Title of Article: Presidentialism, Parliamentarianism and Cabinet System

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Abstract: In generic terms, there are basically two systems of government, namely, Presidential and Parliamentary/Cabinet. Although the two systems can be differentiated on a number of grounds, the most fundamental differences derive from the manner in which relations among the branches or organs of government are structured (Osaghae, 2005:339). To be sure, recent developments in international relations particularly within the context of inter-governmental relations have brought to the fore the need for re-examination of these systems of government. This has become more compelling in view of the fact that the complexities thrown up by these developments have made the former distinction between the Presidential, Parliamentary and Cabinet systems of government considerably blurred. Indeed, these complexities usually border on the exact constitutional roles between the executive and the legislature and confusion remains about the scope of their respective powers (Carey, 2005:91). None the less, the differences between these systems of government as practiced across various societies remain as distinct as ever. This chapter attempts to put these issues in perspective.