



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

**“RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS  
OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 2024”**

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Short Title and Commencement.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Definitions.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Composition.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Functions.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Procedure for Constitution of a Group.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6. Executive Committee.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7. Meetings of a Group.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. Agenda of a Meeting.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9. Annual General Meeting.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>10. Directorate of Parliamentary Friendship.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>11. Quorum of a Meeting.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12. Decisions of a Group.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>13. Report.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>14. Recording of the Minutes.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>15. Co-option.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>16. Suspension of the Rules.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>17. Dissolution of a Group.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>18. Amendment in Rules.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>19. Resignation.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>20. Residual Powers.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>21. Repeal.</b>	<b>8</b>

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

(Directorate Of Parliamentary Friendship)

WHEREAS, it is expedient to promote, enhance, encourage, facilitate and actualize the purposes of parliamentary diplomacy through informal arrangements in the form of parliamentary friendship groups between the National Assembly of Pakistan and legislatures of the recognized countries;

WHEREAS it is also expedient to regulate by rules the procedure of such groups and to provide for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

THEREFORE, the Honourable Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan is pleased to make the following rules, namely: -

## **PART-I**

### **PRELIMINARY**

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) These rules shall be called the “Rules of Procedure for the Parliamentary Friendship Groups of the National Assembly, 2024”.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.** - (1) In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "Cabinet" means and consists of the Prime Minister and the Federal Ministers;

(b) "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

(c) "MNA" means a Member of the National Assembly;

(d) "National Assembly" means the National Assembly of Pakistan;

(e) “Convener” means a member designated as Convener by the President but does not include—  
a member of the Cabinet.

(f) “Directorate” means Directorate of Parliamentary Friendship in the Secretariat;

(g) “Foreign country” includes a country or state officially recognized by Pakistan.;

(h) “Group” means Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly;

(i) “Member" means a member of the Group;

- (j) “President” means Speaker of the National Assembly;
- (k) “Secretariat” means the National Assembly Secretariat;
- (l) “Secretary” means Secretary or the Secretary General of the National Assembly Secretariat;  
and
- (m) “Rules” means the Rules of Procedure for the Parliamentary Friendship Groups of the National Assembly, 2024.

(2) The words and expressions used but not defined in these Rules shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning assigned to them in the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007.

## PART-II

### Parliamentary Friendship Groups

3. **Composition.** - (1) A Group shall consist of not more than twenty-five MNAs as its members, unless so authorized by the President:

Provided that the President may constitute task(s) oriented sub-group comprising not more than five members which shall stand dissolved after completion of the respective task(s).

(2) A MNA may become a member of not more than five Groups at the same time, in the manner prescribed in the rules.

4. **Functions.** – The functions of a Group shall be:

- a) to foster goodwill and friendly relations;
- b) to utilize parliamentary diplomatic channels to enhance cooperation in all fields of bilateral interest;
- c) to encourage and coordinate with respective governments to expedite resolution of prevailing bilateral/multilateral issues; and
- d) to expand cooperation with international parliamentary / non- parliamentary assemblies or organizations, as and when required.

5. **Procedure for constitution of a Group.** - (1) A Group shall be constituted through a Motion adopted by the National Assembly.

(2) The Directorate shall solicit preferences from MNAs for membership of their desired Groups.

(3) The Directorate shall examine and process preferences received from the MNAs for approval by the President under the Rules.

(4) The selection of the final twenty-five Members of a Group shall be made through secret ballot.

(5) When a Group is constituted by the President, the Secretary shall cause a notification to that effect to be published in the Gazette.

6. **Executive Committee.** - (1) The Committee shall consist of. -

(a) the President;

(b) the Convener; and

(c) not more than five members to be appointed by the President from amongst members of the respective Group.

(2) The Committee shall perform such functions as assigned by the President from time to time.

(3) The Committee may meet, as and when summoned by the Convener in consultation with the President.

(4) The President, or in his absence, the Convener shall chair a meeting of the Committee.

7. **Meetings of a Group.** - (1) Every Group shall meet at least quarterly or in exceptional circumstances twice in a parliamentary year.

(2) In case meeting of a Group is not summoned by its Convener during a parliamentary year without any valid reason, Convener of such Group shall cease to be the Convener.

8. **Agenda of a Meeting.** - (1) The time table of business (of a Group) and (the) agenda for each meeting of the Group shall be determined by the Convener in consultation with the members of the respective Group.

(2) Notice for a meeting of a Group shall be sent by the Directorate to the members of the Group and (the) officials concerned at least three days before the meeting.

9. **Annual General Meeting.** - (1) The President shall summon an annual general meeting of all Conveners of Groups once in a parliamentary year.

(2) The President may approve agenda of the annual general meeting to discuss the activities (undertaken by) of the Groups during the (current) parliamentary year.

(3) The President shall preside the Annual General Meeting.

## PART-III

### Directorate of Parliamentary Friendship

10. **Directorate of Parliamentary Friendship.** - (1) There shall be a separate Directorate of Parliamentary Friendship in the Secretariat.

(2) The Secretary shall supervise all administrative matters of the Directorate.

(3) The Secretary may authorize any officer of the Directorate to perform such duties as he may direct.

(4) Directorate shall establish an organogram to conduct activities of the Groups.

(5) The Directorate shall compile proposals for detailed working of the Groups and place it in annual general meeting for final decision.

## PART-IV

### Miscellaneous

11. **Quorum of a meeting.** -The quorum to constitute a sitting of a Group shall be one fifth of the total membership of the Group.
12. **Decisions of a Group.** - Decisions shall be made by consensus amongst the members of a Group. In case of absence of consensus, the decision shall be made by majority of votes. The Convener shall not vote except in the event of an equality of votes.
13. **Report.** - The Convener of a Group shall submit an annual report to the President incorporating therein the activities undertaken by the Group during a parliamentary year.
14. **Recording of the minutes.** - The minutes of meetings of a Group shall be recorded and maintained by the Directorate.
15. **Co-option.** - The Convener may co-opt a MNA to participate in activities of the Group (no voting status in case co-opt).
16. **Suspension of the rules.** - Whenever any inconsistency or difficulty arises in the application of these rules, the President may suspend any rule to remove such inconsistency or difficulty.
17. **Dissolution of a Group.** - Groups shall stand dissolved on the dissolution of National Assembly.

18. **Amendment in rules.** - These rules may be amended in an annual general meeting by two-thirds majority of the Conveners present and voting including the President.

19. **Resignation.** - A member may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President resign his seat, and thereupon his seat shall become vacant.

20. **Residual Powers.** - All matters, not specifically provided for in these rules, and all questions arising from the detailed working of Parliamentary Friendship Groups thereof, shall be regulated in such a manner as the President may direct.

21. **Repeal.** – Rules for Parliamentary Friendship Groups (2013) are hereby repealed.

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