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by

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on

“Welcoming new Members”

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WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL IN CHAD

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PLAN

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I. CONTEXT

- Brutal and tragic death of the Marshal of Chad, **IDRISS DEBY ITNO**, President of the Republic, Head of State, on 20 April 2021;
- Withdrawal of the President of the National Assembly who was the constitutional successor;
- Establishment by the army of a Transitional Military Council headed by General **Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno**;
- Suspension of the Constitution;
- Dissolution of the Government and the National Assembly;
- Publication of a Transitional Charter in lieu of a Constitution;
- Establishment of transitional bodies, namely: Executive power (CMT and Transitional Government) Legislative power (National Transitional Council) Judicial power (maintaining in place the judicial institutions existing before the transition)

However, while waiting for the establishment of the CNT, the new legislative body of the Transition, the Transitional Charter provides for a provision that keeps the dissolved National Assembly in place until the constitution of this new body.

It was only five (5) months after the advent of the transition that the CNT was constituted and that the National Assembly handed over the legislative duties to it.

The General Secretariat, which constitutes the institutional memory of the parliament and ensures its continuity, was called upon to make appropriate arrangements to welcome the new parliamentarians. This is what was done.

II. PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

Aware of the important responsibility that falls to it in this transitional phase and faced with a lack of documentation and information in the field of welcoming new parliamentarians, the Secretariat General sought and obtained the support of the IPU.

Thus, from 24 to 26 August 2021, the IPU strengthened the capacities of the administrative officials of our parliament through a training session by videoconference led by Mr. **Ibrahima Niane**, an IPU expert, and Mrs. **Laurence Marzal**.

The comparative studies in the framework of the reception of new parliamentarians presented to the participants and the related document elaborated by Mr. Ibrahima Niane were of decisive help for us because they deeply inspired us in our work.

After this very successful training, an **Administrative Committee in charge of the Reception of New Parliamentarians** was set up under the direction of the Secretary General. The main **mission** assigned to this Administrative Committee is to make arrangements related to:

- Administration;
- Legal issues;
- Protocol;
- Logistics, and;
- Finance.

All this for a successful welcome of the members of the new legislative body. It was also an opportunity for the Secretariat to show the new parliamentarians its ingenuity and know-how in terms of organising events of this scale.

III. DOCUMENT RESEARCH

As mentioned above, the training course organised by the IPU for the Secretariat General's staff enabled them to learn about the practices of other parliaments in terms of welcoming new members. It is this exchange of information that has inspired the Committee in the planning and implementation of its activities.

The comparative study carried out by the IPU expert also served as a background document for the design and implementation of the Committee's activities, although other documents were also consulted, notably:

- The Transitional Charter of the Republic of Chad;
- The revised Constitution of the Republic of Chad of 4 May 2018
- The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Third Legislature
- The Rules of Procedure of the High Council of the Transition of Chad of 1993;
- The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Niger;
- The Rules of Procedure of the National Transitional Council of the Republic of Mali;
- The descriptive and biographical forms of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT

The comparative approach adopted by the Committee enabled it to draw up a checklist of relevant activities to be carried out. These are:

- The set-up of welcoming teams ;
- The development of tools for collecting information about new parliamentarians
- The organisation of a pre-first-day meeting during which the new parliamentarians met with the secretariat teams and produced documents that provide information on their profiles
- The provision of material for the election of the Bureau members;
- The preparation of a draft of the CNT's Rules of Procedure;
- The preparation of a draft resolution defining the rules governing the conduct of the inaugural session;

- Identification of the members of the Seniority Board;
- Organisation of a simulation of the inaugural session;
- Assisting in the direction and conduct of the inaugural session;
- The organisation of guided tours for the benefit of new parliamentarians;
- The organisation of a capacity building seminar for new parliamentarians on themes relating to the role and status of parliamentarians;

CONCLUSION

Thanks to this organisation and to the guided tours organised for them, the National Councillors did not feel out of place and very quickly got used to the hemicycle.

Thank you for your kind attention!