

The WAAPAC Secretariat

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Background

- ❑ WAAPAC was created at the Africa Programs Office of the Canadian Parliamentary Centre, through the vision of then Director of Africa Programs - Dr. Rasheed Draman and Rick Stapenhurst of the World Bank (Parliamentary program).
- ❑ Membership started with PACs of Anglophone Parliaments and later opened up to include Finance Committees of Francophone Parliaments, through the initiative of Hon. Kan Dapaah, a former President and Executive Secretary of the WAAPAC.

Background

- ❑ Over the years, Parliamentary Centre (PC) provided the space and time, to host the Secretariat of WAAPAC. At the time, WAAPAC did not have its own resources.
- ❑ A staff of PC (myself) was delegated by the Director of Africa Programs to work on WAAPAC issues.
- ❑ Ben Ekeyi, a Nigerian was the first Executive Secretary but worked closely with PC since that was where the Secretariat was based.

Transition from PC to ACEPA

- ❑ The Director of Africa Programs of PC moved with some of his staff to establish ACEPA in 2013; a time when PC was winding up its operations in Africa
- ❑ The WAAPAC Secretariat moved to ACEPA. Hon. Kan Dapaah was the Executive Secretary then but the bulk of the work was done by staff of ACEPA.
- ❑ After Hon. Kan Dapaah's departure in 2015, there was the need to recruit a bilingual Executive Secretary.

Transition from PC to ACEPA

- ❑ ACEPA was formally engaged as the Executive Secretariat of WAAPAC in 2015, a role which it had been playing all these years.

Functions

- ❑ The Secretariat, like any other, performs the following functions:
 - ❑ Coordinating the activities of the Association
 - ❑ Liaising with Member countries on various issues including payment of their contributions
 - ❑ Interfacing with Donors and Prospective partners
 - ❑ Working with the Executive Committee to think through the issue of sustainability of the Association. In this regard, the Secretariat has developed a fund-raising document towards resource mobilization. Fundraising initiatives will commence this year.

Challenges

Resources

Sustainability of WAAPAC

- ❑ At ACEPA, we believe:
- ❑ A network survives if there is a dedicated network secretariat that is not tied to any funding source e.g. donor funds. That is how WAAPAC has survived all these years
- ❑ There is the need for a Secretariat that is not just administrative and managerial, but one that is part of the knowledge generation and creation. E.g. Dr. Draman and other ACEPA staff have been resource persons at all conferences and training programs of WAAPAC

Sustainability of WAAPAC

- There is something to be gained when the Secretariat of an Association like WAAPAC is anchored within an organization/or set up that is dedicated to parliamentary development. That is the story of WAAPAC and ACEPA.

Looking Forward

- ❑ Our Vision for WAAPAC is that as a young organization, ACEPA would like to grow with WAAPAC, and create an Association that will be a leading body for accountability and transparency on the continent.
- ❑ We want to see an association that will be regularly called upon by member countries to lead the effort of sharing knowledge that exists within the sub-region.

□ THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION