

48

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ZAMBIAN WOMEN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS CAUCUS

We, the Zambian Women Parliamentarians do hereby give to ourselves this Constitution.

**Article 1**

This Constitution shall be called the Constitution of the Zambian Women Parliamentarians Caucus.

**Article 2**

**Definitions**

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires: "Executive Committee" means a Committee established in pursuance of Article 5 of the Constitution. "Caucus" means the Zambian Women Parliamentarians Caucus.

"SADC" means the Southern African Development Community.

**Article 3**

**Objectives**

The objectives of the Caucus shall be:

- (a) to provide a Forum for discussion on matters affecting women in the country, the SADC region, in the Commonwealth and other regions;
- (b) to promote and help sensitise all Parliamentarians to the principles of gender equality in the country, within the SADC region, the Commonwealth and other regions;
- (c) to facilitate the effective implementation of projects on

- (d) to encourage and mobilise women participation in all issues pertaining to national development and to promote self reliance and economic independence among women;
- (e) to facilitate networking with other organisations and institutions within and outside the country, such as non-governmental organisations, business and intellectual communities in activities aimed at promoting gender equality and participation;
- (f) to research into issues affecting women and to make recommendations thereon;
- (g) to promote peace and stability in the country and to contribute to the democratic process.

#### **Article 4**

##### **1. Membership and Subscription**

Membership to the Caucus shall be open to the following:

- (i) All Zambian women Members of Parliament
- (ii) Associate Members
- (iii) Life Members

##### **2. Members**

Any sitting female Member of the Zambia National Assembly or former Member of Parliament shall be entitled to become a Member of the Caucus upon payment of the prescribed fee.

##### **3. Associate Member**

Any Member of the Caucus upon ceasing to be a Member of the National Assembly of Zambia can be an Associate

Member upon payment of the prescribed fee. Associates shall not be entitled to take part in the management of the Caucus.

**4. Life Member**

Any sitting female Member of the Zambia National Assembly or former Member shall be entitled to become a Life Member upon payment of the prescribed life subscription fee. Non sitting Life Members may not vote nor take part in the management of the Caucus.

**5. Honorary Member**

Any male or female who contributes significantly to the Zambian Women Parliamentarians' Caucus and gender balance in Zambia. They may donate in cash and/or kind.

**6. Membership Fees and Subscriptions**

Membership fees shall be as approved by the Caucus and these shall be as follows:

- (i) Membership Fee
- (ii) Associate Membership Fee
- (iii) Life Membership Fee
- (iv) Annual Subscription fee

**Article 5**

**The Executive Committee**

1. The following Executive Committee of the Caucus is hereby established and shall consist of the following:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Vice Chairperson

- (c) Secretary
- (d) Vice Secretary
- (e) Treasurer
- (f) Vice-Treasurer
- (g) Publicity Secretary
- (h) Vice-Publicity Secretary

2. Other sub- Committees of the Zambian Women Parliamentarians Caucus may be established as approved by the Caucus.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Functions of the Executive Committee**

- (1) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for:
  - (a) Management of the affairs of the Caucus;
  - (b) Ensuring that the decisions of the Caucus are implemented;
  - (c) Preparation of annual reports;
  - (d) Preparation of draft programmes of the Caucus activities;
  - (e) Tabling of the annual audited accounts before the Caucus.
2. The Executive Committee shall be answerable to the Caucus.
3. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Caucus every two years and current office holders may be re-elected.

## Article 7

### General Meetings of the Caucus

- (1) The General Meetings of the Caucus shall consist of all registered Members.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Executive Committee or in her absence the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall preside at any General Meeting of the Members. Provided that in the absence of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, the General Meeting shall elect one Member to Chair the Meeting.
- (3)(a) The General Meeting shall be the main policy making body of the Caucus.
- (b) Notwithstanding the generality of Sub-Article 3(a), the functions of the General Meeting shall be to:
  - (i) Consider and approve the annual Budget of the Caucus and to appoint an Auditor for each financial year on the recommendation of the Executive Committee;
  - (ii) Consider and approve the annual audited accounts;
  - (iii) Convene Conferences and other Meetings as may be appropriate for the purpose of promoting the objectives and programmes of the Caucus; and
  - (iv) Take such other action as may be deemed necessary to realise the objectives of the Caucus.
- (4) All decisions of the General Meeting shall be by Consensus. Provided that in the absence of consensus, a vote shall be taken.

- (5) A quorum of the General Meeting shall be half of the registered Members of the Caucus.
- (6) The General Meeting shall meet for business at least twice a year.

Provided that the General Meeting, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, may meet at any other time to consider matters of general importance.

- (7) The General Meeting shall regulate its own procedure.

## **Article 8**

### **Financial Provisions**

#### **1. Sources of Finance**

The Finances of the Zambian Women Parliamentarians Caucus shall accrue from the following sources:

- (i) Annual subscriptions from members the amount which shall be determined by the Caucus;
- (ii) Contributions from members and other well wishers;
- (iii) Grants or donations;
- (iv) Fund raising activities approved by the Caucus and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia.

#### **2. Financial Year**

The Financial Year of the Zambian Women Parliamentarians Caucus shall commence on 1 January and end on 31 December of each calendar year.

Article 9

Amendments

An amendment to this Constitution shall be adopted by a decision of two-thirds (2/3) of all members of the Caucus.

A proposal of amendment may be made to the Chairperson for consideration by the Caucus.

05.12.97  
CNM/MMM

---