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Law No. 60-045 N.A. of 26 August 1960 Concerning Revision of the Constitution of the Republic of Senegal

Translated by
Maria del Carmen Gress

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PREAMBLE

The people of Senegal solemnly proclaims their independence and their commitment to the fundamental rights as they are defined in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789 and in the Universal Declaration [déclaration universelle] of 10 December 1948.

They proclaim the intangible respect for and guarantee of:

- the political freedoms;
- the trade union freedoms;
- the rights and freedoms of the human person, of the family and of the local collectivities;
- the philosophical and religious freedoms;
- the right to individual and collective property; [and]
- the economic and social rights.

The Senegalese people,

Concerned about preparing the way [voie] for the unity of the States of Africa and about assuring the perspectives that this unity includes;

Conscious of the necessity of a political, cultural, economic and social unity, indispensable to the affirmation of the African personality;

Conscious of the historical, moral and material imperatives that unite the States of West Africa.

TITLE I OF THE STATE AND OF SOVEREIGNTY

Article 1

The Republic of Senegal is secular, democratic, and social. It assures the equality before the law of all citizens, without distinction of origin, of race, of sex [and] of religion. It respects all beliefs [croyances].

The official language of the Republic of Senegal is French. Its motto is: "Un Peule, un But, une Foi" [One People, one Goal, one Faith].

The flag of the Republic is composed of three bands[,] vertical and equal, of green, gold and red color. It has [porte], in green, in the center of the gold band, a star of five points.

The law determines the seal and the anthem of the Republic.

The principle of the Republic is: Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Article 2

National sovereignty belongs to the Senegalese people, who exercise it by their representatives. The people may, in addition, exercise it by the way [voie] of referendum.

No section of the people, nor any individual[,] may arrogate the exercise of sovereignty.

Suffrage may be direct or indirect. It is always universal, equal, and secret.

All Senegalese nationals, of majority, of both sexes, enjoying their civil and political rights, are electors within the conditions determined by the law.

Article 3

The political parties and groups of political parties participate [concourrent] in the expression of suffrage. They are formed, and exercise their activities within the conditions determined by the law. They must respect the principles of the national sovereignty and of democracy.

Article 4

Any act of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination, as well as any regionalist propaganda infringing the internal security of the State or the integrity of the territory of the Republic, is punished by the law.

Article 5

The institutions of the Republic are:

The President of the Republic; the Government; the National Assembly; the judicial authority.

The Capital of the Republic of Senegal is Dakar.

TITLE II OF THE PUBLIC FREEDOMS AND [FREEDOMS] OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Article 6

The human person is sacred. The State has the obligation to respect it and to protect it.

The Senegalese people recognize the existence of the inviolable and inalienable rights of man as the basis of all human community, of peace and of justice in the world.

Every one has the right to the free development of their personality, provided that they do not violate the right of others, or infringe the order of the law. Every one has the right to life and to physical integrity within the conditions defined by the law.

The freedom of the human person is inviolable. No one may be condemned except by virtue of a law that entered into force before the act committed. Defense is an absolute right in all stages and in all degrees of the procedure.

Article 7

All human being are equal before the law. Men and women are equal in right [droit].

There is in Senegal no constraint [sujet], or privilege arising from birth, from person or from family.

Article 8

Every one has the right to express and to disseminate their opinion freely by word, pen and image. Every one has the right to educate themselves [s'instruire] without hindrance [entrave] to the sources accessible to all. These rights find their limits in the prescriptions of the laws and regulations as well as in the respect for the honor of others.

All the citizens have the right to freely constitute associations and societies, under reserve of conforming to the formalities specified [édictées] by the laws and regulations.

The groups of which the goal or the activity is contrary to the criminal laws[,] or directed against the public order[,] are prohibited.

Article 10

The secrecy of correspondence [and] of postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications[,] is inviolable. Restriction of this inviolability, may only be ordered in application of the law.

Article 11

All the citizens of the Republic have the right to move themselves and establish themselves freely on the whole extent of the Republic of Senegal. This right may only be limited by the law. No one may be submitted to measures of security, except in the cases provided for by the law.

