



ASSOCIATION POUR UNE JEUNESSE AFRICAINE PROGRESSISTE ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICAN PROGRESSIVE YOUTH

Initiative for the change of mentality, Youth inspired to change the World

Organisation dotée du statut consultatif spécial auprès du Conseil Economique et Social de l'ONU depuis 2019

REPORT OF AN EXCHANGE WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE PARLIAMENT IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY ORGANIZED BY AJAP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE FOR BURUNDIAN YOUTH

I. Introduction

On August 29, 2019 in City Hill Hotel, Bujumbura, the Association for a Progressive African Youth in collaboration with the International Republican Institute, IRI, organized an exchange workshop on the role of youth in Parliament in the consolidation of peace and democracy. Present were a representative of elected representative of the people, the representatives of Burundian civil society organizations, and the representatives of the religious confessions as well as the media. Also represented were the political parties approved in Burundi. The activities took place as it is done in Parliament. During a simulation exercise, a President of the Youth Parliament was voted 98% of the participants, the Clerks, set up too.

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Family photos

Activities started at 9:15am with a prayer and the AJAP anthem rang out. Eric, chairman and African Representative of AJAP, played the role of Master of Ceremonies before the Young Parliamentarians Simulation Exercise, which elected Mrs. Clarisse NSABIMANA as President to coordinate the activities of the day. The honors that were awarded to the participants resulted from this simulation exercise. Then there was a little presentation of the rules of conduct of the activity by the Executive Director of **Faraja Africa Foundation**; the speech delivered by the chairman and African Representative of AJAP; and finally that of the Representative of the elected representatives of the people.



At the foreground, the clerks of the youth parliament and at the back, the speaker of parliament

II. Speeches

1. Presentation of the conduct rules of the workshop activities by the Executive Director of Faraja Africa Foundation

Introducing the rules of procedure for this youth parliament activity, **Emmanuel Wabwire**, Executive Director of **Faraja Africa Foundation**, also an IRI partner and member of the Ugandan Youth Parliament and East African Community expressed his gratitude for being in Burundi for the first time. He praised the AJAP initiatives for considering organizing this youth parliament activity in collaboration with the International Republican Institute to discuss the concepts of peace and democracy. He spoke of the importance of setting up a body of young parliamentarians, a way to further strengthen collaboration with leaders. "**At home, this body already exists**," he said. For him, the report of the workshop will be sent to the parliament in order to identify our role and that of parliament. He also shared the experience of his country where the Youth Parliament has already been set up.



The executive director of Faraja Africa Foundation presenting procedure rules

He then proposed to work in terms of motions and not questions based on the central theme / motion "the role of youth in the Burundian parliament in the process of consolidating peace and democracy" as it is done in Parliament to finally approve or reject these motions. He took the opportunity to inform that the EAC Parliament has organized a meeting in November for young parliamentarians from the region. His wish is that 10 young Burundian parliamentarians would participate in its assizes which are of great importance. These young people will also meet the governing body of the International Republican Institute.

2. Speech by the chairman and African Representative of AJAP

In his speech, the chairman and Legal Representative of AJAP thanked the Almighty for good health so that the workshop will be held in tranquility. He also thanked the IRI partner and all the participants despite their busy schedule. In addition, he indicated that the objective of this workshop is to discuss the role of youth in the consolidation of peace and democracy within the framework of allowing young people to become real actors of change (change of mentalities for

sustainable development of the country) and social transformations through their peers. For him, the consolidation of peace and democracy is a process; hence the efforts of all in each remain large. Whoever says democracy says the government of the people by the people and for the people.



Eric NSENGIMANA, chairman and African Representative of AJAP delivers his speech. On his left hand is the IRI Representative in this activity and in his right hand is the commissioner of Human rights in AJAP.

He took the opportunity to appeal to all young people to live in harmony despite their diversity, to avoid the quibbles that often occur during the election period. Any political, religious, tribal affiliation should not be a source of division but rather a weapon to combine efforts for development. We are aware that the world needs us. We must see ourselves as an asset, not a problem. ***"We must recognize that our generation is our promise, not a danger. Our differences should be an asset and not a source of conflict. We should learn from the past to better prepare our future. We invite young people to always show courage, creativity and resilience by working for peace and security, not to listen to***

troublemakers only wanting to involve them in acts of violence as it was noticed in the 2015 elections, "he said.

Before ending his remarks, he said that the concepts of peace and democracy go hand in hand. It is important to channel the energy of young people for the development of the country, and to forge among young people a democratic culture based on competition without violence and mutual acceptance in their political, ethnic, clan, regional, religious differences and others. Mr. **Eric NSENGIMANA** encouraged the Government of Burundi of policies already in place to encourage young people in their self-development by way of example the Youth Bank. For him, it is an eloquent sign that he is concerned about youth issues and wishes him to go forward. He reaffirmed the recommendations from the workshop will serve as a weapon in strengthening the concepts of peace and democracy for young people in particular and for the whole population in general.

3. Speech of an elected representative of the people

Among the guests were the honorable deputies elected at the 2015 elections in Burundi. The elected representative of the people, present in the workshop, congratulated AJAP for its laudable actions and initiatives for the development of the country and all Africa. **"As AJAP has set itself a vision of changing mindsets, we encourage it to always move forward in the concerns of young people. Tomorrow you will be deputies like us. You are called to prepare your bright future,**" he said. The purpose of this workshop is crucial. He took the opportunity to appeal to young people to get down to development work. **"You must take advantage of the Youth Bank set up by the Government of Burundi to fight poverty. The Government makes you aware of joining cooperatives to benefit from the funds allocated to the communes each year. Be the mirror of other young people,**" he declared. The elect of the people gave a lot of advice to the youth in this pre-electoral period and invited the youth to be messengers of peace and be quiet by participating massively in the election of its leaders to actually establish democracy.



