



DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

“Parliament in the New Aid Architecture: Prioritizing South-South Cooperation”

EU PRESIDENCY SEMINAR MADRID, SPAIN 25-26 FEBRUARY 2010

The Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA), the Spanish Senate, Acción Social from Colombia and Casa Africa will be hosting the Spanish EU Seminar “Parliament in the new Aid Architecture: Prioritizing South-South Cooperation,” from 25-26 February in Madrid, Spain as part of the Sida funded Programme, Mobilizing Parliamentarians for NEPAD (MPN). This Seminar will facilitate an open discussion about the current state of the changing aid architecture, the important role of parliament therein, and the need to support and monitor positive developments in South-South Cooperation (SSC) to achieve the MDGs.

BACKGROUND

The Seminar “Parliament in the New Aid Architecture: Prioritizing South-South Cooperation,” is being organized in partnership with the Senate of Spain on the occasion of the Spanish EU Presidency of the first half of 2010. Set in the context of the changing aid architecture where there is a need to empower parliamentarians from the North and South to step up their role in the oversight of aid within both national and regional contexts, and in preparation for the High Level Event in Bogota, Colombia, on South-South Cooperation, to be held in March this same year, this Seminar will reflect the priority Spain has given to SSC during its Presidency.

The current dialogue revolving around the new aid architecture includes discussions of Mutual and Domestic Accountability, Ownership and Transparency- all issues relating back to the accountability hub of any country, namely that of parliament. Knowledge exchange and vibrant dialogue on these issues is crucial in order to generate a critical mass of parliamentary interest and support for their renewed engagement in implementing the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

The occasion will also serve as an important milestone for parliamentarians participating in the High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development in Bogota, Colombia in March. Much like the case for aid effectiveness, the notion of South-South cooperation has, until now, been traditionally dominated by the work of the executive. Therefore, the occasion presents itself as a key opportunity to highlight the role of Regional and sub-Regional Parliamentary Bodies (RPBs) and fora in the facilitation of South-South Cooperation both in terms of capacity building and the oversight of ODA.

GOAL

- Prepare targeted Regional Parliamentary Bodies and other parliamentary participants for participation for Roundtable VI, which will serve to shed light on a variety of stakeholder perspectives on SSC, at the HLE on SSC in Colombia and empower these institutions to strengthen all forms of SSC in their respective contexts.



OBJECTIVE

- Explore the role of Regional Parliamentary Bodies in making aid more effective
- Provide and share evidence on South-South Cooperation within the regional parliamentary setting, including those contributing to Capacity Development and oversight of ODA
- Inform participants on the latest developments in the aid reform process including an exploration of the synergies between the principles of aid effectiveness and the practice of South-South cooperation in Regional Parliamentary Bodies.

PARTICIPANTS

- Participants will include members of the Pan- African Parliament, the Latin American Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly, the ECOWAS Parliament, the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the NEPAD Secretariat, Women's Parliamentary Caucus members, European Regional Parliamentary Bodies, European MPs, representatives from AWEPA, CSOs, experts and the media.