

# ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

NOTICE ON MOTION TO THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
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HEAD OF MALAWIAN DELEGATION TO ACP-EU JPA

## Resolution Ensuring Parliaments Are Able to Hold Appropriate National Consultations Before Ratification of the New Post-Cotonou Agreement

**Recalling** that the ACP-EU Agreement commits the Parties to good governance and the principles of rule of law as one of its main objectives (Article 1.3.a);

**Acknowledging** that, as one of the Agreement's key principles, the Parties "shall promote a multi-stakeholder approach, enabling the active engagement of a wide variety of actors in partnership dialogue and cooperation processes, including parliaments...." (Article 2.8);

**Emphasizing** that the Parties "agree that parliaments ... shall be duly informed, consulted and enabled to feed into the partnership dialogue," and enable comprehensive dialogue "on all areas of [the] Agreement, leading to commitments, and where appropriate, actions on both sides, for [its] effective implementation...." (Article 3.1 & .4);

**Given** that the Agreement is very broad in scope and requires the Parties to amend their national constitutions or enact appropriate legislation where needed to conform with commitments made as a result of the Agreement's provisions, for instance on "the principle of gender equality" (Article 10.1);

**Reaffirming** that national parliaments are the rightful legislative and policy-making bodies for their countries representing the voice of their

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constituencies, are generally responsible to enact legislation, and have a vote in amending their national constitutions;

## **Therefore, be it resolved that:**

1. All Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) members, who also are members of their national policy-making bodies, shall receive the full and current text of the draft ACP-EU Agreement from the European Commission and OACPS secretariat upon immediate effect of this resolution;
2. The European Commission and OACPS secretariat shall send a note to Heads of State of OACPS and EU countries requesting that they take no formal action related to signing the Agreement until their parliaments have concluded their national consultations.
3. ACP-EU JPA members shall be granted a period of six months to hold appropriate consultations with their respective national parliaments on the Agreement's provisions;
4. The next Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting shall have an assigned plenary session for JPA members to report on the results of the consultations with their respective parliaments.



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