



**APKN** Africa  
Parliamentary  
Knowledge  
Network

APKN, **Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network**, is a network of African Parliaments which supports capacity building activities, common services, sharing experiences and best practices among African Parliaments. It is based on the founding principles of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and the African Union which underlines the need for better coordination and collaboration among African Parliaments to meet the multiple challenges posed by economic and social integration and the need to harmonize legislation in member countries.

APKN builds on the success of long established parliamentary networks. Such networks have made apparent the benefits of sharing experiences and learning from best practices. Not only do they allow exploiting regional and continental dimensions to create synergies, but they also provide the critical mass necessary to deliver quality, sustainable, capacity-building activities and common information services for all Parliaments.

APKN was formally established at the International Conference on *Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network* which took place in Cairo, Egypt, on 4th and 5th June 2008 and saw the participation of delegations from 37 National and Regional Parliaments.



## Mission

- support the work of African assemblies by establishing mechanisms and procedures for exchanging information, ideas, experience and practices in all areas of parliamentary administration of common interest;
- strengthen cooperation among parliamentary services for capacity building and staff training; and
- collaborate on technology development and implementation to serve parliamentary functions.

## Membership is open to:

- The Pan African Parliament and all regional parliamentary assemblies;
- All national parliamentary assemblies of African countries;

## Areas of Work:

- Legislative Processes
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- Information and Research
- Communication and Public Information

# www.apkn.org

The APKN portal offers a description of current and planned APKN activities.

Within the APKN portal there are thematic information sites and e-services that support capacity building initiatives and provide access to policy-information, news, and legislation relevant to African Parliaments. Additionally the portal provides e-learning facilities, news gathering and mining services to meet the changing information needs of parliaments.



More specifically through the APKN website you can currently have access to:



anm.apkn.org

**Africa News Monitor (ANM)** a news gathering, classification and monitoring portal based on data mining technologies developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for European Media Monitor [www.newsbrief.eu](http://www.newsbrief.eu) ANM gathers online news reports from news portals world wide, in different languages, analyses and classifies the content of the reports, aggregates the information, issues alerts and produces intuitive visual presentations of the information tailored for African Parliaments.



lrp.apkn.org

**Learning Resources Portal (LRP)** is meant to serve as a learning resource for African Parliaments by providing access to both selected freely-accessible training modules and internally developed modules specifically targeted at African Parliaments. The e-learning modules are meant not just for self-teaching but also as support material for traditional courses, seminars and local training institutions.





**Information Society in Africa (ISA)** is a portal that provides a platform for Members of African Parliaments to dialogue on legislative issues and priorities that the legislatures have to deal with in the context of the development of an equitable Information Society. The portal aims at becoming a reference source to promote regional and continental harmonisation of ICT legislative frameworks and to provide parliamentarians with analysis, tools and guidelines for the formulation of information society legislative frameworks.



**Legislative Drafting Guidelines (LDG)** portal provides access to the Legislative Drafting Guidelines for Africa meant to provide African Parliaments with a shared approach to better legislation, by defining the common structural and linguistic elements of legislation according to principles of good legislative drafting.

The portal also deals with **“Evidence-based Legislative Drafting”** that promotes the use of information, research services and consultation with stakeholders to produce laws based on evidence that are effective and forward-looking,



**Africa Parliamentary Information Exchange (APEX)** is a collaborative portal that supports the exchange of information among parliaments. It is based on members' contributions and is meant to support inter-parliamentary cooperation with regard to the PAP and National Parliaments' dialogue and regional collaboration. APEX builds on a similar European experience, IPEX [www.ipex.eu](http://www.ipex.eu)

## Structure and organization

**Plenary** - Speakers and Presidents, or their delegated representatives, will meet in the APKN Plenary biennially to approve the reports of activities and the strategic plan of action of the APKN.

**Executive Committee** - Five Secretary Generals, identified by the Speakers and Presidents of member assemblies representing the five African regions, namely, North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa, constitute the APKN Executive Committee which will serve for a tenure of two years.

**Council of Coordinators** - APKN Coordinators, appointed by Speakers and Presidents of each member assembly, represent the assembly in the Council of Coordinators of the APKN. APKN Coordinators are responsible for coordination of the activities of the parliamentary officials, initiating, organizing, and supporting APKN activities in their respective assemblies.

**Secretariat** - hosted by a member assembly of the Executive Committee, it is accountable to the Executive Committee and headed by a Secretary who acts as Secretary to the Executive Committee and implements its decisions, coordinate and executes the APKN's activities in cooperation with the Council of Coordinators.



## Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network

### Contact details:

The Secretariat for the APKN rotates amongst the member parliaments, for current contact details please visit

[www.apkn.org](http://www.apkn.org)

### Supported by:

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[www.parliaments.info](http://www.parliaments.info)