

CONSTITUTION DEFENDERS FORUM (CDF)



CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

1. We the undersigned Founders, Defenders, and Democrats note that:

- On the 16th and 17th of March 2013 over three million people, representing 94.4% of those who participated in a referendum overwhelmingly voted to adopt a new Constitution for Zimbabwe, which became law in May 2013.
- That Constitution sought to create a break from the past by establishing a constitution that promoted constitutionalism and the rule of law.
- That constitution was established on certain Basic Structures or foundations which included among other things;
 1. The principles of constitutionalism and of the rule of law.
 2. The respect of fundamental human rights.
 3. The principle of good governance which incorporates rotation, renewal anchored by regular free and fair elections, peaceful transfer of power and term limits.
 4. The principle of public transparency in public affairs, good governance, openness and accountability.
 5. The recognition and respect of the liberation struggle.
 6. The principle of devolution and decentralization of power at every level of the state.
 7. The principle of equality, including gender equality and fair and equitable distribution of the country's resources.

- That Constitution also sought to create a bulwark against authoritarian and hegemonic practices, it sought to deal with major and material mischief, permissive principles, practices and material mischief that include among other things
 - a) The concept of a powerful imperial President.
 - b) The concept of a powerful neo patrimonial State unaccountable to citizens
 - c) The culture and legacy of weak first-generation human rights
 - d) The culture and legacy of a human rights discourse that did not recognize second-generation social rights
 - e) The culture and legacy of authoritarian consolidation manifest in decades of one man and one party political domination.

- **FURTHER WHEREAS**, the said Zimbabwean Constitution has been under various legal and extra-legal attacks that included;
 - o Failure to create a new consensus and a new culture founded on constitutionalism and respect for the rule of law.
 - o Failure to fully implement all the provisions of the 2013 Constitution
 - o Failure to align Zimbabwe's current laws with the 2013 Constitution.

- o The introduction in two constitutional bills of major amendments to the constitution that have altered the Basic Structure of the 2013 constitution.
- o The culture and practice of blatant unconstitutional processes including corruption, abuse of State institutions, gross abuse of human rights, and deliberate weakening of the State.
- o The return of the **Imperial** Presidency and the monopolization and centralization of power in the hands of a few.
- o The immediate threats to amend the constitution, particularly on issues concerning executive power and remove limitations on terms of office.

WE HAVE COME TOGETHER, IN A COMMON BOND, IN RESPECT OF WHICH WE HEREBY CREATE A PLATFORM OF DEMOCRATS FOUNDED BY COMMON VALUES OF THE ORIGINAL 2013 ZIMBABWEAN CONSTITUTION, DEFENDING CONSTITUTIONALISM AND THE RULE OF LAW IN ZIMBABWE AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE AND BREADTH OF THE PROGRESSIVE 2013 CONSTITUTION IN A BID TO CEMENT AND PROTECT CONSTITUTIONALISM AND THE RULE OF LAW IN ZIMBABWE. THUS, WE HAVE AGREED TO CREATE A CIVIC SOCIETY ORGANISATION DEFINED BY THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE 1

VISION

1. The creation of a transformative new Zimbabwe founded on the bedrock of constitutionalism, democracy, devolution and the rule of law.

ARTICLE 2

MISSION

2. To be a democratic platform where like-minded constitutional defenders shall take broad responsibility in providing leadership in defense and advancement of the broad cause of constitutionalism, democracy and the rule of law.

ARTICLE 3

NAME AND LEGAL STATUS

- 3 The platform we have created shall be known as the

Constitution Defenders' Forum (CDF)

- 3.1 The Constitution Defenders' Forum shall:-

Be a body corporate capable of suing and being sued, acquiring and disposing of property in its own right and have the power to do everything necessary and conducive to the furtherance of its objectives and principles.

ARTICLE 4

SEPARATE IDENTITY

- 4.1 The Constitution Defenders' Forum (CDF) is not a political party and shall remain a social organization whose sole mandate is to protect the constitution and advance constitutionalism and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.
- 4.2 The CDF is a legal persona, universitas with separate independent existence from any of its members

ARTICLE 5

MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Membership of CDF shall be open to all individuals and organizations who subscribe to the values, principles and objectives set out in this article.
- 5.2 The General Council shall have the right and obligation to accept and refuse the membership application of any individual, organisation, body or person, not being a founder member hereof.

ARTICLE 6

VALUES

- 6.1 CDF and its members shall be bound by the following values:
 - a) Tolerance and respect for each other.
 - b) Collective leadership, teamwork.
 - c) Personal responsibility and accountability.

