Monday 14 September

9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.  

Opening ceremony

- Statement by the Hon. Patrick Balopi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana
- Statement by Mrs Julia Dolly Joiner, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union
- Statement by Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, President of the IPU
- Keynote address on: The fundamental principles of democracy: challenges to the realisation of these principles on the African continent. How can Parliaments respond to these challenges? (Alpha Konare, Graça Machel/Sam Nujoma)
- Opening speech by H.E. Lt Gen. Ian Khama Seretse Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana.

10.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.  

Break

11.15 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.  

Plenary Session I


General debate on the Charter and the fundamental principles of democracy.

12.45 p.m. – 2 p.m.  

Lunch

2 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.  

Plenary session II: Political tolerance and freedom of speech

- Building a culture of pluralism and tolerance in Africa: are there lessons to be learnt? Mr. Yawovi Agboyibo, former Prime Minister of Togo
- Freedom of speech and democracy: the tension between party loyalty/discipline and conscience/service to constituents. To what extent should political parties influence the exercise of the parliamentary mandate? Presentation by the IPU on the subject: by author of the study. Presentation by Dr Keith Jennings, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).
Tuesday 15 September

9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.  ▶ Plenary session III: Inclusiveness in decision-making:
  - Rights, role and responsibilities of ruling/governing and opposition parties: how to promote a harmonious relationship between the two. Mr. Yawovi Agboyibo, former Prime Minister of Togo
  - Managing diversity: promoting gender partnership in political life; integrating minorities and other marginalised groups in the political mainstream: Mrs. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda/ Speaker from Europe (Rama Yade, Secretary of State for Sports, France
  - Botswana’s experience in inclusiveness in the context of democracy. Speaker to be designated by Botswana

12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.  Lunch

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.  ▶ Public attitudes to democracy: release of findings of opinion survey on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy

3 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.  ▶ Plenary session III continued: Inclusiveness in decision-making
  - Post-election power-sharing arrangements: panacea to political intolerance and exclusion? Ms Thokozani Khupe, Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe

5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.  ▶ Meeting of drafting committee of conference to finalise outcome document of conference

Visit to a traditional Botswana Assembly to witness the decision-making process as from 4.30pm

Wednesday, 16 September

9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.  ▶ Plenary session IV: Driving the democracy agenda
  - Lessons learnt and challenges to be met. Role of parliaments in promoting the democracy agenda especially through the African Charter on Democracy. Possible partnerships and the way forward

12.30 p.m. -2 p.m.  Lunch

2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.  ▶ Final plenary
  - Adoption of outcome document (Gaborone Declaration)
  - Concluding remarks by representatives of the IPU and the host parliament