



Mobilising Parliamentarians for NEPAD  
Expert Working Group and Regional Seminar Southern Africa  
on Trade and Economic Development  
Special Focus: Agriculture  
Cape Town, 17-18 March 2007

Framework for Parliamentary Action on CAADP

Preamble

Agricultural development in Africa is a vital component of poverty reduction, as recognised in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) adopted in 2003. In order to ensure the implementation of CAADP, parliamentarians have a crucial role to play, at national, regional and Pan-African level, in cooperation with initiatives by the Regional Economic Communities.

Considering the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa at the African Union Summit (July 2003) where African Heads of State and Government agreed to implement the CAADP by making agriculture a top priority and raising budget allocations for agriculture to a minimum of 10% of their individual countries' total public spending by 2008;

Convinced of the importance of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) stating that women have the right to nutritious and adequate food, and that all appropriate measures should be taken to facilitate women's access to land and to guarantee their right to property, whatever their marital status;

Mindful of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD adopted by African Heads of State and Government at the African Union Summit in Maputo (2003) which provides an appropriate framework for the establishment of a strong partnership for the protection of the environment between Africa and its partners, based on the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

Noting the important work and recommendations of the Cape Town Proclamation: "Parliamentarians' Recommendations Supporting CAADP Goals in Championing Agricultural Successes for Africa's Future" (May 2006) which identifies actions that should be carried out by various actors, including parliamentarians;

Recalling the resolutions of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the Abuja Food Security Summit, the Fish for All Summit, the Africa Fertilizer Summit and the Cocoa Summit (2006);

It is resolved that:

At the request of the African Union Commission, in keeping with the urgent appeal of the AU Heads of State, and in alignment with the NEPAD and AWEPA commitment to the promotion of parliamentary action on MDGs,

Parliamentarians attending the above meetings commit themselves to undertake one or more of the following actions and to promote the broad participation of fellow parliamentarians in such actions:

- **National and Constituency Press Conferences**  
Immediately upon return from this meeting and after subsequent follow-up actions, interviews will be given with national and local media representatives to inform the people about developments.
- **Parliamentary and Public Hearings on CAADP**  
As soon as scheduling permits, hearings will be held to comprehensively inform parliamentary colleagues in a multi-sectoral and integrated manner, and to listen to the views of civil society, the private sector and the international community on agricultural policy recommendations.
- **Debate in Standing Committee on Agriculture and other relevant portfolio Committees**  
Participants who sit on the Agricultural Committee in parliament will agree with the Chair on adding CAADP as an agenda item.
- **Parliamentary Resolution on a White Paper**  
Where a current White Paper on Agriculture is not yet available, participants will formally request this by parliamentary resolution.
- **Capacity Building and Research to support parliamentarians**  
Continuous capacity building for parliamentarians to provide them with updated information to facilitate informed devate and decision making is a crucial part of the CAADP implementation process and should be facilitated. Existing research should be used to inform committee work, and priorities should be identified for future research topics related to parliamentary work.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**  
The programme partners of the Mobilising Parliamentarians for NEPAD (MPN) programme will undertake an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process, in cooperation with existing initiatives such as the NEPAD Secretariat tracking mechanism on agricultural budgets.
- **Parliamentary Joint-Initiative on Agriculture**  
Call for a joint-initiative of Parliamentary Committees on Agriculture, Gender, Environment, Finance (and other committees where appropriate) to come to joint recommendations to provide synergies with regard to implementation on budgetary issues, legislation, poverty reduction strategies, national development plans etc.
- **Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the implementation of CAADP**  
As needed, a Commission of Inquiry will be called (see annex for example Terms of Reference).

## ANNEX

### Terms of Reference - Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry or Public Hearing on CAADP

Given the urgency of the call by AU Heads of State for immediate attention to the CAADP and implementation of the Maputo Declaration (MD), it is hereby proposed that a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry be established with the following objectives:

- Review the National Development Plan and/or Poverty Reduction Strategy in the light of the CAADP and Maputo Declaration provisions, making recommendations for additions and amendments where necessary;
- Review the National Budget from the perspective of CAADP and MD, making recommendations for reallocations where appropriate, and monitor actual government expenditure on CAADP-related programmes;
- Review the relevant National Legislation and Regulatory Framework from the CAADP and MD perspective, making recommendations for new initiatives, resolutions and legal reform as needed;
- Monitor government progress toward meeting MD objectives, including through public questioning of relevant representatives and officials, and make recommendations for accelerated action where appropriate;
- Consult with all relevant stakeholders toward the establishment of a National Peer Review Mechanism on CAADP, involving government, parliament, private sector and civil society representatives;
- Initiate and/or support the development of sub-regional parliamentary dialogue on CAADP, and national and regional exchanges of experience and mutual learning among fellow parliamentarians and technical experts;
- Discuss and make proposals on the framework for a public outreach initiative to update and inform constituencies, political parties, relevant stakeholders (including youth and women) of developments around CAADP and MD;
- Enter into parliamentary dialogue with colleagues in developed countries, with a view toward informing and influencing policy-makers with regard to international agricultural policies and related trade policies;
- Ensure ratification of the AU Protocol on Rights of Women and its domestication in legislation, policies and budgets, and a review of Poverty Reduction Strategies and National Development Plans from a gender perspective.

The Chairperson will be the Chair or a Member of the relevant Committee in parliament, and other Members will represent the main political parties in parliament. Technical assistance will be provided by AWEPA and local and international expert partners.