

(Approved)

**“RULES FOR PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS”
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN**

Preamble

Having regard to the desire of the Members of National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to strengthen the bonds of friendship, expand scope of cooperation and foster closer relations with the parliamentarians from countries diplomatically recognized by Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and including International Parliamentary Assemblies, or International organizations, the Members of National Assembly [of Pakistan] may form informal associations to be called “*Parliamentary Friendship Groups*” hereinafter referred as “Groups” that shall be subject to following “*Rules for Parliamentary Friendship Groups*” hereinafter referred to as “Rules”.

2. **Aims.** The Members of National Assembly shall form the Groups in order:

(a) To promote friendly relations between Pakistan with elected representatives amongst fraternity of democratic governments;

(b) To provide means for realizing and promoting closer cooperation and understanding between the National Assembly and the Parliamentary Institutions of friendly countries as well as international assemblies and organizations by organizing seminars, visits, exchange programmes including cultural exchange, and any other activity that may be deemed appropriate;

(c) To keep informed the National Assembly and partner Representative Institutions of the other countries of the progress made in this regard.

3. **Constitution.** Every Group shall be notified by the National Assembly Secretariat after approval by Speaker on written request from a minimum of six Members of National Assembly.

4. **Membership.** (1) All the Members of National Assembly who agree to abide by the rules, may intimate the Secretary National Assembly in writing of their willingness for enrolment as members of the Group.

(2) The former Members of National Assembly may request the President of the Group for enrollment as an associate member.

(3) Any member may resign from the Group by a notice in writing under his signature addressed to the Secretary National Assembly.

5. **President.** (1) The Speaker shall be the ex-officio President of the Groups.
- (2) The Speaker may nominate a Convener from amongst the members of a Group to convene, coordinate and conduct the activities.
- (3) The Speaker shall be invited to all such meetings and activities.
6. **Secretariat for the Group.** The National Assembly Secretariat shall function as the Secretariat of the Groups and the Secretary National Assembly or his authorized officer thereof as its Associate Secretary.
7. **Executive Committee.** (1) The management of the affairs of a Group shall be vested in an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the President, the Convener and a minimum of five other members, amongst the ordinary members of the Group.
8. **Conduct of business of the Executive Committee.**
- (1) The Executive Committee may regulate the conduct of its business in such manner as it may deem fit.
- (2) Decisions shall be by consensus, but in case of divergence of opinion, the decision may be by majority where the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- (3) The Convener or the Secretary shall on receipt of a requisition from three members of the Executive Committee, summon a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- (4) The Executive Committee may meet as and when required.
- (5) The Executive Committee shall formulate and implement the working programme.
9. **Quorum for Meetings of Executive Committee.** The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be three.
10. **Annual General Meeting.** An Annual General Meeting of the Group may ordinarily be held in every Parliamentary year in such place as the Executive Committee may direct. The annual report and any other business, of which not less than seven clear days' notice may have been given, shall be considered.
11. **Notice for Annual General Meeting.** Not less than seven clear days notice shall be given for the Annual General Meeting.
12. **General Meeting of the Conveners.** A General meeting of all the conveners presided over by the Speaker shall be periodically held as and when required.

13. **List of business.** (1) The notice of General Meeting shall be accompanied by a list of business to be transacted at the meeting:

Provided that any member may bring before the Annual Meeting any other business with permission of the Chair.

(2) On the receipt of such a notice, the Secretary shall forthwith send a copy thereof to each member of the Group.

14. **Quorum for General Meeting.** (1) The quorum necessary for a General Meeting shall be six.

15. **Voting, etc. at General Meetings.** (1) Every member shall have one vote.

(2) Questions shall be determined by a majority of the members present and voting. In case of equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second or a casting vote.

16. **Recording of the Minutes** The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings shall be recorded and maintained by the Secretariat.

17. **Other Committees.** The Executive Committee may appoint one or more Committees, for promoting the aims and objects of the Group.

18. **Co-option** The convener may co-opt any member to participate in activities of the Group.

19. **Suspension of rules.** If and when any inconsistency or difficulty arises in the application of these Rules, the Chair may suspend any rule to remove such inconsistency or difficulty.

20. **Residuary power.** All matters, not specifically provided for in these rules, and all questions arising from the detailed working thereof, shall be regulated in such manner as the President may direct.

21. **Amendment of rules.** The Executive Committee of a Group may, with written approval of the President, forward any amendment to these Rules to the Secretariat that shall submit proposed amendment before the General Meeting of the Conveners.

(2) The amendment shall take effect only if a two-third majority, present and voting including the President, approves the proposal.

22. **Dissolution.** All Parliamentary friendship Groups shall stand dissolved on the dissolution of National Assembly.