

# Parliamentary Action to Secure Early Childhood Rights

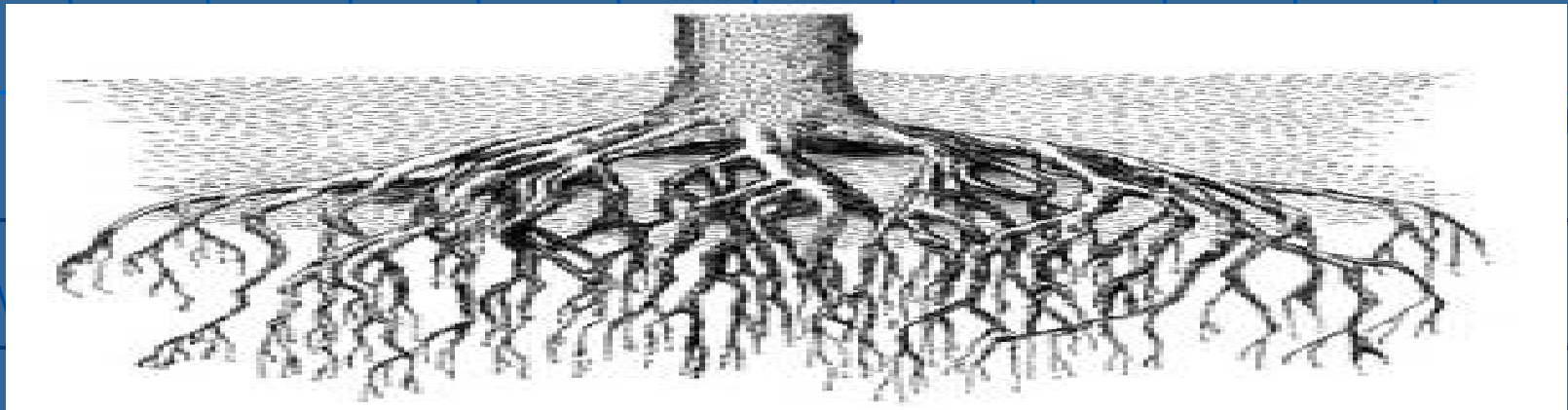


# How Help Hurts

- Something is *drastically* wrong with the way we conduct ODA
- Government to Government Deals
- ODA is bypassing Parliament
- The process is *undermining Democracy*

# The Result: ODA *Lost in Translation*

- Poverty and Conflict persist
- Parliaments are kept weak
- Corruption takes root...



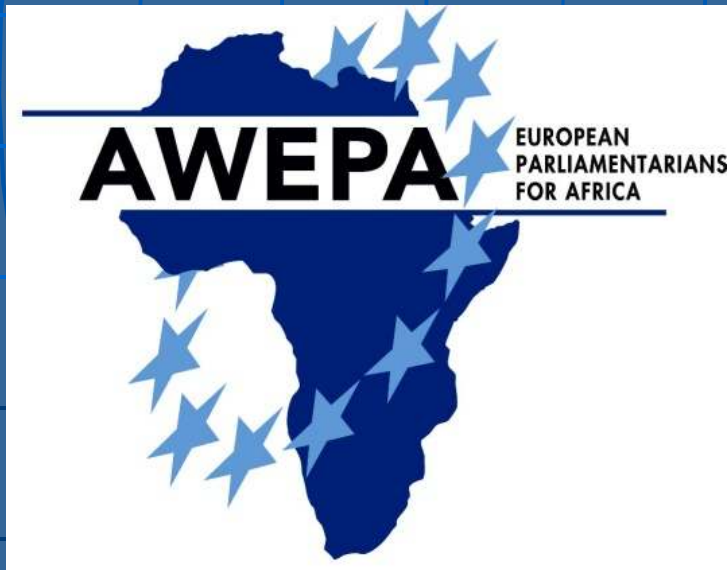


**“Without functioning  
Parliaments  
there can be no democracy...”**

**...Without democracy,  
no development...**

**...without development,  
no protection of child’s rights.**

# Campaign: Scaling up Parliamentary Efforts for Children and AIDS



# Phase 1: African-European Parliamentary Consultation on OVC, Cape Town, September 2004

- 25 African Parliaments
- 15 European Parliaments
- Organisers:  
UNICEF, the Dutch EU Presidency, Council  
of Europe, NMCF and AWEPA
- Additional financial support from:  
DFID, UNAIDS, Finland, Trócaire, Concern,  
the British Council

# Cape Town Declaration

## Plan of Action

- African MPs: awareness raising meetings, oversight
- African Parliaments: review/amend legislation
- Regional Parliaments: information exchange, harmonise/catalyse
- European parliamentarians: political support
- Donor Community: scale up resources

# **Phase 2: Regional Seminars “Scaling up Parliamentary Efforts for Children and AIDS” (2005-2006)**

- Cape Town, May 2005 (SACU)
- Lilongwe, September 2005 (ZZM)
- Nairobi, November 2005 (GLR + Horn)
- Maputo, March 2006 (Lusophone)

