

# **THE CONSTITUTION**

## **THE UNION OF LIBERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORWAY (ULAN)**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the citizens (natural born or naturalized) of the Republic of Liberia, presently residing in the Kingdom of Norway, aware and realizing the difficult experiences of national existence as a Nation and people since the civil crisis that engulf our country in 1989, that all Liberians, irrespective of history or traditions ethnic or class background, religious beliefs or philosophical persuasions are one people and of a common destiny. Hence, we resolve to establish the Union of Liberians Associations in Norway (ULAN), a governance framework and structure promotive of national reconciliation, national unification, democracy and development for the progress of our communities, posterity and ourselves.

### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **ARTICLE 1 NAME, MOTTO AND JURISDICTION OF THE UNION**

The name of the Organization shall be known and styled as the "Union of Liberians Associations in Norway" (ULAN).

#### **ARTICLE 2**

The motto of the union shall be "In union, Strong Success is Sure".

#### **ARTICLE 3**

The jurisdiction of the Union shall include all Liberian associations and organizations and involve the active participation of Liberians and their communities across the length and breadth of the Kingdom of Norway.

### **CHAPTER 2 - AIMS/OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION**

#### **ARTICLE 4**

1. The Union shall promote and encourage efforts geared towards reconciliation, integration and unification.
2. The Union shall preserve and protect the positive aspects of the Liberian culture, history and traditions, which are consistent with development.

3. The Union shall create and provide conducive environment for the critical examination, discussion and peaceful resolutions of local and national issues affecting the welfare of Liberians in Norway.
4. The Union shall encourage friendly ties between Liberians and Norwegians as well as other nationals at all levels.
5. The Union shall encourage the practice of democratic culture and transparency amongst Liberians in Norway.
6. The Union shall also represent the interest of Liberians at national and international confabs anywhere including Liberia.
7. The Union shall encourage the culture of equality amongst Liberians in Norway regardless of sex or gender.
8. The Union shall remain the official spokes organ for Liberians and their various communities and or organizations in the Kingdom of Norway.
9. The Union shall work with local officers to ensuring that the welfare of Liberians is safeguarded.
10. The Union shall develop and ensure that appropriate steps are taken to curb the abuse of power and misuse of public resources, and stamp out sectionalism, tribalism and other egos that thwart democratic culture and bred divisiveness.
11. The Union shall discourage all forms of discriminations and preferences of one group or area to others and encourage equal opportunity provided to all Liberians.
12. The Union, as non-profitable Organization, shall solicit needed resources or funds through payment of **dues** and other means for projects in Norway and or Liberia for example workshops and other recreational programs for the youths. The Union shall mobilize and facilitate financial and material resources much needed by Liberians in different economic situation.
13. The Union shall coordinate its program of activities on the regional and national levels in Norway and internationally

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **ARTICLE 5-ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE**

The Annual National Convention shall be the highest decision making body / organ within the Union. The Annual National Convention adopts ULAN's constitution and amendments to the constitution and elects the members of the National Executive

Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be the highest decision making body / organ between each Annual National Convention. It shall send out communications to all Regional Chairpersons. It shall make report to the Regional Associations and/or its membership during annual conventions. The National Executive Committee shall comprise of a) The National Chairman b) The Vice Regional Chairpersons c) The Secretary General d) The National Treasurer e) The Financial Secretary f) The National Chaplain and g) The Youth Representative

1. Chairman
2. Vice Regional Chairpersons
3. General Secretary
4. Assistant General Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Financial Secretary
7. National Chaplain
8. Youth Representative

## **LEADERSHIP**

The Leadership of the Union shall be opened to any Liberian that is qualified to lead and has the requisite potential couple with a sense of responsibility and has **NO** police record whatsoever. He/she must have **legal** status in Norway and must be an active member of the Organization for at least one year.

To be an active member of the organization for at least one year to qualify for elective position is not applicable for this election.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership of the Union comprise of member-organization reflective of Liberians and their various community institutions and organizations in the Kingdom of Norway.
2. Membership of the Union shall also be extended to foreign friends of Liberia as **associate members but cannot hold leadership position.**
3. Member-organization status of the Union shall be extended and open to ~~not~~<sup>non</sup> profit or charitable foreign institutions and Liberian organizations known and styled as Liberian Community Association, Liberian County Associations and Liberian special Interest Group; that is religious, educational, professional, women, youth, sports and advocacy bodies, etc.

4. Member-organization status of the Union shall not be extended or open to groups categorized as Liberian Political Parties as some of their activities may be in violation of our Constitution.

5. The Union shall have a tripartied group membership representing the National Level, Regional Level and Local Level. The National Body shall determine program activities, territorial classification and other eligibility criteria for determining which level a member-organization of the Union.

