

Enhancing the Role of the Effective Participation of Parliamentarians in the APRM Process.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me say few words, on behalf of the Madame President of the Pan African Parliament about the Pan- African Parliament (PAP)

Establishment of the Pan-African Parliament.

The Pan African Parliament, being an organ of the African Union established under Article 2 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the Pan African Parliament in accordance with Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The establishment of the Pan African Parliament aimed to provide a common platform for African peoples and their grass-roots organization to be more involved in discussions and decision- making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

Further more the Pan African Parliament formed as the aspiration of the African peoples for the greater unity, solidarity and cohesion in a great community. The Pan African Parliament represents all peoples of Africa.

Functions and Powers of the Pan -African Parliament.

The following are the functions and powers of the Pan African Parliament

- Examine, discuss or express an opinion on any matter, either on its own initiative or at the requests of the Assembly or other policy organs and make any recommendation it may deem fit.
- Discuss its budget and the budget of the Community and make recommendations thereon prior to its approval by the Assembly
- Work towards the harmonization or co-ordination of the laws of member States
- Make recommendations aimed at contributing to the attainment of the objectives of the AU and draw attention to the challenges facing the integrating process in Africa as well as the strategies for dealing with them
- Promote human and people's rights, consolidate democratic institutions and democratic culture, good governance, transparency and the rule of law by all organs of the Union, Regional Economic Communities and Member States.
- Participate in creating awareness among the peoples of Africa on the objectives, policies, aims and programmes of the African Union, the promotion of peace, security and stability on the African Continent.
- Promote the programmes and objectives of the AU in the constituencies of the Member States

- Promote the coordination and harmonization of policies, measures, programmes and activities of the Regional Economic Communities and Parliamentary fora of Africa
- Adopt its Rules of Procedure, elect its own President and propose to the Council and Assembly the size and nature of the support staff of the Pan African Parliament

On APRM, the Pan African Parliament have already debated on five countries these includes Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Algeria and South Africa. The debate was very encouraging and we hope to continue with this process.

With these few words, I wish you good training workshop,

I thank you for your attention.