

HON KLETUS KARONDO, MP
CHAIRPERSON; STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

NOTICE OF TABLING THE REPORT OF A PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION ON THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON THE
ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) HELD IN
GENEVA, JUNE 2023

Hon. Speaker,

I lay Upon the Table for Note Taking, the Report of a Parliamentary delegation the Roundtable Discussions on the role of Parliaments in the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) held in Geneva, June 2023

Hon Speaker,

I would have preferred to table the report for discussions, however, mindful of the packed Order Paper and 10 December being the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, allow me to highlight some of the key issues of the report.

In June 2023, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) jointly organised the parliamentary roundtable discussion on women's rights, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Despite progress and the near universal adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, no country can yet claim to have fully achieved gender equality. Indeed, gains in women's rights and gender equality are at serious risk of being reversed by multiple crises.

Although some effort was made and positive results achieved in the world including Namibia, there are still many shortcomings and challenges with regards the following:

- women's full, equal and safe participation in political decision-making at all levels,
- women's access on an equal basis with men to decent work, and
- gender equality in and through education and information systems.

Therefore, Parliaments including the **Parliament of Namibia** are key to promoting human rights including women's rights, through its **legislative, representative, budgeting, and oversight roles**.

The **Parliament of Namibia** is duty bound to ensure women's access on equal basis with men to **decent work** and gender equality in and through **education and information systems**.

The Recommendations are as follows:

- (a) Both Houses of the Parliament of Namibia must support the pledges that commenced at the Geneva Roundtable held on 22 June 2023.
- (b) The two Houses of Parliament must strengthen administrative and legislative measures, procedures and practises and take action to ensure:
 - Women's full, equal and safe participation in political decision-making at all levels,
 - Women's access on an equal basis with men to decent work, and
 - Gender equality in and through education and information systems.
- (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committees responsible for gender equality must consider examining the discussions, views, comments made at the Geneva Roundtable and implement the pledges that commenced on 22 June 2023. The parliamentary standing committees must report to the IPU through the IPU National Group.

I so move Hon. Speaker