



*Parliamentary Centre
Le Centre parlementaire*

**SECOND APRN REGIONAL CONFERENCE: “PARLIAMENTS, POVERTY
REDUCTION AND THE BUDGET PROCESS”. OCTOBER 19-22, 2009,
DAKAR, SENEGAL**

1. Background and Opening Remarks

The second African Parliamentary Poverty Reduction Network (APRN) Conference which took place in Dakar, Senegal, from October 19 - 22, 2009 attracted a substantial number of participants (55) including members of parliament from twelve African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia); also present were parliamentary staff from parliaments of Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya Ghana and Senegal. Representatives from North South Institute (N SI), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) also took part in the conference.

The APRN regional conference organized with the objective of promoting greater cross-Africa dialogue among members of parliament from different countries and providing opportunities for exchange and sharing best practices for improving effective implementation of poverty reduction programs utilized a range of approaches like presentation of papers, plenary discussion of important developmental issues and group work to achieve the set objectives. The various contributions made by participants ranging from comments on presentations, recommendations made during group work discussions, power point presentations as well as written texts submitted by the presenters are being collated and eventually be developed into a handbook on parliamentary poverty reduction efforts.

In her opening remarks, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal, Hon. Aissatou MBODJ noted the relevance of the theme- “Parliaments, Poverty Reduction And The Budget Process”, especially in these times of economic downturn with the concomitant effect of deteriorating living conditions of the mass of the people of Africa. She urged the parliamentarians present to redouble their efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the various strategies of poverty eradication in their respective countries. She stressed the need for concerted efforts by the governments and people of Africa as the only realistic way of confronting these developmental challenges. Her remarks were echoed by Mr. Soule Adam, Budget Expert from Parliamentary Centre. He thanked the participants for taking time off their busy schedules to make it to the conference and gave a brief overview of the work of the Parliamentary Centre across the globe. Mr. Soule reiterated the Centre’s commitment in supporting parliaments in their efforts towards poverty reduction. Mr. Alexander Bohr who represented the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), expressed his appreciation for the keen interest shown by participants and hoped for fruitful deliberations.

2. Presentations

The presentation on “Effective Parliamentary Involvement in the Budget Process-Key to Pro-Poor Budgeting was delivered by Mr. Soule Adam Boucary and Hon. William Okecho, Member of Parliament of Uganda (and newly elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the APRN). Mr. Soule Adam’s presentation looked at the broad issues of the involvement of parliament in the budget process especially at the legislative and oversight stage of the budget process. Hon. Okecho on the other hand examined the role of Uganda’s Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), he outlined the services of the Ugandan budget office, successes it has chalked since the enactment of the budget act in 2001 and challenges it currently faces.

1. Key issues and recommendations that emerged from groups discussion on the above theme

(b) How can the budget be used as a tool for poverty reduction?

Participants made the following recommendations:

- More resources should be allocated to local assemblies for social services such as health , education and feeder roads
- Spend more on the poor especially targeting productive infrastructure
- National budgets should be designed to be responsive to the needs of the poor to effectively address the MDGs
- Broaden the tax base to ensure that people in lower income bracket are captured but the tax burden on them should be less
- Parliamentarians should make use of findings from studies on poverty issues and present them to the executive for implementation
- Parliamentarians need to be proactive in advocating for the adoption of pro-poor measures such as supporting micro finance credit projects with flexible conditions for women in the rural areas.
- Information pertaining to the execution of poverty reduction projects should be made accessible to parliamentarians and citizens so that the latter can hold parliamentarians accountable whenever they slack in discharging their responsibilities
- Parliament should call for positive discrimination in favour of the poor during budget allocations

(c) How can the involvement of Parliament in the budget process and its influence over the budget be strengthened and become more effective?

