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PARLIAMENT OF KENYA




12<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT

(SECOND SESSION)

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**REPORT OF THE CWP EAST AFRICA SUB-REGION  
SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP HELD AT GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL,  
KAMPALA, UGANDA.  
21<sup>ST</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018**

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<b>THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID</b>	
<b>DATE:</b> 06 DEC 2018	<b>DAY:</b>
<b>TABLED BY:</b>	<i>Hon. Janet Sikeeni (Leader of Delegation)</i>
<b>CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:</b>	<i>Moses Lemana</i>

Clerks Chambers  
Parliament Buildings  
**NAIROBI**

OCTOBER, 2018

**CONTENTS**

**LEADER OF DELEGATION FORWARDING SUMMARY .....2**  
**1.0 BACKGROUND.....3**  
**2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP.....3**  
**2.1 PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP .....4**  
**3.0 PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THEMATIC TOPICS..... 13**  
**3.1 DISCUSSIONS ..... 15**  
**4.0 EAST AFRICA SUB REGION GENERAL MEETING PROPOSED  
RESTRUCTURING AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SUB-REGION ..... 18**  
**5.0 RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ..... 20**  
**5.1 SPECIAL RESOLUTION ON THE CWP PROPOSED  
RESTRUCTURING AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SUB-REGION ..... 28**  
**6.0 OFFICIAL CLOSING ..... 29**

### **Leader of Delegation forwarding Summary**

This report is a record of the participation by a delegation of the Parliament of Kenya to the 2018, CWP meeting in Kampala Uganda.

The delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the offices of both Speakers and Clerks of the National Assembly and the Senate for the support accorded to the delegation during the visit.

It is now my privilege and honour, on behalf of the delegation, to present this report to the House.



.....  
**HON. JANET SITIENEI, MP**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), which is an organ of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) founded by women delegates at the 1989 CPA Plenary Conference, has been mandated by the Association to implement its Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2020.

The Regional Secretariat organized a CWP East Africa Sub-Region sensitization workshop in conjunction with the Parliament of Uganda. The organization of such workshops in the sub-regions is part of the strategies laid out for implementation in the CWP Strategic Plan. The Workshop was held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Kampala, Uganda from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Six (6) National Branches were represented at the Workshop. These were Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa and Botswana.

The Parliament of Kenya upon nomination by the Speakers of the Senate and the National Assembly were represented by the following delegation:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Hon. Janet Sitienei, MP | CWP Chairperson, Kenya<br>Chapter, Leader of delegation. |
| 2. Sen. Farhiya Ali, MP    | Executive Committee Member,<br>Kenya Chapter             |
| 3. Ms. Anna Musandu        | Secretary to the delegation,<br>National Assembly        |
| 4. Ms. Getrude Nthiiri     | Secretary to the delegation,<br>Senate                   |

## **2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP**

The main objective of the CWP East Africa Sub-Region

Sensitization Workshop was to deliberate on the restructuring and coordination of the Sub-Region. However it was also held to implement the CWP Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2020 with the specific objectives to encourage branches to:-

- i) Set up CWP Chapters and functional structures and adoption of the guidelines fully;
- ii) Advocate the policy legislation and programme that eradicate socio-cultural and religious practices that are harmful to women; and,
- iii) Foresee that the CWP plans and programmes are being implemented well enough in order to attain resources

Deliberations of the workshop were centred on the following theme and thematic topics:

**Theme:** *Mainstreaming Gender in Parliamentary Business*

**Thematic topics:**

- **Topic One:** Gender and Equity Budgeting in Parliament
- **Topic Two:** Women Caucuses and Gender Perspectives in Parliament
- **Topic Three:** Strengthening Use of ICTs and the Media by Women Parliamentarians
- **Topic Four:** Empowerment of Rural and Young Women

## **2.1 PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **2.2 Opening Ceremony**

The CWP East Africa Sub-Region Sensitization Workshop started with the singing of the National Anthem of the Republic of Uganda followed by the East African Community Anthem and the CWP anthem, also referred to as CPA Anthem. The Programme

Coordinator was Hon. Atim Joy Ongom, MP (Uganda).

