

# 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Civil Society Parliamentary Dialogue Outcomes and Resolutions

2024 - 2025  
Pan-African Parliament  
Midrand, Gauteng, South Africa

## PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), research institutions, community-based organisations, and citizens participating in the Second and Third Pan-African Parliament Civil Society Forum organised by the Pan-African Parliament Civil Society Forum,

Recalling the aspirations of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which commit to participatory governance, democracy, peace, justice, and people-centred development.

Recognising the Pan-African Parliament as the legislative and oversight organ of the African Union, mandated to give voice to the peoples of Africa and to promote transparency, accountability, and democratic governance.

Acknowledging that civil society organisations are indispensable partners in shaping evidence-based policies, monitoring implementation, bridging the gap between citizens and policymakers, and serving as democratic correctives when formal institutions fail to uphold constitutional order.

Concerned that democracy across Africa is increasingly reduced to procedural formalities that fail to deliver dignity, justice, development, food security, employment, and safety to African citizens.

Deeply troubled by the escalating humanitarian and governance crises in the Sahel, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which have resulted in massive displacement, widespread hunger, violence against civilians, especially women and children and the erosion of state legitimacy.

Alarmed by the resurgence of military takeovers and unconstitutional changes of government across the continent, reflecting deep governance deficits, social exclusion, corruption, impunity, and loss of public trust in civilian leadership.

Calling for the ratification and domestication of key AU legal instruments, particularly the Malabo Protocol to strengthen the legislative authority of the Pan-African Parliament, and the Free Movement Protocol to advance continental integration and economic self-reliance.

Committed to reimagining democracy as participatory, people-centered, and accountable, grounded in African realities and responsive to the lived experiences of citizens.

Determined to institutionalise structured and sustained engagement between the Pan-African Parliament and civil society as a cornerstone of transparent, inclusive, and accountable continental governance.

**Hereby adopt the following outcomes and calls to action:**

## **OUTCOMES OF THE DIALOGUES**

### **1. Establishment of a Permanent Civil Society Desk**

A Civil Society Desk shall be embedded within the Office of the Clerk of Parliament, serving as a coordination and liaison unit for all CSO engagements. Its mandate shall include:

- I. Managing CSO accreditation and database.
- II. Coordinating the annual Forum and pre-session consultations.
- III. Facilitating information exchange between PAP structures and CSOs.
- IV. Supporting public outreach, advocacy, and citizens' participation initiatives.
- V. Ensuring regular feedback mechanisms on CSO submissions to PAP Committees and Plenary.

### **2. Establishment of Civil Society Expert Working Groups**

- I. The PAP shall establish sectoral expert working groups composed of CSOs, research institutions, and technical experts to
- II. Provide evidence-based analysis to parliamentary Committees and Caucuses.
- III. Strengthen the technical capacity of Members of Parliament.

IV. Contribute to drafting Model Laws and monitoring their implementation across Member States.

### **3. Institutionalisation of Pre-Session PAP-CSO Engagement**

I. The PAP shall establish a structured pre-session consultation mechanism with civil society prior to each parliamentary session to discuss agenda items, priority issues, and legislative proposals.

II. Civil society submissions and policy briefs shall be formally presented to relevant Committees and Members of Parliament, with documented feedback provided to CSOs.

#### **A. CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS FOR:**

##### **1. Strengthening mechanisms of engagement with civil society**

- The PAP should strengthen mechanisms of engagement with civil society and citizens to promote effective participation in decision-making, as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the PAP Protocol.
- Structured PAP-CSO pre-session engagement-The PAP CSO Forum recognizes the importance of PAP sessions and calls for structured pre-session engagement with the PAP on issues to be discussed during the PAP plenary.

##### **2. Feedback on the PAP CSO Forum Submissions**

- The PAP should ensure that relevant PAP committees consider previous submissions made by the PAP CSO Forum during the first parliamentary dialogue between civil society and the PAP in May 2023 and provide feedback to the PAP CSO Forum.

##### **3. Strengthen Reporting and Monitoring Mechanisms**

- The PAP CSO Forum recognises the important role and mandate of the PAP and calls for a robust reporting and monitoring mechanism of the PAP's work and feedback to national parliaments.

##### **4. Reimagining Democracy and Constitutional Order**

- The PAP should champion a redefinition of democracy that delivers dignity, justice, development, security, employment, and safety, not merely electoral legitimacy.

- The PAP must address the root causes of military takeovers and unconstitutional changes of government, such as corruption, inequality, impunity, and governance deficits.

## 5. Ratification of the Malabo Protocol

- The PAP CSO Forum calls for urgent ratification of the Malabo Protocol to transform the Pan-African Parliament into a People's Parliament with full legislative authority.
- Institutionalised CSOs participation should be embedded within PAP, ensuring regular dialogue, accountability, and transparency.

