



**CONSTITUTION  
AND  
BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE  
(CDC)**

**MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

## CONTENTS

### PART I: CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Article 1 Name

Article 2 Aims and Objectives

Article 3 Philosophy of the CDC

Article 4 Principles of the CDC

Article 5 Membership

Article 6 Rights and Duties of Members

Article 7 Organizational Structure

Article 8 The Headquarters

Article 9 Regions

Article 10 The National Congress (NC)

Article 11 Duties and Powers of the National Congress

Article 12 National Executive Committee (NEC)

Article 13 Elections Commission

Article 14 Gender & Affirmative Action

Article 15 Other Committees

Article 16 Duties & Functions: Officers

Article 17 Regional Conference

Article 18 County Convention

Article 19 Branches & Zones

Article 20 Amendment

### Part II: By-Laws

Chapter 1 Code of Conduct

Chapter 2 Regulations

Chapter 3 Meetings

Chapter 4 Amendments

Chapter 5 Extraordinary Congress

Chapter 6 Transitional Provisions

Chapter 7 Contractual Obligations

Chapter 8 Dissolution

Appendix 1: CDC Logo and Colors

Appendix 2: AUTHORIZATION

## **PREAMBLE**

### **We, citizens of the Republic of Liberia**

**Having** endured over a century of bad governance, misrule, and corruption which have deprived our people of a decent standard of living, national development, and respect for their fundamental and inalienable human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Liberia; and

**Whereas**, as a consequence of such bad governance and misrule, a violent military coup in April 1980 overthrew the ruling oligarchy and in December 1989 a 14 year civil war ensued occasioning years of deprivation and corruption inimical to the aspirations of the Liberian people for positive change; and

**Realizing** that years of violence, civil war, and national strife have destroyed the nation, polarized its people, and produced generations of failed leaderships which frustrated the direction for positive change to democratize the republic and build a new socio-economic and political order in which freedom, justice and equality will prevail for all; and

**Imbued** with the aspirations of the Liberian people for democratic social, economic and political change; and

**Inspired** by the national fervor for positive democratic change embracing the struggle of all democratic forces to usher into being a new generation of leaders united to create an all inclusive Liberia in which the people shall participate equally in governance and enjoy equal rights and access opportunities for all without regards to sex, tribe, religion or political affiliation; and

**Bearing in mind** the applicable provisions enshrined in the Liberian Constitution, and as set forth in the Election Laws of Liberia with regard to “organized political party”;

**Holding** the conviction that we are called to lead the popular Party of our people for generations to come, against nepotism, corruption, ethnicity, lack of accountability, transparency, and ethics, through the struggles and sacrifices of the youths, students, the underprivileged, including workers, marketers, professionals and technocrats, trade unions, social, cultural, religious, professional and political organizations for reconstruction and development;

**Now therefore**, we the partisans of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) in fulfillment of our historic mission to build a mass based democratic structure to redeem our nation from the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment to the economic growth and prosperity, do hereby solemnly adopt, establish, proclaim, and declare this Constitution for the governance of the CDC as a political party.

## **ARTICLE 1. NAME AND OTHER ATTRIBUTES**

- Sec. 1** The name of the organization shall be the Congress for Democratic Change, hereinafter referred to as CDC.
- Sec. 2** The motto of the CDC shall be "ONE NATION, ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY."
- Sec. 3** The colors of the CDC shall be that of the rainbow, symbolizing the promise of lasting peace and stability in the land resulting from the unity in diversity of CDC membership and the people of Liberia.
- Sec. 4** The logo of the CDC depicts and is described as follows:

The Rainbow which sets in the cloud, depicts unity in diversity of membership of CDC and the entire citizenry of the Republic of Liberia. The green leaf represents the fertility of the Liberian landscape; the sun represents a new dawn in the political and socio-economic spectacle of Liberia.

## **ARTICLE 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims and objectives of the CDC shall be:

- Sec. 5** To promote national unity, peace, and reconciliation of all the people of Liberia for the common goal of developing our nation in which liberty and justice will prevail for all;
- Sec. 6** To foster sound socio-economic and political policies that guarantee to every Liberian equal right before the law, equal opportunity and participation in the political, and enjoyment of the wealth of the nation;
- Sec. 7** To engender in Liberia culture of tolerance and respect for the human rights and dignity of all persons, citizens, and residents alike, under the "rule of law" and "equality for all" as is guaranteed in the Constitution of Liberia;
- Sec. 8** To establish a mode of governance that aims to eradicate the scourge of corruption and all other forms of social vices and injustices including but not limited to nepotism, sectarianism, tribalism, misuse and abuse of public offices and political power, thereby restoring accountability, transparency, and credibility of public service to create a just socio-economic society to transform Liberia as rapidly as possible into a united, tribal inclusive, non-sexist, and democratic country based on the principles enshrined in this Constitution;
- Sec. 9** To pursue national developmental program and policies that will bring economic empowerment to the poor and disadvantaged people of our society and encourage popular grass roots participation in the socio-economic and political life of the nation thereby defending the

democratic gains of our people in advancing towards, a society in which ,the government is freely chosen by the people according to the principles of universal human suffrage;

- Sec. 10** To render justice to all without fear, favor, or class; irrespective of political, religious, or tribal affiliations. thereby upholding the supremacy of the Liberian Constitution, as well as protecting and preserving Liberia as a constitutional democracy in Africa to eliminate the vast inequalities created by bad governance, elitism, and a system unresponsive to the needs of the people;
- Sec. 11** To build a Liberian nation with a common patriotism and loyalty in which the cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity of the people are recognized and respected;
- Sec. 12** To promote economic development and prosperity for the benefit of all;
- Sec. 13** To include gender streamlining in all aspects of national development policies to ensure and guarantee equitable participation of women in the socio-economic and political life of the nation as well as enhancing their capacity to compete in an open, competitive, democratic and free enterprise economic environment, thus ensuring that women benefit equitably from the wealth of the nation;
- Sec. 14** To give special attention to youth development programs, catering to the social, moral, academic, physical, psychological, mental and total wellbeing of the youths, elderly and the disabled, thus guaranteeing for them a progressive and secured future; and
- Sec. 15** To support social causes. Help with economic and political developments in the world. Support disarmament and help with the protection of the environment.

### **ARTICLE 3. PHILOSOPHY OF THE CDC**

- Sec. 16** The CDC subscribes to the tenets of liberal democracy and capitalism based on the model of social economic development to ensure equitable distribution of the nation's wealth and opportunities amongst all citizens.

### **ARTICLE 4. PRINCIPLES OF THE CDC**

- Sec. 17** The CDC, as a democratic party is open to Liberians aspiring to liberate our people from the scourges of ignorance, disease and poverty based on the sound management of the national economy and the natural resources
- Sec. 18** The CDC is non-tribal, non-religious, and without gender, generational or other biases that discriminate amongst people. Its policies are people driven, people oriented, and people centered to guarantee the wholesome functioning and development of the Liberian society and nation.

