



CONFERENCE REPORT

Child Rights & Celebrating 15 years AWEPA Mozambique

MOZAMBICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES FOR CHILD RIGHTS: CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF AWEPA MOZAMBIQUE, **MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, 24 AND 25 APRIL 2007**



New Recommendations for Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

MPs and representatives of Municipalities discussed ways to scale up their efforts to support OVC as a follow-up to the March 2006 conference. P 11

Childhood Poverty in Mozambique

Elected representatives discussed their role in reducing childhood poverty. P 7

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"Globally 15 million children are infected and affected by AIDS, 12 million live in sub-Saharan Africa and this amount will grow to 16 million in 2010. (...) Behind all these figures are human beings, people like you and me, and many children calling for help".

AWEPA Eminent Advisory Member Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Prof. Wangari Maathai, both Nobel Prize winners, called upon the AU member states to meet the 2001 African Union pledge to allocate 15 per cent of the national budget to health care. "Otherwise Africa could lose 120 million lives by 2015, the deadline to meet the MDGs".

In the framework of the multi-year programme to scale up parliamentary efforts for children and HIV and AIDS, launched by AWEPA, UNICEF, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and other organisations, this conference reviewed the rights of children in Mozambique. This conference was a follow up of two important events:



- the approval of the government of Mozambique of the National Plan of Action for Children and a specific National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC);
- the Regional conference on Children and AIDS to scale up parliamentary efforts for Children and AIDS responses in March 2006 in Cape Town.

The progress made on actions agreed upon at the regional conference in Mozambique in March 2006 and the subsequent provincial roundtables was assessed. Possible constraints and next steps in the implementation of the agreed actions of the March conference and the subsequent provincial roundtables were identified.

AWEPA plays an important role in facilitating the efforts of the Parliament and local government for the realisation of the rights of the child. For example, AWEPA organised a number of HIV and AIDS stakeholder meetings at municipal level to improve ways and means to fight HIV and AIDS and protect OVC and enhance the coordinating role of municipalities in this issue.

This conference was a special occasion, as AWEPA celebrates its 15 year anniversary in Mozambique. AWEPA looked back with its partners, namely the National



Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, President of Awepa

Assembly, Political Parties, Local Government and NGOs, on AWEPA's involvement in the peace building, reconciliation and democratisation processes in Mozambique, which dates back to the post-war period in 1992. In spite of obstacles, AWEPA did make a small but significant contribution to the process of the country's democratisation. There is a need to consolidate democracy in Mozambique since, as Dr. Scholten said, "democracy is a matter of commitment with peace".

AWEPA would like to express its deep gratitude to the donor community for the support that has made AWEPA's work in Mozambique possible over the years, and which provides AWEPA a solid basis for future activities.

Dr. Jan Nico Scholten,
AWEPA President

AWEPA-UNICEF CAMPAIGN ON CHILDREN AND AIDS

In the past two years, and as a result of the growing demand from partners, HIV and AIDS and gender equality has become a priority element in the AWEPA programme. In the framework of cooperation with UNICEF, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and others, AWEPA launched, in 2004, a multi-year campaign on Children and AIDS to scale up the efforts of parliamentarians and other key decision makers for Children and AIDS responses.

The AWEPA-UNICEF campaign on Children and AIDS consists of three

phases, two of which have been completed. The **first phase** was the Cape Town Declaration (2004), a set of agreements and commitments were made by African and European parliamentarians. The **second phase** was a series of regional conferences held to "take off" on this challenge and to translate these commitments into National Parliamentary Plans of Action. In March 2006, jointly organised with UNICEF, Maputo hosted the fourth conference, for the Portuguese speaking countries (Angola, Brazil, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome & Principe). Afterwards, the National Assembly requested intensified

cooperation with AWEPA, to assist in facilitating a greater involvement of parliamentarians in actions for OVC. In the **third phase** national workshops will be organised in the African parliaments as a follow up to the regional seminar. In addition, workshops on OVC will be organised in the parliaments in Europe.

The conference "Mozambican Parliamentarians and Municipal Authorities for Child Rights" in Maputo, Mozambique is linked to the AWEPA-UNICEF multi-year campaign to improve care and protection for OVC.

During the working group sessions the aim of the participants was to undertake a detailed evaluation of the implemented activities since the conference held in March 2006 with the purpose of “Strengthening the Parliamentary Efforts in Relation to the Children and the Fight Against HIV and AIDS”. The work was carried out in four groups, two comprised of Members of the Parliament and two comprised of representatives of the municipalities. Each working group was facilitated by an appointed focal person, and a rapporteur was designated to present the report in the plenary session.

The groups had to fill in a table, providing relevant information

on the progress made since the March meeting last year. The participants discussed ways to scale up their efforts to support OVC by monitoring the following items:

- 1) intervention areas
- 2) actions carried out by parliamentarians
- 3) the impact intended by the action
- 4) the body that will monitor the implementation of the action
- 5) the deadline
- 6) the progress and constraints

For a full overview of the outcomes of the working groups see “Action Plans” on page 12.