## 6. Ratification of the Free Movement Protocol

- The PAP CSO Forum calls for a strategic partnership between civil society and the PAP to ensure that there are 15 ratifications to bring the Free Movement Protocol into force by the end of 2025.
- The PAP should advocate strongly for ending intra-African visa restrictions, which contradict the spirit of continental integration and economic Pan-Africanism.
- Free movement of people is essential for trade, investment, and African ownership of economies goods and services do not move themselves; people do.

## 7. PAP's Firm Stand on Conflict Prevention and Resolution

- The PAP should urge Member States and the African Union (AU) to take the necessary steps to prevent, mitigate, manage and resolve conflicts and humanitarian crises in Sudan, the Sahel, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and across Africa.
- The PAP must take clear, principled positions on ongoing crises, prioritising ceasefires, humanitarian access, the protection of civilians and citizen engagement in peace processes.
- Africa must reclaim sovereignty in peace processes and prevent external manipulation by geopolitical actors who exploit conflicts for strategic and resource gain.

## The Sahel Crisis

- The PAP should recognise the Sahel as facing an acute humanitarian crisis characterised by widespread displacement, hunger, violent extremism, governance collapse, and the loss of social legitimacy. The crisis has left children out of school, women and civilians trapped in crossfire, and populations voiceless and unprotected.

- The PAP must condemn crimes against humanity committed in the name of counterterrorism and call for accountability and adherence to international humanitarian law.

## **The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

- The PAP must condemn the exploitation of the DRC's resources by external actors, including private military contractors and other geopolitical players, under the pretext of security.
- New solutions must focus on natural resource governance, political inclusivity and community-driven peace processes.

## **Sudan**

- The PAP must call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians and unimpeded humanitarian access.
- The PAP should advocate inclusive political dialogue centering Sudanese citizens, particularly women, young people, and marginalised communities.

## **8. Youth Inclusion**

- Young Africans have expressed deep frustration at unresponsive leadership and their exclusion from governance. The PAP must institutionalise youth representation within its own structures and those of the AU.
- Youth must be recognised as agents of change and innovation, rather than being viewed as victims, propaganda tools, or security threats.
- The PAP should create platforms for youth-led policy dialogues, technical contributions and participation in legislative processes.

## **9. Access to Information and Visibility of the PAP**

- The PAP should ensure timely updating of information and dissemination of its work through its various platforms to the African citizenry, so that citizens can follow and engage with the various activities of the PAP.
- The PAP should promote freedom of expression and access to information as cornerstones of accountability and democratic governance.

**10. Adoption of Criteria for Elections to AU Organ** The PAP should pass a resolution for a clear and transparent framework for the election of individuals to AU human rights bodies and other organs.

## **11. Addressing Socio-Economic Challenges**

- The PAP should prioritise and take a stand on socio-economic challenges facing Africa, including famine, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and other harmful cultural practices, advocating for policies and interventions to mitigate these issues.

## **12. Addressing Human Rights Concerns**

### ***Journalists and Human Rights Defenders***

- The PAP should call on Member States to pay attention to violations against journalists and human rights defenders and ensure adherence to the rule of law and justice.
- The PAP must defend civic space and condemn repression, torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances across the continent. monitoring mechanism of the PAP's work and feedback to national parliaments.

## **B. THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR:**

### **1. Civil Society Support in the Development of Model Laws**

- Civil society should support the PAP in fulfilling its mandate to develop, disseminate, and ensure the implementation/application of model laws by Member States.

### **2. Civil Society Technical Support**

- Civil society should collaborate with the Permanent Committees by providing technical expertise to support the PAP in fulfilling its mandate.

### **3. Effective Participation of Civil Society**

- Civil society should use both statutory and non-statutory avenues to participate and engage with the PAP.

## 4. Harmonised Engagement

- The PAP appreciates the efforts and valuable contribution of civil society and calls for a harmonious strategic approach in its engagement with the PAP.

## 5. Equal Regional Representation of Civil Society

- The PAP calls for equal regional representation of civil society and the need for the PAP CSO Forum to be more inclusive of the geographical, linguistic, and sectoral diversity of the continent.

## 6. Resources Mobilization

- The PAP calls on civil society to mobilize resources and foster joint partnerships with the PAP to assist it in fulfilling its mandate.

## CONCLUSION

The outcomes and calls to action contained in this document represent a shared commitment to building a more transparent, accountable, inclusive, and people-centered Pan-African Parliament, one that truly serves as the voice of Africa's peoples.

Civil society organisations and the Pan-African Parliament pledge to work collaboratively to ensure that continental governance delivers tangible benefits to all Africans, protects civic freedoms, safeguards human rights, and advances the vision of Agenda 2063.