- Sec. 19** The Will of the People is the will of the CDC. Its leadership is freely chosen by the membership and the business of the CDC is conducted in a free, open, and transparent manner that makes the leadership accountable to the membership in accordance with Constitution.
- Sec. 20** The CDC shall contests elections as a registered political party drawing its electoral support from the Liberian people and all segments of the society.
- Sec. 21** The CDC shall respect, without limitations, the social, cultural, tribal, religious, ethnic, economic, professional, and other diversities of the Liberian people in establishment of a new socio-economic and political order founded on the principles of equality and justice for all.
- Sec. 22** The CDC is committed to protecting the rights of women and the productive growth and development of the elderly, youth, children, the disabled and elderly through affirmative actions and other programs that will amplify their voices, articulate their aspirations, and ensure their participation and representation at all levels of the Party and in national life.
- Sec. 23** The CDC believes in the principles of freedom of speech and association and the universal principles of human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Liberia and the African charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.
- Sec. 24** The CDC believes in accountable and transparent leadership and the efficient management of the national economy and the natural resources of the land, free of corruption, nepotism and other vices that undermine national development goals.
- Sec. 25** The CDC espouses the principles of good governance and believes in the establishment of an efficient central government that will deliver social services to its people at affordable costs, corresponding with the development of a vibrant and efficient private sector.
- Sec. 26** The CDC believes in the decentralization of power, national authority, and development throughout the Republic by the empowerment of local people through grassroots development programs and with the establishment of Community Development Committees (CDC) in every locality thus giving full faith and credit to the Constitutional provision that "power is inherent in the people."
- Sec. 27** The CDC believes that education is the key to national development, progress, and growth and that an effective, proficient and efficient civil service corps organized pursuant to a system that recognizes and reward merit is essential to achieving the goal.
- Sec. 28** The CDC believes in the free enterprise system and the empowerment of Liberians to take control of the national economy and the rapid development of a Liberian middle class.
- Sec. 29** The CDC recognizes the cultural peculiarities and spiritual needs of all its members without preference, giving due credit to the principles of interfaith cooperation, collaboration, and self-actualization.

## **ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP**

- Sec. 30** Membership of the CDC shall be opened to all Liberians, subject to the restrictions prescribed by the Liberian Election Law of 18 years and above, irrespective of tribe, religion, gender, and social or economic status.
- Sec. 31** The National Executive Committee may, acting on its own or on the recommendation of any region or county authorities of the CDC, grant honorary or associate membership to selected eminent men and women or associate membership to youth who are not members due to restriction referred to in Section 30 above, who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment, interest, and sympathy to the CDC and its cause for democratic change in Liberia.
- Sec. 32** Applications for membership shall be considered by the leadership of the County and by the Regional Executive Committee, if no County Executive Committee exists. The Regional, County, District, Zone, Branch, or any other provincial or interim leadership shall have the power to accept or refuse any application for membership provided such acceptance or refusal shall be subject to review by the next higher organ of the CDC.
- Sec. 33** Membership cards shall be issued to individual registered members of the CDC, while certificates shall be issued to counties, regions, districts, zones, and branches whose application for membership has been accepted, subject to review as aforesaid, and, in all cases, upon payment of the required registration fees and satisfaction of other regulations promulgated by the Membership Committee.
- Sec. 34** Provisional membership rights shall commence from the time of application and the payment of all fees. This shall apply to persons who wish to join the Party for the first time or who wish to re-affirm membership after a considerable lapse of time. Under provisional membership one may attend meetings only without the rights to vote.
- Sec. 35** Objections to application for membership may be made by any registered member to the County, Regional, Zone, or National General Secretary within three weeks of notification of the application provided that any final decision to deny an application for membership shall be made by the NEC, subject to review by Congress.
- Sec. 36** At any time before the individual is accepted as a full member of the Party or in exceptional circumstances when the member has been admitted, the application or the membership may be rejected for good cause ranging from fraud, misinformation, etc. Reasons for the rejection must be transmitted to the applicant in writing.
- Sec. 37** In the absence of any objection or decision to deny membership, the applicant shall, on the expiry of four (4) weeks from the date of application and notification of provisional membership, become a full member whose name shall then be transferred to the national membership list as a full member of the CDC as soon as is practicable.
- Sec. 38** Membership of the CDC shall pay a monthly membership fee as follows:
- a) Standard Bearer US \$500 (US \$150 if not elected President)
  - b) Vice-Standard Bearer US \$250 (US \$75 if not elected President)
  - c) Member of the CDC who is elected to the House of Representatives or Senate of the Republic of Liberia (CDC Legislative Caucus) US \$150 each

d) National Chairperson	US\$50
e) Vice National Chairperson, Administration	US\$30
f) Vice National Chairperson, Operations	US\$30
g) Vice National Chairperson, Finance/Investment	US\$30
h) National Secretary General	US\$20
i) National Treasurer	US\$20
j) National Chaplain General	US\$20
k) Deputy National Secretary General	US\$15
l) Director of Press & Public Relations	US\$15
m) National County Chairperson	US\$5
n) Chairperson, Elder Council	US\$5
o) Chairperson, Women's League	US\$5
p) Chairperson, Youth League	US\$5
q) Chairperson, Disabled League	US\$5
r) Permanent Members appointed by the Standard Bearer	US\$10
s) Ordinary	US\$1

Such amounts are payable either in advance, by the end of the first quarter of each year, or on a monthly basis, except that no fees must be outstanding after December 31 of each year.

- Sec. 39** Members who fail to pay their membership fees for three (3) consecutive months without reasonable excuse and continue to not make good such payment after a written reminder shall not be regarded as members in good standing until all obligations are satisfied.
- Sec. 40** Upon acceptance to the CDC, a new member shall, in a language he or she knows well, make a solemn declaration (by filling in a form) to the body or the Secretary-General at the national, County, regional, district, zone, or branch levels, whose responsibility it shall be to process for the form's approval after it has been duly signed by the applicant.
- Sec. 41** The following acts shall constitute a bridge of organizational discipline and loyalty which each member owes to the CDC, whether committed by individuals or groups:
- a) Misrepresentation or false suggestion of material facts and forgery;
  - b) The recruitment of members who do not reside at an address claimed, where this is done in order to manipulate branch meetings or the outcome of organizational decisions or votes.
- Sec. 42** The commission of any of the acts described above in **Sec. 41** by any member constitutes sufficient basis for the institution of disciplinary proceedings by NEC. If found guilty, the member involved shall be expelled upon showing the due process was satisfied.
- Sec. 43** Any member of the CDC who stands in. any municipal, local or national elections or acts as the election agent or campaigner of a person standing for such election in opposition to a candidate duly endorsed by the NEC shall be subject to disciplinary action and the consequences thereof.
- Sec. 44** Any member who joins or declares membership to another political party shall be deemed to have constructively withdrawn membership from CDC, and the CDC Membership Committee

shall accordingly remove or cause to be removed that member's name from the membership roster of the party.

