

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE

No. 1/2016 of 11 May 2016

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMEN PASSED IN 2009

The National Parliament resolves the following under the terms of Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic and Article 199 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Parliament:

TITLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 (Legal Nature and function)

The National Parliament shall be governed by these Rules of Procedure.

Article 2 (Headquarters)

1. The National Parliament has its headquarters in Dili.
2. Exceptionally, the National Parliament may meet in any other location in the national territory, provided that the Plenary so decides by an absolute majority of the elected Members.

TITLE II MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY BENCHES

CHAPTER I MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT

SECTION I MANDATE

Article 3 (Nature of mandate)

Members of the Parliament are representatives of all the people, regardless of the constituency for which they were elected.

**Article 4
(Mandate)**

1. The term of office of Members of the Parliament shall begin with the first meeting of the National Parliament after the election and end with the first meeting after the subsequent election, without prejudice to the suspension or individual termination of the mandate.
2. Members of the Parliament shall be replaced in sequential order of unelected candidate from the list to which the replacement belongs, in accordance with the electoral law.

**Article 5
(Temporary replacement)**

A Member who has to be absent for more than three consecutive days for serious reasons may, via the parliamentary benches to which he/she belongs, submit a request for an early statement of reasons for absences and for temporary replacement of the mandate pursuant to paragraph 2 of the previous article.

**Article 6
(Resignation from office)**

Members of the Parliament may resign by means of a reasoned written statement.

**Article 7
(Loss of mandate)**

1. A Member of the Parliament shall lose his/her seat when he/she:
 - a) Without justification, does not take up his/her seat in the National Parliament until the fifth plenary session or fails to attend five consecutive plenary sessions or committees and also when there are fifteen absences in-between for no good reason;
 - b) Is a member of a political party other than the one to which he/she was affiliated when elected;
 - c) Is sentenced to more than two years in prison for a felonious crime.
2. The loss of office shall be declared by the Bureau, once the facts that gave rise to it are proven.
3. The Member concerned shall have the right to be heard and to appeal against the decision of the Bureau to the Plenary Assembly, within ten days, and shall remain in office until its final deliberation by secret ballot.
4. An appeal, without suspensive effect, to the Supreme Court of Justice shall lie from a decision of the plenary confirming the declaration of loss of office.

**Article 8
(Immunities)**

1. Members of the Parliament shall not be held liable in civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings for votes or opinions they cast in the performance of their duties or for their account.
2. No Member may be arrested or detained on remand, except for a felonious crime punishable by imprisonment for more than five years, with the authorization of the National Parliament.
3. If there are criminal proceedings against a Member of the Parliament and he/she is definitively charged, the National Parliament shall decide whether or not the Member shall be suspended in order to continue the proceedings.

4. The suspension referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be requested by the competent judge in a document addressed to the National Parliament, the decision being taken by secret ballot and by an absolute majority of the Members present, preceded by the opinion of the competent committee.
5. The decision not to suspend a Member shall automatically have the effect of suspending the limitation periods, in relation to the subject matter provided for in criminal laws.

SECTION II

POWERS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT

Article 9 (Powers)

1. The following shall constitute powers of the Members of the Parliament, to be exercised individually or jointly, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure:
 - a) Submit proposals for constitutional revision;
 - b) Present bills of law, referendum, resolution and deliberation;
 - c) Submit proposals for amendments;
 - d) Request parliamentary consideration of legislative acts under Article 98 of the Constitution for the purposes of amendment or repeal;
 - e) Request the urgency for processing any bill or motion for a law or resolution, or draft resolution, and also the parliamentary consideration provided for in paragraph d);
 - f) Submit motions of censure to the Government;
 - g) Propose the establishment of any committees and the holding of public hearings;
 - h) Submit written requests to the Government or other public entities and obtain, in writing, all information he/she deems necessary and useful for the exercise of his/her mandate within thirty days;
 - i) Request the Supreme Court of Justice to declare rules unconstitutional, in accordance with Article 150(e) of the Constitution.
2. Requests submitted under paragraph 1(h) shall be numbered, published and referred by the President of the Parliament to the competent authority, which shall answer with the urgency that the question justifies.
3. To ensure proper exercise of their mandate, the following shall also constitute the powers of Members:
 - a) Take part in plenary and committees and speak in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
 - b) Vote;
 - c) Submit formal requests;
 - d) Propose amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

Article 10 (Duties of Members of the Parliament)

1. The duties of Members of the Parliament shall be to:
 - a) Appear punctually and participate in plenary sessions and committee meetings to which they belong;
 - b) Exercise the offices and functions for which they are appointed in the Parliament on a proposal from their respective parliamentary benches;

- c) Participate in the vote;
 - d) Sign the attendance register at the plenary or committees to which he/she belongs;
 - e) Give reasons for absences from any plenary sitting or committee meeting within five days of their occurrence.
2. It shall also be the duty of Members, when executing their functions, to:
- a) Respect the dignity of the Parliament and of the Members;
 - b) Observe the order and discipline laid down in the Rules of Procedure and to respect the authority of the President of the Parliament;
 - c) Contribute, through their conduct, to the efficiency and prestige of parliamentary business;
 - d) Comply with the Constitution and the law.

CHAPTER II PARLIAMENTARY BENCHES

Article 11 (Constitution and organization)

1. Elected Members of the Parliament, from party lists or coalitions of parties, may form parliamentary benches, irrespective of the existence of pre-electoral coalitions of parties.
2. Each parliamentary bench shall be constituted by a written communication addressed to the President of the Parliament, signed by its Members and indicating its President and Vice-Presidents, if any.
3. Any change in the composition of the benches shall be notified to the President of the Parliament.
4. The functions of President of the Parliament, and Vice- President or Member of the Bureau shall not be compatible with those of President of the parliamentary benches.
5. As far as possible, the benches shall be given necessary support services, in particular working offices.

Article 12 (Independent Members)

1. Members who do not sit on any parliamentary bench shall inform the President and shall exercise their mandate as independents.
2. Independent Members may not stand on parliamentary benches.

Article 13 (Powers and rights of Parliamentary Benches)

Each Parliamentary Bench has powers and rights to:

- a) Participate in committees according to the number of their members, and to appoint their representatives for that purpose;
- b) Be heard when the agenda is set and to determine the agenda for a number of plenary sittings;
- c) Ask the Standing Committee to convene Parliament;
- d) Take legislative initiative;
- e) Table motions to reject the Government's Program;
- f) Submit motions of censure to the Government;
- g) Be informed regularly and directly by the Government of the progress of the main issues of public interest, when agreed in advance between the Government and the parliamentary benches;
- h) Make interpellations to the Government;
- i) Request urgent debates.

TITLE III
ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

CHAPTER I
PRESIDENT AND BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

SECTION I
PRESIDENT

Article 14
(Statute)

1. The President shall represent the National Parliament, defend its rights and dignity, direct and coordinate its work impartially, and exercise authority over all officials, agents and security forces placed at the service of the Parliament.
2. The President shall replace the President of the Republic pursuant to Section 82(1) and Section 84(1) of the Constitution.
3. The President has the honor of representing the second Sovereignty Body.
4. The President shall be replaced, in his/her absence or inability to act, in rotation by one of the Vice Presidents.

Article 15
(Mandate)

1. The President shall be elected by the legislature.
2. The term of office shall be terminated by death, permanent incapacity, resignation or dismissal.
3. In the case provided for in the previous paragraph, a new election shall be held within a maximum of five days.
4. The election of the new President shall be valid for the remainder of the term of office.
5. The election of the new President shall be communicated to the President of the Republic and to the Prime Minister and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 16
(Election)

1. Candidates for the office of President of the National Parliament must be signed by a minimum of ten and a maximum of twenty Members of Parliament and shall be submitted to the incumbent President 24 hours in advance of the election.
2. The election of the President shall be by secret ballot in plenary session.
3. The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes of the elected Members shall be deemed elected.
4. If any of the candidates has not been elected, a new election shall be held immediately at the same meeting.
5. In the second round only the two candidates with the most votes who have not withdrawn their candidacy shall stand.

Article 16 - A
(Resignation)

The President may resign from office upon notification to Parliament, the resignation becoming effective immediately.

Article 16 - B
(Destitution)

1. The President may be removed from office by a secret ballot, which takes place in plenary session, for which the presence of more than half of the Members in effective office is required.
2. The request for removal from office, duly justified, shall be submitted in an application signed by at least ten Members, the vote on which must be scheduled for a plenary sitting to be held within no more than five days.
3. Removal from office shall be approved with the vote of an absolute majority of the Members in office.
4. Removal from office shall become effective immediately.

Article 17
(Powers of the President of the National Parliament)

1. Concerning the work of the Parliament, it is incumbent on the President to:
 - a) Chair the Bureau;
 - b) Mark plenary sittings and set the agenda in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, after consulting the Conference of Representatives of the parliamentary benches;
 - c) Organize plenary sittings;
 - d) Admit or reject bills and proposals for legislation or resolutions, draft resolutions and requests once they have been verified as being in order, without prejudice to the right of appeal to the Plenary;
 - e) Receive and forward to the competent committees the texts of bills or proposals for legislation and treaties, as well as the petitions addressed to the Parliament;
 - f) Maintain order, discipline and security of the Parliament;
 - g) Sign minutes of sessions and documents forwarded on behalf of the Parliament;
 - h) Inform the Parliament of messages, information and explanations addressed to it;
 - i) Promote publication of debates and all Parliament's proceedings and acts;
 - j) Convene and chair the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches;
 - k) Exercise other powers assigned to it by the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure and the Organic Law.
2. As for plenary meetings:
 - a) Chair plenary meetings, to declare their opening, suspension and closure and to direct their work;
 - b) Grant the floor to Members of Parliament and Members of Government and ensure the order of debates;
 - c) Grant permission for Members not to attend sittings;
 - d) In general, ensure compliance with the Rules of Procedure and with Parliament's deliberations.
3. The decisions of the President shall always be subject to appeal to the plenary.
4. Regarding Members:
 - a) Granting requests for temporary replacement;
 - b) Receive declarations of resignation from the office of Member of Parliament;
 - c) Judge the justifications for absences submitted by Members.
5. The President shall also be responsible for representing the National Parliament and for leading the representations and deportations of which he/she is a member.