- d) Respect for the values and principles of constitutionalism, democracy, and the rule of law.
- e) Humble, obedient and servant leadership.
- f) Honesty and integrity
- g) Patriotism.
- h) Ethics, equity, fairness and nation building.
- i) Respect for the dignity of honest work and service.
- j) Respect and the practice of the enduring values of the liberation struggle.
- k) Internationalism and solidarity

ARTICLE 7

PRINCIPLES

- 7.1 The CDF and its members shall be guided by the following principles:
- (a) Working and cooperating with others in an equal, open and respectful manner
 - (b) Respect and observance of collective decision making
 - (c) Equality, diversity, tolerance, and respect for all and each other.
 - (d) Respect for divergent opinions and democratic engagement.
 - (e) Collective, humble and obedient leadership that is not personalized or corrupt.
 - (f) Individual and collective accountability.
 - (g) Non-violence and the peaceful resolution of issues and conflicts.
 - (h) Inclusivity and genuine dialogue amongst compatriots.
 - (i) Constitutionalism, the rule of law, and the respect for rules and constitutions, codes of conduct and behavior and organizational internal rules.

- (j) Equality between sexes
- (k) The right of women to equal participation and say in the affairs of the nation.
- (l) The right of all Zimbabweans, including those resident outside the country to equal, fair and unhindered participation in the governance and other affairs of the nation.

ARTICLE 8

OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 To work together as citizens, in **Defense** and **Protection** of the Zimbabwean constitution in its original form as approved in the referendum of March 2013
- 8.2 To protect and defend the values of constitutionalism and the rule of law embodied in the 2013 original constitution.
- 8.3 To seek to ensure the actualization and strengthening of the founding values and principles of constitutionalism and the rule of law that are defined in the original 2013 constitution.
- 8.4 To ensure that constitutionalism and the rule of law are practiced in Zimbabwe.
- 8.5 To engage in activities, actions and programs that defend the constitution, constitutionalism and the rule of law.
- 8.6 To lobby for and engage in activities that protect the constitution and advance constitutionalism and the rule of law.
- 8.7 To lobby for and engage in activities that protect various constitutional rights in various spheres including areas like devolution, sound economic governance and the fight against

the anti-constitutional practices of corruption, cronyism, cartels and syndicates

- 8.8 To advance second generation constitutional rights that include the right to health, education, a clean environment, shelter and housing among others
- 8.9 To institute, in its own name or to support others, in bringing strategic litigation to advance constitutionalism and or to protect the constitution and constitutionalism.
- 8.10 To engage all compatriots, including the Government, Parliament or any other body, in defense of the constitution and constitutionalism.
- 8.11 To advance for the expansion of rights in the constitution and recognition of new and further rights and any other constitutional principle.
- 8.12 To work with Zimbabweans in the diaspora to advance constitutionalism and pushing for the constitutional right of Zimbabweans in the diaspora to vote
- 8.13 To push and promote the agenda of all necessary political, economic, and legal reforms that would advance the cause of constitutionalism and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.
- 8.14 To campaign and advocate publicly for the defense of the constitution and for the advancement of principles of constitutionalism and the rule of law.
- 8.15 To engage with other Africans and the rest of the world and to work with any organization, locally and internationally, in advancing the cause of constitutionalism and the rule of law.
- 8.16 To own and hold assets, to run and operate bank accounts, to employ or dismiss staff, to receive and hold funds to be used to support the aims and objectives of the CDF

- 8.17 To develop logos, symbols and to open digital platforms including websites
- 8.19 To do anything incidental in support of the spirit and objectives of the CDF

ARTICLE 9

STRUCTURES OF THE CDF

9.1 The CDF shall have the following structures;

- i) The National Conference
- ii) The General Council
- iii) The Working Committee of the General Council
- iv) The Diaspora Working Committee of the General Council
- v) The Steering Committees
- vi) The Federations
- vii) Diaspora Federations
- viii) Chapters
- ix) Wards
- x) Branches

9.2 THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

9.2.1 There shall be a National Conference of the CDF, comprising of the following;

1. All members of the General Council

2. All members of the CDF Federations including the Diaspora Federations
3. Defined members of the local Chapters

9.2.2 Functions of the CDF National Conference

- a) To elect members for the Working Committee of the CDF
- b) To provide policy directives to the CDF
- c) To receive any report of the General Council

9.3 Meeting of the National Conference

- a) The National Conference shall meet once in every five (5) years, provided that the General Council shall have the power to call for an extraordinary meeting of the National Conference.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

- 9.4 There shall be a General Council of the CDF comprising of:
- i) All the members of the Working Committee of the CDF.
 - ii) The diaspora Working Committee
 - iii) Three members from each of the CDF Federations, provided that at least one shall be a woman.
 - iv) Four members representing and appointed by veterans of Zimbabwe Liberation Struggle.
 - v) Two members appointed by a National Association representing Student Unions.
 - vi) Two members nominated and appointed by Congress of Trade Unions.