The elected of the people giving advices to the youth.

After the speeches, a family photo was taken and the exchanges continued.

III. Exchanges

To facilitate the exchanges, four groups were formed and each received a motion. All the participants became honorable deputies by simulation with a language also of an elected of the people as we will see it below.

a. Motions to develop

1. What can Burundian youth ask of the parliament to express its major concerns in general?
2. What do you say about the Burundian legal framework regarding the role of youth to contribute effectively to the development of peace and democracy in Burundi?
3. What can the Burundian parliament do for youth to make an effective contribution to the process of peace and democracy?
4. What is the key area for parliamentarians to further develop for the full development and development of young people?



Partial view of participants

b. Motions restitution

Motion 1: What can Burundian youth ask from parliament to express their major concerns in general?

This motion was presented by Hon. Jolys Hakizimana, elected in Gitega constituency.

The members of the commission praised the Government's efforts in several areas. They then asked to further improve the education system to be of a high quality (to carry on solving the problems of insufficient infrastructures); as well as employability (the requirements of the experiences in the tenders so the first job placements are also difficult to obtain). From these concerns, he called for the revision of the legal texts and the consideration of the resolution of UNSC 2250, to be sufficiently represented in decision-making bodies as well as the organization of meetings of the parliamentary commission in charge of youth issues and the representing young people in different institutions.

The committee asked that the Parliament could adopt a law enabling young people to participate in decision-making bodies and to be agents. Even if the gaps

are not lacking (the age group). On this motion, Hon. Joél NIBIGIRA added that it is necessary to reserve facilities on Businessmen concerning the exemptions of their goods so that they can invest easily in Burundi and to be able to hire a category of young people. It will be a kind of reducing unemployment. After analysis, the motion was passed by 19 votes with the inclusion of this addition while 12 voted without addition and 1 abstention.

Motion 2: What do you say about the Burundian legal framework regarding the role of youth to contribute effectively to the development of peace and democracy in Burundi?

This motion was moved by Hon. Samuel NSABIMANA, from Kayanza. The following deficiencies have been listed:

- Lacunary legal framework in general: African Youth Charter, constitution, electoral code, communal law (low participation in the communal council). They said that because of these shortcomings, young people are victims.
- No appropriate percentage for young people in decision-making bodies. The co-optations themselves do not give place to young people.
- The CNJB is not governed by a clear law to effectively represent young people
- Requirement of experience in tendering, favoritism and nepotism in the granting of employment
- Age conditions: very advanced age whereas according to the Burundian saying "ukuri kutavuga uwukuze ahubwo kuvuga uwukuzi"

Of all the above, they ask for the recognition of young people in the legal texts and the precision of the percentage are granted to them.

Hon. Aimable NTUNZUMWAMI, elected in Gitega presented additions. He said that the youth occupies more than 65% of the population but that it is not represented validly. He asked the President of the young parliamentarians that the recommendations of the workshop should be submitted to the competent

authorities

After comments, this motion was adopted with additions to 27 votes out of 2 passed without addition and 4 abstentions.

Motion 3: What can the Burundian parliament do for youth to contribute effectively to the process of peace and democracy?

This motion was moved by Hon. Joel NIBIGIRA, Bujumbura Town Hall. The following actions have been proposed:

- reorganization of committees related to youth affairs in Parliament;
- Constitutional establishment of the National Youth Council, a legal framework;
- Introduction of youth quotas in decision-making bodies in Parliament;
- Appropriation by the parliament and the Government of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 which clearly specifies the role of the youth in the management of the affairs of the country;
- Appropriation by the government of UN Resolution 2250: role of youth in peace and democracy, their representativeness;
- Promote exchange meetings between parliamentarians and young people in their socio-political diversity;
- Rigorous monitoring of sector ministries related to youth;
- Restructuring and revitalization of youth centers through the control of the daily action of the government

One of the participants in the same commission suggested that the age requirement be revised because it limits young people. He also asked that the Parliament specify the number of times that parliamentarians must raid their native provinces to exchange with the people on issues that haunt him.

After exchanging ideas on this motion, it was adopted with 17 votes with additions out of 13 voted without additions and 5 abstentions.

Motion 4: What is the key area for parliamentarians to further develop for the full development and development of youth?

This motion was moved by Hon. Olivier MAKAMBIRA. Their contributions are :

- Elaboration of laws promoting the representativeness of young people at 50%
- Consideration of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 to Achieve Youth Development Outcomes
- Establishment of a one-stop shop to be able to pay taxes easily for businessmen
- Fostering Free Trade: Youth Collaboration with Others in the EAC
- Transparency in the labor market

In order to reduce the unemployment rate and to remedy the experiences often required during calls for tenders, they ask that the Ministry of Finance be able to count on young people by setting up a budget for young people; boosting the country's economy by focusing on innovation and policy-making; promote transparency in all activities; to make the fight against poverty a culture of political decision makers.

After exchange, this motion was adopted with additions to 20 out of 12 voted without additions and 6 abstentions.



Group work



Restitution of motions

The Speaker of the Youth Parliament thanked the participants each for their contribution during the workshop on the role of youth in parliament in the consolidation of peace and democracy. Hon. Clarisse NSABIMANA indicated that this kind of activities will continue.

Approved by

Mr. Eric NSENGIMANA

**The chairman and African
Representative of AJAP**

Issued in Bujumbura

the 29th August, 2019

**Mr. Ferdinand
NDIHOKUBWAYO**

Reporter