruised the hearts of all Africans. Indeed, when, in certain moments of crisis, the racial feeling takes precedence over the human feeling, the memory of the genocide is there to call us to wisdom, to reason and to whisper in our ears, with insistence, **“NEVER AGAIN!”**

He therefore asked the participants at the current session of the Executive Committee to kindly rise and observe a minute's silence in memory of those who had died so that the Rwandan people might live.

The Speaker then performed the pleasant duty of paying homage, on behalf of his fellow Speakers of Parliament, heads of delegation and parliamentarians present, to the President of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, whose vision never ceases to inspire his African counterparts in matters of good governance and innovative initiatives. He also expressed their gratitude and deep appreciation to him. On behalf of all the participants, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee also expressed his thanks to the Rwandan Parliament as well as to the Rwandan national group of the APU, for the warm and fraternal welcome they had received since their arrival in Rwanda.

He said that it was with enthusiasm and unanimity that they had accepted the kind proposal of the Rwandan Parliament to host the 77th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union in this beautiful and green city of Kigali. Kigali represents a symbol, that of the capacity of a people to build its destiny as well as its determination to face the challenges that stand in the way of its development, he said.

The Chairperson then observed that their session was being held at a time when the world was facing various crises and major challenges such as global warming, terrorism, unregulated migration, the COVID-19 pandemic and poverty. On all those issues that challenged our conscience as elected officials, the African Parliamentary Union had always made the voice of the African people heard about their concerns, their aspirations for more happiness and progress, he said. The Union had worked tirelessly to promote peace, human development and democracy in Africa. The work started must go on because, in most cases, it involved processes that had never been completed or structural problems that required constant vigilance.

He expressed regret that sometimes serious setbacks had occurred, as was the case today in the area of democracy, where we were witnessing a resurgence of military coups, particularly in the western part of the continent. He wondered if it was an epiphenomenon, a questioning of the concept of democracy as it had always been understood, or a response to the distress of the populations linked to bad governance and the management of the security crisis that several countries of our continent were going through.

Those numerous and legitimate questions called for devoting to that topical issue all the attention it deserved. In this regard, he suggested to the honourable members of the Executive Committee that in consultation and in relation with our partners, a conference should be held in a member country of APU on “the crisis of democracy in Africa”. Such a conference would provide an opportunity to deepen the analysis of the phenomenon to better understand it and provide appropriate solutions, he said.

He also said that discussions were underway on the possibility of organizing two other international meetings during this year 2022, one on the implementation of the findings of the joint study conducted by APU and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on sexism, harassment and violence against women in African parliaments, and the other on the painful issue of terrorism.

On another aspect of women's participation in political life, the Chairperson noted with pleasure that the Rwandan parliament holds the world record for the highest percentage of women in parliament, thus demonstrating the place that women truly occupy in the social, political and economic life of Rwanda.

Regarding violence against women and particularly gender equality, he indicated that the battle for gender equality would be won, quite simply because it meant doing justice to our sisters, our daughters and our mothers. He warned against the risk of reversing the advances made on that issue as a result of violence against women, violence that deprived them of their freedom of expression, their participation in decision-making and, consequently, their participation in the affairs of the city. The goal would be “**ZERO TOLERANCE**”, he said.

Touching on terrorism, the Chairman observed that no country, indeed, no nation was immune to that scourge that threatened our civilian and military populations. He recalled that it was not by chance that the honourable members of APU had decided to devote the next conference of the Union to that burning and worrying issue.

Turning to the agenda of the current session, he said that the work would focus on the activities carried out during the period between sessions, on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference held last October in Djibouti, on the review of the management accounts for 2020 and 2021 as well as on the agenda of our forthcoming meetings, especially the 44th Conference to be held in Harare, at the kind invitation of the Parliament of Zimbabwe.

He noted that the Kigali meeting would provide an opportunity for members of the Executive Committee to address the issue of payment of dues by member Parliaments. He added that the dynamics they intended to instil in their organization was largely dependent on the means made available to it. He also reiterated his call for all member parliaments to honour their commitments by paying their dues. In that regard, an ad hoc committee would be set up and will submit its

conclusions to the APU organs on the measures that should be taken towards compliance with the statutory obligations.

Before concluding his statement, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, on behalf of all the Parliamentarians, reiterated his thanks to the Rwandan authorities and people for the kindness shown to them, saying that he was reassured of the smooth running of the meeting in Kigali of the African Parliamentary Union, which is celebrating its 46th anniversary this year.

Lastly, he declared the 77th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union open.

The meeting was then adjourned.

II – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon resumption of the meeting, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee asked the Secretary-General to read out the following draft agenda items:

1. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
2. Consideration of the audited management accounts for fiscal years 2020 and 2021
3. Preparation of the draft agenda of the 44th Conference
4. Draft agenda of the 78th session of the Executive Committee
5. Date and venue of the 78th session of the Executive Committee.

The draft agenda was adopted.

III – CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

A – Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the conference

Following the Secretary-General's presentation of the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the conference, the members of the Executive Committee emphasized the role of women and their participation in decision-making processes, particularly at a time when the International Women's Day had just been commemorated.

The discussions focused on gender equality and women's rights, towards their full participation in the sustainable development of their countries.

Several delegates took the floor to say that their respective countries had made progress in the area of gender equality, as well as the empowerment of women.

The members of the Executive Committee called for greater cooperation among African countries in order to achieve the development goals.

