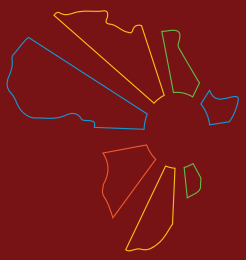
AfriPal

Africa Regional Convening on Parliament and Legislation

AFRIPAL 2025 Conference Report

Venue	Hotel Africana
Dates	18–19 June 2025
Convened by: 	AFRIPAL Secretariat, in partnership with CEPA,WFD,PSDI,KAS and Parliament of Uganda 

Legal Disclaimer

This Conference Report of the Inaugural African Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation (AFRIPAL) is produced for documentation, educational, and policy development purposes. The views expressed in this report are solely those of the individual authors, speakers, and contributors, and do not necessarily represent the official views or positions of the AFRIPAL Secretariat, the African Association of Legislation (AAL), partner institutions, or funders.

All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented. However, the organizers make no warranties or representations, express or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of the content for any particular purpose. Users of this report assume full responsibility for any consequences arising from its use.

Copyright and Usage

This means:

- You are free to share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- Under the following terms:

- **Attribution** — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.
- **NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.
- **NoDerivatives** — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

Data Protection and Consent

AFRIPAL complies with international data protection standards, including the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention), the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and relevant national laws. All personal data included in this report (such as names, affiliations, and direct quotations) were shared with informed consent from the individuals involved.

Any requests for correction or removal of personal information should be directed to the AFRIPAL Secretariat via conference@afripal.org.

Third-Party References and Links

External materials, links, and references included in this report are provided solely for the convenience of users. AFRIPAL Convening is not responsible for the content, accuracy, or reliability of any third-party information and does not endorse any views expressed therein.

Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the dedication, insight, and teamwork of an exceptional group of individuals.

We thank **Tahinduka Joseph** (Lead rapporteur) and the members of the rapporteuring team **Annet Rubunda, Sandra Adumo, Fraide Solomon,** and **Esther Nabaana,** whose tireless efforts in documentation, coordination, and editorial work were instrumental in capturing the spirit and substance of the AFRIPAL Conference.

The Secretariat deeply appreciates the strategic contributions of **Mr. Charles Katulamu, Prof. Gerald Karyeija** (founding President of the AAL Council), **Hon, Ruhakana Rugunda** (founding Chair of the AAL Board), **Dr.John Mushomi, Mr.Lodrick Wabwire Odo, Ms. Hanisha Nakandi, Mr, Hubayb Bwire, Mr. Joseph Munyangabo** and all the volunteers whose sacrifice shaped the success of the conference.

Together, this team formed an indelible force dedicated, visionary, and deeply committed to advancing the values that AFRIPAL Convening stands for.
Thank you for being part of this journey.

Abbreviations

Organizations & Institutions

1. **AFRIPA**L – African Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation
2. **AAL** – African Association of Legislation
3. **CEPA** – Centre for Policy Analysis
4. **WFD** – Westminster Foundation for Democracy (UK)
5. **PSDI** – Population and Social Development Institute
6. **KAS** – Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
7. **AFIDEP** – African Institute for Development Policy
8. **IAL** – International Association of Legislation
9. **EU** – European Union
10. **PAC** – Public Accounts Committee
11. **PLS** – Post-Legislative Scrutiny
12. **SADC** – Southern African Development Community
13. **ECOWAS** – Economic Community of West African States
14. **NEAR-ER** – Jean Monnet Policy Network on Europe-Africa Relations – Education and Research
15. **CSDDD** – Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (EU)
16. **FEC** – Finance and Estimates Committee (Botswana)
17. **GDPR** – General Data Protection Regulation (EU)
18. **IBEI** – Institute of Barcelona for International Studies
19. **KU Leuven** – Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
20. **POPVOX** – Civic engagement platform

Technical & Legislative Terms

21. **4IR** – Fourth Industrial Revolution
22. **AI** – Artificial Intelligence
23. **NLP** – Natural Language Processing
24. **LLMs** – Large Language Models
25. **SDG** – Sustainable Development Goal (UN)
26. **SRH** – Sexual and Reproductive Health
27. **FDI** – Foreign Direct Investment
28. **AfCFTA** – African Continental Free Trade Area
29. **EAC** – East African Community

Message from the AFRIPAL Chief Convenor

It is with deep gratitude that I present this report on the Inaugural Africa Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation, held in Kampala, Uganda, in June 2025. On behalf of AFRIPAL Convening, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all delegates who participated, bringing their insight, experience, and a shared commitment to advancing the role of parliaments across the continent.

I also wish to acknowledge those who submitted papers and session proposals but were unable to join us in person. Your contributions remain an integral part of this community, and we are committed to ensuring your work is included in our publications as we move forward.

This inaugural conference was attended by a diverse number of delegates from academia and practice, a true testament to the vision of AFRIPAL, to create a platform where both academia, research and practice can deliberate on the future of parliaments and legislation in Africa.

As we look forward to more engagements with the second conference coming up in 2027, we are committed to building a community of practice under the auspices of the African Association of Legislation (AAL) that will lead strategic thought on parliament and legislative issues, not just in Africa but globally. We invite you to be part of AAL.

We are also proud to be launching a suite of knowledge products from the conference, a peer-reviewed journal, an edited book series, and a thought-leadership blog (On the House) on parliament and legislation.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our partners **CEPA, WFD, KAS, PSDI, AFIDEP, IAL,** and the **Parliament of Uganda,** whose support was instrumental in making this inaugural gathering a success.

This report offers a summary of the conference discussions, presentations, and key takeaways. It is both a reflection of where we are and a blueprint for where we aim to go. May it inspire continued action, collaboration, and innovation in the pursuit of effective, accountable, and visionary parliaments across Africa.

Hannah Muzee, Ph.D

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Overview of the Inaugural AFRIPAL Conference

Purpose

The Africa Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation (AFRIPAL) provides a strategic forum for legislators, civil society actors, academics, and policy experts to engage in high-level dialogue on enhancing parliamentary democracy and legislative practice across Africa. Through biennial conferences, publications, and capacity-building initiatives, AFRIPAL seeks to bridge research and practice, strengthen legislative institutions, and foster collaboration among stakeholders committed to democratic governance and sustainable development .

Theme

The theme for the AFRIPAL 2025 conference was **"Parliaments in Africa: Opportunities and Prospects for Sustainable Development,"**

Key sub-themes included:

1. Emergencies and Parliamentary Functions – evaluating how parliaments balance law-making with crisis response (e.g., COVID-19 adaptations) .
2. Parliaments, 4IR and Artificial Intelligence – exploring the application of emerging technologies to legislative efficiency and oversight.
3. Post-Legislative Scrutiny and Impact Assessments – identifying best practices for monitoring law implementation and outcomes.
4. Parliamentary Partnership, Learning and Adaptation – fostering networks, capacity building, and knowledge exchange among African parliaments.

Objectives of the conference

The 2025 conference aimed to:

1. Diagnose Key Challenges in representation, oversight and accountability across Africa's diverse parliamentary systems.
2. Spotlight Innovations in digital tools to enhance legislative efficiency.
3. Strengthen Post-Legislative Scrutiny by sharing best practices in monitoring law implementation and conducting impact assessments.
4. Foster Partnerships among parliaments, academia, civil society and international bodies to build capacity and knowledge exchange.
5. Institutionalize Outcomes through the formal launch of AAL and dedicated publication platforms to sustain momentum beyond the three-day convening.

Format & Participation

The conference was held over three days (18–20 June 2025) in Kampala, featuring plenaries, roundtables, parallel sessions, breakout workshops, and partners' strategic meeting. Over 300 participants from several countries and institutions, including national parliaments, universities, and think tanks, were in attendance.

Key Outputs

The key outputs of the conference included:

- Launch of AAL & Publications: Formal inauguration of the African Association of Legislation (AAL), and the unveiling of the African Journal of Parliamentary Affairs the African Parliamentary Democracy Series and AFRIPAL blog on parliament and legislation 'On the House'
- Follow-Up Actions: Commitment to biennial AFRIPAL convenings, development of an online parliamentary resource hub, and preparation of a special issue on African Parliamentary Affairs, consolidating conference papers.

Key Partners and Stakeholders

- Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA)
- Population and Social Development Institute (PSDI)
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
- African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)
- International Association of Legislation (IAL)
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)
- Parliament of Uganda

Attendance Overview

- Total Number of delegates: 334
- Total Countries Involved: 65 unique national governments + the European Union.
- Africa Representation: All five African regions were represented.
- Europe/North America Partners: 12+ foreign states and intergovernmental partners.

Master Class Session: Tools to Assist in Synthesising Information from PACs and Government Reports

Master Class Session on synthesising PACs and government reports, held in Parliament Committee Room 402B.

Marci Harris from Popvox Foundation facilitates a Master Class on synthesising PACs and government reports in Parliament Committee Room 402B.

Pre-Conference engagements

At the AFRIPAL 2025 Workshop with Uganda Parliamentary Staff, **Marci Harris**, Executive Director of the POPVOX Foundation, delivered a keynote titled "AI in Parliamentary Workflows: Tools to Assist in Synthesizing Information from PACs and Government Reports." She introduced the concept of the "**Pacing Problem**" the widening gap between the speed of technological advancement and the slower evolution of political institutions. Harris argued that digital transformation is no longer optional but essential to protect and modernize democratic processes. She proposed a **Legislative Modernization Stack**, with digitalization as the foundational layer supporting enhanced public engagement and institutional capacity. She highlighted how AI especially **Natural Language Processing** (NLP) and **Large Language Models** (LLMs) can revolutionize parliamentary workflows, including report analysis, speech transcription, and drafting.

Drawing from global parliamentary practices, Harris presented practical AI applications already in use, such as speech recognition in the European Parliament and document analysis in Brazil and India. Best practices included providing models with source documents, checking all facts, being transparent about AI use, and avoiding the input of sensitive or confidential information. Harris emphasized that AI should augment not replace parliamentary work, enabling legislators to become more efficient, informed, and responsive to citizens. Her address concluded with a call for African parliaments to begin small, learn quickly, and build AI capacity tailored to their unique institutional needs.

Group photo after the Master Class session with Members of Parliament, WFD, CEPA, Parliament staff, and Popvox representatives.

Jean Monnet Policy Network on Europe-Africa Relations – Education and Research (NEAR-ER): Early Career Researchers and Graduate Students Dialogue

Jean Monnet NEAR-ER: Early Career Researchers & Graduate Panel.

In the lead-up to the inaugural AFRIPAL Conference, Makerere University hosted a pre-AFRIPAL convening on June 16, 2025, under the banner of the Jean Monnet Policy Network on Europe-Africa Relations – Education and Research (NEAR-ER)at the university's Main Hall. The dialogue brought together early career researchers, graduate students, and senior academics from across Africa and Europe to reflect on cross-continental research collaboration. Opening remarks by Dr. John Mushomi and the Vice Chancellor emphasized the need for stronger institutional support for policy-relevant research. The keynote by Prof. Gustavo Mullen (Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies) introduced the NEAR-ER network's focus on "Shared Peace, Shared Prosperity, and Shared Spaces," and outlined its use of blogs, podcasts, and dialogues to bridge academia and public policy.

Mentors from Poland, Zambia, and across Africa shared insights on academic growth, including the importance of networking, resilience, and leveraging global opportunities. The convening served as a powerful precursor to AFRIPAL 2025, reinforcing the urgency of building knowledge alliances between African parliaments and academic communities. Participants left energized to contribute to legislative innovation grounded in evidence, collaboration, and youth engagement.

Day One: 18th June 2025

Dr. John Mushomi

Dr. John Mushomi, Chairperson AFRIPAL Organizing Committee, welcoming delegates to the conference.

Dr. John Mushomi welcomed the conference delegates, on behalf of the International and National Organizing Committees. He positioned AFRIPAL 2025 as "**a catalytic laboratory of democratic innovation.**" He emphasized that AFRIPAL is not a one-off event, but a long-term vision dedicated to transforming African parliaments into dynamic engines of democratic resilience and reform.

Dr. Mushomi framed AFRIPAL as a response to the failures of short-term, siloed, and projectized approaches to democratic development, declaring that:

> **"AFRIPAL is what we do when we believe that parliaments can be sites of democratic innovation and not just routine oversight."**

He outlined AFRIPAL's unique, enduring structure, which includes a biennial conference, the African Parliamentary Democracy Series, the African Journal of Parliamentary Affairs, the blog "On the House" and the establishment of the Africa Association for Legislation, calling it a "**research and practice home for parliamentary and legislative experts."**

He noted that conference will focus on questions like; What do African parliaments look like in times of emergencies? As Africa enters the era of artificial intelligence and rapid technological change, Dr. Mushomi called for democratic institutions to "… adapt, and remain responsive to citizens, especially the youth who form 70% of Africa's population."

He also stressed the importance of **post-legislative scrutiny**, urging delegates to focus on the gap between legislative intention and real-world impact.

The address conveyed a heartfelt appreciation for both institutional and individual contributors who nurtured the AFRIPAL vision. Among those recognized were the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Center for Policy Analysis, Parliament of Uganda, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), and a network of academic partners across Africa and Europe. Special personal tribute was paid to Mr. Joseph Munyangaabo (WFD Uganda), Dr. Hannah Muzee (Chief Convenor of AFRIPAL Conferences), Prof. Mauro Zamboni (outgoing President of the International Association of Legislation, and the AFRIPAL Secretariat team led by Dr. Martin Kizito.

Prof. Mauro Zamboni's Opening Keynote Summary Topic: To Whom Should Legislation Be For?

Prof. Mauro Zamboni

In a reflective keynote address, Prof. Mauro Zamboni challenged delegates to rethink a fundamental question: "To whom should legislation be for?" Emphasising that legislation is the cornerstone of governance, and if it is to serve its democratic function, it must be understood by all.

Prof. Zamboni outlined four key audiences of legislation: the general public, specific stakeholders such as businesses and unions, the legal community (judges, lawyers, scholars), and the internal actors (lawmakers, drafters, civil servants). He stressed that while each group has different needs, clarity, inclusivity, and accessibility must be central to how laws are written.

He warned against overly technical language and "one-size-fits-all" legal drafting that alienates the public. Instead, legislation should adopt user-friendly language, visual clarity, and contextual relevance. He called for public consultations in the law-making process, arguing that legislation without citizen comprehension or stakeholder input undermines democratic participation and legal compliance.

His final message was clear: for legislation to truly serve the people, it must first be understood by them.

Chief Guest Remarks -
Rt.Hon Ruhakana Rugunda
Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda – Board Chairperson, African Association of Legislation (AAL)

Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, former Prime Minister of Uganda and Chairperson of the African Association of Legislation (AAL), set the tone for AFRIPAL 2025 with a visionary address that underscored the role of parliaments as engines of sustainable development, and described the AFRIPAL convening as a historic moment a bold new platform bridging parliamentary practice with scholarly thought.

Dr. Rugunda emphasized the **urgent need to reconnect legislative processes with research, evidence, and the lived realities of African citizens,** calling AFRIPAL a response to this imperative. He championed the idea of legislative innovation, arguing that parliaments must become both transformative and inclusive, shaping laws that are rooted in justice, equity, and accountability.

While announcing the launch of the **African Association of Legislation** (AAL), Dr. Rugunda described it as a continental community of legislators, drafters, researchers, and thinkers committed to reimagining how laws are made and evaluated across Africa. AAL, will promote legislative excellence and evidence-based reforms responsive to Africa's complex development challenges.

Dr. Rugunda urged participants to critically reflect on parliaments' roles in addressing pressing issues from climate change to youth unemployment and to forge enduring networks between lawmakers and academia. He concluded by encouraging delegates to turn dialogue into action, envisioning **AFRIPAL not just as a conference, but the birth of a movement** for legislative transformation in Africa.

Remarks from Country Director KAS - Anna Reinsmann on Parliamentarism and Democratic Survival

In her address, Anna Reinsmann of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) affirmed the foundation's longstanding commitment to strengthening parliaments and advancing parliamentary accountability. Drawing from Germany's post-war constitutional history, she reflected on how the Parliamentary Council and the Basic Law (Germany's constitution) were designed to avoid the failures of the Weimar Republic by centering parliament as the anchor of democratic governance.