- vii) Two members appointed by an association representing religious organizations.
- viii) Two members appointed by an Association representing the informal sector.
- ix) Two members representing business and professional associations.
- x) Five other committee members approved by General Council.

9.5 **Functions of the General Council**

- a) To be the supreme organ of the CDF between the National Conferences
- b) To provide policy directives to the Working Committee and to any other organ of the CDF
- c) To receive any report from the Working Committee and federations
- d) To adopt the recommendations of the Working Committee on the issues of
 - i. Policy programs of the CDF.
 - ii. The operational programs of the CDF.
 - iii. To elect and appoint members of the Working Committee.

9.6 The convener shall chair the General Council and the quorum of the same shall be half (50%) of its members.

ARTICLE 10

THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

- 10.1 There shall be a Working Committee of the General Council that shall comprise of the following;
- (i) The Convener
 - (ii) Two Deputy Conveners
 - (iii) The National Chairperson
 - (iv) The Deputy National Chairperson
 - (v) The Diaspora Chairperson
 - (vi) Two Deputy Diaspora Chairpersons
 - (vii) The Secretary General
 - (viii) The Deputy Secretary General
 - (ix) The Diaspora Secretary General
 - (x) The International Relations Secretary
 - (xi) The Deputy International Relations Secretary
 - (xii) The Treasurer
 - (xiii) The Deputy Treasurer
 - (xiv) International Resource Mobiliser
 - (xv) The Director of Programs
 - (xvi) The Deputy Director of Programs
 - (xvii) The National Coordinator Mobilizing and Recruitment
 - (xviii) The Deputy National Coordinator Mobilizing and Recruitment
 - (xix) The National Spokesperson
 - (xx) The Deputy National Spokespersons
 - (xxi) The Diaspora Spokesperson
 - (xxii) The National Coordinator for Networks and Synergies
 - (xxiii) The Gender Chairperson
 - (xxiv) The Youth Chairperson
 - (xxv) The Local Government Spokesperson
 - (xxvi) The Devolution Spokesperson
 - (xxvii) The Freedom Fighters' Spokesperson

- (xxviii) Deputy Freedom Fighters' Spokesperson
- (xxix) The Students' Spokesperson
- (xxx) The Parliament Coordinator
- (xxxi) Religious and Spiritual Groupings Coordinator
- (xxxii) Deputy Religious and Spiritual Coordinator
- (xxxiii) The Traditional Leaders Spokesperson
- (xxxiv) The Secretary for Labor
- (xxxv) The Legal secretary
- (xxxvi) The Lead Researcher
- (xxxvii) Chairperson of the Elders Council
- (xxxviii) Five other committee members

10.2 Functions of the Working Committee

- a) To appoint Sub Committees of the CDF
- b) To design and implement all programs of the CDF consistent with the objectives and principles.
- c) To ensure that all the sub-committees know their functions and mandate in terms of this constitution.
- d) To supervise the work of the Diaspora Working Committee, Federations and Local Chapters.
- e) To prepare and receive any policies, programs, and interventions of CDF
- f) To design and implement the programs of CDF
- g) To hold the assets of the CDF
- h) To recruit and dismiss employees
- i) To defend and institute all legal proceedings for and against CDF.
- j) To engage, design, participate in and institute strategic litigation for and on behalf of CDF
- k) To prepare and submit written monthly reports on the activities of the CDF

- l) To make decisions and provide clarity on any matter not covered by these articles.
- 10.3 The Working Committee shall meet at least once every month, provided that the quorum shall be at least 50% + 1 of the leadership.
- 10.4 The Founding members of the Working Committee shall serve a period of five years.
- 10.5 After the lapse of five years, the next leadership of the CDF shall be elected at the National Conference.
- 10.6 Any member of the Working Committee shall be eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two terms of office in the same capacity

ARTICLE 11

Diaspora Working Committee

11.1 There shall be a Diaspora Working Committee of the CDF which shall be chaired by the Diaspora Chairperson. The Diaspora Working Committee shall report to the main working committee and shall comprise the following members:

- i) The Chairperson and two Deputy Diaspora Chairpersons
- ii) The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of a country Diaspora Federation
- iii) The Secretary General Diaspora
- iv) The Deputy Secretary General Diaspora
- v) The Spokesperson Diaspora
- vi) The Deputy Spokesperson Diaspora
- vii) The Secretary for Legal Affairs Diaspora
- viii) The Deputy Secretary for Legal Affairs Diaspora
- ix) The International Resource Mobiliser Diaspora

