

Terms of Reference

EU Presidency Seminar

**“Promoting African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on
Climate, Food Security and Development”**

19-21 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) and the Swedish Parliament will be hosting the EU Presidency Seminar titled “Promoting African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate, Food Security and Development”. This Seminar will facilitate an open discussion about the interlinked issues of climate change and water management.

Background

Twice yearly, AWEPA organises international parliamentary seminars, which coincide with the rotating Presidency of the European Union. The main objectives of these seminars include:

- Assuring African priorities, in the context of NEPAD, are kept on the political agenda of the European Union (EU) and its member states;
- Promoting partnerships between European and African (members of) parliaments in order to strengthen parliamentary democracies; and
- Supporting dialogue and networking for parliamentarians from Africa amongst each other as well as with their colleagues from Europe to stimulate action for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Thus, AWEPA, together with its Section in the Swedish Parliament, is organizing an EU Presidency Seminar, which includes sessions in the Swedish Parliament and a side-event during the *World Water Week* (WWW). The WWW will take place in Stockholm from 16-22 August 2009 and is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

Themes

Climate Change

Linking up to one of Sweden’s presidency priorities, during the seminar and side-event, the topic of Climate Change will be addressed.

Climate Change is one of the biggest challenges humanity has ever faced. At present there is an increased concern about the impacts of global Climate Change and calls for global justice. Whereas the North bears the largest responsibility for the causes of

Climate Change, the South, and especially Africa, will suffer the worst consequences, consequences that are now inevitable.

AWEPA, together with the Pan-African Parliament, EALA, SADC Parliamentary Forum, ECOWAS Parliament, and other major actors in Africa, have launched the African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate, Food Security and Development with the common aim of increasing the role of parliamentarians in the adaptation process to Climate Change.

This parliamentary seminar aims to encourage debate and political action on the topics of Climate Change in Africa leading up to the 2009 UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 (COP15).

Water Management

Climate change is manifesting itself as a cross-cutting issue in need of a multi-faceted solution. In this respect, this seminar will focus on water management, as this topic is strongly interconnected with the challenge of climate change.

Today some 300 million Africans have no access to safe drinking water, and 313 million people lack basic sanitation¹. This lack of water poses a serious problem to the environment and development of the continent, which is leading to serious repercussions for African food security. These challenges call for immediate attention.

The overall focus of the discussions at the seminar will be on sharing knowledge and exploring suitable strategies for parliamentary action.

Parliamentary Scrutiny of Development Aid

The third key area of parliamentary responsibility highlighted at the seminar is Parliamentary scrutiny of development aid, with a particular focus on issues related to Climate Change and Water.

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) have all clearly recognised the vital role that parliaments play in enhancing the effectiveness of aid, and in achieving progress towards the targets set in the 2005 Paris Declaration. With an increase in General Budget Support (GBS) to partner countries seen throughout the development community, parliamentary capacity vis-à-vis the scrutiny of national budgets and aid flows is in dire need of support.

Therefore, the seminar aims to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians in both donor and partner countries on the importance of parliamentary advancement in this area and the exchange of good practices in budgetary oversight.

2009 World Water Week in Stockholm

The overarching theme of the World Water Week (WWW) 2009 is "Accessing Water for the Common Good", with a special focus on Trans-boundary Waters. A diverse range of topics are put on the agenda related to agriculture, biodiversity, sanitation, climate change, drinking water, finance, governance, poverty reduction, technology and water resources management. The WWW provides a unique global platform for leaders in civil society, business and governments to confer and set up practical actions on these challenges.

International Commission on Climate Change and Development (CCCD)

¹ Africa has an estimated population of over 800 million.

The Swedish Government has established the International Commission on Climate Change and Development (CCCCD) with the aim to contribute to international efforts on adaptation to climate change and risk reduction. H.E. Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for international development cooperation is the Chairperson of the Commission.

The work of the CCCC focuses on exploring the links between adaptation to climate change and development. The Commission submitted its final report in May 2009 ahead of the Swedish Presidency of the EU and the 2009 Copenhagen United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The Final Report will focus on:

- The human dimension of climate change: What do people need in order to adapt and how are they adapting already?
- The institutional architecture: How can we best organize the plethora of institutions involved in climate change to efficiently encourage adaptation, in general and in accordance with the Paris declaration on aid effectiveness?
- What are the financial and political prerequisites for the success of developing countries in meeting their adaptation needs?
- Resources and financing: what resources are needed and how can they best be managed?

Objectives

- To sensitize parliamentarians on the topics of Climate Change and Water Management
- To mobilise Members of Parliament increase parliamentary action in Europe and Africa related to Climate Change, and Water issues
- Identify parliamentary recommendations on Climate issues that will be sent to the 2009 UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 (COP15)

Outputs

- Conference report
- Joint parliamentary recommendations on Climate issues drafted by African and European Parliamentarians

Outcomes

- African and European Parliaments have more informed debates about climate change, water and food security
- Awareness amongst parliamentarians has been raised on good practices for scrutiny of the national budget with a particular focus on climate change, water, and issues of food security. Support for improving parliamentary capacity in budgetary oversight is galvanised.
- Interaction between European and African parliamentarians continues through a Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate Change, Food Security and Development

Participants & Resource Persons

The seminar offers a platform for approximately 50 participants from Africa and Europe, consisting of representatives from the following:

- Members of regional and national African Parliaments
- Members of European Parliaments
- Members of the Swedish Parliamentary Committee on Environment
- Representatives from Parliamentary Networks including the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank (PNoWB), GLOBE and the NEPAD Contact Group of African Parliamentarians
- Representatives from various UN Agencies
- Representatives from Civil Society Organisations
- Swedish Political Foundations

Host Organisations:

- The Swedish Parliament
- AWEPA