

National Legislature (NL)

National Legislature, Conduct of Business Regulations, 2007,

Pursuant to provisions of Articles 83(5), 96 (2) of the Sudan Interim National Constitution, 2005, National Legislature has issued the following Regulations.

Chapter (1) Preliminary Provisions Regulations' Title and Commencement

1. These Regulations shall be cited as (The National Legislature, Conduct of Business Regulations, 2007) and shall be enforced as from the date of its passing by the National Legislature.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, unless the interpretation otherwise requires the following words and phrase shall bear the meanings attached to them:-

Constitution: means Sudan Interim National Constitution 2005.

Legislature: means the National Legislature composed of the National Assembly (NA) and the Council of States (CoS) according to the Article 83(1) of the Constitution.

Both Chambers means National Assembly and Council of States.

Speaker: means the Speaker of the Legislature sittings according to Article 83(2) of the Constitution.

Deputy Speaker: means the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature sittings defined by Article 83(2) of the Constitution.

Standing

Committee: means the inter-chamber standing committee for both houses formed as referred to in article 91(5) (b) of the constitution

Committee: means any of the *ad hoc* committees formed by the Legislature.

**Minister of
Parliamentary
Affairs:
Minister**

means the National Minister concerned .

**Secretary
General:**

means the Secretary General of the Legislature defined by Article (9) of these regulations.

Legal Advisor: means the Legislature Legal Advisor defined according to Article (10) of these regulations.

Member: means member of the National Assembly (NA) or representative of the Council of the States (CoS) who took the oath as a member or representative in any of the two houses.

National Group means Sudanese Parliamentary Group referred thereto in chapter seven of these regulations.

Chapter II
Functions of the Legislature

- 3.(1) The legislature denotes public determination. It will have to soliderate national unity and assume legislation on national level, monitor nation executive organ and deepen decentralized governance.
- (2) Without prejudice to the concept of item (1), the Legislature convenes to exercise following functions:
- (a) Amends the Constitution and approves amendments affecting the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that are presented by its signatories in accordance with Article 224 of the Constitution.
 - (b) Discusses addresses by the President of the Republic.
 - (c) Authorizes annual allocation of resources and revenues, in accordance with Article 110 of the Constitution.
 - (d) Reconsiders any bill which has been rejected by the President of the Republic under Article 108(2) of the Constitution.
 - (e) Promulgates the Southern Sudan Referendum Act provided for in Article 220(1) of the Constitution.
 - (f) Approves declaration of war.
 - (g) Confirms declaration of state of emergency or termination thereof.
 - (h) Impeaches the President of the Republic or the First Vice President.

- (i) Performs any other functions determined by the Constitution or law.

Chapter III
Composition of the Legislature
Membership of the Legislature

4. The Legislature membership shall be composed of members of the National Assembly and representatives of the Council of States who took oath, each in his/her chamber.

Speaker of the Legislature sittings

- 5.(1) The Speaker of the National Assembly shall be the Speaker of the National Legislature sittings and deputized by the Speaker of the Council of States.
- (2) The Speaker shall rule over sittings of the Legislature, direct discussions therein, represent and sign all resolutions adopted by the Legislature.
- (3) The Speaker shall preside over the Inter-chamber Standing Committee and shall be deputized by the speaker of Council of States.

Committees of the Legislature

- 6.(1) The Legislature, by a procedural resolution, may convene as a committee, whenever it seems appropriate.
- (2) The Legislature shall have a standing committee to be known as” The Inter-chamber Standing Committee of the two chambers.
- (3) The Legislature may, by a resolution issued therefrom upon a proposal issued from the Speaker after consultation with his/her deputy, form ad hoc committees to undertake any business which falls within its competence, the resolution shall specify functions of the committee, its chairperson and members as well as the period set for its business.

Inter-chamber Standing Committee of the Two Chambers

- 7.(1) The Inter-chamber Standing Committee of the two chambers shall be composed as follows:-
- a. The Speaker of the National Assembly - The Chairperson
 - b. The Speaker of the Council of States - The Deputy Chairperson
 - c. The Deputy Speakers of both chambers - Members
 - d. The Chairperson of Legislation and Justice - Member Committee in the National Assembly .