Anna highlighted that the 5% electoral threshold in Germany and the prohibition of independent candidates serve to prevent parliamentary fragmentation and promote stable legislative governance a deliberate design choice born from lessons of dictatorship. She underscored that KAS itself was created as a civic response to authoritarianism, with its funding anchored in Germany's directly elected Bundestag, making it a product of robust parliamentary democracy.

Referencing Hon. Tundu Lissu's book **''Parliament and Accountability in East Africa'',** she warned that many African parliaments have long operated under the shadow of overpowering executive branches, with histories of fragile accountability. "The story of East African parliamentarism," she quoted, "is one of blood, toil, and tears" but also of unrelenting democratic struggle.

In her closing, she asked: **"How can we ensure that parliaments in presidential systems are not marginalized, but empowered to fulfill their vital role of oversight, legislation, and representation?"** She reminded the delegates that this is not just a structural question but one of democratic survival, justice, and dignity for all African citizens.

Launch of the African Association of Legislation and AFRIPAL Knowledge Platforms

A collaborative presentation of citations by **Dr. Hannah Muzee** and **Prof. Gerald Karyeija** laid the intellectual foundation for a new era in legislative thought leadership on the continent. Drawing from comparative global studies and the contextual realities of African parliaments, the two scholars underscored the urgency of African-led research, legislative innovation, and knowledge production.

This scholarly groundwork culminated in a historic moment: **the official launch** by **Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda,** former Prime Minister of Uganda of four key initiatives under the AFRIPAL agenda. **African Association of Legislation (AAL),** the **African Journal of Parliamentary Affairs, Africa Parliamentary Democracy Series,** and the **AFRIPAL Blog On the House,** an independent and knowledge hub dedicated to reporting on legislative innovation, parliamentary accountability, and governance trends across Africa and the globe.

Group photo from left: Dr. John Mushomi(PSDI), Prof. Mauro Zamboni(IAL), Anne Reinsmann(KAS), Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda (AAL), Dr. Hannah Mzee(AFRIPAL Convener), Prof. Gerald Karyeija (AAL), Dr. Eliya Zulu(AFIDEP), Mr. Joseph Munyangabo(WFD).

Session: Parliamentary Innovation through Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS): A Comparative Perspective and Lessons Learnt

Moderator: Stephen Imrie (Scottish Parliament)

Panel In Session: Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS)

Morning Plenary Session

Frankline De Vrieze, Conference Keynote

Franklin De Vrieze, Head of Practice for Accountability at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy

In his presentation, Franklin De Vrieze, Head of Practice for Accountability at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, invited delegates to reconsider a neglected but powerful question: "What happens after a law is passed?" Through the lens of Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS), he challenged parliaments to view legislation not as an end, but as a cycle one that demands evaluation, learning, and course correction.

Mr. De Vrieze drew on comparative experiences to show how PLS strengthens the parliamentary function of oversight. He noted that law implementation is rarely automatic it depends on the clarity of the legislative text, the presence of secondary legislation, compatibility with existing legal frameworks, and the availability of resources. He reminded delegates that parliaments have both the authority and the responsibility to ensure that laws work as intended, not only in theory but in lived reality.

Reflecting on global innovations, he highlighted the United Kingdom's use of Post-Legislative Memoranda; Ukraine's digital citizen consultations even amidst war; Nepal's legislative review clauses at provincial level; South Africa's high-level inquiry into apartheid-era laws; and Kenya's Senate pilot on the Health Act (2017), which utilized committee mandates under Standing Orders. These examples illustrated how diverse parliamentary systems can embed PLS through tailored mechanisms such as ministerial undertakings, review clauses, and sunset provisions.

Importantly, Mr. De Vrieze cautioned against viewing PLS as a luxury exclusive to well-resourced parliaments. Instead, he positioned it as a tool of empowerment enabling parliaments at all stages of institutional development to reclaim relevance, ensure laws reflect current realities, and deepen democratic accountability. His closing reflection was both aspirational and practical: by institutionalizing learning through PLS, parliaments do not merely scrutinize the past they shape a more responsive legislative future.

The session explored the growing importance of **Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS)** as a tool for improving accountability, legislative impact, and citizen trust in parliamentary processes. Panelists presented comparative perspectives from Zambia, the UK, Uganda, and other jurisdictions, emphasizing the value of follow-up assessments after laws are passed.

Dr.Martin Kizito, (Uganda Christian University), argued for a **home-grown African PLS** framework to overcome the limitations of externally imposed monitoring and evaluation models. Citing the African Peer Review Mechanism, he called for contextually appropriate strategies, locally owned data collection, and policy solutions that reflect **Africa's governance realities**. He warned that without domestic guidelines and strong follow-up mechanisms, PLS risks remaining a rhetorical aspiration.

Maria Mousmount, (International Association of Legislation), emphasized that **PLS strengthens democracy** by ensuring that laws are assessed based on their real-world consequences. She insisted that parliaments must **own the PLS process,** work collaboratively with oversight institutions, and **avoid outsourcing** it to third parties who may not fully grasp the legislative intent. She stressed that **cross-context flexibility** and internal parliamentary capacity as vital to the success of PLS.

Hon. Imanga, (Parliament of Zambia), shared lessons from the **2023 Post-Legislative Caucus** initiated in response to a national food security crisis. Through collaboration with civil society and international partners, the Zambian Parliament applied a **qualitative, cross-party approach** to assess relevant legislation. He emphasized the importance of **political will, inclusivity, and transparency.** Voluntary participation, cross-committee collaboration, and information-sharing were highlighted as key success factors.

The session revealed that PLS must be more than a checkbox exercise. It requires **clear frameworks, sustained funding, institutional capacity, and participatory processes.** Speakers agreed that PLS can significantly improve service delivery, legislative coherence, and citizen trust, especially if tailored to local political realities.

Key Recommendations Included:

- Development of home-grown PLS frameworks aligned with African contexts.
- Institutionalization of structured PLS cycles (e.g., every five years) with clear follow-up mechanisms.
- Enhancement of parliamentary research capacity and data collection systems.
- Ensuring cross-party ownership to depoliticize the process.
- Creation of a guiding frameworks and dedicated funding to anchor PLS.
- Promotion of stakeholder participation and community engagement in evaluations.
- Dissemination of findings widely and integrate them into national development planning.
- Creation of regional and global communities of practice to exchange learning.

Session: Legislative Legitimacy, Parliamentary Openness & Gender Inclusivity Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Moderator: Mziwandile Ndlovu (AFIDEP)

Mziwandile Ndlovu presenting at the side session: Legislative Legitimacy, Parliamentary Openness & Gender Inclusivity.

The session explored challenges and progress related to legislative legitimacy, openness, and women's participation in African parliaments. Hon. Lorraine Nxumalo of Eswatini emphasized the importance of legal mandates for gender balance, stating, "In our election laws, 10 must be elected: 5 women and 5 men. If it's not emphasized in laws and policies, men will always overtake because women don't have enough resources." She highlighted the stalled Sexual Offenses Bill: "that has been in draft form since the 9th parliament, yet women continue to face rape and violations."

Timothy Chemonges, Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Analysis Uganda, acknowledged the access challenges, saying, "Although much effort has been made to make legislative information available online, 70% of our population lives in rural areas where access to this information remains limited." He added, "Women hold top positions in parliament but often lack real power to make decisions."

The question on cyber harassment led to a discussion of digital violence against women politicians: "There is a lot of intentional deployment of misinformation as a strategy to put women down, including intimate videos and photos being released to disqualify or defeat them in elections," a participant shared.

The panel agreed on the need for practical empowerment: "to address what women still struggle with to fully exercise their roles," concluded Hon. Lorraine.

Session : Enhancing The Capacity of Women MPs to Perform Their Responsibilities
Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 2:40 PM
Moderator: Lucja Piekarska (Krakow University)

Desmond Eliot (Nigerian Politician) speaking in the side session: Enhancing the Capacity of Women MPs to Perform Their Responsibilities.

Elon Ainebyona (GIZ-Uganda) speaking in side session: Enhancing the Capacity of Women MPs to Perform Their Responsibilities.

The session critically examined the persistent structural and cultural barriers that undermine the effectiveness of women Members of Parliament (MPs) across Africa, despite affirmative action and other efforts to increase their representation.

Kgomotso Komane (University of Pretoria) opened with a reminder that "even when women are in political spaces, they are not equipped with economic empowerment." She identified key obstacles to women's political participation: cultural bias, lack of campaign resources, gendered responsibilities, and societal intimidation.

Desmond Elliot Olushola (Federal University, Lokoja) contextualized the Nigerian experience. He noted that although "women were prominent in Nigeria's transition to democracy in 1999, they were seriously underplayed when democracy came." Referring to the 35% national gender policy, he argued that "in reality, this is not the case." He however emphasized women's legislative impact: "that even with fewer women in parliament, they lobbied better and pushed tougher men to champion their causes." He cited success in areas like education, cancer policy, and child welfare, but insisted "we must move beyond rhetoric and reserve at least three out of every ten seats for women."

Geoff Dubrow (Nexus PFM Consulting Inc.) interrogated the role of parliament in gender-responsive budgeting, warning that "SDG 5.1 encourages women's inclusion, but it doesn't measure whether they feel safe or empowered." He stressed the need to go beyond quotas: "Budgets must be analyzed for their impact on women and marginalized groups not just who's in the room when they're passed." Dubrow argued that "placing women on boards or in legislatures is meaningless without systemic reforms that assess outcomes for equity and inclusion."

Zdzisław Mach (Krakow University), the session discussant, noted that "there [was] no difference between parliamentary democracy in Africa and Europe the challenge is to change the situation and empower women." He observed that "women are elected to positions men are less interested in," and warned against essentializing their roles as only caregivers or nurturers.

Sarah Nakintu (Interparty Women's Platform) described efforts to "combat the pull-down syndrome among women" and emphasised solidarity across political parties. "When issues come to attack us, they don't select political parties," she said. Their platform has championed key gender policies, encouraged women to contest open seats, and tackled sexual violence in politics.

Naura Manjeri Poly (Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy) added that "MPs often enter parliament with passion, but find themselves constrained by party lines and executive influence." She urged: "When we are given the opportunity to serve, we must use it to transform ground realities not dance to the tune of party politics."

Key Takeaways

- Women's political participation is still constrained by patriarchal norms, resource disparities, and tokenistic inclusion.
- Despite low numbers, women MPs significantly influence social welfare policy, especially in health, education, and vulnerable populations.
- Internalized bias among women and structural gatekeeping within political parties remain major hurdles.
- Gender-responsive budgeting and long-term political mentorship are essential for transforming representation into actual influence.

Session: Parliament Corruption, and Public Accountability in Africa
Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025
2:00–3:00 PM
Venue: Zambezi Hall
Moderator: Christopher Changwe Nshimbi (University of Pretoria)

Session: Parliament Corruption and Public Accountability in Africa.

This session critically examined the persistent challenges of corruption in African parliaments and the need to enhance public accountability. Discussions focused on how parliaments can serve as instruments of democratic integrity or, conversely, as enablers of impunity. **Cori Wielenge** (Centre for Mediation in Africa, IBEI Barcelona) argued that, "We cannot talk about public accountability without addressing the structural violence and absence of sustainable political dialogue." **Adekunle Adeboboye** (University of Pretoria) called for innovation: "Parliaments must collaborate with private institutions and commit to freedom of information if transparency is to be more than a buzzword."

In a controversial contribution, **Al-Maruff Yinka Ajibolu** (Federal University, Lokoja & Nigerian Parliament) argued, "It is a mistake to constantly seek younger MPs. Experience matters, and older members bring needed continuity in oversight." This sparked heated reactions from the audience, many of whom questioned the legitimacy of long-serving MPs in contexts where corruption remains rampant. The session revealed deep frustration with opaque legislative processes and called for greater civic involvement, transparency mechanisms, and institutional renewal to rebuild public trust in Africa's parliamentary systems.

Session: Transational Parliaments and Parliamentary Diplomacy—What Role for Democracy and Sustainable Development Promotion?

Date & Time: June 18, 2025 | 3:50 PM – 4:40 PM
Venue: Rwizi Hall
Moderator: Gustavo Muller (KU Leuven)

This session addressed the intersections between global governance instruments, parliamentary diplomacy, and the challenges facing African parliaments in upholding democratic accountability and sustainable development.

Malindi Afonso Assubuji (Nova School of Law, Center for Business, Human Rights and the Environment) in there paper Could Transnational Legislation Help Africa Prepare for the Implications of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive? critiqued the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), warning that although it seeks to enforce responsible corporate behavior, it may inadvertently increase the burden on African suppliers without improving local livelihoods. "Africa remains a major exporter of critical minerals," Assubuji said, "yet communities near extraction sites still suffer water scarcity, gender-based violence, disease, and exclusion from the supply chain benefits."

Dr. Keneilwe P. Marata (Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis) in her paper titled Mitigating Performance Limitations and Challenges Faced by Parliament's Budgetary Oversight Committees in Botswana turned the focus inward by, examining Botswana's Parliament, particularly the Finance and Estimates Committee (FEC) and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). She noted that "parliament continues to be questioned for its weak budget oversight," citing lack of clarity on committee leadership roles, infrequent meetings, and lack of transparency in proceedings. Marata recommended strengthening legal frameworks, improving training, and establishing a Parliamentary Budget Office.

Dr. Christopher Nshimbi (University of Pretoria), the session's discussant, noted that "entrepreneur-style EU-Africa relations result in unequal trade leverage." and questioned "where international bodies like the ILO stand in enforcing ethical standards across global supply chains."

Key Takeaways

- Without African-led transnational legislation, compliance with foreign standards risks becoming a new form of economic subjugation.
- Parliamentary reform is critical. Effective budgeting oversight must be rooted in clear mandates, professional capacity, and transparent practices.
- Parliamentary diplomacy must not only be reactive to external frameworks but also proactive in building continental coherence and legislative power.

Session: Regional Parliaments and Legislation in Africa
Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 4:00 PM
Venue: Rwizi Hall
Moderator: Philip De Man (KU Leuven)

Speaker at Session: Regional Parliaments and Legislation in Africa.

The session highlighted the crucial role of defense transparency in enhancing civil-military relations and parliamentary accountability across the SADC region. Dr. Wilhelm Janese Van Rensburg (SIGLA, Stellenbosch University) emphasized that "parliaments act as key intermediaries between citizens, government, and the military," enabling greater citizen participation through access to defense information. He noted serious gaps in SADC parliamentary websites, with "only South Africa and Zambia providing meaningful access to defense committee information." Van Rensburg stressed that "access to defense oversight empowers public scrutiny and fosters trust."

Mziwandile Ndlovu (AFIDEP) added that "increased public demand for defense information has surged, especially after COVID-19 accelerated online engagement." He highlighted that "committee reports and responses published on websites improve transparency and accountability," but cautioned that "many parliaments still lack openness and easily accessible defense data."

Audience contributions underscored the appetite for defense-related public information and called for normalized transparency practices. The session concluded with calls for parliaments to "take the lead in normalizing openness," improve digital platforms, and apply accountability frameworks to strengthen democratic governance in defense matters.

Key Takeaways:

- Defense transparency is vital for accountable civil-military relations and citizen engagement.
- Most SADC parliamentary websites lack comprehensive defense oversight information.
- COVID-19 boosted public demand for accessible, online parliamentary data.
- Parliaments should normalize public access to defense oversight and improve website usability.

Session: Perception of Parliament and Legislation in Africa
Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 3:00–4:00 PM
Venue: Sezzibwa Hall
Moderator: Xavier Philippe (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

This session unpacked the contrasting perceptions of parliament across Africa, where legislatures are both respected as symbols of democracy but criticized for thier institutional shortcomings. Panelists explored how the public evaluates parliament through lenses of representation, lawmaking, and integrity, highlighting a pressing need for reform to build trust and engagement.

Agather Alidri (Gulu University) emphasized youth political behavior, stating: "Young people are engaging in politics differently today through advocacy, activism, voting, demonstrations, and even consumer politics." She stressed that these forms of participation reflect a generational demand for more responsive institutions.

Jude Ani (Federal University, Lokoja) addressed the criteria shaping public perception: "The way citizens view parliament is framed by three key metrics lawmaking, oversight, and representation." He also underscored the role of development partners, noting: "Actors like KAS and WFD support efforts to strengthen legislative capacity and democratic resilience."