SECTION II

TABLE

Article 18

(Desk)

The Bureau of Parliament shall comprise the President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and two Vice-Secretaries.

Article 19 °

(Election of Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Vice-Secretaries)

1. The Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Vice-Secretaries of the Bureau shall be elected by legislative term.
2. Nominations for the offices of Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries of the National Parliament shall be signed by a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve Members, by means of a closed, complete and nominative list.
3. Candidates for the offices provided for in the preceding paragraph must be submitted to the President of the Parliament no later than 24 hours before the date set for the election.
4. The election shall be held by secret ballot, ensuring as far as possible the proportional participation of the parliamentary benches represented in the Parliament in the composition of each competing list.
5. Candidates on the list who obtain an absolute majority of the votes of elected Members shall be deemed elected.
6. After the meeting, the President of Parliament shall announce the composition of the Bureau to the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister.

Article 20

(Termination of Mandate)

1. The term of office of a Bureau Member shall end upon death, permanent incapacity, resignation or removal from office.
2. In the case provided for in the previous paragraph, a new election shall be held to fill the vacant position within five days.
3. The election of the new Member of the Bureau shall be valid for the remaining period of the legislature.
4. The composition of the new Bureau shall be communicated to the President of the Republic and to the Prime Minister, and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 20-A

(Resignation)

A Member of the Bureau may resign by reasoned notice to Parliament, which shall take effect immediately.

Article 20-B

(Destitution)

1. A member of the Bureau may be removed from office in a secret ballot, which shall take place in plenary session and for which more than half of the Members in office shall be required to attend.
2. A request for removal from office, duly substantiated, shall be submitted in an application signed by at least eight Members, the vote on which must be scheduled for a plenary sitting to be held within no more than five days.

3. Removal from office shall be approved with the vote of an absolute majority of the Members in office and shall become effective immediately.

Article 21
(General powers of the Bureau)

It is incumbent on the Parliament's Bureau to:

- a) Declare the loss of mandate of any Member;
- b) Ensure the performance of the Plenary and Committee Support Services;
- c) Ensure that requests for information and official publications requested by Members are met;
- d) Draw up a biannual report on the progress of enforcement of laws and compliance with the deadlines of the respective regulations;
- e) Perform any other duties which are relevant to the proper performance of the work of Parliament.

Article 22
(Powers of Vice-Presidents)

1. Vice-Presidents shall, by rotation, take the place of the President if the latter is absent or indisposed; and if the Vice-Presidents are absent or indisposed, the oldest Member of the Parliament shall take the chair.
2. Vice-Presidents shall be responsible for making the necessary readings as requested by the President.
3. It is incumbent on the Vice-Presidents to carry out the duties of representing Parliament to which they are assigned by the President or others that the President delegates to them.

Article 23
(Powers of the Secretary)

It is incumbent on the Secretary to:

- a) Verify attendance at plenary meetings, to check at all times that there is a quorum and to record votes;
- b) Ordering the matters to be put to the vote;
- c) Organizing the registration of Members of Parliament and of Government members who wish to speak;
- d) Drawing up summary records of plenary meetings;
- e) Sign, on behalf of Parliament, correspondence sent by the President;
- f) Sign the minutes of plenary sittings, jointly with the President.

Article 24
(Powers of the Vice-Secretaries)

It is incumbent on the Vice-Secretaries to:

- a) Replace the Secretary in his/her absence or impediment;
- b) Act as tellers.

Article 25
**(Conference of Representatives of the
Parliamentary Benches)**

1. The Conference of Representatives of Parliamentary Benches shall be composed of the President of Parliament of the Parliament, the chairs of parliamentary benches, or their representatives, and a member of the Government.

2. The President shall meet with the chairs of parliamentary benches or their representatives to consider matters referred to in Articles 51 and 52 and other matters provided for in the Rules of Procedure, whenever he/she considers this necessary for the proper functioning of Parliament.
3. The Government shall have the right to be represented at the Conference and may speak on matters not exclusively concerning Parliament.

CHAPTER II COMMISSIONS

SECTION I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 26 (Standing committees and ad hoc committees)

1. The Parliament shall have standing committees and ad hoc committees.
2. The standing committees may, within the limits of their powers, set up subcommittees on a proposal from any of their Members.
3. The standing committees and ad hoc committees shall adopt their own rules of procedure within 15 days of the election of their Bureau.
4. The standing committee may not extend beyond the term of the parliamentary term during which it was set up.
5. Ad hoc committees may cease to exist:
 - a) By completion of their duties;
 - b) By the expiry of their term of office;
 - c) At the end of the parliamentary term, unless the Parliament decides otherwise.
6. An ad hoc committee which has not completed its task may request that its deadline be extended.

Article 27 (Composition)

1. The number of Members of each standing committee and its distribution to the various parliamentary benches shall be decided by Parliament, on a proposal from the President after consulting the Conference, at the beginning of each parliamentary term.
2. The seat on the committee shall belong to the parliamentary benches and the standing committees shall consist of Members appointed by their respective benches.
3. The composition of the standing committees shall, as far as possible, respect the proportional representation of the parliamentary benches in Parliament.
4. Members may be temporarily replaced by other Members of the same parliamentary bench, by reason of their absence or impediment, provided that they are duly authorized by that bench.
5. No Member may be appointed to more than one standing committee unless the benches, by reason of the number of their Members, are unable to have representatives on all the committees, in which case no more than two.
6. The limitation provided for in the preceding paragraph shall not apply to the Ethics Committee.

Article 28
(Absences from Committee meetings)

1. Members who, without justification, miss more than three meetings of their committee shall lose their seat on the committee during the current legislative session.
2. In the case referred to in the previous paragraph, the President of Parliament shall notify the relevant parliamentary committee to appoint another Member to the same committee within three days.
3. The Member whom he replaces may sit on another committee by appointing his parliamentary group, which shall be notified immediately to the President of Parliament.

Article 29
(Performance of duties)

1. Members shall be appointed to standing committees by parliamentary term.
2. A Member of Parliament's committee loses his/her seat if he/she:
 - a) Ceases to belong to the parliamentary bench for which he/she has been appointed;
 - b) Requests it;
 - c) Is replaced at any time on the committee by his/her parliamentary benches;
 - d) Ceases to attend three meetings of the committee for each parliamentary session, unless there are justified reasons.
3. It shall be incumbent on the committee chairperson to justify the absences of their Members.
4. Participation in parliamentary proceedings shall constitute grounds for justification.

SECTION II
STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 30
(Setting up and operation)

1. On a proposal from the Bureau, after consulting the Conference, the plenary shall decide whether to set up standing committees within five days of the formation of parliamentary benches.
2. The name, number and allocation of powers of standing committees shall be defined in the resolution referred to in the previous paragraph.

Article 31
(Election of the Bureau)

1. At the beginning of each parliamentary term and within five days of the appointment of its Members, each committee shall meet, under the temporary chairmanship of the eldest Member, to set up its work and elect its chairman, vice-chairman and secretary.
2. Committee bureau shall, as far as possible, be distributed in such a way as to ensure the proportional representation of parliamentary benches in Parliament.
3. A Member of a committee may at any time request a new election of the Bureau, provided that this is duly justified.

Article 32
(Powers of committee chairperson)

1. It is incumbent on the committee chairperson to:
 - a) Order and direct the work of the committee;
 - b) Inform the committee on all matters received;
 - c) Appoint the members of subcommittees from among the members of the committee and to determine their composition;
 - d) Resolve questions of order and discipline;
 - e) Promote publication of meeting minutes;
 - f) Invite, by means of deliberation of the committee, technicians or specialists and representatives of civil society entities to be heard according to the matter;
 - g) Appoint rapporteurs.
2. When the Chairperson acts as rapporteur, he/she shall transmit the Chair to the Vice-Chairperson while he/she discusses or votes on the matter he/she reports on.

Article 33
(Powers of the Secretary)

It is incumbent on the Secretary of the Committee to:

- a) Sign, together with the chairperson, the minutes of the committee and other general documents;
- b) Record and report on correspondence at each session;
- c) Receive the votes, make ballots, and report on results;
- d) Prepare and distribute the committee agenda 24 hours in advance.

Article 34
(Report and rapporteurs)

1. The reports shall contain, as far as possible, the following data:
 - a) Brief analysis of the facts, situations and realities that respect the committee;
 - b) A historical outline of the problems raised;
 - c) Legal or doctrinal framework of the subject under discussion;
 - d) Predictable consequences of the approval of the normative law in question and of any charges with its application;
 - e) Reference to the contributions received from the entities that have an interest in the matters under consideration;
 - f) Conclusions and opinion;
 - g) Summary position of the parliamentary benches in relation to the matter under consideration.
2. The reports shall indicate the initiative or subject matter and shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and the rapporteur or rapporteurs.
3. The chairperson may appoint one or more rapporteurs for each subject to be referred to the Plenary, and may also appoint a rapporteur for each of the parties concerned, where the subject under consideration advises such division of labor.
4. The content of the report shall be the responsibility of the rapporteur.
5. Only the conclusions, recommendations and opinion of the report may be amended and voted on by the committee.