Article 12

Individual or collective property [propriété] is guaranteed by this Constitution. It can only be infringed in the case of public necessity legally established [constatée] under reserve of a just and prior indemnity.

Article 13

The domicile is inviolable.

[A] search may only be ordered by the judge or by the other authorities designated by the law. Searches may only be executed in the forms prescribed by it. The measures infringing the inviolability of the domicile or restricting it, may only be taken to evade [parer] a collective danger or to protect persons in peril of death. These measures may be taken equally, in application of the law, to protect the public order against imminent threats [menaces], singularly to combat the risks of epidemic or to protect youth in danger.

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Article 14

Marriage and the family constitute the natural and moral base of the human community. They are placed under the protection of the State.

The State and the public collectivities have the social duty to see to the physical and moral health of the family.

Article 15

Parents have the natural right and the duty to raise their children. They are sustained in this effort, by the State and the public collectivities.

Youth is protected by the State and the public collectivities against moral exploitation and abandonment.

EDUCATION

Article 16

The State and the public collectivities create the preliminary conditions and the public institutions which guarantee the education of children.

Education of the youth is provided for the by the public schools. The religious institutions and communities are equally recognized as means of education.

Article 18

Private schools may be opened with the authorization and under the control of the State.

RELIGIONS AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Article 19

The freedom of conscience, the free profession and the practice of a religion, under reserve of the public order, are guaranteed to all.

The religious institutions and communities have the right to develop themselves without hindrance. They are disengaged from the protection [tutelle] of the State. They regulate and administer their affairs in an autonomous manner.

WORK

Article 20

Everyone has the right to work and the right to seek [*prétendre*] employment. No one may be impeded in their work, for reason of their origins, of their opinions or of their beliefs.

The worker may affiliate with a union and defend their rights through union action.

The right to strike is recognized. It is exercised within the framework of the laws which govern it. It may not in any case infringe the freedom to work.

Every worker participates, by the intermediary of their delegates, in the determination of the conditions of work.

Particular laws [lois particulières] establish the conditions of assistance and of protection which society accords to the workers.

TITLE III OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Article 21

The President of the Republic is elected for seven years by an electoral college including, on [the] one hand [part] the members of the National Assembly, [and] on the other hand, one delegate by Regional Assembly and one delegate by Municipal Council, meeting in Congress.

The Bureau of the Congress is that of the National Assembly.

The law establishes the modalities of designation of the delegates of the Regional Assemblies and of the Municipal Councils.

The outgoing President is re-eligible.

Article 22

The Congress meets at the convocation of the Government, thirty days at most and fifteen days at least before the expiration of the mandate of the President of the Republic, in [his] function, or if the presidency is vacant by death, resignation or definitive impediment, within thirty days of the vacancy.

The temporary or definitive impediment of the President of the Republic is declared by a vote by a majority of two-thirds of the members composing the National Assembly.

The election of the President of the Republic takes place by a secret ballot on the agenda $[\hat{a} \ la \ tribune]$. The majority required is of two-thirds of the members composing the Congress in the two first rounds. If, in these two firsts rounds, no candidate obtains the majority required, it proceeds to the election by an absolute majority of the members composing the Congress.

In the case of vacancy or of impediment, the President of the Congress assumes temporarily the functions of President of the Republic.

Article 23

The office [charge] of the President of the Republic is incompatible with the exercise of any other public or private function.

Article 24

The President of the Republic is the guardian of the Constitution. He assures, by his arbitration, the continuity of the Republic and the regular functioning of its institutions.

He is the guarantor of the national independence, of the integrity of the territory of the Republic, [and] of the respect for the international treaties, conventions and agreements.

He presides over the Council of Ministers. He establishes and preserves the records [procès-verbaux] of the sittings [séances]. He is substituted, the case arising, by the President of the Council.

He appoints, in the Council of Ministers the members of the Supreme Court, the ambassadors, the extraordinary envoys, the procurators general, the generals and the superior officers, [and] the high functionaries of the Republic of which the list is established by the law.

He negotiates and ratifies the treaties. He is informed of any negotiation tending to the conclusion of an international agreement not submitted to ratification.

He accredits the ambassadors and the extraordinary envoys to foreign powers. The ambassadors and extraordinary envoys are accredited to him.

