

Summary Concept Note: Special Meeting of Pan African Parliament, & Chairs of Regional & National Parliamentary Committees of Budget & Finance on Parliamentary Policy & Budget Support for Implementation of July 2010 AU Summit Outcomes on Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

Context:

15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of States Decisions:

From 25 to 27 July 2010, Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 15th Ordinary Session in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, debated the Summit theme of **“Promoting Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa”**:

Following the debate, the Assembly of the African Union adopted the historic decision **“ACTIONS ON MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA BY 2015”**. (Attached as Appendix 1).

In the decisions, **Heads of State COMMIT[ED] TO UNDERTAKE** several actions - importantly to

- *“Provide sustainable financing [for health] by enhancing domestic resources mobilization including meeting the 15% Abuja target, as well as, mobilizing resources through public-private partnerships and by reducing out-of pocket payments through initiatives such as waiving of user fees for pregnant women and children under five and by instituting national health insurance”*
- *“Strengthen health systems to provide comprehensive, integrated maternal newborn and child health care services, in particular through primary health care, re-positioning of family planning including reproductive health commodities security, infrastructure development and skilled human resources for health...”*
- *"Annually reporting to the Assembly [African Union] on progress..."*

Parliamentary Policy and Budget Action for AU Summit Decisions / Outcomes:

In line with Article 3.1 of the Pan African Parliament Protocol to “facilitate the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union”¹ - the PAP Committees of Health, Labour and Social Affairs; Gender, Family, Youth and People With Disabilities; and Monetary and Financial Affairs – meeting from the 2nd to 6th August 2010 at PAP in Midrand South Africa adopted key resolutions and actions to facilitate implementation of the July Summit decisions. (Full resolution attached as Appendix 2).

The resolutions are as follows:

1. *That PAP will work with REC, national parliaments, the AUC and stake holders towards implementation of July 2010 AU Summit outcomes through policy and budget support for developing and implementing national Maternal, Newborn and Child health strategies, policies and plans in line with the AU Africa Health Strategy, Maputo Plan of Action on Reproductive and Sexual Health, AU Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal & Child Health (CARMMA); global*

¹. (1) **Article 4.2 of PAP Protocol** - “Each Member State shall be represented in the Pan-African Parliament by five members...”; (2) **Article 5.1 of PAP Protocol** - “The Pan-African Parliamentarians shall be elected or designated by the respective National Parliaments or any other deliberative organs of the Member States, from among their members”; (3) PAP also now convenes a forum of **African of Speakers of Parliaments and Presidents of Senates** to facilitate implementation of Continental policy (holding Oct. 20, 2010).

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frameworks such as MDGs 4 and 5 on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, the UN Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health; MDG 6, and health related MDGs.

2. Specifically for PAP to work with REC and national parliaments towards ensuring budget support for these plans, policies and frameworks through amongst others, achieving the AU Abuja target of allocating 15% of domestic budgets to health.
3. For PAP to work with REC and national parliaments towards an annual review of progress on efforts to accelerate improvements on maternal, newborn and child health to be considered in the annual report of our governments to the African Union Assembly.

Special meeting of the PAP committees of gender, health and Finance:

The August post-Summit resolutions build on a pre-Summit special joint meeting of the three committees during the Second Ordinary Session of PAP during which the committees vouched support for (adopted?) the CARMMA, the Global Consensus for MNCH and the Africa 15+ Campaign (respectively attached as Appendix 3, 4 and 5)

Overview:

Urgent Special Meeting:

In line with Article 18 of the PAP Protocol to “ work in close co-operation with the Parliaments of the Regional Economic Communities, and the National Parliaments or other deliberative organs of Member States”... Including convening “consultative fora... to discuss matters of common interest” and to **ensure urgent and timely national and REC parliamentary policy and budget action in support of the July Summit decisions**, the Chairs of national budget and finance committees are invited to a meeting to discuss the implementation of African and global health financing commitments including - the AU 2001 Abuja Commitments. The proposed dates for the Special meeting are September 29 to October 1, 2010.”

Summary Objectives:

To outline and agree on strategies for the implementation of the PAP Committees of Health, Labour and Social Affairs; Gender, Family, Youth and People With Disabilities; and Monetary and Financial Affairs resolutions on the implementation of the July Summit Decisions.

Participants

Parliamentary Participants:

- i. 53 Parliamentary Chairs of Budget and Finance from AU member states.
- ii. 3 Parliamentary Chairs of Budget and Finance from East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), ECOWAS Parliament, and SADC- Parliamentary Forum.
- iii. Chairs and members of PAP Committees of Committees of Health, Labour and Social Affairs; Gender, Family, Youth and People With Disabilities; and Monetary and Financial Affairs (arriving just before 3rd regular session of PAP holding 4th to 15th October 2010).

African Union Commission:

- i. Directorate of Social Affairs
- ii. (Possibly a representative from Directorate of Economic Affairs)

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Technical Partners:

- i. Africa Public Health Parliamentary Network
- ii. Global Partnership on Maternal Newborn and Child Health
- iii. UNFPA
- iv. Other Stakeholders (Consultations in progress)

Venue:

Pan African Parliament, Midrand, South Africa

Dates:

29th September to 1st October (Proposed)