

The National Union of Sierra Leone Students
(NUSS) Russian Federation



Email: ru.nuss0001@gmail.com

Motto: Education, Wisdom and Unity.

The constitution of The
National Union of Sierra Leone
Students (NUSS) Russian
Federation.

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This constitution shall take effect from 1 September 2022 and invalidates all former constitutions of this Union.

The constitution:

- Provides the framework for the operation of the Union;
- Outlines where and how union members can air their concerns;
- Shows how the executive committee can act on behalf of members;
- Defines what the Union can or cannot do.

ARTICLE 1. PREAMBLE

This constitution shall be called the National Union of Sierra Leone Students (Russian Federation) constitution. The name of the union, which is a non-political and non-religious establishment, is the “**NATIONAL UNION OF SIERRA LEONE STUDENTS**” (hereinafter referred to as “**NUSS**” Russian Federation) and abbreviated as **NUSS**. **NUSS** is established to unite Sierra Leonean scholarship students studying under the Bilateral Educational Agreement and Non-scholarship students residing in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (C. I. S), to defend their common and individual interests and promote scholarship and excellence through realization of the aims and objectives set forth in this constitution.

NUSS is a transparent student organization, with information on its activities accessible to both its members and the public, to this end, **NUSS** shall possess her own an official website and a portal on Facebook.

NUSS has the right to maintain a bank account within the Russian federation, possess an official stamp and seal symbolizing the name of the union in English and in Russian languages, letterhead and an emblem

The motto of **NUSS** Russian Federation shall be Education, Wisdom and Unity.

ARTICLE 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To protect the interest, integrity and general welfare of all its members.
2. To promote the spirit of good neighborliness within Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (C I S), the host community.

3. To promote the academic and social well-being of Sierra Leonean Scholarship and non-scholarship Students in Russia and C I S.
4. To meet regularly to discuss the academic and general welfare of all its members.
5. To maintain regular contact with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and The Sierra Leone Embassy, Moscow with the aim of addressing issues concerning members of this Union.
6. To uplift the good image of Sierra Leone through organizing educational programs, exhibitions, cultural engagements and sporting events.
7. To encourage contacts and establish networking amongst Sierra Leone scholarship and non-scholarship students in Russia and other students elsewhere in the world and maintain close liaison with other Sierra Leonean organizations having similar aims and objectives with NUUS-Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. Membership composition

This Union shall comprise of all Sierra Leonean students studying in Russian Federation and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (C I S) under the Bilateral Educational Agreement scholarship and non-scholarship students. Membership is therefore automatic for all Sierra Leonean students.

3.2. Member's rights

All members of this Union are equal and shall be treated equally before the laws of the Union.

3.2.1.

Every member has the right to freedom of expression, non-interference in his/her personal life, right to be respected and the right to defend his/her honor and dignity. However, the expression of these rights shall not conflict with the aims and objectives of the Union.

3.2.2.

Every member has the right to participate in the activities of the Union in accordance with the stipulated guidelines in the Constitution.

3.2.3.

Every member has the right to get detailed information on the activities of the Union.

3.2.4.

All members are qualified to benefit from any welfare program of the Union.

3.2.5.

Every member has the constitutional backing to demand for his/her rights.

3.2.6.

Scholarship and Non-Scholarship members of the union shall be eligible to take up positions in the union provided such member has met all eligibility provisions for such position as stated in the constitution.

3.2.7.

New students in the preparatory faculty, upon arrival from Sierra Leone are entitled exclusively to the following:

- (a) Be received at the airport by executive committee,
- (b) Provided with a refreshment package,
- (c) Transportation arrangements made for them by the executive committee and city representative,
- (d) Printed copies of the association's constitution, annual magazine, newsletters and orientation pamphlets

3.3. Member's obligations

Members shall:

3.3.1.

Fulfil all the necessary requirements and conditions as specified in this constitution and all the resolutions taken by the executive committee of the Union.

3.3.2.