The President of the Republic is the Head [*Chef*] of the Armies.

He presides over the Superior Council of Defense.

He presides over the Superior Council of the Magistrature.

He exercises the right of pardon and appoints the Presiding Magistrates in the Superior Council of the Magistrature.

The President of the Republic promulgates the laws within the fifteen days following the transmission to the Government of the law definitively adopted. This time period is reduced to five days in the case of urgency declared by the National Assembly.

Within the time period established for the promulgation, the President of the Republic can, through a reasoned [motivé] message, demand of the Assembly a new deliberation that may not be refused.

Within the same time period, the President of the Republic can refer [the matter] to the Supreme Court for unconstitutionality.

The time period of the promulgation is suspended until the outcome [issue] of the second deliberation of the National Assembly or of the decision of the Supreme Court declaring the law conforming to the Constitution.

In every case, at the expiration of the constitutional time periods, the promulgation is of right.

In default of promulgation by the President of the Republic within the time periods established above, it will be provided for by the President of the Council.

The President of the Republic communicates with the National Assembly by messages which he has read and which do not give rise to any debate. Out of session, the Assembly meets specially to this effect.

He can address himself to the people of the Republic.

The acts of the President of the Republic must[,] with the exception of those which he accomplishes in his character of guardian of the Constitution and in the exercise of his powers of arbitration, be countersigned by the President of the Council and, the case arising, by the responsible Ministers.

TITLE IV OF THE GOVERNMENT

Article 25

The President of the Council is approached [pressenti] and designated by the President of the Republic. After having defined his policy, he is invested by a vote in a public ballot on the agenda [à la tribune], by an absolute majority of the members composing the National Assembly.

The President of the Council chooses the other members of the Government, from within or from outside of the National Assembly.

The members of the Government are appointed by decree of the President of the Republic.

Article 26

The President of the Council determines and conducts the policy of the nation; he directs the action of the Government.

He is responsible for the National Defense.

He [has] the administration and the armed force at his disposal.

He assures the execution of the laws. He [has] the regulatory power at his disposal.

Under reserve of the provisions of Article 24 defining the powers of appointment of the President of the Republic, he appoints to all the civil and military offices [emplois].

He can delegate certain powers to the other members of the Government.

He is[,] in solidarity with his Government[,] responsible before the National Assembly.

Article 27

The acts of the President of the Council are countersigned by the Ministers responsible for their execution.

Article 28

The quality of member of the Government is incompatible with the functions of:

- president or member of the Bureau of the National Assembly;

- president or member of a permanent or temporary commission of the National Assembly and with the exercise of any other non-elective public function or remunerated private [function].

Article 29

No former member of the Government may be appointed administrator of a company subsidized by the State, if he has not ceased in his functions at least two years before.

Article 30

The Government organizes the national services. The administration and the management [gestion] of these services are placed under its authority.

TITLE V OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 31

The representative assembly of the Republic of Senegal has [porte] the name of [the] National Assembly.

Its members have the title of Deputy of the National Assembly.

Article 32

The Deputies to the National Assembly are elected by universal and direct suffrage, for five years at most.

An organic law establishes the number of members of the Assembly, their indemnities, the conditions of eligibility, [and] the regime of the ineligibilities and of the incompatibilities.

Article 33

No Deputy may be prosecuted, investigated, arrested, detained or judged as a result of the opinions or votes emitted by them in the exercise of their functions.

No Deputy may, during the duration of the sessions, be prosecuted or arrested, in [a] criminal or correctional matter except with the authorization of the National Assembly, excluding [sauf] the cases of flagrante delicto, of authorized prosecutions or of definitive condemnation.

The detention or the prosecution of a Deputy is suspended if the Assembly so requires.

Article 34

The regulations of the National Assembly determine:

- 1° The composition, [and] the rules of functioning of the Bureau as well as the powers and prerogatives of its President;
- 2° The number, the mode of designation, the composition, the role and the competence of its permanent commissions, without prejudice to the right, of the Assembly, of creating special temporary commissions;
- 3° The organization of the administrative services placed under the authority of the President of the Assembly, assisted by an administrative secretary general;
- 4° The disciplinary regime of the Deputies;
- 5° The different modes of [the] ballot, with the exclusion of those expressly specified by the Constitution;

6° In a general fashion, all the rules having for [their] object the functioning of the National Assembly within the framework of its constitutional competence.

