

**NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS MEMBERS OF
DEFENSE AND SECURITY COMMITTEES**

(REPAM-CDS)

STATUTES

(October 30, 2021)

PREAMBLE:

We, African parliamentarians meeting in Abuja on 27, 28 and 29 October 2021 on the occasion of the 5th Conference of the Network of African Parliamentarians Members of Defense and Security Committees,

OBSERVING the increasingly worrying persistence of security challenges at the sub-regional, regional and continental level;

RECALLING the importance of the role of parliamentarians as representative of their fellow citizens, legislator and controller of government activity;

AWARE of the need for effective cooperation between African countries in resolving the security challenges they face;

NOTING the important role devolved to parliamentarians in the control of government action and in the evaluation of public policies;

CONSIDERING the many peculiarities and specificities which characterize the military and security functions in each State;

CONCERNED in contributing more effectively to improving the handling of security and defense issues at both national and continental levels;

CONVINCED of the need for the establishment of a formal framework for cooperation, capacity building, experience sharing and good practices in the management of security and defense issues, bringing together African parliamentarians, specialized in the management of these questions,

We agree to the following new provisions:

Article 1: Creation and name

An African Network called the Network of African Parliamentarians Members of the Defense and Security Committees abbreviated "REPAM-CDS" is created.

Article 2: Headquarters

The headquarters of REPAM-CDS are located in Abidjan in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. It can be transferred to any other African city by decision of the General Assembly or in the event of a proven emergency by decision of the REPAM-CDS Bureau.

The network has a local section in each state.

Article 3: Duration

REPAM-CDS is created for a period of 99 years.

Article 4: Members

Membership in the Network is open to any parliamentarian who is a member of a committee in charge of defense and security in the parliaments in Africa.

REPAM-CDS has three categories of members:

The "**ex officio members**" are all African parliamentarians who are members of the defense and security committees in activity, members who have adhered to the objectives of REPAM-CDS;

The "**honorary members**" are the former Presidents of REPAM-CDS or any person having rendered eminent services to REPAM-CDS;

The "**associate members**" are non-parliamentary members or former parliamentarians, or the natural or legal persons who subscribe to REPAM-CDS objectives;

The "**partners**" : The status of partner is explicitly conferred upon approval of the Executive Board, organizations, institutions, companies, individuals have concluded cooperation agreements with the REPAM-CDS.

TITLE II: OBJECTIVES AND MEANS OF ACTION

Article 5: Objectives

The Network aims to:

- Strengthen the capacities of parliamentarians in the field of democratic control of the Defense and Security Forces, the fight against terrorism, civil protection, immigration, the arms trade, the fight against the proliferation of small arms and small caliber, etc.;
- Establish cooperation and maintain a permanent dialogue between parliamentarians in order to benefit from good practices through an exchange of experiences;

- Establish cooperation and maintain a permanent dialogue with national and international institutions in charge of the defense and security sector, the regulation of the arms trade, international and regional mechanisms to combat the illicit proliferation of SALW, defenders of human rights and all actors and partners interested in the issue of democratic control of the Defense and Security Forces;
- Contribute to the sensitization of the populations, to the strengthening of confidence and the Army-Nation link in African countries;
- Contribute, through permanent consultation, to the strengthening of actions for the efficient implementation of treaties and laws on terrorism, the arms trade in Africa, etc.;
- Monitoring and evaluations of national defense and security policies.

Article 6: Means of action

All REPAM-CDS activities must be consistent with the objectives set out in Article 5.

Specific activities will be regularly defined by mutual agreement by the members.

The Executive Board will lead the process of planning and approving activities.

TITLE III: ORGANIZATION AND BODIES

Article 7: organ of the Network

The organs of the Network are: the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 8: General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Network. It is the central orientation and decision-making body of REPAM-CDS.

It brings together all the members of the Network as defined in article 6 hereof.

It has the broadest powers to take all actions in connection with the development of the policy and the program of action of the network, the results of which it approves. As such, the General Assembly rules and deliberates on everything relating to the life of the Network.

