



**THE RABAT DECLARATION ON LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP &
PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER
ADOPTED AT THE 3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CONFERENCE OF
SPEAKERS AND PRESIDENTS OF AFRICAN LEGISLATURES (CoSPAL)
Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco — 13th December 2025**

PREAMBLE

We, the Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures, meeting in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, for the 3rd General Assembly of the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL) from 12 – 14 December 2025, convene at a time when the global order is characterised by geopolitical tensions, heightened insecurity, widening economic inequalities, democratic fragility and unprecedented environmental and demographic pressures.

Guided by our shared commitment to democracy, constitutionalism, regional integration, multilateral cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy, we gather under the theme “Legislative Leadership and Parliamentary Diplomacy in a Changing Global Order” to articulate a collective vision for safeguarding Africa’s governance, development, security, sovereignty and equality in the comity of nations.

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the Charter of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union’s commitments to peace, democracy and cooperation, we underscore the indispensable role of robust, responsive, people-centered legislative leadership in building an inclusive, peaceful, prosperous and forward-looking nations in our continent, Africa.



Conscious of Africa's demographic trajectory and the challenges facing democracies, economic vulnerabilities and heightening governance challenges such as terrorism, climate-induced insecurity, fiscal pressures, gender disparities and youth exclusion – we recognise the critical responsibility of Africa's legislative leaders to lead with foresight, integrity, unity and effectiveness.

OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS

Strengthening Legislative Leadership for a Stable and Prosperous Africa

We, the Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures, have on this day of 13th December 2025:

Commit to enhancing legislative leadership capacity across the continent to respond effectively to contemporary challenges, including public financial management, demographic pressures, climate resilience, gender and youth disparities and the strengthening of institutions required for inclusive and accountable governance.

We pledge to reinforce parliamentary oversight of government policies and their implementation, uphold the constitutional order, safeguard democracy in our home countries and across the continent and promote legislative reforms that advance prosperity, justice and stability across Africa.

Advancing Parliamentary Diplomacy and Multilateral Cooperation

We recognise the rising importance of parliamentary diplomacy as an important instrument of foreign policy, conflict prevention, inter-parliamentary solidarity and Africa's strategic engagement in global affairs.



We affirm that for CoSPAL to effectively fulfil its continental mandate and engage global and regional partners meaningfully, the institution is to enjoy diplomatic privileges and protection that enables it to act as an internationally recognised actor and parliamentary voice in international platforms and processes and to carry out international missions, liaisons, facilitative and representative functions across Africa and beyond.

Promoting Democracy, Peace and Security in Africa

We commit to safeguarding democratic governance across Africa and to supporting the enactment of legislation and the implementation of processes that uphold these values. We further pledge to engage, upon invitation by member parliaments, in electoral support, advisory engagements, observation missions and diplomatic interventions that strengthen peace, stability and democratic practices throughout Africa.

We reiterate our commitment constitutional order and condemn all infringements against the territorial integrity of African States and restate our unwavering commitment to democratic norms, peaceful transitions and the rule of law.

We agree to strengthen legislative mechanisms and enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation to counter terrorism, address transnational organised crime, promote regional trade, peace, and reinforce security policies.

We recognise that durable peace is inseparable from justice, economic inclusion, social cohesion and accountable governance; hence, we commit to fostering legislative instruments to enhance the same.



Given the size, strategic importance and contributions of the African continent to global peace and security, we collectively agree that Africa should have a seat on the United Nations Security Council, in the spirit of justice and fair representation in the architecture of global governance.

Harnessing Africa's Demographic Advantages

We acknowledge that Africa's demographic expansion presents historic opportunities. We therefore commit to legislative actions that promote quality education, skills development, youth employment, women's participation in politics and innovation-driven economic transformation.

1We pledge to support policies that empower young Africans and women as equal contributors to democratic governance and socioeconomic development.

Accelerating Sustainable Economic Transformation

We commit to enacting legislative frameworks that strengthen industrialisation, regional integration, digital transformation, science-based policymaking, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and long-term economic sovereignty.

We endorse evidence-based lawmaking and promote partnerships with academia, think tanks, civil society and development institutions to enhance legislative foresight and impact.



Embedding Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion in Governance

We commit to fostering legislative processes that will enhance the inclusion of women, youth and persons living with disabilities in governance in Africa.

We adopt the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) as a flagship youth-leadership development programme dedicated to cultivating ethical, capable and forward-thinking young legislators who will shape the future of governance in Africa.

Commencing CoSPAL Observer & Diplomatic Missions

We agree to expand and institutionalise CoSPAL Observer Missions to national elections, parliamentary proceedings, constitutional reform processes, conflict-prevention and mediation initiatives and promote democratic norms. We also agree to deploy CoSPAL diplomatic envoys, when necessary, to theaters of conflict, social or political tensions, where so doing can yield more positive outcomes for all concerned.

We invite regional bodies, international parliamentary unions, civil society organisations and development partners to collaborate with CoSPAL in supporting credible, transparent and citizen-centered democratic processes and enhanced parliamentary leadership across the continent.



Institutional Strengthening of CoSPAL

We welcome and endorse the establishment of the CoSPAL Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria, located at Plot 66, Abubakar O. Sulaiman Avenue Cadastral Zone, Piwoyi District, Off Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Expressway Airport Road, Abuja, Nigeria and extend our appreciation to the Office of the Speaker of the 10th House of Representatives for its leadership in realising this important institutional milestone.

We commit to strengthening the Secretariat's operational capacity, financial framework, technical proficiency and coordination mechanisms, to ensure effective programme implementation and long-term organisational sustainability. We also welcome the establishment of the CoSPAL Centre for Legislative Leadership and Parliamentary Diplomacy, as well as the CoSPAL Early Warning Situation Room, both situated at the Secretariat in Abuja.

We endorse the CoSPAL Secretariat's 2026–2027 Workplan and call on all Member Legislatures to fulfil their statutory obligations, including subscriptions, reporting responsibilities, and contributions to continental initiatives.

We endorse the establishment of CoSPAL Regional Hubs to help engage member states and to support the implementation of the workplan of the Secretariat at the regional level.

We commend the progress made since the last General Assembly in Accra and we reaffirm our vote of confidence in the leadership of the Chairman of CoSPAL, Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin and the Secretary General, Amb. 'Dapo Oyewole.



LOOKING AHEAD

We adopt this Rabat Declaration as a collective expression of our commitment to strengthening legislative leadership and parliamentary diplomacy as indispensable pillars for advancing Africa's place in a rapidly changing world and to the critical role that our collective membership will play in achieving all the above. We thus reaffirm our shared resolve to build a more integrated, peaceful, democratic and globally influential African continent through proactive legislative leadership and a renewed spirit of Pan-African unity.

We affirm our solidarity, cooperation and mutual support as elected Presiding Officers of our national parliaments, united in the vital task of shaping an African continent that is peaceful, democratically governed, economically robust, socially inclusive and responsive to the aspirations of its citizens – and that plays a consequential and principled role on the global stage for our countries, our continent, our planet and people of African heritage.

We express profound appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Parliament of Morocco for hosting this General Assembly and for their longstanding contribution to Africa's inter-parliamentary cooperation.