Pay fifty US Dollars (\$50.00) as annual due to be deducted from annual allowances at the source(Embassy of Sierra Leone, Moscow) for Scholarship students or pay in-person to the financial secretary and treasurer, however the non-scholarship students will pay fifty US Dollars (\$50.00) annually to the Financial Secretary and Treasurer for safekeeping. The union president is oblige to make the payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) as annual union contribution.

New students in preparatory faculty, upon arrival from Sierra Leone, shall submit all necessary information to the Secretary General's office for registration.

3.3.3.

Report any information of importance to the Union. This could be in written or verbal form, depending on the nature of the information.

3.3.4.

Report all serious personal academic and social problems not directly to the Sierra Leone Embassy, but through the Union.

3.3.5.

Defend the interest of the Union at any given time.

3.3.6.

Inform the executive committee of all the activities he/she intends to carry out in the name of the Union.

3.4. Cessation of membership

A person shall cease to be a member of the Union if;

3.4.1.

He/she completes the study program. Upon completion of studies, a member automatically becomes a member of the Union's alumni body.

3.4.2.

He/ she is withdrawn/expelled from the study program.

3.4.3.

The conduct of the member is, in the opinion of the executive council, deemed detrimental to the interest of the Union.

ARTICLE 4. Administrative Structure

This organization shall consist of both Sierra Leone scholarship and non-scholarship Students based on equal rights and obligations without any discrimination based on age, ethnicity, religion and gender.

The seat of administration shall be in Moscow or states closest to Moscow i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, Belgorod etc.). That is to say, the President, Secretary General and Financial Secretary shall be in Moscow or states closest to Moscow i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, Belgorod etc.), except otherwise. Other members of the executive of the Union shall be outside but also closest to Moscow. In this case, the member(s) of the executive shall always make himself/ herself (or themselves) available whenever called upon.

There shall be no local branches of this Union; however, any city outside the seat of administration with more than two members shall elect a city representative. The executive committee shall directly handle cities with less than three members.

The administrative structure of NUSS is made up of the Executive Council, which shall include Executive committee, city representatives, a representative from non-scholarship students and The Auditing Committee.

4.1. The Executive Council

4.1.1.

The Executive committee shall be the body duly elected by both scholarship and non-scholarship members of the Union for a period of one academic year, and shall be responsible for the administration of the Union for such a period.

4.1.2.

The Executive committee shall be the body responsible for the process of administering the day-to-day affairs and activities of the Union.

4.1.3.

The Executive committee shall consist of the following, in hierarchical order:

4.1.3a. President

4.1.3b. Vice President

4.1.3c. Secretary General

4.1.3d. Assistant Secretary General

4.1.3e. Financial Secretary and Treasurer

4.1.3f. Education Secretary

4.1.3g. Social Secretary

4.1.3h. Organizing Secretary

4.1.3i. Assistant Education Secretary

4.1.4.

All Executive Committee members shall be bona fide students that are persons with impeccable character.

4.1.5.

All Executive Committee members shall have equal voting rights when taking decisions in the executive council meetings.

Exemptions being an impasse, when there is a tie in the vote, the President's vote shall be the deciding one.

4.1.6.

All Executive Committee members must take an oath of allegiance, cooperation and commitment to carry out their functions/ duties as stipulated in this constitution without prejudice, malice, willful disobedience to the Union or open disrespect of any sort to the decision(s) taken within the Executive Council meetings or in the general house meetings that are not to his/her liking.

4.1.7.

The Executive Committee shall be held responsible by the Executive Council for any executed action(s) that is/are not in conformity with the constitution.

4.1.8.

The Executive Committee members have no right to reward themselves for executing their functions and duties, excluding expenditures the Executive Committee incurred during the time of carrying out their official duties and functions as stipulated in this constitution, which shall be in form of reimbursement provision of documentary evidence.

4.1.9.

Simple majority of members should refer any issue not stipulated in the constitution to the Executive Council for approval.

4.1.10.

An Executive committee meeting shall be held at least once in a month or at such time as might be found necessary by the President.

