

**UNION OF LIBERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE AMERICAS**

CONSTITUTION

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**Amended at the 35<sup>th</sup> ULAA General Assembly in Decatur, GA  
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# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION OF LIBERIA ASSOCIATIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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## **PREAMBLE**

We, the citizens and descendants of the Republic of Liberia, residing in the Americas, cognizant of the need to promote unity amongst us, provide for our common good, and advocate for political, social, and economic developments in our country, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas, our umbrella organization.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be **The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas** hereinafter referred to as **ULAA** or the **Union**.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **MOTTO**

The motto of the Union shall be **'Together We Struggle for a Better Liberia'**.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **HEADQUARTERS**

#### **Article 1**

The Union shall have its corporate headquarters in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America.

Article 2

The Administrative headquarters of the Union shall be maintained in the state or country of residence of the National President of the Union.

Article 3

The Regional offices of the Union shall also be maintained in the state or country of residence of the Regional Vice Presidents.

## CHAPTER IV

### JURISDICTION OF THE UNION

#### Article 1

The jurisdiction of the Union shall encompass the United States of America and North and South America and shall be divided into four geographic regions: Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western.

#### Article 2

The Eastern Region shall be comprised of Member Organizations in states on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States of America including Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

#### Article 3

The Western Region shall be comprised of Member Organizations in states on the Western Seaboard of the United States of America including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

#### Article 4

The Northern Region shall be comprised of Member Organizations in states in the Northern Region of the United States all points north of the United States of America including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin and all other North American countries.

Article 5

The Southern Region shall be comprised of Member Organizations in states on the Southern Seaboard of the United States and all points south of the United States of America including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and all South American countries.

**CHAPTER V**

**POWERS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Article 1

This Constitution is the supreme law of the Union, and its provisions shall have binding force and effect on all of its Member Organizations.

Article 2

All laws, rules, regulations, procedures, and activities found to be inconsistent with this constitution shall be void and of no legal effect.

## CHAPTER VI

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

#### Article 1

The Union shall be comprised of Liberian Community Associations, Liberia National County Associations, and Non-Liberian Organizations registered in their states of operation and chartered by the National Board of Directors of the Union consistent with the provisions of this constitution.

#### Article 2

The Union shall have a membership system representing Liberian Community Associations, Liberia National County Associations, and non-Liberian Organizations with vested interest in Liberia and Liberians. Political parties and entities and organizations that support political parties shall not be member(s) of the Union.

#### Article 3

**Liberian Community Association** shall be comprised of Liberian Associations registered and incorporated in a State, representing all Liberians without regard to ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, or political orientations. The Union shall not permit multiple representations of Liberian Community Associations within a State. States currently holding multiple representations shall continue to maintain their memberships.

#### Article 4

**Liberia National County Associations** shall be comprised of National County Organizations representing Counties in Liberia and operating in the jurisdiction of the Union. Only one National County Association shall represent a Liberian County in the Union.



Article 5

**Non-Liberian Organizations** shall be comprised of non-political institutions and organization that form partnership with the Union on various projects and programs in the interest of Liberia and Liberians.

Article 6

Member Organizations shall have the **RIGHT** to:

- a) Determine their membership consistent with the provisions of this constitution;
- b) Freedom of association, speech, thought, movement and beliefs among others not in contravention of this constitution;
- c) Access to information about the Union, its leaders, and activities; **And**
- d) Petition the Union seeking redress to their grievances and concerns. A petition signed by a **two third (2/3) majority** of Member Organizations shall constitute grounds for calling an emergency session of the General Assembly. The petition shall clearly define the issues(s) for deliberation and reasons for the emergency.

Article 7

The decision-making powers of the Union shall be vested in Member Organizations in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union by and through their members accredited to the Union.

Article 8

Member Organizations shall reserve the **right to revise and restructure** the Union and its **laws** in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

## Article 9

No person(s) shall hold memberships in two or more Member Organizations registered in the same state at the same time.

## CHAPTER VII

### STRUCTURE OF THE UNION

The governing organs of the Union shall be comprised of: the National General Assembly hereinafter referred to as the **Assembly**; the National Board of Directors hereinafter referred to as the **Board**; the National Administration hereinafter referred to as the **Administration**; and the National Leadership Council hereinafter referred to as the **Leadership Council**.

## CHAPTER VIII

### NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### Article 1

The Assembly shall be the **HIGHEST** decision making body and shall approve **new policy decisions** of the Union and shall be presided over by the National President.

#### Article 2

The Assembly shall be the forum for the mass participation of Member Organizations. Liberians and friends of Liberia shall participate in the deliberations of the Assembly, but the **RIGHT TO VOTE** shall be **RESERVED** for official delegates from Member Organizations accredited to the Assembly.

#### Article 3

Decisions of the Assembly shall be **BINDING** on Member Organizations, the Board, the Administration, the Leadership Council, and all other Organs of the Union.

#### Article 4

Decisions of the Assembly shall be **FINAL** and shall not be **REVIEWED, ALTERED** or **CHANGED** by any Organ of the Union **EXCEPT** by the Assembly in session.

Article 5

The Assembly shall receive and discuss the report on the State of the Union presented by the National President.

Article 6

The Assembly shall meet each year in the month of September in a city of a chartered Member Organization in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union.

Article 7

The Assembly shall, once every three years, make decisions on the host Member Organizations and cities for a period of three (3) years based on the findings and recommendations of the Administration. The Administration shall submit three (3) recommendations to the Assembly for consideration:

- a) The Member Organization with the highest votes shall host the **FIRST** Assembly;
  - b) The Member Organization with the second highest votes shall host the **SECOND** Assembly;
- And
- c) The Member Organization with the third highest votes shall host the **THIRD** Assembly.

Article 8

If the Member Organization with the highest votes is determined to be unable to host the Assembly, the responsibility shall fall to the Member Organization with the second highest votes.

Article 9

Each Liberian Community Association shall be represented at the Assembly by no more than 25

accredited delegates. They shall determine their delegates' makeup.

#### Article 10

Each Liberian National County Association shall be represented at the Assembly by no more than 5 accredited delegates and shall:

- a) Pay half the membership due paid by Liberian Community Associations; **And**
- b) **Determine their delegates' makeup.**

#### Article 11

Elected National officers and members of the Board shall be automatic delegates to the Assembly. They shall not be included as a part of the accredited delegates from Member Organizations.

#### Article 12

Former National President(s) and Board Chairperson(s) shall be automatic delegates to the Assembly. They shall not be included as a part of the accredited delegates from Member Organizations. However, they shall be delegates to the Assembly only if they:

- a) Are in GOOD STANDING with their Member Organization; **AND**
- b) Were not forced to resign or impeached and removed from office.

#### Article 13

An emergency session of the Assembly shall convene consistent with the provisions of this constitution.

#### Article 14

The declaration of a State of Emergency, by the Federal and/or State Governments, in the city/state of the host Member Organization within 30 days of the scheduled Assembly, may lead to postponement of the Assembly if the backup host Member Organization indicates its unpreparedness to host the Assembly.

#### Article 15

When the Assembly is postponed, the National President shall within 15 days, convene an emergency Joint Session of the Board, the Administration, and the Leadership Council to decide the new date and venue for the Assembly, which shall not exceed 60 days as of the date of postponement. All issues during the Joint Special Session shall be decided by a **simple majority vote**.

## CHAPTER IX

### NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Article 1

The Board shall be the legislative body of the Union, and shall comprise of two elected representatives from each Member Organization.

#### Article 2

The Board shall Charter new member organizations based on the recommendation(s) from the National President.

### Article 3

The Board shall confirm presidential appointments and review and act on matters of the Union brought forward by the Administration.

### Article 4

The Board shall approve contracts, agreements, memoranda of understandings, and other legal instruments negotiated by the Administration before they are legally binding on the Union.

### Article 5

The Board shall approve all budgets of the Union submitted by the Administration.

### Article 6

The Board shall approve the National Elections Law based on the recommendations of the National Elections Commission.

### Article 7

The Board shall conduct impeachment hearings of National Administrative Officers and members of Semi-Autonomous Commissions.

### Article 8

The Board shall **suspend or revoke** the charter of Member Organizations. In the exercise of this power, the Board shall rely on the recommendation(s) of the Administration indicating efforts undertaken to get the Member Organization(s) into compliance with the Union.