- e. The Chairperson of the Legislation and Legal Affairs committee in The Council of States . – Member
 - f. The Chairperson of Economic Affairs committee in the National Assembly – Member.
 - g. The Chairperson of Decentralized Governance committee in The Council of States . – Member.
 - h. The Deputy Chairperson of Legislation and Justice Committee in the National Assembly. – Member.
 - i. The Deputy Chairperson of Legislation and Legal Affairs committee in The Council of States . – Member
 - j . The two Secretaries Generals of both Chambers . - Rapporteurs
- (2) The Inter-chamber Standing Committee shall be concerned with the following:-
- (a) Scrutinize laws passed by the National Assembly and resolve whether or not it affects the interest of the states in accordance with the text of Article 91(5)(b) of Constitution.
 - (b) Coordinate between functions of both Chambers.
 - (c) Counsel in general on problems concerning both chambers.
 - (d) Submit proposals to National Legislative Body and prepare agenda.
 - (e) Any other functions mentioned in these regulations.
- (3) The Committee shall issue internal regulations for the conduct of its business.

Functions of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

8. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs shall undertake the following functions:-

- (a) Tabling of constitutional amendment bills, amendments concerning Comprehensive Peace Agreement, bills of laws and matters referred to by the Presidency or the National Council of Ministers or others which fall within the competence of the National Legislature.
- (b) Follow up the legislative proceedings at the National Legislature, the executive authority and state organs concerned with such proceedings which fall within the competence of the National Legislature and coordinate with relevant organs.
- (c) Participation in preparation of the Council business agenda so as to organize participation of the national executive authority in issues submitted to the National Legislature.

The Secretary General

- 9.(1) The Secretary General of the Legislature shall be the Secretary General of the National Assembly, and shall be assisted and deputized, in his/her absence by the Secretary General of the Council of States.
- (2) The Secretary General shall undertake the following duties:-
- (a) Preparation of sittings of the Legislature meetings of the committees and calling up the members.
 - (b) Preparation of business agenda duly approved by the Speaker and his/her deputy distributing it together with any bills, statements, papers or other attachments.
 - (c) Preparation of a venue for convening of sittings of the Legislature, its committees, monitoring the required quorum and voting.
 - (d) Supervision over the editing of the Legislature committees meetings records, registers minutes, summaries and recording minutes of the sittings and deliberations word by word.
 - (e) Supervision over printing minutes of the sittings, deliberations and resolutions of the Legislature, in both Arabic and English and make them available for perusal by members.
- (3) The Secretary General shall carry out all his/her duties under the direction and supervision of the Speaker.

The Legal Advisor

- 10.(1) The Legal Advisor of the Legislature shall be the Legal Advisor of the National Assembly and shall be assisted and deputized by the Legal Advisor of the Council of States.
- (2) The Legal Advisor shall undertake the following functions:-
- a- Gives legal advice to the Speaker , his/her deputy, Legislature committees, and its General Secretariat.
 - b- Follows up the legislative procedures which fall within the competence of the Legislature inside the two chambers and coordination thereof with other relevant organs of the state concerned with the said procedures.
 - c- Conducts comparative studies and research relating to competences of the Legislature.
 - d- Prepares final drafting of the Legislature's resolutions.

- (3) The Legal Advisor shall carry out his/her functions under direction and supervision of the Speaker.

Chapter IV
The Convening
The Call to Convene

- 11.(1) The Speaker of the Legislature, his/her deputy in consultation with the Inter-chamber Standing Committee of the two chambers, shall determine date of convening of sittings of the Legislature whenever there are matters presented to it that fall within the competence of the Legislature or whenever deems necessary.
- (2) The Secretary General shall inform the members on the call to convene along with the agenda, papers subject for discussion in an adequate time.

Venue for Convening

12. The Legislature shall convene its sittings at the seat of the National Assembly in Omdurman. However, the Speaker and his/her deputy may agree, for exceptional reasons, to convene sittings else where.

The Quorum for Sittings

- 13.(1) According to the provisions of the Constitution, the ordinary quorum for a sitting shall be by the presence of more than half of the members from the two chambers.
- (2) No voting shall be taken on a bill in its final reading stage unless making sure that the required quorum is actually available at the time of voting.
- (3) In seating, the members of each Chamber shall be seated in a specific place inside the chamber, in a way which facilitates counting their number and checking on the quorum and voice counting.

System and Control of the Sitting

- 14.(1) Sittings of the Legislature shall be open and may be attended by the public and be conveyed by the public mass media except in cases where the Speaker or the Legislature decides otherwise on the request of the President of the Republic or any of the ministers or on a procedural motion by any member, that the public interest necessitates that deliberation on the subject before the Legislature shall take place in camera .
- (2) When the Legislature takes place in camera , the Chamber shall be emptied of guests as well as galleries of the public, except those permitted by the Speaker to attend the sitting.