4.1.11.

The quorum at an Executive Committee meeting shall be simple majority of its members. A simple majority will be more than half of the Executive Committee (7 out of 9 etc.)

4.2. Duties of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall:

4.2.1.

Oversee the general administration of the Union.

4.2.2.

Prepare a budget latest by the end of September of every year and sent to the Executive Council for approval by the end of October of every year.

4.2.3.

Make a plan of all the activities of the association for a year period.

4.2.4.

Approve all expenditure projections from the city representatives.

4.2.5.

Perform any other duty that may be assigned by the general house in consonance with the aims and objectives of the Union.

4.3. The President:

The President shall be the head of the Union.

4.3.1. QUALIFICATIONS

Without compromising the criterion set out in (4.1.4.), the President shall have the following qualities:

1. Must have spent not less than four (4) years in Russia, preparatory year inclusive as a scholarship student.
2. Must be a student studying in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, Belgorod etc.).
3. Must have a good command of spoken and written English and Russian languages.
4. Must be academically sound.
5. He must be conversant with the constitution and the goings-on in the Union.

4.3.2. FUNCTIONS

The President shall:

1. Exercise executive power and strictly execute the aims and objectives of the Student community.

2. Preside over all meetings (executive, emergency and general) of the Union.
3. Shall represent the Union in all official functions including conferences, meetings with other organizations and government organs, or delegate any other Executive Committee member of the Union.
4. Shall convene and organize the annual convention of the Union in collaboration with the entire Executive committee.
5. Oversee the actions and duties of all other officers in the Executive Committee.
6. Countersign all adopted minutes of the general and Executive Committee meetings as well as all resolutions emanating from the Executive Council.
7. Approve, upon recommendation by the Financial Secretary, all financial expenses of the Union.
8. Shall be empowered to make decisions without prior consultation with the Executive Committee only in times of emergency.

An emergency shall be defined by this constitution as one in which the solution to the problem has to be effected within twenty-four (24) hours from its occurrence.
9. Ensure compliance with all rules and regulations of the Union.
10. The president shall receive and execute recommendations emanating from the Executive Council.

4.4. Vice President

The Vice President is the second in command of the administrative ladder of the association and shall assist the President in executing his/her functions as deemed fit by him.

4.4.1. QUALIFICATIONS

Without compromise to the criterion in 4.1.4, the Vice President:

1. Shall be a student studying in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km from (Tula, Vladimir, Belgorod etc.).
2. Must have a good command of spoken and written English and Russian languages.
3. Must be academically sound.
4. Must have spent at least 3 years in the Russian federation

4.4.2. FUNCTIONS

The Vice President shall:

1. Perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence due to unforeseen circumstances like sickness or any other reason(s) (Refer. 4.3.2).
2. Formally hand over some of his/her executive powers to the general secretary in the case of the president's unavailability.

4.5. Secretary General

The Secretary General shall be responsible for all the correspondence of the Union (incoming and outgoing) and keep records of all activities of the Union.

4.5.1. QUALIFICATIONS

Without compromise to the criterion in 4.1.4, the General Secretary:

1. Must be a student resident in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, Belgorod etc.)
2. Must have a good command of spoken and written English and Russian languages.
3. Must be academically sound.
4. Must have spent at least 3 years in the Russian federation as a scholarship student.

4.5.2. FUNCTIONS

The secretary general shall:

1. Maintain records, documents, and take minutes of all meetings.
2. Be fully informed of all activities of the Union and shall be provided with photocopies of all bills, agreements and letters.
3. Keep an updated phone and email list of all members.
4. Keep a historical documentation of the Union.
5. Shall, in consultation with the President, make necessary arrangements for the holding of the annual convention
6. Shall Draft all letters when needed.

4.6. Assistant Secretary General

The Assistant Secretary General shall assist the Secretary General in executing his/her functions as deemed fit by the Secretary General and shall be a student residing in any city. In addition, must have spent at least 2 years in the Russian federation.

