

## BYLAWS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENT

### TITLE I

#### THE BODY, PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

**Article 1.** The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament or Parlatino, is a regional, standing unicameral body, made up by the national parliaments of the sovereign and independent Latin American and Caribbean nations, which have been democratically elected by popular vote, and whose countries signed the relevant Institutionalization Treaty on November 16, 1987, in Lima, Peru.

Article 2. Parlatino has the following permanent and unalterable principles:

- a. The defense of democracy;
- b. Latin American and Caribbean integration;
- c. Nonintervention;
- d. People's self-determination;
- e. Political and ideological plurality as a basis for a democratically organized Latin American community;
- f. Legal equality of States;
- g. Condemnation of the threat and use of force against the political independence and territorial integrity of States;
- h. Peaceful, just and negotiated settlement of international disputes; and
- i. The supremacy of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States.

**Article 3.** Parlatino has, inter alia, the following purposes:

- a. Ensure the strict respect for human rights;
- b. Uphold the full exercise of freedom, social justice, economic independence, representative and participatory democracy, through free and transparent elections abiding by the principles of nonintervention, people's right to self-determination and the effective rule of law;
- c. Foster the economic and social development of the Latin American community and strive for its full economic, political, social and cultural integration of its peoples;
- d. Fight against all forms of colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and all sorts of discrimination in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- e. Oppose imperialist actions in Latin America and the Caribbean, recommending appropriate laws, rules and programs that empower our peoples to exercise full sovereignty over their territories, economic systems and natural resources;
- f. Study, discuss and draw up policies conducive to the solution of the social, economic, cultural, environmental and foreign policy issues of the Latin American and Caribbean community;
- g. Contribute to the achievement of international peace, security and legal order denouncing and combating the arms race and the attacks of those who advocate for

- the policy of force, both incompatible with economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental development of Latin American and Caribbean nations;
- h. Channel and support Latin American and Caribbean peoples' demands for the just recognition of their rights at the international level;
  - i. Advocate for the strengthening of Latin American and Caribbean parliaments, thus ensuring the constitutional and democratic lives of States, as well as to foster, without prejudice to the principle of nonintervention, the restoration of those that have been dissolved;
  - j. Maintain relations with parliaments, international organizations and states of all geographical regions, promoting increased flows of international cooperation to foster the sustainable development of the Latin American and Caribbean community;
  - k. Promote and encourage the design, development and implementation of environmentally friendly and sound policies and plans for the care, preservation and resilience of the environment, articulating international cooperation mechanisms with parliaments from the different geographical regions, international organizations and States;
  - l. Strengthen ties and promote constant interaction with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC);
  - m. Foster the full and equal access to labor, food, social security, healthcare, education, water and other natural resources;
  - n. Promote access to information, technology and knowledge fostering mobility, social equality and regional development;
  - o. Further legislative harmonization through the design of draft model laws.

## **TITLE II MEMBERS**

**Article 4.** Parlatino's members are the national congresses or national legislative assemblies of states parties democratically constituted in Latin America and the Caribbean, which shall participate in it through the representation of plural membership delegations. Countries where the universal, direct and secret election of Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians is allowed may join the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament.

## **CHAPTER 1 MEMBERS**

**Article 5.** Member parliaments shall participate through parliamentary representatives in all Latin American Parliament bodies and activities, who shall be duly accredited by their respective national Parliaments, which shall appoint them for the term provided in the rules and replaced according to their respective rules of procedure, excepting the case of those who make up the Board of Directors.

Member Parliaments of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, pursuant to their rules of procedure, shall be able to appoint alternate delegates to represent their Parliaments in Parlatino's activities when incumbents are unable to do so.

Any changes shall be timely notified to the General Secretariat.

**Article 6.** To be part of the delegation of a member Parliament and represent it and take part in the work of any of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament bodies, candidates shall be parliamentarians in office, those who lose their position shall immediately cease to act as representatives.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **DISSOLVED OR SUSPENDED PARLIAMENTS**

**Article 7.** A Parliament's membership may be suspended when it no longer complies with the relevant requirements provided in these Bylaws or if it speaks or acts against the principles and purposes of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament.

