



18th CSPOC

# Climate Change Preoccupies Delegates



*Floods are some of the consequences of climate change*

**P**lenary sessions of the ongoing 18th Conference of the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, (Africa Region) unfolded yesterday July 19, 2023 at the Yaounde Conference Centre with delegates examining climate change issues and their ravaging effects. The motion, moved by

Cameroon and seconded by Zambia, generated exciting debates as participants shared experiences of their countries and proposed possible solutions to mitigate the impact of the phenomenon. **Roland MBONTEH** reports.

*(Continued on Page 2)*





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The theme of the first plenary that was chaired by the Rt. Hon. Dr Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania was: "The Devastating Impacts of Climate Change: A Call for More Parliamentary Interventions." The Deputy Speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly, Hon. Mary Muyali Boya Meboka was mover of the theme for Cameroon. She was seconded by the Rt. Hon. Chisangano Malungo, Deputy Speaker of the Zambian Parliament.

Hon. Mary Meboka in her power-point presentation, stated that climate change affects everybody. Citing the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change that says between 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in climate change vulnerable areas. The Deputy Speaker painted a grim picture of the manifestations of climate change in Cameroon with recurrent floods, landslides, amongst



Delegates at the climate change plenary

others. The effects, she added, have been loss of human lives, destruction of houses and plantations as well as on health sector.

The seconder, Zambian Deputy Speaker, the Rt. Hon Chisangano corroborated and added that climate change is the most severe threat facing the world today. The phenomenon, she pointed out, is not only threatening human survival but equally food production and water

sources.

The ensuing general debates after both presentations were exciting as some ten interventions came from delegates. The chairperson of the session, The Rt Hon Dr Tulia Ackson joined other Speakers to salute the profound research and rich presentations by both Cameroon and Zambia. She called for joint actions at the national, sub-regional and continental levels to combat climate change.

## Combating Climate Change Effects In Africa

African parliaments have taken a frontline position in fighting the devastating effects of climate change in their respective countries. At yesterday's first plenary session on Climate Change, various participants detailed actions taken to curb the damage done by climate change. **Roland MBONTEH reports**

From the rapt attention of delegate during the presentations by the mover of the motion (Cameroon) with Zambia as seconder, speakers took turns to share experiences and detail what their parliaments are doing to halt the scourge. Hon Mary Muyali Boya Meboka, Cameroon's Deputy Speaker highlighted actions taken by Cameroon. She said about 10,000 trees have already been planted in seven regions of the country in an ongoing tree-planting operation. Besides voting legislations aimed at preserving the environment, the parliament created an ecosystem network known as REPAR which is contributing to promoting good governance and sustainable management of natural resources. The network, she added, is affiliated to the Congo Basin Forest Management structure (COMIFAC) which ensures the preservation of the Congo Basin tropical forest.

The Rt. Hon. Chisangano Malungo of Zambia said her parliament launched



Participants reflect on Africa's climate change problems

a tree-planting initiative in 2022 with not less than 1000 trees expected to be planted in each of the 126 constituencies. So far, trees have been planted in 40 constituencies in Zambia.

For the South African Speaker, climate change is a reality and it is therefore imperative for various legislations to be part of the solutions while involving local municipalities and creating greater awareness. The Kenyan delegate said his country has embarked

on the planting of millions of trees in 10 years. Meanwhile, Mozambique Speaker revealed that their parliament voted a disaster risk management law in 2020 as the country is seriously hit by natural disasters.