- Capacity of Parliamentarians need to be enhanced to meet this challenge
- Parliament should always liaise with the budget office where there is one (for instance, Burkina Faso ministers defend what they have termed ‘pre project’ before

the committee of finance and budget and it is only after such discussion that the final decision is taken. As well, MPs should have access to external expert who will assist them in budget scrutiny

- The time frame between the submission and analysis of budget implementation must be reasonable to allow for more in-depth analysis of the budget
- MPs should be involved in all stages of the budget process to ensure the budget reflects the aspirations of the people of whom MPs are elected to represent
- Institute appropriate legal framework (such as the Budget Act of Uganda) to govern the budget process
- Provide technical support to Parliamentarians i.e. researchers, budget officers/economists through the Parliamentary Budget Office and other Departments in Parliament
- Strengthen financial provisions in the Constitution

(d) Budget scrutiny and approval. What facilitating tools does parliament need to execute this function and ensure the poor are taken into account?

- Improved technical capacity and the use of ICT in Parliament for records management and analysis
- Conducting performance auditing
- Introduction of Parliamentary Budget Offices
- Provision of resources to Parliamentarians to monitor budget implementation as the case in Ghana (there is monitoring and evaluation fund available to parliamentarians), this should be backed up with a proper legal framework to protect the M&E funds
- Introduction of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) as it is the case in Kenya, Malawi and Zambia. Tanzania has also just passed legislation to start CDF
- Allocate more time for budget debates before approval-thorough, comprehensive discussions/debates can be done through Committees (Ugandan Model)
- Institute appropriate legal framework governing the budget process which ensures thorough consultations are made with relevant stakeholders

(e) Role of Legislative Budget Offices

- The Legislative (Parliamentary) Budget Offices should facilitate easier passage of the budget and provide technical and administrative support to Parliament
- Adopt the Ugandan Model

(f) Participation of the poor during the legislative stage of the budget

- Introduction of constituency public hearings to get development priorities from the poor
- Introduction of Economic Stimulus Packages and/or CDF as the case in Kenya
- Create a platform where MPs can interact with citizens for the purposes of getting feedback on critical issues of concern to their constituents
- ‘Parliamentary Holidays’ could serve as a time for MPs to do in-depth study of poverty issues as they affect citizens and come with recommendations for overcoming them. For example, Senegal initiated this year ‘intersession’ this made it possible for Parliamentarians to do a thorough situational analysis of some given localities

(g) Ensuring budget compliance. Key challenges

- Lack of periodic reporting by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Government or donor delays in releasing money for budgeted projects
- Inefficient procurement procedures
- Lack of political will
- Lack of sufficient participation of Parliament in budget process

2. Highlights of plenary discussions

- The plenary discussions reflected some of the recommendations participants made above. It was acknowledged that the “Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers” (PRSP) should be the basis for poverty reduction strategy but not sufficient basis for effective poverty reduction approach. A PRSP process conducted through broad and exhaustive process has the potential to be an effective tool towards addressing poverty.
- The budget can be used as a tool for poverty reduction through the allocative principle
- Ways to enhance parliament’s influence in the budget process: create committees with effective and competent members especially the Chairperson of the committee, give parliament appropriate information, e.g. MPs can ask officials of the budget office how much of the budget allocation is going to his or her constituency. The process should be open and transparent to allow for effective monitoring and evaluation
- In Uganda, MPs visit constituents twice a month (this is funded by central government)
- A monitoring and evaluation fund should be established to support MPs field activities
- Set up constituency public hearings to create the platform for citizens engagement at the community level with policy makers and their representatives

- Introduce economic stimulus to act as a catalyst for economic growth
- For budget scrutiny and approval, the budget proposal should be tabled before parliament early to cater for the following: sufficient time for debate on the floor of the house, conduct wide consultations with CSOs, solicit the input of think tanks, and conduct a national debate.

The lead facilitators on the presentation **“Pro-Poor Policies and Budgeting, the Role Parliament/Parliamentarians”** were Honourable Clement Kofi Humado, Member of Parliament of the republic of Ghana and Mr. Damien Mededji, Researcher from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Benin. Honourable Humado examined the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) of Ghana, and the role parliament played in the process. Mr. Damien Mededji’s presentation focused on the experience of the Benin Republic in implementing poverty reduction strategy and the input parliament made towards the set objective.

Their presentations were followed by group discussions where the following issues were flagged:

- (a) What policies/programs are considered pro-poor? Give examples of policy priorities
- Understanding the definition of poverty is critical to fashioning out policy priorities.
 - Poverty is a multidimensional issue that goes beyond the income aspect; it includes lack of voice and powerlessness.

