

**[Unofficial rough translation by La'o Hamutuk. This is the resolution  
Parliament passed unanimously on 7 February.]**



**Resolution no. 8/III ° (1a)**

**Constitution of an ad hoc Committee to Collect and Analyze Proposed Consensual  
Amendments on Proposed Law No. 2/III (1a) - State Budget for 2013**

The principles of the public interest and procedural economy, justify that the parliamentary *bancadas* (party benches) should engage in the search for political consensus on budget programming and elaboration, in the spirit of dialogue that must animate the clash of ideas between the forces of society, in particular the trends of opinion among parliamentary expression.

The rigidity of Parliament's formal written rules, through the flexible nature of Parliamentary Law, disciplinary and procedural, must therefore give way to obtain consensual mechanisms to rationalize, simplify and speed up legislative processes, provided that they respect the sovereign will of the Plenary to discuss and decide to establish this supplementary mechanism.

MPs have already shown they are ready to participate in the discussion and vote on the draft 2013 State Budget law to prepare proposed amendments that could reach a consensus among the parliamentary *bancadas*, without prejudice to the individual right of each MP to propose amendments which his/her party doesn't accept.

It is believed that the most appropriate mechanism to achieve the described goal is the formation of an ad hoc committee with such assignment, to work during one phase of the discussion and vote on speciality, which will save time and will safeguard the National Parliament from repetition of endless debates and voting processes on amendments which are poorly justified, technically poorly formulated or destined for rejection.

Thus, the National Parliament resolves, pursuant to Articles 92 of the Constitution and 36 and 37 of the Parliamentary Rules, the following:

**Article 1**  
**Object**

Is hereby constituted an ad hoc Committee to Collect and Analyze Proposed Consensual Amendments on Proposed Law No. 2/III (1a) - State Budget for 2013, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", for the purpose of:

a) Collect, discuss and present amendments which result in consensus and initiate their approval in Plenary;

b) improve the structure and content of the 2013 General State Budget, formulating and presenting technical proposals it deems appropriate for plenary consideration;

## **Article 2**

### **Term of office**

The Committee's task begins with the approval of this resolution and ends three days later, without prejudice to other meetings which are absolutely necessary to take place.

## **Article 3**

### **Composition**

1 - The Committee consists of the President, who presides, and the Vice-Presidents of the National Parliament, as well as the following members:

- a) Six representatives of the parliamentary FRETILIN *bancada* and one representative from each of the other parliamentary *bancadas*, chosen by the respective leadership;
- b) The presidents of the standing committees or their respective vice presidents, when they replace the presidents.

2 - Government members participate in the work of the Committee, without voting rights, depending on the areas under them, with the constant presence, whenever possible, of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

## **Article 4**

### **Meetings**

1 - To achieve its objective, the Committee meets on the dates scheduled for the plenary meetings for the specialty discussion and vote on the draft budget law, and may break as often as necessary to develop the Committee's work.

2 - The President is replaced, in his absence, by a vice president.

## **Article 5**

### **Quorums of operation and deliberation**

The Committee meets and deliberates with the presence of at least two-thirds of its members.

## **Article 6**

### **Deliberations**

Decisions of the Committee to accept proposed amendments are taken by consensus, otherwise they cannot be submitted to Plenary vote as proposals of the Committee.

## **Article 7**

### **Technical and administrative support**

1 - Committee meetings are attended by the secretarial and support services for the committees, which are also due to collaborate with the work of the Plenary.

2 - Advisors, experts, and Government specialists in the areas covered by the proposed budget law shall be allowed to participate in meetings of the Committee.

**Article 8**  
**Proposed amendments**

- 1 - Proposed amendments accepted by the Committee shall be signed by the presidents of the four Parliamentary *bancadas* or their substitutes and submitted to the plenary for voting, after being pooled, recorded and distributed in the order given in the guide to speciality discussion and vote.
- 2 - Approval of proposed amendments by the Committee shall be taken as indicative and requires another vote in the plenary, which takes final action after brief presentation and any requests for clarification.
- 3 - Any amendments that have been definitively rejected may not be reintroduced in the Plenary.
- 4 - Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the submission of proposed amendments to the Plenary by the Committee shall not affect the rights of other MPs to submit amendments as they see fit.

**Article 9**  
**Technical proposals**

- 1 - Committee proposals of technical nature or grammatical style are formalized through amendments, and also submitted for plenary vote.

PROPOSING MEMBERS,

Aniceto Guterres	FRETILIN
Natalino dos Santos	CNRT
Lurdes Bessa	Partido Democrático
Benvinda C. Rodrigues	Frente Mudansa

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