6. The Union shall also coordinate its programs on the regional level. The Kingdom of Norway shall be divided into five (5) regions and the Vice Chairpersons shall be selected/elected through voting to the National Level to help coordinate the activities of the Union. These five (5) regions are as follow: 1) Nord-Norge-Finnmark, Troms and Nordland, 2) Trøndelag-Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag, 3) Vestlandet-Møre and Romsdal, Sogn and Fjordane, Hordaland and Rogaland, 4) Sørlandet-Vest Agder and Aust-Agder, and 5) Øslandet- Telemark; Buskerud, Hedmark, Oppland, Akershus, Oslo, Vestfold and Østfold.

## **ARTICLE 6- DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

### **1. NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

a. The National chairman shall preside at all meetings of the National convention and National Executive Committee.

b. He/she shall participate in the activities of the Executive Committee of the Union.

c. He/she shall in consultation with other members of the Executive serve as Chief spokesman of the union.

d. He/she shall keep the Union membership informed of developments through the Vice Regional Chairpersons.

e. He/she shall in consultation with members of the Executives Committee formulate policies to guide the interest of the union.

f. He/she shall liaise with friendly and humanitarian organizations at all levels.

(4) g. He/she shall be one of the signatories to withdraw funds from the Union's account.

### **2. VICE REGIONAL CHAIRPERSONS**

a. He/she shall preside over meetings in the regions.

- b. He/she shall liaise with the National Chairman on developments from the region.
- c. He/she shall assist the National Chairman in the performance of his duties.
- d. He/she shall serve to promote the work of the Union at all levels of the Region.

### 3. **GENERAL SECRETARY**

- a. He/she shall be the head of the Secretariat.
- b. He/she shall be responsible for the running of the Secretariat.
- c. He/she shall be responsible to the National Chairman and also disseminate information to the Regional Levels from the National Level.

### 4. **ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY**

- a. He/she shall assist the Secretary General in the executions of his/her tasks.
- b. He/she shall serve as Secretary General in the absence of the Secretary General.
- c. He/she shall serve as Secretary General in the case the proper holder of the position is incapacitated to do so.

### 5. **NATIONAL TREASURER**

- a. He/she shall be the custodian of the financial records of the Union.
- b. He/she shall receive and deposit funds into the Union's account and keep accurate records thereof.
- c. He/she shall make disbursement of funds upon authorization of the National Executive Committee.
- d. He/she shall be one of the signatories to withdraw funds from the Union's account.

### 6. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

- a. He/she shall be responsible to keep an accurate account of funds received at the National Level.
- b. He/she shall also assist in maintaining a financial picture of the regions' financial transactions, etc.

c. He/she shall execute any financial function that may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

d. He/she shall be one of the signatories to withdraw funds from the Union's account.

## 7. **NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

- a. He/she shall coordinate the religious activities of the Union in collaboration with the regional and local level colleagues.
- b. He/she shall plan and execute religious activities after the approval from the Executive Committee.
- c. He/she shall execute any task that may be assigned by the National Executive committee.

## 8. **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

- a. He/she shall represent all regional youth groups at the National level.
- b. He/she shall serve as liaison officer between all regional youth groups and the National Executive Committee.
- c. He/she shall coordinate all youth projects/programs at the National Level.

# **CHAPTER 4**

## **ARTICLE 7- ELECTIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE**

**ELECTIONS:** The Union shall practice a fair and proper democratic system of electing officers. Thus, any member in good standing with the Union shall contest for an elective position. All registered members shall have the right to cast their votes accordingly. The Union shall apply the simple majority system of electoral process during elections.

**TERM OF OFFICE:** The executive body's term of office shall be **two calendar years**, effective the date elections are held and the results announced. The secretariat shall remain office for the same period of time.

Any office holder found to be ineffective shall be impeached by a two-third (2/3) of the members present at an Annual National convention. A new person shall be elected to replace him/her to complete the term of office.

## **ARTICLE 8: ATTENDANCE TO ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

It shall be the responsibility of all Regional Association members to be present at all Annual National Conventions on the agreed date and time.

### **AMENDMENT**

The content of this Constitution is liable to amendment by a vote of two-third (2/3) majority of the members present at a particular National Annual Convention. Amendment of this document shall be carried out **ONLY** during and in National Annual Conventions.

### **COMPILED AND PRESENTED BY:**

<b>NAME SIGNATURE</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Gemah Koryon	Chairman
David F. Akoiwala	Co-Chairman
Linford Gweh Aagon	General Secretary
Ken Marblow	Member
Victoria Young Doboyou	Member
Emmanuella Kula Koroma	Member
Emmanuel Sheku Koroma	Member
Franklin Nyenetue	Member
Annie Wlatee Gibson	Member
Nola Josephine Koroma	Member
Mishel Weagba	Member

## ULAN'S ELECTION LAWS 2f

### Introduction

#### **Article I: Elective Positions**

The Union of Liberian Associations in Norway (ULAN) shall conduct Elections on a bi-annual basis either at the beginning or end of an Annual Conference. The venue and timing of elections are linked to Annual Conferences because Independent Celebration day of Liberia is a significant event which no Liberian can afford to miss. By linking elections to Independent Day Celebrations, more members of ULAN shall be able to vote. For instance, if Tromsø were to be chosen as venue for ULAN'S 2018 Annual Convention, then elections for the next code of Officers for 2019 shall be held in Tromsø July, 2018. The five months between election and taking office shall provide ample time for the outgoing administration to submit all reports, advices, information, etc. Incoming administration needs on all matters pertaining to the Association, change in government policies or laws that are binding on immigrants, etc. .