Examples of policies/programs that can be considered as pro-poor;

- Conditional cash transfer-This is based on the premise that beneficiaries adhere to specific conditions. For instance, beneficiary parents of cash transfer are obliged to send their children to school and buy them school uniform
- Universal primary education-there is a strong correlation between literacy levels and the attainment of other MDGs

- Primary health programs such as building dispensaries in every constituency.
- Allowing communities to participate in the prioritization of projects that have a direct bearing on their lives
- Rural employment guarantee schemes-A case in point is the 100 days guaranteed employment scheme in India. This project was geared towards achieving the twin objective of poverty alleviation and stemming rural urban migration

(b) What type of consultation is conducted to achieve broad consensus?

- Forming district level groups with proper representation from the lowest level of the devolved units
- Participation of the local community in terms of project prioritization
- Striking a balance between the influence of opinion leaders and community members in terms of their participation in development projects
- National consultation exercise should take into account differences in literacy levels nation-wide and adopt different approaches to meet the specific target audience.

(c) Are the views of the poor solicited?

- Communities should be allowed to come out with their own understanding of poverty and made to suggest possible solutions to tackle the scourge of poverty
- Funds should be devolved to the lowest echelons of government to allow the community to participate fully on which projects their funds should be expended on. The disbursement of the CDF provide some examples in Tanzania, Malawi, and Kenya

(d) How are these policy priorities reflected?

- The priorities should be reflected in the various initiatives such as CDF, Local authorities transfer
- Need to set coherent accountability system such as opening a standalone account to cater for specific need

(e) Role of MTEF-how do they relate to MDGs, PRSPs, and other national development plans?

- Need to link budgeting and planning by breaking the long term poverty reduction priorities into medium plans that can be actualised via the Medium Expenditure Framework
- Harmonise planning and budgeting. In most African countries, the concept of MTEF is just on paper and is not practised on the ground
- Need for countries to develop MDGs needs assessment status as this forms the basis of the amount of resources that should be channelled to areas that is MDG related.

The next presentation was on **the Role of Parliament and Domestic Resource Mobilization in the context of national poverty reduction agenda**. The lead facilitators were Dr. Anthony Tsepko of Parliamentary Centre and Dr. Nehemiah Osoro, Researcher at the University of Dar es Salaam who is also with the North South Institute (NSI). The first presentation facilitated by Dr. Anthony Tsepko looked at why there is the need for MPs to focus as much attention on how revenue is raised as on expenditure. Tax and non-tax revenue options were explored; however, the focus of his presentation was on tax revenue and the role parliament needs to play in tax legislation. Dr. Nehemiah Osoro on his part examined the role of parliament in domestic resource mobilization in the context of Tanzania, challenges associated with it and important lessons learnt in the process. Some best practices in Tanzania were highlighted. He ended his presentation with some recommendations.

3. Key issues and recommendations that emerged from group discussions

(a) How can parliament influence the revenue side of the budget?

- Provide the necessary legal backing to various revenue agencies as this will provide autonomy required in terms of managing the affairs of revenue collection
- Introduce tax measures in the form of amendments and ensure constant review of tax rates. In addition, parliament can also investigate why revenue targets have not been met and identify areas of leakages
- Besides tax revenue, the relevant committees should explore other channels of financing the budget such as Appropriation in Aid. Ministries should be put to task on non-tax revenue they are expected to collect
- Institute sensitization and awareness measures to members of the public on the importance of paying taxes by explaining to them the key results that have been achieved; this should include the various project intervention made possible with Constituency Development Fund (CDF) resources.

(b) What needs to be in place for the establishment of an effective, efficient, and equitable tax system?

- Appropriate information
- Clear legislation
- Raising national integrity
- Adequate skills coupled with efficient tax administration system

(c) Role played by parliament in ensuring sound macroeconomic policies to sustain high rates of economic growth , full employment, poverty reduction, price stability , and sustainable fiscal balances

- Scrutinize the government's plans and policies related to the budget and exercise effective oversight over the execution of development projects
- Parliament should interest itself on debt issues and use its authority to make sure the debt burden is not too punitive to the public
- Encourage and ensure food sufficiency since it is a major cause of inflation in most African countries

(d) How can parliament influence increased savings and accessibility to credit by the poor?

