



Daily Journal

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18TH CONFERENCE OF THE SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (AFRICA REGION)

13-22 JULY 2023

YAOUNDE CONFERENCE CENTRE

THEME: "AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS AND AGENDA 2063"

18th CSPOC

Focus On Implementing Resolutions



Delegates at the closing

After sharing experiences and jointly proposing what Africa could do to surmount challenges of food security, climate change, securing public trust and the implementation of the continental free trade area, Speakers and Presiding Officers from African Commonwealth

countries now have the onerous task of ensuring the implementation of the Yaounde resolutions. That is where expected change can come.

Godlove BAINKONG reports.

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**Read full text of the Yaounde Resolutions
in our final edition tomorrow**



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Plenary discussions officially ended at the 18th CSPOC yesterday and delegates will, in the hours ahead, be heading back to their respective countries, certainly with heightened determination to keep the continent free from some challenging problems.

Like the Rt. Hon. Bagbin Alban Sumana Kingford, Speaker of Ghana's National Assembly put it, Yaounde offered the African legislators the rare opportunity to have a rich cross-fertilisation of ideas on the all-encompassing theme, "African Parliaments and Agenda 2063." That special emphasis was laid on four themes: food security, climate change, securing public trust and the implementation of the African continental free trade area, lends credence to the magnitude of the problem and the desire to jointly seek workable solutions.

The Yaounde Conference did just that; proposing among others the need for increased investment in agro-pastoral sectors to ascertain food safety and se-



Eyeing steps to produce concrete results

curity. Participants also pledged to support investments in research and the development of agricultural infrastructure including the establishment of an African Investment Bank to accelerate the process. This sounds good and logical for a conference of that magnitude. A sign of seriousness from the participants. As good as the recommendations sound, implementation will be imperative to get the continent out of the problems that brought the people's representatives to Yaounde. Walking the Yaounde talk

will certainly require the services of not only the Speakers and Presiding Officers who examined issues at the Conference Centre to arrive at the 17-point resolutions. They have the powers to legislate and other actors would need to throw in their full weight to make the current problems things of the past. Strengthening legislature and partnership with the executive, judiciary and civil society is certainly the way to go so that the Yaounde Resolutions don't end in the mouths and suitcases of the delegates.

18th CSPOC Gives Africa A Rebirth

If the robust resolutions that have sanctioned the 18th CSPOC in Yaounde are implemented, then Africa, cradle of humanity, will soon undergo a complete renaissance in all aspects of life. **Muabe Fidele writes**

A total of 17 radical resolutions were compressed out of the four plenary sessions that cooed the four main themes of the conference, namely: Climate change, intra-African trade, food security and the public trust.

Soonest Africa will be interconnected with modern roads, airports, sea ports and railways that facilitate movements between countries. During plenary sessions, some delegates floated the idea of the creation of an African airline reminiscent of Air Afrique of blessed memory. This already speaks of an imminent breakdown of nationalistic barriers that have hitherto hindered African integration. Free movements within Africa also go hand in glove with free trade. The Yaounde meeting pushed for "intra-



Reflecting on measures to push forward 2063 agenda

African trade, not aid" which they saw as "key in liberating Africa, boost income of the population" and eliminate poverty.

To accelerate the elimination of poverty in Africa, delegates decided for the creation of the African Investment Bank that would support agricultural investment. This would in turn raise research and development and increase agricultural infrastructure that would boost food production

and stem hunger.

Measures in securing public trust also featured among the resolutions through enactment of appropriate legislation and promulgation of codes of ethics that would grind graft and bring corruption to a halt.

The 18th CSPOC participants pledged to strengthen oversight of government action and work concertedly with the judiciary and executive to give Africa the rejuvenation that it badly needs.

NEWS

Resolve To Reduce Conflicts, Increase Investments

Delegates at the 18th CSPOC Africa Region have resolved to increase investments in research on climate change, adopt appropriate measures to reduce conflicts, fight corruption and engender public confidence in democracy. **Awah Taning reports**



A view of delegates at the closing

The resolutions were unanimously adopted in a session chaired by Hon. Mary Muyali Boya Meboka, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon on Thursday July 20th 2023. Prior to the adoption, the delegates noted that though Africa contributes 2% to climate change globally, the continent is the most affected by the devastating impact of climate change. They equally acknowledged that the African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers an opportunity for enhanced intra-Africa trade and that regional blocks provide a platform for fostering linkages and harmonising strategies. In addition, they recognised that a strong Parliament is essential for effective oversight and the foundation of a thriving democracy that builds public trust and confidence. Cognizant of the above and the desire to attain the objectives of vision 2063 by African Parliaments, the resolutions adopted centered on Climate Change, challenges to Food Security, the African Continent Free Trade Area, (AfCFTA) and Public Trust.