Article 35
(Powers of standing committees)

It is incumbent on the Standing Committees to:

- a) Discuss and give opinions on bills and proposals for legislation, and proposals for amendments and treaties submitted to the Parliament;
- b) Consider petitions addressed to the Parliament;
- c) Be aware of the political and administrative problems that fall within its scope and provide Parliament, when it deems it appropriate, with the elements necessary for the assessment of Government acts;
- d) Hold public hearings with civil society entities;
- e) Summon any members of Public Administrative bodies to provide information on matters inherent to their duties.

SECTION III
AD HOC COMMITTEES

Article 36
(Setting up)

1. The Parliament may set up ad hoc committees for any specific purpose.
2. The initiative to set up ad hoc committees may be exercised by at least ten Members or by the parliamentary benches.
3. Ad hoc committees may invite experts to assist them when the nature of the matter is relevant.

Article 37
(Powers of ad hoc committees)

It is incumbent on ad hoc committees to consider the matters which they are set up for, submitting their reports and opinions within the time limits laid down by the Parliament.

CHAPTER III
STANDING COMMITTEE

Article 38
(Functioning)

The Standing Committee of the National Parliament shall function during the period in which the Parliament is dissolved, in the intervals of the sessions and in the other cases provided for in the Constitution.

Article 39
(Composition)

The Standing Committee shall consist of the President of the Parliament, who shall preside, the Vice-Presidents and Members appointed by all political parties, in accordance with their representativeness in the Parliament, according to Article 102 of the Constitution.

Article 40
(Powers)

It is incumbent on the Standing Committee to:

- a) Monitor the activities of the Government and the Administration;
- b) Coordinate the activities of the Committees of Parliament;
- c) Promote the convening of the Parliament whenever necessary;
- d) Prepare and organize plenary sessions of the Parliament;
- e) Give consent for the President of the Republic to travel under the terms of Article 80 of the Constitution;
- f) Direct relations between the National Parliament and Parliaments and similar institutions of other countries;;
- g) Authorize the declaration of a state of siege and a state of emergency;
- h) Authorize the declaration of war and the making of peace;
- i) Exercise the powers of Parliament in relation to the mandate of its Members, without prejudice to the powers of the President and the committee responsible for the matter;
- j) Prepare for the opening of the plenary sitting;
- k) Coordinate the functioning of committees during periods of suspension of the legislative session, if this is necessary for the smooth running of their work;
- l) decide on complaints about inaccuracies in the final text of Parliament's decrees and resolutions.

TITLE IV
OPERATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT

CHAPTER I
MEETINGS

SECTION I
LEGISLATURE AND LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Article 41
(First plenary session)

1. The first plenary meeting of the Parliament after the elections shall be scheduled by the outgoing President of the Parliament within fifteen days of the official publication of results.
2. The outgoing President of the Parliament, if elected, shall chair the first meeting until the new President of the National Parliament is elected.
3. If the outgoing President of the Parliament has not been elected, the Parliament shall meet under the temporary chairpersonship of the oldest Member.

Article 42
(Committee of verification of credentials)

1. The powers of Members shall be verified by the National Parliament through the Parliamentary Committee expressly created for that purpose by means of deliberation.
2. The Committee shall consist of elected representatives of all parties in accordance with the principle of proportionality, with the chairperson elected from among its members.

Article 43
(Oath of Members)

1. After verification of their powers, upon taking office, Members of the Parliament shall take the oath in the following terms: *"I swear by God, by the People and by my honor, to faithfully fulfill the functions in which I am invested, to fulfill and enforce the Constitution and the Law, and to devote all my energy and capacity to the defense and consolidation of national independence, unity and integrity."*
2. The oath shall be administered by the President-in-Office.

Article 44
(Legislature)

The term of the legislature shall be five years and, in the event of dissolution, the elected National Parliament shall start a new legislature, the duration of which shall be increased by the time necessary to complete the period corresponding to the legislative session in progress on the date of the election, in accordance with the provisions of Article 99(5) of the Constitution.

Article 45
(Legislative session)

1. The legislative session shall last one year, beginning on September 15 and ending on September 14 of the following year.
2. The normal session of the National Parliament shall begin on 15 September and end on 15 July, without prejudice to the period of suspension of Christmas, between 23 December and 2 January of the following year, and to the suspensions that Parliament shall decide by a two-thirds majority of the elected Members.

Article 46
(Hours of Plenary Sessions and Committees)

1. Functioning of the sessions:
 - a) Plenary meetings are held on Mondays and Tuesdays;
 - b) Committee meetings are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays;
 - c) Members' contacts with voters and meetings of the benches and interchanges are held on Fridays.
2. The normal opening hours of Parliament shall be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and shall be divided into two periods, one in the morning and one in the afternoon from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. respectively.
3. Meetings shall be held 15 minutes apart, from 10.45 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and from 4.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. in the afternoon.
4. The plenary may decide to extend the sittings for a fixed period, on a proposal from the President or at the request of any Member.

Article 47
(Quorum)

1. The Parliament shall begin its work in plenary with at least one-third of its Members in office present.
2. Plenary deliberations shall be taken in the presence of more than half of its Members in full exercise of their office.

3. Once the President has established that there is a quorum for the operation or deliberation, the Members shall be called to the Plenary and, if this quorum has not been established, absences shall be recorded for the purposes laid down in the general system of absences, and the session shall be immediately closed.
4. Members may, at any time, request the President to verify the quorum.
5. Standing Committees shall operate with the presence of at least three members and shall deliberate with more than half of their members in office.

Article 48

(Convening outside the normal period of operation)

Outside the period indicated in Article 45(2), Parliament may operate by plenary resolution, extending the normal period of operation, on the initiative of the Standing Committee, or when compelling reasons of national interest so justify, at the request of the President of the Republic, pursuant to Article 86(d) of the Constitution.

Article 49

(Extraordinary committee meeting)

1. Outside the normal period of operation of Parliament and during suspensions, any committee may operate if this is essential for the proper conduct of its business and if Parliament so decides in advance, on a proposal from the committee.
2. The President of the Parliament may convene any committee for the 15 days preceding the start of the legislative session in order to prepare its work.

Article 50

(Suspension of plenary sittings)

1. During the effective functioning of Parliament, it may decide to suspend its plenary meetings for committee work.
2. The suspension may not exceed ten days.

SECTION II

PERIOD BEFORE THE AGENDA AND PERIOD OF THE AGENDA

Article 51

(Period before the agenda)

1. There shall be a period from before the agenda to:
 - a) Read announcements or information which the President considers pertinent, after hearing the Conference of Representatives of the parliamentary benches;
 - b) Read and consider plenary session summaries;
 - c) Read and consider reports from representations and Members of the Parliament;
 - d) Discuss and approve votes of congratulation, greeting, sympathy, protest or regret proposed by the Bureau, the benches or Members;
 - e) Hold of emergency debates;
 - f) Political statements.

2. The period before the agenda shall normally be one hour, which may be extended by two hours in the case referred to in paragraph 1(e), the time being fixed by the Conference.
3. The President, having heard the Conference, shall be responsible for organizing the period before the agenda in accordance with paragraph 1.

Article 52

(Sequence of items to be considered in setting the agenda)

When setting the agenda for plenary sittings, the President shall give priority to matters according to the following precedence:

1. Suspension of constitutional guarantees and the declaration of a state of siege and a state of emergency, in accordance with Article 25 of the Constitution, and authorization to declare war and make peace.
2. Matters of the Rules of Procedure of the National Parliament.
3. Discussion of proposals and bills in the following order:
 - a) Consideration of draft laws of the State Plan and Budget;
 - b) Discussion of laws and treaties on matters that constitute an absolute reserve of legislative powers of the National Parliament;
 - c) Consideration of Decree-Laws approved in the use of legislative authorization;
 - d) Discussion of laws and treaties.
4. Matters of supervision and other political content, under the following terms:
 - a) Elections and ratification of nominations;
 - b) Authorization for the President of the Republic to carry out State Visit;
 - c) Consideration of the Government Program;
 - d) Voting on motions of rejection, votes of confidence or censorship of the Government;
 - e) Deliberation on the Government report of activities;
 - f) Deliberation on State Plan and Budget execution report.

Article 53

(Right of parliamentary benches to set the agenda)

1. Each parliamentary bench of the political parties not represented in government shall have the right to set the agenda for one plenary session at each legislative session.
2. The exercise of this right shall be announced to the President in a Conference by the fifteenth day of each month at the latest, so that it may take effect the following month.
3. If the draft is immediately adopted in general, the parliamentary benches or its author shall have the right to obtain a vote in the specifics and final overall vote within a maximum of thirty days.

Article 54

(Setting of the agenda)

1. The agenda shall be set by the President of Parliament, after consulting the Conference, in accordance with the priorities set out in the Rules of Procedure.
2. An appeal to the plenary shall lie from the President's decisions setting the agenda, who shall take a final decision.

3. The agenda shall be distributed to Members at least 24 hours in advance and shall be made public by means of a notice board in the Parliament building.
4. The plenary may, at any time, decide to delete an item from the agenda.

Article 55

(Priority to Government request)

1. The Government may request priority for discussion of matters of national interest for urgent resolution.
2. The President of Parliament shall decide on the granting of priority after consulting the Conference.

Article 56

(Urgent debates)

1. Parliamentary benches and the Government may, provided that this is justified, request the President to hold emergency debates.
2. Urgent debates shall be held within seven working days of the approval of the Conference.

