

Workshop: "Drafting Evidence-based Legislation: the case of the health sector in the East African Community" 25-30 January 2010, Arusha, Tanzania.

The 2007 East African Community (EAC) Summit Meeting resolved to establish an EAC Health Commission to draft a legislative program to improve health care delivery systems throughout East Africa. The CALC Executive Council member representative for Eastern and Southern Africa, Ms. Elizabeth Bakibinga-Gaswaga together with other partners, has been engaged in planning and organising to build capacity in support of the EAC Summit's proposal.

The workshop, with participants from the EAC Partner States (comprising of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), has the following purposes:

- To engage EAC parliamentarians on the EALA committee dealing with health issues, members of the parliamentary committees of the five parliaments of EALA, legislative drafters and health experts in a self-reliant learning process of drafting and assessing *evidence-based legislation*, with specific reference to the health sector in EAC.
- To empower participants to draft bills justified by relevant facts, logically organized in research reports. To do that, they will learn how to translate policy into effectively implemented laws by using *institutionalist legislative theory and methodology* ('ILTAM'), as well as essential drafting techniques. The proposed workshop aims to introduce ILTAM to EAC drafters, parliamentarians and others.

The workshop is organised under the aegis of, and in collaboration with, the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and supported by "Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan" – United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) project "Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan" (www.parliaments.info), in the context of the capacity building activities of the APKN (Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network: www.apkn.org.) **Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan:** '*Strengthening the Role of African Parliaments in Fostering Democracy and Good Governance through Knowledge and Information Management*' is an Africa-wide initiative implemented by the UNDESA to empower African Parliaments to better fulfil their democratic functions by supporting their efforts to become open, participatory, knowledge-based and learning organizations.

The workshop has been designed and will be concluded by those organizations and by ICLAD (International Consortium for Law and Development; www.iclad-law.org) a not-for-profit non-governmental organization which carries on the work initiated by Boston University School of Law's 'Program for Legislative Drafting for Democratic Social Change.'

For more information regarding the workshop and any other projects referred to above, contact Elizabeth Bakibinga-Gaswaga at ebakibinga@gmail.com.