



Athens, 2 October 2024

To: Mr. Martin Chungong
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Letter of Endorsement to the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments

Honorable Secretary General,

Since its establishment, the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) has placed at the core of its mission the defense and strengthening of independent parliamentarism, as well as capacity building for national and regional parliamentary institutions.

In fact, in the Declaration adopted by our Organization during the 30th anniversary General Assembly in Chalkidiki in June 2023, it is specifically stated that: “*We consistently strive to empower the capacities of national parliaments and their representative, budgetary, supervisory, and legislative roles. In order to adapt parliamentary work to a digital era, we support the use of resources provided by new technologies.*”

As the IAO, we have not limited ourselves to purely rhetorical support to parliaments. On the contrary, we have, from time to time, provided practical assistance to MPs in improving their parliamentary work at the national level. A notable example of this is our support to the Parliament of Montenegro regarding a draft bill on religious freedom in 2016.

We will continue to enhance our efforts for pluralistic, ethical, responsible, and sustainable parliamentary support, tailored to local needs and specificities while being inspired by international standards.

Over the years, the IPU has honored the IAO with its trust by giving us the platform to address the global parliamentary community. Simultaneously, the IAO has strived to support parliamentary principles and values as reflected in the derivative acts of the IPU, such as the Common Principles.

In this context, through this letter, we are pleased to express our interest in the IAO endorsement to the *Common Principles for Support to Parliaments*, a landmark document in the field of parliamentary cooperation and development, which marks its 10th anniversary since its adoption.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Maximos Charakopoulos
Member of the Hellenic Parliament
IAO Secretary General