Discussions also attracted other participants

On Food Security, they resolved to increase investments in research and development, agricultural infrastructure and the provision of subsidies and inputs to farmers. They equally resolved to adopt appropriate measures in resolving armed conflicts among farmers. On climate change,

they agreed to collaborate with the executive, judiciary, the legislature, other state institutions and the media in pursuing programmes and actions to combat climate change. All international agreements, conventions and protocols on climate change were cited for ratification.



YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

YOU HAVE THE FLOOR



Africa Must Be Able To Feed Its People

Hon. Dlamini Lindiwe, Senate President, Eswatini



Food security in Africa is a very important topic. It is part of the Agenda 2063. This is very critical because Africa needs to be able to feed its people. Clearly, hungry people are angry people. A lot of the anger that we experience among our youth and in our communities is because people are hungry. A lot of the challenges that we are experiencing such as climate change have affected agricul-

tural production. We discussed on the importance of making sure there is more investment. One of the critical issues we looked at is the need for countries to make allocations of at least 10 percent of their budgets towards agriculture. That way, we'll make sure our people have enough to eat, but also enough to export. This will also enable us create many job opportunities.



Gov'ts Need To Forge Strong Partnerships

Hon. Nontembeko Boyce, Speaker, Kwazulu-Natal Legislature, South Africa

I proposed that we should begin by implementing what we proposed in Tanzania last year in terms of taking stock of legislations in Africa when it comes to land ownership, ensuring that more women and youth own land in Africa for agriculture and other uses. This will enable them better contribute to efforts of ending hunger and poverty and ensuring food security. I also think we should implement models to enable us draw much benefit from our agricultural activities. Botswana, for example, is using a good model to make the most from its mineral resources. For us as Africans, we need to improve on the benefits we earn from agriculture. Education is also an important area to lay emphasis on because in order to add value to the agriculture chain through processing, people need to be trained. Just producing and exporting the raw material is not giving us the real profit that we need."



We Need Laws That Enhance Food Security

Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, National Council Chairman, Namibia

As Members of Parliament, our primary responsibility is to make laws. All the topics we discussed today are focused on how the laws that we make are conducive enough in regulating agriculture or climate change for



example. We are also discussing how the laws that we scrutinise and vote can contribute in ensuring that there is food security in our respective countries. We are also concerned about how the laws we vote can contribute to engender public trust in all the things that we do. Do you make laws that are accepted both by the public and are suitable for the situation in your country? That is an important question. Parliament is a public institution. As we represent the public in Parliament, we should put it at the back of our minds that we are carrying their wishes and aspirations.



YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

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Cameroon Is Consistent In Mobilisation

Mr Layson Ndwalikako Mwanjisi, CPA
Regional Accountant/ Tanzania



I have been in Cameroon since the 13th of July for the conference. The reception was very nice, our logistical issues were very well arranged and I appreciate the support from the Parliament in terms of documentation in preparation for the conference. We have not had issues since the start

of the conference. It's my third time to come in Cameroon and I can say Cameroon is consistent. The mobilisation was not just because of this conference. They are encouraging others to emulate.

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Entrepreneurial Spirit Thrives In Cameroon

Hon. MLIBO QOBOSHIYANE,
Deputy Speaker Eastern Cape/South Africa



I am having a good impression about the country. What I like most are the micro enterprises. People are doing things for themselves here unlike in South Africa where we have already established commercial businesses. The town is busy with activities

like furniture making; the entrepreneurial spirit is thriving. My wish is to see a direct line between Johannesburg and Yaounde so that we can increase the volume of commercial relations between the two countries.

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Great Cuisine

Hon. Matibe Baldwin, Deputy Speaker
Limpopo South Africa



I will remember Cameroon for its hospitality, the way we were received by the people of Cameroon, the government and the entire parliament of Cameroon. Cameroon has a great cuisine and I enjoyed

some of the traditional dishes, like the traditional chicken, rice and the fresh seasonal fruits. Beautiful weather, but I miss my cool weather in Rwanda. We really appreciate the hospitality that we have been given by the people of Cameroon. I will come back to this city.

