

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
POLITICAL PARTIES IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA FROM FRIDAY MAY 4 TO  
SATURDAY MAY 5, 2007 IN ACCRA, GHANA**

1. At the invitation of The Institute of Economic Affairs (The IEA), Ghana and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the leadership of Political Parties and civil society organisations from 16 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, participated in a Conference of Political Parties in Sub-Saharan Africa held in Accra, Ghana from Friday May 4 to Saturday May 5, 2007
2. The Opening Session was addressed by H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairman of the African Union (AU); Ms Kathleen G. Ferrier, Member of Parliament, Netherlands; and H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). H.E Joaquim Chissano, Former President of the Republic of Mozambique, was the Special Guest of Honour at the Opening Session and participated in the entire Conference.
3. The two (2) day Conference was under the theme **“Fifty Years Of Sub Saharan African Independence And The Role Of Political Parties: Promise, Decline And Resurgence”**
4. The Conference marked a major formal contact among Political Parties across the political spectrum in Sub-Saharan Africa.
5. The Conference appreciated and shared the experiences and achievements of Sub-Saharan African Political Parties in promoting and safeguarding democratic values and structures. Participants particularly deliberated on topical issues including; A Review and Analysis of Multiparty Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa over the Past 50 Years; Charting a New Course and Direction for Multiparty Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa; The Role of

Political Parties in Promoting Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa and Mainstreaming Marginalized Groups Into Political Party Processes.

6. The Conference deplored the abuse of incumbency, misuse of State security apparatus, the refusal of losing parties to accept election results that have been acknowledged as being credible, free and fair and the absence of internal democracy within Political Parties. The Conference therefore urged all Political Parties to work towards the eradication of such negative practices.
7. The Conference condemned unconstitutional changes of government and urged governments and Political Parties to provide an environment that would deny military adventurists any opportunity to impose themselves on the people.
8. The Conference affirmed its commitment to harnessing the energies of the participating Political Parties towards the attainment of multi-party democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa, and noted that solutions to some of the problems of multi-party democracy could be found through consensual politics and a clear definition of roles for all stakeholders.
9. The Conference stressed the need for political parties and politicians in all the countries to play pivotal roles in nation building and urged that they commit themselves to enhancing and consolidating democratic governance as a means of empowering their people politically and accelerating growth in order to liberate Sub Saharan Africa from abject poverty.
10. The Conference also noted that multi-party democracy acknowledges differences of interest, principles and philosophies and that the only way to move forward is to make principled compromises in the overall national interest. The Conference advised the cultivation and development of the spirit of tolerance and accommodation of political, ideological, religious and ethnic differences within the membership of respective Political Parties and among the Political Parties themselves.

11. The Conference stressed the need for state and public financing of Political Parties in sub Saharan African countries in order to build the capacity of all Political Parties so as to create a level playing field for effective participation in the governance processes of their respective countries.
12. The Conference acknowledged the merits of concerted efforts by the African Union (AU) and the Sub regional groupings towards deepening democratic governance in sub-Saharan Africa and called on these bodies to urge countries not only to build credible democratic institutions but also encourage them to consolidate multiparty democracy on the continent.
13. The Conference also urged Political Parties in Sub Saharan Africa to provide a platform for Women and Youth to participate in the building and sustenance of peace and democracy and eliminate the gender and generation imbalance that has blighted the growth of multiparty democracy on the continent.
14. The Conference bemoaned the incidence of post-election conflicts in Sub Saharan Africa and agreed that the conduct of free, fair and credible elections should not only be regarded as a means to legitimizing the leadership of a country but also as a tool for promoting peace and security in Sub Saharan Africa. In this direction, the Conference urged that steps be taken to ensure the improvement of election administration in Sub Saharan Africa, the first task being the establishment of election management institutions that are efficient, truly independent and insulated from any partisan or external influence and electoral rules that are consensual and acceptable to all.
15. The Conference agreed to establish a Permanent Consultative Conference of the leadership of Political Parties in Sub Saharan Africa in order to sustain the spirit and commitment demonstrated at the Accra Conference and put it to the consideration of The IEA and NIMD for support.

16. The Conference also urged Political Parties in Sub Saharan Africa to establish and maintain contacts with one another in order to learn from each others experiences.
17. The Conference commended the facilitating role played by The IEA, and NIMD in bringing together key Political Party stakeholders to discuss the future of the continent on a common platform and pledged commitment to ensure that the gains made so far are not only sustained but that the practice of multiparty democracy creates the enabling environment for the accelerated growth of Sub-Saharan Africa
18. Finally, participants at the Conference showed their appreciation to H.E John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, the Government and the people of Ghana for their warm reception.

***Saturday May 5, 2007***

***Accra***

**BENIN**

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Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)

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National Chairman

Parti Démocratique de Cote d’Ivoire (PDCI-RDA)

.....  
Mr. Kacou **GERVAIS**  
External Affairs Officer

Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR)

.....  
Mr. Adama **TOUNGARA**  
Special Advisor

**GHANA**

New Patriotic Party (NPP)

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National Chairman

National Democratic Congress (NDC)

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Dr. Kwabena **ADJEI**  
National Chairman

Convention Peoples Party (CPP)

.....  
Dr. Edmund **DELLE**  
National Chairman

Peoples National Convention (PNC)

.....  
Alhaji Ahmed **RAMADAN**  
National Vice Chairman

Democratic Freedom Party (DFP)

.....  
Dr. Obed **ASAMOAH**  
Leading Member

Democratic Peoples Party (DPP)

.....  
Mr. T.N **WARD BREW**  
Leader

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.....  
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Hon. Joshua **SACKIE, Jnr**  
Ag. National Chairman

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United Democratic Front (UDF)

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Former Speaker of Parliament

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)

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Adviser to the President of Malawi

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FRELIMO Party

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Member of Parliament

Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO)

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Hon. Vicente **ULULU**  
Member of Parliament

**NIGERIA**

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.....  
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Member, Political Activist

All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)

.....  
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Member, Board of Trustees &  
Former National Secretary

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Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP)

.....  
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Ideology and Publicity

Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA).....

Hon. Dr. Willibrord **SLAA**  
Secretary General

**TOGO**

Union des Forces de Changement (UFC) .....  
Mr. Eric **ARMERDING**  
Special Advisor

Convention Democratique des Peuples Africains (CDPA) .....  
Mr. Francois Fidegnon **KPAKPO**  
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**ZAMBIA**

Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) .....  
Major Richard **KACHINGWE**  
Deputy National Secretary

United Liberal Party (ULP) .....  
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Zimbabwe Institute .....  
Mr. Isaac **MAPOSA**  
Executive Director

**The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Ghana** .....  
**Mrs Jean MENSA**  
**Administrator**

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**Mr. Roel von MEIJENFEDLT**  
**Executive Director**