THE NAIROBI ACTION PLAN FOR AFRICAN PARLIAMENENTARIANS ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

20TH FEBRUARY 2009

We, **African Parliamentarians** from the Republics of Chad, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and the East African Legislative Assembly, on the invitation of the Right Honorable Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, Right Hon. Raila O. Odinga and the UN Assistant Secretary General – for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom met at the UNISDR Consultative Meeting for Parliamentarians on 19th and 20th February 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

This was a follow up to the Parliamentarian meetings in Paris and Manila, focusing discussions on making Disaster Risk Reduction a tool for Climate Change Adaptation, and convinced that Africa is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change noted:

1) There is need to take proactive and preventive strategies to decrease human vulnerability to disaster and climate change which creates human and animal conflict, especially that of the poor and with particular emphasis to women and children, to safeguard food security, alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development;

2) There is a need to encompass Disaster Risk Reduction as a key component in the fight against the negative impact of climate change

3) That a strategic approach to synergizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, encompassing all stakeholders in their commitment to drawing up the first line of defense for adapting to climate change

4) That there is need to engage the Heads of State in the creation of an enabling environment for political and financial commitment in reducing human, social and economic vulnerability to climate related hazards

We African Parliamentarians, recognizing:

1) That Africa is becoming more vulnerable to the negative effects of environmental degradation and a magnitude of disasters at an alarming rate

2) That Africa although contributing the least to the causes of Global Warming, continues to bear the most destructive impact on peoples livelihoods by climate change and as a result we need concrete action to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change as a matter of urgency

3) That industrialized countries have a major role to play in climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa. Being the major emitters, the developed countries are morally and legally obliged to financially and technologically help African countries reduce their vulnerability and adapt to climate change by amongst other making available technologies be made available to our countries without preconditions.

4) That climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are closely linked, that effective disaster risk reduction will enhance adaptive capacity; and therefore immediate action is needed to synergize disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as a requirement for attaining the MDGs and ensuring sustainable development

We, Parliamentarians, commit:

1) To use regional bodies to advance the agenda of climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction

2) To be Ambassadors of Disaster Risk Reduction and champions at the local level and develop a blueprint on best practices

3) To develop relevant legislation in order to strengthen the capacity for African disaster management and to provide an enabling environment for Climate Change Adaptation

4) To demystify the concept of climate change and disaster risk reduction by putting into place structures and institutions with a view of increasing efficiency, effectiveness and information sharing in reducing peoples vulnerability to climate related disasters

5) To mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation programmes in all policy, planning and development programmes with emphasis on public facilities (schools, bridges and hospitals)

6) To incorporate within school curricula the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation programmes in order to foster a culture of disaster risk reduction

7) To promote an enabling environment to establish cooperative and mutually beneficial relationships between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation at national, regional and international levels

8) To use the COP- 15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark December 2009 as an opportunity to drive a continental agenda on Climate Change Adaptation and using Disaster Risk Reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation

We African Parliamentarians call on:

1) Parliaments across the continent to take a proactive role in advancing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation to protect lives and livelihoods

2) The Regional Economic Blocs, Pan African Parliament and UNISDR to work together in developing an international legal framework to secure the synergy between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

3) Governments, parliaments and civil society to use all structures and resources, to make Disaster Risk Reduction a tool for Climate Change Adaptation and to strengthen their advocacy

4) Governments to create specific budget lines to bridging the link between the disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and facilitate the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction into poverty reduction and sustainable development

5) Governments develop a data base through which we can share best practices on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

6) African states to harmonize existing institutions and legislations which handle issues related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

7) Industrialized countries, being the major emitters of GHG, are morally and legally obliged to financially and technologically help African countries reduce their vulnerability and adapt to climate change by amongst other making available technologies be made available to our countries without preconditions

We African Parliamentarians commit ourselves to take immediate action:

1) To immediately put in place and execute a campaign to sensitize the continent on the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation at the COP -15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

2) To deliver statements in our respective Parliaments to report on initiatives being put in place around the world on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation leading up to the Nairobi meeting and its outcome

3) To call on our Governments to make Disaster Risk Reduction a tool for Climate Change Adaptation at national and local levels, including the National Adaptation Plans

4) To call for compliance by governments with the Hyogo Framework for Action and positively the Africa Regional Strategy as adopted by the Ministers of Environment and positively acknowledged by the Heads of State

5) To call on EALA to develop a model legislation to mandate the mainstreaming of gender sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction in national and regional development plans including Climate Change Adaptation