

**ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES  
OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
(APLESA)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**As amended at the  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference/Meeting of APLESA, 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014,  
Lusaka, Zambia.**

**By  
APLESA Delegates**

**Hosted by the  
Parliament of Zambia**

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*Preamble*

We the members of APLESA:

*Realising* the need to exchange and share experiences as Librarians of Parliamentary Libraries in the Eastern and Southern African Region do hereby give to ourselves this Constitution

**Article I Name**

Section 1

The name of the Organization shall be the ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (APLESA) (hereinafter referred to as the “*Association*”).

**Article II Interpretation**

Section 1

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires-

“*Associate Member*” refers to Librarians from other Parliaments.

“*Association*” means APLESA.

“*Executive Committee*” shall be the governing body of APLESA.

“*In Good Standing*” means a Member Parliament that pays its dues in full

“*Parliamentary Researcher*” means a researcher fully employed by Parliament.

“*Successive term*” means two consecutive terms of office in the same capacity.

“*Working Committee*” means a committee appointed by the Executive Committee.

### **Article III Objectives**

The objectives of the Association shall be:

#### Section 1

To promote co-operation and resource sharing among members of Parliaments (APLESA)

#### Section 2

To promote communication and networking among APLESA

#### Section 3

To promote capacity building among members

#### Section 4

To promote best services in service delivery

### **Article IV Membership**

#### Section 1

The membership of the Association shall comprise of APLESA Member Parliaments. For avoidance of doubt, 'Member Parliaments' refers to National Parliaments within the APLESA Region.

#### Section 2

Associate membership shall be open to other Parliaments.

#### Section 3

Observer status may be accorded to libraries of legislatures on the invitation of the APLESA Executive Committee.

### **Article V Structure of Association**

#### Section 1(a)

There shall be an Executive Committee elected by the Members of the Association. It shall comprise of the President, Vice-President, Secretary General and three other Members.

#### Section 1(b)

With a bid to enable sharing of experiences and continuity of activities the immediate past President of APLESA will be part of the Executive Committee as an Ex-Officio.

#### Section 1(c)

For similar reasons raised in Section 1(b) the Chief Librarian of the next host Parliament will attend Executive Meetings of APLESA as an Ex-Officio.

#### Section 2

The term of office for the Executive Committee shall be for two years. A member shall be eligible for re-election for only one successive term.

#### Section 3

The Executive Committee may establish Working Committees as and when the need arises.

#### Section 4

In the circumstance where a position of an executive member falls vacant between Annual Conferences, it may be filled by a postal ballot of members to be conducted by the remaining members of the Executive Committee within 30 days

### **Article VI Secretariat**

#### Section 1

There shall be a Secretariat for the Association located in a member country agreed upon by the members

#### Section 2

The Secretariat shall be comprised of the Treasurer and the Office Administrator

### **Article VII Meetings**

#### Section 1

Meetings shall be attended by professional Librarians. Parliamentary Researchers may attend.

#### Section 2

Such meetings shall be held annually.

#### Section 3

A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of representation from at least, two-thirds of the Member Parliaments.

#### Section 4

The official language(s) for APLESA meetings shall be: a) English; b) Portuguese; and c) French.

## **Article VIII** *Voting*

### Section 1

Voting at annual meetings shall be by member participants and each Member Parliament in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote on any procedural question or questions affecting the operation of the structure of the Association regardless of the number of delegates present from that Parliament.

## **Article IX** *Powers*

### Section 1

The President, on the authorization of the Executive Committee, shall issue statements and/or enter into negotiations on behalf of the Association

### Section 2

Where the President undertakes such activity without the prior consent of the two thirds majority of voting members, any statements or undertakings shall be subject to ratification at the next conference.

## **Article X** *Funding*

### Section 1

Members shall pay a membership fee of **US\$200** and annual subscription of **US\$300**.

### Section 2

Associate Members shall pay a membership fee of **US\$200**.

### Section 3

Participants shall pay a registration fee at annual meetings as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

### Section 4

The Executive Committee shall solicit the required funding for **APLESA** activities from respective Parliaments, donor agencies, etc.

## **Article XI** *Annual Reports*

### Section 1

The President shall present an annual report of the Association's activities at the annual General Meeting.

### Section 2

In the event that the Executive Committee raises any funds from any source, the President shall give a financial report on how these funds have been used.

**Article XII** *Affiliation*

Section 1

The Association may co-operate with or establish relationships with such other groups, public or private as may seem most likely to advance the purpose of the Association.

**Article XIII** *Winding up*

Section 1

The Association shall be wound up if the members, at a duly constituted meeting, resolve that it be wound up.

**Article XIV** *Amendments*

Section 1

The association, at any meeting may amend its Constitution by two-thirds majority vote of all members present and voting provided that a notice of such amendments be filed with the Executive Committee, at least, seven days prior to the meetings.