- Initiate the creation of specific funds and with the conditions that specific interest group(s) has to save as a prerequisite for accessing the funds
- Unlocking the potential of rural financial markets by passing favourable laws to encourage financial institutions to go to such areas
- Introduce tax incentives as a motivating factor in encouraging savings culture

4. Highlights of plenary discussions

Parliament's powers and mandates vary across the region. For instance, government's borrowings have to be approved by the parliament of Uganda. Parliament has the mandate to review tax legislation. On the other hand, parliaments in Tanzania and Kenya have weak powers as far as government's tax bills are concerned. These parliaments can make only minor changes to any tax bill. In other words, these parliaments have weak powers as far as reviewing tax legislation is concerned. As far as tax exemptions are concerned, Tanzania has two types: (1) Statutory exemption, and (2) Discretionary exemption

Deep seated corruption in most African countries is said to be one of the reasons why governments fail to realise revenue from taxes. Most financial institutions (banks) in Africa have wide interest rate spread-they provide low deposit rate and charge high lending rate. This, it was observed, act as a disincentive to savings.

Citizens who observe their tax obligations sometimes have to suffer from the hands of tax officials through red tape in processing tax returns and in cases where tax refunds are due, beneficiaries

encounter undue delay and this tends to undermine tax compliance in the long run. Tanzania practises cash budgeting, some participants were of the view that this practice is a recipe for indiscipline while others held a contrary view. Property tax in Africa is not fully exploited. Governments need to explore the huge potential in tax revenue from property tax. For this to happen, there must be in place a well structured system of registration and valuation of properties.

The presentation on “Parliament and the Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in the Budget Process” was facilitated by Mr. Issifu Lampo, Budget and Governance Advisor from the Parliamentary Centre and Honourable Kissima Mangane, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Mali. Mr. Lampo’s presentation touched on the rationale for monitoring and evaluation in the context of the budget process, it also elaborated on performance budgeting or results-based budgeting, which contrasts sharply with the traditional form of line budgeting which tends to put more premium on budget execution than on results. This new approach emphasizes results, indicators and specific time-bound targets. Tools for budget oversight often employed by members of parliament were highlighted and elaborated upon.

Honourable Mangane’s presentation focused on the experience of the National Assembly of Mali in assessing the impact of government’s efforts towards poverty reduction. He highlighted the fact that monitoring and evaluation has been made an integral part of the budget process. MPs avail themselves of the tools at their disposal and exercise effective oversight over the executive. Some of the oversight tools MPs use were cited to include: question time, interpellation, field visit, review of audit reports etc.

5. Key issues and recommendations that emerged during group discussion

(a) What tools does Parliament have at its disposal to conduct effective budget oversight and follow-up analysis of the effectiveness of policies, projects and programs addressing poverty issues?

- Parliamentary Committees exercise oversight on MDAs
- Standing orders
- Audit reports
- The constitution and other enactments pertaining to financial administration
- Question time
- Interpellations
- Review quarterly reports
- The Media, CSO, Private Member Bill
- The Budget

(b) What is the importance of defining goals and identifying indicators and targets at an early stage for Policy Impact Review and Poverty Monitoring?

- To provide the baseline for measuring implementation performance in order to know the starting point against which achievement is measured
- Provide targets in order to know in advance where we want to reach
- Indicators describe the milestones

(c) Is it necessary to budget for M&E?

- National budget should have adequate provision for M&E at MDA level to provide data on results to facilitate decision making by parliament
- At parliamentary level , MPs and committees should have adequate budget for M&E (Parliamentary Administration Bill to ensure adequate funds)

(d) Defining key Actors and their responsibilities

- Committees (select)
- MPs
- Auditor General
- Speaker
- Executives (Minister, PPMEDS)

(e) How can M&E help reduce poverty, what are the best practices?