SECTION III

USE OF THE FLOOR

Article 57

(Speech by Members)

1. The floor shall be given to Members to:
 - a) Speak during the period before the agenda;
 - b) Participate in the debate;
 - c) Present bills of law, resolution or deliberation;
 - d) Exercise the right to defend the honor and consideration and defend the good name of the party;
 - e) Lodge appeals;
 - f) Ask for or give clarifications;
 - g) File complaints and protests;
 - h) Formulate explanations of vote.
2. Speaking is in accordance with the order of registration.

Article 58

(Length of speeches)

1. Speaking time may not exceed five minutes the first time and three minutes the second time.
2. The author or authors of the bill or draft law or resolution shall have the right to speak for fifteen minutes for its presentation, and the rapporteur, if any, has the right to ten minutes to present the respective report and opinion.
3. In the case of a discussion in the specifics, the maximum speaking time is three minutes the first time and one minute the second.

Article 59

(Speech by Bureau members)

If members of the Bureau wish to take the floor and participate actively in the work of the Plenary Assembly, they shall be replaced in the course of their duties and may not resume their duties until the end of the debate or the vote, if one takes place.

Article 60
(Address by members of the Government)

The floor is given to members of the Government to:

- a) Submit proposals for legislation and resolutions;
- b) Participate in debates;
- c) Answer Members' questions on any acts of the Government or Public Administration;
- d) Respond to requests for clarification.

Article 61
(Declaration of vote)

1. Parliamentary benches and Members shall be entitled, after the final vote, to give an oral or written explanation of vote.
2. The maximum duration of the oral explanation of vote shall be one minute.

Article 62
(Point of order)

1. The point of order shall be referred to the Rules of Procedure or the Agenda.
2. The point of order shall interrupt the sequence of entries, with the exception of the vote.
3. The Member who is invoking the Rules of Procedure shall state the reasons for the request and indicate which rule has been infringed.
4. A point of order may not interrupt a speaker's speaking time.
5. The point of order shall not exceed one minute.

Article 63
(Speaking time)

1. The floor may be taken only when it has been given by the President of the Bureau and in accordance with the rules of good manners.
2. The speaker may not be interrupted unless he/she deviates from the subject under discussion, in which case he/she shall be warned by the President, who may cut him off if he/she persists in his/her attitude.
3. The Chairperson may order the removal of indecorous remark from the minutes of plenary meetings.

Article 64
(Defense of honor and consideration)

1. Whenever a Member of Parliament or a member of the Government considers that offensive expressions of honor or consideration have been uttered, he/she may, in order to defend himself/herself, speak for not more than three minutes.
2. The author of the expressions considered offensive may give explanations, for a time not exceeding three minutes.
3. The President shall take note of the request for defense of honor and consideration, to give the floor and explanations after the end of the current debate, without prejudice to granting it immediately when he considers that the situation in particular warrants it.

Article 65
(Misuse of the floor)

1. The President of the Bureau shall warn the speaker in the use of the word if it has, among others, the following behaviors:
 - a) leaving the agenda or the subject under discussion;
 - b) exceeding the time allotted to him;
 - c) speaking without authorization;
 - d) offending the decorum of Parliament and its Members;
 - e) using improper, insulting or morally offensive language;
 - f) insulting and threatening the physical or moral integrity of any Member.
2. If the speaker persists in his/her behavior, the President of the Bureau may cut him off until the end of the sitting, without prejudice to any legal proceedings to which the conduct may give rise.

Article 66
(Appeals)

1. Any Member may appeal to the plenary against decisions of the President or the Bureau.
2. A Member who has appealed may speak to explain the reasons for the appeal for a maximum period of three minutes.
3. In the event of an appeal by more than one Member, only one of the presenters, whether or not they belong to the same parliamentary bench, may speak in the grounds of the appeal.
4. Where there are several appeals having the same subject-matter, only one Member from each of the benches to which the appellants belong may take part in the statement of grounds.

CHAPTER II
DELIBERATIONS AND VOTES

Article 67
(General rule)

1. Decisions shall be taken by a plurality of votes, in the presence of more than half of the elected Members, except in the cases provided for in the Rules of Procedure or in the Constitution.
2. Abstentions shall not count for the establishment of the majority.

Article 68
(Voting)

1. Each Member shall have one vote.
2. A Member present may not fail to vote, without prejudice to the right to abstain.
3. Voting by correspondence or proxy shall not be permitted.

Article 69
(Forms of voting)

1. The vote shall take one of the following forms:
 - a) Ordinary vote;
 - b) Roll-call vote;
 - c) A secret ballot.
2. Voting by acclamation is not permitted.

Article 70
(Ordinary vote)

1. Ordinary voting is the usual form of deliberation in Parliament and consists of asking who votes in favor, who votes against and who abstains.
2. Voting shall be by show of hands.

Article 71
(Roll-call vote)

1. There shall be roll-call votes in the following cases:
 - a) Authorization of the declaration of a state of siege and state of emergency;
 - b) Authorization of the declaration of war or the making of peace.
2. On any other matters there shall be a roll-call vote, when the Plenary so decides, at the request of ten Members.
3. Voting by roll call shall be in alphabetical order of the political parties sitting in Parliament.

Article 72
(Voting by secret ballot)

Voting by secret ballot shall take place only in elections or deliberations which, according to the Rules of Procedure or the Members' Statute, must take this form, or when the plenary so decides, at the request of ten Members.

Article 73
(Tie vote)

1. If the vote produces a tie, the subject matter shall be discussed before being put to another vote.
2. A tie on the second vote shall be tantamount to rejection.

Article 74
(Setting the time for voting)

1. Voting on bills or proposals for legislation or resolutions shall take place immediately after they are discussed.
2. Without prejudice to the preceding paragraph, the President, having heard the conference, may set the time for voting on bills or resolutions, which must be announced in advance.
3. If the time set for the debate has not yet been concluded, the President shall set a new time for the vote.

Article 75
(Voting on proposed amendments)

Voting on amendments shall take place in the following order:

- a) Proposals for deletion, i.e. those intended to delete the provision under discussion;
- b) Amendments, i.e. those which, while retaining part of the text under discussion, restrict, extend or alter its meaning;
- c) Replacement proposals, i.e. those that contain a provision other than the one presented;
- d) Proposals for addition, i.e., those that, while retaining the primitive text and its meaning, contain the addition of new material.

CHAPTER III COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Article 76 (Convening and agenda)

1. The meetings of each committee shall be convened by its chairman in accordance with these Rules of Procedure.
2. The agenda shall be set by each committee or its chairman after hearing the members of the committee.
3. At the request of a majority of the members of the committee, the chairman shall include on the agenda the agenda proposed by the requesting Members and shall convene the meeting.
4. The agenda of the meetings shall be distributed one day in advance to the members of the committee and to the member of the government responsible for parliamentary affairs.

Article 77 (Collaboration or presence of other Members, Government members and advisers)

1. Any Member may attend meetings of committees which he or she does not belong to and, if the committee so authorizes, take part in their work without voting rights.
2. Members of the Government may request to be heard at committee meetings.
3. Parliamentary bench advisers may attend committee meetings.

Article 78 (Participation of advisers and technicians)

1. The committees may request the participation in their work of consultants, technicians and members of civil society organizations, experts in the legislative field under consideration, without voting rights.
2. The arrangements provided for in this Rule shall be made through the chairman of the committee and shall be brought to the attention of the President of Parliament.

Article 79 (Powers of committee)

The committees may take any steps necessary to carry out their duties properly, in particular:

- a) Carry out studies;
- b) Request information or opinions;
- c) Request statements from any citizens;
- d) Hold public hearings;
- e) Request and hire specialists to assist in their work, provided that they are authorized to do so by the President and by a resolution of Parliament's plenary;
- f) Carry out fact-finding or study missions.

Article 80 (Public hearings)

1. The committees may hold public hearings with public and civil society entities to discuss legislative matters under consideration, as well as to deal with matters of relevant public interest relating to their area of activity.

2. The decision to hold public hearings shall be the exclusive competence of the commission, which shall decide by an absolute majority of the Members present through an ordinary vote.

Article 81
(Minutes of the Committees)

Minutes shall be drawn up and approved of each committee meeting, indicating attendance and absences, a summary of the matters dealt with, the debates, the positions of the Members and the result of the votes, with their explanations of vote.

Article 82
(Quarterly report of proceedings of committees)

The committees shall report to Parliament on the progress of their work on a quarterly basis by means of reports presented in plenary and published in the Official Journal of Parliament.

Article 83
(Technical support)

The work of each committee shall be supported by administrative staff and appropriate technical advice, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the Organic Law of Parliament.

Article 84
(Application of plenary rules to committees)

The same rules as for Parliament's plenary meetings shall apply to committee business, with appropriate adjustments.

CHAPTER IV
PUBLICITY OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTS

Article 85
(Public nature of plenary meetings)

1. The plenary meetings of Parliament shall be public.
2. Anyone may attend sittings in the places designated for that purpose, provided that they are unarmed and remain silent, without giving any sign of applause or disapproval of what is happening at them.

Article 86
(Publicity of committee meetings)

Committee meetings are public if they so decide.

Article 87
(National Parliament Gazette)

The official newspaper of the Parliament is the National Parliament Journal.

Article 88
(Agenda and Newsletter)

For the information of Members, the press and the general public, the Bureau shall promote:

- a) The distribution, before each plenary meeting, of the agenda for the day and a newsletter on parliamentary activities.
- b) The annual publication, in special editions, of reports drawn up within the various parliamentary committees.

Article 89
(Publication of acts of Parliament)

1. Acts of Parliament which, according to the law, must be published in the Official Gazette, shall be referred to the National Press by the President of Parliament as soon as possible.
2. Any Member of Parliament or Parliamentary bench may request the rectification of texts of published acts, which shall be considered by the President and, once approved, after hearing the Bureau, shall be forwarded to the National Press within a period of time compatible with the legally prescribed for publication.