## Article 9

The Board shall **SUSPEND** the charter of Member Organization(s) for violation of **ONE** of these conditions and shall **REVOKE** the charter of Member Organization(s) for violation of **ALL** these conditions:

- a) Lack of representation on the Board and the Leadership Council for One year;
- b) Inactive participation on the Board, the Leadership Council, and activities of the Union for One year;
- c) Non-payment of membership dues to the Union for One year; Or
- d) Gross violation of the provisions of this Constitution.

## Article 10

When the charter of a Member Organization(s) is suspended or revoked, individual(s) from that Member Organization elected to National Administrative position(s) shall remain in office until the next scheduled elections. However, individual(s) occupying leadership position on the Board shall immediately be removed from office and vacancy (ies) shall be filled in accordance with the Board Rules.

## Article 11

Member Organization(s) whose charter is suspended or revoked shall be restored to full membership by the Board and accorded all rights and privileges when the:

- a) Request for reentry in the Union is submitted to and approved by the Board; And



b) The issues that led to the **suspension or revocation** of their charter are **resolved**.

#### Article 12

The Board shall meet in regular sessions at **least two times** a year. A simple majority of the Board members in attendance shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

#### Article 13

Decisions of the Board shall be in the form of resolutions published and circulated to Member Organizations and the general public.

#### Article 14

The Board shall establish its rules and regulations and elect its officers for the conduct of business. No rule or regulation of the Board shall be in violation of this constitution.

## CHAPTER X

### NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

#### Article 1

The Administration of the Union shall be comprised of the National President, National Executive Vice President, National General Secretary, National Treasurer, National Financial Secretary, Regional Vice Presidents, National Standing Committees, and Semi Autonomous Commissions. The National President shall be the head of the Administration.

#### Article 2

The National Administrative Officers which shall be comprised of the National President, National Executive Vice President, National General Secretary, National Treasurer, National Financial Secretary, and Regional Vice Presidents and shall be **elected** for a **two year term** at the Assembly, and are eligible for re-election for a **second term**. **No National Administrative Officer shall be elected to the same office for more than two terms.**

## CHAPTER XI

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT

#### Article 1

The National President shall be the **Chief Executive Officer, Official Spokesperson and Head of the Administration**. He/she shall be a Liberian or of Liberian descendant and shall have attained the Age of twenty one years and a member of a Member Organization in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union.

## Article 2

Shall:

- a) Manage the daily administration, operation, and coordination of all institutions and commissions;
- b) Nominate members of Semi –Autonomous Commissions and National Standing Committees for the advice and consent of the Board;
- c) Nominate the National Assistant General Secretary for Records and Minutes and the National Assistant General Secretary for Media Relations for the advice and consent of the Board;
- d) Present the annual budget of the Union and other ad hoc budgets to the Board for approval;
- e) Receive and review all applications from organization(s) seeking membership into the Union, and shall submit same with recommendation(s) to the Board;
- f) Plan and preside over the annual meetings of the Assembly, and shall convene emergency session(s) of the Assembly; And
- g) Call special sessions and emergency meetings of the Board, the Leadership Council, and all other Organs of the Union.
- h) In case of resignation of any member(s) of the National Administration, the National President shall nominate for the advice and consent of the Board a replacement until the next election.

## CHAPTER XII

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The National Executive Vice President shall be the principal assistant to the National President and shall act in the absence of the National President. He/she shall be a Liberian or of Liberian descendant and shall have attained the Age of twenty one years and a member of a Member

Organization in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union.

## CHAPTER XIII

### NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

#### Article 1

The National General Secretary shall be the chief correspondence officer and custodian of the Unions records. He/she shall be a Liberian or of Liberian descendant and shall have attained the Age of twenty one years and a member of a Member Organization in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union. He shall be assisted by the National Assistant General Secretary for Records and Minutes and the National Assistant General Secretary for Media Relations.

#### Article 2

Shall:

- a) Coordinate the activities of the two National Assistant General Secretary;
- b) Compile and maintain the records of treatise, communiqué, proclamation, responses to inquiries and press releases;
- c) Record the proceedings of the Assembly and the Administration;
- d) Manage media relations including the running and upkeep of the Union's website;
- e) Maintain updated official roster of Member Organizations, the Administration, the Leadership Council, the Board, and other Organs of the Union; And
- f) Receive and review reports from Member Organizations, National Standing, Ad Hoc Committees, and Semi Autonomous Commissions prior to submission to the Assembly and the Board.