Buchere Philip (Parliament of Kenya) contributed comparative reflections on institutional reform, while Akampurira Patience (Kabale University) urged inclusive civic education to demystify legislative work and foster wider participation: "Most citizens only hear about parliament during election season this must change."

Participants raised concerns about how to improve engagement and representation, especially among youth. The session recommended strengthening oversight, expanding civic education, promoting transparency, and using research tools,such as oral histories and elite interviews to inform evidence-based reform. Together, speakers reinforced that parliaments must be seen not only as sites of lawmaking but as living institutions responsive to the people they serve.

Full view of the room during the session:
Perception of Parliament and Legislation in Africa.

Day Two
19th June 2025

Conference Keynote address: Dr. Robert Ojambo Title: Parliament as a Tool for Democracy or Dictatorship – A Dilemma for African Politics

In his keynote address, Dr. Robert Ojambo, a lecturer at Kyambogo University, explored the central dilemma: "Is Parliament a tool for democracy or dictatorship in African politics?" This keynote address was a precursor to the second day's plenary panel session, **Ideals of Parliament.**

Dr. Ojambo began by reaffirming the foundational ideals of Parliament: Democracy, Accountability, Representation, oversight, Rule of Law, Protection of Rights, Scrutiny, and Social Justice.

He argued that these ideals serve as a benchmark for assessing whether African parliaments are living up to their democratic potential or being used to entrench authoritarianism.

Referencing Jackson Robert and Cart Rosebery, Dr. Ojambo emphasized that in much of Sub-Saharan Africa, **formal institutions remain weak**, and **personal rule dominates**. In this political culture, parliaments often function not to serve the public, but to protect the power of "**strongmen**" **leaders**. Such leaders bypass institutional checks, using parliaments to legitimize their rule and disburse patronage through **state-sponsored bribery and clientelism.**

Dr. Ojambo challenged participants to rethink how parliaments can be reclaimed as true spaces of democratic innovation rather than rubber stamps for entrenched regimes. He called on scholars, civil society, and legislative actors to be bolder in pushing for institutional reform, transparency, and civic empowerment to align African parliaments with their intended democratic purpose.

Session: Ideals of Parliament. Date & Time: June 18, 2025, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Venue: Nile Hall Moderator: Alex N. Jiya (AFIDEP)

This session explored the role of open parliaments in revitalizing democratic governance across Africa. The panel brought together researchers, civic tech innovators, and parliamentary monitoring experts to reflect on the Africa Open Parliament Index (OPI) as a vital tool for driving transparency, citizen participation, and institutional accountability. Speakers emphasized that openness must go beyond rhetoric to include measurable indicators and actionable reforms.

Panelists traced the evolution of the Africa Open Parliament Index, piloted in West Africa in 2022, and discussed its adaptation across regions. They argued that openness is not about comparing African parliaments to those in the Global North, but about fostering Africa-led benchmarks for performance, trust, and inclusion. The discussion highlighted both the promise and tension in democratizing parliamentary information from access to voting records to citizen engagement tools and called for deepened collaboration between Parliaments, CSOs, and citizens.

Key Insights from the Panel

Sammy Obeng from the Parliamentary Network of Africa, shared how the Open Parliament Index (OPI) draws from African contexts rather than Western benchmarks, combining standards from the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and Open Government Partnership. The speaker noted that countries like Ghana, which performed strongly in the pilot, and took tangible steps to reform their institutions by setting up Citizens' Bureaus and launching Open Parliament Action Plans.

Timothy Chemonges, Executive Director of Parliament Watch, Uganda emphasized that openness must be institutionalized, not person-dependent. He cautioned that many parliaments still treat information as confidential, and that citizen access to data like voting records and committee proceedings should become standard. "We need to move from access through relationships to access as a right," he argued.

The panel reflected on lessons from South Africa, where decades of advocacy have made almost every committee report publicly available building a rich archive for both citizen oversight and parliamentary memory. Sammy described the OPI as "a mirror" that can help parliaments admire progress or correct course.

In Uganda,Timothy Chemonges noted that sensitive areas like procurement, recruitment, and MP travel often remain hidden from public scrutiny. He stressed that civic education and data verification are essential to build trust in transparency initiatives. "Citizens must understand how to engage, and the data they use must be verifiable especially in politically sensitive environments."

Panel: Session on Ideals of Parliament.

Parliamentary Monitoring Tools Highlighted

The session showcased Uganda's digital accountability infrastructure, including:

- A **Parliament Performance Tracker,** which rates MPs on debate contributions, responsiveness, and legislative work;
- A **Budget Tracker** that monitors fund allocation and utilization across sectors;
- A **Debt Tracker** that analyzes the structure and sustainability of national debt;
- An **AI-powered Insights tool** that mines and summarizes Hansard data from 1991 to the present, enhancing access to legislative history on critical issues like education.

Participants praised the Africa Open Parliament Index for providing actionable data but urged stronger feedback loops between CSOs and MPs. Questions were raised about the politicization of scorecards and the need for shared verification systems to avoid data misuse. The discussion concluded with calls to institutionalize OPI in regional bodies and integrate civic voices at every stage of reform.

Session: Migration and Legal Framework in Africa

Date & Time: Thursday, June 19, 2025 | 2:00–3:00PM
Venue: Rwizi Hall
Moderator: Anisha Alinda (KAS)

Group photo after the session:
Migration and Legal Framework in Africa.

As part of the AFRIPAL 2025 Conference this session examined pressing issues surrounding migration, reintegration, digital trafficking, and the medical brain drain in Africa. The session brought together speakers from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung who provided evidence-based insights and policy recommendations to address these challenges.

Ampereza Laban, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, focused on the reintegration of labor migrants returning to Uganda. He highlighted a rise in reported mental illness among returnees, from 26 cases in 2019 to 38 in 2023. His findings underscored that returnees often face employment difficulties and social discrimination. He proposed the development of a holistic reintegration framework, the strengthening of data collection and monitoring systems, and the introduction of mandatory mental health screening for Ugandan returnees, particularly those coming from the Middle East.

Rebecca Florence Nanono, also from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, addressed the role of digital technology in facilitating human trafficking. She emphasized that traffickers exploit platforms like WhatsApp and encrypted messaging apps, often disguising harmful links and fake job adverts. She called for collaboration with tech companies such as Meta to remove exploitative content, along with cyber patrols, digital forensic training, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to curb trafficking online.

Akurut Jannet Gillian, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, tackled the issue of medical brain drain in Uganda. She observed that poor employment conditions and an unsupportive work environment are major push factors driving health professionals to leave the country. The consequences include over-reliance on expatriates, loss of skilled labor, and increased mortality due to understaffed facilities. She recommended that Uganda institutionalize National Health Workforce Accounts and establish a National Health Fund to improve working conditions and retain skilled health workers.

During the interactive session, participants questioned whether Uganda should prioritize training more medical professionals or focus on retaining existing talent through improved conditions and incentives.

This session reflected key values of human dignity, social justice, and collaborative governance, reinforcing the need for integrated legal and policy frameworks to manage migration and human capital retention in Africa effectively.

Session: African Parliaments, Accountability and Sustainable Development

Date & Time: Thursday, June 19, 2025 | 11:00AM
Venue: Sezibwa Hall
Moderator: Michael Olomu, Oyintonyo (Federal University Otuoke)

The session examined the role of African parliaments in advancing sustainable development through improved accountability, legislative innovation, and evidence-based oversight. Panelists shared academic insights, case studies, and policy recommendations that explored the democratization of governance, the evolution of Public Accounts Committees (PACs), and the power of bottom-up evaluations.

Nompumelelo Goodness, University of KwaZulu-Natal, advocated for bottom-up evaluation as a transformative approach to legislative oversight. Drawing on the case of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, she argued that traditional top-down models often ignore grassroots feedback. She emphasized community participation, public hearings, and even service delivery protests as vital diagnostic tools to enhance policy responsiveness and accountability. Goodness proposed reforms such as decentralized workshops, language-accessible legislative documents, and integration of traditional leadership to deepen citizen engagement in governance.

Frank Borge Wiezkte, Institute of Barcelona for International Studies (IBEI), addressed urban bias and democratization in African policymaking. He revisited the theory of urban bias once linked to non-electoral activism like protests and examined how the return to multi-party democracy in the 1990s shifted this dynamic. Using cross-country regressions, he presented evidence that rural producers now enjoy increased engagement with MPs, which has led to more pro-agriculture policies. However, he cautioned that this trend could exacerbate within-rural inequalities if only certain groups (e.g., older, educated, male farmers) benefit from policy shifts.

Dubrow Geoff, Nexus PFM Consulting Inc., presented a compelling case for reconceptualizing Public Accounts Committees (PACs) across Africa. While PACs serve to scrutinize the Auditor General's reports and ensure compliance with public finance standards, Geoff stressed that their impact remains limited by bureaucratic delays, low prioritization by parliaments, and weak follow-through by executives. He urged the adoption of centralized tracking tools, performance-based reporting, and time-bound procedures to ensure PAC recommendations are implemented. He also noted regional variations, with East African countries having multiple PACs (local, central, parliamentary), while West African nations typically rely on one PAC for all government operations.

Jackie Okao, Virginia Commonwealth University, shared insights from her work on parliamentary engagement in road and water safety governance. Her presentation highlighted the success of parliamentary forums in promoting cross-committee collaboration, community dialogues, and site-based learning. Citing a 2022 Ghana study visit, she illustrated how peer learning and evidence-based advocacy helped inform amendments to Uganda's Traffic and Road Safety Act. However, she acknowledged coordination gaps, resource constraints, and corruption risks as persistent challenges. Her recommendations included sustainable financing mechanisms, technical capacity-building, and inclusive policy formulation to better protect vulnerable populations.

The session closed with a Q&A exploring implementation challenges within PACs, stakeholder engagement in vulnerable communities, and strategies for aligning national policy with grassroots realities. Together, the panel emphasized that parliaments can only advance sustainable development when empowered by inclusive participation, rigorous accountability, and institutional reform.

Session:Harnessing AI and 4IR Technologies for Legislative Efficiency in African Parliaments

Date & Time: Thursday, June 19, 2025 | 2:00–3:00PM
Venue: Sezzibwa Hall
Moderator: Marci Harris (POPVOX Foundation)
Moderator: Marci Harris

Ali Abdinoor Ahmed (Parliament of Kenya) presenting on Harnessing AI and 4IR Technologies for Legislative Efficiency in African Parliaments.

This session explored the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in parliamentary transparency, election integrity, and democratic processes across Africa. Experts from diverse institutions shared insights on the opportunities and risks AI presents, underscoring the continent's growing digital engagement and the critical need for culturally sensitive AI solutions.

Ali Abdinoor Ahmed from the Parliament of Kenya highlighted how emerging economies are rapidly adopting AI, with Kenya moving towards AI-powered real-time transcription systems inspired by Estonia's model. They emphasized that success requires not only technology but also evolving institutional culture and human capacity. The session also addressed the challenges of Africa's linguistic diversity and the need for locally trained language models to ensure inclusivity. Researcher Begyira from KAS discussed AI's dual impact on election integrity. while AI tools can enhance voter education and monitoring, unregulated use risks spreading misinformation and manipulation through social media algorithms. The audience raised concerns about the digital divide, the rise of deepfakes, and legal safeguards needed to protect democratic institutions. Panelists stressed the urgency of building robust legal frameworks, promoting local AI capacity, and ensuring inclusive digital policies to uphold democratic accountability.

Panel group photo, Harnessing AI and 4IR Technologies for Legislative Efficiency in African Parliaments.

Recommendations:

- Development and training in AI language models tailored to Africa's linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Establishment of a comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks to govern AI use in political processes.
- Implementation of programs to bridge the digital divide and promote digital literacy in marginalized communities.
- Fostering partnerships among parliaments, local tech firms, civil society, and international bodies.
- Deploy AI-powered real-time transcription and archiving systems for greater parliamentary transparency.
- Utilization of multi-stakeholder strategies to detect and combat AI-driven misinformation and deepfakes.

Sombo Muzata, discussant in the session: Harnessing AI and 4IR Technologies for Legislative Efficiency in African Parliaments.

Session: Adolescent Mothers' Empowerment

Date & Time: Thursday, June 19, 2025
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Venue: Rwizi Hall, Hotel Africana
Moderator: Rwengabo Sebastian

The session focused on the challenges adolescent mothers face in accessing reproductive healthcare, particularly safe abortion and the urgent need for legal and systemic reform.

Elizabeth Nasubuga (University of Michigan/Makerere University) emphasized: "Unsafe abortions are not just a medical issue they are a symptom of systemic neglect. We must create space where adolescent mothers feel seen and protected."

Tafadzwa Madondo (Ipas Africa) called for greater policy clarity: "We cannot talk about empowerment without enabling choice. Legal ambiguity breeds stigma, fear, and death."

Hon. Lorraine Nxumalo (MP, Eswatini) echoed the need for legislative support: "Adolescent girls deserve policies that affirm not punish their agency. We must not legislate morality at the cost of young lives."
Charles Katulamu added that "We must look at abortion not just as a moral question, but as a public health issue. Empowerment begins with access."

Participants raised critical points around the role of men in reproductive responsibility, and how to balance family planning with access to abortion services. One participant asked: "Why are we always focusing on women, yet men are equally responsible?" Others highlighted the limited awareness and access to safe services in rural areas.

The session concluded with a call for intersectional and rights-based approaches to adolescent reproductive health. Empowerment, as defined here, means legal protection, healthcare access, and the right to make informed decisions without fear.

Session: Legislation Around the World: Some Perspectives and Issues (Roundtable)

Session:Legislation Around the World – Some Perspectives and Issues (Roundtable), full view of the room.

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Venue: Zambezi Hall

Moderator: Mauro Zamboni (IAL)

The session provided a rich dialogue on legislative transparency and regulatory reform as crucial components for strengthening parliamentary legitimacy and democratic governance globally.

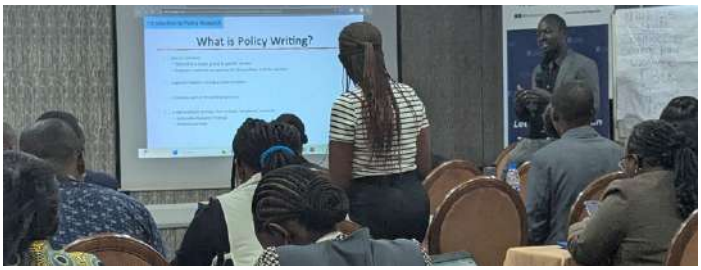
Tiago Fidalgo De Freitas from Usbon Public Law, Portugal, emphasized the functional role of transparency in parliamentary processes, stating, "Full transparency is not necessarily the objective, but a level of transparency that is adequate to the goals taken at each level." He cautioned that "publishing information without genuine public engagement results in tokenistic transparency," underscoring that transparency must be more than a ceremonial gesture. Tiago outlined four interconnected dimensions of transparency—including open data portals for tracking bills and committee work which, when institutionalized, foster "public trust, enhance accountability and strengthen democratic legitimacy."

Joao Tiago Silveira, also from Usbon Public Law, Portugal, focused on improving the quality and effectiveness of legislative procedures. He argued that better regulation in parliament requires systematic frameworks, noting that "many parliaments lack clear guidelines to reduce flexibility and improve lawmaking." He advocated for practical tools, highlighting that "flowcharts and visual tools can simplify work plans and legislative procedure," helping MPs navigate complex regulatory processes. However, he also reflected on challenges, observing that "MPs often resist technical assessments when they conflict with political will," illustrating the tension between political interests and regulatory rigor.

Together, the speakers illuminated multiple perspectives on transparency and regulation: Tiago's focus on adaptive transparency calibrated to national contexts complements Silveira's call for procedural clarity and technical tools to improve legislative quality. Both emphasized that genuine public engagement and clear regulatory standards are essential to move beyond superficial reforms and achieve meaningful parliamentary accountability.

Participants further interrogated how much parliamentary information should be made public and the urgency of reforming legislative practices to meet evolving democratic demands.

Session: KAS Policy Writing workshop
Date & Time: Wednesday, June 19, 2025 | 11:00–1:00 PM
Venue: Orange Hall
Moderator: Anisha Alinda (KAS)



Wide shot of the KAS Policy Writing Workshop session facilitator Ojok Okello speaking.