FUNCTIONS

The Assistant Secretary General shall:

4.6.1.

Perform the duties of the Secretary General in the latter's absence or on his delegation.

4.6.2.

Perform any other assignment that may be assigned by the Executive Committee in line with the aims and objectives of the Union.

4.7. Financial Secretary and Treasurer

The financial secretary and Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting all monies accrued to the Union and safe keeping all monies accrued to the Union. Moreover, keep a proper documentation of all income and expenditure of the Union. In addition, must have spent at least 3 years in the Russian federation as a scholarship student.

The treasurer shall:

4.7.1.

Be a student resident in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, and Belgorod etc.).

4.7.2

Collect all monthly dues, fines, levies and subscriptions from members of the Union

4.7.3.

Collect all monies and deposit such monies into the bank account of the Union within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt.

4.7.4.

Keep exact and accurate account of all incomes and expenditures.

4.7.5.

Be the co signatory of the Union's bank account with the president.

4.7.6.

Honor bills and payments and in return obtain signatures of all recipients for all monies disbursed on behalf of the Union.

4.7.7.

All withdrawals shall be made only with the written authorization of the President, and countersigned by The Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

4.7.8

Continue to maintain appropriate record of ledger concerning all the financial transactions undertaken by any member of the Executive Committee.

4.7.9.

Make sure that any financial disbursement to any Executive Committee member is properly endorse by the recipient before honoring such expenditure, follow strictly all the necessary steps, and stipulated in the constitution for such transactions.

4.7.10.

The book of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall be audited by the Auditing Committee at the end of every year or before handing over to a new financial secretary and Treasurer

4.7.11.

Be able to provide evidence in form of receipts of all financial transactions carried out in the name of the Union.

His/her office shall be held responsible if there is failure to do so.

4.7.12.

There shall be no elected assistance Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary General shall carry out the duties of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer when the latter is absent.

4.7.13.

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall give financial report at every general meeting.

4.8.

Organizing Secretary

The Organizing Secretary shall be in charge of all Welfare/Organizing programs of the Union and social benefits of members.

Functions

The Organizing Secretary shall:

4.8.1.

In collaboration with the executive council, warmly receive arriving scholarship students at the Airport and assist them in settling down at their various schools.

4.8.2.

Provide refreshment during the annual convention and other meetings.

4.8.3.

Make constant inquiries about the welfare of members and make report(s) to the Executive Council on any observed problems facing students.

4.8.4.

In collaboration with Social Secretary, be responsible for organizing social activities such as sports, excursions, dramatization, and film shows etc.

4.8.5.

Perform any other assignment that may be assign by the Executive Council in line with the aims and objectives of the Union.

4.8.6.

In collaboration with Secretary General, be organizing meetings.

4.9. Social Secretary

The Social Secretary is responsible for managing and coordinating information dissemination between the Executive Committee and members as well as the public. In addition, must have spent at least 3 years in the Russian federation as a scholarship student. Be a

student resident in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, and Belgorod etc.).

Functions

The Social Secretary shall:

4.9.1.

Gather and disseminate information of the Union to members.

4.9.2.

In collaboration with the Secretary General, prepare materials and information for posting on the official website of the Union and the NUSS-Russian Federation Facebook page.

4.9.3.

Be in charge of the Union's publicity work.

4.9.4.

In collaboration with Organizing Secretary, be responsible for organizing social activities such as sports, excursions, dramatization, and film shows etc.

4.10. Education Secretary

The Education Secretary is responsible to ensure the maintenance and improvement of educational standards and academic student services/welfare of students studying in the Russian Federation. In addition, must have spent at least 3 years in the Russian federation as a student. Must be a student residing in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km from Moscow (Tula, Vladimir, and Belgorod etc.).

Functions

The duties specific to the role of Education Secretary:

4.10.1. To act as the primary representative for the academic interest of the members of the Union and to act as the Union's Chief Academic Officer.