TITLE V
PROCESS FORMS

CHAPTER I
COMMON LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

SECTION I
INITIATIVE

Article 90
(Power of initiative)

The initiative for law lies with the Members of Parliament, the parliamentary benches and the Government.

Article 91
(Forms of initiative)

1. The original initiative of the law takes the form of a draft bill when it is exercised by Members and parliamentary benches and a proposed bill when it is exercised by the Government.
2. The initiative under consideration shall take the form of a proposal for amendment.

Article 92
(Limits)

1. Draft and proposed bills or amendments that violate the Constitution or the principles enshrined in it and that do not specifically define the meaning of the changes to be made to the legislative order shall not be admitted.
2. Draft and proposed bills definitively rejected may not be renewed at the same legislative session.

Article 93
(Special limit of the initiative)

Members and parliamentary benches may not submit bills or proposals for amendments involving, in the current economic year, an increase in expenditure or a decrease in State revenue provided for in the Budget or Amending Budgets.

Article 94
(Renewal of the initiative)

1. Draft and proposed bills not voted on at the legislative session at which they were presented shall not need to be renewed at subsequent legislative sessions unless the term of the legislature is over.
2. Proposed bills shall lapse upon resignation of the Government or upon the end of the respective legislative term.

Article 95

(Admission and cancellation of the initiative)

1. Any legislative initiative shall be numbered and, after verification of the legal requirements the President shall make an order for admission to and referral from the committee responsible, if appropriate, and announce this in plenary.
2. If any draft or proposed bill or amendment is admitted, its authors may withdraw it until the general vote.

Article 96

(Exercise of the legislative initiative)

1. No bill may be signed by more than ten Members.
2. Proposals for legislation shall be signed by the Prime Minister and Ministers in charge of the matter, mentioning that they have been approved in the Council of Ministers.

Article 97

(Emergency procedure)

1. Any draft or proposed bill or resolution may be the object of an urgent procedure.
2. The initiative for the urgent procedure shall lie with the Members of Parliament, the parliamentary benches or the Government.
3. The request for urgency shall be referred to the committee responsible, which shall consider it within 24 hours and draw up a reasoned opinion.
4. Once the opinion has been drawn up, the plenary shall decide on the urgency and the debate shall be organized by the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches.

Article 98

(Formal requirements of bills and draft laws)

1. Draft and proposed bills shall:
 - a) Be drafted in any official language, the text in Portuguese being the authentic basic text in relation to the other language versions, and Members may express themselves in any working language;
 - b) Be drawn up in the form of articles, possibly divided into paragraphs and subparagraphs;
 - c) Have a title which translates its main object;
 - d) Be preceded by a brief justification or explanatory statement.
2. The requirement referred to in subparagraph d) of the previous paragraph implies, with regard to the proposals of bill and to the extent possible, the presentation of a preamble containing the following requirements:
 - a) A description of the social, economic and financial situations to which it applies;
 - b) A brief account of the benefits and consequences of its application;
 - c) A summary of the legislation in force on the subject.
3. Draft and proposed bills that do not fulfil the requirements provided for in paragraph 1(a) and (d) shall not be accepted.
4. Non-compliance with any of the requirements provided for in subparagraphs b) and c) of paragraph 1 shall imply the need for their supply within five days.

Article 99
(Appeal)

1. When a draft or proposed bill has been admitted and distributed to the committee responsible for the matter for general consideration, or its admission has been rejected, the President shall announce this to Parliament.
2. Until the end of the next plenary sitting, any Member may appeal to the plenary against the President's decision by written reasoned request.
3. The President shall refer the matter to the plenary for a decision.
4. The appeal shall be read and put to the vote. Each Member may speak for not more than three minutes.

Article 100
(Draft resolutions and motions for resolutions)

The rules set out in this section shall apply to drafts and proposals for resolutions and deliberations, adapted as necessary.

SECTION II
INITIAL ASSESSMENT IN COMMITTEE

Article 101
(Submission of drafts and proposals for legislation)

1. Once any draft or proposed bill has been admitted and copies distributed to the parliamentary benches, the President shall, by order, refer the text to the committee responsible for the matter for consideration and drafting of a report and opinion.
2. If the committee considers it has no power on the matter, it shall immediately inform the President of Parliament so that he/she can reconsider the relevant order.
3. The Parliament may set up an ad hoc committee to consider a draft or a proposed bill where its importance and expertise so warrant.

Article 102
(Labor law)

In the case of labor legislation, the commission shall promote the examination of the draft or proposed bill by the trade unions or employers' organizations and the Government, setting a deadline for the purposes of Article 80.

Article 103
(Deadline for initial consideration of the initiative in commission)

1. The committee shall deliver its opinion by means of a report stating the reasons for its opinion within the time limit set by the President.
2. The committee may ask the President of Parliament to extend the time limit by means of a reasoned request.
3. Failure to submit a report and opinion within the time limit shall not prevent the initiative from being scheduled for general discussion and vote in plenary.

Article 104
(Draft Bills or proposed Bills on the same subject)

If other draft or proposed bills on the same subject are presented, the committee may consider them together.

**SECTION III
GENERAL DISCUSSION AND VOTING IN PLENARY**

**Article 105
(Start of discussion)**

1. The general discussion focuses on the principles and system of each draft or proposed bill.
2. The discussion includes the presentation of the initiative by its author, for a period of fifteen minutes, the presentation of the conclusions of the report and opinion by the rapporteur, for a period of ten minutes, and a question and answer session.
3. The discussion may be shortened or extended by decision of the President after consulting the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches.

**Article 106
(Minimum period before the general debate)**

The draft or proposed bills may not be debated in general until seven days have elapsed from the date of their admission, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 97.

**Article 107
(Voting)**

1. The general vote is on each draft or proposed bill.
2. Approved in general, the draft or proposed bill may be referred back to the committee responsible for the matter for consideration and vote in the specifics.

**SECTION IV
EXPERT JUDGEMENT IN COMMITTEE**

**Article 108
(Specific debate and vote)**

1. The matters referred to in Article 95(2) and (3) of the Constitution shall be submitted for discussion and vote in plenary session.
2. The Plenary may decide, at the request of one or more Members, that the discussion and vote in the specifics of a draft or proposed bill dealing with the matters referred to in the foregoing paragraph shall take place the committee, without prejudice to the provisions of Chapter VII.

**Section 109
(Discussion)**

1. The discussion in the specifics shall cover each article, without prejudice to the following paragraph.
2. There shall be no discussion of an article in the specifics if no proposal for amendment is tabled.

**Article 110
(vote)**

The specific vote may relate to each article, paragraph, or point.

SECTION V
OVERALL FINAL VOTE AND FINAL WORDING

Article 111
(Overall final vote)

1. Once the specific voting in plenary has been completed, the final overall vote shall take place.
2. If adopted in committee, the text shall be sent to the plenary for a final global vote.

Article 112
(Final wording)

1. The final drafting of approved bills and proposed bills shall be the responsibility of the committee responsible or, if more than one committee has given its opinion on the matter, of that which the President shall determine, within a maximum period of five days.
2. The committee may not change the legislative thinking but shall merely improve the systematization of the text and its style through deliberation.
3. At the end of its final drafting, the text shall be forwarded to the President of Parliament.

Article 113
(Complaints)

1. Members may complain to the President of the Parliament against inaccuracies in the text until the start of the second plenary meeting following the committee's deliberations pursuant to paragraph 2 of the previous Rule.
2. The President of Parliament shall take a decision within 24 hours and the complaining Members may appeal to the plenary immediately after the decision has been announced.
3. A decree shall be deemed to be the text on which no complaint has been lodged or after it has been decided.

SECTION VI
PROMULGATION AND PUBLICATION

Article 114
(Enactment)

Decrees, once signed by the President of Parliament, shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment and publication.

SECTION VII
RE-EXAMINATION

Article 115
(Re-examination process)

1. In the event of the President of the Republic exercising a veto under the terms of Article 88(1) of the Constitution, the decree shall be re-examined within ninety days of receipt of the reasoned message at a meeting scheduled by the President of Parliament, on his own initiative, at the request of ten Members of Parliament or the parliamentary benches.
2. Only the authors of the bill or proposal and one Member from each parliamentary bench shall take part in the general discussion.
3. The general vote is on the confirmation of the Parliament decree.

4. There shall be a special debate if, by the end of the general debate, proposals for amendments have been tabled, and the vote shall only be on the articles which are the subject of the proposals for amendments.
5. A text which is unchanged in the second deliberation need not be referred back to committee for final drafting.

Article 116
(Effects of re-examination)

1. If Parliament confirms the vote by an absolute majority of the elected Members, pursuant to Article 88(2) of the Constitution, the President of the Republic shall enact the statute within eight days.
2. A two-thirds majority of the Members present shall be required, provided that it is higher than an absolute majority of the Members elected, for the confirmation of diplomas on matters provided for in Article 95 of the Constitution.
3. If Parliament introduces amendments, the new decree shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment.
4. If the vote is not confirmed, the legislative initiative cannot be renewed in the same legislative session, unless the National Parliament is elected again.

Article 117
(Veto for unconstitutionality)

1. In the event of a veto by the President of the Republic pursuant to Article 149 of the Constitution, the provisions of Rules 115 and 116 of the Rules of Procedure and 88 of the Constitution shall apply, subject to the exceptions contained in this Article.
2. Voting in general may concern the expulsion of the rule or rules deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Justice or the confirmation of the decree.
3. The text that in the second deliberation has been subject to purging of rules judged unconstitutional returns to the commission for final drafting.
4. If Parliament purges rules deemed unconstitutional or confirms the decree, it shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment within eight days.