Background

Fighting AIDS and Poverty

Whilst the prevalence of HIV and AIDS is not as high as in other countries in Southern Africa such as Swaziland and Zimbabwe, Mozambique still has one of the highest AIDS infection rates in the world, and exhibits a rising rate of infection. According to UNAIDS, without an aggressive response to HIV and AIDS, life expectancy is projected to drop from 45 in 2004 to 36 years by 2010. The number of child orphans in Mozambique was 510,000 at the end of 2005.

Children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS is an important issue in Mozambique. Obstacles in the well-being and development of children and young people in Mozambique still exist today due to local socio-economic factors, gender norms and correlated inequalities that hamper the realisation of the rights of the child. Development efforts often do not reach the poorest segments of society, particularly women and children, and social services often fail to target the most vulnerable groups. The level of child

poverty is high, with 58 per cent of children living below the poverty line (compared to 49 per cent of adults). Net primary school attendance is at 60 per cent (for boys 63 per cent, and girls 57 per cent), and completion rates in grades 1-5 reaches only 48 percent (39 percent for girls, 57 percent for boys). Under-five child mortality is 178 per 1,000, with malaria and diarrhoea remaining the two main causes of child mortality. AIDS is rapidly emerging as the new primary cause of child mortality.



Maputo, Mozambique

International Agreements

“In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by legislative bodies, public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law or administrative authorities, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration”.

Article 3(1) of the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)

Although the Republic of Mozambique has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, as well as the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1990, underlining an ostensibly high-level of political commitment for the care and protection of children, more remains to be done.

For the rights of the children to be realised, it is essential that obligations are fulfilled by the various duty bearers. Parliamentarians and Local Government Authorities enjoy a privileged political position to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, Parliamentarians and Local Government Authorities face amongst others, the following problems:

- Limited awareness of the principles enshrined in the CRC and the African Charter, which makes them poorly committed
- Lack of the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt a child rights

perspective in performing their legislative, oversight and leadership functions

- Lack of effective constituency outreach skills, which create weak links between the Parliament and their constituencies

This conference focused on raising awareness of the child rights as provided for in the CRC, the African Charter and other relevant legal instruments, integrating the child perspective in Parliamentary and Local Government Authorities activities, as well as scaling up of Parliamentarians and local government authorities' action for children.

15 year AWEPA Mozambique

In 2007, AWEPA Mozambique celebrates its 15th anniversary. AWEPA's involvement in the democratization process, peace building and reconciliation in Mozambique dates back to the beginning of the 1990s. At the very beginning, AWEPA was the only international organisation in this field.

Since then cooperation programmes were developed in the early stages with Mozambican NGOs and Trade Unions, and subsequently with the national assembly, political parties, local government and the media. Over the years, the focus of the various programmes has shifted depending on the most urgent needs in Mozambique at the time.



Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, Hon. Maria da Luz Guebuza, Hon. Eduardo Mulémbwè and Hon. Eneas da C. Comiche

Mozambique Multi-Annual Programme

AWEPA's Mozambique Multi-Annual Programme was developed in close cooperation and consultation with its partners, based on a long term commitment to institutional capacity building at national and local level. The programme consists of three main sub-programmes:

- Parliamentary Programme
- Local Government Programme
- Political Parties Programme

In addition, AWEPA carries out a fourth sub-programme: Research and Publications and Educational Materials. HIV and AIDS, Gender Equality and Child Rights form part of the programme as cross-cutting issues and are of major importance.

Opening Session

The key note speakers highlighted the importance of the struggle against HIV and AIDS, the importance of the protection and enactment of the rights of the child, and the role and responsibilities parliamentarians and municipalities can play herein. They congratulated AWEPA on its 15th year anniversary in Mozambique and its contribution to the democratic process over the past years.

Hon. Maria da Luz Guebuza, First Lady and Patroness of the Children and AIDS Campaign praised the important actions



Hon. Maria da Luz Guebuza, First Lady and Patroness of the Children and AIDS Campaign

that AWEPA has been carrying out in building the capacity of the parliament and the municipality which, through the various programs of civil education at central and local level, promote the respect for democratic freedom, political pluralism, reconciliation and tolerance. The First Lady of Mozambique congratulated AWEPA for being awarded the prize for “Order, Friendship and Peace” by the President of the Republic, as a result of the achievements of this organisation in Mozambique. Speaking about the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendation from the March 2006 conference and the subsequent roundtables carried out at province and municipality level, Mrs. Guebuza congratulated the initiative of the Government of approving the National Action Plan for Children and a specific Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, which will serve as an instrument to ensure the endorsement of the rights of the child, with a major emphasis on the most vulnerable and marginalised ones. She stressed the role of the family, community, civil society, government and development partners for the achievement of the protection of the rights of the child.

It is the responsibility of each person to protect children from violent crimes, sexual abuse and trafficking. All participants are invited to strive together for the child’s well-being and work together towards solutions for the country’s problems.

Hon. Eneas da Conceição Comiche, Chairperson of the National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM) and Mayor of Maputo Municipality.