- Sec. 45** Any member who openly or knowingly supports another political party other than a party or independent candidate in alliance with the CDC in a manner contrary to the aims, objectives, policies, and principles of the CDC shall be subjected to disciplinary action.
- Sec. 46** Any official officer, or member of the CDC may be suspended or removed from office, or membership suspended or expelled or otherwise reprimanded by the NEC for cause based on findings and recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee growing out of complaint and hearing thereof in violation of the By-laws or any provisions of this constitution after having been accorded due process. A decision of the NEC on disciplinary action may be appealed to the National Congress.
- Sec. 47** Membership in CDC may cease by:
- Written or verbal withdrawal
  - Constructive withdrawal by open declaration of transfer of membership to another political party
  - Expulsion endorsed by NEC
  - Death

## **ARTICLE 6. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

- Sec. 48** Every member of the CDC shall have the right to
- a) Actively participate and fully contribute to the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policies, programs and action plans of the CDC.
  - b) Receive information on all aspects of CDC policies, programs and activities.
  - c) Offer constructive criticism of any member, official, policy, program, activity or actions of the CDC within its own structures.
  - d) Participate in elections, as candidate or voter, and/or be appointed to any committee, structure, commission, delegation, unit or organ of the CDC.
  - e) Petition any structure of the CDC on any aspects of the CDC work or program in respect to reform or change to enhance the dynamics of the Party's growth and development
  - f) Benefit equally from the work, activities and programs or opportunities offered by the Party without any form of bias or prejudice.
- Sec. 49** Duties/obligations of every member of the CDC shall be to
- a) Actively participate in the life, work, and activities of his/her county, district, branch, or zone and attend meetings regularly in order to be in good standing.
  - b) Do all things necessary to understand, implement and exemplify the purpose principles, aims, policies, principles and program of the CDC.

- c) Explain the aims, policies, objectives, and programs of the CDC to the general public and other members.
- d) Endeavor to increase knowledge of and understanding of the social, cultural, political, and economic problems of the country.
- e) Combat negative propaganda against the CDC and defend at all times the policies, aims, principles, and programs of the CDC.
- f) Advocate and manifest in all of his/her activities the “Liberia First” policy of the CDC.
- g) Advocate and manifest unity and reconciliation in Liberia and Fight against corruption, divisiveness, tribalism, gender biases, religious and political intolerance, and any other form of anti-people activities.
- h) Observe discipline, behave honestly, and execute dutifully and loyally all decisions of the majority and decisions of the leadership of the CDC.
- i) Inform his or her branch of any change of domicile or transfer of membership to any other area or branch, and report to the branch’s committee or secretary on the change or transfer to the new area.
- j) Refrain from publishing and/or distributing any media on the CDC without prior authorization which purports to be the view of any organized grouping, body, organ, or structure within the CDC.
- k) Ensure that they are registered as voters in the constituency/district where they live.
- l) CDC members who hold elective office in any sphere of governance at national or local level are required to be active members of their respective branches, and caucuses, to function within its Codes of Conduct and to abide by its decisions under the general leadership of the CDC and guidance of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 7. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**Sec. 50** The CDC shall consist of the following organs

- a) The National Congress, which elects the National Executive Committee.
- b) The Regional Congress, which elects the Regional Executive Committee.
- c) The County Congress, which elects the County Executive Committee.
- d) The Zone Annual General Meeting which elects the Zonal Executive Committee
- e) The Branch Annual General Meeting, which elects the Branch Executive Committee.
- f) The National Consultative Council (NCC).
- g) The Elder Council
- h) The Disabled League
- i) The Women’s League
- j) The Youth League
- k) All other Standing Committees

- Sec. 51** A Branch may be a group of not less than 200 members organized in any community or block or precinct for the purpose of advancing the cause of the CDC. Any three (3) branches in a particular county may constitute a Zone. Zones may be named according to chronological numbers in existence, for example Zone I, Zone 2, etc., while Branches may be named according to community or otherwise as deemed appropriate by the members of the branch. The County EC shall accord membership recognition, by way of certificate, to each and every branch and zone.
- Sec. 52** The Disabled League shall be open to all disabled who are members of the CDC and shall have the same basic structure, namely, national, county, regional, zones, and branches as the CDC. Its objectives shall be to defend and advance the rights of women both inside and outside the CDC, against all forms of national, social, and gender biases and oppression and to ensure that the disabled play a full and meaningful role in the life of the Party, the struggle of the people and in the national life of the nation. The disabled League shall function as an auxiliary body within the overall structure of the CDC. The disabled League is an integral part of the body politic of the party with the authority to have its own guidelines, policies, and procedures that will guide the conduct of the League.
- Sec. 53** The CDC Women's League shall be open to women who are members of the CDC and shall have the same basic structure, namely, national, regional, county, zone, and branches as the CDC. Its Objectives will be to defend and advance the rights of women both inside and outside the CDC, against all forms of national, social and gender biases, and oppression, and to ensure that women play a full and meaningful role in the life of the Party, the struggle of the people, and in national life of the nation. The Women's League shall function as an auxiliary body within the overall structure of the CDC. It remains an integral part of the body politic of the CDC with its own Constitution, principles and regulations, which shall not be in conflict with the authority to have its own guidelines, policies, and procedures that will guide the conduct of the League.
- Sec. 54** The CDC Youth League shall be open to all persons between the ages of 18 and 34 who are members of the CDC. It shall operate on a national, regional, county, zonal, and branch levels as the CDC itself. Its objectives shall be to unite the youth of the land in their common struggle against marginalization and provide leadership in surmounting the problems confronting the youths, thus ensuring that they make full and meaningful contributions to the work of the CDC and the life of the nation. The Youth League will function as an auxiliary body within the overall structure of the CDC. It remains an integral part of the body politic of the CDC with the authority to have its own guidelines, policies, and procedures that will guide the conduct of the League.

## **ARTICLE 8. THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS**

- Sec. 55** In accordance with the requirement of the Liberian Constitution, the site of the National Headquarters of the CDC shall be in the capital city of the Republic of Liberia which is Monrovia.

## **ARTICLE 9. REGIONS**

- Sec. 56** For purposes of CDC structures, the country shall be divided into the following regions:
- Region I Southern Region comprising Montserrado and Margibi Counties
  - Region II Eastern Region comprising Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Maryland Counties
  - Region III North Region comprising Nimba and Lofa Counties;
  - Region IV Central Region comprising Grand Bassa, Rivercess, and Bong Counties
  - Region V Southeastern Region comprising Grand Kru and Sinoe Counties
  - Region VI Western Region comprising Gbarpolu, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties
- Sec. 57** The Regional headquarters shall from time to time be determined by the National Executive Committee on a rotational or permanent basis as may apply.

