

Press Release
AWEPA 14-08-2009



How to make Climate Solidarity a reality

African and European parliamentarians meet in Stockholm 19-21 August

AWEPA (The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa) is organising a seminar in Stockholm 19- 21 August that aims at encouraging debate and political action on the topics of Climate Change in Africa leading up to the 2009 UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen (COP15). The links between climate change and development will be explored, and the financial and budgetary aspects will be scrutinized. The seminar connects to the ongoing "African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate Change", incepted by AWEPA in August 2008 and involving 14 African and 14 European parliaments, NGO representatives and international experts.

AWEPA regularly organises international parliamentary seminars which coincide with the rotating Presidency of the European Union. Thus, AWEPA, together with the AWEPA section in the Swedish Parliament and the Swedish Parliament as such, is organising a seminar 19-21 August with participation of some 100 African and European parliamentarians. Linking up with one of Sweden's presidency priorities, the topic of Climate Change will be addressed during the seminar and at a side event held at the World Water Week in Stockholm (see separate press release).

Keynote speakers are, among others, H.E. Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation in Sweden, Hon. Dr. Moussa Ndele Idriss, President of the Pan-African Parliament, MP Chad, Mr. Youba Sokona, Member of Commission on Climate Change and Development (CCCCD), Mr. Halifa Drammeh, Special Advisor on Africa and Chair of UN-Water/Africa and H.E. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO NEPAD Secretariat, Former Prime Minister of Niger.

Says AWEPA's General Secretary, Mr. Pär Granstedt:

- Africa has contributed least to the emissions that is causing the climate change, but is hardest hit by their effects. We need to develop common strategies to cope with the impact of climate change both in Europe and Africa, and we should learn from each other. However, we should under no circumstances accept that new burdens are loaded on Africa. Europe has a responsibility to help Africa to cope with the climate change. Attempts to use carbon emissions as a pretext for protective measures against African exports must be rejected.

Notes for Editors

The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) works in cooperation with African Parliaments to strengthen parliamentary democracy in Africa, keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe, and facilitate African-European Parliamentary dialogue. In Africa, AWEPA works with development partners to implement national and regional capacity-building programmes for parliaments, their members and staff. AWEPA has some 1.500 members, all of them present or former MPs.

Related links

www.awepa.org

www.worldwaterweek.org

www.newsdesk.se/pressroom/awepa-international

www.riksdagen.se

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