- x) The Deputy International Resource Mobiliser Diaspora
- xi) The Director of Programs
- xii) The Deputy Director of Programs
- xiii) The Gender Chairperson Diaspora
- xiv) The Youth Chairperson Diaspora
- xv) The Diaspora International Relations Spokesperson
- xvi) The Freedom Fighters Diaspora Spokesperson
- xvii) The Policy and Research Secretary
- xviii) Secretary For Networks and Synergies
- xix) Secretary For Mobilization and Recruitment
- xx) The Students Spokesperson Diaspora
- xxi) The Secretary for the Diaspora Vote Diaspora
- xxii) The Secretary for Religious and Spiritual Coordinator
- xxiii) The Deputy Secretary for Religious and Spiritual Coordinator
- xxiv) Five other Committee Members

Each respective member shall work in liaison with his or her counterpart in the National Working Committee

The functions of the Diaspora Working Committee shall be:

- a) To recruit members and build CDF structures in the diaspora
- b) To push for and advance the aims and objectives of the CDF in the diaspora
- c) To push for and advance the cause for constitutionalism in the diaspora

- d) To raise funds for the CDF in the Diaspora
- e) To push for the diaspora vote
- f) To ensure that there is no vacuum in the event of any unlawful state activities that threaten the functions of the working committee in Zimbabwe
- g) To report to the National Working Committee (NWC) once a month

Meetings of the Diaspora Working Group

- a) They shall meet once a month virtually or in person
- b) 50% shall constitute a quorum
- c) The Deputy Convener local and the National Chair shall be ex officio members of the Diaspora Working Committee

ARTICLE 12

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12.1 There shall be a Management Committee of the Working Committee whose members shall be the following:

- (i) The Convener
- (ii) The Deputy Conveners
- (iii) Diaspora Chairperson
- (iv) Diaspora Secretary General
- (v) The National Chairperson
- (vi) The Deputy National Chairperson
- (vii) The Secretary General

- (viii) The Deputy Secretary General
- (ix) The International Relations Secretary
- (x) The Deputy International Relations Secretary
- (xi) The Director of Programs
- (xii) The Deputy Director of Programs
- (xiii) The National Coordinator Mobilizing and Recruitment
- (xiv) The Deputy National Coordinator Mobilizing and Recruitment
- (xv) The National Spokesperson
- (xvi) The Deputy National Spokespersons
- (xvii) Diaspora Spokesperson
- (xviii) The Gender Chairperson
- (xix) The Youth Chairperson
- (xx) The Local Government Spokesperson
- (xxi) The Freedom Fighters Spokesperson
- (xxii) The Students' Spokesperson
- (xxiii) The Parliament Coordinator

12.2 Functions of the Management Committee:

- a) Run the day to day affairs of the CDF
- b) To implement all the resolutions of the Working Committee
- c) To ensure that all office bearers are carrying out their duties
- d) To attend to any urgent issues pending from the Working Committee

ARTICLE 13

THE CONVENER OF CDF

13.1 There shall be a convener of the CDF whose functions are the following:

- a) To lead and drive the agenda and the objective of the CDF consistent with this constitution.
- b) To be the face and chief spokesperson
- c) To call for and chair any meetings of the working committee and management committee.
- d) To defend and uphold the constitution of the CDF
- e) To ensure that there is collective leadership within the organization.

13.2 Deputy Conveners

There shall be two deputy conveners based locally whose functions are as follows

- a) To assist the convener in carrying out functions of the Convener in advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF.
- b) To advise the convener on matters of vision, strategy and implementation

13.2.2 Deputy Convener – Nation Building and Devolution

One of the deputy Conveners shall have the following responsibilities

- a) To build a national consensus in defense of the constitution
- b) To oversee the creation of a broader alliance or the broader front around the organization
- c) To enter into dialogue with other organisations and authorities in advancing the cause of a new consensus and a new beginning founding on constitutionalism and rule of law.
- d) To push the constitutional agenda of devolution, decentralization and federalism

13.2.3 Deputy Convener – Admin

The second deputy convener shall have the following specific functions

- a) To oversee and ensure the sound administration and funding of the CDF, in particular to ensure and oversee that the Finance and Administration Committee is carrying out its mandate in terms of this constitution
- b) To oversee the day to day running of the sub committees of the CDF
- c) To ensure that administrative systems that meet the principles of transparency and good governance are set up in the CDF

13.3 The Diaspora National Chairperson

There shall be a national diaspora chairperson based in the diaspora whose functions are as follows

- a) To liaise with the convener and help to set up diaspora federations and chapters in all countries outside Zimbabwe
- b) To internationalize the aims and objectives of the CDF in diaspora communities
- c) To oversee the creation of diaspora structures, federations and chapters in the diaspora
- d) To liaise with the international relations spokesperson in advancing the aims and objectives of CDF
- e) In liaison with the International Resources Mobiliser to raise funds to assist the CDF
- f) To assist in cutting edge research and studies aimed at achieving the aims and objectives of the CDF
- g) To chair the Diaspora Steering Committees