“Flowers that never wither”

Similarly to other participants, Mr. Comiche congratulated AWEPA for its 15th anniversary in Mozambique. He commended AWEPA for having chosen a topic which is of national interest and concern – the protection of the children’s rights, since children are deemed the “flowers that never wither”, by the first President of Mozambique during the post-independence period, Samora Machel. AWEPA played an important role in the process of the country’s democratisation and contributed to the capacity building of politicians, outcomes demonstrated by the increasingly high quality of their interventions.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in November last year between the ANAMM and AWEPA on the protection of OVC, as well as HIV and AIDS mitigation, the ANAMM Chairperson pointed out that in all municipalities HIV



Hon. Eneas da Conceição Comiche, Chairperson of the National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM) and Mayor of Maputo Municipality

and AIDS Municipal fora are established and municipal authorities developed practical initiatives to fight the pandemics. Despite the enormous efforts at the various levels, unfortunately there are still obstacles in the well-being and development of children and youth due to local socio-economic factors and gender imbalances that impede the fulfilment of the rights of children. The level of child poverty is high and it is estimated that 49 per cent of children live in absolute poverty, with wide disparities in the statistic depending on the geographic location of the child. Achievements that have been reached are being undermined by the high rate of child mortality because of AIDS.

Finally, Mr. Comiche reiterated the commitment of the municipal authorities to increase their efforts towards the protection of the interests of the child and the vision for children to grow up in an environment free of disease, drugs, crime and other harms.

H.E. Alcinda Abreu, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique thanked AWEPA for its contribution in Southern Africa, in the African continent as a whole and especially in Mozambique. The 15 years of AWEPA intervention in Mozambique have coincided with the efforts of Mozambicans to strengthen democracy, promote gender equality and fight against HIV and AIDS.



H.E. Alcinda Abreu, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique.

Hon. Eduardo Mulémbwè, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique

“The future of Mozambique depends for a great deal upon what we do today as adults for our children and our youth”

Honourable Eduardo Mulémbwè also congratulated AWEPA and the Republic of Mozambique for building up a sound bilateral and multilateral cooperation, which appeared to be an important contribution to the democratic, economic and social development of Mozambique. Mr. Mulémbwè praised the role AWEPA has been playing over the 15 years of intervention in Mozambique including initiatives to improve the public administration, the economy, social provisions, and the internal organisation of the National Assembly and the municipalities. All these achievements led to the award by the President of the Republic.

This conference is an opportunity to review the situation of the rights of the child in Mozambique in relation to child poverty and to launch the challenge for the steps forward as a follow-up to the March 2006 Conference, namely:

- to define new strategies that Members of Parliament and municipality authorities can adopt to respond to the problem of childhood poverty



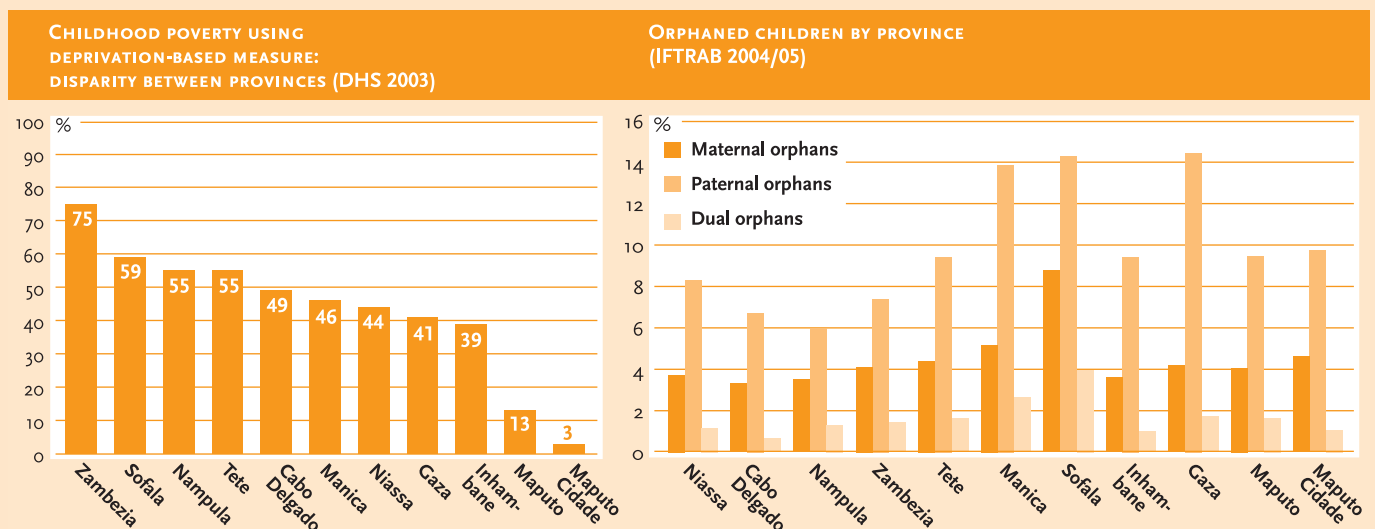
Hon. Eduardo Mulémbwè, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique

- to evaluate AWEPA's role in facilitating the municipality and the Parliament institutional efforts for the benefit of children's rights

Mr. Mulémbwè quoted the “*Convention on the Rights of the Child*” passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, to appeal to the whole world to make an effort for children who deserve special protection and should benefit from opportunities and grow up in an enabling environment in which they can develop in a sound and normal way, in freedom and dignified conditions. Besides the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Mozambique has ratified the “*African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*” and the International Conventions of the World Trade Organisation on the “*Minimum Age for Employment*”, which

obliges member states to comply with a national policy on the effective abolition of child labour and the “*Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Childhood Work*”, to eliminate unacceptable child exploitation and forced recruitment and abuse of children in armed conflicts as well as prostitution and pornography of children.