4.10.2. To represent the members of the Union on education related committees/meetings including but not limited to the following:

i. The Embassy of Sierra Leone in the Russian Federation.

ii. The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education.

iii. Any other external group that is relevant to the furtherance of these duties.

4.10.3. To work with various state/city representatives to help with students enrolment or registration upon their arrival in Russia

4.10.4. To deal with the academic issues faced by the members both collective and individual.

4.10.5. To conduct classes online/offline for students when necessary.

4.10.6. To be in charge of the online library on the union's official website.

4.11. Assistant Education Secretary

The Assistant Education Secretary shall assist the Education Secretary in executing his/her functions as deemed fit by the Education Secretary and shall be a student residing in any city.

FUNCTIONS

The Assistant Education Secretary shall:

4.11.1.

Perform the duties of the Education Secretary in the latter's absence or on his delegation.

4.11.2.

Perform any other assignment that may be assigned by the Executive Committee in line with the aims and objectives of the Union.

Article 5. Meetings

5.1 Quorum at meetings

5.1.1

English shall be the official language during general meetings.

5.1.2

No general meetings shall be held with less than $2/3$ (two-third) of the Union members present.

5.1.3

No executive meetings shall be held with less than $2/3$ (two-third) of the Executive members present.

5.1.4

No general meetings shall be held in the absence of either two or none of the Authorities involved: President, Vice-president and the Secretary General.

5.1.5

No executive meetings shall be held in the absence of either two or none of the Authorities involved: President, Vice President and the Secretary General.

5.1.6

Meetings shall be conducted according to the accepted democratic principles.

5.1.7

Decisions shall be reached by a simple majority, except specifically stated otherwise.

5.2. Resignation

5.2.1.

Any Executive Council member may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the president.

5.3. Replacement

5.3.1.

Upon the resignation, or other vacancy by a member of the Council, that council member's seat shall remain vacant until a new executive or representative of the city possessing the vacant seat is sworn in as a member of the executive council.

Article 6. The Audit Committee

The Audit committee shall be task with the responsibility of auditing the association's accounts and it shall comprise of three (3) members headed by an Auditor General. The President shall nominate the two (2) members and 2/3 of the Executive council must vote in favor of the nominees for them to become members.

The Auditor General, who must be a student, however should not be an Executive Committee member.

6.1. Appointment of the Auditor General.

6.1.1.

The position of the Auditor General of the Union shall be occupied by a member of the Union appointed by the President, subject to ratification by two-thirds majority of the Executive Council.

6.1.2.

He/she must be impartial and apolitical throughout his/her tenure as Auditor General.

6.1.3.

The Auditor General shall be a student with integrity and of impeccable character.

6.1.4.

The tenure of the Auditor General shall run from the date of the ratification of his or her appointment by two-thirds majority of the Executive Council until two weeks after newly elected members of the executive are sworn-in.

6.2. Functions of the Auditing Committee

The Auditing committee shall:

6.2.1.

State how much the Union was worth as at the time when the committee was set up and how much the Union is worth when leaving office.

6.2.2.

Audit the finance of the Union on receiving the financial report from the Financial Secretary.

6.2.3.

Present an extensive audit the spending of the Union by the end of every December and April of every year having obtained relevant documents from the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

6.2.4.

Submit the comprehensive report to the Union President and the executive Council on the outcome of the audit latest by the last day of December and April respectively.

6.2.5.

Request detailed proof of expenditures from the Financial Secretary and /or Treasurer if unclear on certain expenses.

6.2.6.

Perform an audit, which contains the degree to which value-for-money has been achieved with revenue realized by the Union.

Article 7. The Electoral Committee

The electoral committee must be constituted within the first week of April of every year. The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall be elected by 2/3 majority of the union Executive Council member to conduct election of the incoming Executive members

7.1.

The electoral committee shall organize the electoral process.

The electoral committee of five (5) shall be made up of the three Union members and two alumni.

7.2. Functions of the Electoral Committee

The electoral committee shall perform the following functions:

7.2.1.

Design and release the election nomination forms.

7.2.2.