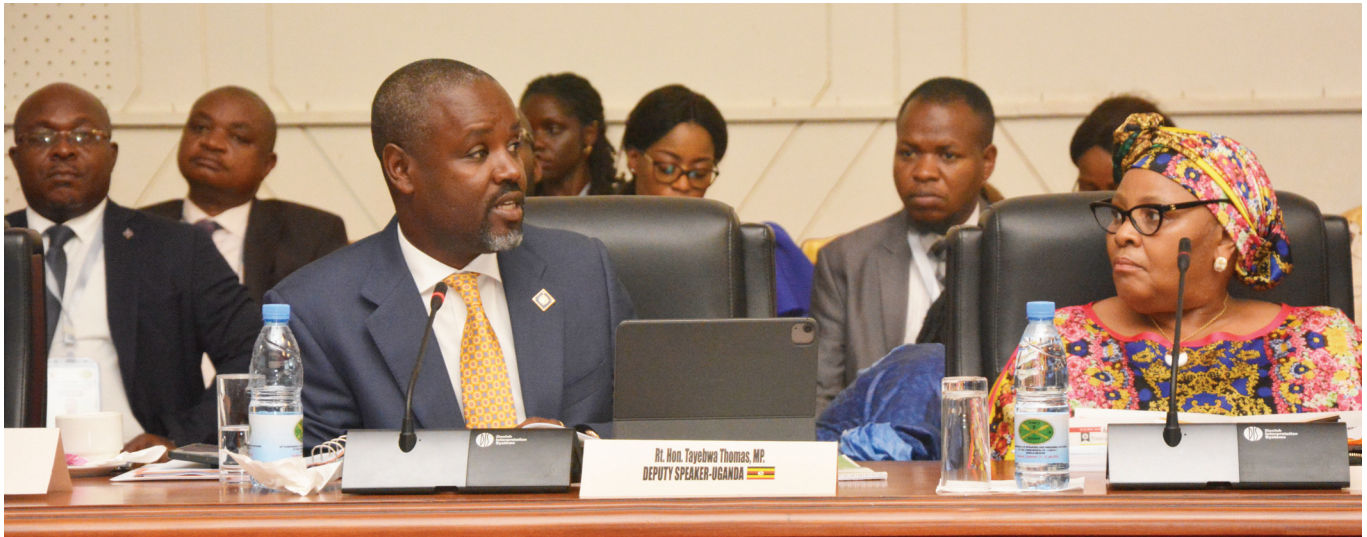
The Nigerian parliament, on its part, has voted 13 laws related to climate change with the Climate Change Act passed in 2021. In all, some 54 countries have ratified the Paris Climate Change Agreement.



## NEWS

# Uganda Set To Host 27<sup>th</sup> World CSPOC

Uganda will host the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth countries across the world as from 6 January 2024. "We have learnt a lot from Cameroon and we are going to request for more support in making this global event successful. The moment any country in Africa fails, they attribute it to all of us. So we should celebrate the success together, the way we have celebrated the success and hospitality of Cameroon." This was broken yesterday 19 July, 2023 by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, Hon Thomas Tayebwa in a chat with **Roland MBONTEH**



Ugandan Deputy Speaker presenting his country's readiness for the event

The Member of Parliament from the Ruhinda North Constituency in Uganda stated the readiness of his country to host the international conference which he said will be people centred. "We are more than ready because we have the best facilities. We are going to host just in one resort that has a large capacity. The country will host the Pan African Parliament which will last for two weeks and in Ja-

nuary host the CSPOC and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conference where over 170 presidents will be in attendance in Uganda. "We want people to come and experience the hospitality of Uganda," he stated while extending the invitation of the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda to his peers across the Africa Region and their spouses. "We have enough facilities from hotels, bigger conference rooms, we have set up

hospitality measures including transport and key tourist sites near the cities for our visitors to visit," he added.

Meanwhile, delegates were treated to a 10 minutes video documentary that showcased Uganda's facilities, exotic tourist sites depicting rich cuisine and beautiful landscape as well as its cultural heritage. Uganda has a population of 45 million inhabitants spread over 56 tribes.



Full participation during plenary





YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

# Climate Change As Major Concern

## “We Need To Work In Synergy As A Continent”

Hon. Mary Muyali Boya Meboka, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Cameroon



Climate change is an important topic because the impact of climate change is affecting health, food security and the lives of people. You have floods, cyclones that are taking away lives of people and destroying property. Climate change can also lead to conflicts because one of the things that came out from the presentation of the Lake Chad that is shrinking and the countries around the Lake Chad might have conflicts if the water body that serves as boundary is no longer there. There are a lot of

potentials around climate change and management of mitigation of calamities of climate change and adaptation issues. As a continent, we need to come together and work in synergy so that we can access the benefits. The parliament is a link between the population and other stakeholders and so we play a very important intermediary role to facilitate the legal, information and awareness aspects and actions-oriented sensitization. We plant trees so that people can learn to plant trees.