- (3) The Secretary General shall retain the records of sittings take place in camera, which shall not be published or disclosed to any person save with permission of the Speaker.
- (4) Every member shall abide by the seat allotted to him/her during the sitting, and shall neither move about in the chamber nor sit or leave the chamber except with decorum and leave permission of the Speaker.
- (5) No food or smoking or similar stuff shall be taken inside the chamber or galleries, reading a newspaper or a book or any written material not presented for the business of the National Legislature.
- (6) The members shall observe the decorum of participation during the sitting, no comments or noise or uncommon words are allowed as a gesture of opposition or disturb proceeding.
- (7) The members shall adhere to the directives of the Speaker in control of the Sitting and conduct of speech therein, the Speaker shall not be interrupted while speaking by commenting or pointing of order or by standing up, no comment in allowed on any action taken by the Speaker save by a draft substantive resolution presented by twenty members.
- (8) The Speaker may inflict on any member, who fails to comply with his/her directives or who infringes the conduct and control of the sitting, and he/she may take any measure to ensure enforcement of his/her penal decision which may be one of the following:-
 - a. Order the member to withdraw unbecoming speech or to apologize for any improper remark or behaviour.
 - b. Deprivation of speech during the Sitting.
 - c. Deprivation of member to continue the sitting and order him /her to withdraw or to be removed.
 - d. Decision after the sitting to direct censure in writing and that such decision are read out to the legislature in a following sitting.
 - e. Referring the matter to his/her Chamber to be punished according to its regulations.
- (9) All guests permitted to attend the sitting shall be subject to the rules of conduct of speech applicable to the members and Speaker may order their withdrawal from the chamber if necessary.
- (10) The public, in their movement inside the precincts of the sittings and in their watching the sitting from the galleries shall be subject to the rules laid down by the Secretary General, they shall keep silent and quiet during the sitting and, avoid making noise or clapping or commenting and refrain from expressing approval or disapproval or interfere in any manner in the

sitting. the Speaker may address and direct them and in the case of violation of system , he/she may order evacuation galleries

Rules of Speaking

- 15.(1) No member is allowed to speak in the sitting except from the seat allotted to him /her after registering his /her name in the computer board or by standing up in his /her place during the sitting or after registering his/her name with the Secretary General beforehand and after the permission of the Speaker in all cases.
- (2) A member shall not request to speak until after the Speaker presents the subject or the item on the agenda and shall not ask to speak after conclusion of voting on the subject or after the Speaker proceeds to another stage or matter or issue.
- (3) The Speaker shall allow members to speak in the order in which their requests have been made observing the good conduct of the deliberation and equitable distribution of chances among parliamentary blocks, supporters and opponents of the presented subject.
- (4) A member given permission to speak shall not continue longer than the time fixed or permitted by the Speaker.
- (5) The Minister or the mover of the subject may speak from the platform and any of them may request to speak more than once but shall not exceed the time fixed by the Speaker
- (6) Reading out from papers or documents or memos is not allowed without the permission of the Speaker, except for addresses or when presenting statement or reports or texts and proposals or amendments or question from a written text.
- (7) Repetition of one's own speech or repetition of what has been said by another or deviation from the subject under discussion or speaking unnecessarily long is not allowed, the Speaker may direct the member that his/her point has been made clear and direct him/ her to be precise and to conclude.
- (8) A member shall speak standing unless he /she can not stand for an excuse and shall direct his/her speech to the Speaker only, he/she shall be courteous in his/her speech and deliberation and use no offensive language about the members or expression insulting persons or institutes or values or creeds or public interests.
- (9) No member shall give an opinion or comment on a matter that is subjudice or speak about the president of the Republic or about any of his/her two Deputies or the government in an unfashionable manner.

- (10) No member shall interrupt another member while speaking except for a point of order provided that it shall not be a pretext for making a comment but to remind the Speaker to pay attention to provision of the Constitution or law or regulations. In this case a member may stand up and declare a point of order. These upon, the Speaker to sit down, then raiser of the point of order is permitted to introduce his/ her point and when finished, the Speaker shall decide on the point of order. Hence the member shall resume depending on the decision of the Speaker.
- (11) Speaking shall be in Arabic or English provided that translation shall be held in all cases.
- (12) The Speaker may remind any speaking member to observe the time limit or procedural directive or provision of Regulations. He/she may order that any speech from a member inconsistent with the provisions of the Regulations to be deleted from the sitting records.