According to the Programme, the official opening remarks was given by Hon. Bintu Jalia, MP (Uganda) who is the Chairperson of the CPA Uganda Chapter and Branch Representative to the Region. Other remarks were given by, Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP (Kenya), Regional Representatives for East Africa, Hon. Angela Didiza, MP (South Africa), CWP Chairperson Africa Region, Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MP (South Africa), Chairperson of the Executive Committee Africa Region, Rt. Hon. Gladys Kokorwe, MP, Speaker (Botswana), President of the Association, Hon. Nakiwala Florence Kiyingi, MP (Uganda), Minister of the State on Child Affairs on behalf of the Minister for Gender, Labour; and Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

**(a) Welcome Remarks by Hon. Bintu Jalia, MP, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Uganda Branch and Branch Representative**

Hon. Bintu Jalia, MP, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Uganda Branch, welcomed all delegates to the city of Kampala and delivered warm greetings from the Parliament of Uganda. She gave a brief background of CWP stating that it was founded in recognition of the need to increase women representation in political institutions and that the founders desired that women parliamentarians would discuss ways to increase female representation in Parliament and design means of mainstreaming gender considerations in all CPA activities and programmes.

She highlighted two areas for consideration and further deliberation during the Workshop. These were:-

- (i) the need to build and strengthen the capacity of women MPs to ensure that the needs of women are considered during budgeting, policy formulation and legislation;

- (ii) the need to recognize achievers through profiling their achievements as a way of encouraging them to work harder and motivate others. The profiling could be done nationally, sub-regionally or regionally.

The Branch Representative recognized and appreciated Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, Speaker, for the remarkable role she has played in empowering women at both national and international level as Chairperson of both CWP Africa Region and CWP International.

**(b) Remarks by Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP, Regional Representative for East Africa**

Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP, Regional Representative thanked the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Parliament of Uganda in particular for accepting to host the important Workshop.

He observed the spirit of generosity displayed by countries in the Sub-Region having hosted various events including the mid-year meetings of the CPA International Executive Committee held in Mauritius in March 2018; the 4<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament held in Kampala, Uganda in April 2018 and the meetings of the Budget and Coordinating Committees held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2018.

He acknowledged that the theme of the Workshop was appropriate noting that key objectives of the CPA included human rights, good governance and gender issues. He observed that many branches were struggling with finding ways to increase women representation and called for clear strategies to achieve this.

Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP also delivered a message of good will from Rt. Hon. Justin B. N. Muturi, MP who would be vying for position of Chairperson of the Executive Committee of CPA Africa

Region during the upcoming Regional Conference to be held in Gaborone, Botswana. He thanked Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MP for her exceptional stewardship during her tenure as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

**(c) Remarks by Hon. Angela T. Didiza, MP, Chairperson, CWP  
Africa Region**

Hon. Angela T. Didiza, MP, Chairperson of CWP Africa Region thanked CWP Chapter, Uganda Branch for hosting the important Workshop. She further thanked Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP and Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda for her stewardship as a pioneer and role model for women who wish to participate in politics and public life in general.

She reminded the Workshop that 2018 marked the centenary of Mama Albertina Sisulu, an activist in her own right and health worker who understood that no society would be healthy under the conditions of colonialism and apartheid which subjugated and threw majority of society into poverty.

Hon. Angela T. Didiza, MP also called on the delegates to remember the women of Africa who were pioneers in building bridges across our nations through the formation of the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO). It was through this movement that women took part in the struggle of liberation in various countries.

She underscored that reflecting on how to mainstream gender in parliament was concerned with the need to bring more women into institutions of power. She stated that there was need to ensure that these public institutions, in their architecture and content, reflect the whole of society that is made up of women, men, youth and children.



**(d) Remarks by Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MP, Chairperson of CPA Africa Region Executive Committee**

Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MP, Chairperson of CPA Africa Region Executive Committee conveyed her deepest appreciation on behalf of the Executive Committee to Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda for going all out to ensure a successful Workshop.

She stated that the struggle for gender equality and women emancipation was as old as the existence of mankind itself and had gained so much momentum that it was no longer a women's issue but a human rights issue affecting both men and women.

The Chairperson reminded the delegates that the essence of parliamentary business was to process representation, legislation, oversight and budget-making. She pointed out that all these core functions of Parliaments and Legislatures were the frontiers through which women's agenda must be pursued.

