



# PAUDC SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

*Prepared by Temiloluwa Jaiyeola (Secretary, PAUDC Council 2026)*

**Date:** Saturday, 18 July 2026

**Time:** 12:00 CAT

**Platform:** Google Meet

## 1. Attendance

- **Executive:** Humble Shabil (Chairperson), Temiloluwa Jaiyeola (Secretary General), Kegoroatile Makgato (Finance Secretary), Masopha Porota (Legal Officer), Sulemana Mohammed Jamaldeen (Deputy Secretary), Ame (Publicity Officer), Tshiamo Brian Badubi (Partnerships & Sponsorships)
- **Regional Representatives:** Kudzaishe Matare (Southern Africa)
- **Country Representatives:** Eben Mnzava (Tanzania), Kouamé Alexis Thierry Kouadio, (Côte d'Ivoire), Trudeau Okech (Kenya), Terephina Uushona (Namibia), Arinda Savior (Uganda), Alfred Sesay (Sierra Leone), Beatrice Petiho (Cameroon), Olwethu Morake (South Africa)

**2. Opening and Welcome:** Chairperson welcomed members and officially opened the meeting.

**3. Confirmation of Quorum:** Secretary confirmed that quorum was met.

## 4. Report on the Draft Constitution

Mas presented an overview of the progress made on the revised draft Constitution, highlighting the principal amendments incorporated following previous consultations. Council noted that the purpose of the meeting was to receive feedback on remaining policy questions before the Constitution proceeds to the Constitutional Review Committee.

## 5. Duties and Qualifications of the Finance Secretary and Legal Officer

Council considered proposed competency requirements for the offices of Finance Secretary and Legal Officer.

### Finance Secretary

Kegoroatile proposed that preference be given to candidates who possess or are pursuing qualifications in finance, accounting, economics or related disciplines, arguing that the technical nature of the office requires an appropriate financial background. She further recommended that:

- Council adopt clearer policies governing the collection of Council fees.
- Convenors should consult the Finance Secretary and Council before granting any waiver relating to Council fees.

Shabil agreed that specialised knowledge would strengthen Council administration and suggested that similar competency expectations be considered for the Legal Officer.

### Alternative Qualifications

Several members expressed concern that making formal qualifications mandatory could unnecessarily exclude experienced candidates.

- Eben observed that individuals may possess significant financial management experience despite studying unrelated disciplines.



- Trudeau suggested that qualifications should be framed as recommendations rather than strict eligibility requirements.
- Temiloluwa proposed that the Constitution establish an order of preference by providing that priority be given to relevant academic qualifications; candidates studying towards such qualifications; demonstrated professional experience in finance, business management, policy development or related fields.

### **Legal Officer**

Ame further proposed that candidates for Legal Officer should demonstrate knowledge of data protection and privacy legislation relevant to Council operations.

Council generally agreed that competency requirements should remain flexible while encouraging suitably qualified candidates.

### **Collection of Council Fees**

- Council discussed whether Council fees should continue being collected through tournament registration or be paid directly to Council.
- Saviour recommended adopting a separate payment model similar to other international debating championships to improve accountability and provide Council with immediate access to its funds.
- Kegoroale noted that separate payments may increase administrative challenges for participating institutions.
- Mas advised that this matter would be dealt with comprehensively in a future constitutional addendum and undertook to prepare draft provisions governing the collection process.

**Outcome:** The discussion was noted, with the drafting of detailed fee collection procedures deferred.

## **6. Establishment of Deputy Finance Secretary**

Council considered the proposal to establish the office of Deputy Finance Secretary. Members expressed broad support for the proposal and no substantive objections were raised. Council agreed that the position would strengthen continuity and administrative capacity within the executive.

## **7. Delegation Register and Meeting Procedures**

- Council discussed the proposed Delegation Register and accompanying meeting procedures.
- Terephina recommended introducing attendance requirements for Council members, including sanctions for repeated unexplained absences from Council meetings.
- Temiloluwa presented several recommendations relating to information to be collected for the Delegation Register, meeting procedures, attendance recording and procedural administration.
- Mas undertook to incorporate these recommendations into the revised draft.

## **8. Office of the Secretariat**

Council deliberated extensively on the proposed structure and accountability of the Office of the Secretariat. Legal Officer raised concerns regarding the concentration of Secretariat members within the country where Council is legally registered, citing risks of excessive centralisation and reduced accountability. Several members recognised the practical necessity of maintaining personnel within the host jurisdiction due to legal and administrative requirements.

### **Key Contributions**



- Tshiamo observed that the Secretariat's administrative functions require a physical presence in the country where Council maintains its registered office.
- Temiloluwa proposed introducing a constitutional cap limiting representation from any single country within the Secretariat rather than excluding any country entirely.
- Olwethu supported measures designed to reduce opportunities for collusion.
- Saviour noted that accountability should primarily be achieved through constitutional oversight mechanisms rather than geographical restrictions.
- Terephina suggested introducing either limits on which offices residents of the host country may occupy; or an independent observer to strengthen oversight.
- Chairperson proposed that Council include mechanisms permitting votes of no confidence and dissolution of the Secretariat where necessary.
- Legal Officer clarified that the Secretariat should function as an administrative office accountable to the Executive rather than as an independent structure.

**Resolution** - Council reached consensus that:

- the Secretariat shall remain accountable to the Executive Council;
- no more than two members of the Secretariat shall ordinarily be residents of the same country;
- additional accountability provisions will be incorporated into the revised draft Constitution.

## 9. ADYA Guidelines

Council considered whether the African Debater of the Year Awards (ADYA) Guidelines should form part of the Constitution. Members agreed that incorporating detailed award procedures into the Constitution would unnecessarily complicate future amendments.

**Resolution:** Council agreed that the ADYA Guidelines should instead be adopted as a separate constitutional addendum.

## 10. Constitutional Review Timeline

The Legal Officer requested seven days to incorporate the amendments agreed during the meeting.

It was agreed that:

- the revised draft would thereafter be submitted to the Constitutional Review Committee;
- the Committee would review the draft before the next Council meeting; and
- Council would reconvene on **1 August 2026** to consider the revised Constitution.

## 11. Any Other Business

- **Council Website and Official Communications:** Chairperson advised that Council's official website, profiles and institutional email system are expected to be operational within approximately two weeks.
- **Outstanding Council Fees:** Tshiamo requested an update regarding outstanding Council fees. Kegoratile confirmed that payment had not yet been received. Mas emphasised the importance of introducing stronger constitutional accountability mechanisms for convenors who fail to remit Council fees within prescribed timelines.
- **Commencement of the New Constitution:** Council discussed the implementation date of the revised Constitution. Council agreed that, once formally adopted, the Constitution shall come into effect immediately rather than waiting until the next Council elections.



## 12. Action Items

| Action                                                                                             | Responsible                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Revise the draft Constitution to incorporate recommendations from the meeting.                     | Legal Officer                   |
| Prepare draft provisions governing Council fee collection.                                         | Legal Officer                   |
| Incorporate meeting procedure and Delegation Register recommendations into the draft Constitution. | Legal Officer                   |
| Submit the revised Constitution to the Constitutional Review Committee.                            | Legal Officer                   |
| Review the revised Constitution before the next Council meeting.                                   | Constitutional Review Committee |
| Finalise the Council website, official profiles and email system.                                  | Chairperson                     |
| Prepare accountability provisions relating to remittance of Council fees by Convenors.             | Legal Officer                   |
| Convene the next Executive Council meeting on 1 August 2026.                                       | Secretary General               |

**Meeting Adjourned.**