

REPORT



THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

**MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA
FROM 27TH JUNE TO 2ND JULY, 2022**

Attended by:

Hon. Terence Mondon – Head of Delegation

Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel

Hon. Wavel Woodcock

Hon. Desheila Bastienne

Hon. Conrad Gabriel

Miss. Georgina Balette

The National Assembly delegation composed of the Members as listed below, submits its Report:


Hon. Terence Mondon

Head of Delegation



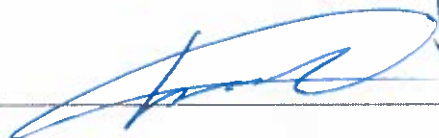
Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel

Member



Hon. Wavel Woodcock

Member



Hon. Desheila Bastienne

Member



Hon. Conrad Gabriel

Member



Ms. Georgina Balette

PAP Desk Officer



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1.0 Introduction

Members of Parliament from the African Union Community met in Midrand, South Africa for the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) from Monday 27th June - 2nd July 2022. The National Assembly of Seychelles were represented by Hon. Terence Mondon as Head of Delegation, Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel, Hon Wavel Woodcock, Hon Deshiela Bastienne, and Hon Conrad Gabriel. They were assisted by the PAP Desk Officer from the Secretariat, Ms. Georgina Balette.

The Session was mainly for the election of the new Pan African Bureau and Committees which are part of the Institution and for the adoption of the Committee's workplan. Members were officially sworn in and confirmed their participation as Member of the Pan-African Parliament.



The delegation of the Seychelles at the Sixth Pan-African Parliament Ordinary Session.

2. Programme of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Pan- African Parliament

A session for orientation was scheduled before the official opening of the Ordinary Session and the delegation from Seychelles met with other parliamentarians from the African Union Community. The session was conducted by the PAP Secretariat and the highlights were the upcoming election of the new Bureau, the structure of PAP, the roles of secretariat, procedures and regulation which governs the Parliament.

2.1 Official Opening

Mr Gali Haroa, the Acting Clerk of the Pan-African Parliament welcomed the Honorable Members in the African Parliament and Members were informed that due to other commitments, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, his Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal will be not be available to preside over the session. His Excellency had to attend the G7 Summit in Germany as conveyed in his message.

"I would not be able to Chair the Pan-African Parliament session whose objective is the election of the Bureau, as a result I delegate to you the chairing of this session, as you are highly esteemed" signed his Excellency Macky Sall.

Mr Gali officially announced the protocol for taking the oath and called on Members to the floor, as per language group for the oath taking ceremony.

2.2 Oath taking ceremony of new Members of Pan African Parliament

The ceremony was conducted in the attendance of the Speaker of the Parliament of South Africa and several other dignitaries. The Seychelles Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Mr Claude Morel was also present at the ceremony.



The delegation of the National Assembly of Seychelles taking their oath on 28th June, 2022.

2.3 Opening Statement by His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission representing H.E President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal and incumbent Chairperson of African Union

His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission observed a moment of silence in solidarity for the parents who have lost their children

in the East London shooting. He then proceeded with his opening statement (translated version):

"It is with great pleasure that I'm taking the floor today in this very important forum of the Pan African Parliament, where the voice of the African people are expressed. Established under Article 2 of the Protocol, the African Economic Community in Sirte Libya until March 2001. The Pan-African Parliament in spite of their great hopes raised, has remained in search in the quest of its roots and its effective and efficient functionality. The Conservative Act of the African Union has kept their special and privileged place in this institution, in the institutional architecture of our union.

Honorable Pan African Parliamentarians, we and our governments in fact have a long way to go so that you can, as the wisdom dictate, find yourself in the best possible condition in order to carry out your noble tasks. This noble mission in fact dictate the ethics and the morals that should guide your actions, behavior, and your political strategies.

It is recognized that the Parliament in across the world, are the forum for discussions and the putting together of ideas. In fact, now and then, you may have a kind of more or less heated discussion, discussed yes but not to fight is the trait of the parliamentary life.

The norms and components that have been established, may be called into question very brutally in a very unexpected manner. There is no need to remind each and every one about moderation, upon awaiting, the approach, and self-control which at all times should be the mark of the personalities belonging to such a very honorable and prestigious institution.

The unfortunate event that took place in this hemisphere, in May and June 2021 on the occasion of the aborted election of the Bureau of the institution has tarnished the image of this institution, and that of the entire continent.