Motion

- 16.(1) The deliberation on any subject required to be resolved by the legislature shall be initiated in the form of a motion in accordance with these Regulations. No motion shall be considered unless it is seconded, except the motions presented by a Minister through official initiative, or motions presented by more than one member, or the motions mentioned in committee discussions.
- (2) A motion may be presented impromptu by a procedural resolution in writing or by reading during discussion of the relevant subject. A motion for an amendment to a draft substantive resolution may be presented impromptu as well as a motion for drafting or a wording amendment of any subject entered the agenda.
- (3) The Speaker may, when a motion has been presented impromptu by a Minister or any member, permit to postpone the proposal subject to a later date to be entered in the agenda.
- (4) No motion for rejection of another motion under consideration, or for amending it in a manner changing its original form, or in a way inconsistent with a previous resolution adopted by the Legislature shall be accepted. However, a member has the right to oppose any motion and a committee may recommend in its report the rejection of any motion.

Postponement and Withdrawal

- 17.(1) A presenter of a subject or a motion may propose the postponement of the deliberation thereon to a certain date or another date to be agreed upon with the Speaker. A minister may move the postponement of the discussion on any motion of substantive resolutions in order to prepare an opinion thereon, provided that the period of postponement shall not exceed one month. In both cases, the Speaker may allow the postponement of the deliberation.

- (2) A presenter of a subject or motion may propose its postponement indefinitely or its withdrawal. But if the subject is presented by a member or the motion is seconded, or if deliberation has already started thereon, it is necessary to get the opinion of the Legislature if the Speaker or the Legislature, as the case may be, permits postponement or withdrawal, it shall not be incorporated once again in the agenda.
- (3) If the presenter of a subject is absent at the beginning of deliberations, or if he/she fails to introduce a motion in that regard, or if this happens at the closure of deliberation and the Speaker calls out for the presenter to read out his/ her motion once more, the Speaker may, according to his/her directive, postpone the remaining procedure on the subject or shall consider it as cancelled.

Closure of Deliberation

- 18.(1) At any stage of deliberation, a motion to close the deliberation may be presented, and when it is seconded, it shall be presented, and when it is seconded, it shall be put immediately to vote without deliberation unless the Speaker otherwise considers that shall contradict consultation principle necessary for the subject and so he/she may ignore the motion.
- (2) If the Speaker considers that the subject has its full share of deliberation or that there is no member willing to speak, he/she may propose to the Legislature the closure of deliberation and put the matter to the vote directly.

Taking the vote

- 19.(1) The Speaker after closure of deliberation, shall put the motion to vote by "Yes" or "No" and declare the result. If there are some motions for amendment, the Speaker shall put them to the vote first, starting with the motion most different from the original one and finally , he/she presents the motion in its original or amended form if amendment has been passed.
- (2) If no member objects the decision of the Speaker with regard to the result of voting, the result declared by the Speaker shall be deemed as the resolution of the Legislature.
- (3) When taking the vote , if there is no "No" voice and no member abstained from voting , the Speaker may direct the Secretary General to record a unanimous resolution and if no member objects , then the Secretary General shall record accordingly.
- (4) If the Speaker observes objecting voices, voting shall be made by counting the votes of both houses separately, the Speaker shall call on the members and who support and who oppose and abstainers respectively to stand up at their places until they are counted in each house. The speaker shall then declare the number of those who voted for and against the motion and the number of abstainers in each Chamber and shall declare the result. If the

motion has not been approved by the definite number for its passing from both houses, Legislature shall be considered rejecting the motion.

- (5) The Speaker shall try to achieve a consensus through consultation with motion proposal and others, he/she may delay the procedure or postpone the subject if consultation necessitates or if it becomes necessary to include fresh amendment according to the Regulations.

