



# AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

## APU

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R.141/39/16

### THE ROLE OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*Resolution adopted by the 39<sup>th</sup> Conference  
(Rabat, 9 November 2016)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 39th Assembly in Rabat (Morocco) on 8 and 9 November 2016,

*Whereas* the sustainable development Agenda is a plan of action designed to strengthen peace around the world,

*Convinced* of the need to protect and care for our planet in order to move towards a sustainable path of resilience,

*Stressing that* the 17 sustainable development goals and the 169 targets are in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals and geared towards achieving human rights for all, gender equality and empowerment for women and girls,

*Stressing, moreover, that* these integrated and inextricably linked goals balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental,

*Acknowledging that* parliaments should promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they reflect the needs and aspirations of the people,

*Highlighting* the important role of parliaments in promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including voting the required appropriations, passing the required legislation and scrutinising government efforts to achieve the SDGs,

*Considering that* the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is a prerequisite for sustainable development,

*Also stressing that* job creation, particularly for the youth and women, affords the citizenry the opportunity to earn a decent living and must be a permanent consideration in sustainable development policies,

*Emphasising that* African countries should implement a sustainable policy for increased agricultural productivity,

*Convinced* that strong parliaments will play a central role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; this includes ensuring that development policies and plans are developed through inclusive and participatory processes, and requesting regular status reports,

*Emphasising* the urgent need for developed countries to fulfil the commitment to move the official development assistance (ODA) level to 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) as a critical step towards achieving the SDGs,

*Recalling* its resolution on sustainable development adopted at its 37th Conference held in Rabat (November 2014),

1. *Urges* parliaments to make laws which meet the SDGs requirements and to ensure effective implementation by their governments of such laws, and of resultant national policies and strategic plans; to consider the constitutional entrenchment of some SDGs related to fundamental rights;

2. *Calls on* African parliaments to ensure that all laws are consistent with the SDGs and that their oversight procedures emphasise government responsibility for implementing the SDGs, and to maintain an on-going dialogue with civil society;

3. *Encourages* African national parliaments to ensure that their governments adopt social and economic policies that foster sustainable growth in keeping with the SDGs, pursue their institutional reform efforts, promote democracy and human rights, and fight corruption;

4. *Requests* governments to regularly brief their respective parliaments on actions and progress towards achieving the SDGs, and thus enable them to monitor and assess implementation;

5. *Recommends that* national parliaments set up committees, which will be responsible in their specific areas for initiating and following up on actions towards implementing the SDGs, particularly in the areas of agriculture and food security, health, education, social welfare, water, energy and environment;

6. *Encourages* public debates on poverty reduction strategies in parliaments;

7. *Urges* parliaments, governments and international organisations to promote micro-credit, especially in rural areas;

8. *Encourages* parliaments to sustain their efforts at reducing poverty and empowering and promoting women as well as gender policies; to this end, proposes the establishment of specialized parliamentary bodies to pursue these issues;

9. *Requests* parliaments to take legislative measures to eliminate discrimination against women and facilitate their access to economic resources and services that move them out of poverty towards sustainable development;

10. *Requests* national parliaments to ensure that policies and budget documents highlight the achievement of the SDGs; adequate budgetary resources should be in place;

11. *Urges* national parliaments and governments to prioritise domestic financing for sustainable development agendas by strengthening local fiscal and financial governance structures, combating capital flight, and mobilising migrant remittances;

12. *Calls on* national parliaments and governments to promote private investment and public-private partnerships (PPP) for the financing and operation of public utilities, especially in the areas of housing, resilient infrastructure and environment;

13. *Requests* African national parliaments, within the framework of bilateral and multilateral parliamentary activities, to involve parliaments of developed countries in efforts to get their respective governments to fulfil their commitment to allocate 0.7% of GNP to Official Development Assistance (ODA), in accordance with the Millennium Declaration and other international commitments regarding development financing;

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