## **ARTICLE 10. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS**

- Sec. 58** The National Congress (NC) shall be the supreme governing authority and ruling body of the CDC.
- Sec. 59** The NC shall meet bi-annually on a date and at a venue to be determined by the NEC for the adoption of programs, action plans, receive reports from the NEC, review the operations of the previous year, and elect national officers of the NEC in election year and take final decisions in all matters brought before it.
- Sec. 60** The NC shall comprise voting and nonvoting delegates.
- Sec. 61** Voting delegates to the NC shall be:
- a) all members of the NEC
  - b) one (1) representative from CDC USA/Branch
  - c) one (1) representative each from every Constituency
  - d) all officials of the County Executive Committee
  - e) one ( 1) delegate from each county from the Elder Council
  - f) one ( 1) delegate from the Disabled League
  - g) one ( 1) delegate from each county from the Women’s league
  - h) 5 one (1) delegate from each county from the Youth League
  - i) Two (2) delegates from the CDC Legislative Caucus, one from each House.

- Sec. 62** Only members and their constituent body who have paid up their membership dues or fees (that means in good standing) shall be eligible to sit as delegates at the NC. The NEC shall alter the number of delegate representations from time to time as and when necessary.
- Sec. 63** All delegates to the NEC shall be freely elected by their various constituencies at the annual meetings of the constituencies. Elder Council, and Women’s, Youth, and the Disabled Leagues shall convene their respective conventions prior to the NC.
- Sec. 64** Non-Voting Delegates  
The NEC may invite distinguished individuals and others who have made special contributions to the CDC and demonstrated interest in the work and programs of the Party or who have special skills or experience, to attend Congress or NEC meetings.
- Sec. 65** The NEC shall appoint a Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to make preparations for congress, circulate Congress papers and information in advance, oversee the process for election of county officials and delegates at the constituency level, as well as election of the CDC national leadership. The COC shall ensure that the concerns of membership are included on the agenda.
- Sec. 66** The National Congress shall adopt its own procedures in accordance with democratic principles and shall be presided over by the National Chairperson who shall be assisted by other members of the COC who shall perform administrative and other duties to ensure the success of the Congress.
- Sec. 67** Voting shall be by secret ballots.
- Sec. 68** The National Consultative Council (NCC)  
In between Congresses, when crucial issues arise and in times of crisis, the NEC shall be assisted by the National Consultative Council (NCC) to address the situation(s). The NCC shall comprise of all elected officers of the CDC who are members of National, Regional, and County Executive Committees, the entire membership of the CDC Legislative Caucus, Elderly Council, Women League, and Disable League. When the NEC and NCC convene, the CDC National Chairperson presides. All decisions of the NCC are deemed final, subject only to review by Extraordinary Congress or the National Congress.

**ARTICLE 11. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS**

- Sec. 69** The National Congress shall:
- a. be the supreme most governing authority of the CDC; formulate and design policies, approve programs, adopt budgets and action plans, and be the final arbiter of constitutional matters;
  - b. receive and discuss the reports of the NEC which shall include remarks from the Standard Bearer, the National Chairperson’s Report, which shall include a report on the work and activities of the Elderly Council, Disabled, Women’s, and Youth Leagues.

- c. have the right and power to review, ratify, alter, or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units, or officials of the CDC, including evaluation of the performance of members of the NEC, etc.:
- d. elect the Standard Bearer, and all officers of the NEC. The Vice Standard Bearer shall be selected by the Standard Bearer following broad consultations and official endorsement of the NEC at an extraordinary meeting convened for that purpose;
- b) have the power to constitute any national commission or committee to perform specific tasks and duties necessary to advance the cause of the Party. Members to any such national commissions or committee shall be appointed by the NEC, provided that regional, county, zones, and branches may constitute their own committees and/or commissions.

**ARTICLE 12. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)**

**Sec. 70** Composition and tenure of National Executive Committee (NEC) shall be:

The Standard Bearer - for a term of six (6) years, equivalent to the Presidential Term stated in the Constitution of Liberia

National Chairperson - for a term of four (4) years

Vice National Chairperson/Administration - for a term of four (4) years

Vice National Chairperson/Operations - for a term of four (4) years

Vice National Chairperson/Finance & Investments - for a term of four (4) years

National Secretary General - for a term of four (4) years

Deputy National Secretary – for a term of four (4) years

National Chairperson Women’s League - for a term of four (4) years

National Chairperson Youth League - for a term of four (4) years

National Chairperson Disabled League - for a term of four (4) years

All members of the CDC Legislative Caucus shall become members of the NEC without the right to vote and whose absence meeting shall not affect the quorum of the NEC

All Chairpersons of the counties but without the right to vote and whose absence meeting shall not affect the quorum of the NEC

Director of Press and Public Relations but without the right to vote and absence at NEC meeting shall not affect the quorum

Up to four eminent party stewards nominated by the Standard Bearer and endorsed by the NEC  
– for a term of four (4) yrs

- Sec. 71** Without prejudice to the generality of its powers, the NEC shall
- a. carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Congress;
  - b. issue and send directives and instructions to and receive reports from the county and regions;
  - c. supervise and direct the work of the CDC and all its organs, including national, regional, and local governance structures;
  - d. The NEC may suspend or dissolve a Regional Executive Committee (REC) or County Executive Committee (CEC) or officers thereof where necessary and call for new elections within three months. The suspension may not last for more than three months;
  - e. facilitate the work of the Elder Council and Disabled, Women’s and Youth Leagues;
  - f. establish departments, create other administrative and operational structures and set up ad-hoc committees as it considers appropriate;
  - g. manage and control all the assets of the CDC;
  - h. receive reports, supervise the work of Committees, Commissions, etc. and delegate such functions as it considers necessary;
  - i. issue documents, regulations, executive orders, and other policy directives as and when it deems it necessary;
  - j. confer such honors on citizens, non-citizens, members, etc. as it may deem appropriate.
- Sec. 72** The National Executive Committee, except where otherwise stipulated, shall be elected by secret ballot by the National Congress based upon nominations and seconded by delegates at the congress.
- Sec. 73** The quorum for meetings of the NEC shall be absolute majority or 50%+1 of its total Membership which may not include the National Chairpersons of the counties.
- Sec. 74** A person shall have been a paid-up member of the CDC for at least two (2) years following the first Congress before s/he can be nominated to the National Executive Committee of the CDC.
- Sec. 75** The NEC shall meet in regular session at least once every month and shall provide broad political and organizational leadership to Party.

### **ARTICLE 13. NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

- Sec. 76** The NEC shall appoint an Electoral Commission of not fewer than five members whose task shall be:
- a. to conduct and supervise the conduct of all CDC Elections at the County, Regional, District, Zone, Branches, and Constituency levels and prepare the ballot papers;

- b. to make provision for ballot boxes or other means of secret voting;
- c. to create machinery for the counting of ballot papers and the effective supervision of the counting of votes;
- d. to announce the results of all elections and make known the number of votes received by each contesting candidate; and
- e. to issue guidelines and establish procedures for voting and to determine any dispute that may arise in regard to elections and election procedures, and to determine how tied vote should be resolved.