**Article 8.** Former members of Parliaments that have been dissolved, suspended or intervened, in whose countries the constitutional order has been disrupted, shall have the right to participate, as observers, in assembly and committee meetings until the end of the term they were elected for. If at the end of their term of office the circumstances that led to the dissolution, suspension or intervention of their Parliament prevail, the Governing Council may extend that right to former lawmakers who request it.

## **TITLE III**

### **BODIES**

**Article 9.** The bodies of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament are:

- a. The Assembly;
- b. The Governing Council;
- c. The Standing Committees; and
- d. The General Secretariat.

**Article 10.** The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament bodies shall be able to meet in places other than the Permanent Headquarters by agreement of the Council or the Board of Directors.

Countries wishing to host the works of any of PARLTINO's bodies shall ensure the required visas are granted to all delegation members of all member parliaments, as well as the appropriate facilities and operational resources for a successful meeting.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **THE ASSEMBLY**

**Article 11.** The Assembly is the supreme representative and deliberative body of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and is made up of accredited national delegations.

**Article 12.** The Assembly shall hold regular meetings once a year at Permanent Headquarters and special meetings by agreement of at least half plus one of the Governing Council members, setting the place and time and forwarding the agenda of the meeting.

**Article 13.** National delegations to the Assembly shall include up to twelve members with individual and nontransferable voting rights, which they shall only exercise when they are

present. The delegations shall proportionally include representatives of the political parties or parliamentary groups serving in their respective Congresses. To the extent possible there should be gender parity representation and young parliamentary participation.

If any delegation has less than twelve members, their members may accumulate up to four votes each, provided they do not exceed the established limit. The Rules shall provide the form in which accumulated voting powers shall be accredited.

**Article 14.** To be deemed quorate, the Assembly requires the attendance of more than half of member Parliaments. Additionally, the delegations representing them shall include at least half plus one of the members entitled to vote.

**Article 15.** Voting shall be by open ballot, delegation by delegation, in strict alphabetical order or as previously agreed upon by majority vote within the own Assembly. In which case, the Rules shall define the time allotted for the debate and voting results shall be recorded in the minutes of the relevant meeting.

**Article 16.** Draft agreements, recommendations, resolutions and model laws shall be put forth for the consideration of the Assembly and shall relate to the matters included in the agenda approved by the Governing Council.

**Article 17.** The Assembly has the following exclusive powers:

- a) Lay down the general guidelines and strategies of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, drawing up policies, guiding and controlling all its bodies, defining its plans and programs and assessing the fulfillment of their mandates, as well as proposing and approving plans and programs and ordering their implementation;
- b) Resolve, by two thirds of the present votes, on national parliaments' accession applications to the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament submitted to its consideration and approval by the Governing Council;
- c) Resolve, by two thirds of the present votes, on member parliaments' suspension requests forwarded by the Governing Council for reasons other than those provided in article 23.d<sup>1</sup> of these Bylaws.
- d) Elect members to the Board of Directors by simple majority vote;
- e) Resolve, by two thirds of the present votes, at the request of at least five member parliaments, on the removal of Board of Directors members;
- f) Resolve, by two thirds of present votes, on the fees national Parliaments shall pay to contribute to the operation of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament; which shall be revised and adjusted, if necessary, every five years;
- g) Discuss and approve, by simple majority vote, the budget estimates of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, proposed for the concerned period by the Governing Council, as well as the financial statements of the previous budget year;
- h) Resolve on changes to these Bylaws by two thirds of present votes;
- i) Elect, by simple majority vote, members to the Consultative Council;
- j) Delegate some of its duties to the Governing Council, ad referendum at the next Assembly;

- k) Approve work priorities at the proposal of the Governing Council;
- l) Know and approve in the form of agreements, recommendations or resolutions, as appropriate, any matters, motions, or draft documents related to the principles and purposes of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament. On any other matters it shall pronounce itself through statements. Agreements, recommendations, resolutions, draft model laws and statements shall be deemed approved if they get the simple majority of the present votes;
- m) Accept the inclusion of new matters with two thirds of the present votes, which shall be included under the item General Affairs of the Assembly's agenda;
- n) Others that are expressly bestowed upon it under these Bylaws.

## **CHAPTER 2 GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**Article 18.** The Governing Council includes the Board of Directors in full and as many Vice-Chairs as member congresses.

The Chair of the Consultative Council or whoever replaces him/her in his/her functions, shall also be part of the Governing Council, only with speaking rights, and shall represent Parlatino in the missions expressly entrusted to him/her.