The Speaker regrets that, despite government efforts, there are still asymmetries in the country's socio-economic, political and cultural developments, since it is estimated that 49 per cent of children live in extreme poverty.



Source: UN Report “*Childhood Poverty in Mozambique: A Situation and Trend Analysis*” (2006)

Session One

Childhood Poverty in Mozambique: A Situation and Trends Analysis

To raise awareness of the extent and nature of childhood poverty in Mozambique and review the role of elected representatives in reducing childhood poverty

The findings of the United Nations report ‘*Childhood Poverty in Mozambique: A Situation and Trends Analysis*’, launched in 2006 were presented and discussed during this session.

Hon. Graça Machel, President of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) and Chair of the AWEPA Eminent Advisory Board.

“The child sector should be dealt with without political bias as children are not to blame. Let us leave political differences apart! We must all unite and be assigned to a balanced responsibility. We all have children, younger brothers, nephews...”

The report presents thorough, detailed information and is a very useful work tool,

since it provides information by region and province and focuses on each member in the household. Furthermore it shows the inequality among the most vulnerable provinces and of the allocation of funding.

Mrs. Machel urged the parliamentarians to concentrate on the district problems, namely death rate, water, sanitation, education, malaria, respiratory disease, etc. and that the participants should be able to report the expected progress for the children. People need to be educated to change behaviour regarding hygiene and to be able to build adequate houses with proper ventilation to prevent children from getting diseases.

Institutions need to function effectively to promote and protect the rights of the



Hon. Graça Machel, President of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) and Chair of the AWEPA Eminent Advisory Board

child. The National Child Council will have to be established to allow parents and other people concerned to discuss issues related to children. Capacity building of all entities working for the benefit of children is necessary. Mrs. Machel stressed the need to enhance the family role in the promotion and protection of the rights of children, since the family is the best child protector.

We must change our attitude regarding children by ensuring they get all the care and attention they need. ●

Presentation of the findings of the report: “Childhood Poverty in Mozambique: A Situation and Trends Analysis” by Mr. Jean Dupraz, UNICEF

The report is targeted at everybody involved in the improvement of the development of the children in Mozambique, said Mr. Dupraz.

The report addresses the following areas: a conceptual framework, development context, survival and child development, child education and child protection and sets out main conclusions and recommendations.

Mr. Dupraz pointed out, that the overall picture presented in the report is disappointing and a matter of concern. This situation calls for parliamentarians at national level (legislation) and municipality authorities at local level (initiatives to protect and promote the improvement of OVC) to take immediate action.

One of main findings that raised awareness among the presenters and participants was the fact that

discrepancies exist between the level of poverty and the fund allocation for OVC. The report shows that the poorest provinces of Mozambique, with more than 40% of children in need, are provided with fewer funds compared to Maputo province with lower poverty figures. As a conclusion, the UNICEF report presents a number of important action points to improve the situation of child poverty, namely:

- Ensure an adequate and balanced resource allocation

- Strengthen Government capacity at the national and sub-national levels
- Provide assistance to the most vulnerable
- Accelerate the response to the AIDS pandemic
- Manage aid inflows for improved child outcomes
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society capability and promoting community participation
- Implement social communication strategies ●

* A summary of the Research Results can be found in the graphs on page 6.



Mr. Jean Dupraz, UNICEF

Panel discussion on the role of parliamentarians and municipal authorities in eradicating childhood poverty

Mrs. H.E. Virgilia Matabele, Minister of Women and Welfare Action (MMAS). In the view of Mrs. Matabele, child protection assumes that every child should be protected against harmful treatment, which means that he or she should be provided with all the basic conditions to survive and develop. Mrs. Matabele urged the elected representatives and the municipal authorities as the main state representatives to take their responsibility as representatives of all society sectors, to stand up for the interests of children and develop relevant policies that are put into practice efficiently. They should make an effort in approving laws that comply with the international conventions ratified by Mozambique, to protect children against violence, exploitation and abuse. Mrs. Matabele also referred to two work tools in the area of child protection recently established by the government, namely: the Action Plan for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, of which the full implementation is ongoing and the Law on Child Protection approved by the Cabinet in its session held on the 27th of March 2007 which will reinforce the legislative Law on Child Protection and Defense. ●

Hon. Maj-Inger Klingvall, Ambassador of Sweden to Mozambique

“Parliamentarians and members of local governments play an extremely important role in the process of combating childhood poverty and advancing children’s rights”

Mrs. Klingvall shared with the participants, the experience of Sweden in controlling child poverty and promoting child welfare. According to Mrs. Klingvall, a child who is born into a family suffering