## Parliament Should Be Proactive

The Rt. Hon. Chisangano A. Malungo, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Zambia

This topic of climate change is very important worldwide. But of course, we are putting our energies to start with our continent. This problem affects every country in Africa therefore, it was very important that this topic was discussed because we got representation from all parts of Africa. Some of the recommendations that came up are challenging us to work together as Africans to come up with solutions over the issue of climate change. When you look at the effects like hunger, disasters, diseases, lack of water affect every country in Africa. So I think when people come together, they come up with bigger solutions. The parliament of each country has to ratify protocols so that they can begin to bring in some of the recommendations that are in those protocols. Also, parliaments should come up with laws that support climate change so that whatever they are doing, it should be supported by the law. So parliaments are supposed to be very proactive to make laws, apportion budgets that are sustainable to solve the issue of climate change.



## We Must Stand United To Overcome It

The Rt. Hon. Helen Mercedes August, Speaker Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, South Africa.

It is quite clear that devastating impact of Climate Change is felt throughout Africa. We contribute by far very small proportion of carbon emission, but the impact on Africa is devastating. We can see with the cyclones and tornadoes that we are experiencing. What this says to the African parliament not only the national, but provincial and local level that we need to be more proactive. We need to ensure that the budgets are appropriate through the different legislatures at different levels from government, making sure that the budget go to the respective areas for climate change. The devastating impact of climate change affects all of Africa and we need to stand united around this matter. We can overcome it if we come together.





## YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

## Africa Free Trade Is Gold

Free trade in Africa was on the spotlight on Wednesday 19 July, during the second plenary session of ongoing CSPOC meeting in Yaounde. Chaired by the Rt Hon. Catherine Gotani Mara, Speaker of Malawi, the different participants reiterated the urgent need for African countries to move from ac-

ademic to practical free trade implementation. During discussions under the theme, "The Role of African Parliaments in the Implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it emerged that AfCFTA is a golden opportunity for Africans who need to take their destiny into their hands. This can

be possible with the creation of regional airlines, legislation committees to harmonize the laws that would be presented to the different states for adoption in order to ease the fluid movement of people. **Eldickson Agbortogo** sampled the opinions of some delegates.

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### All What We Need Is To Implement

The Rt. Hon. Catherine Gotani Mara, Speaker from Malawi.

I will like to thank the Head of State of Cameroon for the warm welcome and recep-

tion. In fact we have been feeling at home since we came. With regards to the just ended workshop, I must say that it is time for action. As Africans we need to take our destiny in our hands by putting in place good legislations that would permit us trade freely. The AfCFTA is a great opportunity for all Africans to benefit. After our discussions, all what we need is to implement.

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### Continue Working Hand-in-Glove

The Rt. Hon. Injojo Helder, Speaker from Mozambique.

It is very important we meet and talk together

about our people and their future. The discussions have been very enriching because it goes a long way to solidifying the bonds that exists between African countries. Life is better when we talk and work together. What we need to do now after the discussions is to continue working hand-in-glove in order to seek better ways of implementing the various ideas for the benefit of our people.

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### We Must Work Hard

Ms Onojo Fervour, Participant from Nigeria

I am very glad with the discussions because they provided an opportunity for members to air out their views.

From the different presentations we realized that African countries are willing to trade together but their efforts are being hindered. In the domain of transport for example, it is very easy for an African from Nigeria to travel to Dubai, than from Nigeria to Kenya. I think we must work hard to break these barriers by putting in place good measures and implementing them urgently.

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### No Country Can Succeed Alone

The Rt. Hon. Pono Pearson Moathodi, MP Botswana.