**Sec. 77** The names of the Electoral Commission whose work shall commence before Congress opens shall be submitted to Congress for endorsement.

**ARTICLE 14. GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

**Sec. 78** In an endeavor to ensure that the elderly, disabled, women, youth, and other vulnerable persons are adequately represented in all decision-making structures, the CDC shall implement a program of affirmative action to ensure popular participation of elderly, disabled, women, youth, and other marginalized groups in the work process of the CDC.

**Sec. 79** The programs and approaches for implementation shall be considered in all CDC structures on a continuing basis.

**ARTICLE 15. STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Sec. 80** Standing Committees are appointed throughout the Party’s structure for the purpose of implementing those tasks, in consultation with the NEC, which are basic to the effective functioning of the CDC. Accordingly, the NEC shall appoint and constitute eight (8) Standing Committees as follows:

- i. National Disciplinary Committee
- ii. Ways, Means, and Finance Committee
- iii. Membership and Mobilization Committee
- iv. Planning & Strategy Committee
- v. Policy Response Committee
- vi. Legal Advisement Committee
- vii. Auditing Committee

**National Disciplinary Committee** is composed of a chairperson and four (4) members, constituted by the NEC, who are responsible to investigate complaints against officials, officers, and partisans of CDC and render findings and recommendation to the NEC for action. Appeals from a decision of the NEC can be granted based on findings and recommendation by the National Disciplinary Committee which has power to review, affirm, modify, suspend or annul any decision of the NEC for disciplinary action against any official or partisan of the CDC.

**Ways, Means and Finance Committee** is composed of a chairperson and seven (7) members who are responsible for fund-raising programs.

**Membership & Mobilization Committee** is composed of a chairperson and fifteen (15) members, one member from each county, who are responsible to solicit individuals or groups to become members of CDC.

**Planning & Strategy Committee** is composed of a chairperson and four (4) members who are responsible for the overall medium and long term planning and development programs of the party based on its general principles, guiding philosophy, policy framework, and National platform.

**Policy Response Committee** is composed of a chairperson and six (6) members who are experts in various areas and shall be responsible to assist the NEC analyze current national issues and advise on the party's responses to those issues.

**Legal Advisement Committee** is composed of a chairperson and four (4) members who are responsible for providing legal advice on all matters affecting the CDC's interest and periodic briefing in the statute of rule of law in Liberia.

**Auditing Committee** is composed of a chairperson and four (4) members who are responsible to audit the Party's account, evaluate its work programs to ensure that their objectives are being achieved, and that the Party's rules and procedures in relation to its financial operations are interpreted and applied effectively. The overall mission is to improve the Party's performance by developing and implementing an independent and objective monitoring and appraisal procedure throughout the Party with a view to minimizing financial improprieties. An audit shall be conducted semi-annually in accordance with the mandate to be established by the Auditing Committee. In addition, the chairperson of the Auditing Committee has the authority to perform generally accepted auditing procedures at a time to be decided by him/her.

**Sec. 81** All Standing Committees shall give quarterly report or briefing to the NEC on its activities and programs, and at such other time as the NEC may require such report, briefing, or advice.

## **ARTICLE 16. DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

**Sec. 82** Generally

The duties, functions and responsibilities of all officers not specifically mentioned herein shall be as stipulated and adopted by the National Congress or as defined by the NEC in the absence of the National Congress.

**Sec. 83** Standard Bearer

The Standard Bearer is the head and first partisan of the CDC and the leader of the session at a National Congress. He or she shall:

- a) be the Torch Bearer of the CDC in any national presidential elections. As "ex officio" and the highest-ranking Party official he/she is consulted on all matters of vital importance to the Party;
- b) present to the National Congress a comprehensive statement of the state of the nation and the socio-economic and political situation generally;
- c) make pronouncements on the standards of the CDC, outlining its policy, response, and direction on any issue of national and international concern; and
- d) in collaboration with the NEC, orient and direct the activities of the CDC.

**Sec. 84** Vice Standard Bearer

The Vice Standard Bearer shall:

- a) assist the Standard Bearer;
- b) deputize for him/ her when necessary;
- c) carry out whatever functions are entrusted to him/her by the Standard Bearer or the NEC; and
- d) be next in succession to the Standard Bearer when elected to national leadership.

**Sec. 85** In the event of death or permanent incapacity of the Standard Bearer, the Vice Standard Bearer shall act until the NCC convenes an emergency congress in order to elect a new standard bearer and vice standard-bearer.

**Sec. 86** National Chairperson

The National Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the CDC and responsible for its daily administrative operations and without limiting the generality thereof s/he shall assume the following specific responsibilities:

- a) presides over the NEC and the National Congress;
- b) remain the custodian of the decisions taken by the National Congress and ensure that
- c) all organs of the he CDC implement these decisions and operate within the parameters of policies, principles, and philosophies of the CDC;
- d) carry out such additional tasks as the NC or NEC may instruct and or appoint and establish a committee from time to time deemed necessary to enhance the work of the CDC;
- e) be an ex-officio member of all committees;
- f) be the official spokesperson for the Party.

**Sec. 87** In the absence or incapacity of the National Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson Administration shall assume his or her functions. This line of succession continues with the Vice Chairperson/Operation, Vice Chairperson/Finance, and Investment, the Secretary General and so on pending any decision of the NCC in the absence of the NEC or a special session thereof to fill vacancies.

**Sec. 88** Vice Chairpersons

The Vice-Chairpersons shall respectively assist the Chairperson in the performance of his/her duties and shall perform such specific functions, responsibilities and duties as determined by the National Congress.

### 1. Vice Chairperson/Administration

During the absence or disability of the National Chairperson or during any vacancy in the office of the National Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson for Administration shall exercise:

- a) the powers and duties of the office;
- b) direct responsibility over all CDC partisans, logistics and equipment;
- c) the right of the Party to acquire property and engage in investment opportunities to facilitate its operations. Party members are obliged to use Party property entrusted to them with due care. Such assets must be insured against recognized risks; and
- d) s/he shall perform such specific functions, responsibilities and duties as determined by the National Chairperson.

### 2. Vice Chairperson/Operations

The Vice Chairperson/Operations is directly responsible for:

- a) the activities of the Membership & Mobilization Committee;
- b) campaign activities and to organize the Party activities in conjunction with the National Chairperson and the various Standing Committees; and
- c) working closely with the Party's legal counsel who provides expert political, legal and financial advice to the Standard Bearer, Vice Standard Bearer, and National Chairperson and when so designated provides advice to the Legal & Rules of Procedures Committee who shall report directly to the Vice Chairperson/Operations.