- Value for money, results based M&E
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Timeliness
- Best practices-committee oversight visits, midterm reports, AGMs of state owned departments

6. High lights of plenary discussions

- Traditional form of budgeting: budget focus on inputs, detailed line-item controls on expenditures, agencies focus on obtaining spending approvals, utilising them within a year.
- Under the traditional; form of budgeting, little attention is paid to non financial performance, and few sanctions on agencies who failed to meet targets.
- No information system geared toward supporting set out objectives

- Performance budgeting focuses on output and outcomes, supporting information system is based on indicators of output and performance. There are normally incentives for success and sanctions for failure
- In Tanzania accounting system is cash-based accounting whereas Uganda is moving to accrual budgeting
- Parliament has proved weak in exercising its evaluation mandate especially in assessing loan agreements (Ghana). How for instance, does parliament review previous loan agreement before approving new loan agreements? Parliament capacity needs to be enhanced to be effective in this area. For monitoring of the budget process to be effective, the executive need to submit either quarterly or midterm reports to parliament. And for this to be systematic, a Budget law or an Act should be passed to underpin this.
- There is no well structured monitoring and evaluation framework in a number of parliaments including the National Assembly of Senegal.
- Uganda: emphasis is on activity-based budgeting, which may graduate to outcome –based budgeting or results-based budgeting.

The final presentation looked at how civil society collaboration with parliament could be enhanced. Ms Nansata Yakubu who facilitated this final session provided a broad historical context that witnessed the evolution of civil society organization in Africa, pre-and post independence in Africa. She noted that Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa until the 1990s were only engaging with governments and not with parliaments. This picture has however changed lately. In quite a number of countries like Kenya, Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, to name but a few, Civil society groups have begun to engage parliaments with encouraging results. This, it was observed, has helped to reduce the mutual suspicions that existed between parliamentarians and civil society actors.

7. Key issues that emerged during group discussions

Strengths and weaknesses of Civil Society Organization

Strengths

- **CSO** provide capacity building through several approaches including seminars and training sessions for parliamentarians
- Provide research and analytical data to Parliament to facilitate decision making on specific topics and issues
- They are objective and independent on a range of issues and are not hamstrung by government
- Provide inputs that facilitates passage of Bills

Weaknesses

- Sometimes they distort information to suit their agenda
- CSOs can be used by other interests groups-external and internal and can create confrontation with Government and Local Government Authorities
- Concentrated in urban areas where they are needed less compared to rural communities

8. Addressing Mutual Suspicions between Parliament/Parliamentarians and CSOs

- Holding workshops for the two groups to iron out differences
- Creating opportunities for dialogue between Parliament and CSOs to reach consensus
- Make parliament accessible to CSOs and other interests groups-to appreciate and understand work of parliament. E.g. # of days of work by Parliament. CSOs on their part should be more transparent about their sources of funding to parliament and should be amenable to transparency and accountability

9. Gains of effective collaboration between CSOs and Parliamentarians

Best practices

- CSOs can add value and complement decision making process of parliament-Malawi Economic Justice Movement, Tanzania Gender \networking Group, Zambia Transparency International, SEND Foundation in Ghana, CEPA-Centre for Policy Analysis (Ghana), PARP-Policy Analysis Research Program-Nigeria

10. Ways of Sustaining Collaboration and Deepening Democracy and Good Governance

- Yearly CSO-Parliamentary Dialogue with MOU to plan joint work program
- Identifying focal point in Parliament for engagement of CSOs with Parliament
- CSOs to be properly registered within the national legal framework. (Registrar General). NGO Act of Malawi, Uganda, Zambia.

3. Annual General Meeting of APRN

The annual general meeting of the African Parliamentary Poverty Reduction Network (APRN) was held on October 22, 2009. This followed a successful three-day conference of the APRN, where members of the old executive of the APRN were present. All the participants who took part in the conference were present for the annual general meeting.

The director of African Programs, Dr. Rasheed Draman who was not able to be present during the APRN regional conference, took the opportunity in his opening remarks to apologise for his absence and thanked participants for making the conference a running success. Hon Anne Makinda, deputy

speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania and former chair of the executive committee of the APRN chaired the meeting. She too was not present during the first two days of the regional APRN conference because of the other pressing engagements. She gave a brief overview of the African Parliamentary Poverty Reduction Network (APRN), it was created in 2003 and since then it has recorded some successes by providing a platform for members of parliament from different African countries to come together to dialogue on extant developmental issues on the continent, sharing experiences and learning best practices in the process. She also highlighted the fact that this year's general meeting was originally scheduled for September 2008, in relation to the APRN regional conference on **Parliaments, Poverty Reduction and the Budget Process**. However, as this conference was postponed to October 19-21, 2009, the GM was subsequently also postponed to October 22, 2009.