Hon. Maj-Inger Klingvall, Ambassador of Sweden to Mozambique

from chronic poverty will usually stay in poverty. Combating childhood poverty is the way to enable future generations to break away from the vicious circle of chronic poverty. AWEPA is one of the few international organisations that focuses on the role of parliaments and local governments in order to strengthen democratic processes and advance human rights. Mrs. Klingvall believes that human progress and overall development lies in the progress of women and children and the realisation of their rights. Mrs. Klingvall mentioned that today Sweden is proud to be in the forefront worldwide as regards to promotion and protection of the child rights. However, such success did not occur overnight. In the view of the Sweden’s Ambassador to Mozambique, two main reasons for the rapid improvement in living conditions for children in Sweden were as follows:

- Firstly, according to the universal welfare policy, investing in every child, improves the situation of the vulnerable children also (e.g. education, healthcare, parental insurance and a general child allowance)
- Secondly, the focus on preventive efforts (e.g. maternity health care, child health care and school health care)

Finally, Mrs. Klingvall emphasised that it is extremely important that (political) decision makers have knowledge, information and instruments to handle the process of combating childhood poverty and advancing the rights of the child. Parliamentarians and municipal authorities have responsibility in designing child friendly policies, decisions making on resource allocations for children in general as well as focusing on children with special needs. ●

Mrs. Hon. Leila Pakkala, UNICEF Representative to Mozambique

“Investing in children in Mozambique is still a challenge and resources and finance allocations not always correspond to child welfare standards both in terms of the level and destination of the resources”

In 1994 the Mozambican Government ratified the United Nation “Convention on the Rights of the Child”, which emphasises the need for social and institutional transformation to attain the purpose of



Hon. Leila Pakkala, UNICEF Representative to Mozambique

survival, development, protection and child participation. Mrs. Pakkala stressed the importance of placing the child on the top of the financial agenda. Referring to the outcomes of the report on childhood poverty she regretted that its conclusions demonstrate that investing in children in Mozambique is still a challenge and that the financial resources and allocations do not always correspond to the child welfare indicators patterns.

Mrs. Leila Pakkala made some fundamental recommendations to parliamentarians and municipal authorities to ensure the adequate and balanced use of funds allocated to children:

- The crucial role of parliamentarians in approving the annual state budget; it is of utmost importance that budgetary allocations are in line with the needs and that they contribute to the reduction of inequalities and vulnerabilities
- Parliamentarians and municipal authorities should be well informed about the budgetary process and its mechanisms but also regarding the child socio-economic situation in the country. Parliamentarians should analyse the budget more thoroughly and increase their knowledge of the situation of children, where they are located and who are the most vulnerable ones
- Parliamentarians and municipal authorities should be engaged in monitoring the impact of the budget for children
- Parliamentarians and municipal authorities should play a role in promoting public debates on the rights of the child, the social and economic changes and the importance of all social sectors to combine and harmonise their work. ●

Hon. Ana Rita Sithole, Member of the

Parliament and Member of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly of Mozambique.

“Overall, poverty is regarded as a striking privation of basic elements for human survival, including lack of adequate food, lack of shelter and clothing, poor education and lack of participation in political decisions”

Mrs. Sithole raised the importance of support to community efforts and encouraging family reintegration, rather than institutionalisation. In this context Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBO) have been experiencing some constraints in accessing sufficient information on existing legal mechanisms and the lack of coordination mechanisms at provincial and district level, despite government efforts and existing community networks. Parliamentarians should focus on drafting legal instruments for strengthening the family and the community sociability, since a strong family will prevent children from living on the street.

Finally, Mrs. Sithole made recommendations to the participants in relation to the findings of UNICEF to the childhood poverty report, namely:

- A more active approach by including programmes strongly focused on prevention in the national action plan - for support to OVC - theories of behavior changing and examples of similar policies can play a useful role in conducting the current policy
- The need for the parliamentarians to lead the process of eradicating poverty, which means making changes at all action levels and readjusting the current challenges to make the fight against poverty a process for all citizens
- The parliament should encourage the participation of everyone in the fight against poverty and protection of child rights and where needed promote changes of legislation related to this issue. ●

Session Two

A Review of the Progress made since the March 2006 Conference on “Scaling up Parliamentary Efforts for Children and AIDS”

During this session the participants took stock of the progress made by the Government, Parliamentarians, the Child Parliament and the Municipal Authorities since the conference for OVC in March 2006, with a particular focus on the action plans agreed upon in the 2006 conference.

Hon. Virgília Matabele, Minister for Women and Welfare, reported back on the progress made by the government by addressing the following items:

- The strategic plans of the Government and International Commitments, namely: the Strategic Plans of the Mozambican Government (Government Five-Year Programme, PARPA II, PEN II, Welfare Policy and National Plan of Action for Children) and International Commitments (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Millennium Development Goals, Special Session of UN General Assembly on HIV and AIDS, Western and Southern Africa Regional Conference on OVC and HIV/AIDS and Global Forum for OVC Partners)
- Institutional Framework
- Objectives of the action plans for OVC
- Guidelines for implementing OVC action plans
- Status of implementation of action plans for OVC

Minister Matabele presented the plans for 2007 with the following priority actions:

- Application of Monitoring and Evaluation Functional System that reflects the impact of the set of interventions (sectors and civil society)
- Establishment of standards to provide psycho-social support and home-based visits



Hon. Virgília Matabele, Minister for Women and Welfare.