# National Parliamentary Plan of Action (NPPA) made by parliamentarians from:

- Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, South Africa
- Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi
- Burundi, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda
- Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome & Principe

# Phase 3: National follow up (2007-2009):

- National follow up workshops in 10 focus countries:

- Angola
- Botswana
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

- Monitoring Parliamentary Action on OVC in 17 African countries
- OVC Programme in Europe

# AWEPA's Tracking Mechanism:

Monitoring Parliamentary Action on OVC  
in 17 African countries on:

- Legislation
- Oversight/Scrutiny
- Budget
- Representation/Outreach
- PRS/NDP

## Outcomes:

- Legislation (16x):
- Oversight/Scrutiny (15x)
- Budget (13x)
- Representation/Outreach (14x)
- PRS/NDP (7x)



# Early Successes: OVC Reform in Swaziland



# Portfolio Committee on Child Rights established in 2007...



- Goal: to strengthen parliamentary action on children
- Focus: M&E, with targeted external support
- Briefings: UNICEF/AWEPA, toolkits/handbooks

# CRC-Related Actions...



- *Pushing* endorsement of Optional Protocols
- *Participating* in drafting/reviewing of national CRC Reports
- *Exploring* the establishment of Children's Parliament
- *Created* implementation plan for 72 recommendations of CRC Committee
- *Ratified* CRC

# Lobby for Government Action...



- *Spurred* Review of the Children's Policy 2008
- *Participated* in the Review of the draft Children's Policy and budget
- *Urged* the Ministry of Education budget for universal free primary school
- *Questioned* Minister of Health on Social Welfare Grants (OVC, elderly)

# Legislative Reform...



- *Championed* drafting of Children's Bill and Child Justice Act, now on track
- *Reviewed* the Employment Bill, *proposed* child labor amendments
- *Prompted* Ministry of Justice to table two bills on inheritance rights



# Representation and Institutional Improvements...

- *Created* Portfolio Committee on Child Rights in the Senate
- *Pressed for* (and got) a National Children's Coordination Unit
- *Participates* in the new Children's Consortium with NGOs
- *Planning* visit to Juvenile Facility, lobby on community reintegration

# Lessons Learned

## **MPs can act as:**

- Catalysts
- Trail-blazers
- Watchdogs

## **MPs need better links with:**

- UN family
- Civil Society
- Experts

## **MPs are motivated to act:**

- Especially Women
- BUT lack resources

ODA

OVC

- Birth Registration
- Infant Mortality
- PMTCT
- Paediatric HIV Care
- Universal Education

MDGs

# AWEPA and Partner Advocacy

- Requirements for disbursement of aid:



