

AFRICAN UNION

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Economic, Social and Cultural Council  
ECOSOCC



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Conseil Economique, Social et Culturel  
ECOSOCC

Office of the Presiding Officer

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**GOODWILL MESSAGE**  
**FROM**  
**H.E. JOSEPH CHILENGI**  
**PRESIDING OFFICER**  
**ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL OF**  
**THE AFRICAN UNION (AU ECOSOCC)**  
**TO THE**  
**FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE FORTH**  
**PARLIAMENT OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT**  
**MIDRAD, SOUTH AFRICA**  
**5 OCTOBER 2015**

**The President of the Pan- African Parliament, H.E. Roger**

**Nkodo Dang,**

**Honorable Members of the Bureau of the Pan-African**

**Parliament ( PAP) ,**

**Honorable Members of PAP, ( other fellow representatives**

**by institution, title and form of address suitable)**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Participants ,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is with honor and delight that I am here today to offer a goodwill message to the First Ordinary Session of the Fourth Pan-African Parliament on behalf of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union ( ECOSOCC). I wish in this regard to thank the President of the Pan-African Parliament ( PAP) , H.E. Honorable Roger Nkodo Dang in particular and all the honorable members of the Fourth Parliament in general for this privileged invitation. My presence here today attests to the regard that ECOSOCC has for PAP and the significance that the Organ attaches to our excellent working relations. We share a common commitment to working harmoniously in the service of integration and development in Africa. ECOSOCC is also delighted that far beyond that we share a common pattern of seeking to work together in a pleasant manner that will facilitate the greater task of serving our masters and mistresses, the ordinary African people of this great continent

of Africa. ECOSOCC cherishes this approach of putting the African family before each and every one of ourselves and hope that this model will be the one to underwrite the strategic vision of the continent towards Agenda 2063. May I also acknowledge the significance of the theme for this session which is our Union's theme: 2015 the Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards the Agenda 2063.

ECOSOCC is here to extend fraternal greetings to PAP in this common spirit that we share in the hope that this blessed spirit will grow by leaps and bounds within the wider Union environment. I am also here to add that this spirit informs the efforts and progress that ECOSOCC has made since the inception of its 2nd Permanent General Assembly on 22 December 2014. In the short period since its inception, the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC has moved rapidly to activate, consolidate and develop its constituent sub-organs and to equip them with the necessary tools for operation and precise agendas and work programs. ECOSOCC has held sensitization meetings with civil society groups across the five regions of the continent to sensitize and mobilize the African people in support of African Union programs, activities and policies and to disseminate information about Africa's strategic vision on Agenda 2063. This is an ongoing process and much remains to be done but we in ECOSOCC have committed ourselves to doing what we must do.

The Agenda 2063 is an ambitious programme for the continent requires the change of attitude, mentality and work methods by all Organs of the Union by working compliment each other than organs working to compete amongst ourselves. ECOSOCC wishes to advise for the introduction of AU Organs coordination

meetings twice annually which are absent in the work method of the Union and the African Union Commission which is the Secretariat of the Union is called upon to provide leadership in this regard and actualize this to improve performance and output of the Union in total.

Accordingly, we have also offered advice and opinion on ongoing developments within the African continent as mandated by our Statutes and we will commence with the process of operationalizing the Sectoral Cluster Committees next week in Nairobi to regularize and standardize the process of issuing ECOSOCC advisory opinions. Article 11 of the ECOSOCC Statutes set the Clusters as the key operational mechanisms of the Organ but they were not operationalized in both the Interim and First Permanent General Assembly. This ECOSOCC Assembly will initiate what has not been done in the very next week. In alignment, we are in working close cooperation with the Citizens and Diaspora Department of the AU Commission, which also serves as the Secretariat of ECOSOCC, to convene a stakeholder convention of the African Diaspora in Washington in mid-November 2015 to reinforce the participation of the Diaspora in the people-centered agenda of the African Union. Allow me on behalf of the Bureau of ECOSOCC to extend an invitation to Your Excellency the President to this important gathering of our Diasporas.

Our various efforts notwithstanding, we recognize that we cannot accomplish our goals by ourselves; we recognize the unique role that all Parliaments play in connecting with the people and the specific role that PAP in particular can play. Thus I am using this opportunity to renew our call to PAP to work with ECOSOCC to establish a program for African Union

Parliament Days once or twice a year in each Member State of the Union so that each African Parliament, and through them the people of their respective countries, can audit the decisions, activities, policies and programs of the AU to which they commit national resources annually. The Union Days will also serve to ensure that African publics are socialized in the context of AU activities which can then be better mainstreamed in the wider popular consciousness. Our belief is also that this will renew the commitment of our Member States and their Parliament as elected representatives of the people across national boundaries will be in the position to give guidance to their Union and ensure corrections and adjustments in patterns of behavior. Parliamentary Union days will serve as a framework of accountability for elected officials of the Union and their technic alarm. This will in itself democratize the Union.

Having said this, I wish once again to underline the respect and collegial admiration that ECOSOCC shares with PAP and to congratulate you all for the successful development of the Pan-African legislative agenda. ECOSOCC shares with you the determination to ensure that PAP in the phase of the Fourth Parliament will be transformed from a consultative to a legislative body and our Organ wishes to assure you that you can count on ECOSOCC support in this process.

I thank you all.