## CHAPTER XIV

### NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

#### Article 1

The National Financial Secretary shall be the financial consultant of the Union. He/she shall be a Liberian or of Liberian descendant and shall have attained the Age of twenty one years and a member of a Member Organization in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union.

#### Article 2

Shall:

- a) Develop and maintain the Union's financial management system;
- b) Prepare, Receive, and Review all financial reports and requests submitted by Member Organizations, National Standing Committees, Semi Autonomous Commissions, and other Organs of the Union and shall submit same to the National President;
- c) Develop plans for the investments, disbursements and collections of the Union's funds; And
- d) Prepare and submit in collaboration with the National Treasurer the annual budget to the National President.

## CHAPTER XV

### NATIONAL TREASURER

#### Article 1

The National Treasurer shall be the chief custodian of the Union's finances. He/she shall be a Liberian or of Liberian descendant and shall have attained the Age of twenty one years and a member of a Member Organization in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union.

Article 2

Shall:

- a) Exercise responsibility for safeguarding the financial and other assets of the Union;
- b) Compile and keep records of all financial transactions and advise the Administration on the anticipated financial needs of the Union; And
- c) Coordinate with the National Financial Secretary to prepare timely, meaningful, and accurate financial statements.

## CHAPTER XVI

### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

The four Regional Vice Presidents shall be the chief administrative heads of the four regions which are Eastern, Western, Southern, and Northern. Shall be Liberians or of Liberian descendant and shall each have attained the Age of twenty one years and shall each be a member of Member Organization in their region that is in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union. They shall collaborate and coordinate with the heads of Member Organizations in their regions in furthering the programs, projects and goals of the Union.

## CHAPTER XVII

### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Article 1

The Leadership Council shall be an advisory body to the Administration and shall be comprised of

the elected heads of all Member Organizations in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union. Members shall serve in accordance with the Tenure of Office granted in the constitutions of Member Organizations.

#### Article 2

The Leadership Council shall **meet at least two times a year**. It shall determine its own rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of business. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

#### Article 3

The ceremonial head of the Leadership Council shall be the **Doyen** who shall be the longest serving member on the Leadership Council. He/she shall serve as the liaison between the Administration and the Leadership Council.

#### Article 4

The Leadership Council shall advise the Administration on:

- a) Appointments to Semi-Autonomous Commissions and National Standing Committees;
- b) Union's Budget;
- c) Programs, projects and activities of the Union; And
- d) Mobilization and utilization of financial and material resources of the Union.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### SEMI-AUTONOMOUS COMMISSIONS

The Semi-Autonomous Commissions of the Union shall be the National Elections Commission, the National Audit Commission, and the Social Services Council.

## CHAPTER XIX

### NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

#### Article 1

The National Elections Commission shall be comprised of 7 members. No more than 2 commissioners shall come from the same Member Organization. The commissioners shall be appointed to a three-year term of service and can be reappointment.

#### Article 2

The National Elections Commission of the Union shall be responsible to **organize and conduct the elections** of the Administration. It shall establish laws, requirements and eligibility criteria for the free, fair and smooth conduct of elections consistent with this constitution.

#### Article 3

The National Elections Commission shall be Semi-Autonomous and shall be **FREE** from the **UNDUE INFLUENCES** of the Administration, the Board and other Organs of the Union **EXCEPT** in **ADJUDICATORY** matters relative to the conduct of election.



## CHAPTER XX

### NATIONAL AUDITING COMMISSIONS

#### Article 1

The National Auditing Commission shall be comprised of 5 members with professional training and expertise in accounting, auditing or related fields. The tenure of service for commissioners shall be 3 years with provision for reappointment.

#### Article 2

The National Auditing Commission shall be Semi-Autonomous and shall be **FREE** from the **UNDUE INFLUENCES** of the Administration, the Board and other Organs of the Union.

#### Article 3

The National Auditing Commission shall be responsible for reviewing, analyzing and recommending changes in the fiscal and management practices of the Union and its Member Organizations.

#### Article 4

The National Auditing Commission shall provide regular professional auditing services and conduct periodic audits of the Organs of the Union including the officers, offices, and institutions of the Union and Member Organizations in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Management principles.