The unbearable and unacceptable scenes that have been projected on the television and the social media, which have been seen by the Africans. In fact have been belittle the Parliament, and in fact it has even been carrying the mark of the depression which has been a kind of disgrace for the continent.

In my capacity as the representative of the union and the guarantor of the smooth functioning of this institution then i had to ask the suspension for the parliamentary activities, until the notice of course. In this type of situation, we always have to clarify matters, pinpoint responsibilities of each and everyone.

Obviously, all the parliamentarians did not participate in that event on May and June. Many of you have condemned this excess, of behavior and have dissociate themselves with it and we need to welcome that. It is also important that we recall that the return to this parliament that you who form the cream of the African political circles, the former president, the former prime ministers, of the senate and representative of parliaments and many others and obviously these events must have broken their hearts.

Honorable Members, ladies and gentleman the time has come that we turn this very sad page of the announce of this institution and start anew. So it is high time that we renew with a behavior that has always mark the Pan African Parliament and which has been a source of pride for the African Union. It is high time for the brotherly dialogue in a peaceful atmosphere, prevails over confrontation.

This election has already been the subject of a lot of articles, writing and with all the consultation that had been taking place in here Midrand and Addis Ababa for Southern, East and Central African regions. The positions were all known and also the principle of rotation and the legal discussion on this issue was very healthy and useful.

I want to be clear and sincere with you all, indeed it is regrettable that the protocol establishing rotation has not entered into force so far. Because of a lack of the required number of ratifications. And from the legal point of view, it is obviously not effective. It is important that rotation is a fundamental principle of equity and justice and it governs almost all of our institutions.

When looking at the history of our continent, its more appropriate that we stick to the essential. And the essential thing is to unite and bring and get together on the essential and to reduced what divides us and which divides you.

We should uphold the idea of solidarity, harmony so that we can better prepared to face together and took up the huge challenges like health challenges, with the pandemic of Covid19, and its serious economic and social consequences that the continent is facing. Security challenges, with the spread of terrorism and were we have a lot of dead people and broken families with drought and floods which affect parts of our continent which bring about despair and destitution.

Food challenge with the consequence that we see, with war in Ukraine. Political and democratic challenges, with military Coup D'etat and the suspension of four Member states, of our union and which is a result of the participation of at least the four which has deprived the Members of the parliament of four of our countries, of African Union. Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and the Sudan and for other reasons that your colleagues of Tunisia are not here with you.

These multi-faceted challenges do call upon us and appeal to the conscience of the African people who are here. To take up these new challenges and to go for general mobilization African Union cannot have the luxury of a crisis in one of its key institutions the Pan-African Parliament.

The African parliament should in fact be involving itself in the plea and the advocacy for the continent, that is in decision adopted, that is 1128 adopted by the executive council and approved by the Assembly of the Union prescribe by the election for the Bureau of the Pan-African parliament according to the principle of the rotation, in order to unable the two region which have not yet been occupying the post it suppose in the Bureau.

The election doesn't mean that you want to put aside the legal instrument that are in force but you have to be objective in order to solve these problems which have become

unbearable and it had to be respected and applied. The exceptional situation you had to have exceptional solution.

It's a question of responsibility and behold this organ that is the assembly of the African union. In fact, it will be a great honor just to implement the decision of the assembly. Members of parliament ladies and gentleman there will be no winners and defeated ones, those who have lost but we need the sense of reason to prevail and how fair play and the victory of Africa that we want.

Africa will not, be built by a number of majority unless in what I called, after me there be chaos. So by transcending on what Mandela had called a fragility of the human being which is egoism, the lack of capacity to forgive and the will to take revenge, and I think we need to take these into account and heed to the memory of these great men and statesman.

So therefore, I want to call upon you to vote tomorrow in order to carry out your electoral duty and opened a new page in the life of your institution and the forward march of our continental organization. In order to allows their ideals of Pan-Africanism to triumph which has been so dear to our founding fathers, and I thank you for your kind attention.

2.4 The presentation of the modalities for election of the Bureau

Dr Guy-Fleury Ntwari, Acting Legal Counsel presented the modalities for election of the Bureau of the Pan-African Parliament. The Commission confirmed that the Legal Counsel will conduct and manage the election process. Members were presented with an Ad-Hoc Modalities Guidelines, for guidance on the proceeding of the election, which highlighted the Legal Framework on the nomination and election of Members of the Bureau, the African Union Policy organ and the application of the principle of geographical rotation in the following order.