Receive Nomination Forms from Aspirants and

7.2.3.

Screen the aspirants for their eligibility for the respective positions latest 14 days before convention (election).

7.2.4.

Organize election of officials by secret ballot system and/or internet voting, after such persons shall have made their intentions known, count and announce election results.

7.2.5.

Propose a new voting method, if considered needed, to the general membership.

7.2.6.

Establish the rules or criteria for the election.

7.2.7.

Create room for the representatives of aspirants to be present during a vote count.

7.2.8.

The Electoral committee shall be dissolved at the convention after election results have been announced.

7.3. Eligibility and Terms

7.3.1.

Aspirants must not be owing the Union i.e. must have paid up their annual dues and other financial obligations they may have to the Union.

7.3.2.

For the post of the President, only members of the Union that have spent not less than four years (preparatory year inclusive) in Russia and with excellent command of Russian and English Languages are eligible to contest.

7.3.3.

The positions of President, Secretary General, Treasurer and financial Secretary, Social and Organizing Secretary are reserved exclusively for members currently studying in Moscow or the closest cities i.e. at most 670km (Tula, Vladimir, Belgorod etc.).

7.3.4.

All other offices into the Executive committee excluding those mentioned in 7.3.3 are open for members currently studying in any city around Russia.

7.3.5.

Any member with less than six months to the completion of his or her studies in Russia shall not be eligible to stand for election.

7.3.6.

Any interested member of an outgoing administration shall be eligible for re-election, however for not more than two consecutive terms for the same position.

7.3.7.

Any person penalized, at one time or the other, by the Executive Council Representatives is automatically disqualified from contesting or being nominated for any position in the Union.

7.3.8.

The term of members of the Executive Branch shall (run for one year) starting from the day they are sworn-in until new elections are held.

7.3.9.

All Registered members of the Union (Scholarship and Non-Scholarship) are eligible to vote or to be voted for as an Executive Committee member.

7.4. Election Conduct

7.4.1.

Election into all offices shall be democratic and be held annually during convention or online

7.4.2.

Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually by the membership of the Union (Electoral College). Wherein there is

a tie, only the candidates with the same maximum number of votes shall be presented for a run-off election, which shall take place immediately.

7.4.3.

An Electoral College shall be the formal body that elects the executive committee. The Electoral College shall constitute all students of NUSS-RF studying in different states/cities within the Russian Federation, grouped by sections based on the states/cities they reside. Each state/city shall represent one Electoral College seat. In addition for an aspiring candidate to win that seat, he/she must acquire at least 51% of the total voters in that state/city.

7.4.4.

However any state with 65% or above of the total students' population shall have three (3) Electoral College seats. The candidate with the highest number of over all voters will emerge victorious of the three (3) Electoral College seats.

7.4.5.

In a case where there is a draw in state/city, the candidate with the highest number of over all voters will emerge victorious.

7.4.6.

For any Candidate/Aspirant to emerge victorious for any Executive committee position, that Candidate/Aspirant must have acquired more than half (at least 51%) of all Electoral College seats or the highest number of Electoral College seats.

7.4.7.

The number of Electoral College seats must be made known to the general membership immediately after the arrival of new students (members) into the Russian Federation. It is in this regard a census should be carried out once every year after the arrival of new students and just after the start of a new academic year.

7.4.8.

Each candidate shall be allowed to present his or her manifesto at the convention or online.

7.4.9.

Questions from members shall be put to candidates for any position to be contested for on the Executive council.

7.4.10.

Election shall be determined by simple majority and by the ballot system or online.

7.4.11.

The initial count must not take place until the close of general voting for the election but must take place as soon as the election ends.

7.4.12.

The initial count of ballots used for general voting must be conducted at the voting center where the general voting was conducted.

7.4.13.

Representatives of aspirants are to be allowed to observe the voting and the counting to ensure that the provisions of Article 7.4. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7) are observed.

7.4.14.

