



**RESOLUTIONS OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND  
PRESIDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE  
HELD  
BETWEEN 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021 IN KIGALI, RWANDA**

---

**NOVEMBER, 2021**

## **RESOLUTIONS OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS HELD IN KIGALI, RWANDA HELD BETWEEN 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021**

---

The 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers (CSPOC) Africa Region, comprising of Presiding Officers from 18 National Parliaments, held at Kigali, Rwanda from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, having examined the Theme “***African Parliaments in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***”;

**acknowledged** that weak regulatory systems have resulted in the circulation of sub-standard and falsified medical products in many African States, thereby posing a major risk to public health and health care delivery systems;

**also acknowledged** that African Governments have not invested enough resources in local research and production of vaccines and that developed countries continue to hoard these essential medicines and vaccines;

**noted** the place of Legislatures in Africa as driving forces in the implementation of Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) by passing the enabling legislations as well as enacting legal frameworks for speedy economic integration;

**also noted** that budgetary allocations by African Government towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as Africa Agenda 2063 are insufficient;

**observed that** radical dissent in the Legislature is often driven by partisanship, high handedness, lack of consultation and strategic communication on the part of the Presiding Officer;

**further observed that** some members of Parliament do not have the required capabilities to perform their legislative functions;

**cognizant that** opposition or minority parties have a key role to play in holding the Government to account and in providing appropriate policies for public consideration;

**also cognizant that,** in some Parliaments, there is sometimes interference in the governance processes of Parliaments especially from the ruling political parties and Executive Branch of Government;

**concerned that,** in some Parliaments, Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government often refuse to submit themselves to parliamentary audit and scrutiny;

**also concerned that** some Parliaments lack the resources and political will to monitor and evaluate the Executive Branch of Government;

**convinced that** the privileges, immunities and powers of the Legislature are absolutely necessary for the effective discharge of its functions;

**also convinced that** historically, arbitrary arrests and prosecutions have often served as an excuse for oppressive regimes and Governments to oppress critical parliamentarians and remove them from circulation;

**noted** the recommendations by His Excellency, Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, during the Opening Ceremony and agreed to adopt same as Special Resolutions of the 17<sup>th</sup> CSPOC;

accordingly **RESOLVED to:** -

**(a) Special Resolutions**

**encourage** African Parliaments to ratify the Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) to enhance the capacity of countries to regulate medical products.

**further encourage** African Governments to invest in local research and production of vaccines on the African continent to avert the challenge of vaccine nationalism and inequity in the distribution of vaccines;

**advised** Legislatures in Africa to be the driving force in the implementation of Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) by passing the enabling legislations;

**further advised** African Parliamentarians to continue sharing knowledge, skills, and resources with one another, thereby leveraging on the experiences and best practices of others;

**urged** African Parliaments to make budgetary allocation towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union Agenda 2063 targets;

**(b) The Presiding Officer in a changing society: Strategies for floor management of radical dissent and minority Government: -**

- I. **encouraged** Presiding Officers to be inclusive, impartial and consultative in managing dissenting views and opposition parties;
- II. **further encouraged** Presiding Officers to ensure that mechanisms are in place to preserve the rights of the opposition and other political groups, and to allow all members

to exercise their mandate freely and without being subjected to undue influence and pressure;

- III. **urged** African parliaments to place emphasis and budget for capacity building of all members through post-election seminars, refresher courses as well as short and long term training programs;
- IV. **further urged** Presiding Officers to preserve the independence of the Legislature from the interference of political parties and the Executive branch of Government;
- V. **advised** Presiding Officers to accommodate minority groups and make provision in the Standing Rules/Orders for minority reports;
- VI. **further advised** that chairpersonship of Standing Committees should reflect numerical strength of each party in the House and that Committees such as Public Accounts and Public Petitions are headed by minority groups in line with international best practices;

**(c) Retooling Parliaments for effective and efficient oversight:**

- I. **urged** African Parliaments to develop frameworks for citizens participation and involvement in project monitoring and evaluation;
- II. **also urged** African Parliaments to pass legislations that compel the Government to submit to legislative scrutiny and oversight;
- III. **encouraged** African Parliaments to pass legislations that promote e-governance in order to promote transparency, digitalization and efficiency in the management of scarce resources;
- IV. **also encouraged** African Parliaments to use such tools as community scorecards to evaluate their performance;
- V. **request** African Parliaments to invest in continuous capacity building of staff and personnel and to hire Consultants, where necessary, to bridge the gap of inadequate capacity for effective and efficient oversight;

**(d) The relevance of Parliamentary immunities, powers and privileges: -**

- (i) **urged** African Parliamentarians to defend their privileges, powers and immunities in order to maintain the

independence and autonomy of the Legislative Branch of Government; and

- (ii) **further urged** African Parliaments to develop a common Code of Ethics for legislators to avoid absolutism and abuse of parliamentary powers and privileges.

**Unanimously adopted on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda.**

---

#### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

- |    |   |               |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1. | Rt Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, MP,<br>Chairperson of the National Council,<br>National Assembly of Namibia | - Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon Pono Pearson Moatlhhodi, MP.,<br>Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Botswana                       | - Member      |
| 3. | Christopher Ashiekaa, PhD   | - Secretary   |
| 4. | Mr Jeffrey J. Mumbi   | - Secretary   |
-