

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR DARFUR

FOLLOW - UP MECHANISM

1.0 AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR DARFUR

- 1.1 Chairpersons of Foreign Affairs Committees and parliamentarians drawn from national parliaments of African Union (AU) Member-States of ten countries (Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), as well as the Pan African Parliament (PAP), hosted by the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, met in Dar es Salaam, between 26th and 28th May 2007 to consider the responsibilities of national parliaments in responding to the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of the Republic of Sudan.
- 1.2 The meeting of parliamentarians was briefed by His Excellency Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union (A.U.) Special Envoy to Darfur, a representative of the PAP, representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Darfur Consortium of African civil society coalition on Darfur and academic experts.
- 1.3 The meeting was opened by Honourable Kingunge Ngombale Mwiru (MP), Minister of State, President's Office, representing the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. In attendance were members of the diplomatic corps with a special goodwill message from the Parliaments of donor countries, delivered by His Excellency the High Commissioner of Canada to Tanzania.
- 1.4 At the end of the meeting the parliamentarians agreed to re-convene a Consultative Committee of African Parliamentarians for Darfur as well as undertake the following:

2.0 **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 Constitute a **Consultative Committee** of Chairpersons (or representatives) of Committees on Foreign Affairs of the National Parliaments of A.U. Member - States, including the Pan African Parliament (PAP).
- 2.2 Each Committee on Foreign Affairs will be represented on the **Consultative Committee** by a minimum of two (2) parliamentarians, the Committee on Foreign Affairs may, at its discretion, send more than two (2) representatives to the **Consultative Committee**. In making nominations, Committees on Foreign Affairs are encouraged to ensure gender balance in its participation.
- 2.3 The **Consultative Committee** will undertake the follow - up actions/activities that are contained in the resolutions adopted at the end of the consultative meeting.
- 2.4 The **Consultative Committee** will liaise with the Committees on Foreign Affairs of all the National Parliaments of AU Member-States on the resolutions, recommendations and follow-up actions. This follow - up will be undertaken in:
- (1) All National Parliaments of African Union (AU) Member - States;
 - (2) Pan African Parliament (PAP);
 - (3) African Parliamentary Union (APU);
 - (4) African Union (AU) Commission;
 - (5) International Parliamentary Union (IPU);
 - (6) Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA);
 - (7) Meeting of Parliamentarians of the Great Lakes Region;
 - (8) ECOWAS Parliament, and
 - (9) IGAD.

3.0 COORDINATING SECRETARIAT

3.1 Agreed to put in place an ad-hoc coordinating secretariat under the host Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania with the following members:

(i) Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the **Parliament of Algeria;**

(ii) Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the **Parliament of Kenya;**

(iii) Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the **Parliament of Nigeria;**

(iv) Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations & Conflict Resolution of the **Pan African Parliament (PAP);**

(v) Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the **Parliament of South Africa;** and

(vi) Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the **Parliament of Sudan.**

3.2 The Coordinating Secretariat will provide a bureau for the coordination of the follow-up actions/activities as well as administrative support to the **Consultative Committee.**

3.3 The Darfur Consortium of Coalition of African Civil Society Organisations (ACSOs on Darfur) (through IRRI based in Kampala, Uganda), the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI based in Abuja, Nigeria), and Ford Foundation (FF) East Africa (based in Nairobi, Kenya) were invited to continue the collaboration and support they were providing the consultative meeting.

4.0 **NEXT STEPS**

4.1 **Step 1:** The Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Parliament of Tanzania to forward, within 30 days from the 29th of May 2007, to all the National Parliaments of AU Member - States, the following:

(a) Communiqué issued at the end of the Consultative Meeting;

(b) Report of the deliberations including the presentation made at the Consultative Meeting; and

(c) This document on Follow - Up mechanism.

4.2 **Step 2:** (a) The Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania to write a letter to the Chairpersons of Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliaments of A.U. Member - States **contributing troops to the hybrid peace - keeping force in Darfur** to urge the Executive of these African countries **to fast-track the deployment of their troops to Darfur.**

4.3 (b) (i) The Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, (ii) the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Kenya, and (iii) Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations & Conflict Resolution of the **Pan African Parliament (PAP)** to visit and engage the African Union (A.U.) Commission on: (1) mandate of the hybrid peace - keeping force, and (2) logistics that could be complemented by further action of the National Parliaments of the countries contributing troops or other A.U. Member - States.

4.4 **Step 3:** Convene another consultative meeting for re-energising the peace negotiation process. The participants at this second consultative meeting will be:

- (1) Chairpersons of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of **all A.U. Member - States including Pan African Parliament;**
 - (2) African Union (A.U.) Commission;
 - (3) Government of the Sudan (G.O.S.);
 - (4) The Darfur Movements and Factions; and
 - (5) Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, A.U.'s Special Envoy on Darfur.
- 4.5 It was proposed that the venue for the second consultative meeting could be any of the following: (1) Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; (2) Abuja, Nigeria; or (3) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 4.6 That planning for the second consultative meeting should commence immediately and the meeting should hold within the next 3 months.
- 5.0 **BENCH-MARKS**
- 5.1 Reporting to Foreign Affairs Committees of National Parliaments here represented within 4 weeks, or if on recess, immediately the Parliament reconvenes.
- 5.2 Foreign Affairs Committees to undertake further parliamentary work within their respective National Parliaments and report back to the Committee on progress.
- 5.3 Undertaking specific parliamentary action within stipulated time limits in relation to (i) budgets, (ii) adoption of resolutions, (iii) hearings (including joint committee hearings) etc.
- 5.4 Develop a programme for rebuilding the conflict resolution institution/machinery/mechanism in Darfur in terms of both its capability and capacity.
- 5.5 Develop a programme in which National Parliaments will become engaged in assisting towards re-building Darfur's infrastructure in the specific areas of (i) education, (ii) health care delivery system, (iii) rehabilitation of agriculture, and (iv)

rejuvenating the security system for effective protection of lives and property as well as resolution of conflict.

5.6 Engage regional bodies such as (1) IGAD, (2) Meeting of Parliamentarians of the Great Lakes Region, (3) ECOWAS Parliament, and (4) East African Parliament for the purpose of (a) attainment of peace in Darfur, and (b) providing a structure for "conflict early warning system".

6.0 **DOCUMENTS**

6.1 The documents or materials that should constitute the briefing documents for reporting to the National Parliaments are as follows:

- (1) Communiqué issued at the end of the consultative meeting;
- (2) Report of the deliberations of the consultative meeting;
- (3) Document on Follow - Up Mechanism; and
- (4) Subsequent documents.

6.2 These documents provide the premise for engaging the National Parliaments indicating clearly actions that are to be taken by each National Parliament.

7.0 **CONTROL OF SMALL AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

7.1 Other parliamentary activities that will complement peace in Darfur were also proffered. These include initiating a process for the control of Small and Light Weapons (SALW) in the entire continent either through (i) reinvigorating the initiatives that are already in hand at the regional level, (ii) start new initiatives in other regions where there is no such initiative, or (iii) develop new set of Protocols for the Control of Small and Light Weapons (SALW) pursuant to the stipulations of the Constitutive Act of the AU for ratification by National Parliaments.

7.2 This other activities are to come after **Step 3** activities.

8.0 **IMPLEMENTATION** **OF** **AFRICAN**
INSTRUMENTS/PROTOCOLS

8.1 It was also proposed that African Instruments on Human and Peoples' Rights should be re-examined with a view to providing a legal framework for implementing the commitments in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) concerning the prohibition of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.