Article 9: the Executive Board

REPAM-CDS is managed by an Executive Board composed of:

- a President (01);
- three Vice-Presidents (03);
- a protractor (01);
- a deputy rapporteur (01);
- a treasurer (01);
- an assistant treasurer (01).

The President and the Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly by first past the post. In the event of a tie, the oldest of the candidates is declared elected.

The other members of the office are appointed by the elected President.

However, in the event that a consensus emerges for the composition of the Bureau, an election by list system is carried out.

Subject to other specific missions that may be entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Executive Board ensures the execution of the decisions of the General Assembly.

He is responsible for the outreach and the day-to-day management of the network. He is answerable for all his acts before the General Assembly.

The President is the person in charge of the Network. He convenes and chairs the meetings of the Executive Board. He represents and engages the network in all acts of civil life.

It coordinates all of the network's activities and its relations with partners. He is the network expenditure authorizing officer.

The Network meets at least once a year.

Article 10

The President of the network directs the debates of the meetings.

Article 11

The president is elected for a term of one year renewable only once.

Any candidate for the Presidency of REPAM-CDS must have at least two (02) years of parliamentary mandate in his country.

Each REPAM-CDS member country has the right to vote.

In order to facilitate the implementation of REPAM-CDS throughout Africa, the Bureau has three positions of vice-presidents, thus representing with the President each of the five regions of the African Continent (North, South, Center, East and West).

The first vice-president and the second vice-president must be from a different official language space from that of the president.

The REPAM-CDS Presidency rotates between regions and linguistic areas.

Article 12: the Permanent Secretariat

The Permanent Secretariat of the Network is established at the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire. It is the administrative liaison body between REPAM-CDS members and between REPAM-CDS and other bodies.

Article 13

The Permanent Secretariat of the Network:

- Prepares draft agendas for network meetings in conjunction with the executive board;
- Ensures the proper functioning of the network as well as the follow-up of the decisions taken by it;
- Keeps network members informed.

Article 14

If a member of the executive committee is unable to attend, the region concerned appoints another parliamentarian to replace it.

Article 15

If the President is unable to attend, the 1st Vice-President assumes the presidency. In the event of vacancy of the Presidency, the 1st Vice-President replaces it until the election of the new President.

The same provisions apply, where applicable, to the 1st Vice-president. In this case, the post of second Vice-President remains vacant until the appointment of a new President. The substitute president exercises all the powers of the president and in particular those referred to in article 9.

Article 16:

The operating rules and procedures of the REPAM-CDS bodies are defined by the Network's Internal Regulations.

TITLE IV: RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURE

Article 17: Funding

The Network is financed by contributions from Member Parliaments.

Article 18: Resources

The Network's resources consist of:

1. Membership fees;
2. Members' contributions;
3. Subsidies that could be granted to it by any body or structure working in the field of democratic control, civil protection and immigration;
4. Donations and bequests;
5. All other resources authorized by law.

Article 19: Expenses

The resources of the organization are used only to achieve its object defined in article 5 and to undertake the activities provided for in article 6.

TITLE V: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION

Article 20: Modification

The General Assembly may, on a proposal from the Executive Board, modify or repeal any article of the statutes. Any modification of the statutes of the organization must be approved by the General Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of its members.

Article 21: Dissolution

The General Assembly, specially convened for this purpose, can pronounce, by a majority of two thirds (2/3) of its members, the dissolution of the Network.

In the event of dissolution, the assets and funds of the network are bequeathed on the proposal of the Executive Board, to organizations having the same objectives.

TITLE VI: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 22: entry into force

The Statutes come into force on the day of their adoption by the Assembly.

Article 23: Rules of procedure

Internal Regulations, proposed by the Executive Board for approval by the General Assembly, determine the modalities of application of these Statutes.

Done in Abuja, October 29, 2021

The Presidents of the sessions

The meeting secretary

GORGUI Jean Jacques