



Message

I bring you greetings from the Pan African Parliament of which I am privileged to head.

A major objective of the Pan African Parliament is to evolve into a legislative body by the year 2011 – a major milestone that will ensure prioritization, concurrence and coherence on legislation, policy, structure, implementation and accountability on various issues amongst them the climate change agenda and its associated programmes of Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation.

This realization is expected to cascade in a structured manner to the regional and national parliaments where Disaster Risk Reduction and adaptation action plans will be concretized. The role of Parliamentarians in realizing this agenda cannot be over emphasized and they must rise to the challenge and lead from the front.

It is for this reason that I applaud the efforts of the African Parliamentary Initiative- a caucus of 13 Parliamentarians drawn from diverse National assemblies in Africa who have pledged and taken the mantle of championing Climate Change issues in Africa. I also take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the Right Honorable Prime Ministers' Raila Amollo Odinga of Kenya and H.E. Yousouf Saleh Abbas of Chad for their Lead Championship roles in support of this cause.

It is instructive to note that I am a member of the African Parliamentarians Initiative that drew up the Nairobi Call For Action of February 2009 that resolved commitment and realization of a unified Africa position prior to the COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen.

In this respect, the African Parliamentary Initiative will be rolling out a major awareness and advocacy campaign dubbed 'BLACK & GREEN READY TO LEAD' to be launched formally in October 2009 during the next sitting of the Pan African Parliament in South Africa. This campaign recognizes that the major obstacle to achieving poverty alleviation, sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals is the knowledge gap on climate change, disaster risk reduction and adaptation that requires to be bridged urgently and substantially across all stakeholder levels of the African populace.

At fora such as this, we are fully aware of the causes and consequences of climate change. In Africa, for the majority, the connection has not been established - largely because of ignorance. It is that ignorance and call for tangible action that our African Parliamentarians Initiative through the BLACK & GREEN campaign seek to exhaustively address. Our theme simply affirms that we are Black and ready to lead by empowering our people with knowledge that will reclaim our environment and green our land.

The communication strategy for this awareness campaign will deploy conventional and non conventional means of reaching its targeted audience. This will manifest in strategic print and electronic media advertising, newsworthy public relations, billboards, gift packs and giveaways, t-shirts, bios, theatre groups and road shows, music and dance events, celebrity and sports endorsements among other means.

It will be tailored to take cognizance of the multi stakeholders at multi levels; diversity in the cultural, educational, regional, social, political and economic systems; amongst other attributes

In essence the objective of this initiative will be to inculcate a culture and consciousness of disaster risk reduction and adaptation awareness to our leaders and their constituents, infants and adults , rural and urban communities, schools and worship places, to the schooled and unschooled, male and female alike.

In that regard, I wish to recognize and call on the continued support of our partners UNISDR and the AU commission in the propagation of our awareness programme. We invite on board other development partners sharing our vision for achieving a common Africa position as we move towards Copenhagen.

As I conclude, let me acknowledge the chair of the African Parliamentary Initiative Hon. Shebesh who has been instrumental in taking real steps towards realizing the objectives of the Nairobi Call. I call upon the leaders and parliamentarians in Africa to champion true engagement on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation. I take great pride in having been a founder member of the this initiative and now pledge as President of the Pan African Parliament, that I AM BLACK, READY TO GO GREEN - and am ready to lead.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping oval shape followed by a series of smaller, connected loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

H. E. Dr. Idriss Ndele Moussa

President of the Pan African Parliament