Convened by KAS, Ojok Okello, the day's workshop facilitator, trained the audience on policy writing focused on how to turn research into clear, actionable policy briefs that influence decision-makers. He stressed that policy writing is about framing public problems precisely, backing them with solid evidence, and offering practical recommendations that consider feasibility, cost, and impact. The session covered the entire policy cycle and highlighted the importance of tailoring messages to specific audiences.

The workshop also detailed a step-by-step writing process from defining problems and goals to structuring findings logically and crafting concise recommendations. Okello emphasized the use of original data, limiting recommendations to a few clear points, and writing an executive summary that captures the key message. Overall, it was a practical guide aimed at helping fellows bridge the gap between knowledge and policy action.

Session: Youth Peace Building
Date & Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 4:00–5:00 PM
Venue: Sezzibwa Hall
Moderator: Lutendo Malisha (UAPS)

The AFRIPAL 2025 session on Youth Peace Building emphasized the vital role of young people in peace and development. Hon. Imanga Wamunyima (MP, Zambia) noted, "The government has put in place strong monitoring tools to ensure that youth funds are used as planned," highlighting the oversight role of the Public Accounts Committee and the importance of partnerships with civil society organizations.

Edna Kanyesigye, a youth development practitioner from Uganda, pointed out the persistent inequalities and emerging challenges faced by youth: "Urban youth have better access to banks, but rural youth, especially those in Karamoja, are left behind due to poor infrastructure like roads." She further warned, **"Civic space is shrinking, and youth voices are being suppressed."** On digital manipulation, she cautioned on how, "**Youth are being blackmailed and manipulated through AI-generated fake nude videos, which distort their participation in political processes."**

Participants questoned "**How youth participation in political activities is evolving? Whether it has been increasing or declining?**" In response, Hon. Imanga affirmed, "Youth participation is definitely increasing, but it needs to be supported by structural reforms that empower them beyond tokenistic involvement."

The moderator Dr. Lutendo Malisha emphasized the need for systemic reforms, by urging, **"Youth to not only be participants but co-leaders in shaping Africa's democratic and sustainable future."**

Closing Plenary – Strengthening Parliamentary Function in Emergencies

Closing Plenary – Strengthening Parliamentary Function in Emergencies.

The closing plenary session at AFRIPAL 2025 focused on the resilience and adaptability of parliaments during emergencies such as armed conflict, public health crises, and natural disasters. The session emphasized the importance of preserving democratic oversight, legislative continuity, and citizen representation, even in times of national distress.

Patrick Ochen (Gulu University, Uganda) made a heartfelt call for legal recognition and reintegration of children born in captivity in Northern Uganda, arguing that "we cannot speak of post-conflict reconstruction while leaving behind generations born out of conflict." His intervention centered on inclusive legal reform and historical accountability.

Wilhelm Janse (Parliament of South Africa) stressed the balance between executive response and parliamentary oversight during crises. "Military deployment should support and not override democratic institutions,"

Gift Ike (MP, Nigeria) emphasized that "safety is not a privilege but a right," urging legislative investment in civic education and emergency preparedness. William Chiufya proposed the formation of a "standing parliamentary committee on disaster response," noting that crisis governance requires institutional readiness beyond ad hoc responses.

Participants raised concerns about how parliaments can identify and support undocumented children born in captivity. A consensus emerged that failure to include such vulnerable populations in national planning undermines post-emergency recovery.

The session highlighted the need to strengthen parliamentary tools, build capacity within key committees, and invest in data systems that ensure legislative responsiveness. It concluded with a call for parliaments to evolve from reactive actors to proactive institutions during times of emergency.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Josephine Watera
(Parliament of Uganda)

Dr. Josephine Watera (Parliament of Uganda) delivering closing remarks.

In her closing remarks on the second day of the inaugural AFRIPAL Conference, Dr. Josephine Watera, the General Secretary of the African Association of Legislation (AAL), reaffirmed that the birth of AFRIPAL stemmed from a pressing need to reconcile academic research with practical policymaking. **"This platform was envisioned to bridge the gap between scholarship and legislation, two realms that must work hand in hand to shape Africa's democratic future,"** she noted.

Dr. Watera also announced that the AAL will introduce awards in future AFRIPAL convenings to recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in parliamentary work. She extended heartfelt appreciation to all delegates for their time and presence, and acknowledged the dedication and stewardship of Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Founding Chairperson of the AAL Board. She concluded by attributing the success of the conference to the unwavering belief and support of AFRIPAL's partners in building people-centered parliaments across the continent.

Book Launches at AFRIPAL

Group photo after the Book Launches at AFRIPAL.

At the **AFRIPAL 2025 Conference,** delegates witnessed the launch of two books that contributed to critical discourse on governance, identity, and mobility in Africa:

1. **Mobility, Identity and Conflict Resolution in Africa**

By John Mushomi and Cori Wielenga

This volume examined the intricate links between migration, belonging, and peacebuilding across the continent, offering fresh perspectives on how mobility has shaped both conflict and collaboration.

2. **Public Corruption in Africa**

By Chris Nshimbi, Sombo Muzata, and Leone Tshimpaka

The book explored the structural roots of corruption within African governance systems, unpacking its far-reaching consequences and outlining pathways toward reform.

These important publications enriched the intellectual fabric of AFRIPAL 2025 and reaffirmed the convening's role as a platform for policy-relevant research and democratic innovation. These books were launched by Professor Gerald Karyeija,the President of the African Association of Legislation.

Conference Dinner

The AFRIPAL 2025 Conference Dinner was a dignified evening of conversation, connection, and reflection. It brought together parliamentarians, academics, civil society leaders, and heads of institutions in a relaxed setting that encouraged informal dialogue and deeper bonds beyond the formal sessions.

Among those in attendance were Prof. Ezra Suruma, Dr. Chrispus Kiyonga, Former and current presidents of the International Association for Legislation (IAL), and several institutional heads whose presence underscored the importance of the convening. The evening celebrated the spirit of democratic collaboration not only through speeches or awards, but through shared meals, toasts, and laughter that reminded everyone the importance of inclusive, visionary, and human-centered governance.

Prof.Ezra Suruma at the AFRIPAL Dinner

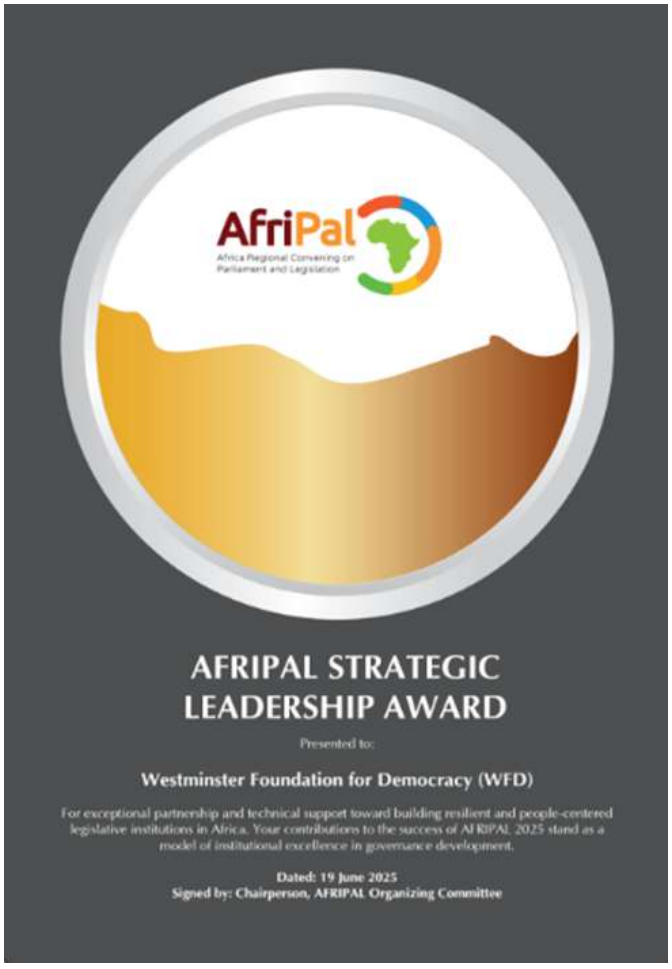
Prof.Chrispus Kiyonga Speaking at the AFRIPAL Dinner

8.0 Awards at the AFRIPAL Conference Dinner

At the AFRIPAL Conference Dinner, a number of awards were presented to both institutions and individuals for their valuable contribution to the success of the inaugural conference. These included:

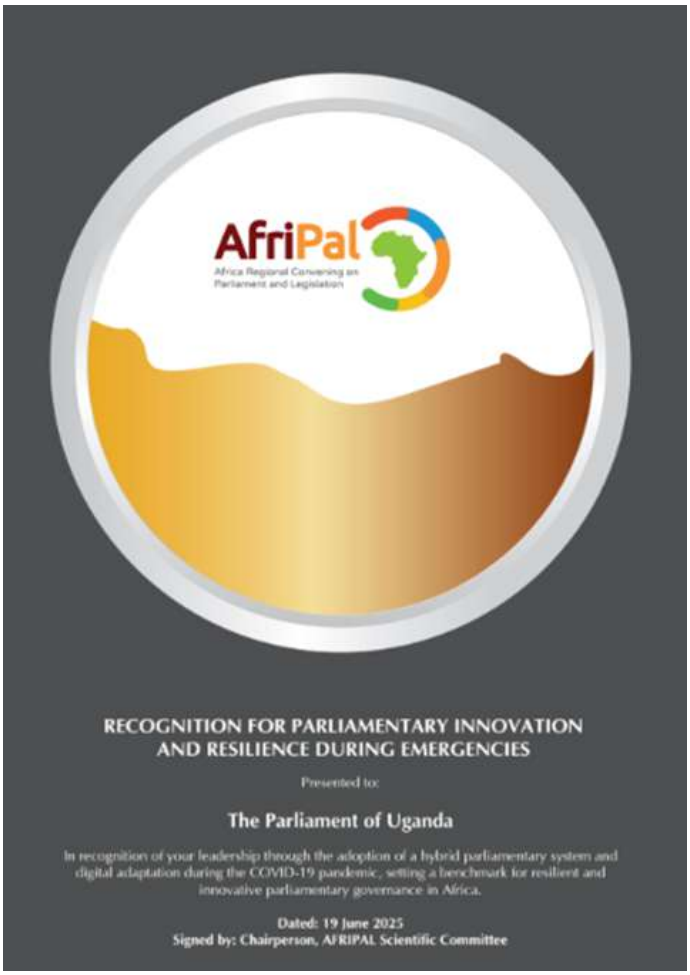
AFRIPAL Strategic Leadership Award Presented to: Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

For exceptional partnership and technical support toward building resilient and people-centred legislative institutions in Africa. Your contributions to the success of AFRIPAL 2025 stand as a model of institutional excellence in governance development.



Recognition for Parliamentary Innovation and Resilience During Emergencies Presented to: The Parliament of Uganda

In recognition of their leadership through the adoption of a hybrid parliamentary system and digital adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic, they set a benchmark for resilient and innovative parliamentary governance in Africa.



AFRIPAL Research Partnership Award Presented to: The Network on Europe-Africa Relations and Research (NEAR-ER)

In recognition of their outstanding research leadership and strategic partnership in shaping the intellectual foundation of AFRIPAL 2025. Their evidence-driven advocacy has advanced the agenda for data-informed legislation and deepened Europe-Africa policy dialogue for a stronger legislative future on the continent.

NEAR-ER team group photo after receiving the AFRIPAL Research Partnership Award.

AFRIPAL Global Legislative Alliance Recognition Presented to: International Association for Legislation (IAL)

In recognition of their global leadership and continued support for legislative modernization across Africa and beyond. Their role in connecting AFRIPAL to international best practices has significantly enriched this platform.

Special Recognition for Visionary Leadership and Unwavering Support Presented to: Mr. Joseph Munyangabo, Country Director, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

This award was given to Joseph Munyangabo, in heartfelt appreciation of his steadfast belief in the AFRIPAL vision, his mentorship, and generous support throughout its journey. Joseph's unwavering commitment, strategic oversight, and unreserved goodwill have been central to transforming AFRIPAL from an idea into a continental reality. His leadership stands as a testament to the power of vision, trust, and partnership in advancing democracy and legislative excellence in Africa.

Joseph Munyangabo, Country Director of WFD, shakes hands with Prof. Ezra Suruma after receiving the award.

9.0 Annexes

a.Inaugural Afripal conference communiqué, Kampala, Uganda | 19th June, 2025

Commending the resounding success of the Inaugural Africa Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation held in Kampala, on 18–19 June 2025, uniting parliamentarians, parliamentary technical staff, civil society, academia, media, and development partners to strengthen Africa's parliamentary and legislative frameworks, AFRIPAL Convening;

1. Recognises Dr. Hannah Muzee and Dr. John Mushomi as founders of AFRIPAL and the African Association of Legislation (AAL).
2. Establishes AFRIPAL Conferences as a biennial forum on parliament and legislative affairs in Africa and AAL as an affiliated body of the International Association of Legislation.
3. Recognises that the headquarters of the AFRIPAL & AAL Secretariat are in Kampala, Uganda, to coordinate all conference and legislative innovation activities across the continent in partnership with various organisations.
4. Acknowledges, Rt Hon Dr Ruhakana Rugunda as the founding Chair of the Board of AAL and AFRIPAL Convening and Prof.Gerald Karyeija as the founding President of the AAL Council and the founding members of these governing bodies, their in.
5. Confirms that the African Journal of Parliamentary Affairs, the Africa Parliamentary Democracy Series and the Blog (On the House) are premier knowledge platforms for legislative research and best practices.
6. Shall, in subsequent conferences, announce the Biennial Awards to be granted to individuals and institutions for their contributions to advancing the field of parliamentary and legislative excellence.
7. Commits to mobilising and sustaining a network of parliamentarians, clerks and staff, academia, and civil society organisations to exchange expertise, conduct joint research, and drive continuous legislative reform.
8. Acknowledges the support of partners of the inaugural AFRIPAL conference and commits to nuturing the relationships for further engagements.