13.4 The National Chairperson

Functions and duties of the National Chairperson

- a) The National Chairperson shall ensure the health and harmony of the CDF be the heartbeat of the CDF and shall ensure that all organs office bearers and organs of CDF are functioning and fulfilling their constitutional obligations.
- b) The National Chairperson shall be responsible for ensuring discipline in the CDF and for setting up relevant and appropriate disciplinary procedures and hearings with the approval of the General Council.
- c) The national Chairperson shall chair national conference and the General Council
- d) Shall endeavor to create broad alliances with other organizations to promote constitutionalism and the rule of law
- e) Shall have the responsibility and function the work and activities of CDF are spread across all regions of Zimbabwe in an equitable manner.
- f) Shall ensure the presence of the CDF particularly in rural communities and marginalized areas

13.5 The Secretary General

Functions and duties of the Secretary General:

- a) To be responsible for the day to day running and functioning of the organization
- b) Shall ensure that budgets are prepared and funding is sourced to run the day to day affairs of the CDF
- c) Shall prepare and ensure that plans, strategies and programs of each department are prepared and implemented
- d) Shall ensure that sound administrative systems are set up in the CDF and that necessary procedural and administrative manuals are prepared for the running of the CDF

- e) Shall ensure that all funds and amounts received and spent by the CDF are fully accounted and audited
- f) To prepare administrative reports for the General Council
- g) To keep all records of the organization and to carry out any secretarial tasks of the organization.
- h) To supervise all members of staff of the organisation.
- i) To hold in custody all the assets of the organisation
- j) The functions shall also apply for the Diaspora Secretary General

13.6 The Treasurer

Functions and duties of the Treasurer:

- a) With the coordination of the National Resource Mobiliser to raise funds for the CDF
- b) Prepare and administer Income and expenditure for CDF
- c) To keep books of accounts for the CDF
- d) To prepare financial statements of the CDF
- e) To ensure that funds of the CDF are audited annually
- f) To develop digital systems consistent with international standards that enhance the transparent , sound handling and reporting of CDF finances
- g) The functions shall also apply for the Diaspora Treasurer

13.7 Director of Programs

- a) To develop advocacy programs , campaigns, rallies, town hall meetings, village meetings and activities of the CDF
- b) To work with the mobilizing secretary in recruiting members and building a database for the CDF
- c) To build the structures of the CDF from the bottom , in particular Branches, Wards, Chapters and Federations

- d) To ensure that there is a CDF structure in every Branch, Ward, Chapter and Federation across the country
- e) To oversee the work and activities of the local structures in particular the Federations, Chapters, Wards and Branches
- f) To develop training and education programs for officers of the CDF
- g) To recommend disciplinary proceedings against any member of the CDF to General Council
- h) To monitor and oversee the Women and Youth desks
- i) To design a strategic plan of action in mobilizing and resisting any amendments to the constitution of Zimbabwe
- j) To carry out joint activities with other organizations and individuals who share the same objectives with the CDF

13.8 Spokesperson

- a) To be the CDF Spokesperson and to arrange press conferences and issue press statements
- b) To develop the CDF's media and communications strategy
- c) To develop and implement the CDF's social media strategy and campaign
- d) To coordinate and control the work of the Deputy Spokespersons and the Diaspora Spokespersons so that there is message consistency and harmony
- e) To chair and lead the Media and Communications Steering committee

13.9 The Secretary for Parliamentary Coordination

- a) In liaison with the Director of Programs, shall define programs of action targeted at Parliament and members of Parliament in ensuring that

- I. The views of the CDF in opposing and resisting any constitutional changes contra to the 2013 constitution are passed on and received
- II. Ensuring Parliament and its members are persuaded to reject any laws and statutory instruments that are contrary to the 2013 constitution
- III. Ensuring the physical presence of CDF members in any parliamentary outreach or plenary, that will discuss and receive evidence on any constitutional bill seeking to amend the 2013 constitution or any law or legislation that undermines the 2013 constitution and principles of constitutionalism and the rule of law
- IV. In liaison with the Convener ensure that the CDF's positions on any proposed amendments or constitutional bill are considered and debated in and by parliament

13.10 Secretary for Networks and Synergies

- a) In liaison with the Director of Programs shall establish networks and communities in various social groups in Zimbabwe including NGOs, Vendors, Cross Border Traders, Small Scale Miners, Football supporters, Burial Societies, Transporters and the Unemployed
- b) Build a database of these networks and social groups

13.11 The Secretary for Mobilizing and Recruitment

- a) In liaison with the Director of Programs to recruit new members for CDF
- b) To ensure that data forms and membership lists are prepared and submitted to the Director of Programs
- c) In conjunction with the Director of Programs, to mobilize support for any program of the CDF including Rallies, Town Hall meetings and activities sanctioned by section 57 of the constitution of Zimbabwe