## CHAPTER XXI

### NATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

#### Article 1

The National Social Services Council hereinafter referred to as the **Council** shall provide overall coordination and supervision of all social services activities in the Union. The Council shall be comprised of the Union's Educational and Health foundation and shall establish as many sub-committees as it deem necessary for the smooth and efficient operation of the Council.

#### Article 2

The Council shall be headed by an Executive Director and two Deputy Executive Directors for Internal Affairs and External Affairs and shall include two additional members for a total of five members. Members of the Council shall be appointed for a three years term and maybe reappointed.

#### Article 3

The Deputy Executive Director for Internal Affairs shall be the principal Deputy to the Executive Director, and shall exercise primary responsibility over the Union's Health and Education Fund and shall assist the Executive Director with the formulation and implementation of social services programs in the jurisdiction of the Union.

#### Article 4

The Deputy Executive Director for External Affairs Shall be the chief liaison and coordinator of all the Union social services programs outside the jurisdiction of the Union and shall liaise with national and international humanitarian organizations to promote and implement with the external

social services programs of the Union.

## CHAPTER XXII

### NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Article 1

The National Standing Committees of the Union shall be the Membership Committee, Immigration Committee, External Affairs Committee, and the Ways Means and Finance Committee.

#### Article 2

**The Membership Committee** shall be responsible to educate, promote and encourage Liberian organizations to become Member Organizations of the Union. It shall maintain a roster of Active Member Organizations and shall assist delinquent Member Organizations recommit to the Union. The committee shall be comprised of five members.

#### Article 3

**The Immigration Committee** shall be responsible to coordinate, mobilize, educate, promote and manage the Liberian immigration, integration, and refugee affairs of the Union. The committee shall identify resources for effective implementation of immigration, integration, and refugee programs. The committee shall be comprised of five members.

#### Article 4

**The External Affairs Committee** shall be responsible to coordinate, promote, and establish direct link and liaise with governments, organizations, institutions, and professional groups for the promotions and implementations of the partnership programs and projects of the Union. The committee shall be comprised of five members.

Article 5

**The Way Means and Finance Committee** shall be responsible to plan, coordinate, and identify fund raising programs, projects, events, and resources for the Union in collaboration with all established financial institutions of Union. The committee shall be comprised five members.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### ELECTIONS

Article 1

No **ORGAN** of the Union shall **STOP, IMPEDE, SUSPEND, POSTPONE** or **CANCEL** the National Elections of the Union.

Article 2

All election complaints shall be decided by the Elections Commission, **EXCEPT** complaints made against the entire Elections Commission.

Article 3

The Board shall hear the complaints against the Elections Commission. Elections complaints brought before the Board shall be decided by a simple majority vote, **EXCEPT** in the case of the

**NULLIFICATION** of an election which shall require a resolution signed by **TWO-THIRD MAJORITY** vote of the Board.

Article 4

Elections shall **only** be **NULLIFIED** for **gross violations** of the Constitution that is, a candidate **NOT** attaining the age of 21 years, **NOT** an active member of a Member Organization that is in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union, or a **NOT** Liberian or of Liberian descendant.

Article 5

Whenever the nullification of an election affects the presidential ticket (President and Vice President), and the sitting President of the Union is **NOT** a candidate, he/she shall **REMAIN** in office for 90 days, and shall call an emergency session of the National General Assembly within **90 days** for the sole purpose of conducting new elections for the presidential tickets.

Article 6

Whenever the nullification of an election affects the presidential ticket (President and Vice President), and the sitting President of the Union is a candidate, the Board shall appoint an acting president for 90 days and shall call an emergency session of the National General Assembly within **90 days** for the sole purpose of conducting new elections for the presidential tickets.

Article 7

Whenever the nullification of an election affects the presidential ticket (President and Vice President), and the sitting President of the Union and member(s) of the Board are candidates, the Board shall appoint an acting president for 90 days and shall call an emergency session of the National General Assembly within **90 days** for the sole purpose of conducting new elections for the presidential tickets. Member(s) of the Board who is candidate(s) shall be rescued from the

decision of the Board.

Article 8

In the case of the nullification of elections for any other National Administrative Office(s), the newly elected National President **shall fill the vacancy** consistent with the provisions of this constitution until the next election year.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### VOTING

Article 1

Delegates accredited to the Assembly from Liberian Community Associations, Liberian National County Associations and other Liberian Organizations shall have the **RIGHT** to vote.