**(e) Goodwill message by Rt. Hon. Gladys T. K. Kokorwe, MP, President of CPA Africa Region and Speaker of the Parliament of Botswana**

Rt. Hon. Gladys T. K. Kokorwe, MP, President of CPA Africa Region expressed gratitude to H. E. Yoweri K. Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda for he continued support that had enabled the Association to undertake several of its activities in Uganda.

She expressed encouragement and commended the Parliament of Uganda as it prepares to host the 64<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2019. She noted that there was need to address the overall improvement of gender sensitivity in

Parliaments. This goes beyond gender balanced policies and programmes to include establishing dedicated gender equality infrastructure, such as parliamentary committees on gender equality or women's parliamentary caucuses that serve as incubators for strategies and programmes for the emancipation of women.

The President, CPA Africa Region further stated that it was imperative to establish and maintain linkages with gender equality advocates outside Parliament.

**(f) Keynote Address by Hon. Nakiwala Florence Kiyingi,  
Minister for State on Child Affairs on behalf of the Minister  
of Gender, Labour and Social Development**

From the outset, Hon. Nakiwala Florence Kiyingi, Minister for State, Gender, Labour and Social Development observed that world over, women now have more decision-making power and influence than ever before and that progress was being made even in the most conservative societies. She underscored that the increase in numbers of women in the legislature in Uganda for instance, was not accidental but a result of a gender friendly environment, which emphasized gender-equal policy.

She informed the Workshop that while addressing the inequality between men and women in sharing power and decision-making at all levels, all actors should promote an active and visible policy of gender perspective mainstreaming in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken, an analysis is made on the effects it has on both men and women, respectively.

She noted that Parliaments, as supreme law-making institutions, had an obligation to ensure equal treatment of all citizens and had the mandate to demand equal treatment of citizens irrespective of sex. Thus, parliamentary oversight on gender issues was crucial to

achieving gender equality.

Hon. Nakiwala F. Kiyingi, called for better women representation in technical committees such as Public Accounts, Budget, Health and Education Committees which provide an opportunity to analyze and recommend changes to the budget in accordance with gender issues.

With regard to strengthening the use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and media by women parliamentarians, she strongly advised women parliamentarians to take advantage of the opportunities of modern technology to promote themselves, and where necessary, provide rebuttals on the negative portrayals in the media not only for themselves but for female colleagues as well.

She highlighted the need to reach out more to people in rural and underprivileged arrears especially women and girls. She observed that women make up the bigger percentage of the rural labour force and sensitizing them on their human rights, how to take part and enjoy government programmes was instrumental for development.

**(g) Official Opening Remarks by Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga,  
MP, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda**

Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, MP, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda warmly welcomed all delegates to the Workshop and to Uganda.

She reminded delegates that the Workshop granted an opportunity to renew relationships and strengthen zeal for equal opportunities for all in society. She pointed out that while progress continued to be made, inequality was still universal. She further noted that women in Africa wanted equal and fair opportunities, to decide their destiny and participate in policy making from grass roots to

the upper level and as such it was the responsibility of women leaders to create avenues to enable this.

Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, MP called for the evaluation of the CWP strategic objectives in order to see what had been undertaken well and what still required attention.

The delegates were reminded that there was need to pay special attention to rural women and the girls access to education, health etc. She emphasized the need to work with male leaders so as to encourage men in society to step up and for these issues to be seen as societal concerns rather than women's issues. The Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, MP thereafter declared the Workshop officially opened.

**(h) Vote of Thanks by Hon. Janet J. Korir, MP, CWP  
Chairperson, Kenya Chapter**

Hon. Janet J. Korir, MP conveyed thanks to Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, MP, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda for accepting to host the Workshop and to grace the Official Opening.

She stated that the Workshop granted an opportunity to ensure that issues affecting women are brought to the foreground.

She thanked all delegates present and acknowledged the male leaders present for their support. She further thanked the Regional and Local Secretariats for working tirelessly to ensure the success of the Workshop.

### **3.0 Presentations and Discussions of Thematic Topics**

The first presentation on Gender and Equity Budgeting in Parliament was delivered by Mr. Evans Jjemba of the Equal Opportunities Commission. The presentation focused on the Ugandan experience. He defined Gender and Equity Budgeting as a process of addressing Gender and Equity concerns in budget appropriation arising out of inequalities and inequities amongst regions, socio-economic groups as well as women, men, boys and girls. It further involves analyzing disaggregated data to identify inequalities and inequities in access to, participation in, and/or benefit from programmes as well as designing appropriate interventions to address the inequalities and inequities.