Mention was also made of the contributions made by the former executive committee members whose able stewardship witnessed the expansion of training activities for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. She indicated, for instance, the introduction of training programme designed for parliamentary staff, designing in-country training programmes for beneficiary parliaments, and the introduction of a new module titled **"Revenue Side of the Budgets and the Role of Parliament"**. Additionally, she noted, executive committee members have over the past years deliberated upon ways to make the network sustainable. This was aimed at ensuring the network survives after funding from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) ends. Some of the suggestions of sustaining the network by members of the executive committee members included the following:

- PC should institutionalize and crystallize relations between network parliaments and parliamentary Centre. This should be underpinned with and MOU with member parliaments
- Organize in-country trainings, wider reach of target groups
- Publicize the activities of the network members and highlight palpable achievements
- Arrange a meeting with leadership of the various parliaments through seminars, regional conferences. This, it is believed would provide the platform for participants to interact and bond, develop strategies of collaboration and cooperation with sister parliaments, and above all, share best practices of parliaments' response to increased good governance.

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal welcomed the fact the meeting was taking place in Dakar, Senegal, and urged incoming executive members to work diligently to advance the goals of the network. Hon Anne Makinda reminded members who were putting themselves up for election as executive committee members of the APRN about the fact that there were no financial rewards by virtue of being a member of executive committee of APRM. Self-sacrifice and dedication to duty are the abiding attributes that are required to effectively discharge these duties. Dr. Rasheed Draman recounted the selfless and dedicated service of Hon. Anne Makinda in advancing the objectives of the APRN and urged those aspiring to become executive committee members to emulate the selfless and tireless dedication devoted to achieving the objectives of the APRN by Hon. Anne Makinda over the years.

4. Election of Executive Committee Members

A criterion for electing the new executive members was elaborated to include the following:

1. Regional balance
2. Anglophone/Francophone consideration
3. Gender consideration
4. An abiding dedication to duty and self-sacrifice

Representatives from the regions which were made up of Southern Africa, Eastern Africa and West Africa were required to elect two (2) representatives each except for West Africa, which because of the relatively large size in terms of representations was required to elect three (3) representatives.

The following Members of Parliament were elected to serve a two-year term to steer the affairs of the African Parliamentary Poverty Reduction Network (APRN):

1. **Hon. William Okecho (Uganda)- Chairman**
2. **Hon. Koala Kabore K. Aline (Burkina Faso) -Vice Chairperson**
3. **Hon. Clement Kofi Humado (Ghana) Member**
4. **Hon. John Mbadi Ngongo (Kenya) Member**
5. **Hon. Gaye Ndeye Cissé (Senegal) Member**
6. **Hon. Agnes Penumlungu (Malawi) Member**
7. **Hon. Emmanuel M. Hachipuka (Zambia) Member**

The work plan for 2009/2010 and the corresponding budget for the period under review were presented to the new executive committee members by Dr. Draman, and the members had the opportunity to ask questions seek clarifications. Dr. Draman reiterated the commitment of the Austrian Government working through the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in supporting the activities of the APRN for the next two years with 400, 000 Euros financial support.

5. Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Dr. Rasheed Draman thanked the host country, especially the protocol staff for the warmth and matchless hospitality extended to participants, thanked participants for taking time off their busy schedule to attend the conference and participated actively in deliberating upon

poverty reduction issues and coming out with cogent recommendations. This, Dr. Draman noted, will be captured in the Handbook on Poverty Reduction which Parliamentary Centre will be publishing shortly. He took the opportunity to also congratulate the newly elected executive committee members for being elected to serve the APRN for the next two years. He also noted with satisfaction the close and fruitful collaboration between Parliamentary Centre and the North South Institute (NSI) as well as the Independent Development Research Centre (IDRC); he thanked their representatives for participating and providing valuable insights into the discussions.