Chapter V
The National Legislature Business
Constitution Amendment

20.(1) Subject to Article 224(1) of the Constitution and when the Speaker of the National Legislature receives any amendment bill from the Presidency of the Republic, or the National Council of Ministers, or one-third of the members of the Legislature, the following procedures shall be taken:-

- (a) The bill shall be entered in the agenda of the nearest suitable sitting.
- (b) In the fixed sitting, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or who he/she deputizes shall read out the title of the bill and the accompanying memo thereto before the Legislature, and this shall be considered as first reading thereof and copies of it shall be distributed among the members.
- (c) The Legislature shall, upon a proposal from the Speaker, constitute an ad hoc committee to study the bill and submit a report thereof to the Legislature.
- (d) The Committee shall study the bill and present a report to the Legislature about its general features and its recommendations about its conformity in principle, and this shall be considered as second reading for the bill provided that the report shall not be presented before elapse of period not less than two months from the date of tabling the bill.
- (e) If the draft resolution is passed at the second reading stage, the Speaker shall refer it to the Committee for studying and preparing a report thereon, and shall be entered in the agenda for the third reading stage.
- (f) The Committee shall follow, when considering the draft at the third reading stage, the following procedures:-

Firstly:- The Committee may, for the purpose of consultation, send a copy of the bill to any concerned body outside the Legislature whether it is official, specialized or private to look and decide on the legality and wisdom of the bill or send it to any interested body to look and report on its implication and acceptability. Such body may be called

to address the Committee. The Committee may also appoint a time for any body that may request to comment on the bill. The Committee shall decide whether to respond to such request according to its evaluation of the seriousness and benefit of the request. The Committee may determine the method, and time for hearing the bodies concerned or for receiving notes and inquiries by any member or other body.

Secondly:- Any member may present to the chairperson of the committee, in writing, a reasoned motion for amendment or deletion of any provision of the bill, provided that such amendment shall not contradict with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, except upon the approval of the two agreement parties. The Committee may accept such motion or reject it.

Thirdly:-The amendments referred to as from passing the bill, shall be presented a day before the date fixed by the Committee for consideration thereof.

Fourthly:- No motion for insertion of a new provision which annuls the basis of the bill or is inconsistent with its general principles or with any resolution previously taken by the Legislature or contradicts with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement or the Constitution shall be proposed.

- (g) The Committee shall submit its report to the Legislature in the third reading stage. It shall contain the amendments adopted by the Committee, if any, and any other amendments rejected and the justifications of rejection.
 - (h) If there are no any amendments, the Speaker shall present the bill to be passed in the third reading stage.
 - (i) If there are any amendments, the proposers of the amendments rejected by the Committee shall be given an opportunity to explain their opinions. Voting shall be taken first on the amendments adopted by the Committee, then the rejected amendments. If none of the amendments were passed, the text stands as it is mentioned in the submitted bill. Then voting shall be taken on the remaining sections of the bill to be passed in the third reading stage.
 - (j) If the bill has been passed in the third reading stage, the Speaker may refer it to the committee for final wording or refer it directly to each of the two Legislature Chambers for the final vote taking thereon in two separate sittings.
- (2) Each Chamber shall consider the draft at the final reading stage for voting article by article and then it shall be passed as a whole.
 - (3) No amendment bill shall be passed unless it is agreed upon by three-quarters of the members in each of the two Legislature Chambers.

- (4) The amendment shall be submitted after approval to the President of the Republic accompanied by certificates of adoption by each Chamber and it shall come into force as from the date of signature by the President of the Republic.

Amendment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)

21. Subject to Article 224(2) of the Constitution and when the Speaker of the Legislature receives any amendment bill to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) presented by the two parties of the agreement, the following procedures shall be taken:-
- a. The bill shall be entered in the agenda of the Legislature in the nearest suitable sitting.
 - b. In the fixed sitting, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or who deputizes him/her shall read out before the Legislature the title of the bill and accompanying memo and the consent of the two agreement parties thereto. This is considered as first reading stage for the bill and as indication of tabling it before the Legislature and copies of it are distributed to the members.
 - c. The Legislature shall form, upon a proposal by the Speaker, an ad hoc committee to study the bill, present a general evaluation report about the bill, a recommendation concerning passing it. The bill shall be entered in the agenda for a date to be fixed by the Speaker.
 - d. The Committee shall study the bill and present, in the fixed sitting, a report to the Legislature on the general features of the bill, explaining the theoretical and practical justifications which led to its presentation and its recommendation and shall be put for deliberation.
 - e. After the closure of deliberation the bill shall be put to vote and if it is passed by both Chambers by the majority of the members present , the Speaker shall refer the ratified bill to the two parties of the agreement accompanied by adoption certificate.

