

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE  
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME

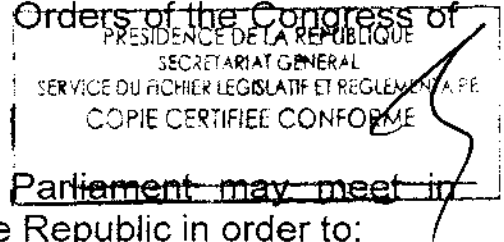
LAW N. 2014/017 OF 09 SEP. 2014

**ON THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONGRESS OF  
PARLIAMENT**

*The Parliament deliberated and adopted,  
the President of the Republic hereby enacts  
the law set out below:*

## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1:** This law lays down the Standing Orders of the Congress of Parliament.



**SECTION 2:** (1) The 2 (two) Houses of ~~Parliament may meet in~~ Congress at the request of the President of the Republic in order to:

- listen to an address or receive a message from the President of the Republic;
- receive the oath of members of the Constitutional Council;
- vote on a draft or proposed constitutional amendment.

(2) The Congress shall sit for a period of no more than 15 (fifteen) days.

**SECTION 3:** Whenever the Congress sits, the Bureau of the National Assembly shall preside over its proceedings.

**ARTICLE 4:** (1) The Congress shall sit either at the National Assembly or at the Senate.

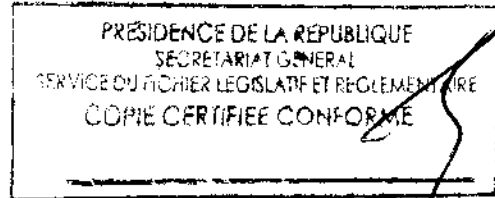
(2) However, where circumstances so require, the Congress may sit at any other venue, at the request of the President of the Republic.

## CHAPTER II CONGRESSIONAL BODIES

**SECTION 5:** Congressional bodies shall be:

- the Bureau;

- the Chairmen's Conference;
- the special Committee.



## **I - THE BUREAU**

**SECTION 6:** The Bureau of the congress shall be that of the National Assembly.

**SECTION 7:** (1) The President of the National Assembly shall preside over proceedings of the Congress. He shall maintain order during proceedings and ensure compliance with these Standing Orders.

(2) Where the President of the National Assembly is unavoidably absent, the Senior Vice-President shall act in his stead and where the latter is unavoidably absent, the other Vice-Presidents shall act in his stead in the order of precedence established by the Bureau.

**SECTION 8:** (1) The Bureau shall be fully empowered to organize and manage all services under the conditions laid down in these Standing Orders.

(2) However, the list of staff seconded to the Congress shall be prepared jointly by the Secretaries-General of both Houses.

## **II - THE CHAIRMEN'S CONFERENCE**

**SECTION 9:** The Chairmen's Conference shall be responsible for:

- preparing the working sessions of the Congress;
- ruling on the admissibility of a government bill or private members' bill on constitutional amendment.

**SECTION 10:** (1) The Chairmen's Conference shall comprise:

- members of the Chairmen's Conference of the National Assembly;

- members of the Chairmen's Conference of the Senate.

(2) It shall be convened and presided over by the President of the Congress of Parliament.

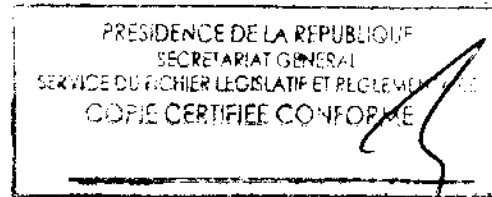
(3) A member of Government shall participate in the Chairmen's Conference.

### **III - THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 11:** The Special Committee established by the Congress on the recommendation of the Chairmen's Conference shall be responsible for examining any government bill or private members' bill on constitutional amendment.

**SECTION 12:** (1) The Special Committee shall comprise 30 (thirty) members made up of an equal number of Members of the National Assembly and Senators. It shall elect its Bureau by uninominal ballot under the chairmanship of its Eldest Member. The Bureau shall comprise:

- a Chairperson;
- a Vice-Chairperson;
- two (2) Secretaries;
- a Rapporteur.



(2) The designation of members of the Special Committee shall reflect the political configuration of the Congress, except some political parties refuse to participate therein.

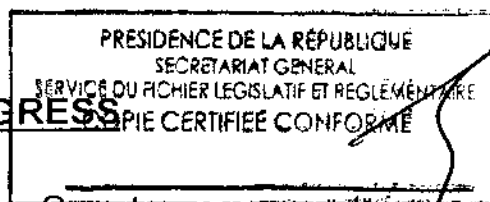
**SECTION 13:** (1) "The proceedings of the Special Committee shall be carried out according to the ordinary rules applicable to the General Committee of both Houses.