Issued in Kampala, Uganda– June 2025

Inaugural African Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation (AFRIPAL)

b. Session Speakers and Presenters Day One

- **Hannah Muzee**(Chief Convenor)
- **John A. Mushomi** (Chairperson Organising Committee)
- **Marci Harris** (POPVOX Foundation)
- **Sombo Muzata** (James Madison University)
- **Martin Kizito** (Uganda Christian University)
- **Maria Mousmouti** (IAL, University of London)
- **Hon. Imanga** (Parliament of Zambia)
- **Ali Abdulmajid Ahmed** (Parliament of Kenya)
- **Begyira Donald Sharp** (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)
- **Immanuel Mwendwa Kiilu** (Strathmore University)
- **Adam Holesch** (IBEI, Barcelona)
- **Cori Wielenga** (University of Pretoria)
- **Omololu Fagbadebo** (Durban University of Technology)
- **Mbali Ndumo** (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- **Christopher Changwe Nshimbi** (University of Pretoria)
- **Matringe Jean** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne)
- **Jan Wouters** (KU Leuven)
- **Jacint Jordana** (IBEI Barcelona)
- **Kasawuli Faik Bawonga**
- **Ogedi Jacob** (Federal University Otuoke)
- **Kgomotso Komane** (University of Pretoria)
- **Dubrow Geoff** (Nexus PFM Consulting Inc)
- **Lucja Piekarska** (Krakow University)
- **Desmond Elliott** (Federal University Lokoja)
- **Zdislaw Mach** (Krakow University)
- **Wilhelm Janse van Rensburg** (Parliament of South Africa)
- **Malindi Afonso Assubuji** (Nova School of Law)
- **Keneilwe P. Marata** (Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis)
- **Jan Erk** (Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique)
- **Odair Barros-Varela** (Cape Verde University)
- **Consolata Sulley** (University of Dar es Salaam)
- **Agatha Alidri** (Gulu University)
- **Buchere Philip** (Parliament of Kenya)
- **Akampurira Patience** (Kabale University)
- **Xavier Philippe** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne)

b. Session Speakers and Presenters Day Two

- **Namulondo Magida** (Islamic University in Uganda)
- **Nixon Wamamela** (Makerere University)
- **Sammy Obeng** (Parliamentary Network Africa)
- **Nompumelelo Goodness Ngcobo** (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- **Michael-Olomu Oyintonyo**
- **Frank Borge Wietzke** (IBEI, Barcelona)
- **Enrico Albanesi** (University of Genoa)
- **Geoffrey Kimotho** (University of Nairobi)
- **Munyokoli Emmanuel** (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)
- **Ernest Toochi Aniche** (Federal University Otuoke)
- **Andrew Tuntufye Simwimba** (Federal University Otuoke)
- **Ellam Osabwa Pmuhinda** (Kenya National Assembly)
- **Elvis Mbembe Binda** (University of Rwanda)
- **Charles Katulamu** (University of Michigan)
- **Tafadzwa Madondo** (Ipas Africa Southern Region)
- **Rwengabo Sebastian** (Centre for Basic Research)
- **Elizabeth Nansubuga**
- **Chris Nshimbi, Sombo Muzata, Leone Tshimpaka** – Book Launch
- **Shadrack Musyoki Mutisya** (Parliament of Kenya)
- **Patrick Ochen** (Gulu University)
- **William Chilufya** (Parliament of Zambia)
- **Gift Ike-Onuigbo** (House of Representatives, Nigeria)

c. List of Research Papers Presented at AFRIPAL

Plenary-Post-legislative Scrutiny

Repositioning parliament in decolonising legislative scrutiny: a case of the African Peer Review Mechanism Implementation in Uganda - Martin Kizito, Uganda Christian University

The paper analyses the critical question of "How does parliament influence the use and non-use of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) within its legislative scrutiny in Uganda?" The APRM is an African home-grown multi-stakeholder governance framework institutionalized by Article 5(2) of the African Union Constitutive Act 2000 (AU 2000) to decolonize legislative scrutiny among AU member states, as a catalyst towards the realization of the AU Agenda 2063. The methodology includes a case study design that was adopted using qualitative data collected from 35 key informant interviews and 1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD) of 8 participants in order to establish the perception of APRM stakeholders, purposively selected based on their roles in the first-and second-generation peer reviews that took place between 2005 and 2021. The findings reveal that a well-domesticated legal framework through an Act of parliament guides the functional autonomy of the APRM process (inputs, activities and outputs), establishment of APRM structures, budgetary allocation, and reports debated by parliament to positively influence policy recommendations and monitor progress reporting.

Understanding parliamentary practices in conducting Post-Legislative Scrutiny - Maria Mousmouti, University of London

As parliaments start to pay more attention to their responsibility to monitor the extent to which the laws they have passed are implemented as intended and have the expected impact, Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) is emerging as a new dimension within the oversight role of parliament. The paper will highlight how different parliaments put more emphasis on one or the other of the two dimensions of PLS: (1) to evaluate the technical entrance into force and the enactment of a piece of legislation; (2) to evaluate its relationship with intended policy outcomes and the impact.

To the extent that parliaments seek to carry out both dimensions, PLS facilitates continuously improvement of the law itself and policy implementation. PLS thus contributes to increased governance effectiveness and accountability. This paper will analyse emerging structures, procedures and methodologies shaping parliaments' ability to conduct PLS, as well as the practice of operationalizing PLS inquiries in a parliamentary setting in Africa and beyond. The paper will be structured around the key dilemmas on PLS (who, when and how) and the 11 methodological steps for organizing PLS in parliament, as identified by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy as part of its programmes for legislative reform, deepening oversight and parliamentary effectiveness. This analysis will enable us to review and update our earlier categorization of parliamentary approaches to PLS, in terms of parliaments as passive scrutinizers, informal scrutinizers, formal scrutinizers and independent scrutinizers in conducting PLS. Data and information will be sourced through websites of parliaments, assessment reports on the use of the Parliamentary and Legislative Indicators for PLS in Africa and beyond, key informant interviews and through the Global Community of Practice on PLS. The paper will then conclude by reviewing and updating our earlier evaluation framework on the results of post-legislative scrutiny (PLS) activities by parliaments.

Harnessing AI and 4IR Technologies for Legislative Efficiency in African Parliaments.

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Parliamentary Efficiency: Lessons from Estonia's Riigikogu for the Kenyan Parliament- ALI ABDULMAJID AHMED, Parliament of Kenya

Globally, artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming parliamentary operations by improving legislative procedures' accessibility, efficiency, and transparency. By using cutting-edge automation and voice recognition technology to increase the precision and speed of Hansard production, the Estonian Riigikogu has become a world leader in AI-driven parliamentary transcription. In order to maximize Hansard production and other legislative procedures. This paper explores how the Kenyan Parliament can adopt and adapt Estonia's AI-driven approaches to optimize its Hansard production and broader legislative processes. This paper assesses the difficulties and possibilities in integrating AI, drawing on the experiences of the Kenyan Parliament's Taskforce on Digitization of Hansard Production and insights from benchmarking in Estonia. It looks at important things, including legal frameworks, infrastructural preparedness, data privacy issues, and legislative staff capacity building. The study also identifies possible advantages, such as real-time transcription, improved accessibility for the public and lawmakers, and lower documentation costs. This study offers strategic policy suggestions for Kenya's Parliament to successfully adopt AI-driven solutions by examining Estonia's AI-driven legislative model. It makes the case that integrating AI into parliamentary operations may greatly improve public participation, legislative efficiency, and transparency thus bolstering Kenya's democratic government.

Artificial Intelligence and Electoral Integrity in Africa: Risks of Voter Manipulation and Legislative Inertia- Begyira Donald Sharp, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Uganda and South Sudan

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly shaping political processes worldwide, yet its role in African electoral systems remains understudied. AI-driven algorithms on social media platforms collect and analyze user data to amplify specific political narratives, influencing voter perceptions and election outcomes. However, the opacity of AI deployment, coupled with limited regulatory oversight, raises concerns about its impact on democracy. This paper explores how AI-enabled political manipulation threatens electoral integrity in Africa and the role of legislative frameworks in addressing these risks. The study aims to; (1) examine the extent of AI's influence on African electoral processes, (2) assess how algorithmic bias and targeted misinformation affect voter autonomy, and (3) evaluate the legislative challenges and opportunities in regulating AI to safeguard democratic participation. This research employs a qualitative approach, analyzing case studies of AI-driven election interference in Africa and other global contexts. It reviews regulatory frameworks, policy documents, and academic literature on AI governance and electoral integrity. Expert interviews with policymakers, digital rights advocates, and election observers provide insights into the political and legislative dynamics surrounding AI in African democracies. The paper highlights that AI tools have been leveraged to spread misinformation, manipulate voter sentiment, and suppress dissenting voices. While African legislators have the potential to enact laws promoting transparency and accountability in AI usage, many governments exhibit reluctance due to autocratic tendencies. The absence of strong legal frameworks allows political actors to exploit AI for electoral advantage, exacerbating voter disenfranchisement. In conclusion, without robust AI governance mechanisms, electoral integrity in Africa faces increasing risks from algorithmic manipulation. The paper advocates for legislative reforms focused on transparency, accountability, and oversight in AI deployment to ensure fair and democratic electoral processes.

Decoding the Future: African Parliaments, the 4IR, and the AI Revolution - Immanuel Mwendwa Kiilu,Strathmore University

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), driven by artificial intelligence (AI), presents both immense opportunities and profound challenges for African parliaments. This paper examines the critical intersection of parliamentary functions, technological disruption, and the evolving governance landscape in the age of AI. It explores how African parliaments can effectively engage with complex 4IR issues, including data privacy, cybersecurity, algorithmic bias, and the ethical implications of AI deployment. The study investigates the current capacity of African parliaments to understand, regulate, and leverage emerging technologies. It analyzes existing legislative frameworks, parliamentary committees focused on science and technology, and digital literacy levels among parliamentarians. Employing a comparative case study approach, the research examines diverse parliamentary responses to the 4IR, highlighting best practices and identifying areas for improvement. The analysis considers the role of parliamentary research services in providing expert advice, the importance of public engagement in shaping AI policy, and the potential for inter-parliamentary collaboration on technology governance. Findings reveal a significant gap between rapid technological change and the capacity of many African parliaments to respond effectively. The paper argues for a proactive approach, emphasizing capacity building programs for parliamentarians and staff, establishing dedicated parliamentary committees on technology and innovation, and developing clear ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks for AI. This paper proposes a roadmap for African parliaments to navigate the 4IR, ensuring technological advancements are harnessed for sustainable development, social justice, and democratic governance. This roadmap includes recommendations for fostering digital literacy, promoting open data initiatives, and strengthening international cooperation on technology policy. It underscores the urgency for African parliaments to adapt and innovate to effectively govern in the rapidly evolving digital age, ensuring that the benefits of the 4IR are shared broadly and equitably. The future of democratic governance in Africa hinges on the ability of parliaments to effectively engage with the transformative power of AI and the 4IR.

Parliaments' Corruption and Public Accountability in Africa

Mapping Global Governance Against Corruption: The Relevance of National Parliaments in Africa- Adam Holesch, IBEI Barcelona

The push for enhanced governance, transparency, and accountability has recently gained prominence as a global priority. Historically, however, corruption in Africa was often viewed as a domestic issue, with limited recognition of its international dimensions. This paper examines the global governance of corruption with a specific focus on Africa, exploring how international and regional efforts have shaped anti-corruption initiatives on the continent. It begins by contextualizing the historical dynamics that led to the recognition of corruption in Africa as not merely a national concern but a global challenge. The paper then systematically maps and classifies the key actors involved in anti-corruption efforts in Africa, including intergovernmental organizations such as the African Union, national parliaments, private entities, and civil society groups, highlighting their roles and the tools they have developed to address corruption. By emphasizing the contributions of regional organizations, national parliaments and African civil society, this study adds to the existing literature by providing a comprehensive examination of their unique roles in combating corruption on the continent. Finally, it identifies the primary challenges specific to Africa's anti-corruption governance and analyses emerging trends likely to shape its future trajectory.

The role of parliamentary oversight in peace and security: The case of South Africa's peace-keeping in Africa- Cori Wielenga, University of Pretoria

Parliament plays a critical role in oversight, including in peace and security. In South Africa, four parliamentary oversight committees are responsible for the oversight of peace-keeping operations by South Africa forces in other African states. South African has a high ranking, globally and on the continent, as a contributor of uniformed personnel to peacekeeping operations. However, South African peacekeepers are also widely critiqued for where they are being deployed, and for how they behave when they are deployed. This paper engages with the role that parliamentary oversight has had in responding to the criticism and managing the deployment of peacekeeping troops.

Accountability, Legislative Oversight and the Challenge of Poverty and Hunger in Africa: A Comparison of Nigeria and South Africa- Omololu Fagbadebo, Durban University of Technology

Nigeria and South Africa have legislative institutions with oversight authorities over the executive branch of the government. The Constitutions of the two countries empower the legislative institutions to harness their inherent powers to police the implementation of public policies designed to improve the welfare of citizens to insulate the state from the crisis of governance. Nevertheless, the two countries face the challenge of poverty occasioned by the mismanagement of public resources. This paper interrogates the nexus between legislative oversight capacity and the crisis of governance, in the two largest economies in Sub-Sahara Africa. Nigeria contributes 12.2% of the world population living in poverty, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at 9.9%, and Tanzania at 4.5%. South Africa contributes 2.4%. Out of the estimated 1.4 billion African population, approximately 278 million, representing 20% are suffering from chronic hunger. These staggering figures depict a failing state. In South Africa, 18.2 million of the 60 million citizens live in extreme poverty while about 6.5 million, representing 11% of the population suffer from hunger.

In the 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Nigeria ranked 103rd out of the 121 countries facing hunger with more than 14 million of its estimated 211 million citizens suffering from extreme hunger. An estimated 133 million representing 63% of Nigerians are living in poverty, making it the country with the highest poverty in Africa. Nigeria and South Africa are the leading economies in the West African and Southern African regions respectively. With positive reports of economic growth, the two countries have a deteriorating crisis of governance, manifesting a paradox of poverty and hunger amid abundant resources and their inability to balance their economic growth with social development. Using state capacity as the framework of analysis and data from public documents, this paper argues that Nigeria and South Africa, despite their abundant resources, cannot harness their wealth to induce sustainable development because of the failure of legislative oversight of the implementation of public policies. Mismanagement of public resources through corruption has remained a challenge to building institutional capacity for rapid socio-economic development and the promotion of public goods. This paper submits that a recalibrated institutional structure that instils the culture of prudent management of public resources through ethical leadership is a necessity for sustainable development.

The Impact of Parliamentary Oversight in Enabling Accountability in Service Delivery Provision: Case Study of Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements - MBALI NDUMO, University of KwaZulu-Natal

The increasing rate of housing backlog is one of the major problems facing the South African government. On annual basis, the Minister of Human Settlements accompanied by the senior management officials present the service delivery priorities to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, (namely the National Assembly: Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements).

The presentation of housing delivery priorities is accompanied with budgetary allocations and the planned number of housing units to be delivered to the deserving South Africans. The paper provides an in-depth analysis of the oversight functions conducted by the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements in ensuring the delivery of the planned housing units and utilization of the allocated housing budget in an efficient and effective manner. The paper further presents the challenges encountered in the execution of parliamentary oversight role and the recommended interventions. In addition, the paper illustrates the extent to which the Department of Human Settlements enables the implementation of housing policies and legislative frameworks.

legislative oversight activities and accountability of Nigeria's 8th (2015–2019) and 9th (2019–2023) Houses of Representatives- Al-Maruff Yinka AJIBOLU

This study assesses the legislative oversight activities and accountability of Nigeria's 8th (2015–2019) and 9th (2019–2023) Houses of Representatives. Using a mixed research design and conceptualized within the principal-agent theory, the study examines oversight mechanisms, such as investigative committees, performance audits, and public hearings, employed to ensure executive accountability. Data were collected through 328 questionnaires, with 254 valid responses (78.7% response rate), alongside interviews with key stakeholders and analysis of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) reports. Findings reveal that investigative hearings and performance audits were critical to scrutinizing government actions, identifying issues such as financial mismanagement, budget irregularities, and delayed audit report submissions. The 8th Assembly faced persistent executive-legislative conflicts, resulting in oversight challenges and delayed budget processes. Conversely, the 9th Assembly, benefitting from political alignment, achieved more cooperative oversight and smoother budget negotiations.

The study further highlights systemic constraints, including limited resources, inadequate technical capacity, and poor information management. The office term of legislators was found to significantly moderate the relationship between oversight activities and governance outcomes, as longer terms facilitated institutional knowledge and more effective oversight. However, external factors, such as executive interference and weak institutional frameworks, often undermined the legislature's capacity for robust accountability. The study concludes that enhancing the legislature's effectiveness requires strengthening training programmes, increasing funding, and improving technological infrastructure to support e-archiving and data access for oversight functions. It contributes to existing literature by demonstrating how legislative oversight can foster transparency and accountability in governance, despite persistent challenges in Nigeria's political environment.

Legislative Oversight and Service Delivery in the Nigeria Telecommunication Sector- A study of the 9th House Committee on Telecommunications- Adeboboye Taofeeq Adekunle

Telecommunications in Nigeria has come a long way. The total number of telecoms subscribers has increased rapidly over the past two decades, as of December 2005, there were just 19,519,154 subscribers but by August 2023, there were over 211 Million subscribers with active mobile lines. (NBS, 2024). The Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003 Section 1(g), mandates the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) to "Protect the rights and interest of consumers:" and Section 7(1) focuses on Consumer Protection and Quality of Service. Aside the NCA 2003, numerous other laws, policies and regulations have been enacted by the legislators but in spite of these laws and regulations recent periods have beheld several reckless misconduct of telecommunication companies.

Based on the foregoing, this paper adopting the Principal –Agency Theory by Pelizzo and Stapenhurst 2004, attempt to shine light on the constitutional oversight mandate of the National assembly as enshrined in s 88 and 89 Of the 1999 Constitution and the 9th House of Representative Committee oversight activities on the Telecommunication sector. The paper utilized primary data and consulted several secondary data, including books, journals, articles, NCC website and other relevant online resources. The findings advocate for a paradigm shift that, with the steady growth and increased penetration of mobile services in Nigeria, telecom subscribers deserve better value for money. The paper also recommends a new legal framework and practical, efficient, robust, and relatively affordable feedback mechanism for subscribers in the interest of Nigerians.

