

**8th Ordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament,
Midrand, South Africa, October 2007**

Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution
Motion introduced by Mokshanand Sunil DOWARKASING (Mauritius)

Adopted by the house on 24 October 2007
Check against official version

A United Nations Parliamentary Assembly

The Pan-African Parliament:

1. **Considering** the objectives of the African Union, in particular to encourage international cooperation, whereby taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance according to Article 3 lit. e) and g) of the African Union's Constitutive Act adopted by 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Lome, Togo, from 10 to 12 July, 2000;
2. **Noting** the reaffirmation of the African Union's full and continued commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to the promotion of democracy as one of the means to eradicate poverty and to place the African Union's countries on a path of sustainable growth and development, as stated in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the participating Heads of State and Government of the member states of the African Union in Durban, South Africa, June 18, 2002;
3. **Further considering** the growing role of international organizations such as the United Nations and its specialized organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and FAO in key sectors such as peace and security, economic development, health, education and environment;
4. **Stressing**, in this context, that a growing number of decisions affecting the African Union's citizens are taken beyond the borders of their nation state;
5. **Further noting** that parliamentarians of the African Union's member states are often not included in national delegations to major international summits and negotiations, leading to knowledge gaps and missed opportunities for increased legitimacy and transparency of international decision-making;
6. **Bearing in mind** the opening words of the Charter of the United Nations "We the Peoples of the United Nations" which invoke the principle of democracy and root the legitimacy of the organization in the will of the peoples of its Member States;
7. **Recalling** the elaborations in the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations mandated by the then United Nations Secretary-General published 11 June 2004 on the deficits of democracy in Global Governance, recommending a framework for global governance with democratic accountability to citizens;
8. **Considering** that if democratization is a major means to legitimize and improve national governance, it is also the most reliable way to legitimize and improve international organization, making it more open and responsive by increasing participation;
9. **Noting** that in contrast to regional international bodies such as the African Union, the European Union, the Council of Europe, or Mercosur, the United Nations and its

specialized organizations is one of the last international fora lacking an integrated and institutionalized Parliamentary Assembly;

10. **Taking note** that the Common African Position on the Proposed Reform of the United Nations (“The Ezulwini Consensus”) adopted at the 7th Extraordinary Session of the African Union’s Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from March 07 to 08, 2005, does not include positions on the shaping of a parliamentary dimension of the United Nations;

Therefore

11. **Recommends** that the Pan-African Parliament develop a common African position regarding the further development of citizen’s involvement in international affairs and in particular in the United Nations and its specialized organizations, thereby addressing the growing democracy deficit in international foras;
12. **Thereby recommends further** that the Pan-African Parliament takes the initiative to achieve the establishment of a consultative United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) within the UN system according to Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations which enables the UN General Assembly to establish subsidiary bodies;
13. **Notes** that in a first preliminary step the United Nations Parliamentary Assembly could be composed of national parliamentarians, but that eventually it should be directly elected by universal adult suffrage in the UN member states, following the example of the provisions in Article 2 (3) of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
14. **Stresses** that a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly eventually should have participation and oversight rights, in particular, to send fully participating parliamentary delegations or representatives to international governmental fora and negotiations and to establish inquiry committees to assess matters related to the actions of the United Nations, its personell and its special programmes;
15. **Stresses further** the potential of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly to increase the efficiency, transparency and democratic character of the United Nations and international co-operation, thereby also increasing the participatory rights of the African Union’s citizens;
16. **Resolves** that the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly as envisaged before in no way contradicts the valueable and highly esteemed work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union whose aim it is, in particular, to foster contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries and to consider questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by national parliaments and their members.