In the event of differing rules, members of the Committee shall vote to choose the applicable standing orders.

In case of a tie, the Chairperson of the Special Committee shall have the casting vote.”

(2) “The Special Committee shall be dissolved automatically at the close of the proceedings of the Congress during which it was set up.”

**CHAPTER III**  
**COMPETENCE OF THE CONGRESS**



**SECTION 14:** The National Assembly and the Senate may meet in Congress in the cases listed exhaustively in Section 2 (1) above.

**I – LISTENING TO AN ADDRESS OR RECEPTION OF A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

**SECTION 15:** (1) The President of the Republic may, at his request, address both Houses of Parliament in Congress, in accordance with the provisions of Section 32 of the Constitution.

(2) He may also send messages to the Congress.

(3) The messages referred to in Sub-section (2) above shall be read by the Prime Minister or another member of Government.

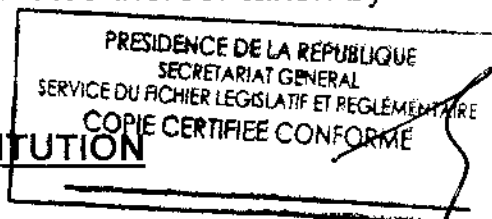
**II – RECEPTION OF THE OATH OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL**

**SECTION 16:** (1) Members of the Constitutional Council shall take the oath of office in a solemn ceremony before Parliament meeting in Congress.

(2) Members of the Constitutional Council shall take the following oath with the left hand placed on the Constitution and the ungloved right hand extended toward the national flag:

*"I swear that I will faithfully and diligently discharge my duties in an impartial manner, in accordance with the Constitution, to uphold the confidentiality of deliberations and voting, not to take any public stance, provide consultation on matters that fall under the competence of the Council".*

(3) The President of the National Assembly shall officially acknowledge the oath of office and the minutes thereof taken by the General Secretariat of the National Assembly.



### **III - AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**SECTION 17:** Any proposal by Members of Parliament to amend the Constitution must be moved by at least one third of members of one House or the other.

**SECTION 18:** (1) Parliament shall meet in Congress when called upon to vote on a draft or proposed constitutional amendment. The amendment shall be adopted by an absolute majority of the Members of Parliament.

(2) The President of the Republic may request a second reading. In such case, the amendment shall be adopted by a two-third majority of the Members of Parliament.

**SECTION 19:** Any proposal for a constitutional amendment affecting the republican form, unity and territorial integrity of the State and the democratic principles which govern the Republic shall be inadmissible.

### **CHAPTER IV** **SITTINGS**

**SECTION 20:** The plenary sittings of the Congress shall be public.

**SECTION 21:** (1) The proceedings of the Congress shall be valid only if more than half of the Members of the National Assembly and more than half of Senators are present.

(2) Where the quorum is not reached on the day and time fixed for the opening of a sitting, it shall be automatically deferred for two hours. Consequently, deliberations shall be valid only if one third of the Members of the National Assembly and one third of Senators are present.

**SECTION 22:** (1) Members of the Congress shall be installed on nominal seats in alphabetical order and by Parliamentary Group, irrespective of the House to which they belong.

(2) However, the President of the Senate shall be installed on a seat placed beside the President of the Congress.

**SECTION 23:** The messages referred to in Section 15 above shall not be discussed in the presence of the President of the Republic or his representative.

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**SECTION 24:** (1) Where the address or message of the President of the Republic gives rise to debate after adjournment, the Parliamentary Groups of each House shall be allocated 30 (thirty) minutes, unless otherwise decided by the Bureau of the Congress.

(2) A Member of the National Assembly or Senator taking part in the debate who does not belong to any parliamentary group shall be given 5 (five) minutes.

(3) The debate referred to in Sub-sections (1) and (2) above shall not be subject to vote.

**SECTION 25:** (1) No Member of the Congress may speak unless he has requested and been given the floor, even if, exceptionally, a speaker is authorized to interrupt him.

(2) The names of Members of the Congress who request the floor shall be registered according to the order of their requests; they may relinquish their turn to speak to one of their fellow members or reverse the order of registration.

(3) The time allowed for each speaker shall be 5 (five) minutes. However, the President of the Congress may, given the number of speakers, decide to limit the said time to 45 (forty-five) minutes per Parliamentary Group.

**SECTION 26:** (1) Members of the Congress shall speak from the rostrum.

(2) Should a member speak without having been given the floor or should he continue to speak after the President has requested him to stop, the President may decide that his remarks shall not be recorded in the minutes.

