



# AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

## UPA

---

RCF 03/32/09

### Resolution

#### *“Role of Parliaments in the fight against poverty among women through micro-credit grants and market outlets”*

**Considering** that the global economic and financial downturn is first and foremost a crisis of values: human values, especially those of women,

**Aware** of the need to restore a favourable climate for sustained growth in Africa, while recognizing the efforts deployed by governments through various development strategies, in line with items five and six of the agenda of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference of APU,

**Considering** that the issue of social development is a permanent source of concern for international institutions and economic policymakers in developing countries,

**Considering** that the adverse impact of structural adjustment programmes on the living standards of households have prompted the donor community and development cooperation agencies to make poverty reduction a key aspect of development assistance,

**Considering** that women, Africa’s major food producers and major players of the informal sector have very little access to bank credits,

**Noting** that, micro-credit, micro-finance and micro-enterprise are currently considered as efficient mechanisms for poverty reduction, among women especially,

**Recalling** the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Millennium Development Goals aimed at addressing issues specific to women,

**Recalling** the resolutions of the 115<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Assemblies of the Inter-parliamentary Union on poverty eradication in women, among others,

#### **Recommends:**

1. The adoption of laws that appoint government as guarantor of women’s credits;
2. The organization of awareness campaigns to encourage women producers to organize themselves into cooperatives;
3. The search for strategies to ease the burden on women, and enable them to concentrate more on economic activities;

4. The implementation of programmes by parliaments, governments and financial institutions for supporting the principle and practice of micro-credits;
5. Review by parliaments of all relevant laws and provisions to ensure that they do not discriminate against women; these include property rights, to enable women to enjoy the right to inherit land, capital and other property, all major sources of enterprise financing, and unemployment insurance;
6. The implementation of programmes of action to enhance the skills of women entrepreneurs as well as increase their options, given that small enterprises in traditionally female sectors (agro-food production, craft and dressmaking) offer few market outlets and are hardly viable financially;
7. Drawing up specific training modules for women, tailored to their needs. Indeed, training can help compensate for their low level of education and even enhance their self confidence;
8. The allocation of sufficient resources to help combat poverty and promote women's entrepreneurship;
9. Database on the status of women and dissemination of information to help promote their status;
10. Monitoring the implementation of legislation through control mechanisms and the practice of good governance, and constant interactions with major stakeholders, namely government, political parties, civil society, the media, etc.;
11. Development and promotion of networks at all levels (from the bottom, at the local level to the top among associations, NGOs and institutions), alliances, and the development of action plans among parliamentarians of the same region, to exchange experiences;
12. Promoting the emergence of our traditional, religious and cultural values that promote the complementarity girls and boys and women and men;
13. The organization of a full day's meeting for the Committee, during APU statutory meetings, as is done by other inter-parliamentary organizations.