Hon. Monicah Amoding, MP, the Chairperson of the Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association (UWOPA) made the second presentation on Women Caucuses and Gender Perspectives in Parliament. Hon. Amoding gave a brief background of UWOPA that was formed in the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament (1986). She informed the Workshop that unlike committees, caucuses do not have formal legislative responsibilities, but can be more persuasive mainly through advocacy for particular issues.

She added that UWOPA has:

- i) consistently monitored the implementation of the Gender and Equity compliance certificate in all the budgeting and planning process annually.
- ii) lobbied for gender specific budgets on behalf of women with regard to special funds, increasing women's fund budget in the national budget and maternal health financing.
- iii) been able to lobby male MPs to join the forum and support advocacy for women's issues being fronted by the caucus. UWOPA currently has 82 registered male MPs. They,

however, do not have the right to vote.

The third presentation was on Strengthening Use of ICT and the Media by Women Parliamentarians. It was presented by Dr. Gerald Walulya, Lecturer, Department of Journalism and Communication at Makerere University. The presentation largely centred on the use of social media. The delegates were informed that social networks facilitate connections between people based on shared interests, values, membership in particular groups etc. He highlighted key points to consider when using social media such as sharing quality content that is genuine and the fact that one must remember that traditional media ethics apply on social media. Delegates were advised on effective use of social media including consistency, having one person in-charge of social media accounts and taking inventories of one's social media presence.

With regard to media, the delegates were taken through aspects of the relationship between the media and politicians and tips on how to better the chance of having stories published.

The fourth topic was on the Empowerment of Rural and Young Women. It was presented by Hon. Bintu Jalia, MP, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Uganda Branch. She informed the delegates that women play an important role in the rural economy, mainly as farmers, wage earners and entrepreneurs. She stated that rural women are custodians of traditional knowledge, which is key for livelihoods, resilience and empowerment.

Enabling young and rural women to participate fully in household and community decision making translates to improved well-being and better prospects for children. Key action areas to bring more opportunities to rural women and girls include: extension of financial services, creating employment opportunities and ensuring

land security for rural and young women; preventing and responding to any kind of violence against women and girls; scaling up use of modern ICT tools among young and rural women to facilitate exchange of critical information; boosting access to water, sanitation and health care services in rural areas; eradicating harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriages; creating awareness about laws and policies and programmes for rural and young women among other strategies.

### **3.1 Discussions**

After each presentation, delegates deliberated and shared their views of the topics. Key points that were raised are noted below. They included comments and suggestions by the participants, as well as the responses given by the resource persons.

On **Gender and Equity Budgeting in Parliament**, the following points were raised:-

- (i) Concerns were raised regarding the risk of having compliance certificates may be issued to agencies that fail to comply with gender and equity requirements;
- (ii) while procurement laws in some jurisdictions stipulated that certain percentages of contracts should be granted to women and persons with disabilities, implementation remained a challenge;
- (iii) it was pointed out that while proposing the allocation of certain percentages of contracts to be awarded to women, youth and persons with disabilities, it was important to clearly indicate the value of these contracts as it was noted that if percentages were achieved but value of contracts remained low, then equity would not have been achieved;
- (iv) the issuance of compliance certificates should be made



- public as should names of agencies that fail to comply;
- (v) agencies mandated to ensure compliance such as Equal Opportunities Commissions should be empowered and properly supported to carry out their mandate.