- Extension of the social protection programmes (direct social support, which comprises basic multiform support) to the most vulnerable households
- Build the capacity at district level (with focus on Central Region of the country)

To conclude, Hon. Virginia Matabele referred to the challenges to be faced towards the acceleration of the implementation of the Action Plan for OVC, namely:

- Insufficient resources for the implementation of social protection programmes - the budget for the Women and Welfare sector in 2006 was equivalent to 0.7 per cent of the total amount of the state budget
- The need to reinforce the inter-sector coordination and the prioritisation of the targets in terms of service provision to the vulnerable children in the provincial economic and social plans
- Ongoing focus on capacity building at provincial and district level. ●

Panel discussion on the role of parliamentarians and municipal authorities in eradicating childhood poverty

Mrs. Joana Mangueira, Executive Secretary of the Mozambican HIV and AIDS National Council

“The strategies can only work if each one of us behaves in a dignified manner for himself, his family and children”

Mrs. Mangueira called for the help and support of parliamentarians in capacity building of her institution at district level. The number of OVC is increasing and MPs need to visit their constituencies and face this scenario. Each one of us is fostering the causes of orphanage. We still have a number of sexual partners. We still drink too much alcohol. We continue to have practices that increase the levels of orphanage.



Mrs. Joana Mangueira, Executive Secretary of the Mozambican HIV and AIDS National Council

She challenged the participants, asking them the reasons why abstinence, faithfulness and use of condom are not seriously taken into account, personally and in the sense of policies. We need to take a qualitative step in our way of acting and thinking that will allow a more responsible and respectable behaviour. These measures will reduce women’s vulnerability. Mrs. Mangueira urged the participants to find a way of lobbying against everything that increases the number of infections.

Mr. Ivan Zandamela, Chair of the Child Parliament presented some activities carried out by the Child Parliament, namely: provincial awareness raising sessions, entertaining programmes and sensitization campaigns, e.g. on the situation of street children.

Ivan Zandamela took the opportunity to make some recommendations to the MPs of the National Assembly to practice what



Mr. Ivan Zandamela, Chair of the Child Parliament

they preach in relation to the Child Parliament and to pass laws related to children’s participation in Mozambique and to establish more exchange between the MPs and the Child Parliament. He regretted the lack of accessibility of the MPs whenever the Child MPs approach them.

Mr. Pio Matos, Deputy Chair of the ANAMM (National Association of Mozambican Municipalities) and Mayor of the CMQ (Municipality of Quelimane).

“HIV is a problem of behavior and responsibility. How much does it take to be faithful? Isn’t it a problem of attitude, behavior?”



Mr. Pio Matos, Deputy Chair of the ANAMM (National Association of Mozambican Municipalities)

The role of the partners as implementing agents of the programmes was highlighted by Mr. Matos, and he mentioned the lack of solidarity in the cities compared to the rural areas, which causes a higher number of abandoned children in urban areas.

Hon. Isaú Meneses, MP, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Caucus for Prevention and Fight against HIV and AIDS and Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique.

A number of activities were carried out by the National Caucus at the National Assembly level since the March 2006 conference. Mr. Meneses highlighted the roundtables activities that took place to allow children to discuss issues related to themselves and how they could access MPs and to give voice to children’s concerns and perceptions regarding HIV and AIDS, in general, and OVC, in particular.



Honorable MP Isaú Meneses, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Caucus for Prevention and Fight against HIV and AIDS and Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique

In relation to the follow up of the actions carried out under Action Plan for OVC, Mr. Meneses mentioned the following objectives: to improve the comprehension of the MPs on the dimension of the problem and to identify the type of support provided to the children. The main recommendations presented by Mr. Meneses were:

- Encourage parents to talk more and openly with their children about HIV and AIDS
- Include children in HIV and AIDS campaigns
- Create conditions to eliminate ignorance, silence and fear of parents in relation to HIV and AIDS
- Adopt and disseminate laws on the protection of children (non-discrimination, right of participation, right of development and adoption of minors)
- The MPs to liaise with institutions that fight against HIV and AIDS and support OVC.

Session Three

Critical Analysis and Achievements

Report of the Working Groups (Task Forces) in Plenary Session

This session aimed to undertake a detailed evaluation of the implemented activities since the conference held in March 2006 with the purpose of strengthening parliamentary efforts for the children and to fight against HIV and AIDS. The participants split up in four groups, two of Members of the Parliament and two of Municipal Representatives.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

In general, the Parliamentarians reiterated their overall commitment to activities for the benefit of OVC, carrying out discussions on issues of their interest such as routine and voluntary testing of pregnant women. They also highlighted the idea of holding annual discussions in the Parliament on the implementation of OVC activity plans in order to assess the achievements made towards reaching OVC activity plan targets.