13.12 Gender Chairperson

- a) Shall lead the Women's Assembly of the CDF
- b) Shall develop Women's programs that will promote the aims and objectives of the CDF
- c) Shall work with other Women Organizations in advancing the cause of the Constitution
- d) Shall work with the Students Chair in advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF in High Schools and Tertiary institutions
- e) Shall work with the Labor chairperson in trade unions in advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF

13.13 Youth Chairperson

- a) Shall lead the Youth Assembly of the CDF
- b) Shall develop Youth programs that will promote the aims and objectives of the CDF
- c) Shall work with other Youth Organizations in advancing the cause of the Constitution
- d) Shall work with the Students Chair in advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF in High Schools and Tertiary institutions
- e) Shall work with the Labor chairperson in trade unions in advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF

13.14 Local Government Spokesperson

- a) Shall work with elected Councilors including elected Provincial Council representatives to advance the objective and aims of CDF
- b) Shall advance the cause of Devolution and develop programs and plans of action to advance the ideals of devolution countrywide
- c) Shall recruit and advocate the cause of the CDF to all elected Councilors
- d) Shall lobby and advocate Councilors against any proposed constitutional amendments that seek to erode the 2013 constitution

- e) Shall develop an Advocacy program targeted at councils across the length and breadth of Zimbabwe

13.15 Secretary for Labor

There shall be a secretary for labor whose functions are

- a) To work with Trade Unions, Workers' Committees and Employment Councils in advancing the cause of the constitution and advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF
- b) To build linkages and synergies with Trade Unions and Workers' Committees in advancing the cause of constitutionalism
- c) To recruit from Trade Unions and Workers' Committees, members to the CDF

13.16 Secretary for Students

There shall be a Secretary for Students whose functions are

- a) To work with Student Unions, Students Representative Committees and any other student bodies in advancing the cause of the constitution and advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF
- b) To build linkages and synergies with Student Unions, Students' Representative Committees and any other students body in advancing the cause of constitutionalism
- c) To recruit from Student Unions, Students' Representative Committees and any other students body or Institution of learning, members to the CDF

ARTICLE 14

THE STEERING COMMITTEES OF THE CDF

14.1 There shall be Steering Committees of the CDF which shall report to the Working Committee

- a) The Steering Committees shall meet at least once every month.
- b) The quorum for each meeting shall be half of its members

- c) The size and membership of each Steering Committee shall be decided and determined by the Working Committee

ARTICLE 15

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION STEERING COMMITTEE

There shall be a Finance and Administration Steering Committee which will be chaired by the Secretary General and comprising the following members:

- i) Deputy Secretary General
- ii) Secretary for Resource Mobilization
- iii) Youth Chair
- iv) Women Chair
- v) Director of Programs
- vi) Parliamentary Coordinator
- vii) The Deputy Convener Admin (Local) shall be ex officio

The functions of the Finance and Administration Steering Committee shall be:

- (a) Attend to all administrative issues including maintenance of asset registers, acquisition and disposal of properties.
- (b) Prepare financial reports.
- (c) Prepare annual budget.
- (d) Ensure funding of CDF.
- (e) Prepare investment strategies and advice to CDF.
- (f) Recommend the recruitment, hiring, and dismissal of employees.
- (g) Deal with all the legal matters involving CDF and the crafting of any necessary agreements.

- (h) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities, which reports shall be tabled before the General Council.

ARTICLE 16

ORGANISING AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

There shall be an Organizing and Advocacy committee chaired by the Director of Programs and shall comprise of the following members:

- i) Deputy Director of Programs
- ii) Youth Chair
- iii) Gender Chairperson
- iv) Recruitment and Mobilization
- v) Networks and Synergies Secretary
- vi) War Veterans Spokesperson
- vii) Churches Spokesperson
- viii) Student
- ix) Labor
- x) National Chairperson and Deputy National Chair are ex officio member.
- xi) Five (5) Committee Members

The functions of the Organizing and Advocacy Committee shall be:

- (a) Develop and implement, with the approval of the General Council, a Mobilization and Advocacy strategy for CDF.
- (b) Ensure that programs and activities are being carried out in terms of these Articles.
- (c) Maintain CDF structures
- (d) Form and coordinate Diaspora structures
- (e) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities, which reports shall be tabled before the Governing Council.

- (f) Develop and prepare strategies and campaigns in defense of the constitution of Zimbabwe 2013
- (g) To push and mobilize for a National Referendum in respect of any proposed constitutional bill seeking to amend the constitution

ARTICLE 17

MEDIA INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

There shall be a Media, Information and Publicity Committee chaired by the Spokesperson and shall comprise the following members:

- i) Diaspora spokesperson
- ii) The Deputy Spokespersons
- iii) The Diaspora Deputy Spokesperson
- iv) The Gender Chairperson
- v) The Youth Chairperson,
- vi) The Students' Spokesperson
- vii) The Deputy Secretary General
- viii) Lead Researcher
- ix) Church Spokesperson
- x) Five (5) other committee members

The functions of the Media, Information and Publicity Committee shall be:

- (a) Prepare and execute, subject to approval by the General Council, the communication and information strategy of CDF.
- (b) Prepare a strategy for the building of CDF's brand and its enhancement thereof.
- (c) Supervise and coordinate CDF's communication and media strategy.