The former chairperson of the APRN executive committee, Hon. Anne Makinda presented gifts to all the executive committee members and Parliamentary Centre staff she worked with during her tenure as the chairperson of the APRN executive committee. Her kind gesture was acknowledged and greatly appreciated by all the recipients including Parliamentary Centre.

The deputy speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal, Hon. Aissatou Mbodj expressed her satisfaction for the successful conclusion of the conference, she urged participants to carry the message of the conference - abiding commitment of MPs to work assiduously towards the eradication of poverty in Africa to their various parliaments.

Hon. Hachipuka, MP from Zambia and member of the executive committee of the APRN gave the vote of thanks. He thanked the deputy speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal for gracing the occasion and being an active participant throughout the conference. He also thanked Hon. Makinda for her selfless and sterling service to the course of the APRN. Hon. Hachipuka also commended Dr. Draman and his team from Parliamentary Centre for their good work exemplified in the way they organized a near flawless conference. Proceedings of the meeting came to a close at about 12.30 pm local time.

APPENDIX A



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY POVERTY REDUCTION NETWORK (APRN) CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, (AGM)

PARLIAMENTS, POVERTY REDUCTION AND THE BUDGET PROCESS

PARTICIPANTS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BENIN

1. Hon. Grégoire LAOUROU
2. Hon. Eric HOUNDETE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BURKINA FASO

3. Hon. Aline KOALA
4. Hon. Alexis BOURGOU

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

5. Hon. Clement K. HUMADO
6. Hon. Kojo APPIAH-KUBI
7. Mrs. Joanne SAKYI-ADJEI

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KENYA

8. Hon. John MBADI
9. Hon. Evans AKULA
10. Mr. Martin Muyundo MASINDE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF MALAWI

11. Hon. Albert Mumbo THINDWA
12. Hon. Agnes PENUMLUNGU
13. Mr. Felix BELLO

National Assembly of MALI

14. Hon. Kissima MANGANÉ

15. Hon. Belco BAH

National Assembly of NIGER

16. Hon. Idrissa ADAMOU

National Assembly of NIGERIA

17. Senator Nkechi NWAOGU

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SENEGAL

18. Hon. Aissatou MBODJ

19. Hon. Doudou WADE

20. Hon. Oumar Khassimou DIA

21. Hon. Abdoulaye SENE

22. Hon. Georges TENDENG

23. Hon. Seydou DIOUF

24. Hon. Oumou SOW

25. Hon. Ndèye Gaye CISSE

26. Hon. Niang MBAYE

27. Hon. Moussa DIAO

28. Hon. Mamadou DIALLO.

29. Hon. Issaga LY

30. Hon. Omar NDOYE (Dr.)

31. Hon. Khadidiatou SY

32. Hon. Robert Khadim TABET

33. Mr. Alione DRAME

34. Mr. Antoine Ngor FAYE

35. Mrs Khadidiatou GAYE NDIAYE

36. Mrs. Aminata FALL
37. Mrs Mame Betty LOUM
38. Mr. Aliou DAGNOKO

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TANZANIA

39. Hon. Anne S. MAKINDA
40. Hon. Shally RAYMOND
41. Mr. Herman Edgar BEREGE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF UGANDA

42. Hon. William OKECHO

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

43. Hon. Emmanuel M. HACHIPUKA
44. Hon. Jean KAPATA

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (IDRC)

45. Mr. Damien Mededji

NORTH SOUTH INSTITUTE(NSI)

46. Dr. Nehemiah Osoro
47. Mr. Aniket Bushhan

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

48. Mr. Alexander Bohr

PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE

49. Dr. Rasheed Draman Director, Africa Programs
50. Mr. Soule Adam Budget Expert

- 51. **Dr. Tony Tsekpo** **Budget Expert**
- 52. **Mr. Issifu Lampo** **Budget and Governance Advisor**
- 53. **Ms Valentina Tetteh** **Program Assistant, Information & Monitoring**
- 54. **Ms Nansata Yakubu** **Parliaments and Conflict Expert**
- 55. **Ms Christiana Offei** **Program and Research Assistant**