Parliamentary  
Approval

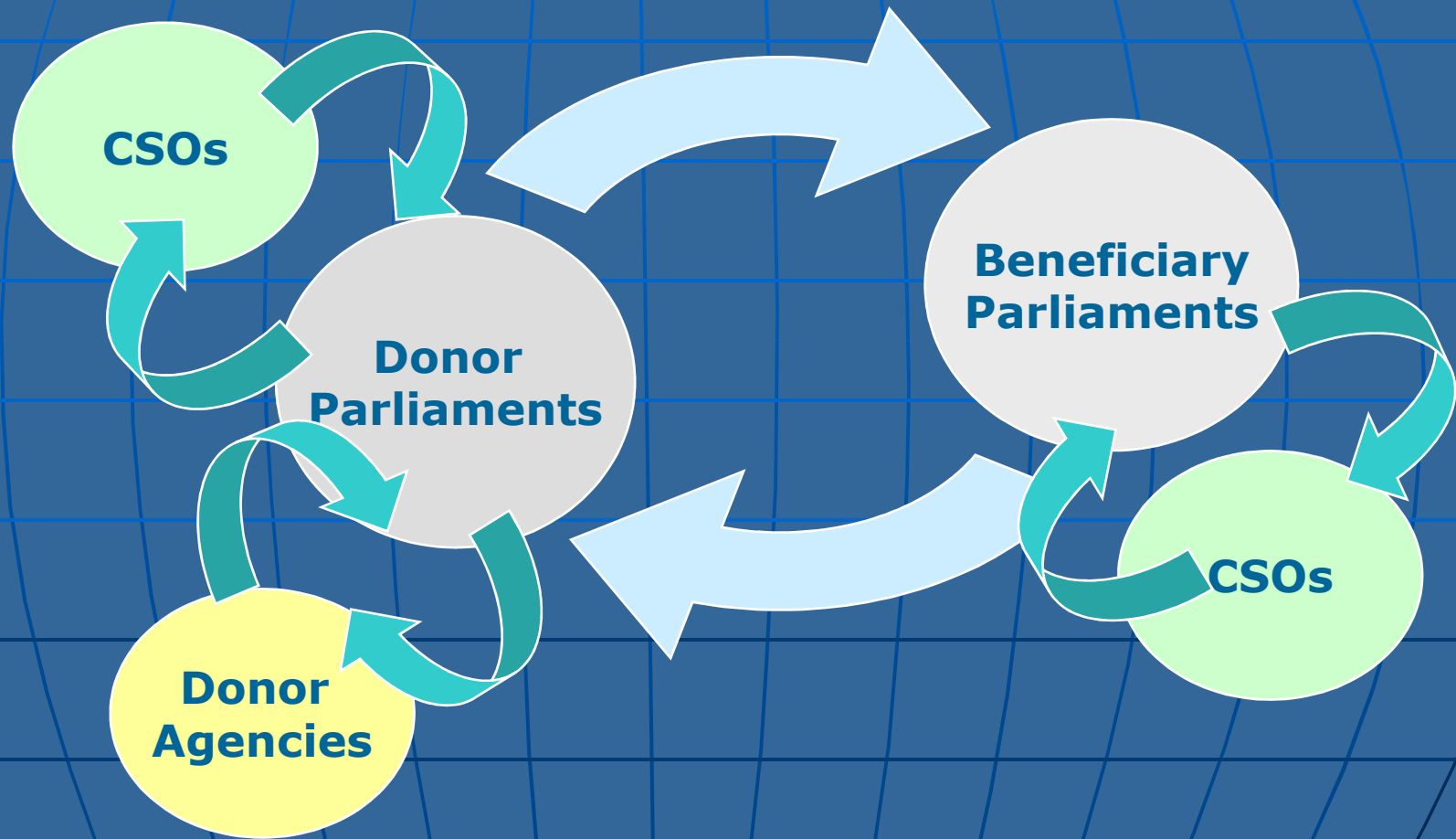
- Local Ownership
- Fair Distribution



Democratic  
Scrutiny

- Transparency
- Accountability

# International Parliamentary Partnership on ODA M&E



# Result of Partnership...

- Increased Knowledge on ODA **Relevance/Ownership**
- Increased Knowledge on ODA **Effectiveness/Impact**

**New ODA Priorities**

**OVC**

# International Parliamentary Union (IPU)



**Donor Parliaments** should  
“visit projects and other  
cooperation initiatives”

**Beneficiary Parliaments** should “find  
the necessary tools to oversee ODA at  
the national level”

**Donor and Beneficiary Parliaments** should  
“exchange information and coordinate their  
policies”



# Joint EP/ PAP Statement



Parliaments should exercise their fundamental right to scrutiny of government expenditures



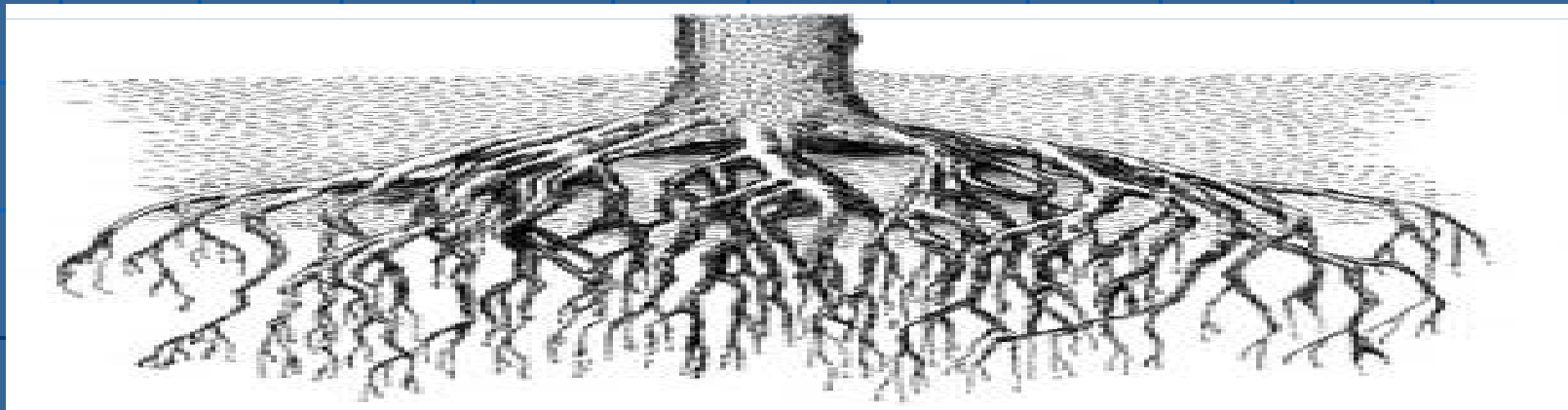
More financial resources need to be allotted to support Parliaments



It follows that Parliaments can then prioritize children and maximize the correct usage of funds.

# Parliamentary Scrutiny Prevents Corruption

(more resources for early childhood)



# Going Forward: Parliaments and ODA

- *Empower* recipient country parliaments to monitor all ODA for OVC
- *Influence* donor parliaments to prioritise ODA for early childhood development
- *Maintain* donor-recipient parliamentary dialogue **and** dialogue with civil society



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