



drone logistics improving healthcare delivery in remote areas, e-government platforms reducing inefficiency and corruption, and educational technologies expanding access to learning.

“These examples confirm a central principle: digital transformation is already happening in Africa, by Africans, for African development,” said the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Namibia.

The call for digital transformation was further supported in a paper to second the motion, prepared by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria Dr Abbas Tajudeen, and presented by CSPOC regional representative for West Africa, Ms Mary Muyali Meboka.

She impressed upon a growing concern that paper-based processes, information asymmetry, and delays in fiscal reporting continue to weaken legislative scrutiny and enable leakages in public expenditure.



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Proactive Parliaments & Sustainable Development:
An Imperative for Political Stability in Africa



Africa's young people are not just the future; they are shaping the present: A call for including the youth in Parliamentary decision making

The conversation about Africa's stability and the livelihoods of young people took centre stage at the third Plenary, under the theme, "Harnessing the potential of the youth of Africa for sustainable development: The role of parliament"

Parliaments across Africa have acknowledged the rising rate of unemployment, lack of skills for employability, and disinterest in activities that uphold democracy amongst the youth.

The conversation was chaired by South Africa, with Kenya introducing the topic and Malawi offering supporting remarks. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Boss Shollei, stated that the youth remains underrepresented in parliament despite being the continent's largest demographic group at a rate of 70%. "No parliament can claim to be fully representative if the voices of young people are absent from its deliberations and priorities," Shollei said. She urged parliaments to promote youth employment through inclusivity and innovation to achieve sustainable development.

Africa's development agenda places the youth at the centre of evolution aiming to have legislatures that allow for young people's participation. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region President, Sameer Suleman, says parliament's functions such as lawmaking, oversight, budget approval, and public participation should be employed with the best interests of the youth in mind.

Botswana stands as one of the countries that have implemented the inclusion of young people in parliamentary decision-making. The change of government in Botswana in 2024 enabled the nomination of the youngest member of parliament, the Minister

of Youth and Gender Affairs, Lesego Chombo. "This was not just a statement, but a demonstration that youth can actually be given responsibility and deliver," says Dithapelo Keorapetse, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana.

Member of the National Assembly of South Africa, Andisiwe Kumbaca, stated that Africa's youth already possesses the potential to drive development, but parliaments must remove institutional barriers and create practical mechanisms for youth representation. "When young people are given an opportunity, society prospers in various ways," she said.

The solutions and resolutions pertaining to sustainable development and upholding democracy in all African countries brought forth by parliamentarians were acknowledged by CSPOC Africa Region. Delegates concluded the conference by calling for stronger and more modern African parliaments that can effectively promote good governance, accountability and sustainable development. They emphasized the need to invest in parliamentary capacity and empower young people through education, skills development and entrepreneurship.

The conference also highlighted the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in driving economic growth and job creation, while recognizing technology and digital innovation as key tools for strengthening parliamentary effectiveness across the continent.



African parliaments must lead digital transformation initiatives in their countries

In response to the radical technological shift of the fourth industrial revolution, African parliaments and governments must enact laws and policies that accelerate the use of modern technology. This call was made on the final day of the conference



A conference motion moved by the Deputy Speaker of Namibia, Mr Phillipus Katamelo, on "Leveraging technology and digital tools for effective and sustainable development", proposed that African parliaments must move with urgency in embracing new technologies and encouraging their governments to introduce modern digital tools for the acceleration of service delivery, access to information and public participation.

"Digital technology is no longer a future consideration, it is the architecture of modern governance, economic inclusion, and democratic legitimacy.

"African economies are advancing, entrepreneurs are innovating, and citizens are increasingly connected. Yet many of our governance systems still operate on assumptions rooted in pre-digital era paper-based processes, physical presence, and limited access to information," said the Mr Katamelo.

He told the conference that digital transformation was not optional, but foundational to sustainable development, constitutional governance, and inclusive democracy.

Parliaments must therefore assert their constitutional responsibility to ensure that technology serves democracy, protects rights, and strengthens accountability, he emphasized.

The motion also proposed that parliaments in the continent must enact data protection laws, fund digital infrastructure beyond policy intent and institutionalize parliamentary technology oversight.

The conference heard how the continent was also witnessing the positive impact of new technology in development with examples such as mobile financial services expanding financial inclusion, satellite and geospatial tools improving climate and disaster response as well as digital identity systems enabling access to services and rights.

Other successes include the use of artificial intelligence in agriculture, health diagnostics, and public administration,