Presidency	<i>Northern or Southern Regional Caucus</i>
First Vice President	<i>Northern or Southern Caucus</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Eastern Regional Caucus</i>
Third Vice President	<i>Western Regional Caucus</i>
Fourth Vice President	<i>Central Regional Caucus</i>

3. Regional Caucuses met for their first meeting

Members attended their first Caucus meeting to nominate a candidate for the position of Vice-President and to choose a representative for the Ad-hoc Committee. The Ad-hoc Committee is a five-Member Committee comprising of a Member each from the five Regional Caucuses constituted to organize and preside over the election of the President of the Pan- African Parliament and other Bureau officers.

The Eastern Caucus meeting was attended by 12 Member countries from the region.

In line with the rules of procedure, each Caucus had to produce two candidates (male & female) for the Bureau position.

Hon.Dr Gayo Ashebir from Ethiopia and Hon. Albino Mathom Ayuel Aboug from South Sudan contested for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau through secret ballot. The Caucus elected Dr Gayo by a large majority.

Since the position for the female contender was not contested, Hon. Halo Mohamed from Djibouti was nominated as the female counterpart for the position of Vice President.

The Caucus nominated Hon Wavel Woodcock to represent the Eastern region on the Youth Caucus.

3.1 Composition of the Vice-Presidents from the 5 Caucuses (male and female counterpart)

Eastern Caucus

- Hon.Dr Gayo Ashebir from Ethiopia
- Hon. Halo Mohamed from Djibouti

Central Caucus

- Hon Ango Ndoutoune from Gabon
- Hon.Ndayizeye Anite from Burundi

Northern Caucus

- Hon Salih Qalmah Y. Darkouy from Libya
- Hon. Prof Massouda Mohamed Laghdaf from Mauritania

Western Caucus

- Hon Daouda Mamadon Marthe from Niger
- Hon Lucia Martia Memndes Goncalves Dos Passos from Cape Verde

Southern African Caucus

- Hon Fortune Zephania Charumbira (President)
- Hon Nthathi Lydia Bereny from Lesotho

4. Election and swearing-in of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Pan-African Bureau

The election process which took place on Wednesday 29th June was quite seamless and Hon Chief Fortune Zaphania Charumbira from Zimbabwe was elected as President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). It is the first time that the Southern Region holds the presidency of Pan African Parliament.

In his acceptance speech Chief Fortune Charumbira declared his gratitude and promised that he will be a leader for every Member of the Pan African Parliament; and that he wants a Parliament that is visible and contributes to the shared vision for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. He called for greater unity amongst Members of the Pan African Parliament and urged on the need to uphold the diversity of the local languages of the African communities.

President Charumbira then took over the proceeding of the house for the election of the Vice-President of the Bureau. The candidates for Vice-President represented the four

Caucuses which were eligible to provide a candidate in accordance with the rules of procedure, namely the Eastern, Northern, Western and the Central Caucus.

The election for nomination of candidates were conducted with the application of the principle of rotation. The rules of procedure established ensures that each region has a fair and equal opportunity to hold any positions in the Bureau. As a result, Hon.Dr Ashebiri Gayo from Ethiopia was elected as the 2nd Vice-President, representing the Eastern Caucus. It is expected that the new modalities will serve in the best interest of the institution. The newly elected officials of the Bureau are as follows:

- President Hon. Chief Fortune Zaphania Charumbira (Zimbabwe)
- 1st Vice-President Hon.Prof.Massouda Mohamed Laghdaf - (Mauritania)
- 2nd Vice-President Hon.Dr Ashebiri Gayo (Ethiopia)
- 3rd Vice President Hon. Lucia Mendes dos Passos (Cape Verde)
- 4th Vice-President Hon Francois Ango Ndoutoume (Gabon)



The delegation of the National Assembly of Seychelles attending election and swearing-in of President and Vice President of Pan-African Parliament.

5.0 Official closing and the new Bureau first meeting with the President

The Fourth Ordinary Session of the Fifth Parliament was officially closed on the 02 July 2022, with the President calling upon all Members to participate fully in all the work of the institution which is substantively produced through the Committees.

5.1 Election of the Eastern Caucus Bureau

The Seychelles delegation met with other Members of the Eastern Caucus to elect their leaders on Thursday 30th June. PAP Rules 83, provides for each Caucus Bureau to elect a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and a Rapporteur for the Caucus.