Terrorism was also a topic of interest for delegates. They welcomed the inclusion of that issue on the agenda of the forthcoming APU Conference. In this regard, they highlighted the fight against that scourge through cooperation among countries and the destruction of the sources of supply of weapons to terrorists.

Lastly, climate change was also a subject of concern for the members of the Executive Committee, who suggested that attention should be paid to the demographic dynamics.

B – Review of the audited management accounts for fiscal years 2020 and 2021

The audited management accounts for 2020 and 2021 were presented by Hon. Sheriff El Gabaly, Auditor. At the end of this presentation, he pointed out that for the sustainability of APU, the payment of the membership fees was key, and it was crucial to set up an ad hoc committee to deal with the issue of arrears.

The Executive Committee took note of the willingness expressed by some members to honour their commitments to APU as soon as possible.

Furthermore, it expressed the hope that APU would be active on social media in so as to boost its visibility.

On the inclusion of a budget line for the activities of the Women's Committee, the Secretary General said that with the current state of the APU budgetary resources comprising 50% of the adopted provisional budget, it would be difficult to consider that. He added that those resources were mainly used to organize our statutory sessions and specialized meetings with the help of partners.

The members of the Executive Committee ask for the inclusion in the Management Account of travel expenditure related to the APU activities.

At the end of the various interventions by the participants, the Executive Committee adopted the audited management accounts for 2020 and 2021 as well as the auditors' report and recommendations.

Lastly, it gave discharge to the Secretary-General of the African Parliamentary Union for his management for the years 2020 and 2021.

Before closing the consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Committee set up, as recommended by the auditors, an ad hoc committee comprising:

Ms Moloma Don née Izoungou Annie, Member of the National Assembly (Central African Republic)

Mr Tafari Zhou, MP (Zimbabwe)

Ms Raymonde Kayi Lawson Boe-Allah, Member of the National Assembly (Togo)

M. RUHAKANA Albert, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Rwanda)
Mr SALMI Mouhamed, Member of the Council of Nation (Algeria)
Mr Khalihina El Garch, member of the House of Councillors (Morocco)
Mr El Gabaly Sherif, Member of the House of Representatives (Egypt), APU Auditor (Fiscal years 2020 and 2021)
Mr Salifou Moussa, Auditor, Member of the National Assembly (Niger), APU Auditor (Fiscal years 2020 and 2021)

C – Preparation of the draft agenda of the 44th Conference

The Secretary General presented the draft agenda of the 44th Conference, as follows:

1. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
2. Secretary General's activity report
3. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
4. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
5. *The contribution of parliaments in countering terrorism and violent extremism: mitigating the effects of this scourge through good democratic governance.* (Political committee)
6. *The economic and social consequences of terrorism on populations: building their resilience.* (Economic and Sustainable Development Committee)
7. Renewal of the term of office of the Secretary General of the APU
8. Date and venue of the 45th Conference.
9. Any other business

Specifically on item 7, the Chairperson pointed out that according to the statutory provisions, the term of office of the Secretary-General is four years, renewable once. He therefore proposed to the members of the Executive Committee to place their trust once again in the Secretary-General by renewing his tenure at the appropriate time. This proposal was unanimously welcomed by applause.

Clarifications were given on the item “amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure” and its withdrawal in case there are no proposals.

The Executive Committee then adopted the draft agenda of the 44th Conference.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the Statutes, the Executive Committee appointed the following Rapporteurs for the Political Committee and the Economic and Sustainable Development Committee at its plenary session on 11 March 2022.

(Mr NGAYAP Pierre-Flambeau, Senator from Cameroon and Mr DIBAH I Dodo Amédée, MP from Côte d'Ivoire, were respectively designated as Rapporteurs)

D – Draft agenda of the 78th Session of the Executive Committee

The Secretary General presented the following draft agenda for the 78th Session of the Executive Committee:

1. Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
2. Review and adoption of the annual work programme for 2023
3. Consideration and adoption of the proposed budget for the year 2023
4. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda for the 44th Conference
5. Renewal of the term of office of the Secretary-General of APU
6. Draft agenda for the 79th Session of the Executive Committee
7. Date and venue of the 79th Session of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda for the 78th Session of the Executive Committee.

E – Date and venue of the 78th session of the Executive Committee

Following the invitation to host the next Conference by the Parliament of Zimbabwe, the Executive Committee therefore took note that the 78th Session of the Executive Committee and the 44th Conference will be held in Victoria Falls in November 2022, on a date to be mutually agreed upon by APU and the host country.

F – Panel discussion

On the morning of 11 March 2022, the members of the Executive Committee took part in a panel discussion organized by the host country on the following topics:

- **Rwanda's experiences in reconstruction 28 years on from the genocide against the Tutsis, and its best practices in leadership, good governance and reconciliation processes**
paper presented by Dr. Usta Kaitesi, CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board
- **The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic:**
 1. **Public health response and health care impacts**
Paper presented by Dr Daniel Ngamije, Minister of Health

2. Economic impact and recovery process

Paper presented by Mr Richard TUSABE, Secretary of State in charge of National Treasury

➤ **Promoting implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area for Africa's economic transformation**

Paper presented by Hon. Béata Habyarimana, Minister of Trade and Industry

G – Adoption of the report and closing of the session

At the closing session, the members of the Executive Committee heard the report of the 77th session, presented by Hon. Alfred Okoe Vanderpuije, Member of Parliament of Ghana, Rapporteur for the Executive Committee.

Following the adoption of the report, the Chairman delivered his closing remarks to the 77th Session of the Executive Committee.

Kigali, 11 March 2022