Article 35

The National Assembly establishes the date of the opening and the duration of its ordinary sessions. These are, nevertheless, governed by the rules below.

The National Assembly holds, each year, two ordinary sessions:

- The first opens in the course of the second trimester of each year;
- The second opens obligatorily within the first two-week period [quinzaine] of the month of November.

The law of finance of the year is examined in the course of the second ordinary session.

In the case when an ordinary or extraordinary session is closed without the Assembly having established the date of opening of the next ordinary session, this is established in a timely fashion by the Bureau of the Assembly.

The duration of each ordinary session may not exceed two months.

The National Assembly, in addition, meets in extraordinary session:

- Either if at least half plus one of its members address a written request to the President;
- Or on the initiative of the Government.

The duration of each extraordinary session may not exceed fifteen days, excluding the case specified in Article 54.

Article 36

The vote of the Deputies is personal. Any imperative mandate in null.

The organic law may authorize, exceptionally, the delegation of [the] vote. In this case, no one may receive the delegation of more than one mandate.

Article 37

If, at the opening of a session, the quorum of half plus one of the members composing the National Assembly is not reached, the sitting is postponed [renvoyée] to the third day following.

The Assembly can then deliberate whatever the number of the [members] present.

Article 38

The sittings of the Assembly are public, unless it has decided otherwise.

The complete record of the debates as well as the parliamentary documents are published in the *Journal Official* [Official Gazette].

TITLE VI OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT

Article 39

The law is voted by the National Assembly.

The law establishes the rules concerning:

- the civil rights and the fundamental guarantees granted to the citizens for the exercise of the public freedoms, the constraints [sujétions] imposed by the National Defense on citizens on their persons and on their assets;

- nationality, the state and the capacity of persons, the matrimonial regimes, inheritance and gifts:
- the determination of the crimes and misdemeanors as well as the penalties which are applicable to them, the criminal procedure, amnesty, the creation of new orders of jurisdiction and the status of the Magistrates;
- the basis [assiette], the tax and the modalities of collecting taxes of all natures, the regime of the issuance of the currency;
- the electoral regime of the National Assembly and of the local assemblies;
- the creation of categories of public establishments;
- the fundamental guarantees granted to the civil and military functionaries of the State;
- the nationalization of enterprises and the transfers of property of enterprises of the public sector to the private sector.

The law determines the fundamental principles:

- of the general organization of the National Defense;
- of the free administration of the local collectivities, of their competences and of their resources;
- of teaching;
- of the regime of property, of real rights and of civil and commercial obligations;
- of the right to work, of the syndical right and of Social Security.

The laws of finance determine the resources and the expenditures of the State within the conditions and under the reserves specified by an organic law.

Program laws [*lois de programmes*] determine the objectives of the economic and social action of the State. The plan is approved by the law.

The provisions of this Article may be made precise and completed by an organic law.

Article 40

The declaration of war is authorized by the National Assembly.

Article 41

The state of siege, as the state of urgency, is decreed in the Council of Ministers. The National Assembly then meets of plain right, if it is not in session. The prorogation beyond [*au-delà de*] twelve days of the state of siege or of urgency must be authorized by the National Assembly.

Article 42

Matters which are not of the legislative domain, by virtue of this Constitution, have a regulatory character.

The texts of legislative form intervening in these matters can be modified by decree if the Supreme Court has declared that they have a regulatory character, by virtue of the preceding paragraph.

Article 43

The National Assembly can delegate to the Government or to its commission of delegations the power to take measures that are normally of the domain of the law, with the exclusion of those which could result in [pourraient conduire] the revision of the Constitution or to the dissolution of the Assembly.

The delegation to the Government is effected by an enabling law.

The delegation to the commission of delegations is effected by a resolution of the National Assembly, of which the Government is immediately informed.

Within the limits of time and of competence established by the enabling law, the Government takes[,] in the Council of Ministers[,] the ordinances which enter into force from their publication, but become lapsed if the bill of the law of ratification is not deposited with the Bureau of the National Assembly before the date established by the enabling law.