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Cameroon Produces Food She Consumes

The Rt. Hon. Ntombranele Sifuba, Speaker
of Free State/ South Africa



The hospitality in Cameroon is something to emulate. Since we arrived on Sunday, we started to feel the hospitality. People are respectful, friendly and always ready to assist. I have had a great time and learnt a lot, especially the cuisine. I have come

to understand that most the food consumed is produced locally. The tall and beautiful buildings in the capital Yaounde are indicative of the ongoing infrastructural development.

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Rescue Plan For Africa's Agriculture

Parliamentary leaders attending the 18th CSPOC yesterday July 20, called on governments to increase their budgetary allocations to agriculture and to embrace state-of-the-art technologies as well as partnerships capable of driving hunger and poverty out of the continent.

Macdonald AYANG reports

Premised on the theme "Addressing the challenge of food security in Africa by promoting investments in Agriculture," the 3rd plenary session, which was chaired by the Deputy Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, was highly animated as participants underlined the need for African countries to make the most of their rich arable lands and other natural resources favourable for sustainable agriculture.

The Speaker of the Ghanaian Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, who moved the discussion, made an elaborate presentation of the food security situation in Africa, saying efforts towards meeting the UN Sustainable



Plenary participants say an Agric rescue plan is a matter of urgency

Development Goal No 2 on the eradication of hunger by 2030 remain wanting.

He cited figures from the World Food Programme (WFP) which indicate that about 450 million people around the world are threatened by acute food insecurity, with a huge chunk of them found in Africa. In her submission, the President of the Senate of Eswatini, Hon Dlamini Lindiwe, who seconded the move underlined the need for what she called "intentional investment in agriculture." She said it was also important

to build strong collaboration and support frameworks to enable countries learn from each other.

Eight Speakers and Presiding Officers then took the floor, one after the other, to share their specific country experiences on how they are working to improve the agriculture sector. They were unanimous that concerted efforts, coupled with political will, will help countries build robust agricultural value chains, and better fight hunger which is a danger to the stability of democratic governments.

Right To Parliamentary Information

The fourth and last plenary session of CSPOC, Africa Region, sought to reimagine the role of parliaments in strengthening openness, transparency and accountability. **Nalova Akua reports**

The role of parliament in promoting openness, transparency and accountability for the purposes of gaining trust such as the opening up of avenues of communication and providing citizens with easier access to parliamentary activities

and information on its work, was the kernel of the fourth plenary session of the ongoing CSPOC in Yaounde. With Botswana as mover, South Africa as seconder and Nigeria as Chairperson, the discussions were heated, albeit brief. In Botswana, parliamentary

debates and discussions, and in some cases, some committee meetings are live-streamed on the parliamentary Facebook page. This is to enable members of the public to follow live parliamentary debates. Verbatim reports of parliamentary debates and some parliamentary committee reports are also made available on the parliamentary website.

Session 4 thus tackled how parliament can effectively play its part in terms of saying what it will do, sharing why and delivering what it said it would do, and this in a transparent way. "It was not just a session to hear each other, but a session to learn from each other," said the Rt Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, Chairperson and Nigerian Speaker of the House of Representatives. "The session served as the reawakening of our thoughts on how we can serve our constituents better," he said.



Delegates in plenary session



SIDELINE

SIDELINE

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FINAL PROGRAMME

Friday 21 July, 2023

Excursion
Farewell Dinner
Venue: Hilton Hotel

Saturday 22 July, 2023

Official departure for all delegates

BE BILINGUAL TODAY

1. Bed ●	● Lit	16. Six ●	● Six
2. Mattress ●	● Matelas	17. Seven ●	● Sept
3. Pillow ●	● Oreiller	18. Eight ●	● Huit
4. Bedsheet ●	● Drap	19. Nine ●	● Neuf
5. Pillow case ●	● Taie d'oreiller	20. Ten ●	● Dix
6. Blanket ●	● Couverture	21. Eleven ●	● Onze
7. Bedroom ●	● Chambre	22. Twelve ●	● Douze
8. Water closet ●	● W-C	23. Thirteen ●	● Treize
9. Wardrobe ●	● Penderie	24. Fourteen ●	● Quatorze
10. Cupboard ●	● Armoire	25. Fifteen ●	● Quinze
11. One ●	● Un	26. Sixteen ●	● Seize
12. Two ●	● Deux	27. Seventeen ●	● Dix-sept
13. Three ●	● Trois	28. Eighteen ●	● Dix-huit
14. Four ●	● Quatre	29. Nineteen ●	● Dix-neuf
15. Five ●	● Cinq	30. Twenty ●	● Vingt

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