

KAMPALA DECLARATION

We, members of Parliaments of Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia gathered in Kampala, Uganda, 14-15 October 2004.

- **Noting** the link between security and development and the need for a peace-building approach to security sector reform in Africa;
- **Further noting** the link between human security, respect for national constitutional processes and the rule of law;
- **Recognising** the urgent need for bolstering the capacities of parliamentarians to play meaningful and effective roles on questions of peace and security;
- **Stressing** that prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict is the best means of limiting defence and security spending, thus saving lives and freeing resources for human security and human development;
- **Affirming** that parliaments in Africa play a crucial role in consolidating democracy, promoting national and regional peace and security, human security and security sector reform, respect for human rights, tolerance, reconciliation and sustainable development;
- **Further affirming** the need for individuals who commit genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes to be brought to justice, either before National jurisdictions, regional mechanisms, existing international tribunals or the International Criminal Court (ICC), or other competent courts, thus breaking the cycle of impunity, atrocities and the proliferation of conflicts;
- **Convinced** that democracy requires open, honest and constructive dialogue on matters of national, regional and human security, including mechanisms for effective civilian oversight of security spending;
- **Determined** to utilise and support all the institutional and informal tools offered by Parliamentary diplomacy, and regional co-operation to bring about lasting, sustainable and just solutions to conflicts in Africa;

hereby resolve to develop a coherent plan of action for parliamentary capacity building in security sector reform and human security, comprising the following steps to be taken by the National Groups, individual members of PGA and other concerned parliamentarians:

National level

1. Promote effective constitutionalism and the rule of law as a means of consolidating democratic governance and enhancing human security;

2. Strengthen effective Parliamentary oversight and budgetary control for security, military and foreign affairs spending;
3. Effectively promote the link between security sector reform and human security, and the right to transparency and information to the public in all matters pertaining to the appropriation of public resources on security;
4. Continue to provide parliamentary fora for debate and dialogue, and for airing of grievances; to prevent, manage and resolve political disputes, and address economic, social and legal inequalities, as well as to establish human security mechanisms;
5. Strengthen the oversight capacities of parliamentarians in the defence, security and foreign policy fields. This should be done through the development of co-operation programmes, sharing of expertise amongst parliamentarians, as well as working with experts, researchers and other resource persons;
6. Request national, regional and international assistance aimed at strengthening in-house parliamentary research and oversight capacities;
7. Ensure that the deployment of troops shall be executed according to constitutional and legislative mandates;
8. Elicit public and civil society support for peace support operations, human security, and security sector reform through public education, campaigns and increased public participation in oversight;
9. Promote the professionalisation of security services and ensure the adoption of a peace-building approach to human security, including the protection of humanity as reflected in the Rome Statute;
10. Promote and strengthen government-opposition relations and intra-party democracy. Democratic governance requires strong opposition parties to serve as countervailing actors in society, and help to strengthen democracy;
11. Recognize, clarify and promote the role of opposition as a partner in democracy-building processes;

Regional and International Level

1. Develop the skills of parliamentarians for effective intervention in conflict issues and human security mechanisms;
2. Strengthen the capacities of regional parliaments and fora to effectively promote norms and standards in democratic governance and human security;
3. Strengthen relations amongst African parliamentarians and enhance collaboration with civil society actors across borders;

4. Consolidate efforts at the national, regional and global levels to stop the misuse and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the use of child soldiers;
5. Strengthen existing continental peace and security initiatives and mechanisms, particularly, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the African Union, the African Peer Review Mechanism, Conference for Stability, Security and Development (CSSDCA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
6. Promote regional integration and strengthen sub-regional institutions such as the East African Community, SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD, COMESA, and the Maghreb Union;
7. Promote the role of women in peace-building processes;
8. Expand national and regional parliamentary peace-making and diplomatic efforts, ensuring the effective participation of women;
9. Promote ratification of the Rome Statute, and other related international statutes and treaties, and work towards the domestication and harmonisation of such international norms consistent with national laws and constitutions.
10. International organisations and development partners should support local ownership of security sector reform in Africa, and help address challenges of poverty and conflict.

Passed by participants of the Parliamentarians for Global Action Regional Seminar on Security Sector Reform, which took place on October 14-15, 2004 in Kampala, Uganda.