



**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
APU**

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**35<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE**  
*Kigali, 29 & 30 November 2012*

**R.133/35/12**

**RESOLUTION  
on**

**“The role of Parliaments in implementing poverty reduction  
strategies “**

**The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 35th Conference in Kigali (Rwanda) on 29 and 30 November 2012,**

*Recalling* its resolution on “ People participation, especially the youth, in the national development in order to reduce poverty, end exclusion and promote equality” (Khartoum, December 2001),

*Also recalling* the resolution of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the APU on “The role of Parliaments in women poverty reduction through the granting of microcredit and the search for markets” adopted at its 32nd Conference (Ouagadougou, November 2009),

*Recalling the* resolution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on “The role of parliaments in overseeing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to the problem of debt and the eradication of poverty and corruption” adopted at the 115<sup>th</sup> Assembly (Geneva, 18 October 2006),

*Recalling* the Millennium Development Goals stated in the Millennium Declaration (September 2000) which are the international community commitments’ toward poverty alleviation,

*Considering* the 2012 Report on the MDGs jointly prepared by the African Union Commission (AUC), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AFDB) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and approved by the 19th session of the Ordinary Conference of heads of State and government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in July 2012,

*Deeply concerned* by the delay in achieving Goal 1 on extreme poverty alleviation stressed in the 2012 MDGs Report,

*Noting* that according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, a 7,0 percent average growth is necessary to halve poverty level in African countries between 1998 and 2015,

*Considering* that the causes of the poverty are multidimensional, connected in particular to inappropriate economic strategies, to conflicts, to corruption, to external debts, to natural disasters and to absence of good governance,

*Underlining* that the African countries have important national resources which can contribute to the creation of the added value in products and job creation,

*Acknowledging* that a strong demographic growth undermines the impact of the economic growth on poverty reduction and on the delivery of basic social services, namely healthcare and education,

*Underlining* that, by leading to poverty alleviation, development helps peace building,

*Stressing* that poverty in Africa is mostly concentrated in rural areas and hits men and women as a whole,

*Considering* that Parliaments play a major role in controlling the government's action in this area,

*Aware* that the role of Parliaments is not often taken into account by governments when endeavouring to get the people and the civil society take ownership of development strategies, especially in relation with poverty reduction,

*Considering* that Parliaments should undertake actions and fully exercise their constitutional powers regarding the control and allocation of budget resources, namely in the implementation of poverty reduction strategies,

Reminding that the Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction (SFPR) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) are seen as the key strategic plans for the development of countries,

1. *Affirms* that Parliaments, as representative institutions, need to be involved in processes and talks that have an impact on national development;
2. *Urges* Parliaments to truly exercise their constitutional powers, particularly budget and Executive oversight;
3. *Calls on* Parliaments of African countries to undertake actions aimed at truly contributing to the wording of general policies and strategies against poverty, namely through adequate budget allocations, on the one hand, and the monitoring and evaluation of national development programmes, on the other hand;

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4. *Calls on* Parliaments to ensure that growth strategies and poverty reduction will help :
    - (i) Build peace and good governance;
    - (ii) Promote democracy and human rights ;
    - (iii) Fight corruption ;
    - (iv) Promote a strong, sustainable and fair growth ;
    - (v) Master demographic growth ;
    - (vi) Develop the processing industries of products to create added value and jobs;
    - (vii) Promote the participation of the poor populations to the development;
    - (viii) promote sustainable human development and improve the living Standards;
    - (ix) Develop the access to universal primary education and to university education and, relieve expenses by promoting the free school and school lunches;
    - (x) Achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
  5. *Recommends* Parliaments to commit themselves resolutely in the achievement of poverty reduction objectives through the following measures:
    - (i) Ensure good political and economic governance;
    - (ii) Adopt appropriate laws;
    - (iii) Support a national programme against poverty and food insecurity;
    - (iv) Show political will aimed at democratisation and decentralization;
    - (v) Use Parliaments to improve service delivery;
  6. *Urges* African countries' Parliaments to participate in the shaping of poverty reduction strategy papers and other programmes against poverty; Parliaments should ensure that not only these strategies match the population needs, but also increase transparency in the management of public resources and improve budget discipline;
  7. *Consequently, calls on Parliaments to enjoin governments to set up budgetary mechanisms and instruments to:*
    - (i) Create the conditions for an efficient implementation of poverty and hunger reduction strategies;
    - (ii) Mobilise the resources needed for development ;
    - (iii) Define a consistent and realistic resource framework;
    - (iv) Improve the efficiency of the allocation of public expenditure ;
    - (v) Devote budgetary resources to strategic priorities ;
    - (vi) Ensure equitable sharing of resources in the country with an emphasis on the development of rural areas ;
    - (vii) Reduce gender inequalities;
    - (viii) Institute measures aimed at promoting business environment;
  8. *Recommends* that mechanisms for funds transparency and management be put in place to guarantee that resources are allocated according to the priorities; Parliaments have a role to play in the achievement of this objective;

9. *Requests* Parliaments to ensure the implementation of the objectives laid down at the international and national levels regarding gender equality and women's development;
10. *Invites* governments and Parliaments to include the gender dimension in poverty reduction programmes, by simplifying access to land and developing micro-credits particularly for women and youth;
11. *Urges* Parliaments to establish special commissions to monitor the implementation of policies against poverty, by ensuring especially that basic social needs such as drinking water, rural electrification, healthcare, access to adequate food and nutrition, basic education and rural development are met;
12. *Encourages* parliaments to work in close liaison with government towards the true participation of the people and their representatives at the national and local levels, to simplify the implementation and regular monitoring of Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) sector programmes;
13. *Recommends* that Parliaments and civil society organisations enhance their ties so as to create a common platform to support programmes intended for the poorest members of the society;
14. *Urges* the setting up by Parliaments, of a specific parliamentary framework on poverty reduction that will work in close collaboration with the government, development agencies and international bodies;
15. *Invites* Parliaments to approach their governments with a view to including parliamentarians in the official delegations attending international meetings with international financial institutions and bodies;
16. *Requests* Parliaments to ensure, when discussing the budget, that adequate resources are allocated to the economic areas hit by the effects of globalization;
17. *Urges* Parliaments, governments, financial institutions and international organisations to support the microcredit system in African countries;
18. *Urges* governments and multilateral institutions to provide parliamentarians with the necessary details for the monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction strategies ;
19. *Calls* on international financial institutions set up a common website providing data and analyses for parliamentarians and the civil society, with a view to enhancing their inputs in the PRS;
20. *Encourages* governments, international financial institutions and inter-parliamentary organisations, to promote dialogue with African parliamentarians and the holding of seminars on poverty reduction, as this would enhance the parliamentarians' ability to follow the process;
21. *Urges* Parliaments and governments to speed up progress towards the achievement of the MDGs, by evaluating the outcomes with respect to these goals and by considering a post-2015 national development agenda.