



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

APU

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**THE CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS
IN COMBATING WOMEN AND CHILD TRAFFICKING AND LABOUR**
*Resolution adopted by the APU Committee of women parliamentarians
(Rabat, 7 November 2016)*

The Committee of African Women Parliamentarians, meeting on 7 November 2016 in Rabat (Morocco),

Whereas human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is a violation of human rights, particularly those of women and children,

Whereas it is a crime against both the individual person and the State, and undermines both the security of the person and that of the State,

Whereas trafficking in persons is a problem that extends beyond national borders,

Mindful that the fight against human trafficking faces many challenges,

Noting that compliance by countries with international standards varies significantly from region to region,

Considering that the Internet and other information technology applications such as web sites and computerised databanks may also be used to combat human trafficking, if they are used properly,

Recognizing that child labour perpetuates the vicious circle of poverty and prevents children from acquiring the skills and education required for a better future,

Mindful that Africa is the continent most affected by child labour,

Affirming that the impact of the practice which largely exceeds the scope of childhood also affects national economies through losses in competitiveness, productivity and potential income,

Emphasizing the need to implement a law in this area,

Mindful of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children;

Relying on body of international instruments, especially dealing with human trafficking as set out in Article 4-a of the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings of 16 May 2005, and Article 3-a of the Palermo Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recommends:

1. The passing of laws that consider persons who are trafficked as victims and not criminals;
2. The enforcement of laws and other measures by parliamentarians, as elected representatives of the people, in order to effectively combat women and child trafficking and labour and strengthen national efforts against human trafficking;
3. The implementation of actions to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect the victims; actions centred on individual persons and not just State security;
4. The regulation of professions and protection of the rights of women and children to reduce their trafficking and exploitation;
5. The launch of a campaign to raise the awareness of victims to encourage them to come forward and, consequently, intensify legal action;
6. The adoption of victim assistance programmes which also guarantee total protection for victims as witnesses, so as to encourage them to testify;
7. Successful prosecutions and severe sanctions as a way of deterring future traffickers;
8. The Deployment of comprehensive databases on trafficking to provide a platform for cooperation between groups from various regions fighting the phenomenon alone;
9. The strengthening, where applicable, of human trafficking laws and an increase in funding for the purposes of implementation and monitoring;
10. Withdrawing children under the minimum employment age from work, providing them access to education and supporting their families through vocational training or employment opportunities;
11. Greater empowerment of women through gender budgeting during budget approval;
12. The establishment in our parliaments of a standing committee on gender, in order to ensure women's participation in all spheres of national life.

13. The creation of an African observatory for the protection of children and of an African organisation for children, like UNICEF;
 14. The reduction of social disparities, the eradication of poverty and the implementation of a health and social assistance programme;
 15. The introduction of an African parliament for children;
 16. The introduction of a best creative work award for children;
 17. The establishment, in national parliaments, in the Pan-African parliament and in regional parliaments, of standing committees or sub-committees on children and family affairs;
 18. The setting up of TV and radio stations for children;
 19. The sensitisation of families and various social actors on the hazards associated with child labour;
 20. The setting up of training centres that are tailored to the age and interest of children;
 21. The establishment of joint parliament–government committees or bodies to investigate child labour-related issues through inspection visits to schools, companies and the street;
 22. The provision of social and psychological assistance to victims.
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