Regional Parliaments and Legislation in Africa.

Parliamentary websites in SADC: A missed opportunity for defence transparency?- Wilhelm Janse van Rensburg, Parliament of South Africa

Transparency is a cornerstone of democratic governance and is emphasised in global frameworks like Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which promotes accountable and inclusive institutions. While parliamentary oversight plays a pivotal role in enhancing transparency in the security sector, this potential is often underutilised, especially in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. Parliamentary websites are an essential tool for disseminating defence-related information, but their effectiveness in fostering transparency remains questionable. This study examines the extent to which parliamentary websites in the SADC region contribute to defence transparency. It evaluates their role in making defence-related information accessible to the public, fostering democratic debate, and upholding the principles of accountability and good governance.

The research involved a systematic review of parliamentary websites across 16 SADC countries. The analysis focused on the availability of defence-related information, including committee activities, parliamentary debates, oversight visits, and audit reports. Key metrics included the presence of defence committee details, plenary minutes, inquiry reports, and digital access tools like audio recordings and video links. The study reveals significant gaps in the availability and accessibility of defence-related information on SADC parliamentary websites. While 14 parliaments have functional websites, only 54% provide basic links to defence committee information, and only one (South Africa) offers updated committee calendars. Furthermore, no parliament provides minutes of defence committee meetings, and access to oversight visit reports, special inquiry outcomes, and defence-related audit reports remains extremely limited. In conclusion, the underutilisation of parliamentary websites undermines defence transparency in the SADC region, hindering public engagement and democratic oversight. Enhancing the digital dissemination of defence-related information is essential to bridging the transparency gap and strengthening good governance practices in the security sector. The study calls for targeted reforms to leverage ICT tools for improved parliamentary accountability and public accessibility.

The ECOWAS Parliament and the Challenges of Democratic Consolidation in West African Sub Region- Ogedi Jacob, Federal University Otuoke Bayelsa State

Since the formation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 1975, the regional organization has promulgated policies aimed at promoting economic and political interests of member-states such as the ECOWAS protocol on democracy and good governance. The ECOWAS have been involved in election observation missions in many member-states to ensure that democratic norms and ethos are adhered to and that the actors play by the rules. Despite these interventions, democratic consolidation amongst the ECOWAS states have revealed a pattern of democratic reversals characterized by corruption and human rights abuse, abuse of the electoral process, and in recent times military coups, and unconstitutional changes of government, particularly in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Guinea. ECOWAS has responded to these emerging challenges through various interventions including diplomatic efforts, economic sanctions and military interventions. However, the effectiveness of these measures has not been conspicuous as the challenges in the sub region remain unabated, particularly with the emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States - a new military bloc formed by breakaway member states i.e. Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. This paper therefore interrogates the imperatives and effectiveness of the ECOWAS Parliament in deepening democratic values and ethos particularly within the context of democratic reversals in the sub-region.

Enhancing the capacity of Women MPs to perform their responsibilities.
Shaping the Future: The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Lesotho-
Kgomotso Komane, University of Pretoria

Peacebuilding and mediation processes have witnessed low levels of participation of women worldwide. Existing literature ascribes this to prevailing patriarchal environments, cultural norms and gender stereotypes, women's victimhood in conflict and various other factors such as exclusion to participate in the public sphere. Women's complete exclusion to participate in the public sphere meant that matters of peace and mediation were left to men because political leaders - duties assigned solely to men - were assigned mediator roles. In this, scholars such as Turner (2017) argued that this exclusion has implications because the exclusion of women in politics ultimately leads to the exclusion of women in mediation and peacebuilding. This is the case for Lesotho where women are under-represented in legislative bodies which limits their participation in peacebuilding and mediation. Therefore, it is vital to explore the growing presence of women parliamentarians in Lesotho, examining their roles, challenges, and contributions to the political and social fabric of the nation as the focus of this paper. In line with this, the paper, using African feminism as a theoretical framework, will engage how Basotho women parliamentarians can transfer their roles and contributions from legislative bodies to peacebuilding and mediation.

Women's Legislative Representation and Social Welfare Policymaking in Nigeria, 2015-2023- Desmond Elliott, Federal University Lokoja

This study examined the role of women in the Nigerian National Assembly (2015–2023) in advancing social welfare policies for marginalized groups. Using theories of representation, gender, and politics, it explored the intersection of descriptive, substantive, and symbolic representation within Nigeria's legislative framework. The research adopted an exploratory design, drawing on primary data from key informant interviews and secondary data from legislative bill analyses and policy documents. Key informants included legislators, civil society organizations, and members of the public. Findings reveal that female legislators made notable contributions in healthcare, education, and economic empowerment.

Landmark bills such as Senator Stella Oduah's Breast Cancer Prevention, Control, and Management Bill (2021) and Senator Biodun Olujimi's Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (2019) demonstrated women's substantive influence. Initiatives like Hon. Aishatu Dukku's Universal Basic Education (Amendment) Bill (2020) and Hon. Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim's Women Entrepreneurship Development Bill (2022) addressed structural inequalities and promoted inclusivity. Despite these successes, women's legislative impact was limited by underrepresentation, sociocultural barriers, and institutional inefficiencies. The study underscores the importance of institutional reforms, civil society collaboration, and mentorship programs to enhance legislative effectiveness. It contributes to theoretical debates by refining critical mass and role theories, illustrating how even a small group of women can drive transformative legislative change. Methodologically, the research offers a replicable framework for analyzing gendered legislative impacts in developing democracies. Expanding women's representation in governance is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable policy outcomes.

The role of parliament in gender-responsive budgeting- Dubrow Geoff, Nexus PFM Consulting Inc

Gender-responsive budgeting goes beyond representation—such as tracking the number of women in parliament (SDG 5.5.1)—and focuses instead on transforming public financial management (PFM) systems to promote inclusive fiscal policy. It empowers parliamentarians of all genders to scrutinize and advocate for budget decisions that respond to the needs of women and marginalized groups. This presentation will focus on how parliamentarians can apply a gender lens across the four key stages of the budget cycle—formulation, approval, execution, and ex-post oversight—to ensure that public budgets advance gender equality and inclusivity. Each stage offers a distinct opportunity for parliamentary engagement: from advocating for equitable priorities during budget formulation, to assessing gender impacts during approval, monitoring implementation, and reviewing outcomes through gender audits.

Transnational Parliaments and Parliamentary Diplomacy: what role for democracy and sustainable development promotion?

Could transnational legislation help Africa prepare for the implications of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive? - Malindi Afonso Assubuji, Nova School of Law

In 2024 the European Commission adopted the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), a European legal framework designed to advance sustainable business conduct throughout the value chains by actively identifying, preventing, mitigating and remediating human rights and environmental impacts. The CSDDD has transnational reach and indirect consequences for the Global South, considering the globalized economic market in which European and Non-European companies within the scope of it operate. Given that African suppliers play a role in European value chains included in the scope, the CSDDD requirements will trickle down to them, imposed by the latter as part of their due diligence obligations. Therefore, this paper aims to analyse the impacts of the Directive, particularly, on African companies and companies operating in the African Continent and explore ways in which transnational legislation in Africa could play a role in uplifting responsible business conduct in Africa through mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD). Against this backdrop, transnational parliaments such as the Pan African Parliament (PAP) of the African Union (AU) or the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum could promote sustainable development by pro-actively responding and anticipating some of the effects of the CSDDD. Through mandatory HREDD, African countries could uphold international human rights, environmental as well as labor standards, enhance their relationship with Europe, strengthen their position as suppliers in the competitive international market and foster sustainable development.

Mitigating Performance Challenges of Botswana Parliament's Budgetary Oversight Committees- Keneilwe P. Marata, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis.

Parliaments are an integral part of democracy, enhancing the quality of governance through the various functions bestowed upon them such as legislation, oversight, representation, and constituency service. Parliaments make use of committees to deliver on some of these functions. The parliament of Botswana as other parliaments elsewhere, has at its disposal committees that helps it effectively perform its budgetary oversight functions. While this paper acknowledges the various functions of parliament, it however limits itself to parliament's oversight function especially as it pertains to the budget. The Parliament of Botswana is empowered for the approval and audit functions within the budget cycle. Parliament performs these functions through two committees namely, the Finance and Estimates Committee (FEC) and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Parliament is however, often criticized for unsatisfactory performance of budgetary oversight. While various explanations have been advanced for the perceived ineffective performance, this paper posits that Parliament's performance of budgetary oversight can be enhanced by addressing certain limitations and challenges inherent within the provisions and powers given to the aforementioned budgetary oversight committees. Using qualitative data collected through interviews and desk research, this paper highlights some of these challenges and limitations. The paper further presents some recommendations for averting the identified limitations and challenges to place these committees in a better place for better and improved budgetary oversight.

Perception of Parliament and Legislation in Africa

The Ten Fateful Years of the Central African Federation, 1953-63: Constitutional Innovation and Political Failure- Jan Erk, Universite Mohammed VI Polytechnique, Rabat, Morocco

The proposed paper looks at the short-lived Central African Federation (1953-63) between Northern Rhodesia (present-day Zambia), Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe), and Nyasaland (present-day Malawi). The federation was part of post-war British plans to inject parliamentary reforms bringing more home-rule to its colonies. (Con)federal unions among colonies was one common path to bring home rule in the form of more representative political institutions. However, the Central African Federation was marked by a difficult constitutional asymmetry. Southern Rhodesia was a Dominion with responsible government (with voting settlers and disenfranchised locals); it was populous with a vibrant economy. Northern Rhodesia was an amalgamation of two Protectorates resting on vast natural resources, while Nyasaland was a small and underdeveloped Crown Colony. The federal parliament reflected this asymmetry as its members ranged from the directly elected to the appointed. Voting rights followed different eligibility criteria across the three constituent units. Constitutional attempts to recognise and reconcile such deep diversity and political asymmetry brought in a lot of constitutional innovation, but the underlying non-majoritarian spirit of the union went against the political currents of the time. Another challenge was South African opposition to Westminster designed political reforms in its immediate neighbourhood. Plus, the British Government's desire to bring parliamentary reforms to the colonies also went against the wishes of the majority of the settlers. The paper looks at how – no matter how expertly designed and advanced – constitutional/institutional reforms that go against the grain of underlying social structures hold little chance of longevity.

The role of party selectorate in weakening legislative power in Tanzania- Consolata Sulley, University of Dar es Salaam

While some existing research seems to suggest that parliaments in Africa increasingly become institutionalized and are thus no longer rubber stamp agents of executive decisions, anecdotal evidence from Tanzania attests to the contrary. Elites from the ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi have dominated Tanzanian parliament since the country attained political independence in 1961. The return to plural politics in the 1990s has not threatened that dominance either. Indeed, the dominance has recently solidified that the parliament is after the 2020 general elections over ninety percent composed of ruling party elites. Because of such dominance, the nomination and selection of parliamentary elites becomes more important than the actual election leaving legislative powers of the parliament weakened to a great extent. In this paper, I examine two mutually related questions. One, who selects legislative elites in Tanzania? Two, how does the selection and coming into power of legislative elites affect their legislative power? Through an analysis of procedures and criteria for selecting legislative elites, electoral and media reports and qualitative interviews of selected key informants, the paper makes the following observations. One, the selection procedure for legislative elites takes place at two levels, one by party machinery and two by the national electoral body. While the former is highly centralized and controlled by a party leader who also is the country's president, the latter is impartial and works in the interest of the governing party candidates. As a result, the power of legislators and that of the legislature to enact laws, act as a people's representative and a check on governmental functions is largely jeopardized.

Democracy, Politics and Youth Engagement in the Great Lakes Region: Opportunities, Prospects and Challenges for Uganda's Parliaments- Agatha Alidri, Gulu University

Lakes Region is a clarion call to Parliament. The rising youth participation in politics and civil society; demanding from government and parliament good governance, justice, human rights and democracy points to a transforming parliamentary agenda and need for sustainable solutions. Youth activism provides parliament opportunity to develop adaptation strategies to transform the youth into effective voices and people's representatives. Using their demographic dividend, the youth have the potential to exacerbate the heightening tension between parliament and the electorates, or act as agent of transformation. This was a historical study which explored the implication of youth engagement in politics in northern Uganda. The study aimed at establishing the motivations for the increased youth involvement in politics, the challenges and opportunities for the nation. There are national and geo-political factors drawing the youth into politics as they demand for an inclusive participatory decision-making and accountability processes. The new political demands drawing from the youth demographic dividend and the digital era has awaken their political consciousness. Whereas, the youth political involvement and activism is growing, parliament and the state seem not to be prepared to handle the delicate balance. There is lack of a meaningful partnership with the youth often resulting to the misuse and disuse of the youth population. Parliament needs to reconsider meaningful partnership and engagement with youth in the politics, peace and security agenda aligned to SDG target 16.7 and Africa's Agenda 2063 Goals. The new wave of youth involvement in politics provides parliament the opportunity to learn and adapt to avoid a poly-crisis. Parliament needs to connect meaningfully with communities and the youth, to enhance government accountability and mitigate elite politics and democracy.

Rethinking Parliamentary Security: Lessons from the Kenyan GenZ Invasion of Parliament on June 25th, 2024- Buchere Philip, Parliament of Kenya

The unprecedented Kenyan GenZ invasion of Parliament on June 25th, 2024, marked a significant moment in the evolution of parliamentary security, highlighting the vulnerabilities of traditional security frameworks. This incident, where a group of youth disrupted parliamentary proceedings and destroyed assets, underscored the increasing role of digital activism, youth-led movements, and social media in shaping political engagement. The invasion raised critical questions about the preparedness of legislative institutions to handle the emerging security threats, especially in the age of rapid technological advancements and social mobilization. The incident also brought to the fore the role of national security organs in legislatures and the balance required to ensure separation of powers to ensure protection of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the implications of the GenZ invasion, examining its impact on parliamentary security protocols, the role of youth digital activism, the role of national security organs in legislatures and the challenges faced by parliamentary security officers in maintaining law and order. It aims to propose recommendations for reforming security measures, focusing on integrating technology and addressing new forms of political participation. Lessons from this event stress the need for rethinking security frameworks to safeguard the integrity of parliamentary processes in an increasingly digital and socially active political landscape.

The Relationship between Kingship, Politics and Democracy in Uganda- Akampurira Patience, Kabale University

The complex interplay between traditional kingship institutions and modern democratic governance in Uganda presents a critical challenge for institutional democracy and human rights. The chapter examines how the restoration and non-restoration of kingdoms has influenced political inclusion, democratic processes, and sustainable development in Uganda since independence. The chapter addresses a significant gap in understanding how traditional monarchical institutions interface with contemporary parliamentary democracy, particularly in the context of post-colonial African governance systems. The chapter employs a historical research methods approach to analyze how the 1962 Independence Constitution's incorporation of traditional governance structures created fundamental constitutional tensions regarding state formation and leadership. The findings reveal that the selective restoration of kingdoms has generated persistent ethno-political tensions and jurisdictional conflicts between restored monarchies and the state apparatus. This has profound implications for citizens' political participation and democratic representation, particularly evident in regions with contested monarchical claims such as Ankole. The chapter contributes to broader scholarly discussions on institutional hybridity in African governance by examining how traditional and modern democratic institutions can either enhance or impede sustainable development. It argues that the current framework of kingdom restoration has created a complex web of political exclusion and inclusion that challenges Uganda's democratic consolidation. These have significant implications for understanding how post-colonial African states can effectively integrate traditional governance structures within modern democratic systems while ensuring inclusive political participation and sustainable development.

