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AWEPA News

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AWEPA International Parliamentary Seminar on Peace, Security and Sustainable Development



On 8-9 October 2015, AWEPA held an international Parliamentary Seminar on **"Peace, Security and Sustainable Development"**, with a special focus on the role of African and European Parliaments in tackling the Root Causes and Consequences of Violent Extremism and Terrorism. The seminar was organised in the framework of the **AWEPA Millennium Development Goals**

[\(MDGs\) Programme](#), and was hosted by the [Belgian Senate](#) in Brussels and funded by the [Swedish Development Agency \(Sida\)](#). The theme for the high level seminar was chosen in light of growing international attention to the role of peace and security in the post-2015 development agenda.

Watch the opening ceremony and key note address of the conference [here](#).

[Read the article](#)

Upcoming Activities

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 26 October | SADC-PF/AWEPA Consultative Meeting on the Draft Benchmarks for HIV and AIDS Legislative Financial Oversight |
| 26 Oct-3 Nov | AWEPA/NIMD to hold planning retreat and induction seminar for Benin's National Assembly |
| 27 October | First meeting of Kenyan Parliamentary Caucus on FGM/C |
| 3-4 November | CEMAC parliamentary visit to DRC |
| 10 November | AWEPA to launch Somalia Country Report |
| 20-25 November | AWEPA to address the SADC-PF 38th Plenary Assembly Session |

Recent Activities

[MDG Steering Committee meets in the Belgian Senate](#)

[AWEPA's Leadership Bodies come together in Brussels](#)



9 October 2015. Brussels, Belgium – As the fifth and final year of AWEPA's [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) programme](#) comes to an end, AWEPA held its last annual MDG Steering Committee meeting at the [Belgian Senate](#). The meeting took place alongside the [Parliamentary Seminar](#) on “Peace, Security and Sustainable Development” and brought together representatives from the programme partners to review lessons learned and provide strategic guidance for 2015 and beyond in the context of the transition from the MDGs to the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

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[AWEPA conducts conflict resolution seminar in S. Sudan](#)



9 October 2015. Brussels, Belgium – After the closing of the International Parliamentary [Seminar](#) on Peace, Security and Sustainable Development held at the Belgian Senate, AWEPA's leadership bodies met on Friday 9th October 2015. The [Executive Committee](#) reviewed, among others, AWEPA's process of Africanisation and Decentralisation. AWEPA's [Governing Council](#) meeting offered an introduction to the new Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) and the role of parliamentarians in their realisation, while the [Partnership Council](#) meeting focused on the structure and system of political parties in Africa.

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[Second session of political training for young Beninese](#)



7-8 October 2015. Yei County, South Sudan– In the framework of AWEPA's programme **[“South Sudan National Legislative Assembly \(SSNLA\) and Local Councils”](#)**, AWEPA staff members John Simon Yokwe, Operations Manager and Andrew Namara, Project Officer facilitated a training workshop on Conflict Sensitivity and Awareness for the county councilors of Lainya County, on 7-8 October 2015. The training took place in Yei county due to both strategic and security reasons.

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[EALA capacity building workshop on budgeting and auditing](#)



18-22 September. Zanzibar, Tanzania – **[East African Legislative Assembly \(EALA\)](#)** members attended a capacity



2-5 September. Ouidah, Benin – Following the **[first session](#)** of a School of Politics held in February 2015, the same participants took part in a second political training session. The young representatives from various political parties and civil society organisations in Benin had the opportunity to increase their knowledge on various topics, as well as debate and carry out group work and role-playing activities. This training was organised in collaboration with the **[National Assembly of Benin](#)**, in the framework of the **[joint AWEPA / NIMD programme](#)**.

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[Lifting the Veil: The international effort to end Child Marriage](#)



building workshop, organised in the framework of AWEPA's [EALA programme](#). The five-day workshop covered the topics of Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and auditing processes.

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[Brainstorming workshop for staff of the Benin National Assembly](#)



11-12 September 2015. Ouidah, Benin – Around thirty staff members from the National Assembly of Benin gathered in Ouidah for a two-day workshop on the theme “What parliamentary administration for the Seventh Parliament? “. The workshop was organised in the framework of the [joint AWEPA-NIMD programme in Benin](#), aiming at strengthening the capacities of the National Assembly and political parties.

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October 2015 – AWEPA has been playing an active role in international efforts to end child marriage. On 7 October, the organisation participated in a full-day Expert Meeting on Child Marriage, hosted by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) in The Hague, Netherlands. Similarly, in Belgium, the [Girls Not Brides Belgium](#) coalition, initiated by AWEPA and [Plan Belgium](#), organised a meeting on 1 October 2015, where participants produced a [manifesto](#) for action on forced child marriage in Belgium's official partner countries.

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[AWEPA Spain calls for united response to refugee crisis](#)



16 September 2015. Madrid, Spain – The [Spanish AWEPA Section](#) released a statement urging the European Union to adopt a rapid and united response to the refugee crisis in Europe. Signed by [Hon. Josep Maldonado](#), Senator and Head of the Spanish AWEPA Section, the

AWEPA holds meetings with EU Head of Sections



7-8 October 2015, Brussels, Belgium
- During the high level conference in Brussels, [AWEPA](#) Headquarters seized the opportunity to meet and enhance its relations with its Heads of Sections in the Parliaments of Europe. AWEPA asked its [Sections](#) to provide an overview of its activities during the past years, to share personal highlights within AWEPA and brainstorm about future plans and initiatives. In particular, the ties were strengthened with AWEPA's political contacts in the Baltic States and Romania as part of its strategy to expand its membership in newer EU member states.

statement urges EU member states to take action to alleviate “the terrible situation faced by thousands of refugees from Syria and Africa”.

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[Lisez l'article](#)

AWEPA welcomes new Head of Belgian Section



Amsterdam, the Netherlands - AWEPA welcomes Ms. [Magda De Meyer](#) as the new Head of the [AWEPA Belgian Section](#). Ms. Magda De Meyer is also the AWEPA Political Coordinator of the [Network of Women Parliamentarians of Central Africa \(RFPAC\)](#) and honorary member of the Belgian Parliament and has been active in AWEPA's work on the

empowerment of women MPs in Africa. During AWEPA's High Level Seminar on Peace, Security and Sustainable Development Ms. De Meyer delivered an inspiring [speech](#) on women's power in relation to peace.



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