CHAPTER II
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

SECTION I
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF SIEGE OR EMERGENCY

Article 118
(Meeting of Parliament)

1. If the President of the Republic requests authorization from Parliament to declare a state of siege or emergency pursuant to Rule 85(g) of the Constitution, the President of Parliament shall arrange for its immediate consideration by Parliament's plenary or by the Standing Committee.
2. The inclusion on the agenda of the consideration of the request for authorization, and the appointment of Parliament's plenary or the convening of the Standing Committee, shall precede any time-limit or formality laid down in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 119

(Debate)

1. The debate shall be based on the message from the President of the Republic requesting authorization for the declaration of a state of siege or emergency.
2. The debate shall not exceed one day, and the Prime Minister shall be entitled to speak for 60 minutes as a matter of priority and one Member for each parliamentary bench for 30 minutes each.
3. The meeting shall not be held before the agenda.
4. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis to the discussion in the Standing Committee.

Article 120

(Voting and form of authorization)

1. The vote shall cover the granting of authorization.
2. Authorization shall take the form of a law when granted by the Plenary of Parliament and a resolution when granted by the Standing Committee.
3. Authorization, when granted by the Standing Committee, shall be confirmed by Parliament at its first plenary meeting.

SECTION II

DECLARATION OF WAR AND MAKING PEACE

Article 121

(Meeting of Parliament)

1. If the President of the Republic requests authorization from Parliament or the Standing Committee to declare war or make peace, pursuant to Rule 85(h) of the Constitution, the President of Parliament shall promote the convening of Parliament or the Standing Committee if it is outside the normal period of operation.
2. As regards the procedure for debate, voting and form of authorization, Rules 118, 119 and 120 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

CHAPTER III

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORISATIONS

Article 122

(Object)

1. The Parliament may authorize the Government to make decrees on matters provided for in Article 96 of the Constitution.
2. The authorization law shall define the object, the meaning, the extension and the duration of the authorization, which may be extended for a determined period by a new law.

Article 123

(Special rule)

1. In addition to the provisions of Article 96(2) and (3) of the Constitution, legislative authorizations shall observe the following special rules:
 - a) The original initiative shall fall within the exclusive competence of the Government;
 - b) There is no examination in committee.

2. When the Government has carried out public consultations on a draft decree law, it shall, for information purposes, attach it to the draft legislative authorization law, accompanied by the positions taken by the different entities interested in the matter.

CHAPTER IV CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Article 124 (Application for consideration of a decree-law)

1. A request for parliamentary consideration of decrees of Parliament for the purpose of terminating or amending them shall be signed by one-fifth of the Members and submitted in writing to the Bureau within thirty days of their publication, after deduction of any periods of suspension of Parliament's operation.
2. The application shall state the decree-law and its date of publication, as well as the law authorizing it to be published, and shall also contain a statement of reasons.
3. The rules of Article 98 shall apply to the admission of applications, with the necessary adaptations.

Article 125 (Time limit for consideration of the decree-law)

Once the request for parliamentary consideration of the decree-law, drawn up under a law of legislative authorization, has been accepted, the President must schedule it by the sixth plenary meeting following its submission.

Article 126 (General debate in plenary)

1. The decree shall be considered by Parliament and shall not be examined in committee.
2. The debate shall be opened by one of the authors of the request and the Government shall have the right to speak.
3. The debate may not exceed two plenary meetings.

Article 127 (Suspension of validity)

1. Where consideration of a decree-law drawn up using a legislative authorization is requested, and where proposals for amendments are tabled, the Parliament may, by means of a resolution, suspend the validity of the decree-law in whole or in part until the publication of the law amending it or until all the proposals for amendments tabled are rejected.
2. The suspension shall lapse after ten plenary meetings without Parliament having considered the law.

Article 128 (Voting and form)

1. The general vote shall be on termination.
2. Termination shall take the form of a resolution.

Article 129 (Termination of validity)

In the event of termination, the decree-law shall cease to be in force on the day of publication of the resolution in the Official Gazette, and it may not be published again during the same legislative session.

Article 130
(Amendment of Decree-Law)

1. If the decree-law is not adopted and amendments have been tabled, the decree-law and the amendments shall be referred back to the committee responsible for the specific debate unless Parliament decides to consider them in plenary.
2. Amendments may be tabled until the general debate in plenary has ended, without prejudice to new proposals being tabled in committee, in the debate and in the specific vote.
3. Where a decision has been taken to suspend the decree-law, it shall lapse after ten plenary meetings if Parliament has not considered it.
4. Where it has been decided to introduce amendments and Parliament has not voted on the relevant law by the end of the current legislative session, provided that fifteen plenary meetings have elapsed, the procedure shall be deemed to have lapsed.
5. Once the proposed amendments have been adopted in committee, the text shall be forwarded to the plenary for a final overall vote at the next plenary meeting and the drafting of the final text shall then be prepared.
6. If the Order is suspended and all amendments are rejected, the President shall refer the resolution of the declaration of suspension to the Official Gazette of the Republic for publication.
7. If the time limits provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article have elapsed, the Parliamentary examination procedure shall be deemed to have lapsed and the Plenary shall be immediately informed thereof and the respective resolution referred for publication in the Official Gazette.

CHAPTER V
TREATY APPROVAL

Article 131
(Initiative)

1. Agreements, conventions and treaties, hereinafter referred to as treaties, subject to approval, denunciation or ratification by Parliament in accordance with Article 95(3)(f) of the Constitution, shall be at the initiative of the Government.
2. The President shall arrange for motions for resolutions to be distributed among the benches and referred to the committee responsible for the matter and, where appropriate, to one or more other committees.

Article 132
(Discussion and vote)

The debate on the treaty takes place in the plenary and at the end of the plenary the overall vote on the treaty is taken.

Article 133
(Effects of the vote)

1. If the treaty is approved, denounced or ratified, the resolution and the text of the statute shall be sent to the President of the Republic for the purposes laid down in Article 85(a) of the Constitution.
2. The approval, denunciation or ratification that contains the diplomas provided for in paragraph 1 shall be made by means of a resolution.
3. The resolution shall contain the text of the statute.

CHAPTER VI
POLICY ORIENTATION AND MONITORING PROCESSES

SECTION I
ASSESSMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Article 134
(Meeting of Parliament)

1. The plenary session of Parliament to present the Government's program, in accordance with Articles 108 and 109 of the Constitution, shall be set by the President of Parliament, in agreement with the Prime Minister.
2. If the Parliament is not functioning effectively, it shall be convened by the President.
3. The debate on the program of the Government shall not exceed five consecutive days.

Article 135
(Consideration of the Government Program)

1. The Government's Program shall be submitted to Parliament in a statement by the Prime Minister for a maximum period of 40 minutes.
2. After the presentation, there's a period for questions and replies.
3. The debate shall be organized by the Conference of Bench Representatives.
4. During the debate, there shall be no part-session before the agenda.

Article 136
(Rejection of the Government Program and vote of confidence)

1. Until the end of the debate, and without prejudice to it, any parliamentary bench may propose the rejection of the Program or the Government may request a vote of confidence.
2. At the end of the debate, a vote shall be taken at the same meeting on the motions of rejection and confidence.
3. Until the vote, the motions may be withdrawn.
4. Rejection of the Government Program requires an absolute majority of elected Members.
5. The President of Parliament shall communicate the result, as the case may be, to the President of the Republic for the purposes laid down in Article 86(g) and Article 112(1)(e) of the Constitution.

SECTION II
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Article 137
(Meeting of Parliament)

1. If the Government, in accordance with Article 110 of the Constitution, requests Parliament to approve a vote of confidence on a statement of general policy or on any matter of relevant national interest, discussion shall begin on the seventh parliamentary day following the submission of the request for a vote of confidence to the President of Parliament.
2. Outside the effective functioning of Parliament, the request from the Government shall only require the convening of the Plenary Assembly after prior deliberation by the Standing Committee.

Article 138
(Debate)

1. The debate shall not exceed three days and shall begin with a government intervention for a maximum of 30 minutes.
2. The rule laid down in Article 58(1) shall apply to a vote of confidence where the Conference of the Bench Representatives does not decide otherwise.
3. The vote of confidence may be withdrawn by the Government until the end of the debate.

Article 139
(Voting)

1. At the end of the debate, the vote of confidence shall be taken at the same meeting.
2. A vote of confidence shall be deemed to have been approved if it obtained the votes of an absolute majority of elected Members.
3. The result of the vote of confidence shall be communicated by the President of Parliament to the President of the Republic for the purpose laid down in Article 112(1)(e) of the Constitution.

SECTION III
CENSORSHIP MOTIONS

Article 140
(Initiative)

Censorship Motions may be submitted to the Government on the execution of its Program or on a matter of relevant national interest, pursuant to Article 111 of the Constitution, by one quarter of the Members in office.

Article 141
(Debate)

1. The debate shall be opened and closed by one of the signatories to the motion.
2. The Prime Minister shall have the right to speak immediately after and before the speeches referred to in the previous paragraph.
3. Article 138 shall also apply to the debate, adapted as necessary.

Article 142
(Vote)

1. At the end of the debate, the vote shall be taken at the same meeting.
2. The motion of censorship shall not be deemed adopted until it has received the votes of an absolute majority of elected Members.
3. If the motion of censorship is not adopted, the signatories may not table another one during the same legislative session.
4. The President of Parliament shall communicate the result to the President of the Republic for the purposes laid down in Article 112(1)(f) of the Constitution.