Hon Terence Mondon was selected for the post of Chairperson and Hon Felix Okot Ogong from Uganda for the post of Vice-Chairperson and Hon Halo Mohammed Ibrahim as Rapporteur. Hon Mondon received strong support from all Members present and his nomination was seconded by Hon Jean Patrice France Quirin from Mauritius.

In his acceptance speech, Chairperson Hon Terence Mondon thanked all Members for their unanimous support and remarked that it is the first time that this position in the Pan African Parliament is occupied by a country in the Indian Ocean. He continued by stating *"We are at the turning point where there is a need to rebuild our institution, and this will be possible as long as we stay united."*

As an experience Member of the Eastern Caucus, Hon Mondon emphasized on the need to take the institution to a much greater height and stated that the Eastern Caucus will make that difference.

In the session that followed, Members were assigned to the Committee of their choice and as a result, our Members selected the following Committees:

- Hon Terence Mondon- *Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs*
- Hon Sylvanne Lemiel- *Committee on Gender, Family Youth and People with Disabilities*
- Hon Deshiela Bastienne- *Committee on Health, Labor and Social Affairs*
- Hon Wavel Woodcock- *Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters*
- Hon Conrad Gabriel - *Committee Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment*

The Committee on Monetary and Financial – Hon Mondon

This Committee examines the Parliamentary budget draft estimates. It also examines the AU budget and makes recommendations. The Committee reports to the Parliament on any problems involved in implementing the annual AU and PAP budgets. It advises the Parliament on economic, monetary and investment policies.

The Committee on Gender, Family Youth and People with Disabilities – Hon Sylvanne Lemiel

Considers issues relating to the promotion of gender equality and assist the Parliament to oversee the development of AU policies and activities relating to family, youth and people with disabilities.

The Committee on Health, Labor and Social Affairs – Hon Desheila Bastienne

Works to support the implementation of social development, labour and health policies and programmes throughout the AU, including through regional and international cooperation strategies.

The Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters – Hon Wavel Woodcock

Deals with matters relating to the development of policy for cross-border, regional and continental concerns within the areas of trade (primarily external trade), customs and immigration. It assists the Parliament to oversee relevant organs or institutions and AU policies relating to trade.

The Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment – Hon Conrad Gabriel

Considers the development of common regional and continental policies in the agricultural sector. It provides assistance to the Parliament to oversee and promote the harmonization of policies for rural and agricultural development as well as the AU's natural resources and environmental policies.

6. Meeting with PAP Bureau for establishment of Committees

The Chairpersons of the Regional Caucuses met with the leadership of the Bureau to agree on the leadership positions for the eleven Committees and those positions were allocated on the basis of equity and fairness as prescribed in the rules. As a result, the following Members were appointed as chairperson:

NAME	COUNTRY	COMMITTEE
Hon. Didier Molisho Sadi	DRC	Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Hon. Sen. John Bonds Bideri	Rwanda-	Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters
Hon. Thembekile Richard Majola	South Africa	Rules Privileges and Discipline
Hon. Mohammed Mubarak Muntaka	Ghana	Monetary & Financial Affairs
Hon Dao Gabala Mariam	Cote D'ivoire	Gender, Family Youth and People with Disabilities
Hon. Amina Abdou Souna	Niger	Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources
Hon. Eng. Sherif El Gabaly	Egypt	Cooperation, International Relations & Conflict Resolution
Hon. Miles Sampa	Zambia	Audit and Public Accounts

Jean Marie Nibirantje	Burundi	Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources
Hon Jean Patrice France Quirin	Mauritius	Health, Labour and Social Affairs



Hon Terence Mondon Chairperson of Eastern Caucus attending meeting of the Regional Caucuses.

7. Meeting of Committees for introduction of their leadership Members

Committee meetings were held on 01 July 2022 and the main item of agenda was the adoption of their 2022 workplan (*see Appendix 1*). Our Members participated actively in their respective Committee meetings to discuss the implementation of their work plan. The planned activities were formulated in line with AU theme for this year, “*Building Resilience in Nutrition in the African Continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development*”. The following are the three foremost strategic objectives for the year 2022.

- Strengthening parliamentary functions of the PAP.
- Strengthening partnership, coordination, outreach, and institutional capacity of the PAP.
- Promoting of Human Rights and shared values of the AU.