Constraint-wise, the MPs referred, among other things, to the financial problems resulting from embezzlement of the application of the funds for OVC, the lack of moral and financial support to the surrogate households and the fact that the initiative to trigger the law lies with the executive due to technical and financial constraints.

The Parliamentarians are committed to take the following actions:

- Approve the Children Policy and Revision of the Law on Inheritance
- Design and adopt a Law on Child Protection
- Lobby and advocate for the maintenance and continuity of the OVC Action Plan within the PRSP and Economic and Social Plan for 2008
- Integrate the MPs within the multi-sector Committees at provincial and district level
- Promote a Reflection on Universal Testing

The expected results are:

- Higher testing index
- Overall protection of children and the reduction of their vulnerability
- Better protection and increased knowledge of the referred legal framework and awareness of the rights and responsibilities
- Increased sensitisation/information on testing

MUNICIPALITIES

The group of municipal representatives identified actions that were carried out: the needs assessment through the Municipality Forum, the endeavour to maintain contacts with the CNCS (HIV and AIDS National Council), the National Assembly of the Republic, national and international partners, and the follow-up

and oversight of the work done by the municipalities.

Constraints faced by the municipalities include: the delay in the disbursement of funds by donors (CNCS), which allows the Forum to operate; the fact that the municipalities take part only in the implementation and not in the design of the projects; the lack of interaction between the municipalities and administrative provincial bodies and the lack of birth registration of the children. The representatives of the municipalities identified the following activities for 2007:

- Raise the power of the Municipal Forum, in order to enable their planned activities to take place
- Dissemination of laws that protect OVC
- Ongoing identification of OVC
- Promotion of centers to accommodate OVC

The expected results are:

- Effective coordination of all stakeholders, e.g. local associations, community-based organisations, national and international NGOs
- Recognition of the rights of the child by all
- Behavior changing of the community in relation to care of OVC
- Harmonisation of the plans and improvement of the intervention. ●



Session Four – Plenary Session

The Way Forward: Recommendations for Action

During this session the parliamentarians and municipal authorities developed action plans for 2007 and 2008 to implement pending actions from the 2006 conference and define new actions to fight childhood poverty in Mozambique.

PARLIAMENT

Action to be taken by Parliament	Impact sought by action	What structure in Parliament is responsible?	Who will ensure that the structure takes the action?	By when will the action be taken?
Public debates on need of testing	Increase testing rate Knowledge of own HIV condition	Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS	Parliament	1 year
Advocacy for maintenance and continuity of Action Plan for OVC in PARPA and PES 2008 Representation MPs in multi-sector committees at provincial and district level	Targets defined in PES concerning assistance to OVC Targets defined in the Province Strategic Plan concerning assistance to OVC	Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS	Parliament	Ongoing
MPs take part in multi-sector forum at provincial level for registration of OVC	Coordination of responses to HIV and AIDS for OVC at provincial and district level Advocacy for major allocation funds for implementation of Action Plan for OVC	Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS	Parliament	End of 2007
Approve Policy on Children and review Succession Law	Integral protection of children and decrease of vulnerability	Parliament	CASGA CAJDHL	1 year
Development of Law on Child Protection	Protection of Right of the Child	Parliament	Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS	1 year
Awareness raising laws protecting children (e.g. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Family Law, Child Protection Law)	Ensure major protection and knowledge of the legal tools and increased awareness on the rights and commitments	Parliament	CASGA CAJDHL Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS Women MPs	1 Year
Participate in community awareness raising on the importance of knowledge and compliance of laws	Raise awareness communities on importance and compliance of laws	Work Commissions	Parliament	1 year
Awareness raising hearing for communities on issues such as adoption and child labour	Protection of children against assault	Parliament	CASGA CAJDHL Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS Women MPs	1 year
Advocate for pushing forward birth registration of children	Ensure major protection of children	Parliament	CASGA CAJDHL Parliamentary Cabinet on HIV and AIDS Women MPs	1 year

MUNICIPALITIES

Action to be taken by Municipalities	Impact sought by action	What structure is responsible?	Who will ensure that the structure takes the action?	By when will the action be taken?
Reinforce coordination of interventions	Coordination of actions to be carried out	Harmonisation of plans Improve intervention	Municipalities and partners	2 months
Proceed with capacity building of municipality forum	Contact CNCS, Parliament and national and international partners Effective coordination of interventions, such as local associations, community organisations, national and foreign NGOs	Trained fora, community leaders and activists Consolidate established fora	Municipalities ANAMM	6 months from 1st of May 2007
Promotion of OVC centres	Encourage civil society to establish centres	Children sheltered and reintegrated in community	Municipality fora	12 months
Proceed with identification and registration of OVC	Data bank established and up to date	Municipality Councils, associations and local organisations		Ongoing
Awareness raising laws to protect the rights of the child	Child rights recognised	Municipality Councils, associations and community organisations		Ongoing
Establishment of children play grounds	Improved well-being children	Municipality Councils		12 months



Closing session

“We leave from here with a renewed commitment!”

Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, President of AWEPA, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for all the congratulations AWEPA received for the 15 years anniversary in Mozambique and thanked the participants and partners for their efforts for OVC. Furthermore Dr. Scholten mentioned that the last day of the conference 25 April coincides with an important date, namely the Portuguese celebration of “freedom day”, the 33rd anniversary of the revolution. This is also a very important moment for the history of Mozambique, because it made an end to the colonial war and the acceleration of the independence and democratisation processes in Mozambique. ●

Hon. Carlos Tembe, ANAMM representative and Mayor of the Matola City Municipality, regretted that, in our country, we still have street children and we are confronted with unpleasant situations the children have to face. Through this initiative, the representatives of the municipalities will take their responsibility and clarify the actions to be taken for the OVC. Mr. Tembe concluded by reiterating the importance for the municipalities to set up open spaces where children can at least have one adequate meal a day. ●

Hon. Eduardo Joaquim Mulémbwè, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mozambique looked back at the period of AWEPA's intervention in Mozambique, since the inception period, exalting the special contribution of this organisation particularly of its President, Dr. Jan Nico Scholten. AWEPA played an important role in the democratisation process of the country and in establishing a culture of tolerance and political companionship among political actors. The relationships between AWEPA and the National Assembly of Mozambique resulted in a strong friendship not only between AWEPA and Parliament but, especially, between Hon. Mulémbwè and Dr. Jan Nico Scholten. “Dr. Scholten is a real friend”.

Mr. Mulémbwè's expresses his special gratitude to AWEPA for the work that has been carried out over the 15 years of operation in Mozambique, which culminated with an increasing development at the structural, institutional and human level. Most of the development initiatives in the country, such as road construction, benefited from the great contribution of this institution, and in the process consolidated democracy in Mozambique. The objectives and expectations of the conference were achieved, including the participation of national and international guests.



Hon. Eduardo Mulémbwè, speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique and Dr. Jan Nico Scholten, President of AWEPA

Hon. Mulémbwè exalted the importance of the establishment of ANAMM to create one voice for the cooperation partners that will allow the achievement of the expected results.

To conclude, the Speaker encouraged all participants to continue working and despite not having fulfilled 100% of the action plans outlined in the conference of March 2006, this should not be a reason for concern because it is part of the ongoing process. ●



Hon. Carlos Tembe, ANAMM representative and Mayor of the Matola City Municipality

Participant	Institution	Participant	Institution	Participant	Institution
Hon. Eduardo Mulémbwè	Parliament of Mozambique, Speaker	Mr. João Bernardo	PCM Guruè	Ms. Latifa Rijal	Fund. Kounrad
Hon. Ana Rita Sithole	Par. of Mozambique	Ms. Maria Armando	Substituta do PCM Nampula	Mr. Julio Ramos Mujojo	RENSIDA, Secretário Executivo
Hon. Isaú Meneses	Par. of Mozambique	Ms. Manuel dos Santos	PCM Nacala	Ms. Juselia Mbanze	KUYAKANA, Coordenadora
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Hon. Maurício Vieira	Par. of Mozambique	Mr. Alberto Assane	PCM Angoche	Mr. Sheik Abdul Carimo	Conselho Islâmico Moçambique
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Hon. Maria Josefa Miguel	Par. of Mozambique	Mr. Elias Pondamali	Substituto do PCM Metangula	Ms. Vanessa Siss	Rede de Teatro Comunitário
Hon. Rosália Lumbela	Par. of Mozambique	Mr. Augusto Assique	Substituto do OCM Lichinga	Mr. Alvin Cossa	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Hon. Roberto Chitsondzo	Par. of Mozambique	Mr. Teodósio Watata	PCM Cuamba	H.E. Alcinda Abreu	Ministry of Women and Welfare Action (MMAS)
Hon. Lucília José Hama	Par. of Mozambique	Mr. Agostinho N'tawali	PCM Pemba	H.E. Luís Covane	MEC
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Mr. Ivan Zandamela	Child Parliament	Mr. Moisés Machavane	PANAOC	H.E. Mr. Markku Kaupinnen	Embassy of Finland,
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Hon. Manuel Pizarro	Portuguese Parliament	Mr. André José Balate	PARENA	Ms. Jennifer Constantine	E.Neg. C-Europe
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More Details

For more details for on the Child Rights & Celebrating 15 Years of AWEPA Mozambique Conference, including electronic copies of the Terms of Reference, the full Programme and follow-up activities, please see the AWEPA website at www.awepa.org.

AWEPA Mission Statement

AWEPA works to support the well functioning of parliaments in Africa and to keep Africa on the political agenda in Europe.

AWEPA supports institutional capacity building within parliaments and decentralised authorities and assists in strengthening the skills of parliamentarians and other elected representatives.

This includes attention to:

- The key role of well functioning parliaments with regards to democracy, human rights, conflict management, poverty reduction and sustainable development
- The attainment of gender equality at all levels of political decision-making
- African-European sharing of parliamentary experience
- Building parliamentary networks at national, regional and inter-regional levels as for a political and non-governmental interaction

AWEPA also informs and mobilises European parliamentarians on policy issues in African-European relations, development cooperation and democratisation in Africa.



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