SECTION IV
QUESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

Article 143
(Questions to the Government)

1. Members may, in accordance with Article 101(2) of the Constitution, ask questions orally to the Government at meetings of the Plenary, specially scheduled for this purpose.
2. Plenary sessions for questions to the Government shall be held once a month and shall not exceed two hours.

Article 144
(Scope and procedure)

1. Questions shall relate to matters within the framework of the responsibility of the Government and be formulated in brief and concise terms.
2. Questions shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Member concerned and shall identify the member of the Government responsible.
3. Questions shall be submitted to the Bureau and forwarded to the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches, which shall adopt the list, organize them by sector and order them sequentially.
4. Once approved, the list of questions shall be distributed to Members and sent to the Government at least eight days in advance.

Article 145
(Duration)

A maximum of twenty questions shall be put to the Government within a period not exceeding three hours.

Article 146
(Question Time)

1. The President shall give the floor to the Members who have spoken in the sequential order adopted by the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches.
2. The questioning Member shall put the question orally for no more than three minutes.
3. The Government shall reply as soon as the question has been put, for not more than three minutes.
4. The Member who is questioning may ask for further clarification, for a time not exceeding two minutes, followed by the Government's reply, which may not exceed three minutes.
5. The President may also authorize another Member to ask for further clarification, for a time not exceeding three minutes, with the member of the Government being given the same time to reply.
6. Requests for additional clarification not related to the main issue shall not be admissible.

Article 147
(Repetition of questions)

No repetition of questions during the same legislative session is allowed.

Article 148
(Date of meetings)

Questions to the Government are asked at monthly meetings organized for this purpose by the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches.

SECTION V WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Article 149 (Scope)

1. Members may at any time put questions in writing to the Government.
2. Questions shall be precise and objective and shall relate to matters within the sphere of responsibility of the Government.
3. Members may request that additional documents be attached to the Government's response.

Article 150 (Deadline for Answering Questions)

1. Questions put by Members shall be answered by the Government within one month at the latest.
2. The answers of the Government shall be published and distributed in the following month.
3. Where the answers are not sent to Parliament within the period laid down in paragraph 1, the respective questions may, at the request of the author, be scheduled for the subsequent session of questions in accordance with the provisions of the previous Article.

SECTION VI DEBATES WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Article 151 (Debate with the Prime Minister)

1. The Prime Minister shall appear in plenary for a Parliamentary period of questions before the end of the normal period of operation, on a date to be set by the President, after hearing the Government and the Conference of Parliamentary Bench Representatives.
2. The President, after hearing the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches, shall inform the Prime Minister of the matters to be discussed, one month in advance.
3. The debate shall last up to one day and the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches shall order statements in accordance with the representativeness of each Parliamentary Bench.
4. The debate shall be opened with the intervention of the largest opposition party, with the parliamentary benches having a maximum overall time.
5. Each question shall be immediately followed by an answer from the Prime Minister, who shall have an overall time to reply equivalent to that of the parliamentary benches questioning him/her.
6. The Prime Minister may ask one of the ministers present to answer or complete a certain answer.
7. The debate shall be wound up with the Prime Minister's intervention.

Article 152 (Debate with Ministers)

1. Each Minister shall appear before the plenary at least once per legislative session for a debate with Parliament.
2. The debate may cover all areas under the Minister's jurisdiction.

3. The President, after consulting the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches, shall set the dates for the debates referred to in the preceding paragraph one month in advance.
4. The debate shall last no more than three hours and the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches shall set the order of questions in accordance with the representativeness of each Parliamentary Bench.
5. Each question shall last no longer than three minutes and shall be immediately followed by the Minister's reply, with the right to a reply lasting no longer than one minute.

SECTION VII INTERPELLATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

Article 153 (Debates on matters of major national interest)

1. At the request of ten Members or of parliamentary benches, debates may be held on matters of relevant national interest.
2. The debate shall be held within ten days of the request.

Article 154 (Debate)

1. The debate shall be opened by statements by a signatory Member of Parliament, or by a Member of the bench questioning, and by a member of the Government.
2. The debate shall not exceed one parliamentary day, which shall not begin before the agenda.
3. The debate shall conclude with statements by a signatory Member of Parliament or by a Member of the parliamentary benches who is questioning the debate and a member of the Government, who shall close it.
4. The Conference of Representatives of Parliamentary Benches shall be responsible for determining the time for the debate.

SECTION VIII PETITIONS

Article 155 (Exercise of the right of petition)

1. The right of petition provided for in Article 48 of the Constitution and in law shall be exercised before Parliament by means of petitions, complaints or claims.
2. Whenever the term "petition" is used, it shall be understood to apply to all the modalities referred to in the previous paragraph.

Article 156 (Form)

1. Petitions shall be in writing and shall bear the identification of the holder and his/her domicile, and shall be signed by him/her or by another person at his/her request when he/she is unable or unwilling to sign.
2. Petitions must be intelligible and clearly specify their subject matter.
3. In petitions with a plurality of petitioners, the identification and domicile of one of their signatories is sufficient.

Article 157

(Presentation and procedure)

1. Petitions shall be addressed to the President of Parliament, who shall refer them to the committee responsible for the matter.
2. Petitions shall be numbered and registered by the relevant department of Parliament's Secretariat.
3. Once the petition has been received, the committee shall examine it first to establish:
 - a) Whether any of the legally prescribed grounds for the preliminary ruling are present;
 - b) The requirements of the previous Article have not been met.
4. The preliminary injunction shall be rejected and the petitioner or the first of the subscribers to the decision shall be notified.
5. Parliament may, however, set a deadline of thirty days for those concerned to make good any deficiency referred to in the preceding Article.

Article 158

(Consideration by the committee)

1. The committee shall consider petitions within ninety days, which may be extended, of the meeting referred to in paragraph 3 of the previous Article and shall draw up a report containing such provisions as it deems appropriate.
2. If the case referred to in paragraph 3 of the previous Article occurs, the time limit shall not begin to run until the deficiencies have been remedied.
3. The committee may propose that the petition be submitted to the Ombudsman, who shall, at the latter's request, submit it to the Ombudsman, should the President of Parliament forward the report for the purposes of Article 27(2) of the Constitution.

Article 159

(Consideration by the plenary)

1. Consideration in the plenary shall be subject to the approval of the committee responsible.
2. The report shall be forwarded to the President of Parliament for consideration in plenary. A representative of each parliamentary bench shall then speak for a period to be decided by the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches.

Article 160

(Communication to the author or authors of the petition)

The President of Parliament shall inform the author or the first of the authors of the petition in writing of the committee's report and any subsequent steps taken.

SECTION IX

INQUIRY

Article 161

(Function and object)

1. The function of parliamentary inquiries shall be to monitor compliance with the Constitution and the laws and to appraise acts of the Government and the Administration.
2. Parliamentary inquiries shall be conducted by setting up ad hoc committees specially constituted for each case, by means of a resolution of Parliament.
3. The initiative to set up committees of inquiry, the initiative to investigate and their conduct shall be carried out in accordance with the terms of the law.

CHAPTER VII
PLAN, GENERAL STATE BUDGET, BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
AND GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE STATE

SECTION I
GENERAL STATE BUDGET

Article 162
(Presentation)

The draft bills of the Plan and of the General State Budget for each economic year shall be presented to Parliament by October 15.

Article 163
(Distribution)

1. Once the proposals for legislation have been admitted, the President of Parliament shall order their immediate distribution to all parliamentary benches and to any Members who so request.
2. The bills shall also be referred to the Committee on Economy and Finance for a report and a reasoned opinion, and to the other standing committees for a sectoral opinion.

Article 164
(Appraisal by Committees)

1. The standing committees shall send their opinions to the Committee on Economy and Finance within fifteen days of the date of admission of the proposals for legislation.
2. The Committee of Economy and Finance shall prepare a report and a reasoned opinion on the proposals of law within twenty days, counting from the date of admission of the proposals of law.
3. For the purpose of examining the proposals of law, within the time limits provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2, the committees shall convene the meetings they deem necessary with the participation of members of the Government.
4. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the members of the Government shall send the standing committees written information on the budget proposals for the areas they oversee.

Article 165
(Scheduling)

Having received the report and opinion of the Committee on Economy and Finance, the President of Parliament, after hearing the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches, schedules the proposals for the Plan and the General State Budget for discussion, in accordance with the following Article.

Article 166
(General Discussion and Vote in Plenary)

1. The general debate on the Plan and on the General State Budget shall last three days, in accordance with the provisions of Article 105.
2. The debate shall begin and end with of the Prime Minister's statement.
3. Before the end of the debate, the parliamentary benches and the Government shall have the right to produce a statement on the bills, for a maximum period of 10 minutes.
4. During the debate, plenary meetings shall not be held before the agenda.
5. At the end of the debate, the draft bills of the Plan and the General State Budget shall be voted on in general.

Article 167

(Discussion and vote in the specific)

1. The special debate on the draft law on the General State Plan and Budget shall not exceed ten days, and shall be organized in such a way as to continually discuss the budget of each Ministry, with the respective members of the Government taking part.
2. The specific debate on the draft State Plan and Budget law shall be held in the Plenary.

Article 168

(Final overall vote)

Approved in the specific, the bills are submitted to the final overall vote.

Article 169

(Final wording)

The final drafting of the decrees is the responsibility of the Commission on Economy and Finance.

Article 170

(Amending Budget)

The rules set out in this section shall apply mutatis mutandis to the proposed amending budget.

SECTION II

BUDGET EXECUTION

Article 171

(Presentation of the budget implementation report)

The budget execution report for the previous financial year shall be submitted to Parliament within three months of the end of the respective year.

