



**African Parliamentary Union**

**79th Session  
of the Executive Committee  
Lomé, 21 & 22 June 2023**



**National Assembly of Togo**

**REPORT  
OF THE 79th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
(Adopted)**

The 79th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) was held on 21 and 22 June 2023 in Lomé (Togo), chaired by Hon. Mabel Memory Chinomona, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union.

The opening ceremony of the 79th Session of the Executive Committee took place on 21 June 2023. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee was flanked by Hon. Ernest Mizedio, Member of Parliament of the Central African Republic, Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Hon. Zanetor Agyeman Rawlings, Member of Parliament of Ghana, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, and Mr Boubacar Idi Gado, Secretary-General of the African Parliamentary Union.

Delegates from the parliaments of the following countries took part in the proceedings: **Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo and Zimbabwe.**

## **I – OPENING SESSION**

In her opening address, **Hon. Mabel Memory Chinomona, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the Executive Committee**, began by expressing, on behalf of the parliamentary delegates, her thanks and gratitude to the Togolese authorities for having agreed to host the session, as well as for the warm welcome and consideration accorded to them.

Continuing her remarks, she expressed, on behalf of the Heads of delegation and parliamentarians present, her gratitude to His Excellency Faure Ezossimna Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo, the Government and people of Togo, for the honour and friendship they had shown in hosting this session.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee underlined the importance of strengthening African values of solidarity, for promoting, first and foremost, cooperation among African nations in the political, economic and security spheres, and for exchanging best practices and experiences in tackling the crises shaking the world, in particular the consequences of the war in Ukraine, the negative effects of global warming, terrorism, illegal migration, and poverty. She said that the African Parliamentary Union, through interparliamentary exchanges and cooperation, intends to play a full role in seeking solutions that meet the aspirations of the African peoples.

Africa must, more than ever, be vigilant and ensure that it consolidates its unity, at a time when it is being called upon from all sides against a backdrop of hegemonic struggles between the superpowers, reminiscent of the cold war which deeply divided the world, she added.

Against this backdrop, the role of APU was to continue to encourage national parliaments to make the necessary efforts at the national level, through legislative action, and at the international level, through interparliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy. She added that the African Parliamentary Union was an appropriate platform and a suitable framework for dialogue and harmonization of positions on the major challenges facing parliamentarians.

She then called upon the members to strive to strengthen their organization, APU, making it the key instrument in their efforts to promote good governance, peace and sustainable development.

Touching on the global situation, the Chairperson said that the current international political context suggested that the world was at a crossroads, on the eve of some major upsets to the economic and political balance that we had known until then, and that Africa would be called upon to play a decisive role. Africa must therefore be ready, by consolidating unity through the activities of regional and subregional integration and cooperation organizations, which embody values in line with the aspirations of the peoples of our continent.

She pointed out that parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must work unceasingly with the Executive to restore peace wherever there are hotspots of tension, to deepen and strengthen the friendly and fraternal relations that bind peoples together, and to work towards the dignity and unity of Africa.

Referring again to the global context marked by security, environmental, political and economic issues that call for greater solidarity and cooperation among nations through multilateralism and interparliamentary cooperation, the Chairperson noted that APU, as a pan-African organization for interparliamentary cooperation working to promote peace, democracy, good governance, sustainable development and social progress in Africa, must be supported in its efforts by its member parliaments, which should ensure that it is adequately resourced, especially financially, to enable it to implement its objectives.

She pointed out that the Lomé session, in addition to considering the financial management documents and the activities carried out since the Zimbabwe session, would be called upon to consider preparations for the next Conference of Speakers of Assemblies, scheduled to take place before the end of the year in Niamey. On behalf of the members of APU, she expressed her deep gratitude to the Parliament of Niger for its willingness to host the 80th Session of the Executive Committee and the 45th Conference of Speakers of Parliamentary Assemblies of APU.

She also underlined the importance of the choice of topics to be considered by the Conference in view of the many challenges facing the continent, calling on the members of the Executive Committee to give the necessary attention to identifying topics that reflect the concerns of the African people. “Our continent faces challenges, including gender inequality, health, education, hunger and poverty”, she observed.

Wishing the Executive Committee success in its deliberations, the Chairperson referred to the core values of the Union, adopted in Luanda in September 1999 and set out in the APU Charter, which stresses the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting democracy, peace and sustainable development.

Have parliamentarians done enough for the unity and development of the continent? She asked.

Highlighting the continent's wealth of natural resources and human capital, she pointed out that the low volume of inter-African trade made it imperative for parliaments to take action to ensure the continent's self-sufficiency. It is not enough to hold meetings, we must achieve tangible results, she stressed. The work of APU must be translated into positive outcomes for the benefit of the populations represented by the parliamentarians, she added.

Before concluding her address, the Chairperson thanked the delegates who had travelled to Lomé and reiterated her gratitude to the Togolese authorities for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the parliamentarians.

Lastly, the Chairperson declared the 79th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union open.

*The session was then adjourned.*

## **II – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon resuming the meeting, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee asked the Secretary-General to read out the items on the draft agenda as follows:

1. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
2. Presentation of the audited management account for the 2022 financial year
3. Preparation of the draft agenda for the 45th Conference
4. Draft agenda for the 80th Session of the Executive Committee
5. Date and venue of the 80th Session of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee added two other items in that agenda, one relating to the Report of the Auditors for the 2022 financial year and the other on the adoption during the Lomé session of a Declaration on the security situation in Africa.