Deliberations on **Women Caucuses and Gender Perspectives in Parliament** brought out the following:

- a) special seats set aside for women should be seen as a stepping stone towards achieving inclusivity and improved women representation. It was observed that certain jurisdictions such as Nigeria do not have these quotas for women representation in Parliament.
- b) in certain jurisdictions, such as South Africa, women caucuses are funded by Parliament;
- c) there is need to work closely with the women's movement outside Parliament and government;
- d) it is imperative to lobby Parliaments to set aside specific days with their schedules through inclusion in the rules of procedure e.g. once a month for women caucuses to meet and interact with relevant stakeholders including government ministries;
- e) the push to increase women representations should begin with amendment of political party constitutions to incorporate women representation;
- f) women parliamentarians should lobby male counterparts to join women caucuses in Parliament. The support by male parliamentarians is crucial;
- g) women parliamentarians need to take the lead and ensure they are present and actively participating when women issues are being debated in Parliament;
- h) CWP to sponsor a resolution calling on countries set to hold elections within the year to commit to increasing women;
- i) there is need to actively lobby organizations such as the African

Union, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC etc to implement commitments made on matters touching on the need to increase women representation.

The following issues were highlighted following the presentation on **strengthening the Use of ICTs and the Media by Women Parliamentarians**:

1. relevant training programmes are required to improve the skills of women parliamentarians in ICT and media relations.
2. It was noted that social media continued to be a major avenue for the channeling of fake news.
3. despite the availability of many positive stories touching on successes by women and development, news media often preferred to highlight controversial and sometimes untrue stories that often cast shadows on the reputation on women leaders.
4. it is beneficial to have engagements and interface opportunities between parliamentarians and journalists.
5. the best way to counter fake news is to continuously and consistently state the true position.
6. while covering current issues, journalists are often more likely to seek the opinions of male MPs rather than female MPs.

Lastly, the following issues came up during discussions on the topic on **Empowerment of Rural and Young Women**:-

- (i) it is absolutely necessary to use ICT to empower rural women to help for instance to improve their opportunities for marketing, reaching bigger markets and to access to pricing of various commodities in different areas.
- (ii) the use of cooperatives should be expanded beyond production to other areas such as logistics. Women should be more involved in different sectors of the agricultural value chain.
- (iii) the introduction of crops that are resistant to poor climate

conditions and diseases is critical.

- (iv) the strategies aimed at improving the lives of rural women should be practical so as to bring about actual change in their lives.
- (v) It has proven difficult to keep rural women actively involved in women's groups. In order to do so, challenges that arise amongst group members should be dealt with properly so that membership is not compromised.

#### **4.0 EAST AFRICA SUB REGION GENERAL MEETING PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SUB-REGION**

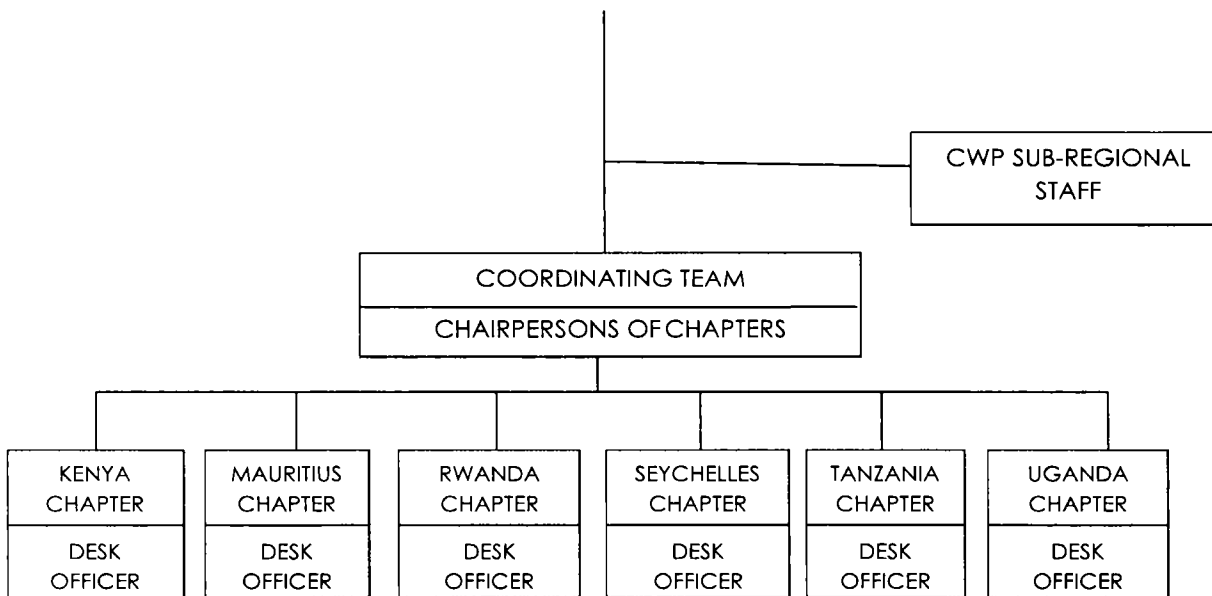
A General Meeting of the CWP East Africa Sub-Region was held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and chaired by Hon. Daveena Boygah, CWP Sub-Regional Representative for East Africa to consider the proposal on the Restructuring and Functions of the Sub-Region.