- (d) In consultation with the National Chairperson, issue and hold press conferences and issue statements for and on behalf of CDF.
- (e) Craft and design and execute the publicity campaign of CDF.
- (f) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities which reports shall be tabled before the General Council.

ARTICLE 18

THE DEVOLUTION COMMITTEE

There shall be a Devolution Committee which will be chaired by the Local Government Spokesperson and shall comprise the following members:

- i) The Deputy Spokesperson for Local Government
- ii) The Diaspora Local Government Spokesperson
- iii) The War Veterans Spokesperson
- iv) The Spokesperson
- v) The Deputy Secretary General
- vi) The Traditional Leaders' Spokesperson
- vii) The Parliamentary Affairs Coordinator
- viii) The Secretary General for the Diaspora
- ix) The Chairperson of the Elders
- x) Youth Chairperson
- xi) Gender Chairperson

The functions of the Devolution Committee shall be:

- a) To study and understand the issue of Devolution and Decentralization.
- b) To design programs, to push the agenda for Devolution and Decentralization.
- c) To design campaigns connected with the issues of Devolution and Decentralization.

ARTICLE 19

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

There shall be an Elections Committee chaired by the National Chairperson and shall comprise the following members:

- i) The Secretary General
- ii) The Gender Chairperson
- iii) The Youth Chairperson
- iv) The Director of Programs
- v) The Mobilizing and Recruitment Secretary
- vi) The Students Spokesperson
- vii) Five (5) Committee Members

Functions of the Elections Committee:

- (a) Study, research and understand past elections in Zimbabwe and elsewhere and compile comprehensive reports dealing with all aspects of elections in Zimbabwe;
- (b) Attend to all election requirements, particularly during elections.
- (c) Advise and recommend to the General Council, the election and campaign strategy, and identify election candidates and agents.
- (d) Produce reports, studies, and recommendations on electoral legislation and electoral reform.

- (e) Coordinate and link up with the various election-related bodies for the purposes of research and information sharing.
- (f) Work closely with the Policy and Research Committee to come up with appropriate policies and recommendations in respect of elections.
- (g) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities which shall be tabled before the Governing Council.

ARTICLE 20

POLICY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

There shall be a Policy, Research and Publications Committee which will be chaired by the Lead Researcher with the following members:

- i) The Legal Secretary
- ii) The Youth Chairperson
- iii) The Gender Chairperson
- iv) The Labor Spokesperson
- v) The Deputy Secretary General
- vi) The Networks and Synergies Secretary
- vii) Three (3) committee members

Functions of the Policy, Research and Publications Committee:

- (a) Develop a program for policy development
- (b) Oversee research and publication of CDF policies.
- (c) Develop policy documents which will be the basis of CDF's programs of action.
- (d) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities which reports which shall be tabled before the Governing Council.

ARTICLE 21

WOMEN and GENDER COMMITTEE

There shall be a Women's gender Committee to be chaired by the Gender Chairperson and shall comprise of the following members:

- i) The Deputy Gender Chairperson
- ii) The Deputy Secretary General
- iii) The Youth Chairperson
- iv) The Students' Spokesperson
- v) The War Veterans Spokesperson
- vi) The Labor Spokesperson
- vii) Five (5) Committee members

The functions of the Women and gender Committee shall be:

- (a) To Promote and advance the rights of women as defined in the 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe in its original state.
- (b) To mobilize women to the cause, aims and objectives of the CDF
- (c) Ensure that women are fully involved in CDF activities including policy-making, events and activities.
- (d) Formulate and carry out program for the Women
- (e) Endeavour to mobilize Women in the country to unite behind the CDF and actively participate in the struggle to create a democratic change for the country.
- (f) Ensure that women make full contribution to the development of Zimbabwe.
- (g) Promote the ideas of Gender Equity and Equality in all facets of life and structures.
- (h) Formulate and carry out policies and programs for women.
- (i) Recruit female students for membership to the CDF
- (j) Organize training and cadreship programs in education institutions.
- (k) Liaise with local and international women's bodies and form synergies with likeminded bodies.
- (l) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities which reports shall be tabled before the Governing Council.