*The draft agenda was adopted.*

## **III – CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS**

### ***A. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference***

The Secretary general presented the report on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the conference. The Executive Committee members commended the quality and comprehensive content of the report.

Following that presentation, discussions focused on the following issues:

- The observer status of the Russian Federation confirmed with the request received from the President of the Duma, in accordance with the decision of the Conference;
- Continued efforts to bring non-member parliaments into the APU;
- List of personalities who have represented APU at international meetings;
- On behalf of the African Geopolitical group, nomination of Hon. Jacob Mudenda, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, for the 2023 Cremer-Passy Prize of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
- Adoption by the IPU Assembly of the emergency items submitted by the African Geopolitical group.

On the follow-up of the implementation of APU decisions and recommendations, the Executive Committee stressed on the reports of the Parliaments which must be transmitted to the General Secretariat. These reports would then be the subject of a synthesis which will be presented by the Secretary General to the APU members.

***B. Consideration of the audited management accounts and Presentation of the Auditors' Report for the 2022 financial year***

*The Executive Committee, after a recess, continued its proceedings under the presidency of Honourable Ernest Mizedio, Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee.*

The audited management accounts for the 2022 financial year were presented by the APU Secretary General, Mr Boubacar Idi Gado. Following this presentation, the members of the Executive Committee heard the auditors' report presented by Senator Pierre Flambeau Ngayap of Cameroon.

With regard to the payment of contributions by the Parliaments of Central Africa, reference was made to certain constraints imposed by the Central Bank of Central African States (BEAC) on international transfers, as part of efforts to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. In this respect, the Secretary-General said that APU had been informed of the situation and would therefore provide the parliaments concerned with the documents required by BEAC to facilitate the funds transfer.

The members of the Executive Committee considered that the improvement of the rate of collection of dues, which stands at around 50%, requires the effort of all. They therefore recommended lobbying their respective parliaments to pay their dues to the Union. Parliaments that were up to date with their dues were commended for their efforts.

The Executive Committee also congratulated the General Secretariat on its rigorous management of the Union's finances, enabling it to continue its activities.

At the end of the various interventions by the delegates, the Executive Committee adopted the audited management account for the 2022 financial year as well as the Auditors' report.

The Executive Committee then approved the management account of the Secretary-General of the African Parliamentary Union for the 2022 financial year.

### ***C. Drawing up the draft agenda for the 45th Conference***

The Secretary-General read out the draft agenda for the 45th Conference, as follows:

1. Report by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee
2. Activity report by the General Secretary
3. Report of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians
4. *Combating insecurity and terrorism, factors of political instability and recession.* (Political Committee)
5. *Development of intra-African trade, with a view to the effective implementation of the African regional integration agenda.* (Economic and Sustainable Development Committee)
6. Date and venue of the 46th Conference
7. Any other business.

*The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda for the 45<sup>th</sup> APU Conference.*

### ***D. Draft agenda of the 80th Session of the Executive Committee***

The Secretary-General presented the following draft agenda for the 80th Session of the Executive Committee:

1. Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference
2. Consideration and adoption of the annual work programme for 2024
3. Consideration and adoption of the draft budget for 2024
4. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda for the 45th Conference
5. Draft agenda of the 81st Session of the Executive Committee
6. Date and venue of the 81st Session of the Executive Committee.

*The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda for its 80th Session.*

### ***E. Date and venue of the 80th Session of the Executive Committee***

Following the invitation of the Parliament of Niger to host the next Conference, the Executive Committee noted that the 80th Session of the Executive Committee and the 45th Conference would be held in Niamey in November 2023, on a date to be agreed between APU and the host country.

### ***F. Declaration on the security situation in Africa***

After discussions on the orientations for the Declaration, the Executive Committee has set up a Drafting Committee made up of representatives of the following parliaments: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and Ghana.

The Drafting Committee met on 22 June 2023 to propose a draft declaration to the Executive Committee.

### **G – Adoption of the Report**

The Executive Committee, during its sitting of June 22, 2023, heard and adopted the Report of its 79th Session presented by the Honorable Mrs. Zanetor Agyeman Rawlings, Member of Parliament of Ghana, Rapporteur of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee then heard and adopted, after amendments, the Declaration on the security situation in Africa presented by the Honorable Bailou Assita Bénédicte, member of the Transitional Legislative Assembly of Burkina Faso.

Finally, the members of the Executive Committee heard and adopted the following motions:

- Motion of thanks and gratitude to the authorities of the Republic of Togo, presented by Senator Abba Moro Patrick of Nigeria;
- Motion of thanks and gratitude to the Parliament and the People of Togo, presented by the Honorable NYIRAHIRWA Veneranda, member of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda.

### **IV – CLOSING SESSION**

At the closing ceremony of the 79th Session of the Executive Committee, were present the Honorable Adjourouvi Yawovi, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Togo, Representative of Rt Honorable Yawa Djigboji Tsegan, Speaker of the Togo National Assembly, as well as Mrs. Binta Sanneh, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Togo, personalities who delivered speeches on this occasion.

These speeches were followed by the reading of the Declaration on the security situation in Africa as well as the two Motions.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Rt Honorable Mabel Memory Chinomona, Speaker of the Senate of Zimbabwe, finally delivered the closing address of the 79th Session of the Executive Committee.

Lomé, 22 June 2023

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