Representatives of aspirants should be allowed to sit at a reasonable distance from the voting desk and the election/registration officials' table, to attend to any question that might arise and ensure proper monitoring of events.

7.5. Vacancies and By-Elections

7.5.1.

A vacancy can be declared to exist in any executive position, except for the position of President, in the event of any of the following:

- a. Death of occupant.
- b. Sickness that renders the official incapable.
- c. Resignation.
- d. Impeachment by the Executive Council Representatives.
- e. Any other cause that may incapacitate the optimal performance of the duties as member of the Executive Committee.

7.5.2.

Upon the creation of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall serve in full capacity as the President until the end of the term of the administration. While serving as the President, he/she is constitutionally empowered to fulfill all duties or obligations of the President. If there are still at least 3 months left in the administration, the new President can then nominate two candidates, one of which is to be ratified by the Executive Council, for the position of the Vice-President.

7.5.3.

In the case when a Vice-President steps into the position of the President, he/she is mandated by this constitution to hand over some of his executive powers to the Secretary General (being the most senior Executive Committee member) so that the Secretary General may oversee the affairs of the Union. The Secretary General however must only execute actions sanctioned by the new President.

7.5.4.

Following the vacancy of any other executive position apart from the position of the President, due to any of the reasons in Article 7.5.1 the president shall nominate a replacement to be ratified by the Executive Council.

7.5.5.

In the event that the offices of President and Vice President shall be vacant at the same time, an election shall be held within three (3) weeks of the date each position became vacant to fill that vacant position for the remainder of the term.

7.5.6.

In the event that the offices of President and Vice President shall be vacant at the same time, the Secretary General shall serve as Acting President, until a new President is elected to fill out the remainder of the term.

While acting as Acting President, the Secretary General may continue to fulfil all of his/her duties as Secretary General and the Secretary General's service as Acting President shall not be deemed to constitute a vacancy in the office of the Secretary General.

While serving as Acting President, the Secretary General may fulfil all duties or obligations of the President, or use any powers of the President, except that the Acting President may not appoint a new Vice President to serve the remainder of a Vice President's term.

7.5.7.

In the event that the offices of President, Vice President and any other executive position are all simultaneously vacant; the provisions set forth in Article 7.5. (4, 5) shall still apply, and An election shall be held within three (3) weeks of the date the offices became vacant to fill the remainder of that term, according to the same restrictions set forth in Article 7.5.4

Article 8. Misconduct and disciplinary action

Any member of the Union, who beyond any reasonable doubt, is proven by the Executive Council, based on facts and figures, to have involved himself/herself in any of the under listed offenses, will be subject to penalties which the Executive Council shall decide.

8.1 Misconduct during Meetings

8.1.1.

Lateness: Any member who without any good reason comes 30 minutes late after the official commencement of the meeting for two consecutive times shall be denied the right to comment at the meeting and denied the right to vote during meetings.

8.1.2.

Disruption of meetings: Any member who by virtue of his/her utterances and action disrupts the smooth flow of any meeting will be deemed to

have committed the offense of misconduct and as such shall be called to caution. If the action persists, he/she shall be suspended from the meeting.

8.2. Social Misconduct

8.2.1.

While the host community frowns at fighting, the Union totally forbids it. Any member that fights with another person will be suspended for a period of three months.

8.2.2.

Any other offence deemed as a form of social misconduct shall be punishable by the Executive Council of the Union.

8.3. Criminal offences

8.3.1.

Any member who by his/her action is establish to be involved in any form of criminal activity punishable by the constitution of the Russian Federation shall be expelled from the Union and subjected to appropriate punishment according to the laws of the Russian Federation.

8.4. General Rules for members of Executive Council

8.4.1.

Any member of the Executive Council who beyond any reasonable doubt is proven to have been involved in any of the offences listed above for general members in 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3 will be made to face the appropriate punishments to be decided by the Executive Council.

8.5. Grounds for Impeachment

8.5.1.

Any member of the Executive Committee is subject to impeachment under the following conditions;

8.5.2.

He/she has violated the provisions of this Constitution.