The proposal was a result of the CWP Business Meeting held in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017. Among other things deliberated on the issue of the coordination and management of the Sub-Regions. This matter was derived from the report of the Sub-Regional Representative for East Africa who was unable to visit the member states in the Sub-Region owing to domestic challenges where the work of sub-regional coordination as well as the CWP is not fully understood.

As part of assisting the Sub-Regional Representatives, the Meeting resolved to set up a coordination office for CWP East Africa to be housed in the Parliament of Uganda and outlining responsibility of the Sub-Regional Coordinator. As part of the way forward, it was further resolved that the Sub-Region shall convene a meeting in Kampala, Uganda to agree on a program of action. The proposed CWP Sub-Regional Structure is as follows:

## PROPOSED CWP SUB-REGIONAL STRUCTURE

CWP SUB-REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



## **5.0 RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **5.1 Resolutions of the CWP East Africa Sub-Regional Sensitization Workshop**

#### **Declaration by Delegates**

Members of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (East African Sub-Region) gathered at Golden Tulip Hotel, Kampala in Uganda from 24th -26th July 2018 discussed Gender and Equity Budgeting in Parliament; Women Caucuses and Gender Perspectives in Parliament; Strengthening use of ICTs and the Media by Women Parliamentarians; and Empowerment of Rural and Young Women.

**RECOGNISING** that gender equality has been defined by the United Nations as “the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys” and that Gender and Equity Budgeting is an essential instrument for establishing gender mainstreaming within government policies and assigning clear responsibilities, making governments accountable for their gender policy commitments; it increases the quality and accuracy of policy decisions; increases the transparency of administrative actions and contributes to a greater acceptance of the citizens for measures of policy;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** that the Heads of Government at the 2005 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) endorsed the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 that provides the framework within which the Commonwealth will contribute to advancing gender equality. The Plan of Action builds on past achievements, seeks to close persistent gaps, reflects the Commonwealth’s response to global changes as they impact differently on women and men, and

engages with new and emerging challenges;

**NOTING THAT** the aspiration of the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 adopted by Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the 24th Ordinary Assembly held in Addis Ababa in January 2015; that called for the attainment of gender parity of at least 50% of women occupying public offices;

**FURHER NOTING THAT** the 2018 Commonwealth Women Forum was held under the theme "*An empowered future for women and girls*". The forum focused on the recognition that gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment are goals and means towards achievement of sustainable development as pursued through the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

**AWARE THAT** Gender and Equity Budgeting is the application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process to ensure that budgets are analyzed with regard to their impact on the lives of women and men, and are adapted according to gender equality objectives;

**FURTHER AWARE THAT** mainstreaming gender in parliamentary business underscores the multifaceted approach necessary in bringing gender discourse into different aspects of parliamentary business. The essence of parliamentary business being the process of representation, law making, oversight and budget making.

**OBSERVING** that despite the overall success of the Gender and equity budgeting strategies adopted by Member states, some challenges still remain; and these include the level of defined objectives, measures and indicators, which differ in respect of quality and ambition and over-ambitious general objectives;

**STRESSING** that the objectives and measures concerning gender equality must be better coordinated between the different organs concerned. Furthermore, international comparison and

improvements of international ranks are often not used as performance indicators and that a clear distinction between gender equality targets, female promotions and social targets is often missed;

**RECALLING** the objectives of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians to further the representation of women in parliaments to ensure that women are put on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association agenda and conveyed to individual parliaments; to work towards mainstreaming of gender in all parliamentary programmes;

**SUPPORTING** the UN Women's mandate that supports catalytic and innovative programmes that promote gender equality, women empowerment and human rights