Southern Sudan Referendum Act

- 22.(1) At the beginning of the third year of the Interim Period , the Southern Sudan Referendum Bill shall be tabled before the National legislature and the following steps shall be taken to pass it :-
- a. The Speaker shall form an ad hoc committee with consultation with the Chairpersons of parliamentary Blocs .
 - b. In the fixed sitting, the chairperson of the committee shall read out the title of the bill and the accompanying memo before the Legislature. This is regarded as first reading of the bill, indicating its presentation before the Legislature, and copies of it shall be distributed among the members. The Speaker shall refer the bill to

the committee to present a report about the general features of the bill.

- c. The Committee shall study the bill and present a report to the Legislature about the bill general features and its recommendations concerning passing it in principle. This is considered as second reading of the bill.
 - d. If the bill has been passed in the second reading stage, the Speaker shall refer it to the Committee for study and preparing a report thereof for the third reading stage.
 - e. The Committee shall, in studying and considering the bill in the third reading stage, follow the same procedures stated in Article 20(1)(f).
- (2) The committee shall submit its report to the Legislature at the third reading stage and the Legislature shall follow the same procedures stated in Article 20(1),(g),(h),(i).
 - (3) After passing the bill in the third reading stage, the Speaker may return it to the Committee for final wording or proceed to the final reading stage directly, where the bill shall be passed and voting shall be taken thereon section by section, then it shall be passed as a whole.
 - (4) After passing the bill in the final reading stage, the Speaker of the Legislature shall send the passed bill accompanied by adoption certificate to the President of the Republic. It shall come into force as from the date of signature of the President of the Republic.

Deliberation on Address of the President of the Republic

- 23.(1) The President of the Republic shall present before the Legislature a general address in the first half of the year, which includes a report on the general performance of the government in the previous year, and in the second half of the year an address including a statement on the general policies of the government in the next year, its reform plans and its legislative programmes in different aspects.
- (2) After the Legislature has heard the address of the President of the Republic, the Speaker may permit deliberation thereon immediately by the Legislature as a committee or formation of an ad hoc committee to which the address is referred to study and report thereon to the Legislature.
- (3) The Speaker shall fix a date for deliberation on the address, and the Legislature may form a committee to prepare a reply to the address in a form of a draft resolution to be passed by the Legislature and refer to the authorities concerned.

Allocation of Resources and Revenues

- 24.(1) The competent authority shall present before the Legislature prior to the beginning of a fiscal year, a proposal on allocation of resources and revenues in the country according to Article 110 of the Constitution and shall be entered in the agenda of the nearest suitable sitting.
- (2) Representative of the competent authority, in the fixed sitting, shall read out the title of the bill and the memo attached to the proposal and that shall be considered as the first reading stage thereof, and an indication of tabling before the Legislature.
- (3) The Legislature shall form an ad hoc committee to study the proposal according to a motion by the Speaker in consultation with the Inter-chamber Standing Committee of both Chambers, in which fair representation of the political forces, concerned committees of both chambers and scientific specializations of the Legislature are considered.
- (4) The Committee shall study the proposal and present its report accompanied with recommendations thereon to the National Legislature, and hence shall get into deliberation and voting.
- (5) The proposal shall be approved by endorsement of more than half of the legislature membership .

Re-consideration of the Bills

- 25.(1) Should the President, according to Article 108(2) of the Constitution, withholds assent any bill passed by the Legislature or any of its Chambers or Council of States (CoS), and give reasons, the bill shall be re-introduced for re-considering by Legislature within thirty days from the date of receiving from the Presidency.
- (2) When the Speaker receives observations of the President of the Republic on the bill, and it shall be entered in the business agenda of the Legislature, in the nearest appropriate sitting.
- (3) In the fixed sitting, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or who acts on his/her behalf shall explain observations of the President of the Republic on the bill with their justifications and what he/she proposes on the bill.
- (4) The Speaker may, after consultation with the Inter-chamber Standing Committee, allow deliberation on the subject immediately or refer it to an ad hoc committee to study and report thereon before the Legislature including its recommendations on observations of the President of the Republic and the report shall be entered in the agenda on a date to be fixed by the Speaker.
- (5) In the fixed sitting the committee shall submit a report which includes its recommendation of approval of the President's observations or rejection

thereof. In the case of approval the report shall include the final wording of the observations as a new amendment draft of the original bill.