Within the limits of time and of competence established by the resolution specified above, the commission of delegations takes deliberations which are promulgated as laws. These laws are deposited with the Bureau of the National Assembly, no later than the first day of the ordinary session that follows their promulgation. In default of having been modified by the National Assembly within the first fifteen days of the session, they become definitive.

Article 44

The laws qualified as organic by the Constitution are voted and modified with the absolute majority of the members composing the National Assembly.

They cannot be promulgated if the Supreme Court, obligatorily referred to [the matter] by the President of the Republic, has not declared them conforming to the Constitution.

Article 43 does not apply to the organic laws.

Article 45

The initiative of the laws belongs concurrently to the President of the Council, in the Council of Ministers and to the Deputies of the National Assembly.

Article 46

The members of the Government may be heard at any moment by the Assembly and by its commissions. They may be assisted by commissioners of the Government.

Article 47

The Deputies and the Government have the right of amendment.

The proposals and amendments formulated by the Deputies are not receivable when their adoption would have as a consequence, either a diminution of public resources, or the creation or aggravation of a public expenditure, unless these proposals or amendments have been matched by proposals of compensatory receipts.

Article 48

If it appears, in the course of the legislative procedure that a proposal or amendment is not of the domain of the law, the Government may oppose [its] admissibility [irrecevabilité].

In the case of disagreement between the Government and the Assembly, the Supreme Court, at the demand of one or the other, decides within eight days.

Article 49

The inscription by priority on the agenda of the Assembly of a bill or of a proposal of law or of a declaration of general policy is of right if the Government makes the demand for it [en].

The means of control of the National Assembly over the governmental action are:

- the interpellation;
- the written question;
- the oral question with or without debate;
- the commission of inquiry

Article 51

The President of the Council can decide, in the Council of Ministers, to pose the question of confidence.

The vote on the question of confidence may only intervene two working days after it has been posed.

Confidence is refused in public ballot with the absolute majority of the members composing the National Assembly.

The refusal of confidence leads to the collective resignation of the Government.

Article 52

The National Assembly accuses the responsibility of the Government by the vote of a motion of censure.

The motion of censure must, on penalty of inadmissibility, be accompanied by the signatures of the quarter of the members composing the Assembly.

The vote on the motion of censure may only intervene two working days after its deposit with the Bureau of the Assembly.

The [motion of] censure is voted in public ballot, by the absolute majority of the members composing the National Assembly; only the votes favorable to the motion of censure are counted.

The adoption of the motion of censure leads to the collective resignation of the Government.

Article 53

In the case of resignation of the Government, it proceeds in accordance with Article 25. If the National Assembly is not in session, it meets, of right, in extraordinary session, at the convocation of its President.

The resigning Government manages the current affairs until the formation of the new Government.

TITLE VII OF THE LAWS OF FINANCE

Article 54

The National Assembly votes the bills of the laws of finance within the conditions specified by an organic law.

The bill of the law of finance of the year which includes notably the budget, is deposited with the Bureau of the National Assembly at the latest on the day of the opening of the second ordinary session.

The National Assembly [has] at its disposal thirty days at the most to vote the bills of the laws of finance.

If, for reason of a case of force majeure, the Government was unable to deposit $[n'a\ pu\ d\acute{e}poser]$ the bill of the law of finance in a timely fashion so that the

Assembly may dispose [of it] before the end of the ordinary session of the time period specified in the previous paragraph, [the session] is immediately and of plain right followed by an extraordinary session whose duration is at most equal to the time necessary to complete [parfaire] the said [ledit] time period.

If the bill of the law of finance is not definitively voted in equilibrium at the expiration of the time period of thirty days specified above, it is brought into force by decree, taking into account the amendments voted by the National Assembly and accepted by the Government.

If, taking into account the procedure specified above the law of finance of the year could not be brought into force before the debut of the fiscal year [exercice], the Government is authorized to apply by decree the procedure of provisional twelfths.

The Supreme Court assists the Government and the National Assembly in the control of the execution of the laws of finance.