### 3. Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment

The Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment shall carry out the following functions:

- a) designate a bank(s) of reputable standing in Liberia and abroad where the Party's accounts (checking and deposit) are maintained for the approval of the National Chairperson and subsequently the National Executive Committee (NEC);
- b) deposit into the Party's bank account all intakes not later than three (3) working days after receipt. Photocopies of deposit vouchers are submitted to the National Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Auditing Committee. Ensure that the copies mentioned earlier are duly received and signed for;
- c) maintain a record of all financial transactions and stand ready for regular or spot audit by the Auditing Committee;
- d) ensure that all signatories to the Party's account are on file as follows: "A" Signatures of the National Chairperson and Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment, and "B" Signatures of two partisan designated by the National Standard Bearer). All withdrawal shall be done under the "A" Signatures plus one person from the "B" Signatures;
- e) prepare an operational budget for the Party in conjunction with the Vice Chairpersons for Administrations & Operations;
- f) upon the approval of the National Executive Committee, invest the Party's funds and do the following:
  - o Keep detailed and accurate records of all investment

- Monitor the maturity of all investment with maturity ticklers and take the necessary measures at the appropriate time to avoid lapsed, loss of interest, and rollover or cancellation decisions
- g) Shall perform all duties in the interest of the Party as assigned by the National Chairperson.

**Sec. 89** Secretary General

The Secretary General is the head of the Secretariat and shall carry out the following functions:

- a) Responsible for all correspondence, communications, records, etc. of the CDC;
- b) Keep the minutes of the National Congress, the NEC, the NCC as well as other records of the CDC.
- c) Conduct the correspondence of the NC, NEC and the NCC and send out notices of all conferences and meetings at the national level.
- d) Convey the decisions and instructions of the NC, the NEC and the NCC to executive committees of other structures or organs of the CDC, and see to it that all units and committees of the CDC are effectively coordinated and communicated with;
- e) Perform any duty in the interest of the party as assigned by the National Chairperson; and
- f) Supervise the activities of the Director of Press and Public Relations based on the terms of reference for the office.

**Sec. 90** Assistant Secretary General

The Assistant Secretary General shall assist the Secretary General in the performance of his/her duties, deputize for him/her when necessary and carry out the functions entrusted to him/her by the National Conference or the NEC.

**Sec. 91** National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall carry out the following functions:

- a) Receive funds and property donated to the CDC and turn over same to the Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment Chairperson;
- b) make quarterly and other reports on demand to Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment.
- c) Collect membership fees and other monies (collected by County Chairperson) on behalf of the party and report it to the Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment who shall issue a receipt;
- d) Keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of the CDC;
- e) Submit to the Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment your monthly and quarterly report who shall in turn report showing the Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet of the CDC for the period since the previous National Conference, and shall submit periodic reports to the NEC;
- f) In collaboration with the Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment, work out and execute plans for fundraising in collaboration with the National Finance Committee Chairperson, preparing the Annual and other operational budgets of the CDC in conjunction with other committees;
- g) Issue receipts for all funds and property collected;

- h) Disburse Party funds in line with guidelines and procedures established by Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment;
- i) Perform any duty in the interest of the Party as assigned by the Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment.

**Sec. 92** National Chaplain

The National Chaplain is to conduct devotions of meetings and administer the spiritual needs of the Party. In addition, the Chaplain is to ensure that the spiritual needs of the party at the national, county, regional, district, zone or branch levels are administered at each meeting.

**ARTICLE 17. REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Sec. 93** Subject to the overall guidance of the NEC, the Regional Conference shall be the coordinating structure of the CDC in each Region as designated herein

**Sec. 94** The Regional Conference shall comprise all county officers as delegates, that is, members of the County Executive Committee (CEC), shall meet at least once a year, to evaluate the work of the Regional Council to ensure compliance with CDC Policies NEC Mandates, receive reports, adopt programs, etc. prior to the NC and elect Officers of the Regional Council (Re) for a two (2) year term as follows

- a) Regional Coordinator
- b) Assistant Regional Coordinator
- c) Regional Secretary
- d) Assistant Regional Secretary
- e) Regional Treasurer
- f) Regional Chaplain

**Sec. 95** The Regional Council shall, in addition to the following, perform any other role, task, or responsibilities as may be determined by the NEC which shall adopt uniform standard operating procedures for all Regions

- a) Carry out the decisions of the National Congress and NEC
- b) Receive and consider reports by the County Executive Committee
- e.
- c) Carry out and develop policies and programs of the CDC in the Region
- d) Report to the NEC through the National Chairperson

**ARTICLE 18. THE COUNTY CONVENTION**

**Sec. 96** The County Convention shall be the governing authority of the CDC in each and every county. It shall comprise the County Executive Committee (CEC) and delegates from each region, district, branch, and zone in representation to be determined by the NEC which shall also adopt uniform operating procedures for the governance of each County Convention and CEC.

**Sec. 97** The County Convention shall:

- a) convene regular meeting quarterly on the second Saturday in March, June, September, and December. In the event that the designated date conflict with other major unforeseen events, the meeting is held the next Convention day during the month;
- b) plan and adopt the county annual program and budget and implement the policies and programs of the CDC through the CEC in each county under the guidance of the NEC. Reports quarterly to the Regional Council or to the NEC at any time or on demand by the NEC;
- c) accord provisional membership to each county zone and branch pending endorsement by the NEC of full membership for the applying zone or branch; and
- d) perform any other task, duty, fulfillment as may be directed by the NC or the NEC and report to the NEC.

**Sec. 98** Conventions are held bi-annually on the second Saturday of December of every alternate year to:

- conduct elections of the NEC and County Chairpersons. In addition, the convention shall appoint the various Standing Committees;
- review achievements, work programs, and other related activities;
- formulate new policy manifestos and strategies as applicable.

The venue for the National Conventions are designated on a county rotational basis, however, the NEC may alter such arrangements as deemed appropriate.

- a) Extraordinary Sessions of Conventions may be called and caucuses held for the purpose of:
  1. Nominating candidates for vacant elective offices arising at general and municipal elections, and
  2. Pursuing other crucial and strategy objectives of the Party.

Given the nature and scope of matters to be considered at Conventions, the NEC and County Chairpersons are required collectively to ensure full representation when determining the size

and composition of delegates. Proxies for delegates unable to attend Conventions may be selected by majority votes of delegates representing the county in which the absence occurs.

