
TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)-GHANA



PRESS STATEMENT

TUC POSITION ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1992 CONSTITUTION: THE PROCESS, CRC RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT POSITION

September 9, 2026

1. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the press. You are most welcome to this press conference. We are grateful for your attendance.
2. This press conference is about TUC's position on the review of the 1992 Constitution. It is about the on-going process towards the reform of the Constitution. It is about the recommendations by the Constitution Review Committee as well as the Position Paper by Government.
3. Ladies and Gentlemen, in the last few years, calls for review of the Constitution have grown louder. In the

Workers' Manifesto we published in 2024, we expressed support for the review of the national Constitution.

4. In January 2025, the President heeded the call of Ghanaians and inaugurated the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) to commence the noble exercise of reforming the national Constitution, the TUC applauded it.
5. The TUC subsequently submitted a memorandum to the Committee. We also appeared before the Committee to explain and justify issues we raised in the memorandum.
6. The Committee, submitted its final report to Government in December 2025. On July 30, 2026, Government published the full report of the CRC and Government position on the recommendations.
7. The TUC has carefully examined the CRC report and the Government Position Paper. Below, we outline our position on the recommendation by the CRC, and Government Position and the approach towards amendment of the Constitution. We begin by restating the TUC's philosophy for Constitutional Governance and a new National Constitution.

TUC'S Pledge and Philosophy for Constitutional Governance

8. In recognition of our rights and responsibilities as workers and citizens we have pledged to ***“Resolutely defend and uphold the democratic foundations on which the future of our Nation must be built and seek the fulfilment of our aspirations, hopes and the achievement of our objectives, through democratic processes and within the framework of constitutional government and concern for the welfare of the country”.***
9. In line with this pledge, we have committed to ensure that Ghana is at all times governed democratically. Our philosophy is that a reformed Constitution must “truly give power back to the people of Ghana and ensure that democracy assures the people the necessities of life”.

The Approach

10. The 1992 Constitution was drafted by a Consultative Assembly, comprising representatives of a broad section of the Ghanaian society. The TUC represented workers alongside other special interest groups. This approach was inclusive and accommodated a broad spectrum of views and interests.
11. We must not depart from this inclusive approach, as we seek to fundamentally reform the Constitution.

The TUC recognize the good effort the Committee made in reaching out and collating the views of the broad spectrum of the Ghanaian society. However, a committee's approach to Constitutional Review may not be as inclusive as the Consultative Assembly.

12. It becomes even more challenging when the government of the day chooses which recommendations to accept or reject on the basis of its party philosophy and manifesto and uses its majority in parliament to enact them.
13. A simple arithmetic of the total number of recommendations proposed by the CRC versus the recommendations accepted or rejected by Government shows that Government has rejected an overwhelming 54% of the recommendations.
14. The proposed referendum will therefore be based on issues exclusively selected by Government to the exclusion of issues favoured by other groups.
15. We foresee a danger. We are showing the legal doorway for any future government with the requisite majority in parliament to also pursue amendments, particularly on non-entrenched clauses, based on its parochial philosophy and manifesto. We must not open up the Constitution for partisan political maneuvering.

16. Government must make special efforts to bring on board all groups, including the opposition. It could be expensive and cumbersome, but it is necessary for building unity and consensus around the basic governing document.

Presidential Term of Office (Article 66(1))

17. The TUC has taken note of the recommendation to extend the presidential term from four to five years and the Government's acceptance of that recommendation.
18. We draw attention to the fact that in the event of misgovernance, a five-year tenure also means citizens will have to endure the consequences for a longer period than under the current dispensation.
19. This recommendation is therefore, tied to other recommendations that are intended to strengthen and improve governance. One cannot, therefore, merely agree to tenure extension and leave everything else the same.

Presidential Appointments (Articles 70 and 195)

20. The TUC agrees with the recommendation to amend Article 70 to limit the appointment powers of the President. However, in the opinion of the TUC,

amending this Article alone will not limit the President's appointment powers. In our memorandum to the CRC, we proposed amending Article 195 (1) of the Constitution as part of the broader effort to limit the appointing powers of a President.

Ministers of State (Article 78(1) and 78(2))

21. The TUC backs the recommendation by the CRC to amend Article 78(1) to bar Members of Parliament from being appointed as Ministers of State, Deputy Ministers, or Regional Ministers. We do not expect Ministers of State to act simultaneously as members of parliament in a reformed Constitution.
22. However, the TUC does not support the CRC recommendation that an MP who resigns from Parliament must be barred from appointment as a Minister during the term of the Parliament to which the member was elected.

Dual Citizenship and Parliamentary Membership (Articles 8 and 94)

23. The TUC disagrees with the recommendation to amend Article 94(2)(a) to allow dual citizens to contest parliamentary elections and become members of parliament while remaining a citizen of another country. In fact, we characterise the recommendation as self-serving and a direct assault on the genuine

citizenship. It is contradictory and serves no useful purpose for the country.

Composition of the Council of State (Article 89(2))

24. In the view of the TUC, the Council of State remains a useful organ of state that must be reformed to be effective at meeting the expectations of citizens. The overwhelming dominance of presidential appointees on the Council is unhelpful. The Council of State needs to be reformed. The number of Council members appointed by the President must not be more than five (5).

Phased Election of District Chief Executives (Article 243)

25. The CRC recommended a phased approach to the election of District Chief Executives (DCEs). Government argues that all districts must have the right to elect their DCEs at the same time.

26. The TUC agrees with Government. However, the TUC totally disagrees with the proposal by the Government that, for the election of DCEs, an incumbent Government will select or nominate five (5) candidates, out of which of three (3) will be shortlisted as candidates for election of a DCE.

27. In the opinion of the TUC, districts must be allowed the autonomy to conduct their elections without a central government selecting candidates for them.

Revised Composition of District Assemblies (Article 242)

28. The TUC supports the CRC recommendation to amend Article 242 to change the composition of District Assemblies. We do not see the practical difficulties in implementing allocations to traditional authorities, women, business owners, persons with disabilities, the youth, and non-governmental organisations as argued in the Government Position Paper.

Lands and Natural Resources

29. On this important topic, the CRC made general recommendations for improving management of Ghana's mineral resources. Government rejected all the recommendations. The TUC finds it strange that, given all the historical and contemporary concerns over our lands and natural resources, Government finds no value in all the recommendations by the CRC.
30. The TUC agrees with the broad recommendations by the CRC that seek to reform the legal framework for managing our lands and natural resources.

31. The TUC agrees with the recommendation to vest our lands in the people of Ghana and not a President. We also agree that the Lands Commission be reformed to play the role of a primary constitutional trustee and manager of our lands.

Natural Resource Governance (Article 268 and 269)

32. The TUC agrees to the CRC recommendation for amendment of Article 268 to require prior parliamentary approval before signing of any granting or signing of any natural resource agreement or concession.

Conclusion

33. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana has largely endured and served Ghana well. The current reform process has been the most ambitious. The political will and the national appetite for a reformed Constitution remains elevated. We must harness the synergy to deliver a reformed Constitution that strengthens governance, uphold rights, and turns political stability into economic and social transformation.
34. I thank you for your attention!