



CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT AND THE
INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ON ORTHODOXY (I.A.O.)

The Pan-African Parliament (hereinafter referred to as the PAP), and the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (hereinafter referred to as the I.A.O.);

Considering that the I.A.O. and the PAP believe that, in the modern world of major technological achievements and harsh trade globalization, the peoples of the Earth have the right to pursue their future through their own cultural accomplishments, traditions and convictions. Furthermore, they have the right to oppose to the attempts of cultural leveling, material over-consumption and the lack of spiritual pursuit;

Bearing in mind, that while the modern world is trying - through dialogue, as fundamental element of democracy - to achieve mutual understanding and tolerance, to resolve the problems threatening its long-standing achievements and its essence of existence, parliamentarians, conveyors of the expression of these ideals, play special and significant role in this effort;

Ascertaining that the field of Parliamentarism, an area of free and clear thought, may positively influence the dialogue between peoples and cultures, as well as to contribute to mutual understanding and peace;

Recalling that the Statutory texts of the PAP and those of the I.A.O. confirm - inter alia - the will of their members to contribute to communication among the peoples of the world, aiming at the respect and defense of human rights and humanitarian principles, as well as the consolidation of peace based on justice and International legitimacy;

Recognizing the need that, the I.A.O. and the PAP, as media of universal ideals, should take advantage of every possibility for direct communication and contact between the political media with common sub-goals, in order to contribute to the implementation of the modern world's imperatives;

Expressing the satisfaction on the close and continued interaction between the PAP and the I.A.O.;

Have agreed on the following issues:

Article I

Theme of Co-operation

The co-operation envisaged is principally based on Interparliamentary dialogue, as it is determined by its commonly accepted principles.

Article II

Status of Relations

Both Institutions enjoy Observer Status before each other.

Article III

Co-operation and Consultation

In order to facilitate the achievement of the objectives set out in the statutory texts pertaining to each Institution and to ensure effective co-ordination of their activities, the I.A.O. and the PAP agree to cooperate closely and to consult each other regularly on matters of mutual interest. This cooperation may, subject to the foregoing, take several forms, including representation, mutual participation in conferences and meetings, exchange of information and consultation on programs.

Article IV

Reciprocal Contacts

The PAP Secretariat and the I.A.O. International Secretariat seated in Midrand (Johannesburg) and Athens respectively shall maintain contact with each other on all matters of mutual interest.

Article V

Participation in Conferences and meetings

1. The I.A.O. may, in accordance with the current PAP Rules of Procedures, take part and intervene, as an observer, in the Conferences of the PAP and other meetings convened under PAP auspices during which matters of mutual interest are to be discussed
2. The PAP may, in accordance with the current I.A.O. Rules of Procedures, take part and intervene, as an observer, in the I.A.O. annual General Assemblies and

other meetings convened under I.A.O. auspices during which matters of mutual interest are to be discussed

Article VI

Convening of Conferences and Seminars

The I.A.O. and the PAP may, if necessary, agree to jointly convene conferences or seminars on matters of mutual interest in accordance with procedures to be decided upon each specific case.

Article VII

Exchange of information

The PAP and the I.A.O. agree to regularly exchange documents and other information on matters of mutual interest. Such an exchange of information shall, in particular, concern activities of the PAP and the I.A.O. within the framework of their mutual interests and will be circulated for the information of the members of both institutions. Each institution retains the right not to circulate to the other information which it considers confidential.

Article VIII

Coordinating Cooperation Committee

The I.A.O. and the PAP agreed to establish a “*Coordinating Cooperation Committee*”:

1. The Committee will be composed of 16 members: six Parliamentarians of each institution, in addition to two respective advisors-experts.
2. The Committee will be co-chaired by the Presidents of the two Institutions.
3. The Committee shall meet twice per year, in a city to be chosen on alternate basis, by each institution.
4. The main objective of the Committee will be to coordinate the Interparliamentary dialogue between the two institutions which shall determine the substantive issues of discussion within the political, economic, social and cultural fields, as well as for the following up of the implementation of resolutions jointly agreed.
5. The Coordinating Cooperation Committee will process the agenda of activities and inform the Member Parliaments of the two institutions as well as the various international Institutions and Organizations within the year 2011.

Article IX

Entry into force – Amendment – Renunciation

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date it is signed by the authorized representatives of the two institutions.
2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent provided that the party proposing the amendment notifies the other in writing. The amendment shall enter into force as soon as it has been approved by both parties.
3. This Agreement may be renounced by either parties by giving written notice to the other of its decision to do so. The Agreement shall be terminated six months from the date of such notice.

This Agreement has been concluded in English in two copies, whereby each signatory has received one copy.

In witness thereof the parties sign this Agreement on 19 May 2011.

For the INTERPARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY
(I.A.O.)

For the PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
(PAP)

Anastasios NERANTZIS
Secretary General of the I.A.O.

Idriss NDELE MOUSSA
President of the Pan-African Parliament