Article 2

Non Liberian Organizations shall send observers to the National General Assembly who shall participate in deliberations but shall **NOT VOTE**.

## CHAPTER XXV

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Article 1

The Financial Management Practices and Procedures shall constitute practices and procedures

consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and sound financial management.

#### Article 2

The National Treasurer shall **receive** all funds collected on behalf of the Union and shall **deposit** same into the Union's account within **(48) hours** and transaction documents shall be submitted to the National Financial Secretary.

#### Article 3

The accounts of the Union shall be maintained at a **federally insured** Banking and Financial institution approved by the Board.

#### Article 4

The accounts shall not be **closed, funds transferred, or withdrawn** without the approval of the Board.

#### Article 5

The financial records of the Union shall be made available to both the National Financial Secretary and the National Treasurer and shall be made aware of all withdrawals from the Union's accounts and financial transactions.

#### Article 6

The National President shall be the Principal Signatory to all accounts of the Union. The National Treasurer and the National Financial Secretary shall also be signatories to the accounts.

Article 7

**Withdrawal** from the Union's account **shall require the signatures of the National President and that of either the National Treasurer or the National Financial Secretary.** In case the National President is unavailable, the signatures of the National Treasurer and the National Financial Secretary shall be required.

Article 8

Funds allocated in the approved Annual Budget **shall not require additional Board approval for disbursements and expenditures** to be made.

Article 9

Audited annual Financial Reports shall be presented to the National Leadership Council, the Board, the National Administration, and other Organs of the Union at least **thirty (30) days** before the General Assembly convenes.

## CHAPTER XXVI IMPEACHMENT

Article 1

Members of the National Administration and Semi-Autonomous Commission shall be Impeached and Removed from office for Gross violation and Wanton disregard for this Constitution.

Article 2

Misappropriation of the Union's Funds and Resources, Abuse of Power, Misfeasance and



Malfeasance, Felony Conviction, and Conduct Detrimental to the vital interest of the Union shall constitute grounds for Impeachment.

#### Article 3

Member Organizations shall petition the Board to commence Impeachment Proceedings against Union officers. The petition shall be signed by a simple majority of the Member Organizations and submitted to the Board.

#### Article 4

Cases of impeachment petition originating from the Board shall require the signing of a Bill of Impeachment by a simple majority of the National Board of Directors.

#### Article 5

Special session of the Board shall convene to hear the Petition within thirty (30) days of the Petition date.

#### Article 6

Officer(s) brought up for Impeachment shall be allowed Due Process of Law.

#### Article 7

A **Two third (2/3) majority vote** of the Board shall be required to Impeach and Remove Union officers from office.

## CHAPTER XXVII

### SUCCESSION

#### Article 1

In the event of the resignation, impeachment, incapacity, relocation out of the Union's jurisdiction or death of the National President, the National Vice President shall become National President until the next election and shall nominate for the advice and consent of the Board a new National Vice President.

#### Article 2

The line of succession to the National President shall be in the order of the National Vice President, the Chairperson of the Board, National General Secretary, National Treasurer, and the National Financial Secretary.

#### Article 3

In the event of the resignation, impeachment, incapacity, relocation or death of the National Vice President, National General Secretary, National Treasurer, or the National Financial Secretary, the National President shall nominate a successor for the advice and consent of the Board.

## CHAPTER XXVIII

### ARBITRATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

#### Article 1

The Arbitration and Conflict Resolution Commission hereinafter referred to as the **Commission** shall be comprised of members of the ULAA Eminent Persons Council which is comprised of former National Presidents and National Board Chairpersons of the Union who served honorably and completed their full term of office.

#### Article 2

Former National Presidents and National Board Chairpersons who were forced to resign or were impeached and removed from office shall be ineligible for a seat on the Commission.

#### Article 3

The Commission shall develop its rules and determine its leadership. No rule of the Commission shall be in violation of this constitution.

#### Article 4

It shall provide **advisory opinions** on the interpretation of the Constitution and shall mediate **CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, GRIEVANCES, and DISPUTES** among the organs of the Union.

#### Article 5

If the findings and recommendations of the Commission are **REJECTED** by a party or parties to the

dispute, the **National President** shall within **30 days** , call a Special Joint Emergency Session of all Organs of the Union to deliberate and vote on the findings and recommendations of the Commission. A **simple majority vote** of a Special Joint Emergency Session shall constitute **FINAL** closure to the issue and shall be **BINDING** on all parties.