The message we are sending through is that no one country, parliament can succeed

alone. We need to work together. I like the idea of regional airlines that was proposed by one of the speakers. It is a laudable proposal that we need to exploit. It is very expensive for most countries to come up with airlines of their own. We need to come up as a cluster and put in place veritable airline companies in each region.

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## SIDELINE

## SIDELINE

## BE BILINGUAL TODAY

1. Market ●.....●	Marché	8. Milk ●.....●	Lait
2. Supermarket ●.....●	Supermarché	9. Spoon ●.....●	Cuillère
3. Meat/beef ●.....●	Viande de bœuf	10. Fork ●.....●	fourchette
4. Fish ●.....●	Poisson	11. Plate ●.....●	plat
5. Vegetables ●.....●	Légumes	12. Dish ●.....●	assiette
6. Fruits ●.....●	Fruits	13. Table napkin ●.....●	nappe de table
7. Butter ●.....●	Beurre		

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# Delegates Savour Rich Cameroonian Cuisine

Participants at the 18th CSPOC (Africa Region) had an opportunity to relish some of the rich delicacies offered by Cameroon in a welcome dinner graced by Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute, representative of the Head of State at the Hilton Hotel on Tuesday evening. **Awah Taning reports**



**Ndole with shrimps**



**Okra soup**

**spiced pork**

Speaking to Delegates, Members of the Diplomatic Corp and some members of Government and invitees present, the Prime Minister said the dinner is a celebration of the excellent cooperation that exists between the Commonwealth and our respective countries particularly in promoting the socio-economic development of our peoples. He expressed hope that mutually beneficial collaboration would continue and intensify. And that deliberations would lead to appropriate solutions for an effective and efficient implementation of agenda 2063. Offering a toast, he invited the delegates to use the event and discover the rich cultural specificities and culinary arts which have earned Cameroon the name, “Africa in miniature”. The evening was spiced by renowned artists and rich cultural dances from the four main cultural zones of Cameroon. On the menu were a variety of Cameroonian dishes like “khati khati” made of corn flour and vegetables accompanied by roast chicken; “ndole”, made from a specie of bitter vegetables and groundnut paste, which could be eaten with either yam, plantains, or “miondo”, made from fermented cassava paste. There was also “okra soup” among others.



*Delegates waiting to have a taste of Cameroonian cuisine while the Buea University Choir animates at the background*

**Daily Journal** spoke to some delegates after the dinner. Hon. Senator Lindiwe Dlamani, President Senate of the Kingdom of Eswatini, said she enjoyed the okra, the grains, yams, and the plantains, adding that since they arrived in Cameroon the food has been amazing and the hospitality of the people wonderful. On her part, Hon. Gladys Boss, Deputy Speaker, Republic of Kenya, said the beauty of Cameroon is the rich culture which is their food, the way they dress and dance. She

revealed that the different delicacies were tasteful and exciting and she loves the way Cameroonians promote their traditional food and cultural diversity in their eating, dressing and dancing. On his part, Hon. Petros Mavimbela, Speaker of Eswatini National Assembly said the Cameroonian food is so nice, and though he is not used to some of it, he decided to taste everything. He said they were very delicious and somehow the best in the sub-region.





## TODAY'S PROGRAMME

## Thursday 20 July, 2023

## Plenary Session 3

10:00 - 12:00 Topic Three:

Addressing the Challenge of Food Security in Africa by Promoting Investments in Agriculture

**Mover:** Ghana**Seconder:** Eswatini**Session Chairperson:** Seychelles**Venue:** Huis Clos, Yaounde Conference Centre

## Plenary Session 4

14:00 -15:00 Topic Four:

Securing Public Trust: The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Openness, Transparency and Accountability.

**Mover:** Botswana**Seconder:** South Africa**Session Chairperson:** Nigeria**Venue:** Huis Clos, Yaounde Conference Centre

15:00 -17:00

Resolutions

17:00

Closure

**Venue:** Huis Clos, Yaounde Conference Centre

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