**Article 19.** The Governing Council is the supreme authority when the Assembly is not in session.

**Article 20.** The Governing Council shall hold regular meetings at least twice a year, which shall be convened by the Presidency and special meetings by decision of the Board of Directors. To be deemed quorate, half plus one of its members shall be present, and its agreements, recommendations, resolutions and draft model laws shall be adopted by simple majority of the present votes.

**Article 21.** Final vacancies in elected positions within the Board of Directors shall be filled by affirmative vote of half plus one of the total number of members and shall stay in office during the remainder of the current term.

Member Parliaments may replace their Vice-Presidents, according to their rules of procedure, through written accreditation to the General Secretariat.

**Article 22.** The Assembly shall elect from the candidates nominated the Board of Directors members who shall hold the following positions: Presidency, Alternate Presidency, General Secretariat, Alternate General Secretariat, Committees' Secretariat, Alternate Committees' Secretariat, Interparliamentarian Relations Secretariat and Interinstitutional Relations Secretariat. It shall acknowledge persons designated by national Parliaments to hold the vice-presidencies.

To be part of a candidates' list, nominees shall be delegates and have at least the support of one third of their Congress delegation. Two or more delegates of the same member parliament cannot be included on the same list.

The election of Board of Directors members described in this article may be done per position or positions when aspiring candidates requesting it have the support of at least a quarter of

attending delegations and provided provisions of the previous subparagraph are observed at all times.

**Article 23.** The Board of Directors shall additionally have the following exclusive powers:

- a. Promote the rapprochement and accession of national Parliaments from Latin American states that are not members of the Organization;
- b. Resolve, ad referendum at the next Assembly, on accession applications by national Parliaments from Latin American and Caribbean States;
- c. Convey to the Assembly the suspension request, duly supported by five or more member parliaments, against any Parliament that fails to meet the relevant requirements or has spoken or acted against the principles and purposes of the Latin American Parliament. As part of this procedure the concerned parliamentarian shall be given the right to be heard, in the form and under the terms provided in the Rules;
- d. Suspend, with two thirds of the votes of attending members, a member Parliament for failure to attend, without valid justification, bodies meetings or for failure to pay two or more full annual fees. The suspension shall cease to have effect when the member Parliament normalizes its attendance or repays its debt;
- e. Summon member Parliaments to Assembly meetings;
- f. Draw up or order the preparation of working documents on agenda items;
- g. Act as a consultation body, if and when some member Parliaments request it;
- h. Distribute among Assembly members, at least thirty days in advance, the budget report of the public account for the preceding financial year;
- i. Approve additions and regulate budget expenses when circumstances require it;
- j. Control the proper administration and care of the assets, resources and documents of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament;
- k. Agree relations with national, regional or subregional entities, as well as with international Organizations;
- l. Lay down institutional communication strategy guidelines;
- m. Decide the changes to the Bylaws and put them to the consideration of the Assembly;
- n. Resolve, ad referendum at the next Assembly, and with a two-thirds affirmative vote, on the request of restoration of one Parliament;
- o. Create as many ad hoc or interim committees and working groups as necessary;
- p. Define, for each term, the Chair of standing committees pertaining to each National Parliament;
- q. Approve the Rules by majority vote;
- r. Appoint the Executive Secretariat for each term at the proposal of the Chair and by simple majority vote of its members;
- s. Encourage and follow up, as appropriate, electoral observation missions;
- t. Decide on draft agreements, recommendations and resolutions and assess draft model laws for further consideration by the Assembly;
- u. Convene and commission tasks to the Consultative Council;
- v. Approve other rules that may be required;
- w. Others expressly conferred upon it by Assembly agreement.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Article 24.** The Board of Directors shall implement, lead, plan, coordinate and assess the work of Parlatino, and perform as many duties as required to ensure the fulfillment of its purposes and functions, acting as delegatee of the Governing Council.

Its members shall hold office for a two-year term. They may be reelected only once for the same position.

Board of Directors members shall be from different countries, seeking representation of the different subregions, like vice-chairs they cannot belong to the Consultative Council or be part of standing committee chairs.

The agreements of the Board of Directors shall be recorded as minutes and shared in hard copy or digitally with the rest of members of the Governing Council.

To be deemed quorate and adopt decisions, the presence of half plus one of its members is required.