**RE-AFFIRMING** *member states' commitments to the Beijing Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals on achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women;*

**HAVING REGARD** to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which emphasizes the importance of gender equality;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** *the African Union's Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Addis Ababa calling for the active promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls including the right to development;*

**RECALLING** the Plan of Action, adopted at the First Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in 2003, which affirmed the development of ICT to provide enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors in, the Information Society, and in which Governments committed to ensuring that; the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis

of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes, and also committed to mainstreaming a gender equality perspective and using ICT as a tool to that end; and

**FURTHER RECALLING THAT** the East African Community Vision 2050 identifies the need for women empowerment and promoting gender equality for women to effectively participate in the transformation of the region and empowerment refers to the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied:-

**Therefore, make the following observations:**

- I. The development of gender and equity budgeting and the reduction of gender inequality leads to rapid economic growth, improved labour productivity and more responsive government;
- II. Mainstreaming gender in parliamentary business underscores the multifaceted approach necessary in bringing gender discourse into different aspects of parliamentary business;
- III. That through Parliament's legislative and oversight role of accountability and appropriation, gender and equity compliance can be achieved by the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- IV. It is crucial to engage the male counterparts as partners in advancing gender and equity concerns and addressing gaps in achieving gender equality;
- V. There is need to advocate for the funding of women caucuses, associations and organizations by the governments of the partner states to enable the caucuses realize their objectives. Women caucuses are effective in advancing various interests since they are representative of all political affiliations and interests;
- VI. There is need to promote the usage of statistics to guide policy formulation, development and evaluation of gender and equity compliance. This will go a long way in identifying the gaps;
- VII. Countries should develop gender budgeting tool kits/checklist on



- gender and equity to enhance the members' competence to effectively scrutinize documents in regard to gender and equity budgeting;
- VIII. Call upon other countries to adopt the usage of certificates of compliance to gender and equity and ensure its effective implementation in achieving its measures;
  - IX. Strengthening solidarity, networking and knowledge sharing among women parliamentarians on gender and equity concerns;
  - X. That through Parliament's legislative and oversight role of accountability and appropriation, gender and equity compliance can be achieved by the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies; It is crucial to engage the male counterparts as partners in advancing gender and equity concerns and addressing gaps in achieving gender equality;
  - XI. There is need to advocate for the funding of women caucuses, associations and organizations by the governments of the partner states to enable the caucuses realize their objectives. Women caucuses are effective in advancing various interests since they are representative of all political affiliations and interests;
  - XII. There is need to promote the usage of statistics to guide policy formulation, development and evaluation of gender and equity compliance. This will go a long way in identifying the gaps;
  - XIII. Countries should develop gender budgeting tool kits/checklist on gender and equity to enhance the members' competence to effectively scrutinize documents in regard to gender and equity budgeting;
  - XIV. Call upon other countries to adopt the usage of certificates of compliance to gender and equity and ensure its effective implementation in achieving its measures;
  - XV. Strengthening solidarity, networking and knowledge sharing among women parliamentarians on gender and equity

- concerns;
- XVI. There is need for every national parliament to dedicate a day for the deliberation of gender issues;
  - XVII. That there is need to use our national parliaments, United Nations organizations and non-government organizations to raise the issue of increased women representation in the Parliament of Nigeria, Swaziland and Botswana.
  - XVIII. There is need to profile the achievements of women so as to spur other women in their efforts in realizing gender and equity;
  - XIX. Harnessing the power of social media to create awareness of gender and equity issues;
  - XX. Reformation of party constitutions to entrench women representation at all levels in a bid to achieve the 50/50 gender representation target;
  - XXI. Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians should be encouraged to have an aggressive, consistent and resilient approach in championing and advocating the issues of gender equality; and
  - XXII. That there is need to adopt new trends of information technology to enhance the dissemination of information. Social media and web sites is an important facet of our ability to communicate and engage with the public. Social media improves governance, transparency and accountability.

