



# International Day of Democracy

Parliamentary Conference on Democracy in Africa organized jointly  
by the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliament of Botswana  
**Gaborone, Botswana, 14 – 16 September 2009**



## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Monday 14 September

9 a.m. – 10.30 am

- ▶ Opening ceremony
  - Statement by the Hon. Patrick Balopi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana
  - Statement by Mrs Julia Dolly Joiner, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union
  - Statement by Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, President of the IPU
  - Keynote address on: *The fundamental principles of democracy: challenges to the realisation of these principles on the African continent. How can Parliaments respond to these challenges?* (Alpha Konare, Graça Machel/Sam Nujoma)
  - Opening speech by H.E. Lt Gen. Ian Khama Seretse Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana.

10.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.

Break

11.15 a.m. – 12.45 p.m

- ▶ Plenary Session I
  - *What does the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance say? Its relationship with the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.* Mr. Salin Latib, Democracy and Governance Coordinator, Department of Political Affairs, African Union and Advocate Pansy Tlakula, Chief Electoral Officer, South Africa, member African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

General debate on the Charter and the fundamental principles of democracy.

12.45 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch

2 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

- ▶ Plenary session II: Political tolerance and freedom of speech
  - *Building a culture of pluralism and tolerance in Africa: are there lessons to be learnt?* Mr. Yawovi Agboyibo, former Prime Minister of Togo
  - *Freedom of speech and democracy: the tension between party loyalty/discipline and conscience/service to constituents. To what extent should political parties influence the exercise of the parliamentary mandate?* Presentation of study by the IPU on the subject: by author of the study. Presentation by Dr Keith Jennings, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

**Tuesday 15 September**

- 9 a.m. – 12 30 p.m. ▶ Plenary session III: Inclusiveness in decision-making:
- *Rights, role and responsibilities of ruling/governing and opposition parties: how to promote a harmonious relationship between the two.* Mr. Yawovi Agboyibo, former Prime Minister of Togo
  - *Managing diversity: promoting gender partnership in political life; integrating minorities and other marginalised groups in the political mainstream:* Mrs. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda/ Speaker from Europe (Rama Yade, Secretary of State for Sports, France
  - *Botswana's experience in inclusiveness in the context of democracy.* Speaker to be designated by Botswana
- 12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m. *Lunch*
- 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. ▶ Public attitudes to democracy: release of findings of opinion survey on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy
- 3 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. ▶ Plenary session III continued: Inclusiveness in decision-making
- *Post-election power-sharing arrangements: panacea to political intolerance and exclusion?* Ms Thokozani Khupe, Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe
- 5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. ▶ Meeting of drafting committee of conference to finalise outcome document of conference

*Visit to a traditional Botswana Assembly to witness the decision-making process as from 4.30pm*

**Wednesday, 16 September**

- 9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. ▶ Plenary session IV: Driving the democracy agenda
- *Lessons learnt and challenges to be met. Role of parliaments in promoting the democracy agenda especially through the African Charter on Democracy. Possible partnerships and the way forward*
- 12.30 p.m. -2 p.m. *Lunch*
- 2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. ▶ Final plenary
- Adoption of outcome document (Gaborone Declaration)
  - Concluding remarks by representatives of the IPU and the host parliament