### **PRESIDENCY**

**Article 25.** The Presidency of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament shall have the following powers:

- a. Represent the Body;
- b. Convene Assembly sessions, Governing Council, Board of Directors and Consultative Council meetings;
- c. Preside over Assembly, Council and Board of Directors meetings;
- d. Present a Work Plan and Program at the beginning of its mandate;
- e. Coordinate with all Latin American and Caribbean Parliament bodies their adherence to their respective powers to ensure the fulfillment of the objectives set out;
- f. Lay out, in consultation with the General Secretariat and with the support of the Executive Secretariat, the agendas for Assembly, Council and Board of Directors meetings; and coordinate, with the Committees' Secretariat, the agenda to be developed throughout the year, on the basis of the guidelines provided in the Work plan mentioned in subparagraph d) above;
- g. Direct official communications;
- h. Present to the Assembly and the Governing Council an annual report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and, especially on the situation and prospects of democracy, integration, development and legislative functions in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- i. Ensure compliance of the Bylaws, the rules and the decisions approved by the different bodies;
- j. Decide on any aspect pertaining to the Parlatino's operation that is not provided for in the Bylaws or the Rules;
- k. Propose to the Governing Council nominations for or the ratification of the incumbent of the Executive Secretariat;
- l. Others conferred upon in these Bylaws.

**Article 26.** For the best performance of its duties, the President shall work from the Permanent Headquarters for as long as it's necessary for the duration of his term of office.

### **ALTERNATE PRESIDENCY**

**Article 27.** Whoever holds the alternate presidency shall take on the presidency in case of temporary or permanent absence of the President and shall perform the duties delegated upon him/her in addition to the ones provided for in the Rules.

### **VICEPRESIDENCIES**

**Article 28.** Vicepresidencies shall be assumed by the parliamentarians designated by the member Congresses as their permanent representatives in the Governing Council and shall have the following powers:

- a. Represent the Organization, in coordination with its President and other members of the Board of Directors, in its official relations whenever required;
- b. Ensure the proper functioning of the Latin American Parliament bodies when they meet in their respective countries and oversee the work of Committees, the chairs or vice-chairs of which belong to the country they represent;
- c. Act as authorized spokesperson to disseminate in their respective countries, the agreements, recommendations, resolutions and draft model laws;
- d. Take part in the meetings and work of the Standing Committees, especially those held in their countries;
- e. Present to Parlatino, the laws or matters discussed in their respective Congresses that may be deemed of interest for any of its bodies, as well as to inform their national Parliaments about model laws, agreements and resolutions approved by Parlatino.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Article 29.** Standing Committees are part of the specialized body of the Latin American Parliament. Their functions are to analyze, study and research on political, social, economic, educational, cultural, legal, labor, sanitation, environmental, agricultural, housing issues; as well as on issues related to fundamental rights, public services, corruption, security, women, children, the youth, the elders, ethnic groups, gender equity, social security, sustainable development and all other matters that are of common interest for Latin America and the Caribbean. On the basis of those studies, Standing Committees shall produce supporting documents for the Governing Council and the Assembly and propose specific opinions for discussion.

**Article 30.** The specific names of the Standing Committees dealing with the issues described in article 29 above, as well as all aspects pertaining to their competences, composition and functioning and that of the ad hoc and interim committees, shall be provided for in the Rules of these Bylaws.

**Article 31.** Proposals for the creation of new standing committees shall be made by member Parliaments and put forth for the consideration by the Governing Council, which shall approve it by two thirds votes in order to be submitted to the Assembly's consideration. Approval by the Assembly shall require a majority vote.



**Article 32.** Standing Committees are empowered to write opinions on draft model laws and resolutions on matters under their competence.

#### **CHAPTER 4 GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

**Article 33.** The General Secretariat is the body of articulation, coordination and permanent supervision of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and whoever holds that position shall work as long as it is required at the Organization's Headquarters.

**Article 34.** The Alternate General Secretariat, in addition to assuming the powers and duties of the General Secretariat in case of temporary or permanent absence of the latter, may take part in special projects commissioned by the Governing Council.