Public Perception of Nigeria's National Assembly, 2015-2023- Jude Ani, Federal University Lokoja

The study examined public perceptions of Nigeria's National Assembly from 2015 to 2023, focusing on legislative performance, oversight functions, and representation. It assessed citizens' perceptions of the Assembly's constitutional roles, factors shaping these views, and strategies to rebuild public trust. A mixed-method design combined purposive sampling of 384 participants, interviews with 15–30 respondents, and media content analysis of Daily Trust, The Punch, and The Guardian. The media agenda-setting theory framed the research. Findings revealed that public perceptions significantly influenced the Assembly's legitimacy and effectiveness. Positive views centered on legislative achievements, such as the 2021 Petroleum Industry Act. However, perceptions of oversight and representation were largely negative. Citizens criticized the Assembly's failure to hold the executive accountable for governance lapses, including inefficiencies in power sector reforms. Scandals, such as the 2016 budget padding controversy, undermined trust. Internal disputes, notably the 2015 leadership crisis, delayed legislative processes and further damaged public confidence. Media portrayals often highlighted lawmakers' detachment from citizens' realities, emphasizing disparities between legislators' lavish lifestyles and constituents' economic struggles. The study underscored the need for reforms in transparency, accountability, and representation to rebuild trust. Citizens advocated for open legislative processes, live broadcasts of hearings, and report publication to enhance transparency. Civic engagement initiatives, including town hall meetings and public education campaigns, were identified as essential for fostering stronger connections between lawmakers and constituents. The research demonstrated that media reporting on corruption and inefficiency shaped public perceptions of the Assembly. It extended agenda-setting theory by showing how media coverage affects the perceived effectiveness of legislative institutions, emphasizing the complex relationship between public perception, media influence, and institutional performance.

Plenary- Ideals of Parliament

The Impact of Conflicts on Parliamentary Culture in Uganda: The Behavioural Causes and Human Dignity- Namulondo Magida, Islamic University In Uganda

This paper looks at how conflicts affect the parliamentary culture in Uganda, focusing on behaviours that causes these conflicts and their effects on human dignity; a significant shift in the behaviours of parliamentarians due to ongoing conflicts and the persistent conflicts rooted in socio-political divisions and historical grievances that had led to polarized discourse and compromised the dignity of legislative processes hence resulting in a culture of mistrust and hostility, partisanship, and intimidation within parliament. This hostile environment not only stifles constructive debate and public confidence but also erodes respect for human dignity hence a negative beacon of democratic principles as evidenced by the prevalence of derogatory language, personal attacks, physical fights among legislators, as well as violations of procedures, point to a growing tendency of dehumanization that undermines the integrity of parliamentary processes. These insights underscore the need for policy interventions to foster respectful dialogue and reinforce human dignity within parliamentary settings. Using a mixed-methods approach that includes interviews, case studies, and ethnographic observations among parliamentarians and stakeholders, the research revealed that widespread conflicts harm legislative processes and reduce the dignity of representatives and their constituents. The results suggest that behavioural tensions often show up as mistrust, ineffective communication, and heated interactions, which obstruct good governance and democratic participation. By shedding light on the connections between conflict dynamics and human dignity within the parliamentary system, this study highlights the urgent need for conflict resolution methods to create a more respectful and effective legislative culture. This research offers important insights for both policymakers and academics, stressing that dealing with behavioural conflicts is not only politically significant but also crucial for promoting human dignity and good governance, which ultimately influences the broader society, including healthcare results in Uganda.

Ethics in Parliamentary Practice in Uganda- Nixon Wamamela, Makerere University

Ideally, the Parliament of Uganda is positioned to act in the interest of the people through legislation, oversight, representation and budget appropriation. In so doing, parliament ought to adhere to moral standards. To this end, the Parliament of Uganda subscribes to various guidelines including the 1995 Constitution, the Rules of Procedure and Leadership Code Act. In spite of the above, Parliament Watch reports unethical conduct in the execution of parliamentary duties including bias, corruption, impropriety, unfairness and selfishness. The question that arises is: Why would there be rampant unethical tendencies in Parliament of Uganda amidst the above-mentioned moral framework? Efforts to answer this question has been limited to conflicting political interests of parliament. The argument of this paper is that parliamentary practice is a moral activity that requires ethical reflection. In light of the above observation, the purpose of this paper was to make a critical assessment of the moral framework of the Parliament of Uganda with a view of proposing effective ethical framework to strengthen integrity of the institution of Parliament of Uganda. Using a philosophical design with ethical approaches of descriptive, analytic and prescriptive approaches the study collected primary (hazards, Rules of Procedure, the 1995 Constitution of Uganda and Leadership Code Act) and secondary data (reports, published texts and newspapers), the finding is that whereas ethics indispensable for good parliamentary practice, Uganda's parliamentary moral framework is inadequate in addressing moral concerns that arise in its execution of duties. Hence, the study proposes ethics review committee to address moral issues including conflict of interest, dishonest, unfairness and impropriety.

Reimagining the Ideals of Parliament: Openness as the Heartbeat of Democratic Renewal in Africa- Sammy Obeng, Parliamentary Network Africa

Across Africa, parliaments are placed at the centre of governance, especially democratic transitions, tasked with safeguarding representation, ensuring accountability, and enacting laws that reflect the public interest. These foundational ideals enshrined in most constitutions have guided parliaments for decades. Yet in the face of growing public distrust, rising youth activism, digital disruption, and increasingly complex governance challenges in Africa, there is a compelling need to reimagine what these ideals mean in practice. This presentation argues that openness must now be recognised not just as a tool, but as a core ideal of modern parliaments. Parliamentary openness anchored in transparency, civic participation, public accountability, accessibility, and technological innovation – is fundamental to restoring trust in public institutions and strengthening the social contract.

African Parliaments, Accountability and Sustainable Development
Utilizing Bottom-Up Evaluation for Enhancing Legislative Practices: A Case Study of the KZN Legislature- Nompumelelo Goodness Ngcobo, University of KwaZulu-Natal

The effectiveness of legislative bodies hinges on their ability to craft, evaluate, and adapt laws that meet the needs of diverse constituencies. Bottom-up evaluation offers a participatory approach that integrates stakeholder insights, fostering inclusive and transparent legislative practices. This study examines how bottom-up evaluation methodologies can enhance legislative effectiveness within the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Legislature, contributing to improved governance and policy outcomes.

The primary objectives of this study are to explore the role of bottom-up evaluation in legislative processes, to assess the impact of stakeholder involvement on legislative practices in the KZN Legislature and to provide actionable recommendations for embedding participatory evaluation mechanisms in legislative operations.

A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative data. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with legislators, civil society representatives, and community members to gather insights into their perceptions of the legislative process. Surveys were distributed to assess the inclusivity and effectiveness of current evaluation practices. Additionally, case study analysis of selected legislative initiatives was performed to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. The study revealed that while the KZN Legislature has mechanisms for public participation, these are often underutilized due to limited awareness and accessibility challenges. Bottom-up evaluation practices significantly enhance transparency, accountability, and stakeholder trust. Legislators reported that incorporating community feedback into policy design and evaluation led to more contextually relevant and impactful laws. In conclusion, the bottom-up evaluation is a transformative tool for enhancing legislative practices. By embedding participatory evaluation frameworks, the KZN Legislature can bridge the gap between policymakers and constituents, fostering more responsive and effective governance. The findings underscore the need for institutional reforms that prioritize inclusivity and stakeholder engagement in legislative processes.

Channels of Direct and Indirect Electoral Accountability in Rural Africa- Frank Borge Wietzke, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

It is often argued that the (re)turn to systems of multiparty governance in the 1990s contributed to more generous public investments and service provision in rural Africa and the reduction of policies of urban bias. The relatively large share of rural voters in most African democracies is typically mentioned as the main reason (Boone and Wahman 2015; Harding 2022). Yet, not all elections in the region were sufficiently competitive to fully justify this interpretation. This paper therefore asks whether other parliamentary channels, notably direct contacts between voters and their elected members of parliament contribute to the above outcomes. It answers these questions with the help of cross-country and subnational information from the Afrobarometer surveys.

The paper compares local rates of service delivery and contacts between local citizens and members of parliament both between urban and rural areas and relative to other forms of political mobilization (e.g. protests, contact with non-legislative government officials, membership in unions and farmers' associations, etc). Relevant mediating variables, such as the national/local degree of electoral competition, membership to politically included and excluded ethnic groups, and remoteness, are also considered. The paper contributes important new micro-level evidence to debates about the political origins of urban and rural bias, rural democracy, and the political drivers of spatial inequality in African societies.

Reconceptualizing PACs- Dubrow Geoff, Nexus PFM Consulting Inc

In Anglophone African countries that follow the Westminster system, there is a natural synergy between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), which conduct public audits, and Public Accounts Committees (PACs), which scrutinize audit findings and recommend corrective action. However, PACs globally often face limitations in their effectiveness, underscoring the need to reconceptualize their role and functioning. This presentation will focus on developing a modernized approach to PACs, which should include: Addressing systemic backlogs in reviewing audit reports, which weaken timely accountability; Leveraging artificial intelligence and digital tools to streamline analysis and improve responsiveness to audit findings; Tackling delays in parliamentary adoption of PAC reports, which often stall the accountability cycle; Strengthening mechanisms for the follow-up and implementation of PAC recommendations, including through collaboration with oversight bodies and civil society.

African Parliaments under International Scrutiny- Matringe Jean, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

Under the headings 'accountability' and 'Post-Legislative Scrutiny and legislative Impact Assessments', we must consider the phenomenon of the submission of parliamentary acts to international scrutiny. Indeed, parliaments may be subject to a variety of international controls, depending on their state's commitments. This may be 'political', whether institutionalised (UPR, peer review) or non-institutionalised (third States' reactions, discretionary or based on a conditionality clause, NGOs, etc.). It can also be jurisdictional (investment law, human rights law, integration law, and, exceptionally, WTO law). Other controls are exercised by donors, who impose conditionalities on their grants or loans. Some of them check that laws comply with international law. Others impose conditions on the 'production' of laws, such as the organisation of an impact assessment. Even if, surprisingly, Africans make little use of the mechanisms available to them, parliaments must take this 'litigation risk' into account. Admittedly, the outcome of litigation varies, ranging from an invitation to amend the law, an injunction to repeal it or the payment of compensation or reparations to its victims. Consequently, in the interests of good governance, parliaments must avoid a condemnation that would prevent the application of the law or make it too costly. This is true even when the State can neutralise one control mechanism (withdrawal of the declaration of acceptance of the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights by Rwanda, Tanzania, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire; withdrawal of arbitration clauses in favour of ICSID by South Africa; neutralisation or weakening of the control body, such as the SADC and East African Community tribunals).

Measuring and Reducing Administrative Burdens. Is it Just a Regulatory Issue or Does This Also Affect the Quality of Legislation?- Enrico Albanesi, University of Genoa

Parliaments have a role in evaluating whether laws achieve their intended outcomes, via legislative impact assessments. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (OECD, 2012) and the European Commission (EC, 2007) recommends that, when regulators carry out such assessment, administrative burdens should be measured and reduced. Administrative burdens are the cost of complying with information obligations, i.e. regulatory obligations to provide information (OECD, 2014). They can be measured relying on the agreed international Standard Cost Model manual (SCM Network, 2005). The measurement and reduction of administrative burdens is usually seen as a tool to achieve the quality of regulation only, i.e. a public intervention in a market or in a society. After all, impact assessments are too oriented towards quantification and tend to overshadow substantive concerns on fundamental rights, competitiveness and other constitutional values (Mousmouti, 2019). The paper would critically demonstrate that the measurement and reduction of administrative burdens can also be seen as a tool to guarantee the quality of legislation, i.e. an issue closely related to constitutional principles (on the distinction between legislation and regulation, see Mousmouti, 2012; Xhantaki, 2014; Voermans, 2017). The methodology will be that of constitutional law, i.e. an analysis of underpinning substantive values. The main argument will be that information obligations serve substantive values. Once administrative burdens have been measured, the evaluation on how reducing them indirectly implies a balance of substantive values: therefore, it should be carried out from the perspective of the constitutional principles of effectiveness, proportionality and the rule of law. The measurement and reduction of administrative burdens is not only a task of regulators. It should also be seen as one of the Parliaments' tasks.

Harnessing Partnerships for the Enactment of Policies that Work: Insights from the Parliamentary Forum on Road and Water Safety in Uganda- Jackie Okao, Virginia Commonwealth University

The Parliamentary Forum on Road and Water Safety in Uganda is a collaborative platform that brings together members of parliament, government agencies, and other stakeholders to address issues related to road and water safety. This paper explores the dynamics of this parliamentary partnership, examining how it has facilitated learning and adaptations to improve road and water safety outcomes in Uganda. The study employed a qualitative approach, analyzing documents, interview data, and observations from the forum's activities. The findings suggest that the parliamentary partnership has enabled shared learning, fostered cross-sectoral coordination, and facilitated the introduction of evidence-based policies and interventions. However, challenges remain in ensuring the sustainability and effective implementation of these initiatives, particularly in reaching marginalized communities. Road and water safety are significant public health and development concerns in Uganda. Parliamentarians play a crucial role in shaping policies, allocating resources, and overseeing the implementation of safety-related programs. The Parliamentary Forum on Road and Water Safety was established to provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action among key stakeholders. This study aims to understand the dynamics of the parliamentary partnership, exploring how it has facilitated learning and adaptations to address road and water safety challenges in Uganda. The study employed a qualitative research approach, including document analysis, semi-structured interviews with forum members, and observations of the forum's activities. The findings suggest that the parliamentary partnership has enabled shared learning among members, fostering cross-sectoral coordination and the introduction of evidence-based policies and interventions. However, challenges remain in ensuring the sustainability and effective implementation of these initiatives, particularly in reaching marginalized communities.

The parliamentary partnership has facilitated the adoption of a systems-based approach to road and water safety, recognizing the interdependencies between various sectors. It has also enabled the integration of gender considerations into policy discussions, acknowledging the disproportionate impacts on women and children. Further, the forum has served as a platform for community engagement, allowing for the inclusion of local knowledge and concerns in the policy-making process. The Parliamentary Forum on Road and Water Safety in Uganda has demonstrated the potential of parliamentary partnerships to drive learning, adaptations, and evidence-based policymaking. However, ongoing efforts are needed to address implementation gaps and ensure the equitable reach of these initiatives, particularly for marginalized communities.

Shaping the Future: Advancing Policies and Legislation for Adolescent Mothers' Empowerment Across Africa

The Restriction of Abortion in Uganda: Legislative and Regulatory Discrepancies and Consequences- Charles Katulamu, University of Michigan

Abortion care is health care, and restricting it harms women. In Africa, where almost all countries limit abortion access, three-quarters of all abortions are unsafe. These restrictions endanger women's lives, leading to preventable deaths. Behind this limitation lies a complex network of laws, policies, and regulations surrounding abortion, whose interpretation and implementation remain murky. It is essential to examine this ambiguity and understand its consequences. Uganda, with its unclear abortion legal framework, serves as a significant case for such an investigation. Utilizing archival records on laws, policies, and regulations regarding abortion, we conduct a historical and discourse analysis to explore Uganda's abortion landscape from 1950 to the present. We further expand our analysis to include a thematic review of archival reports on judicial decisions and institutional reports regarding abortion experiences in Uganda, probing the realities of terminating a pregnancy in this unclear context.

Our findings highlight the disparities in interpreting abortion regulations in Uganda, which perpetuate health, legal, and social challenges. Women endure significant physical and emotional health risks due to unsafe abortion practices. Consequently, government expenditures on post-abortion care are anticipated to rise, addressing the health complications faced by women. The imprisonment of individuals involved in abortion and the inadequate protection of healthcare workers concerning abortion issues heighten concerns about the quality of care available to women. To enhance women's well-being and uphold standard practices in abortion care among healthcare providers, governments must clarify laws, policies, and regulations and collaborate with key stakeholders and development partners to promote awareness of the updated standards. This is imperative because abortion care is healthcare, and women have the right to exercise their bodily autonomy and access quality care for their well-being, we argue.

Members of Parliament (MPs) partnering to champion sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and sustainable development in East and Southern Africa (ESA)- Tafadzwa Madondo, Ipas Africa Southern Region

Ipas has supported the formation of the East and Southern Africa Parliamentary Caucus for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sustainable Development (ESAParC). This is a network was officially launched in February 2024, comprising of parliamentarians from the 25 member countries in ESA, who are champions and advocates towards advancing sexual and reproductive health and sustainable development for all peoples in the region and beyond. The key objectives of ESAParC are to strengthen advocacy on SRH, population management, and sustainable development through establishing national caucuses, provide a forum for a broad range of stakeholders to dialogue and engage with parliamentarians to address sexual and reproductive health challenges, strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians, through inter-country parliamentary collaboration and advocate for increased budgetary allocations and the fulfilment of financial commitment by governments to sexual and reproductive health and sustainable development.