Article 55

The expenditures of the budget of the State include:

- a) The expenditures of the Presidency of the Republic;
- b) The expenditures of the National Assembly (the credits necessary for the functioning of the Assembly are determined and deliberated by it and inscribed by order in the budget of the State);
- c) The expenditures of the Government;
- d) The expenditures of the national public debt.

TITLE VIII OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

Article 56

The peace treaties, the commercial treaties, the treaties or agreements relative to international organization, those which engage the finances of the State, those which modify the provisions of legislative nature, those which are relative to the Status of persons, [and] those involving [comportent] cession, exchange or addition of territory may only be ratified or approved by virtue of a law.

They only take effect after having been ratified or approved. No cession, no addition, [and] no adjunction of territory is valid without the consent of the population interested.

Article 57

If the Supreme Court has declared that an international commitment involves a clause contrary to the Constitution, the authorization to ratify it or to approve it may only intervene after the revision of the Constitution.

Article 58

The treaties or agreements regularly ratified or approved have, on their publication, an authority superior to that of the laws, under reserve, for each treaty or agreement, of its application by the other party.

TITLE IX OF THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

Article 59

Justice is an authority independent of the executive and of the legislative [powers].

The President of the Republic is guarantor of the independence of the judicial authority.

He is assisted by the Superior Council of the Magistrate of which the organization and the functioning are established by an organic law.

The presiding magistrates are irremovable.

Article 61

No one can be arbitrarily detained. The judicial authority, guardian of the individual freedom, assures the respect for this principle within the conditions provided for by the law.

Article 62

The Supreme Court of the Republic is notably referred to [the matter] of the constitutionality of the laws as well as of the international commitments[,] by the President of the Republic

An organic law determines the other competences of the Supreme Court, its organization and the procedure [to be] followed before it.

The presiding magistrates, members of the Supreme Court are appointed upon presentation of the Superior Council of the Magistrature.

TITLE X OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Article 63

A High Court of Justice is instituted.

Article 64

The High Court of Justice is composed of members elected by the National Assembly, from within, at the beginning of each legislature.

It elects its President from among its members.

The organization of the High Court of Justice and the procedure [to be] followed before it are determined by an organic law.

Article 65

The President of the Republic is only responsible for the acts accomplished in the exercise of his functions in the case of high treason. He may only be impeached by the National Assembly, deciding by a vote by secret ballot, with a majority of two-thirds of the members composing it; he is judged by the High Court of Justice.

The members of the Government are criminally responsible for acts accomplished in the exercise of their functions and qualified as crimes or misdemeanors, at the moment when they were committed. The procedure defined above is applicable to them as well as to their accomplices in the case of conspiracy against the security of the State. In the cases specified in this paragraph, the High Court is bound by the definition of crimes and misdemeanors as well as by the determination of the penalties such as they result from the criminal laws in force at the moment when the acts were committed.

TITLE XI OF REVISION

Article 66

The initiative of the revision of the Constitution belongs concurrently to the Government and to the National Assembly.

Any bill of revision presented by the President of the Council must have been approved in [the] Council of Ministers.

Any bill of revision presented by the Deputies must be signed by at least one third of the members composing the Assembly.

The revision must be voted with a majority of three-fifths of the members composing the National Assembly. If the absolute majority of the members composing the Assembly approves the revision and if the three-fifths of the votes [voix] are not obtained, this will be submitted to referendum.

TITLE XII TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 67

The Congress will meet at the latest [on] the 10 September 1960. The current [en fonction] National Assembly is of plain right the National Assembly specified by this Constitution.

The Government will remain in function until the election of the President of the Republic.

Article 68

Until the election of the President of the Republic, the legislative and regulatory measures necessary for the establishment of the institutions and for the functioning of the public powers will be taken by the Government.

During the transitory period, the Government and the Assembly are authorized to sign, approve and ratify international treaties, conventions and agreements.

During the same period, the law is promulgated by the President of the Council.

Article 69

The organic laws concerning the Superior Council of the Magistrature and the Supreme Court will be taken [prises] without the intervention of the said [ladite] Court.

Article 70

The laws and regulations currently in force[,] when they are not contrary to this Constitution, remain in force as long as they have not been modified or abrogated.

Done in Dakar, 26 August 1960.

President of the Session:	
Lamine GUEYÉ	