PRESS RELEASE

STRENGTHENING GHANAIAN DEMOCRACY: A POLICY STATEMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND THE WORK OF THE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Charting an Inclusive, Accountable, and Enduring Constitutional Trajectory for the Fourth Republic

Accra Ghana — November 13**, 2026. CENTER FOR AFRICA DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS (CADeP) —** *Policy, Governance & Constitutional Democracy Division | Accra, Ghana*
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & INSTITUTIONAL CALL

Three decades into Ghana's Fourth Republic, our constitutional architecture has successfully secured political stability, peaceful transitions of power, and foundational civil liberties. However, the socio-economic realities and governance demands of modern Ghana require decisive constitutional modernization. The Center for Africa Development and Progress (CADeP) issues this statement to appraise the ongoing work of the Constitutional Reform Implementation Committee (CRIC), urge non-partisan commitment, and propose actionable pathways to resolve systemic governance imbalances—principally executive overreach, Article 71 emoluments, local governance centralization, and institutional accountability.

1. The Historical and Contemporary Context of Reform

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana stands as a monumental charter that transitioned our nation from prolonged military and quasi-democratic regimes into sub-Saharan Africa's vanguard of democratic stability. Over eight successive electoral cycles, Ghana has demonstrated admirable democratic resilience. Nonetheless, constitutional governance is not static; it is an evolving covenant between the sovereign citizenry and the state.

Past comprehensive reviews, notably the landmark findings of the 2010 Constitution Review Commission (CRC) and subsequent implementation roadmaps, highlighted fundamental structural vulnerabilities that continue to hamper national development. Among these are excessive concentration of executive patronage, fiscal strain arising from elite emoluments, the perceived politicization of independent oversight bodies, and the chronic marginalization of citizen agency in local governance.

2. Appraising the Reform Implementation Committee's Mandate

CADeP acknowledges the critical responsibility entrusted to the current Constitutional Reform Implementation Committee (CRIC). Charged with harmonizing technical proposals, drafting transitional provisions, and facilitating multi-stakeholder consensus, the Committee operates at a defining crossroads of our democratic history.

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In evaluating the Committee's progress to date, CADeP highlights three vital imperatives:

Inclusive Citizen-focus Dialogue: Constitutional reform cannot remain an exclusive enclave for legal elites and partisan actors. The Committee must deepen town-hall engagements across all sixteen regions, prioritizing youth, traditional authorities, organized labor, persons with disabilities, and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Bipartisan and Multi-Party Ownership: To avert legislative deadlock and cynical politicization, reform recommendations must be anchored in broad parliamentary and inter-party consensus, insulating crucial national amendments from short-term electoral calculations.
Transparent Timelines and Deliverables: The public deserves full visibility over the Committee's thematic milestones, draft white papers, and proposed legislative bills to foster ownership and forestall reform fatigue.

A credible constitutional review process requires active civic vigilance, institutional independence, and an uncompromising commitment to national interest above partisan expediency.

3. Core Pillars of Reform: CADeP's Strategic Imperatives
To ensure that constitutional revisions yield tangible democratic and socio-economic dividends for everyday Ghanaians, CADeP urges the Committee and Parliament to prioritize the following thematic pillars:

Thematic Area	Key Constitutional Issue	CADeP Proposed Reform Action
Executive Powers & Appointments	Excessive presidential patronage over statutory boards, judiciary, and oversight institutions.	Establish an Independent Appointments Commission and decouple ministerial appointments from Parliament (Article 78(1)).
Article 71 Emoluments	Perceived inequities in public sector remuneration, gratuities, and ex-gratia payments.	Establish an Independent National Emoluments Commission with uniform benchmarks for all public office holders.
Decentralization & Local Governance	Direct executive appointment of MMDCEs without direct democratic accountability to constituents.	Amend Articles 55(3) and 243(1) to enable universal adult suffrage in the election of MMDCEs on partisan/non-partisan terms.
Anti-Corruption & State Institutions	Structural vulnerability and resource dependency of CHRAJ, OSP, and the Auditor-General.	Guarantee financial autonomy via first-line charge on the Consolidated Fund and strengthen security of tenure.

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4. Key Recommendations for the Committee, Executive, and Parliament

CADeP respectfully submits the following structured policy recommendations:

Structured Phasing of Amendments: The Committee should decouple non-entrenched clauses (which require a two-thirds parliamentary majority) from entrenched clauses (which necessitate a national referendum). Non-entrenched administrative reforms should be fast-tracked to build public trust.

Institutionalized Civic Education: Partner with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and community media to translate technical reform clauses into local languages, mitigating misinformation and partisan cynicism.

Fiscal Impact Assessment: Conduct comprehensive fiscal modeling on proposed institutional restructurings to ensure reforms enhance public financial management and reduce governance overheads.

Legislation Synchronization: Formulate accompanying enabling legislation simultaneously with constitutional amendments to avoid prolonged statutory lacunas upon enactment.

5. Conclusion & Institutional Commitment

The ongoing constitutional reform process represents a generational opportunity to re-anchor Ghana's democratic ethos in justice, integrity, equity, and sustainable development. CADeP reaffirms its unwavering commitment to providing rigorous research support, convening constructive national stakeholder dialogues, and mobilizing citizen participation throughout this historic endeavor.

Issued for and on behalf of the Center for Africa Development and Progress (CADeP - Ghana)

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