Civil Society Forum on Effective Engagement with the Pan-African Parliament
Venue: The Pan-African Parliament, Midrand, South Africa
8 August 2018
Time: 09:00-12:00

Background and context

The establishment of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) as an African Union (AU) organ in 2001, signaled a historical milestone. For the first time, there was a continental Parliament to ensure that there is full participation of Africans in the development and economic integration of Africa. The PAP as an organ of the AU seeks to provide a formal platform for African people to participate fully and meaningfully in decision-making processes on matters affecting the continent.

However, more than ten years after its inauguration, the PAP continues to fall short of formal and informal mechanisms for meaningful engagement with the African peoples and civil society. While the PAP and civil society share the view that there is a need for civil society involvement in the activities of the PAP, this view has hardly been transformed into the development of a formal, coordinated and sustainable platform for engagement.

Thus, the PAP in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, is convening a Civil Society Forum on the sidelines of the PAP's August Committee Sittings. This Forum, which targets South Africa-based Civil Society Organisations, is expected to lay the ground for a more extended forum, which will be held on the sidelines of the Ordinary Session of PAP, to be held in October 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Aim and objectives

The aim of the Civil Society Forum is to foster closer collaboration between and among CSOs on PAP related issues the one hand and between CSOs and the PAP on the other for the purpose of advancing and promoting the mandate of the continental Parliament. To that end, the meeting will seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. To sensitize civil society organizations on the workings of the PAP, by for example making them aware of the potential avenues to engage with the PAP, and to encourage more programming on issues pertaining to the PAP
2. To promote active and constructive citizen and civil society engagement with the PAP
3. To enable sharing of best practices on effective civil society advocacy, lobbying the PAP
4. To identify gaps and challenges relating to civil society engagement with the PAP and devise common strategies for addressing them
5. To adopt a common approach for sustained civil society engagement with the PAP.

Draft Programme

Date	Time	Activity	Moderator/Facilitator
8 Aug 2018	09:00- 09:20	**Welcome Speeches:** ❖ Mr Yusupha Jobe, Acting Clerk of PAP ❖ Professor Magnus, Centre For Human Rights	Mrs Lyn Chiwandamira, Senior International Relations Officer, PAP
	9:20-9:35	**Keynote Speech:** "Promoting active and constructive citizen and civil society engagement with the Pan-African Parliament" - Hon. Julius Masele, First Vice-President of the Pan-African Parliament	
	09.35- 10:30	❖ **Role of Civil Society in Africa** - Professor Michelo Hansungule, Centre for Human Rights ❖ **The Mandate of the Pan-African-Parliament - Entry Points for Citizen and Civil society Engagement** - Mr. Clement Phebe Mavungu, Legal Counsel of PAP	Ms Bonolo Makgale, Democracy, Transparency and Digital Rights Unit: Programme Coordinator
	10:30-11:00	**TEA BREAK AND PHOTO SESSION**	
	11:00:12:00	Discussions on PAP/ CSO partnerships; identifying avenues for CSOs to effectively engage PAP; recommendations and conclusion	Mr. Jeggan Grey-Johnson: Advocacy and Communications Coordinator: OSISA African Regional Office