



**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
AFRICA REGION SECRETARIAT**

Parliament Building, Shaaban Robert Street,
P. O. Box 9133, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: (+255-22) 211 8591/2
Fax: (+255-22) 211 2538
E-mail: info@cpafrica.org

Ref: CPA/A/G/01'B'/25

26th July, 2013

TO: CHAIRPERSONS OF CPA
AFRICA REGION BRANCHES.

Dear Colleagues,

RE: **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 44TH CPA AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE,
HELD IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

During the Plenary Sessions of the 44th CPA Africa Region Conference, a number of Social, economic, political and legislative topics were discussed and consequently resolutions were adopted for the consideration and implementation by the Branches.

It is in this spirit that I am forwarding to your branch this set of Resolutions. At the next CPA Africa Conference (Annual General Meeting) the Branches will be required to give updates on how far they have gone in implementing these resolutions.

Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MPL
**CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND
SPEAKER OF GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

Copy to: ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES
CPA AFRICA REGION.

CPA AFRICA REGION



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 44TH COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) AFRICA REGION
CONFERENCE (WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA 26TH JULY, 2013),
MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF ZAMBIA AND SECONDED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

JULY, 2013

CONFERENCE THEME:

Utilising our Commonwealth Partnership to Promote Peaceful Conflict Resolution and Economic Development on the African Continent

Resolutions adopted by the 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Regional Conference (Windhoek, Namibia, 26th July, 2013), motion to adopt proposed by the National Assembly of Zambia and seconded by the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda

The 44th CPA Africa Regional Conference,

Realising that despite having laws and constitutional provisions which address gender based violence, many Governments lack political will to implement these laws,

Noting that peace and security are a prerequisite for socio-economic development in Africa,

Noting further that the supply of adequate energy is key to unlocking the economic potential of Africa,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979 which in principle condemns all types of violence directed towards women through the creation of legal and social protections,

Noting that in September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration and committed their nations to a new global partnership to promote development through a series of time bound goals with a deadline of 2015,

Concerned that youth unemployment is on the increase on the continent and needs to be addressed urgently, this Conference therefore,

A. **Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Gender Based Violence**

1. *Stresses the need for all Parliaments and Governments to exercise strong political will in the implementation of laws that target gender based violence;*
2. *Calls on all Parliaments and national Governments to revisit their laws which address gender based violence to determine their effectiveness;*
3. *Urges all African men to actively advocate against violence towards women;*
4. *Emphasises the need for consistent education in overcoming cultural and traditional barriers as well as attitudes that contribute to gender based violence;*
5. *Calls on Members of Parliament to strengthen the income generating potential of rural women to reduce their vulnerability;*

B. **Youth Unemployment in Africa: Challenges and Solutions: What can Parliamentarians do?**

1. *Calls on African countries to revisit their education curriculums in order to enable students to gain practical and technical skills which will prepare them to enter the job market or develop as entrepreneurs;*
2. *Urges CPA Africa to consolidate best practice in parts of Africa in the area of structural arrangements in response to youth development by organising study tours involving youth speakers to visit identified countries to gain in-depth understanding on how such work;*
3. *Calls on youth participants to establish discussion forums to facilitate sharing of information with their peers on matters relating to the CPA and youth development;*

4. *Urges* Governments to ensure that there are relevant Further Education and Training colleges, learnerships and internships dedicated to development of practical skills therefore building a pool of skilled youth to respond to African economy's skills requirements;
5. *Calls on Governments to create incentives* that will attract the youth to develop skills in the agriculture sector which is a potential employer;

C. The attainment of the MDGs: Is Africa on its way to meeting the 2015 deadline?

1. *Reminds* Parliaments to accelerate and increase their oversight of the Executive regarding the implementation of the MDGs in order to yield tangible outcomes which could change the lives of people;
2. *Calls on* Government departments and the executive to reflect the MDGs in their policies, speeches and national budgets for the period 2014 and 2015 before the lapse of the timeframe of the MDGs;

D. Energy security: An Imperative for Africa's development

1. *Urges* Parliaments to enact the right legislation that will guarantee energy mix by focusing on sustainable energy policies capable of giving priority to modern energy access to the poor and promote investments in cleaner energy technologies;
2. *Urges* Parliaments to enact enabling legislation that will support the efforts of the executive arm of various countries of Africa to improve the deteriorating base, including the energy infrastructure, so as to attract the right kind of investments and mobilize adequate financing;

3. *Encourages* Parliaments to enact enabling laws for the adoption of energy efficiency measures and energy conservation policies as well as any related public awareness programmes that will affect positively in the energy economics of African countries;
4. *Encourages* African Parliaments to speed up fostering integrated energy policies based on sustainability and regional cooperation;
5. *Encourages* Africa to move towards using clean, renewable energy which will involve Africa taking advantage of existing sources such as deserts, the sun and winds in Africa;

E. Peace building and Conflict Resolution: Finding an African Agenda to aid Economic Development

1. *Encourages* Parliaments to create national consensus through national policy dialogue to strengthen conflict prevention and poverty reduction;
2. *Urges* the CPA to continue to organize regular meetings and dialogues so as to forge and strengthen relationships between Parliamentarians on peace and conflict resolution as well as matters of sustainable economic development;
3. *Urges* the CPA to provide a neutral space for dialogue while helping to mediate disputes between various countries;
4. *Urges* the CPA to provide fora for knowledge sharing on learning experiences, best practices, policies that foster democracy, good governance and sustainable economic development; and
5. *Encourages* the CPA to monitor all stages of mediation in conflict resolution and play active role in election observation Missions.