

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE FEB 2014**PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT INTERACTION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY AND GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS****1. Background**

The Pan-African Parliament was established in March 2004, by Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as one of the nine Organs provided for in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community signed in Abuja, Nigeria, in 1991. The Protocol establishing the PAP was ratified by 49 Member States. The total number of Members of the PAP is 205. The establishment of the Pan-African Parliament is informed by a vision to provide a common platform for African peoples and their grass-roots organizations to be more involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

The year 2014 will mark 10 years of existence of the PAP. In fashioning the future of governance and development in Africa, there is need to learn from the mistakes, innovations and strengths of historical governance processes and architecture and there is no better way than to ask the principal/ primary actors who include current or former Presidents in Africa, civil society organisations, academia, youth, women and people with disabilities, former and current Speakers of provincial, regional and national Parliaments, Ministers who were PAP MPs, African Parliamentarians in the Diaspora, former MPs of the PAP to give their perspective on African governance processes and institutions. Currently the Presidents of Sierra Leone, Ghana and now Mali are former PAP members. These have been invited to participate in the proceedings of the Session.

The Pan-African Parliamentarians represent all the peoples of Africa. The ultimate aim of the Pan-African Parliament is to evolve into an institution with full legislative powers, whose members are elected by universal adult suffrage.

As the Pan African Parliament celebrates its 10 years of establishment, it is focusing on the citizens and their voices in the political and economic development of the continent. In this regard, the PAP is dedicating a week of its sessions to ensuring that it provides a platform for different African voices to be heard and to reflect on how to further strengthen its linkages with the African citizenry and how best to achieve the goals of Panafricanism and African Renaissance.

The seat of the Parliament is in Midrand, South Africa.

2. Organisation of the Two Week Session

Against this background, the PAP is organising a series of activities to mark its 10th anniversary. The following activities have been organised to mark the event:

Week 1: 10th to 15th March 2014

10th March 2014: Opening Ceremony and operational issues pertaining to the PAP; the draft budget, PAP strategic Plan and reflections on Women's role in economic and political development of the continent.

15th March 2014: Pan African Day with PAP's external stakeholders (civil society, media, private sector, grassroots organisations, academia, youth, women, etc.

15th March 2014: Pan African Cultural Evening

Week 2: 17 -19 March 2014

- 17 March 2014: Reflections on the role of youth in the political and economic development of the continent;
- 17 March 2014: Pan African Gala Dinner
- 18th March 2014: Tenth Anniversary Day of the PAP with addresses by both former and current Heads of States and Government, Heads of AU Organs and address by the H.E Zuma and the Chairperson of the African Union.

These activities are being organised with the Mandate and objectives of the Pan African Parliament as outlined in the Protocol establishing the PAP.

3. The Objectives of the PAP

- Facilitate the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the OAU/ AEC and, ultimately, of the African Union;
- Promote the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa;
- Encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States;
- Familiarize 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;
- Promote peace, security and stability;
- Contribute to a more prosperous future for the people of Africa by promoting collective self-reliance and economic recovery;
- Facilitate cooperation and development in Africa

- Strengthen Continental solidarity and build a sense of common destiny among the peoples of Africa;
- Facilitate cooperation among Regional Economic Communities and their Parliamentary fora.

4. Powers of the Parliament

- Examine, discuss or express an opinion on any matter, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Assembly or other policy organs and make any recommendations it may deem fit relating to, inter alia, matters pertaining to respect of human rights, the consolidation of democratic institutions and the culture of democracy, as well as the promotion good governance and the rule of law.
- Discuss its budget and the budget of the Community and make recommendations thereon prior to its approval by the Assembly of the African Union.
- Work towards the harmonisation or co-ordination of the laws of the Member State.
- Make recommendations aimed at contributing to the attainment of the objectives of the OAU/ AEC and draw attention to the challenges facing the integration process in Africa as well as the strategies for dealing with them.
- Request officials of the OAU/ AEC to attend its sessions produce documents or assist in the discharge of its duties.
- Promote the programmes and objectives of the OAU/ AEC, in the constituencies of the Member States.
- Promote the co-ordination and Harmonization of policies, measures, programmes and activities of the Regional Economic Communities and the parliamentary fora of Africa.
- Adopt its Rules of Procedure, elect its own President and propose to the Council and the Assembly the size and nature of the support staff of the Pan-African Parliament.
- Perform such other functions as it deems appropriate to achieve the objectives set out in Article 3 of the Protocol.

5. Participants

The two week session will be attended by High level dignitaries who include sitting and former Heads of States and Governments in Africa, Parliamentarians from provincial, national and regional Parliaments, African Parliamentarians in the Diaspora; Heads of AU organs; the NEPAD; the APRM, Members of the diplomatic corps, civil society groups, grassroots organisations, youth, women, people with physical challenges, multilateral agencies, and private sector organisations amongst others.

6. Purpose

The purpose of the two week session and the activities organised to celebrate the 10 years of PAP's existence is to bring together stakeholders for the evaluation of the role of the PAP in promoting democracy, human rights, economic development, peace and security and Integration of the AU.

The meeting will also consider the management of diversity within the context of governance in Africa. In this regard, the forums will highlight progress being made by African countries in democracy building. It will outline challenges with particular reference to gender imbalances and marginalization and disempowerment of youth with a view to find solutions on how these problems retard progress towards the nurturing and consolidation of democracy on the continent. The forum will not only be preoccupied with highlighting governance challenges, but will also proffer possible policy options for redressing these problems.

The specific objectives will include the following:

- To reflect on how best the PAP can represent the interests of African citizenry;
- To reflect on the state of governance and development in Africa;
- To explore the relationship between governance and diversity;
- To offer concrete policy proposals regarding how African-owned institutional and policy Frameworks can better ensure that governance processes improve the livelihoods of the many citizens in Africa.

7. Expected Outputs

- a) An overall report covering all the thematic issues. The report will summarise the contributions of the High level presentations and will identify key challenges in democratic governance, integration and diversity management taking into account the principle of sovereignty
And make suggestions based on the dialogue on how to ensure that governance improves the livelihoods of the people.
- b) A political Statement highlighting the role of the Parliament in ensuring democratic governance;
- c) Commitments from Parliaments, civil society and the media to ensure effective participation by citizens in governance processes; and
- d) Increased visibility of the PAP.

8. Modalities

The High level meetings will be organised by the Pan African Parliament, partners, the private sector, African Civil Society Organisations and the African Union Commission in conjunction with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO).

9. **Venue:** PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT: All activities will take place in the precincts of the PAP.

DATE: 10TH March to 19th March 2014.

Summary of Key Events	
Monday 10th March, 2014	Official Opening of the PAP
Tuesday 11 March 2014	Consideration of the draft Budget of the African union for 2015
Wednesday 12	PAP strategic Plan, Code of Conduct of PAP MPs
Thursday 13 th March	Adoption of Recommendations
Friday 14 March	Women and Economic and Political Development

Saturday March	15	Pan African engagement with the citizenry (Private sector, CSOS, Diplomatic Missions, grassroots organisations, academia, youth, women etc).
Monday March	17	Youth
Tuesday March	18	TENTH ANNIVERSARY DAY OF THE PAP with presentations by former and current heads of States, Heads of AU organs, Parliaments
Wednesday		Official Closing