## CHAPTER XXIX

### FIDUCIARY MATTERS

#### Article 1

As a not-for-profit organization formed under the non-profit corporation laws of the State of Minnesota, and operating under the nonprofit corporation laws, rules and regulations of the United states of America, this Corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried out by:

A corporation exempt from Federal income tax under 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended or corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law; Or

A Corporation, contributions to which are deductible under 179 (C) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended or corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law.

#### Article 2

The Union shall pursue legal actions against Member(s) for Misappropriation of Funds and Resources.

## CHAPTER XXX

### AMENDMENT AND RATIFICATION

#### Article 1

This Constitution shall be amended by **two-thirds** majority of Member Organizations in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union voting affirmatively on the proposed amendment (s) at the Annual Assembly or at a special session of the Assembly called for that purpose.

#### Article 2

Proposed amendments to the Union's Constitution shall be accompanied by statements of reasons on why the amendments are necessary. The amendment(s) shall be published and distributed by the National General Secretary to all member organizations at least **30 days** before a referendum is held on said amendment(s).

## CHAPTER XXXI

### OATH OF OFFICE

National officers of the Union shall take an oath of public trust:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support, uphold, protect and defend the constitution and by-laws of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas and that I will faithfully discharge the duties and responsibilities of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ to the best of my ability, so help me God."

**CHAPTER XXXII**  
**TRANSITION**

Article 1

This revised constitution shall come into effect upon ratification by two-thirds majority of Member Organizations in **GOOD STANDING** with the Union at an Assembly.

Article 2

The Constitution of the Union as amended in 1996 is hereby abrogated. Notwithstanding all provisions of the 1996 Constitution that are consistent with this Constitution shall be deemed lawful and in effect.

## GLOSSARY

**Federal laws** - the United States Federal laws guiding the activities of a nonprofit public organization and their subsequent amendments.

**Membership Fee** - the fee paid to become a Member Organization of the Union.

**Member Organizations Due** - the yearly fee paid by Member Organizations to Union.

**Chartered Member Organization** - a Member Organization that has been duly accredited by the Board.

**Good Standing** - Member Organizations who conduct chapter elections according to their constitution; have representatives on the Board and the Leadership Council; paid all annual dues; settled any outstanding debts; and carried out its obligations to the Union in accordance with this Constitution.

**Member Organizations** - organizations/institutions that have completed the relevant application Form and have been chartered as a member of the Union and have paid the membership fee.

**Liberia** - the Republic of Liberia.

**Liberian** - any person who is a citizen of Liberia by birth, marriage, or naturalization,

**Liberian Descendant** - one who has Liberian lineage.

**Union Year** - a period of twelve (12) calendar months from the date of General Election.

**Due Process of Law** - ensures that one who is accused has the right to confront his accusers, present evidence and witnesses in his own defense, and shall not be coerced to provide self-incriminating evidence.

AMENDED THIS 26 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D. 2009, IN THE CITY OF DECATUR, STATE OF GEORGIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT THE 35<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

- |                              |             |       |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. Mr. Samuel J'Blee Tiah    | Chairman    | _____ |
| 2. Mr. David K. Flomo        | Co-Chairman | _____ |
| 3. Mr. Jay Nagbe Sloh        | Secretary   | _____ |
| 4. Mr. Isaac Saye Zawolo Jr. | Member      | _____ |
| 5. Mrs. S. Monsio Seedee     | "           | _____ |
| 6. Mr. Wilmot Waltee Kunney  | "           | _____ |
| 7. Mr. Dempster Yallah       | "           | _____ |
| 8. Mr. Vamba Fofana          | "           | _____ |
| 9. Rev. Hananiah Zoe         | "           | _____ |
| 10. Mr. Francis K. Duwana    | "           | _____ |
| 11. Mr. Charles Coleman      | "           | _____ |
| 12. Mr. Albert Kemoh         | "           | _____ |
| 13. Mr. Christian Harris     | "           | _____ |
| 14. Mr. Frank Carter         | "           | _____ |
| 15. Counselor Sam Findley    | Advisor     | _____ |
| 16. *Dr. Joseph Woah-tee     | "           | _____ |

\*Deceased