8. Meeting of the Women Caucus

The Women’s Caucus met on Saturday the 2nd of July, with the participation of all the Pan-African women. Hon Sylvanne Lemiel and Hon Deshiela Bastienne attended the

meeting where the new leaders of the women Caucus were introduced. The Women Caucus is composed of the following Members:

- Chairperson Hon Amina Tidjani Yaya (Chad)
- 1st Vice Chairperson Hon Caroline Kamusiime (Uganda)
- 2nd Vice Chairperson Hon Victoria Kingston (Malawi)
- 3rd Vice Chairperson Hon Traore Mariame (Ivory Coast)
- 4th Vice Chairperson Hon Sen. Dr Ranada M.A Mostafa (Egypt)

The Chairperson, Hon Amina Tidjani Yaya from Tchad praised the spirit in which the election was conducted and acknowledged the strong support from all Members in the application of the rule of rotation for the election.

President H.E Senator, Chief Fortune Charumbira congratulated the Women Caucus and called for good leadership and success in the implementation of activities for the betterment of the African continent. He offered his support to the Caucus and stated that rotation process is the key to unity of the Pan African Parliament.

The Caucus discussed their draft annual workplan for 2022 derived from the following strategic objectives:

- Strengthening parliamentary functions of the PAP.
- Strengthening partnership, coordination, outreach, and institutional capacity of the PAP.

The Caucus were also presented with the upcoming thirteenth virtual Pan African Parliament Conference on Women's Rights, which is to be held on October 2022. *(see Appendix 2)*

9. Meeting of Youth Caucus

A system of rotation was applied in all elections from Committees to Caucuses. The Youth Caucus Presidency consequently went to an MP from Morocco who is part of the Northern African Caucus, as the Eastern Caucus previously held the position. The 4th Vice Presidency went to the Eastern Caucus where Hon.Wavel Woodcock from Seychelles was nominated to represent the Eastern African Caucus.

Following the nomination, the Youth Caucus held its first meeting to discuss the work plan of the Caucus. The main point of discussion was on the participation of youth in the Pan-African Parliament. In his intervention, Hon. Wavel Woodcock reiterates the need to get Member states of the Pan-African parliament to encourage youth participation in their respective parliaments, to give youth the opportunity to stand for office and to give young parliamentarians the opportunity to join the Pan-African parliament. Currently, the Pan-African Parliament is encouraging women's participation in the PAP and all Member countries are being asked to have at least 2 women among the 5 Members allocated per country. Hon. Woodcock stated that PAP should use the same modality that at least one MP from each Member state should be a youth.

The resolution from the meeting was for the New PAP Youth Caucus to work on youth participation in the Pan-African Parliament and to develop a plan of action to empower

and build the capacity of youth in African countries in relations to the representative and legislative works of parliamentarians, especially in the Pan-African Parliament.

The composition of the Bureau of the Youth Caucus leadership is as follows-

- Chairperson - Hon Edali Laila (Morocco)
- 1st Vice Chairperson - Hon Tatenda Annastacia Mavetera (Zimbabwe)
- 2nd Vice Chairperson - Hon Sen.Euclines Jorge Valela da Silva (Cape Verde)
- 3rd Vice Chairperson - Hon Eric Ngulula Ilnga (Ivory Coast)
- 4th Vice Chairperson - Hon Wavel Woodcock (Seychelles)



The Youth Caucus leadership, Hon Wavel Woodcock as the Seychelles 4th Vice-President.

10. Joint meeting of the PAP Bureau and leaders from Committees and Caucuses.

On July 02nd, the new leaders of the Bureau and the Committees met in a joint meeting for discussion of their responsibilities and upcoming activities. In that meeting, Members were also briefed on the budget situation which will need to be reviewed if the institution is to function as expected.

11. Conclusion

The sixth ordinary session of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) was centered on the election of new Bureau Members.

The rules of procedures for the election which encompassed the application of geographical rotation have brought a shift in leadership and the newly elected leaders have expressed a common desire to work towards a meaningful transformation of the institution.

The sixth ordinary session also marked a new departure for the Pan-African Parliament. The institution still faces many challenges and, among its most critical disadvantages is that it does not have the capacity to enforce any of its decisions. Its influence is limited to consultative and advisory powers. The PAP Protocol to the constitutive act of AU also known as the Malabo Protocol is intended to extend the powers of the PAP into a fully-fledged legislative body. So far, only fourteen Member states have ratified the Protocol, which requires ratification by 28 African Union Member states before it can become fully operational.

The decision to grant legislative powers to PAP was agreed upon following the Adoption of the Revised Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the AU relating to the PAP by the AU Heads of State and Government Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014.

To demonstrate our commitment to transform the Pan African Parliament, the National Assembly should embark on a process that will enable us to ratify this Protocol.