

African Parliamentary Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals and Post 2015 Development Agenda

African Parliamentarians;

Acknowledging that parliaments across Africa have been instrumental in shaping and advancing democratic governance and people centred development on the continent;

Recalling the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which commit African countries and leaders to fight poverty, inequalities and diseases;

Further recalling that the MDGs have become signposts for advancing and measuring commitments to human, social and economic development;

Further recalling the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and other regional and sub regional human rights instruments targeting the protection and promotion of human rights, human dignity and equality in Africa;

Recognising previous declarations, resolutions and decisions of global and regional parliamentary bodies on the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in ensuring the achievement of the MDG;

Noting that the attainment of the targets of the MDGs would not only mean an achievement in reducing poverty, hunger, inequality and diseases, but would also to demonstrate the capacity and commitment of the international community to set and follow through practical targets for global partnership and even human development for all peoples;

Aware that there have been within the United Nations and the global development community discussions on a post 2015 development agenda;

Stressing that these debates and approaches on the post 2015 development framework should recognise African specific needs, challenges and opportunities;

Noting the need for greater parliamentary cooperation and engagement with the MDGs and development processes in the lead to the 2015 deadline for the MDGs and the post 2015 period;

Hereby resolve as follows:

1. As African Parliaments and Parliamentarians, we:

- (a). Affirm the mandate given to us by the peoples of Africa to represent them and be their voices in local, national, regional and global affairs;
- (b). Further affirm that as parliamentarians, we have a role to play in ensuring the achievement of the MDGs and that MDGs related issues become legislative priorities to be achieved in our respective countries and parliaments.

- (c). Ensure that governments in our countries remain transparent and accountable in the utilisation of the resources which we appropriate in order to make funds available for MDGs interventions and programs.
- (d). Facilitate the emergence of legislative and policy frameworks which will eradicate capital flight and illicit capital flows as well as tax evasions by major corporations which reduce the availability of resources for the MDGs and expose African countries to aid dependency.
- (e). Urge Regional Economic Communities as key political authorities to be committed to existing frameworks on economic cooperation and to further devise frameworks, best practices and joint programs and initiatives which will accelerate the attainment of the MDGs at sub-regional and regional levels.
- (f). Urge Parliaments outside Africa to deepen inter-parliamentary cooperation and ensure that the views and positions of their countries recognise equal opportunities of nations in global partnership, trade, technologies and resources, recognising the rights of people to life and dignity.

2. Human rights and Equity

- (a). We affirm that human rights, human dignity and equity remain at the core of social and economic development in Africa.
- (b). We urge African governments to ensure the incorporation of social inclusion, welfare, economic and social rights in economic development planning and in measuring the impact of economic policies.

3. Post 2015 Development Framework

- (a). We call on governments in collaboration with their parliaments, both at national and regional levels to urgently pursue acceleration policies and programs in order to ensure that the MDGs are met especially in Africa.
- (b). We believe that the plight of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable should be the basis and remain the centrality of any emerging development framework after 2015.
- (c). We urge that the current processes on sustainability should be complimentary and integrated with the emergence of an all inclusive development agenda post 2015.
- (d). We are convinced that institutionalising good and accountable governance remains a major requirement for people centred development.

4. We Commit to:-

1. Urgently work together with our respective parliaments to increase our roles in advocacy, law-making, resource allocation and oversight on the MDGs and the delivery of social services to our constituencies in order to accelerate the attainment of the MDGs;
2. Urgently prioritize policy and budget support for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and other African Union Instruments on Education, Gender Equality, Maternal and Child health, HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis and environmental protection;

3. Work within our parliaments and our governments to engage effectively with on-going and future discussions on the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that the voices of our constituency, the people of Africa are reflected in the final outcomes;
4. Combat the challenges posed by illicit financial outflows from Africa in order to generate significant resources to finance development and provide opportunities for African countries to wean off their dependency on aid and increasing legitimacy and greater ownership by nations of their own development path;
5. Pursue the maximalist agenda to eradicate poverty, diseases, equal participation of women and men in governance and development process;
6. Further work with civil society and other stakeholders to ensure that the momentum on the MDGs is maintained.

We Finally:-

Congratulate the United Nations Millennium Campaign and the African Network of Parliamentarians on the MDGs for organising the first All African Parliamentary Conference on the Millennium Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda;

Appreciate the contribution of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria towards the hosting of this conference;

Congratulate the Parliament of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the United Nations System in Ethiopia for successfully hosting this conference;

Appreciate the partnership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Foundation in the organisation of this conference;

Appreciate the House of Representatives of the Philippines, organisations and groups across Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean and Africa for sending representatives to the All African Parliamentary Conference on the MDGs.

Declared this 24th Day of May 2015 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

