



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Managing the present and preparing for the future

High-level Conference of Speakers of Parliament on the role of transitional legislative institutions in restoring a sustainable constitutional order in West and Central Africa

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Transitional Parliament of Gabon and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) with the support of the European Union (EU) and its member states as part of the Team Europe Democracy (TED) initiative

5 and 6 May 2025, Léon Mba Palace, Libreville, Gabon

Libreville Declaration

We, Speakers and representatives of the parliaments of Chad, Gabon and Guinea, gathered in Libreville, Gabon, on 5 and 6 May 2025 for the High-level Conference of Speakers of Parliament on the role of transitional legislative institutions in restoring a sustainable constitutional order, organized by the Transitional Parliament of Gabon, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), in partnership with the European Union (EU) as part of the Team Europe Democracy (TED) initiative,

Acknowledging the considerable challenges facing our countries in navigating political transition processes,

Recalling that achieving stability is one such challenge for countries experiencing transitions in West and Central Africa,

Considering that the ongoing political transition processes are expressions of a profound need to rebuild the State and redefine the social contract that binds the State and its citizens,

Recalling that political transition processes should contribute not only to restoring a sustainable constitutional order but also to establishing and propagating governance practices that reassure citizens, thereby guaranteeing social peace,

Welcoming the progress made by our various legislative bodies as part of such processes, with the valuable support of the IPU and International IDEA,

Reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy, good governance, inclusivity, the rule of law and respect for human rights;

Pledge to build a future based on, and driven by, clear-sighted governance that genuinely addresses the legitimate expectations of citizens and protects their rights, noting that such a transformation requires the restoration of trust between the people and their institutions through transparent and participatory governance processes that give cause for hope;

Emphasize the crucial role of transitional legislative institutions in restoring constitutional order, in their capacity as guarantors of transparency, national dialogue and respect for the aspirations of the people, all of which are fundamental to social peace;

Resolve to continue executing our parliamentary mandates, and in particular to strengthen our legislative role by enacting laws appropriate to post-transition contexts and to voluntarily and responsibly exercise democratic oversight by facilitating mediation between citizens and the executive;

Pledge to promote political and social inclusion, and in particular the effective participation of women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized groups in institutional and decision-making processes, including by adopting legislative and incentive measures;

Emphasize the importance of ensuring that the transitional process prepares countries to hold free, fair and transparent elections and to establish effective, accountable and accessible institutions of governance, through the development and implementation of a strong legislative framework that ensures respect for the rights of all, the participation of all, and a secure, peaceful environment in which all voices can be heard;

Consider that, in order to achieve a peaceful and sustainable post-transition order, it is imperative to prevent electoral violence, combat disinformation, and restore and strengthen public trust in institutions;

Recognize that, as Speakers of transitional parliaments, we have a role to play in shaping opinion and a duty to prevent tensions through dialogue and mediation, and that a successful transition is an essential precondition for long-term stability;

Reaffirm our commitment to the protection of political rights, to diversity of opinion, to freedom of expression and to mutual respect among all sections of society as fundamental principles of open, resilient and tolerant societies in which everyone can contribute fully to public life without fear of repression or exclusion, which is the foundation of a vibrant democracy and of legitimate and accountable governance;

Also reaffirm our commitment to building strong, independent and effective post-transition parliaments with clear constitutional powers, adequate financial and human resources, and the institutional capacity to fully exercise their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative functions, and *pledge* to take all possible legislative and other measures, without delay, in order to support the achievement of this objective;

Recognize the importance of mainstreaming human rights in all current and future parliamentary actions, and of averting future security risks by fostering social cohesion and equitable development to build lasting peace;

Emphasize the importance of regional solidarity, including cooperation between parliaments and in particular between countries facing similar realities, through the sharing of experiences, mutual technical and political support, and a collective commitment to common values, all of which are essential to strengthening our respective processes and advancing democratic progress throughout Africa;

Welcome the constructive discussions held during this High-Level Conference, which provided a space for the sharing of insightful experiences on the drafting of laws, the building of post-transition parliaments and enhanced interaction with citizens.

Formally adopt this Declaration as an expression of our collective commitment to supporting our respective countries on the path to a democratic, stable and inclusive future founded on peace, regional solidarity and sustainable development.

We extend our sincere congratulations to **President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema** on his election to the highest office of Gabon and wish him every success in the exercise of his mandate.

We are thankful to the Transitional Parliament of Gabon for hosting this High-Level Conference and for the valuable lessons learned, which will enable us to consolidate the precious gains made during the transition process and lay the foundation for a brighter post-transition future.

We are grateful for the regional and national support received from the IPU, as well as for the technical support provided by International IDEA. We call for the continuation of these initiatives and express our wish to benefit from further such assistance, including the facilitation of regular meetings between transitional and post-transition parliaments, whether during IPU Assemblies or on other occasions as appropriate, which will serve as opportunities to strengthen cooperation, monitor and sustain progress, and intensify national-level technical and political support for parliamentary reform and institution-building efforts.

Libreville, 6 May 2025

The Participants