The caucus is coordinated by an Executive Committee with MPs from ESA and Ipas supports the caucus as the secretariat. Ipas as the secretariat plays a crucial role in supporting the Executive Committee by ensuring effective operations and coordination of activities. The ESAParC activities are monitored through an outcome based workplan (with timelines) developed by the MP champions that are part of the caucus. Ipas has also supported the development of the ESAParC logo and website for strengthen visibility. Showcasing ESAParC at the AfriPal will create a learning space amongst MPs in Africa and it will also be an opportunity to attract and collaborate with other MPs as SRH advocacy champions. A key outcome is to ensure that ESAParC is a successful advocacy platform where parliamentarians are empowered to leverage their influence to foster robust political will among governments, to uphold their commitments to realise SRH, and to contribute towards the achievement of the SDG targets by 2030.

National and Transnational Parliaments: What role for regional and continental migration legislation?

Policy Options to Expand Civic Space in Uganda to reduce youth Emigration- Munyokoli Emmanuel,Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Uganda faces a growing challenge of youth emigration, driven in part by a shrinking civic space that limits their political and civic participation. This policy paper explores how the shrinking civic space fosters youth disengagement in meaningful civic and political activities hence leading to emigration. Through surveys of 300 politically active youth and interviews with civil society leaders, the findings reveal widespread feelings of exclusion and insecurity among young people in Uganda's restrictive political environment.

Key drivers include repressive laws, fear of persecution, and limited opportunities for meaningful involvement in decision-making. Current policies, such as the National Youth Policy (2016) and the Public Order Management Act Cap 326, are inadequate in addressing these challenges, further fueling disillusionment. To address the issue, the paper recommends revising restrictive laws, introducing a National Youth Engagement Framework to enhance youth representation, and supporting youth-led civic initiatives through partnerships with civil society. These solutions aim to expand civic space, empower youth, and reduce the emigration of Uganda's talented young population, fostering a more democratic and inclusive society.

The Pan-African Parliament and Challenges of Harmonising Migration Legislations in Africa? Implications for Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling- Ernest Toochi Aniche, Federal University Otuoke

The translational and regional parliaments in Africa like the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Community Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), and the SADC Parliamentary Forum are generally advisory and consultative. Since its establishment in June 2014, PAP has consultative, advisory and budgetary oversight powers within the African Union (AU). In other words, it lacks the legislative powers needed to perform the role of harmonising and coordinating migration legislations in Africa particularly those related to human trafficking and human smuggling. Despite various AU migration regimes aimed at curbing irregular migrations, human trafficking, and human smuggling, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants have not abated. This paper essentially examines if human traffickers and human smugglers leverage the lack of harmonisation and coordination of migration policy frameworks of AU member states and the non-binding regional and continental migration agreements to embark upon both regular and irregular migration across the states and regional borders to traffic and smuggle migrants to Europe and other destinations. In order to achieve this objective, the paper relies on qualitative and quantitative analysis of secondary sources and a rigorous review of policy documents.

Effect of shared colonial power and boundary on Kenya's manufactured exports to Uganda and Tanzania- Ellam Osabwa Pmuhinda, Kenya National Assembly

Manufacturing had been identified as the first of the big four pillars in Kenya's Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) (2018-2022) of Vision 2030. Its implementation would not only support higher economic growth and job creation but also reduce the high cost of living thereby contributing to the high quality of life of all citizens by contributing at least 10 per cent of Kenya's GDP p.a. Nevertheless, little information existed on how various macroeconomic aggregates contributed to the growth of the manufactured exports in the country, therefore, creating a knowledge gap for parliamentarians, policymakers, scholars and the civil societies when making significant decisions for boosting the growth of manufactured exports in Kenya and beyond. This study, thus, sought to determine the effect of shared colonial power (CMC) and boundary (CMB) on Kenya's manufactured exports to Uganda and Tanzania between 2007 and 2018. This study was anchored on Linder's hypothesis of trade and employed gravity model. It adopted a correlational study design and used secondary panel data from the World Bank, Central Bank of Kenya, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, and Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency. According to the equation, both random and fixed effect models were estimated. The random effect model results for Kenya's exports to Uganda and Tanzania indicated that the effect of CMC was positive and significant ($\beta 8 = 0.068$, p-value $0.003 < 0.05$) while the effect of CMB was negative and insignificant ($\beta 9 = -0.029$, p-value $0.513 > 0.05$). CMC findings were according to theoretical expectations, unlike the findings for CMB. The CMB findings can be explained by the presence of Non-tariff barriers to trade, especially corruption, and illicit cross-border trade. This study therefore recommends that the regional and national parliaments jointly fight corruption and trade in illicit goods within the region through effective oversight and legislative intervention.

Facilitating Foreign Direct Investments Flows in the AfCFTA: Lessons from Legal and Institutional deficiencies in the EAC Common Market Protocol- Elvis Mbembe Binda, University of Rwanda

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), established in 2018, represents a landmark initiative for regional integration, encompassing 54 African Union member states. Its primary objective is to foster equitable economic development by enhancing intra-African trade, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), and promoting industrialization. However, significant economic disparities among member states—ranging from productivity and human capital to infrastructure and regulatory frameworks—pose a challenge to achieving these goals. Drawing on the New Economic Geography theory, this paper highlights the risk of FDI agglomeration in more advanced economies within the AfCFTA, which could exacerbate existing inequalities and undermine the integration process. The research methodology involves a comparative analysis of the AfCFTA's legal and institutional frameworks, with a focus on investment-related policies. By examining the East African Community (EAC) Common Market as a case study, the study identifies lessons for mitigating FDI disparities. Specifically, it proposes a partial transfer of competence on investment matters from member states to a central AfCFTA body, guided by the principle of subsidiarity. This approach aims to ensure a more equitable distribution of FDI benefits while maintaining member states' commitment to the integration process. The paper argues that without a robust continental investment policy, FDI is likely to concentrate in states with stronger comparative advantages, leaving others marginalized. This could lead to disillusionment, reduced commitment, or even withdrawal from the agreement, echoing past failures in African regional integration. The study concludes that a centralized investment framework, agreed upon and implemented by all member states, is essential to prevent harmful competition and ensure the AfCFTA's success as a catalyst for equitable economic development across Africa.

Closing Plenary-Strengthening Parliamentary Functions in Emergencies: Lessons from Recent Crises

Security sector governance and civil oversight: Lessons from the COVID-19 Military Deployment- Dr Wilhelm Janse van Rensburg, Parliament of South Africa

In times of crisis, states risk executive overreach when executives resort to the military to address various challenges. This risk emerged during the global COVID-19 pandemic when states used the security sector, in various ways to respond to the pandemic. These included the deployment of the military in public order duties, and health and logistical support across the globe, resulting in varied outcomes ranging from positive humanitarian contributions to misconduct and brutality by the armed forces. Key to preventing this is civilian control and oversight of the military as an 'agent' of the state. This study analysed security sector governance through the lens of parliamentary oversight in South Africa, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom. The study found a lack of adequate parliamentary oversight of the military during COVID-19 when it was most needed, evoking concerns over the effectiveness of civilian control and broader security sector governance in times of crisis.

Application of Corporate Governance Principles in Strengthening Parliamentary Exercise of Constitutional Mandates during national crises; A case of the National Assembly of Kenya- SHADRACK MUSYOKI MUTISYA, Parliament of Kenya

Corporate governance principles encompasses transparency, accountability, fairness and responsiveness in the dispensation of corporate duties and obligations. Despite these principles having been traditionally associated with the management of companies and corporations world over, they are increasingly applied in the functioning of democratic institutions like parliaments in the modern age, strengthening democratic progress and parliamentary exercise of constitutional powers. Evidence, however, show that despite parliaments' exercise of crucial functions in resolving national crises and emergencies, these institutions have also come under sharp scrutiny by public and other stakeholders in their performance of legislative, oversight and representation roles. Owing to the significance of corporate governance principles in good governance, this review will crucially explain the extent to which parliamentary institutions' apply corporate governance principles in resolving national emergencies and crises to secure democratic process and stability of countries. The review will examine how parliamentary institutions adopt these principles in exercising constitutional mandates to maintain public trust and confidence, as well as strengthening peaceful coexistence and stability during national crises and emergencies. The study will employ desktop research methodology that will involve a review of published empirical researches on the application of corporate governance principles in strengthening parliamentary exercise of constitutional mandates during national crises, with a particular focus on Kenya's National Assembly. Desk research will be useful as it a low cost technique that involves collection of secondary data without the need for fieldwork.

Parliaments and Post-Conflict Justice: Amplifying the Voices of Children Born in Captivity in Northern Uganda- Patrick Ochen, Gulu University

How can African parliaments effectively address the injustices faced by marginalized groups, such as Children Born in Captivity (CBC) during the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency in Northern Uganda? Despite constitutional mandates, CBC often face systemic barriers to socio-economic integration, including limited access to education, healthcare, and legal rights, due to insufficient representation in legislative processes. This paper critically examines the role of parliament in ensuring inclusivity and justice for CBC through targeted post-legislative scrutiny (PLS) and reform. Using the post conflict Northern Uganda as a case study, the research identifies gaps in existing legislation and policies, such as the lack of child-centric provisions, and proposes actionable strategies for parliamentary engagement, including the establishment of dedicated child advocacy committees and partnerships with civil society organizations. By leveraging digital technologies for documenting CBC experiences and promoting transparency, African parliament can bridge the gap between legislative intent and the lived realities of marginalized groups. Furthermore, the paper highlights best practices for evaluating the impact of laws on post-conflict communities, ensuring legislative measures deliver tangible benefits. This research contributes to the discourse on parliamentary legitimacy and inclusivity, advocating for frameworks that prioritize social equity and justice in African governance.

Climate Change, Food Security, and the Role of Parliamentarians in Zambia- William Chilufya, Parliament of Zambia

This presentation highlights climate change as a major threat to food security in Zambia. It underscores the role of parliamentarians through Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS), recently applied to the FRA Act, to assess policy impact. By advancing adaptive policies and oversight, MPs can strengthen resilience and support sustainable food systems amid escalating climate risks.

Effectiveness of the national assembly committee on ecology and climate change: a case study of the 9th senate- Gift Ike-Onuigbo, House of Representatives, Nigeria

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change during Nigeria's 9th Senate, focusing on its interventions, challenges, and strategies for improvement. Specifically, it assesses the committee's impact on ecological and climate issues, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction. The research adopts an ex post facto design, utilizing purposive sampling to select 18 key informants and 384 respondents. Data were analysed through content and thematic methods, supported by statistical techniques. Findings indicate that the committee positively influenced Nigeria's climate policy through budget alignment, stakeholder engagement, and legislative oversight. About 70.6% of respondents affirmed that the committee's financial oversight improved resource allocation for environmental programs, while 65.3% commended its stakeholder collaboration. However, challenges such as limited resources, procedural delays, and insufficient collaboration with external experts emerged, with high mean scores of 4.1161, 4.1423, and 4.1348, respectively. To address these challenges, the study recommends increasing committee meetings, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and enhancing collaboration with international climate organizations. Establishing robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations is also essential for ensuring transparency and accountability. While the committee has made commendable progress, overcoming these challenges is vital to optimizing its role in advancing Nigeria's ecological and climate governance.

Effectiveness of the national assembly committee on ecology and climate change: a case study of the 9th senate- Jude Ani, Federal University Lokoja

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change during Nigeria's 9th Senate, focusing on its interventions, challenges, and strategies for improvement. Specifically, it assesses the committee's impact on ecological and climate issues, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction. The research adopts an ex post facto design, utilizing purposive sampling to select 18 key informants and 384 respondents. Data were analyzed through content and thematic methods, supported by statistical techniques. Findings indicate that the committee positively influenced Nigeria's climate policy through budget alignment, stakeholder engagement, and legislative oversight. About 70.6% of respondents affirmed that the committee's financial oversight improved resource allocation for environmental programs, while 65.3% commended its stakeholder collaboration. However, challenges such as limited resources, procedural delays, and insufficient collaboration with external experts emerged, with high mean scores of 4.1161, 4.1423, and 4.1348, respectively. To address these challenges, the study recommends increasing committee meetings, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and enhancing collaboration with international climate organizations. Establishing robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations is also essential for ensuring transparency and accountability. While the committee has made commendable progress, overcoming these challenges is vital to optimizing its role in advancing Nigeria's ecological and climate governance.

Effectiveness of the national assembly committee on ecology and climate change: a case study of the 9th senate- Gift Ike-Onuigbo, House of Representatives, Nigeria

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change during Nigeria's 9th Senate, focusing on its interventions, challenges, and strategies for improvement. Specifically, it assesses the committee's impact on ecological and climate issues, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction. The research adopts an ex post facto design, utilizing purposive sampling to select 18 key informants and 384 respondents. Data were analysed through content and thematic methods, supported by statistical techniques. Findings indicate that the committee positively influenced Nigeria's climate policy through budget alignment, stakeholder engagement, and legislative oversight. About 70.6% of respondents affirmed that the committee's financial oversight improved resource allocation for environmental programs, while 65.3% commended its stakeholder collaboration. However, challenges such as limited resources, procedural delays, and insufficient collaboration with external experts emerged, with high mean scores of 4.1161, 4.1423, and 4.1348, respectively. To address these challenges, the study recommends increasing committee meetings, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and enhancing collaboration with international climate organizations. Establishing robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations is also essential for ensuring transparency and accountability. While the committee has made commendable progress, overcoming these challenges is vital to optimizing its role in advancing Nigeria's ecological and climate governance.

Effectiveness of the national assembly committee on ecology and climate change: a case study of the 9th senate- Jude Ani, Federal University Lokoja

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change during Nigeria's 9th Senate, focusing on its interventions, challenges, and strategies for improvement. Specifically, it assesses the committee's impact on ecological and climate issues, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction. The research adopts an ex post facto design, utilizing purposive sampling to select 18 key informants and 384 respondents. Data were analyzed through content and thematic methods, supported by statistical techniques. Findings indicate that the committee positively influenced Nigeria's climate policy through budget alignment, stakeholder engagement, and legislative oversight. About 70.6% of respondents affirmed that the committee's financial oversight improved resource allocation for environmental programs, while 65.3% commended its stakeholder collaboration. However, challenges such as limited resources, procedural delays, and insufficient collaboration with external experts emerged, with high mean scores of 4.1161, 4.1423, and 4.1348, respectively. To address these challenges, the study recommends increasing committee meetings, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and enhancing collaboration with international climate organizations. Establishing robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations is also essential for ensuring transparency and accountability. While the committee has made commendable progress, overcoming these challenges is vital to optimizing its role in advancing Nigeria's ecological and climate governance.

d.Countries Involved in AFRIPAL

East Africa

1. Burundi
2. Comoros
3. Djibouti
4. Eritrea
5. Ethiopia
6. Kenya
7. Madagascar
8. Malawi
9. Mauritius
10. Mozambique
11. Rwanda
12. Seychelles
13. Somalia
14. South Sudan
15. Tanzania
16. Uganda
17. Zambia
18. Zimbabwe

Southern Africa

33. Botswana
34. Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)
35. Lesotho
36. Namibia
37. South Africa

Central Africa

19. Cameroon
20. Central African Republic
21. Chad
22. Republic of the Congo
23. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

North Africa

25. Algeria
26. Egypt
27. Libya
28. Mauritania
29. Morocco
30. Tunisia
31. Sudan
32. Western Sahara

West Africa

38. Benin
39. Burkina Faso
40. Cape Verde (Cabo Verde)
41. Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
42. Gambia
43. Ghana
44. Guinea
45. Guinea-Bissau
46. Liberia
47. Mali
48. Niger
49. Nigeria
50. Senegal
51. Sierra Leone
52. Togo
53. Sao Tome and Principe

International Partners

54. France
55. United States of America (USA)
56. United Kingdom
57. Italy
58. Portugal
59. Hungary
60. Spain
61. Poland
62. Canada
63. Sweden

- Total Countries Involved: 63 unique national governments + the European Union.
- Africa Representation: All five African regions were represented.
- Europe/North America Partners: 12+ foreign states and intergovernmental partners.