**Hereby resolve to:**

Mainstream gender budgeting perspectives in Parliamentary business by-

- a) ensuring that the whole process of public finance management are gender and equity responsive;
  - b) integrating gender and equity perspectives into performance and programme based budgeting;
  - c) tracking financial allocations and compliance in implementation of the certificates of gender and equity; and
  - d) applying standard budgeting tool kits/checklists
- i) CWP chapters to lobby the Speakers to fund women caucuses or associations to enable them realize their objectives of advancing the interests of the women;
  - ii) CWP to partner with the male counterparts in advancing and addressing the gender and equity concerns;
  - iii) CWP to develop systematic and specific gender and equity statistics for effective development and formulation of policies that promote gender and equity responsiveness;
  - iv) CWP Chapters to lobby the Speakers' Office together with the Parliament programme office to dedicate a day for women caucuses and at the national parliaments to deliberate on gender and equity issues attended by the Speaker and cabinet minister

CWP/Women caucuses to specifically raise the issue of increased women representation in all political and public offices;

1. Encourage Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians to have an aggressive, consistent and resilient approach in championing and advocating the issues of women;
2. CWP Chapters to encourage women to harness the power of social media to create awareness of gender and equity and develop programmes to effectively utilize social media platforms in their political careers;
3. CWP to develop a systematic gender and equity tool kit that can be utilized by the gender ministries to collect data relating to gender and equity;
4. All national parliaments should contribute to the socio-economic empowerment of women by promotion of special programmes for women in small, medium and large scale enterprises;
5. Eliminate all laws, regulations and practices that hinder women's access to financial assistance;
6. Countries to design social protection programmes that take into account gender disparities at various levels; and

7. Promote the empowerment and effective integration and participation of women at all levels of socio- economic development especially in decision making;

*The Resolutions of the Workshop were considered and moved for adoption by Kenya Branch and seconded by Uganda branch.*

## **5.2 Special Resolution on the CWP Proposed Restructuring and Functions of the Sub-Region**

**WHEREAS** Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians held a Business Meeting on 23rd October, 2017 in Imo State, Nigeria wherein it was observed that Sub-Regional Representative are constrained to perform their constitutional duties within their Sub Regions due to domestic challenges including absence of coordination offices;

**AND WHEREAS** the Commonwealth Steering Committee met on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 in Kampala, Uganda and agreed that as part of assisting the Sub-Regional Representatives, it was necessary that a concept paper be developed justifying the need for the establishment of a coordination office to be established in the Parliament of Uganda for CWP East Africa Sub-Region;

**AWARE THAT** during the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians sensitization workshop for East African Sub-Region held on 21<sup>st</sup> – 26th July 2018 in Kampala, it was agreed that a coordination office be established in the Parliament of Uganda coordinated by the seconded staff of the Parliamentary Commission charged with the responsibility of coordinating the work of the sub region.

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that:

1. A Coordination Office be established in the Parliament of

Uganda coordinated by the seconded staff of the Parliamentary Commission charged with the responsibility of coordinating the work of the Sub- Region; and

2. The funding for the activities of the coordination office in the Parliament of Uganda shall be obtained from the CPA Secretariat-Africa Region.

*The Special Resolution on the CWP Proposed Restructuring and Functions of the Sub-Region was considered and moved for adoption by Mauritius Branch and seconded by Kenya Branch.*

## **6.0 OFFICIAL CLOSING**

### **6.1 Remarks by Hon. Bintu Jalia, MP, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Uganda Branch and Branch Representative**

Hon. Bintu Jalia, MP, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Uganda Branch sincerely thanked all delegates for availing themselves to deliberate on important issues affecting women. She appreciated the Regional Secretariat for tirelessly working to ensure the smooth running of the Workshop Programme. She further thanked the team of staff from the Parliament of Uganda for coordinating and providing technical support for the Workshop. The Members of Parliament from the Parliament of Uganda were thanked for their attendance and active participation throughout the Workshop and well as the UWOPA leadership for steering the Workshop programme.

## **6.2 Remarks by Hon. Angela T. Didiza, MP, Chairperson, CWP Africa Region**

Hon. Angela T. Didiza, MP, Chairperson, CWP Africa Region expressed warm appreciation to the Members of Parliament present for spending valuable time to work on strategies to improve the lives of women in Africa.

She observed that women parliamentarians serve as an encouragement to women and children who believe that issues affecting them will be addressed by leaders who are like them and therefore best understand their challenges. Young women seek to emulate women leaders and make contributions to improving their countries.

She acknowledged the efforts of women leaders who must not only undertake public service but also care for their families.