A. Positions for which elections shall be held shall be:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

General Secretary

Assistant General Secretary

Treasurer

Financial \*Secretary

Youth Representatives

Chaplain

Assistant Chaplain.

B. There shall be two types of Elections

1. Regular Election - is one by which a new code of officers are opted or voted into office to replace the former whose administration has come to an end. The venue for ULAN'S regular election shall be the same as ULAN's Annual Conferences. Election shall form one of the major components of the Assembly or Convention.

2. Special Election - is one occasioned by unavoidable circumstance such as sickness, resignation, transfer to another country, etc. which may render an official of ULAN unable to continue in office, thus creating a vacant post; however; there should be no special election if each elective post is assisted or has

an assistant. For an example, if the President of ULAN or any other person holding an elective post resigns , for any reason he cannot continue to serve the Association, the Vice President or person next in rank, shall complete his term of office without going thru a special election. The post of Vice President, in this particular situation, which shall be rendered vacant, shall be filled by an Acting Vice President suggest by the President and approved by his cabinet as well as Regional Leaders. This method is put forward to avoid problem of transport and to prevent a handful of ULAN members from selecting a Vice President. See count three - next count for the procedure.

3. The National Chairman of ULAN shall inform the Elections Commission about any vacant executive positions in not more than one month after it had occurred. It shall be the duty of the Elections Commission to pass the information on to Regional Leaders in Kommunes where ULAN exist within a period of not more than one months after the President had informed them. Regional Leaders shall be required to pass on such information to their local Kommune organizations.

After vacant posts are announced, interested candidates shall be required to forward their letters of application, stating evidence that they have met the requirements for holding positions listed in Article II of the Election Laws. Election Commission shall forward names of qualified candidates to the President who shall, in consultation with his cabinet and Regional Leaders, select a candidate from the list submitted by the Election and recommend to Elections Commission the candidate selected. Election Commission shall then declare the candidate as acting, to complete the term of the one he/she is acting for. No official who occupies any position in this manner shall vie for the same position in the coming year.

## **Article II : Qualification to Hold Office**

Applicants aspiring to hold positions in ULAN shall fulfill the following requirements:

1. He/ she is required to be a citizen of Liberian, legal resident in Norway (have permanent status as required in Norway and assigned a classified number). He or she should be a Liberian, and /or a Liberian descent.
2. He/she must have attained the age of 25 or above , except for a youth vying for a post in the Youth Department of ULAN and can do so from the age of 20. He/she must have acquired a minimum of

High School education or above (*this applies to all applicants in ULAN*).

3. Applicant for any positions in ULAN shall be of good character, friendly, sociable and be willing to listen to the views of others. He/she shall possess good leadership abilities and shall consider himself servant, not master over people he/she shall lead.

### Article III. Procedure for Election:

1. Elections in ULAN shall be done by secret ballot.
2. Upon receiving the form for voting, each voter shall secretly check or put a mark opposite the candidate of his choice and cast it into the ballot box.
3. When all voters have cast their ballots, Officials of the Election Commission and two representatives from each opposing party shall count the votes in the office of the Election Commissioner. Representatives of the parties shall only watch but shall not handle any ballot.
4. The Chairman of the Elections Commission shall announce result of the election to the public, thus bringing an end to the electoral process.

*This is what I have for now. As I said yesterday, kindly liaise with Kolaco in adding my view with yours and forward it to me for editing before we pass it on to the President.*

*May God richly bless you.*

*Very truly yours,*

*Irvin W. Kofa, Sr.*

## **ARTICLE 8: ATTENDANCE TO ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

It shall be the responsibility of all Regional Association members to be present at all Annual National Conventions on the agreed date and time.

## **ARTICLE 9: MINI SUMMIT**

The Union shall have a Mini Summit once or twice every calendar year. The date for the Mini Summit shall be scheduled by the executive body. The Mini Summit is empowered to take and adopt major decisions affecting the operations of the Union.

## **AMENDMENT**

The content of this Constitution is liable to amendment by a vote of two-third (2/3) majority of the members present at a particular National Annual Convention. Amendment of this document shall be carried out **ONLY** during and in National Annual Conventions.

## **REVISED AND PRESENTED BY:**

<b>NAME SIGNATURE</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Irvin Kofa, Sr.	Chairman
Richard P. Dahn, Jr	Co-Chairman
Linford Gweh Aagon	General Secretary
Ken Marblow	Member
Emmanuel Sheku Koroma	Member
Emmanuel Suah	Member