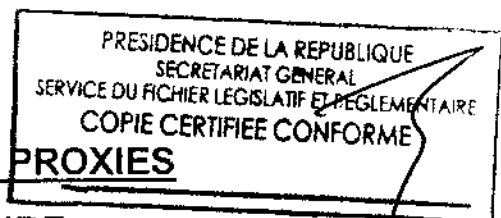
(3) Speakers shall not digress from the issue under discussion; otherwise the President shall remind them of the issue. Should the speaker fail to comply, the President may decide that his remarks shall not be recorded in the minutes. In the event of persistence, the President shall call him to order.

(4) Any speaker who refuses to leave the rostrum after having been requested to do so by the President may be called to order, with a record thereof, and where necessary, a vote of censure and temporary expulsion under the conditions provided for in the Standing Orders of the House to which he belongs.

**SECTION 27:** A verbatim report on each public sitting of the National Assembly and the Senate shall be prepared and published in the Official Gazette.

**CHAPTER V**  
**VOTING PROCEDURE AND PROXIES**

**I – VOTING PROCEDURE**



**SECTION 28:** (1) Voting by show of hand or by standing shall be the ordinary form of voting in the Congress.



(2) In case of doubt on the outcome of the vote by show of hand, a vote by standing shall be conducted. Should the doubt persist, an open ballot shall be conducted.

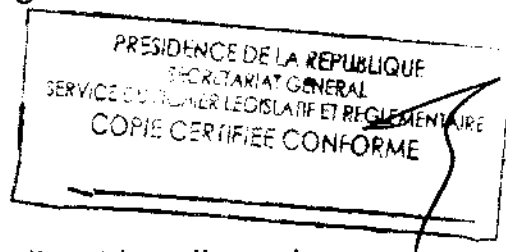
(3) No Member of the Congress may be given the floor during a vote or in between various ballots.

**SECTION 29:** (1) An ordinary open ballot or an open ballot on the rostrum shall be organized on the amendment of the Constitution.

(2) For the open ballot referred to in Subsection 1 above, green, red and yellow ballot papers shall be distributed to Members of the Congress. Each Member of the Congress shall insert in a ballot box presented to him by an usher, an envelope containing a green ballot paper if he is in favour of the proposal, a red ballot paper if he is against, or a yellow ballot paper if he abstains.

**SECTION 30:** (1) The President shall proclaim the results of the proceedings of the Congress by announcing:

- *"The Congress has adopted" or*
- *"The Congress has not adopted".*



(2) Rectification of vote shall not be allowed.

## II - PROXIES

**SECTION 31:** (1) Members of the Congress shall vote in person.

(2) However, Members of the Congress may give proxies in specific cases and under conditions specified by the Standing Orders of the House to which the proxy holders belong.

**CHAPTER VI**  
**MAINTAINING ORDER IN CONGRESS**

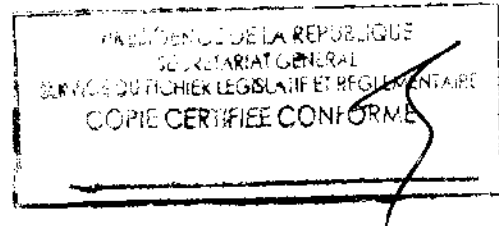
**SECTION 32:** (1) The President of the Congress shall maintain order in the Congress.

(2) Accordingly, he:

- shall ensure the safety of the Congress;
- may order any non-Member of the Congress causing disorder to be expelled from the plenary hall or to be arrested;
- request assistance from the forces of law and order and all other authorities as he deems necessary.

**SECTION 33:** Any personal attacks, disturbances or disruptive interruptions or heckling shall be prohibited.

**CHAPTER VII**  
**DISCIPLINE**



**SECTION 34:** Where a Member of the Congress violates any provision of these Standing Orders, he shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House to which he belongs.

**CHAPTER VIII**  
**FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE CONGRESS**

**SECTION 35:** The expenses ensuing from the proceedings of Congress shall be borne by the State Budget. They shall be managed by the President of the Congress.

**SECTION 36:** The Secretaries-General of both Houses of Parliament shall jointly produce Congressional budget forecasts.

**CHAPTER IX**  
**MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 37** : (1) These Standing Orders may be subject to amendment only at the behest of the Bureaus of both Houses, or on the recommendation of one third of Members of the National Assembly or Senators.

(2) The Standing Orders shall be adopted by an absolute majority of the members of both Houses.

(3) Prior to the implementation thereof and referral to the President of the National Assembly, the Constitutional Council shall rule independently on the constitutionality of the Standing Orders of the Congress of Parliament.

**SECTION 38** : The terms and conditions of implementation of these Standing Orders shall, as and when necessary, be specified by a joint order of the Bureaus of both Houses.

**SECTION 39** : This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

YAOUNDE, 09 SEP 2014