- (6) After reading the report, the Legislature shall deliberate on the amendment draft and after closure of deliberation, voting shall be taken on the observations in a sitting where the number of the present members is not less than two-thirds of all members and representatives of both Chambers. The amendment draft is considered approved, if the Legislature passes it, or if otherwise rejects it, this shall be a rejection of the observations.
- (7) If the committee recommends rejection of the observations or if the Legislature rejects the committee's recommendation to pass it, the original bill shall be submitted to the Legislature for taking vote. The bill shall be considered passed if the Legislature approves it by two-thirds majority of members and representatives of both Chambers, and in this case, assent of the President shall not be required for the bill to come into force.
- (8) If there is no quorum satisfied for the sitting, the Speaker may define another sitting with quorum to vote on the observations on the bill.

Declaration of State of Emergency

- 26.(1) On declaration of state of emergency according to Article 210 of the Constitution, the declaration together with any measures accordingly adopted shall be lodged with the Legislature within fifteen days of its issue.
- (2) If the Legislature is not in session, the Speaker shall call for emergent sitting.
- (3) Legislature may refer the declaration and the measures to an ad hoc committee formed by proposal of the Speaker to study and report thereon to the Legislature in the time fixed by the Speaker.
- (4) Legislature shall deliberate on the report of the committee and has the right to extend period of enforcement of the state of emergency or reject the extension according to a resolution passed by half the majority of the membership.

Declaration of War

- 27.(1) If the President of the Republic according to Article 213 of the Constitution, under external aggression decides to declare war, he shall notify the Speaker to convene emergent sitting to put the decision before the Legislature.
- (2) The Legislature, in sitting takes place in camera, shall deliberate on the issue and it may approve the declaration of war by a resolution of two-thirds majority of the members.

- (3) The Legislature may assign an ad hoc committee from its members to prepare a report on the declaration to the Legislature.
- (4) In case of Legislature approval of the declaration of war resolution of two-thirds majority, the resolution shall be legally enforceable and shall be submitted to the President of the Republic.

Procedures Against the President of the Republic or First Vice-President

- 28.(1) The Speaker shall refer to the Inter-chamber Standing committee any allegations in respect of the President of the Republic or First Vice-President, which may constitute legal reasons to institute criminal procedures in accordance with Article (60) of the Constitution .
- (2) The Committee shall deliberate on the subject and may listen to any person and peruse any document, and then it shall submit its recommendations to the Legislature in a report including a recommendation to grant permission to take criminal procedures or reject that.
- (3) The Legislature shall deliberate on the Committee report and it may assent to grant permission upon a resolution by three-quarters of its all members.
- (4) The Speaker shall refer the Legislature resolution to the Constitutional Court with the necessary papers and reasons.
- (5) If the Constitutional Court has come to conviction resolution, it shall submit it to the Legislature to take what it seems appropriate.
- (6) If the conviction involved high treason or gross violation of the Constitution or gross misconduct in relation to state affairs, the Legislature after deliberation may relieve the President or the First Vice-President and he/she shall be deemed to have forfeited his/her office.

Delegated Legislative Measures

- 29(1) Legislative measures issued according to a delegation of a national law which falls within the competence of the Legislature, shall be presented to the Legislature during one month of its issue, the speaker shall read out the name of the by-law as an indication of tabling before the Legislature.
- (2) Any member may present to the Speaker his /her observations against the by- law during two weeks from the date of tabling. The Speaker may form an ad hoc committee to study it. The committee shall not submit any report thereon to the Legislature, unless it otherwise recommends annulment or amendment of the by –law. The report shall be entered in the agenda of the Legislature for deliberation and voting on such recommendation according to a draft resolution.

Chapter VI
Committees' Business

- 30.(1) The Committee shall convene upon a call from its Speaker and by the attendance of half of its members. If no quorum is satisfied, the Speaker shall call for another meeting which shall convene by the attendance of any number of members present.
- (2) The Committee chairperson shall chair its meetings, and on him/her absence, his/her deputy shall chair the Committee. On the absence of both deputies it shall be chaired by the person selected by the members.
- (3) The Secretary General shall appoint a rapporteur for each committee, to be responsible for preparatory and editorial duties of the Committee business.
- (4) The committee may request the attendance of ministers or officials to its meetings, and they have to attend in person, or send who act on their behalf , and they have to be accompanied by their assistants for the purpose of the committee meeting.
- (5) The Committee may invite any member or any body or person outside the Legislature who has a relation to the subject under discussion, to listen to his/her opinion about the subject and may summon any person to present testimony or a statement before it .
- (6) Resolution of the Committee shall be taken by the majority of the members present.
- (7) The Committee shall present its recommendations about the referred subjects thereto before the Legislature by its chairperson or his/her deputy through a report containing the Committee opinion, recommendations, justifications, and all the proposals and views of the members if they request to be recorded in the report.
- (8) The record of proceedings of Committee meetings shall be confined to its minutes, names of the members present, members absent, summary of proceedings of meeting, hearing and deliberation and the text of resolutions or recommendations and shall be signed by the chairperson of the Committee.