**Article 35.** The incumbent of the General Secretariat, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Presidency in its Work Program, shall have the following powers:

- a. Report on all issues under its competence and referred to it by the Governing Council, for subsequent consideration and decision by the Assembly;
- b. Notify member parliaments on the convocation of meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament bodies, as well as on the members of the chairs, on the dates agreed and according to the agendas approved;
- c. Advise the Assembly, the Council and the Board of Directors in the preparation of their agendas;
- d. Receive and distribute among member parliaments the draft agreements, recommendations, resolutions and model laws proposed for consideration or discussion;
- e. Disseminate, as appropriate, the agreements, recommendations, resolutions, statements and draft model laws adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament bodies; and promote their dissemination by each Member in accordance with the rules of procedure of their respective parliaments;
- f. Ensure the attendance of delegations to Parlatino's bodies meetings, as well as that of Board of Directors members and propose the relevant disciplinary sanctions, pursuant to the Rules;
- g. Verify the credentials of delegations to the Assembly, as well as those of observers and special guests;
- h. Receive and register the credentials of Vice-Presidents designated by the Members;
- i. Replace the President temporarily, in case of absence of the latter and of the Alternate President, while the Governing Council fills the vacancies;
- j. Comply with and enforce all decisions adopted by the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Board and the committees; and
- k. Others conferred upon it in these Bylaws and in accordance with the Rules.

#### **COORDINATION SECRETARIATS**

**Article 36.** The Governing Council shall have the following coordination Secretariats:

- a. The Committees' Secretariat;
- b. The Alternate Committees Secretariat;
- c. The Interparliamentarian Relations Secretariat;
- d. The Interinstitutional Relations Secretariat.

**Article 37.** The Committees' Secretariat shall, according to the guidelines approved by the Assembly and the Governing Council, draw up work programs, supervise and control the proper functioning of the standing, ad hoc and interim committees and streamline the analysis, study, research and drafting tasks each of them undertake.

The Alternate Committees' Secretariat, in addition to assuming the powers and duties of the Committees' Secretary, in case of temporary or permanent absence of the latter, may take part in special projects commissioned by the Committees' Secretariat and the Governing Council.

The Committees' Secretariat, through a Technical Committee, shall oversee the operation of Parlantino's information network.

**Article 38.** The Interparliamentarian Relations Committee shall endeavor to manage and maintain, in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Assembly and the Governing Council, the relations of friendship, exchange and cooperation of the different Latin American Parliament bodies with national, regional and subregional Parliaments, as well as with other forms of parliamentarian associations of the world.

**Article 39.** The Interinstitutional Relations Secretary shall guide its work to develop, in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Assembly and the Governing Council, official protocol relations and exchange and cooperation between the different Parlantino's bodies and the agencies, institutions and organizations of the international system, governmental and nongovernmental, as well as with other international organizations and associations that act in the framework of interest of the Organization.

#### **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**Article 40.** The Executive Secretariat shall be entrusted to a person with parliamentarian and administrative experience. In the performance of his/her duties, the Executive Secretary shall:

- a. Collaborate with the General Secretariat in the fulfillment of its duties and specifically in the tasks commissioned by the Presidency, the Governing Council or the Board;
- b. Be responsible of the Permanent Headquarters, and deal with all administrative, financial and human resources matters, in accordance with the Board of Directors instructions;
- c. Arrange the collection of fees and implement the budget in consultation with the President and the General Secretary and as delegated by them;
- d. Present to the Governing Council the financial statements of the previous budget year that it shall submit to the Assembly;

- e. Present the budget estimates to the Governing Council for their review and approval and subsequent presentation to the Assembly;
- f. Attend and provide advice in Council and Board of Directors meetings; and
- g. Undertake other duties commissions by the Governing Council.

Without prejudice to the powers described above, the Executive Secretary is an official, and as such, he/she shall be subject to the rights and obligations provided in the Staff Rules of the Headquarters and others expressly agreed. His/her election shall be for the same term of office than the Board of Directors’.

To ensure compliance of paragraph b) of this article, a Director of Headquarters shall be appointed by simple majority vote of the Board of Directors members.

#### **TITLE IV**

##### **PERSONALITY AND PREROGATIVES**

**Article 41.** The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, pursuant to article 2 and subsequent articles of Chapter 2 of the “Headquarters Agreement” between the Latin American Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Panama, signed on August 27, 2007, establishing its Headquarters in Panama, Republic of Panama and, in its condition of Body with international legal personality, has legal personality in the territory of Panama and enjoys the required privileges and immunities for the performance of their duties and the achievement of its purposes.

