

**APNAC**  
**REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK**  
**AGAINST CORRUPTION**

*“NEW CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION”*  
*GRAND REGENCY HOTEL, NAIROBI*

3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2003

**CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION & RESOLUTIONS**

**Plenary Session I: ‘THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION: NEW CHALLENGES’**

- Parliamentarians need training on their constitutional responsibilities.
- APNAC will monitor their respective governments’ implementation of conventions they have signed.
- A task force will be set up for each global issue and will liaise and work with the experts in the field and give them support.
- The APNAC Website should be set up and we should share information through it.
- An Anti-Corruption Unit should be attached to the Parliamentary Committees for the swift implementation of their recommendations.
- Committee meetings should be conducted in public for accountability with timely reporting.
- There should be fuller disclosure on public expenditure and especially the Defence and National Security budgets should be examined in the house as one-line budgets have been subject to abuse.

**Plenary Session II: ‘ THE ROLE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT AND CITIZEN’S PARTICIPATION: ACCESS TO INFORMATION AS AN ANTI-CORRUPTION MECHANISM’**

- Cabinet should meet regularly and the results of its deliberations should be published.

***The conference resolved that members:***

- should ensure that independent and well-resourced institutions that ensure access to information are set up.
- should pass laws that ensure access to information and promote the establishment of facilitating mechanisms such as Freedom of Information Commissioners or officers.
- should set up special parliamentary committees to look into members' ethics.
- should set up acceptable standards for Freedom of the Press against which government performance can be measured and reported on as creating an environment conducive to the fight against corruption.

**Plenary Session III: '*INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIAN*'**

- APNAC adopts the AU convention as a framework for action to promote signature and ratification of the Convention by, among other things, calling on their respective Foreign Affairs Ministries and relevant Ministries to urge them to sign and ratify the convention.
- MPs should push for recovery of corruptly gained assets through the creation of such mechanisms as a specialized commercial crime unit with an asset forfeiture unit and Financial Intelligence Centres to monitor suspicious transactions.

**Plenary Session IV: '*FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES – PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES*'**

- GOPAC/APNAC and the CPC should facilitate research into the financing of political parties drawing on experiences elsewhere as they may provide lessons for APNAC
- There is need for legislation to provide for effective regulation of political parties. Sanctions should be in place for breach of regulations.
- Resolutions for funding of political parties.
- APNAC should promote the earmarking of political party funding to encourage participation of women in mainstream politics.
- APNAC should strengthen and support regulatory and oversight authorities such as Electoral Commissions to fulfil their mandates

- Fair ways should be sought to distribute funds to political parties. Development partners should find ways of funding not only the executive but also parliament as a priority
- Ways should be found of allocating funds to MPs to deal with some demands at constituency level.

**Plenary Session V: 'THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN CREATING AND SUSTAINING THE POLITICAL WILL TO FIGHT CORRUPTION'**

- Appointment of senior government officials should be vetted by Parliament.
- The findings of Commissions set up should be publicized.
- APNAC/GOPAC should facilitate teams of observers to member countries during elections to report on whether elections are free and fair
- APNAC should work on the development of an index which serves as an early warning mechanism on political corruption in member countries

**Plenary Session VI: 'THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN PREVENTING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT'**

- Parliamentarians must ensure that taxation revenues are reasonably allocated for reforms of the public sector and also support ministerial efforts to obtain reasonably external assistance that can support the reform process.
- Building local capacity and transfer of skills. Parliamentarians have an important role in supporting national capacity building efforts for public servants.
- Support for related anti-corruption efforts. Enactment of anti-corruption laws must go hand in hand with procurement reform efforts.