**ARTICLE 19. BRANCHES AND ZONES**

- Sec. 99** The smallest unit of the CDC in each county is the Branch which shall comprise not less than 200 registered members and every three (3) branches shall constitute a zone leadership of the branches and zones shall be structured and constituted in form as the NEC in Sec 70, excluding provisions for Standard and Vice Standard Bearers.
- Sec. 100** Every member of the CDC shall belong to a local branch and participate in branch activities; the CEC or the NEC may confer, under exceptional circumstance, recognition with full membership rights to a branch having fewer than 200 members.
- Sec. 101** The Zone shall meet as often as directed and be responsible to coordinate the affairs of each constituent branch, ensure that the branches operate within the policy and programs of the CDC and report to the County Executive Committee (CEC).
- Sec. 102** Members of the branch shall democratically elect members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) and delegates from the Branches shall democratically elect member of the Zone Executive Committee (ZEC) with authority to conduct the affairs of the branch and zone.
- Sec. 103** The NEC shall adopt standard operating procedures, rules and regulations governing the operation and effective functioning of each branch and zone, provided that the annual meetings of the Branches and Zones shall be held at least once a year prior to the convening of the NC.
- Sec. 104** The NEC at its discretion and as, in its wisdom and judgment, the best interest of the CDC demands, may convene any meeting of a branch or a zone or elect to dissolve and reorganize a branch or zone to advance the supreme interest of the CDC provided such zone and branch seeks redress to the NC.
- Sec. 105** Subject to the general policies and programs of the CDC and the directives, regulations and procedures of the NC and the NEC, the Executive Committees or annual Meetings of the Branches and Zones may discuss and decide any issue it deems necessary including any matter brought before it by the CEC or the Regional Councils.

**ARTICLE 20. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

- Sec. 106** With reference to Article 82 of the Liberian Constitution, CDC members and Liberian supporters residing in Liberia and abroad are required to make voluntary donations to the Party in cash or in kind. Partisans who receive cash or material donations are required to make it known to the National Treasurer.
- Sec. 107** In addition to the relevant rules prescribed above, chairpersons are entitled to hold meeting at any time of their choice and convenience, so long as a meeting does not contravene the provisions of the CDC Constitution & By-Laws.
- Sec. 108** The CDC may ally itself with other political parties under special circumstances for the purpose of achieving common objectives.

**Sec. 109** The Party is required by law to comply with and adhere to the provisions of the Liberian Constitution and of the Elections Laws of Liberia.

**ARTICLE 21. AMENDMENTS**

**Sec. 110** Any amendments to this Constitution shall be by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting at the National or Special Congress convened for that purpose. Notice of Articles of Amendment proposing any amendments to the Constitution should be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary General at least three months before the National or Special Conference. The NEC shall provide at least one months notice for any Constitutional amendment to the general membership and specifically to all Regional Structures for dissemination to county, zones and branch structures.

PART II BY-LAWS

**Chapter 1. CODES OF CONDUCT**

- Rule 1** All members, without exception, must abide by the Constitution of the CDC, the By-Laws, the Standing Orders, Rules and Regulations and Codes of Conduct as adopted or amended from time to time.
- Rule 2** All members of the CDC are expected to demean themselves, in both public and private lives, in a responsible and honorable manner that bring credit and distinction to the Party, avoiding debauchery, drunkenness, nuisance, theft, embezzlement, misuse and misapplication of public resources, other forms of corrupt practices and acts that ill against the interest of the people of Liberia and that are likely to discredit the Party, detract from Liberia’s democratic gains, and expose the CDC to public disrepute and shame.
- Rule 3** It shall be the responsibility and duty of all structures and organs of the Party to institute disciplinary proceedings against any member or officer found to be violation, provided that the right of appeal from any decision .to the National Disciplinary Committee, the NEC and the National congress shall be inviolable.
- Rule 4** Disciplinary proceedings against a member shall be confined to violations of the CC Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Orders, Rules and Regulations, Code of Conduct, the commission of other offences as set out herein. Members of the CDC shall not:
- a. Act as obstacle or allow themselves to be used to disturb any meetings, functions, gathering, assembly of the CDC to stifle debate or denying members their basic democratic rights;
  - b. Institute or entertain disciplinary proceedings for the purpose or means of solving private problems or as a means of interfering in the private lives of members where the norms of the Party are not directly affected, unless such conduct itself constitutes a violation or an offence affecting the Party.
- Rule 5** A serious offence for which disciplinary proceedings may be held, shall be committed by any member who by conduct, acts or omissions, prejudices the integrity or reputation of the CDC, its personnel or its operational capacity by:
- a) impeding the activities of the Party;
  - b) creating division within its ranks or membership;
  - c) exposing sensitive, important, confidential, business information of the CDC without authority;
  - d) doing any other act which undermines its effectiveness as a Party; and
  - e) acting on behalf of or in collaboration with:
    - i. anti CDC Counter-progressive forces;

- ii. a political organization or party other than an organization or party in alliance with the CDC in a manner contrary to the aims, policies and objectives of the CDC;
- iii. intelligence or the security services of other countries; and
- iv. Any person or group who seriously interfaces with the work of the Party or prevents it from fulfilling its mission and objectives.

**Rule 6**

The following shall also be regarded as serious offences, without limiting the generality thereof and the authority of the NEC to add to this category of offences:

- 1. conviction in a court of law, depending on the circumstances and gravity of the offence, for any serious non-political offence;
- 2. misappropriation of the funds of the Party, destruction of its properties;
- 3. behaving in any corrupt manner suggesting the acceptance of bribe for performing or for not performing any task;
- 4. engaging in sexual harassment, soliciting sex for favor, or physical abuse of women or children or abuse of office to obtain sexual or any other undue advantage from members or others;
- 5. abuse of elected or employed office in the Party in order to obtain any direct or indirect undue advantage or unjust enrichment;
- 6. fighting or behaving in a grossly disorderly or unruly manner;
- 7. deliberately disrupting meetings and interfering with the orderly functioning of the Party; and
- 8. behaving in any manner unbecoming of a public servant or CDC member.

**Rule 7**

If, in the opinion of the NEC or the relevant body exercising its right to invoke disciplinary proceedings under this Constitution, a member is guilty of the following offences, disciplinary proceedings may follow

- a) behavior which brings the Party into disrepute or which manifests a flagrant moral integrity expected of members or conduct unbecoming of a member;
- b) sowing division, racism, sexism, tribal chauvinism, religious and political intolerance sectarianism or any other form of discrimination;
- c) behaving in such a way as to provoke serious divisions or a break-down of unity in the Party
- d) undermining the respect for or impeding the functioning of the structures of the Party; and
- e) participating in organized factional activity that goes beyond the recognized norms of free debate and tolerance in the Party and which is tending to threaten its unity.

**Rule 8**

Disciplinary proceedings shall normally be conducted at the level where the alleged violation or offence took place, namely the national, county, regional, district, zonal, or branch, and may be heard by the relevant structure.

**Rule 9**

The NEC may direct that disciplinary proceedings be heard at a higher level from where the alleged violation or offence took place.

**Rule 10**

Any person faced with disciplinary proceedings shall receive due written notice of any hearing and of the basic allegations and charges against him/her and be afforded reasonable opportunity to make his/her defense.