Those same immunities and privileges are accorded to Parlatino’s delegates, members and officials, as long as they continue to perform such duties, in accordance with articles 13, 14, 16 and 18 of Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of the same “Headquarters Agreement”.

Likewise, pursuant to article 6 of its Institutionalization Treaty, signed in Lima, Peru, on November 16, 1987, approved by all member countries, the Latin American Parliament its member parliamentarians, delegates and officials, in accordance with international law, have legal personality of their own and enjoy the respective privileges and immunities in the territories of the countries that make it up.

#### **TITLE V**

##### **EXPENSES**

**Article 42.** Positions in the Governing Council, the Consultative Council and the chairs of the standing committees are pro bono and national Parliaments shall run with the expenses required for the performance of their duties.

**Article 43.** Every year the Governing Council shall draw up the budget estimates for the operation of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament the following year, which shall be put forth for the consideration of the Assembly.

Until said budget estimates are not approved, the previous year budget shall remain effective.

**Article 44.** The Presidency may, in consultation with the General Secretariat, authorize changes or carryovers, within the maximum expenditure amount provided in the budget, when circumstances require it and the framework of its objectives.

**Article 45.** For the performance of their duties, the Presidency and the General Secretariat shall count on the permanent and eventual administrative staff provided in the budget.

## **TITLE VI**

### **HEADQUARTERS**

**Article 46.** The Permanent Headquarters of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament is located in Panama, Republic of Panama, which ensures the Organization the legal personality privileges and immunities pertaining to Organizations with international legal personality, referred to in article 41 above.

## **TITLE VII**

### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Article 47.** The Consultative Council shall provide political and legal advice to the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and shall include former Parlatino's Presidents and up to ten (10) parliamentarians or ex parliamentarians who stand out for their contribution to the cause of integration.

By assignment of the Governing Council or at its own initiative, it may promote research activities, seminars or studies and publish their results, as well as provide advice and issue reports.

Their members shall have a two-year term of office and may be reelected, excepting former presidents.

The Consultative Council shall elect a President from its members, a first and second vice-presidents and a Rapporteur, who will make up the Chair. It shall additionally propose its rules of procedure or changes thereof, for approval by the Governing Council.

Its members shall be convened by the Council, the Board of Directors or its own President.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **COUNTRIES ADHERING TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION TREATY**

**Article 48.** Countries that have adhered to the Institutionalization Treaty and those that may do so in the future shall also be members of this Organization, upon compliance of the relevant requirements provided in the Rules.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **LANGUAGES**

**Article 49.** The official languages of the Latin American Parliament are Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. The working language is Spanish.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **PERIODICAL REVIEW**

**Article 50.** Every five years the Board of Directors shall convene the Assembly for the analysis and general review of the structure and operation of the Organization in order to ensure the permanent observance of its principles and purposes.

Specifics of each of the review meetings shall be defined in the convocation notice issued by the Governing Council. If deemed necessary, it shall also include the proposed changes to instruments or procedures as voted by two thirds of its members.

**CHAPTER 5**  
**VALIDITY**

**Article 51.** These Bylaws entered into force on August 2, 1991, and were approved during the 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Assembly of the Latin American Parliament held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, amended in the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Assembly, held on December 8-9, 1995 in São Paulo, Brazil; in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Assembly held on December 5, 1997 in São Paulo, Brazil; in the 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Assembly held on March 16-17, 2000, in São Paulo, Brazil; and in the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Assembly held on December 10, 2004, in São Paulo, Brazil; the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Assembly held on December 8, 2006 in São Paulo, Brazil; in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Assembly held on December 7, 2007 in Panama, Republic of Panama; and in Governing Council meeting held in Panama, Republic of Panama, on October 31<sup>st</sup> , 2015, pursuant to powers bestowed upon it by the 30<sup>th</sup> Regular General Assembly held on May 15-16, 2015.

**INTERIM PROVISION**

To the effects of the third paragraph of Article 37 of these Bylaws, it is provided that during the first phase it shall be called PARLATINO WEB TV.

**Official Translation**

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**EQUIPO DE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCTORES E INTERPRETES**

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<sup>i</sup> Translator's Note: The Spanish original reads 22.d), but it must be a typo, for article 22 does not include a subparagraph d), while Article 23 does include a subparagraph d) referring to member parliament's suspension.

