

*Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education
(FAPED)*

GENERAL CONSTITUTIVE CONFERENCE

*Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
November 27-December 2, 2002*

Declaration of Dar-es-Salaam

FORUM OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR EDUCATION (FAPED)

Declaration of Dar es Salaam

1st December 2002

DAR ES SALAAM DECLARATION

We, the Parliamentarians of Africa, representing **43 countries**[?], gathered in Dar-Es-Salaam, from November 27 to December 2, 2002, at the joint initiative of the Parliaments of Senegal and Mauritius and with the support of BREDA,

Aware of the role of the African Parliaments in consolidating the democratic process, in affirming and realising the aspirations of the people to socio-economic well being and prosperity, material well-being, education, cultural and spiritual fulfilment;

Conscious that Parliaments, in addition to their traditional role of legislating and oversighting functions of the Executive, also have the responsibility to deal with social problems, such as drugs, HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, illiteracy, the environment and poverty;

Reaffirming our commitment to the goals of:

- World Education Conference, Jomtien 1990,
- The Salamanca Conference (1994),
- MINEDAF Durban Declaration of Commitment (1998);
- Dakar Declaration (2002) and other UN/AU guiding instruments.

Recognizing that Africa is presently making greater strides than ever before towards building unity by setting up Institutions at continent level like the African Union and the African Parliament, on the one hand, and through the implementation of the New Partnership for the Development of Africa which places special emphasis on Education and its universalisation, on the other hand.

[?] Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, ,South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Believing that Education is the biggest challenge for Africa, the key to progress, individual and social wellbeing and peace and that ignorance and illiteracy are obstacles to development and the construction of democratic societies;

Convinced that Education for All is a basic human right, and that it be **enshrined in our national constitutions** as a demonstration of our commitment to the liberation of our Peoples from the shackles of ignorance and illiteracy;

Affirming our commitment to foster genuine partnership with our international development partners, including UNESCO/BREDA: AU, ADB, and other regional economic groupings and civil society organizations.

Realising our singular and collective responsibility to the well being and human dignity of our people, we pledge ourselves to fulfil the following goals:

- **To revise our legal instruments** so as to include, if it has not been already done, the **Basic Human Right to Education** in our constitutions;
- **To mobilize human, material and financial** resources in order to impact on the process of universal provision of education;
- **To work towards the general improvement of** the welfare of teachers and the provision of relevant instruction materials in order to ensure conducive environments for teaching and learning;
- **To promote the education of girls and women in particular**, in order to wipe out discrimination that is as deeply entrenched as the traditions that women continue to be victims of. This is reflected in the lower enrolment rates for girls as compared to boys;
- **To encourage access to the New Information and Communications Technologies** with a view to bridging the digital divide between the North and the South, on the one hand, and that between a secular elite and the African masses, on the other;
- **To fight the scourge** of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and drug abuse.
- **To promote a culture of** peace through education as a building process for African unity. We will foster an environment for the spread of the values of peace, democracy, mutual respect, tolerance, and recognition of differences.

We, the Members of African Parliaments, hereby declare and adopt the present Dar es Salaam Framework of Action signed on this first day of December 2002:

- **Creation of the Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education (FAPED)** and setting up of a national committee within each Parliament;
- **Sensitisation through advocacy**, in the Chamber and at the grassroot level,
- **Transposing into law** the relevant recommendations of international conferences (Salamanca, Jomtien, Amman, Dakar, MINEDAF) ;
- **Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the recommendations of** these conferences;

- **Increasing the budgetary and mobilizing the extra-budgetary resources** allocated towards education;
- **Fostering partnership with** national and international organizations, civil society and other regional organizations within and without Continental Africa;
- **Inter-parliamentary Co-operation** to reinforce the African Union and the African Parliament;
- **Commitment for peace in Africa**, and fostering democratic traditions and values.

We, the Members of African Parliaments, **proclaim our faith in Africa** and our ability to revive, create, invent but also drawing strength from our values as a civilisation and to safeguard our identity in the face of the uniformity and reductive nature of globalisation.

Further, we Members of African Parliaments wish to note, with utmost humility, our gratitude and profound appreciation of a fruitful partnership demonstrated by international agencies and development partners such as UNESCO, BREDA, WB, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and others.

This partnership is a demonstration of concern for the attainment of the goals of EFA on the African Continent.

Dar es Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania