

EAPAC CHAIRMAN'S STATUS REPORT TO THE AFROPAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

ONOMO HOTEL, 16-19 JANUARY, 2017

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

- The Eastern Africa Association of Public Accounts Committees (EAAPAC) is an Association of financial accountability committees of Eastern Africa Community states' Legislatures and Associates whose aims and objectives are:-
- *Improving the capacity of individual Members of the Public Accounts Committees to function more effectively;*
- *Improving the effectiveness of Public Accounts Committees in the East African region;*
- *Sharing best practices and innovation, and, where appropriate, harmonize and standardize the work of Public Accounts Committees in the Eastern Africa region;*

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS...CONT'D

- *Promoting accountability, transparency and good governance;*
- *Conducting research on new best practices and innovations to improve and enhance the effectiveness of Public Accounts Committees in the Eastern Africa region;*
- *Communicating and building relationships with individuals and organizations with relevant expertise (nationally and internationally);*

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS...CONT'D

- *Empowering its Members to disseminate information on the work and activities of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) among elected representatives, media and the general public; and*
- *Strengthening the relationship with the appropriate East African Community structures and those of neighbouring countries.*

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS...CONT'D

- Since the launch of EAAPAC almost a decade ago in February 2004, with the 1st Conference in July 2005 to be precise, EAAPAC has grown in leaps and bounds. Our membership currently stands at 11; including Somalia and Eritrea, indicating success in our expansionist approach. EAAPAC provides the opportunity as a peer review and learning platform and also provides training and experience sharing opportunities offered by other sister regional organizations. It is on this basis that I am encouraged by the initiative of AFROPAC to engage with regional bodies towards accountability. I am most grateful for the invitation to attend this workshop.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS...CONT'D

- Our achievements so far include the following;
- A strengthened secretariat- with special mention of the formation of the Technical Working Group. This has seen more synergy in technical and logistical arrangements
- A strategic plan which will focus the organizations activities going forward

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS...CONT'D

- Financial plan to guide prudent use of resources
- More rigorous subscription collection- meetings resolved to have quarterly reminders to defaulters. Meetings also resolved not to back-date arrears so as not to discourage active membership by hitherto dormant member countries
- The organization has had its fair share of challenges. Turnover in leadership of member PACs has been one. This calls for a strengthened secretariat for institutional memory.
- The secretariat has also encountered challenges in roping in dormant members like EALA, Djibouti, Somali, Sudan, Eritrea, and Burundi.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS...CONT'D

- We have also evidently not been able to hold frequent executive committee meetings. In fact, challenges of holding meetings saw us fail to hold last year's AGM and conference. We intend to address this by meeting here in Lomé this Thursday to agree on a meeting venue and agenda for mid-February.
- Going forward, we have proposed the following for consideration;
- Hiring of a full time secretariat to benefit from full time dedication.
- The need for a peer review mechanism to assess and rate implementation of resolutions and accountability standards. Executive Committee can adopt a means of rotationally visiting member states for this.

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- THANK YOU