- Rule 11** The National Disciplinary Committee (NDC) shall draw up guidelines for the interpretation of this section on discipline and set forth detailed procedures including time limits to be followed before, during, and after a hearing,
- Rule 12** Any person not satisfied with the outcome of a disciplinary proceeding may exercise the right, within a reasonable period, to appeal against the decision, conviction or sentence, to the next higher body of the CDC. The NEC may direct that a body higher than the one to which the appeal has been made should hear any appeal. The Regional Council (RC) may direct that an appeal against the decision by a branch or zone be heard directly by the Regional Disciplinary Committee.
- Rule 13** Penalties for proven violations of the Constitution, principles, norms, Codes of Conduct and decisions of the CDC shall include reprimand, payment of compensation, and/or the performance of useful tasks, suspension and expulsion.
- Rule 14** **Temporary Suspension**  
The Leadership of any structure or authority of the CDC considering the nature and seriousness of an alleged violation or offence by a member, may summarily suspend the membership of a member pending the preparation of a charge against the member and the finalization of disciplinary proceedings. The accused member shall be informed of such suspension. The temporary suspension shall lapse if no disciplinary proceedings are instituted against the member within 30 days of the date of the temporary suspension. Such disciplinary proceedings shall be attended to as quickly as possible and completed within a reasonable period.
- Rule 15** All disciplinary proceedings shall be attended to as speedily as possible.
- Rule 16** Decisions relating to disciplinary proceedings shall be made public.
- Rule 17** Grievance & Ethics Committees shall be established at all structural levels of the CDC from the national, county, regional, district, zonal, and at the branch to handle breaches of CDC standards and other disciplinary matters. The NEC, whose decision in all disciplinary matters shall be final, subject only to review by the NC, shall constitute the National Disciplinary Committee, provided that appeals for review of any disciplinary action/decision from a lower body shall be made to the next higher structure ending with the NC
- Rule 18** The Grievance & Ethics Committees (GEC) shall bear and determine violations or offences on appeal from appropriate organs of the CDC. In addition, the NEC may refer such violations or offences directly to the Committee. In other situations arising out of serious breaches of the Constitution, Codes of Conduct, the Committee itself may exercise original jurisdiction to investigate and determine any complaint.
- Rule 19** The NEC may authorize any structure of the CDC to institute disciplinary proceedings and to set up appropriate structures to conduct disciplinary hearings into any matter brought to its attention.

## **Chapter 2. REGULATIONS**

- Rule 20** The NEC shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations to explain, interpret, enforce, and give effect to its decisions, the policies, laws, and constitution of the CDC.

**Rule 21** Each structure and organ of the CDC, including Standing Committees shall have the power and authority to adopt rules and regulations for their respective governance and operations, provided that they shall conform to the overall policy and regulatory directions of the CDC, and the NEC shall have the power to alter, amend, modify or declare any such rule, regulation, guidelines or pronouncement; null and void.

**Rule 22** All rules, regulations, and policy statements shall conform to and be consistent with the overall constitutional norms, principles and philosophy of the CDC, and any of such rules, regulations, policy statements, etc. issued by any structure subordinate to the NEC shall be provisional until approved by the NEC.

## **Chapter 3 MEETINGS**

**Rule 23** The NEC and all other structures and organs of the CDC shall hold regular meetings for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the CDC at least once every month, provided that special or emergency meetings may be called at any time with reasonable notice to address any issue irregularly arising, or as the situation or circumstance demands in the supreme interest of the CDC, its constituent structures, or its members. Conventions are held bi-annually (See Section 98)

The agenda of meetings and Conventions shall be based on the following general structures:

- Call to order and devotion
- Remarks by the chairperson (based on level)
- Roll call
- Reading of minutes of previous meeting
- Business arising from the minutes
- Reports
  - 1) Secretary General
  - 2) Vice Chairperson/Finance & Investment
  - 3) Standing Committee Chairpersons
  - 4) Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons, if any
- Any other business
- Announcements
- Benediction/adjournment

### ***AT THE MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS***

1. Unless seconded, a motion is not to be put forward or debated. The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) therefore restates it prior to debate.
2. No member shall speak more than once on the same issue and the duration of such intervention is not to exceed ten (10) minutes without the consent of the OIC. However, a member may be called upon by the OIC more than once to provide information or expert advice on a subject.

3. At the end of the debate, the OIC summarizes the views expressed and, in the event of contrasting views, a vote is taken and motion carried on the basis of two-thirds (2/3) majority. However, the decisions and contrasting views must be recorded.
4. A motion to reconsider issue once disposed of is not entertained unless intended by a member voting with two-thirds (2/3) majority at the same meeting or the next.
5. Whilst resolution of a general character are reduced to writing and signed by the Resolution and Printing Committee, those specifically introduced by individual members are to be signed by their sponsor

#### ***DOCUMENTATION***

The agenda and supporting documents, including minutes, pertaining to all regular meetings and Convention are circulated two (2) weeks prior to the prescribed date of covering. The Convention shall levy a fine of L\$500.00 on the officer failing to comply with the requirements. The fine stipulated herein also applies in cases where officers fail to deposit Party funds or declare other forms of contribution as required in this constitution.

## **Chapter 4 AMENDMENTS**

**Rule 24** The NEC shall have powers to alter or amend these By-Laws by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of its membership at any meeting regularly convened.

## **Chapter 5 EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS**

**Rule 25** An Extraordinary Congress of the CDC may be convened by the NEC at any time or at the request of a majority of the Regions for any purpose deemed vital to the interest, growth, development, and survival of the CDC.

**Rule 26** Notice of an Extraordinary Congress (XC) to all delegates of the immediate past Congress shall be given in not less than 30 days prior to the convening of the XC

## **Chapter 6 TRANSITIONAL PROVISION**

**Rule 27** The Constitution and By-Laws of the CDC shall come into force, remain effective and binding as the Organic Law of the CDC, upon adoption, subject to the Constitution of Liberia and national laws of Liberia.

## **Chapter 7. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

**Rule 28** Only National Officials shall have the authority to bind the CDC or to create any legal relationship to which the CDC is bound. Any other person purporting to bind the CDC must produce a written authorization from its authorized officers, which must indicate the extent of that person's authority for consideration.

## **Chapter 8. DISSOLUTION**

**Rule 29** The National Congress or any extraordinary session thereof may adopt decisions to merge, consolidate, transform or dissolve the Party, by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting, and transfer the assets and liabilities of the Party in such a manner as determined by the laws of Liberia (also see Section 109).

**APPENDIX 1:**

**Official logo of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC)**



**APPENDIX 2:**

**Authorization**

**Presented by: Constitution & Platform Review Committee (2005)**

- Nathaniel R. Patray, III - Chairperson
- Stanley Barh - Co-Chairperson
- Cllr. Aaron Kparkillen – Member
- Tubman Saywon- Member
- Frank A. Krah- Member
- Albert Jallah- Recording Secretary

Submitted:

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Cllr. Thompson Jargba  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE (2008)**

For the Committee:

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Nathaniel R. Patray, III  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**NATIONAL CONGRESS**