Chapter VII
The National Group

- 31.(1)(a)The National group of the Republic of Sudan shall be constituted from all Legislature members, to represent the Legislature in international, regional and specialized parliamentary conferences, and those inside the country.
- (b)The group shall have general assembly comprising of all Legislature members.

- (c) The Speaker shall chair the group .His/her deputy shall be co-chairperson.
 - (d) The chairperson, in coordination with the co-chairperson, shall assume the leadership of Legislature representation in international, regional and bilateral parliamentary conferences and organize its parliamentary and bilateral relations, and relations with international and regional organizations. Moreover he/she shall organize the international foreign parliamentary and regional , bilateral participations, and signature of resolutions issued therefrom.
 - (e) Fair representation of the two Chambers shall be considered in external and internal participations, provided that different political forces are fairly represented within the two Chambers.
 - (f) The secretary general shall be the rapporteur of the group and the secretary general of the council of states shall be co-rapporteur.
 - (g) The secretary general shall chair the secretariat general of the group and shall supervise over the organization of its business and shall be responsible thereof before the Speaker and his/her deputy.
- (2) The group shall have an executive committee presided by the Speaker and his/her deputy shall be co-chairperson. The two deputy Speakers of the two Chambers, chairpersons of the standing committees in both Chambers, and five members elected by the general assembly, observing in their election fair representation in both Chambers, shall be members and the secretary general shall be rapporteur. This committee is competent of the following:-
- (a) Plans foreign parliamentary business strategy within the framework of the objectives and regulations of international and regional parliamentary unions, and bilateral parliamentary relations in a way that conforms with Sudan foreign policy.
 - (b) Develops and promotes external parliamentary co-operation with international and regional parliamentary organizations and unions and parliaments on bilateral level.
 - (c) Advises and gives counseling to the Legislature in the field of external parliamentary work.
 - (d) Approves the plans of the secretariat of the group which are concerned with the arrangement for receiving parliamentary and non-parliamentary delegates who visit the Legislature.
 - (e) Supervises the activities of parliamentary links that strengthen brotherhood and friendliness with other parliaments.
 - (f) Follows up fulfillment of group financial commitments towards parliamentary unions.
 - (g) The committee shall submit a periodical report of its business to the general assembly.
- (3) The group shall have specialized parliamentary circles the competence of which shall be defined by the group conduct of business regulations.
- (4) The group shall have secretariat general that is composed of specialized secretariat presided by the secretary general who shall be responsible of its organization and business before the Speaker and his/her deputy.
- (5) The executive committee shall issue the conduct of business regulations of the group by an initiative of the Speaker after consultation with his/her deputy.

Chapter VIII
Financial Costs

32. The financial costs of the Legislature shall be included in the National Assembly budget, and the General Secretariat of the National Assembly shall assume the burdens of steering the legislature business.

Amendments to the Regulations

- 33.(1) The Speaker or his/her deputy may, upon his/her initiative, present any proposals that he/she sees to amend the Regulations. Thirty members at least may also present a proposal for amendment.
- (2) The Speaker shall notify the Legislature that an amendment proposal was already received and request the members to present any other proposals, and then he/she shall refer the proposals to an ad hoc committee for studying and drafting in its legal form.
- (3) The amendments bill shall be presented to the Legislature with the report by the ad hoc committee. To consider it, the normal procedures of bill shall not be followed, however, deliberations thereon shall start after the report immediately, and then it shall be put to voting section by section. Amendments shall come into force as soon as the Speaker declares its approval.

Certificate

I, hereby, certify that the National Legislature has passed the (Conduct of Business) Regulations of the National Legislature, 2007 in its Sitting No. (4) of the fourth session dated 22 Rabie 1, 1428 A. H., being 10 April 2007 .

Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir ,
Speaker of the National Assembly

Ali Yahia Abdalla,
Speaker of the Council of States