8.5.3.

He/she has committed illegal acts while acting or claiming to act or reasonably appearing to act pursuant to his/her position in the Executive Branch.

8.5.4.

He/she has committed any felony

8.5.5.

He/she has committed physical violence against any other person.

8.5.6.

He/she has committed any act, which reflects intentional disregard of or reckless indifference to any person's safety in a situation, which could reasonably result in serious injury.

8.5.7.

He/she steals, attempts to steal, defrauds, or attempts to defraud the Union or any other person, group or entity.

8.5.8.

He/she has diverted funds meant for a particular project into another project of the Union without proper authorization.

8.5.9.

He/she has breached constitutional financial procedure.

8.5.10.

He/she has shelved his responsibility as a member of the Executive Branch of the Union.

8.6. Impeachment Procedures

Impeachment proceedings against any member of the Executive Branch shall be initiated upon fulfilment of one of the following provisions:

8.6.1.

Whenever an impeachment petition containing the signatures of at least forty percent (40%) of the membership of the Union.

8.6.2.

An impeachment petition containing the signatures of three-fifths (3/5) of the membership of the Executive Council.

8.7. Impeachment Proceedings

Impeachment proceedings against a member of the Executive Branch must follow one of the following provisions:

8.7.1. Union Membership Action

If based upon a petition of the membership of the Union, within two weeks after receiving a valid impeachment petition, the Executive Council shall conduct an investigation to determine the validity of the charges against the official. If the charges are found to be valid, the official shall be removed from office immediately and his/her position shall be declared vacant. If the charges are not found to be valid, he/she shall remain in office.

Article 9. Referendum

This is the right of members to give their consent on any sensitive legislation.

9.1. Rights

The right of referendum shall be extended to cover all types of regular legislation.

9.2. Conducting a General Referendum

Upon initiation of any one of the following actions, the Union shall conduct a general referendum.

9.2.1.

By majority of vote of the Executive Council.

9.2.2.

By petition of forty percent (40%) of the membership of the Union.

9.3. Passing a Referendum

9.3.1.

A referendum to approve legislation shall be considered valid if and only if adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of those voting in

said general referendum, and providing that at least fifty percent (50%) of the Members of Union vote on such referendum.

9.3.2.

A Constitutional Amendment passed by means of referendum will be considered valid if and only if such amendment is approved by at least a three-fifths (3/5) majority of those voting on said referendum, and providing that at least fifty percent (50%) of the Members of the Union vote on such referendum.

Article 10. Constitution Amendment

This constitution can be amended by an Executive Council action.

10.1. Executive Council action.

If a simple majority of the Executive Council vote on the need to review the constitution, then an amendment proceeding shall begin.

10.2. The Executive Council Action

10.2.1.

A Constitutional amendment may be proposed in the Executive Council at which time it shall be referred to the Executive Committee who shall review the proposed document.

10.2.2.

The Executive Committee shall submit the amendment along with its recommendations concerning the amendment to the Executive Council at the next general meeting of the Executive Council following the original proposal of the amendment.

10.3.

After the Executive Council considers and makes other necessary amendments on the document proposed by the Executive Committee, the Executive Council shall vote on the amendment.

If 2/3 of the Executive Council votes in support of the amendment, then the document shall be sent to the president for signing into law.

If the President approves the amendment, such amendment shall take effect immediately. However, if the President vetoes such Amendment, such amendment shall not take effect unless such veto is overridden by a 2/3 of the Executive Committee

If the President takes no action with respect to such amendment within fourteen (14) days of the President, being notified of the same, the amendment should be deemed approved.

MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC)

1. Mr. ISHMAIL KHADRI KAMARA
2. DR. SAHR SANSIE KWIGBA
3. MISS FRANCES SIA SAQUEE
4. MISS ALIM-SESAY CATHERINE

OATH

I do solemnly promise to promote, preserve and protect the interest, welfare Unity and values of this Union and its members, serving sincerely and faithfully without fear or favor-So help me God.

