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West African Parliamentarians to combat effects of Climate Change and Food Security

Parliamentarians and experts from across West Africa will examine crucial questions of climate change and its impact on agriculture and food security at a regional parliamentary seminar at the National Assembly of Senegal, in Dakar, from 25 to 26 March.

AWEPA, the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa, is organising the 'Regional Parliamentary Seminar on Climate Change and Food Security' in co-operation with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, the National Assembly of Senegal and the African Parliamentarian's Forum for NEPAD. Delegates from nine West African countries are expected to attend. Speakers will include experts from international, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Regional Seminar is part of the African-European Dialogue on Climate, Food Security and Development. At a Parliamentary Forum in Nairobi in August last year, the dialogue was launched with the adoption of an African-European Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change and Food Security. The Action Plan mandated AWEPA and its partners to further parliamentary involvement in preparation for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Copenhagen.

In the face of the current food crisis, existing climate variability and future climate change, parliamentarians are expected to lead public debate and play a meaningful role in formulating a response. This regional parliamentary event aims to encourage debate and political action on the interrelated topics of climate change and food security in West Africa. More concretely, the seminar will produce recommendations for National and Regional Parliamentary Action on Climate Change.

"Climate change, and the related issues of food security, are huge challenges for us all," comments Pär Granstedt, Secretary General of AWEPA. "We fully recognise that industrialised countries are the main contributors to the crisis, while less developed regions, especially Africa, seem destined to suffer most. This regional seminar will take the dialogue among parliamentarians one step further and energise parliamentary action to deal with the issues and face up to the problems".

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About AWEPA

The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa supports parliaments and promotes Africa on the political agenda of Europe. For more information please refer to our website.

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