Article 172

(Distribution)

1. By accepting the report, the President of Parliament shall order its immediate distribution to all parliamentary benches and to all Members.
2. The report shall also be forwarded to the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs and the other standing committees for consideration.

Article 173

(Consideration by committees)

1. Standing committees shall send a reasoned opinion on the implementation report to the Committee on Economy and Finance within fifteen days.
2. The Committee on Economy and Finance shall prepare a final opinion on the report within ten days of the expiry of the period referred to in the previous paragraph.
3. For the purposes of assessing the execution report, within the time limits provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2, the committees shall schedule the meetings they deem necessary with the participation of members of the Government.

Article 174

(Scheduling)

Having received the report and opinion of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, the President of Parliament, having heard the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches, schedules a debate in accordance with the following articles, which will not take place before the agenda.

Article 175
(Debate on budget execution)

1. The debate shall last no more than three days and the rules laid down in Article 105(2) shall apply.
2. The debate shall be opened and closed with a government statement.
3. Before the debate closes, the parliamentary benches may make a closing statement, the duration of which shall be determined by the Conference of Representatives of the parliamentary benches.

SECTION III
GENERAL STATE ACCOUNT

Article 176
(Presentation of the
General Account of the State)

The High Administrative, Tax and Audit Court shall submit to Parliament its opinion on the General State Accounts within ten months of the end of the economic year to which it reports.

Article 177
(Knowledge)

1. Once the General State Account has been admitted, the President shall order its immediate distribution to all parliamentary benches, as well as to Members who request it.
2. The General State Account shall also be sent to the Committee on Economy and Finance.

Article 178
(Consideration by the Committee on
Economy and Finance)

1. The Committee on Economy and Finance shall prepare a reasoned opinion and recommendations, if any, on the General State Account within thirty days.
2. For the purpose of examining the General Account of the State, within the period provided for in paragraph 1, the Commission shall schedule the meetings it deems necessary with the participation of members of the Government and senior Public Administrative officials.

Article 179
(Scheduling)

Having received the report and opinion of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, the President of Parliament, having heard the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches, schedules a parliamentary debate, which will not take place before the agenda, in accordance with the following articles.

Article 180
(Debate)

1. The debate shall last no more than one day, and the rules laid down in Article 105(2) shall apply.
2. The debate shall be opened by the largest opposition party and closed with a government statement.
3. Before the end of the debate the parliamentary benches may make a closing statement as defined by the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches.

CHAPTER VIII
PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING OTHER BODIES
SECTION I
CASES CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
DIVISION I
INVESTITURE AND INAUGURATION OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Article 181
(Meeting of Parliament)

1. The Parliament shall meet especially for the investiture and inauguration of the President of the Republic, pursuant to Article 77 of the Constitution.
2. If the Parliament is not effectively functioning, it shall be convened by the President of Parliament for that purpose.

Article 182
(Formalities)

1. The plenary session is opened, and the President of the National Parliament suspends it to receive the elected President of the Republic and the guests.
2. When the meeting is reopened, the President of the National Parliament shall have the minutes of the general election read out by one of the members of the Bureau.
3. The elected President of the Republic shall be sworn in by the Speaker of the National Parliament and shall take office in public ceremony before the Members of Parliament and the representatives of the other organs of sovereignty, making the declaration of oath laid down in Section 77 (3) of the Constitution, after which the National Anthem shall be executed.
4. The swearing-in of office shall be signed by the President of the Republic and the President of the National Parliament.

Article 183
(Subsequent Acts)

1. After signing the swearing-in, the President of the National Parliament greets the new President of the Republic.
2. The President of the Republic addresses a message to the Parliament and the Nation.
3. After the words of the President of the Republic, the President of Parliament declares the session closed and the National Anthem is executed again.

DIVISION II
ASSENT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC'S
ABSENCE FROM THE NATIONAL TERRITORY

Article 184
(Initiative and competence)

1. The President of the Republic shall request the consent of the Parliament or the Standing Committee to be absent from the national territory by means of a message, in accordance with Article 80(1) of the Constitution.
2. The message shall be distributed to all parliamentary benches.

Article 185

(Debate)

1. The debate in plenary shall be based on the message from the President of the Republic and shall be attended by one Member from each parliamentary bench for a maximum period of three minutes.
2. The Parliament's deliberation shall take the form of a resolution.

DIVISION III

RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Article 186

(Meeting of Parliament)

1. In the event of the President of the Republic's resignation, Parliament shall meet to consider the message provided for in Article 81 of the Constitution within 48 hours.
2. No debate shall take place.

DIVISION IV

**CRIMINAL LIABILITY AND CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

Article 187

(Initiative)

1. For the purposes of Article 79(2) of the Constitution, the initiative for the procedure shall lie with the Parliament, on a proposal by one fifth and deliberation by a two-thirds majority of the Members elected.
2. The Parliament shall set up a special committee to deliver its report and opinion within the time limit laid down for it.

Article 188

(Debate and vote)

1. Having received the report of the committee, the President of National Parliament schedules, within the following 48 hours, an extraordinary meeting of the Plenary to deal with it.
2. At the end of the debate, the President of the National Parliament shall put the initiative to vote by secret ballot, which must be approved by a two-thirds majority of elected Members.
3. The waiver of the immunity of the President of the Republic shall also be made effective at the initiative of the Parliament, by means of a resolution, in accordance with the provisions of Article 79 (3) of the Constitution.

SECTION II

CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT

Article 189

(Criminal liability of members of the Government)

The necessary deliberations of Parliament, as provided for in Articles 113 and 114 of the Constitution, shall be taken by secret ballot and an absolute majority of Members elected, preceded by the opinion of a committee specially set up for this purpose.

SECTION III
APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS
FROM OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

Article 190
(Election)

1. The Parliament shall elect, under the terms laid down in the Constitution or at law, the holders of posts outside Parliament whose appointment it is responsible for.
2. In the absence of directly applicable constitutional or legal provisions, the provisions of the following articles shall be observed.

Article 191
(Submission of candidacy)

1. Nominations shall be submitted by ten Members or by parliamentary benches.
2. Nominations shall be submitted to the President by the end of the penultimate meeting before the election, together with the candidate's curriculum vitae and the declaration of acceptance of candidacy.

Article 192
(Suffrage)

1. A candidate shall be deemed elected if he/she obtains more than half of the votes validly cast.
2. If neither candidate obtains that number of votes, a second ballot shall be held, in which only the two candidates with the most votes cast, whose candidacy has not been withdrawn, shall stand.

Article 193
(System of proportional representation)

Whenever the system of proportional representation is applied, the election is by complete list, adopting the Hondt's highest average method.

SECTION IV
REPRESENTATIONS

Article 194
(Representations)

1. The Parliament's representations shall respect the principle of proportionality and Members shall be appointed by the parliamentary benches at the Conference.
2. Where representations cannot include representatives of all political parties, their composition shall be fixed by the Conference and, if no agreement is reached, by the plenary.
3. At the end of their term of office, the representations shall draw up a report, which shall be presented to the plenary by the chairman of the delegation or by any Member he/she may designate.
4. In the case of permanent missions, a report shall be presented to the Plenary every three months.
5. After submission, Members may request clarification, the times of which shall be fixed by the Conference.

Article 195
(Deputations)

The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the previous article shall apply to the Deputations of the National Parliament.

Article 196
(Press accreditation)

1. The press, radio and television bodies may authorize their professionals to engage in journalistic, information and publicity activities relevant to the Parliament and its Members before the Bureau.
2. The Bureau shall arrange for the distribution of texts of subjects under discussion and interventions to representatives of the media.

CHAPTER IX
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 197
(General principles of the legislative process)

1. Legitimacy in the drafting of the legal standard is ensured by strict compliance with the provisions of the Rules, through the following basic principles:
 - a) Full and equal participation of Members in all legislative activities, within the limits of the Rules;
 - b) Modification of the regulatory rules only by competent legislative rule, strictly complying with the Rules of Procedure;
 - c) Nullity of any decision that contradicts the Rules of Procedure;
 - d) Prevalence of a special rule over the general rule;
 - e) Decision on cases not covered by the rules in accordance with analogy and general principles of law;
 - f) Preservation of the rights of minorities;
 - g) Collective decision-making, subject to the specific powers laid down in these Rules of Procedure;
 - h) Impossibility of taking decisions without complying with the regulatory quorum established for that purpose;
 - i) The agenda, drawn up by the President after consulting the Conference of Bench Representatives, shall be drawn up in advance in such a way as to enable all Members to be properly informed in advance;
 - j) Publicity of decisions taken;
 - k) Possibility of broad political negotiation by means of the regulatory procedures foreseen.
2. Failure to comply with any of these principles may be denounced by means of a point of order or political statement.

Article 198
(Institutional Relations)

The Parliament's institutional relations with national organs of sovereignty, parliamentary institutions of other countries or other national or foreign institutions shall take place through the President of Parliament or through delegations of Members or Members he/she designates.

Article 199
(Amendments)

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Parliament by an absolute majority of the elected Members, on the proposal of at least one quarter of elected Members.

Article 200

(Interpretation and incorporation of shortcomings)

The President and the Bureau of Parliament shall be responsible for interpreting and incorporating any shortcomings in their Rules of Procedure, with recourse to the plenary.

Article 201

(Transitional competence of the Court of Auditors)

Until the High Administrative, Tax and Audit Court is set up, the General State Account is presented to the National Parliament by the competent body in accordance with Article 164 of the Constitution.

Article 202

(Entry into force)

Approved by the plenary and signed by the President, the Rules of Procedure shall enter into force immediately.

Approved on October 20, 2009.

Be it published.

The Speaker of the National Parliament

Fernando La Sama de Araújo