ARTICLE 22

YOUTH COMMITTEE

There shall be a Youth Committee to be chaired by the Youth Chairperson and shall comprise the following members:

- i) The Deputy Youth Chairperson
- ii) The Gender Chairperson
- iii) The Students Spokesperson
- iv) Five (5) Committee Members

Functions of the Youth Committee:

- (a) Mobilize the youth to the cause and objectives of the CDF
- (b) Ensure that youths are fully involved in CDF activities including policy making events and activities.
- (c) Formulate and carry out programs for the youth.
- (d) Endeavour to mobilize youth in the country to unite behind the CDF and actively participate in the struggle to create a democratic change for the country.
- (e) Ensure that young people make full contribution to the development of Zimbabwe.
- (f) Promote the ideas of gender equity and equality in all facts of life and structures especially amongst the youth.
- (g) Formulate and carry out programs of the youth.
- (h) Recruit students for membership to the CDF.
- (i) Organize training and cadetship programs in education institutions.
- (j) Liaise with local and international students bodies.
- (k) Prepare and submit monthly written reports on its activities which reports shall be tabled before the Governing Council.

Article 23

Legal and Strategic Litigation Steering Committee

There shall be a Legal and Strategic Litigation Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary for Legal Affairs and comprising the following members:

- i) The Secretary General
- ii) The Deputy Secretary General
- iii) The Lead Researcher
- iv) The Local Government spokesperson,
- v) The Youth Chairperson,
- vi) The Students Spokesperson
- vii) The War Veterans Spokesperson
- viii) The Spokesperson
- ix) The Secretary for Legal affairs Diaspora
- x) Three (3) Committee members

Functions of the Legal and Strategic Litigation Committee:

- a) To institute proceedings in the name of CDF or any other person or body in advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF
- b) To work with other organizations including lawyers for human rights in advancing the cause for constitutionalism and in defense of the constitution
- c) To take part in any strategic litigation that advances constitutionalism and the rule of law in Zimbabwe
- d) To set up a legal fund to protect members of the CDF and to defend members of the CDF and any other citizen victimized for advancing the cause of constitutionalism and the rule of law and defending and protecting the rule of law
- e) To set up a welfare desk to provide assistance to victims and targets arrested, injured or harmed while advancing the aims and objectives of the CDF

- f) To work with international bodies in advancing constitutionalism and the rule of law at global level

Article 24

Freedom fighters Steering committee

There shall be a Freedom Fighters Steering Committee which will be chaired by the War Veterans Spokesperson and shall comprise the following members:

- i) The Deputy War Veterans spokesperson
- ii) The National Chairperson
- iii) The Secretary General
- iv) The Gender Chairperson
- v) The Youth Chairperson
- vi) The Students spokesperson
- vii) The Director of Programs
- viii) The Mobilizing and Recruitment Secretary
- ix) Five (5) Committee Members

Functions of the War Veterans' Steering Committee shall be:

- a) To advance the interests of War Veterans in relation to the 2013 constitution
- b) To ensure that War Veterans are fully involved in CDF activities including policy making, events and activities
- c) Formulate and carry out programs for War Veterans in line with the aims and objectives of the CDF

ARTICLE 25

FEDERATION STRUCTURES

1. There shall be Federation structures in every province of Zimbabwe that shall be run by a federation working committee whose offices and functions shall be run by a federation working group.
2. There shall be federation working group in the provinces of Zimbabwe – 1. Bulawayo, 2. Matebeleland North, 3. Matebeleland South, 4. Midlands South, 5. Midlands North 6. Mashonaland West, 7. Mashonaland East, 8. Mashonaland Central, 9. Masvingo, 10. Manicaland, 11. Chitungwiza Province, 12. Harare.
3. There shall be a federation working committee in every federation which shall consist the following members

1. The Chairperson,
2. Deputy Chairpersons,
3. The Secretary General,
4. Deputy Secretary General,
5. The Treasurer ,
6. The deputy Treasurer
7. The Organizing Secretary,
8. The Deputy Organizing Secretary,
9. The Secretary For Recruitment,
10. The Federation Spokesperson,
11. Deputy Federation Spokesperson,
12. Secretary For Legal Affairs,
13. The Deputy Secretary For Legal Affairs,
14. Freedom Fighters Spokesperson,
15. The Deputy Freedom Fighters Spokesperson,
16. The Chairperson of the Federation Women's Wing
17. The Chairperson of the Federation Youth Wing,
18. The Labour Secretary,
19. The Secretary Mobilization Recruitment,

20. The Federation Secretary For International Affairs,
21. Five other committee members,
22. The Secretary for Religious and Spiritual Affairs
23. The Deputy Secretary for Religious and Spiritual Affairs

Meetings of The Federation Working Committee

The federation working committee shall meet

- a) At least once a month
- b) And 50% of its members constitute a quorum
- c) The functions of the federation working committee
 1. To push and advance the objectives of the CDF in every province include:
 2. To design programs of action in protecting and resisting any assaults on the 2013 Constitution
 3. To organize campaigns, meetings, door to doors, and other programs of action advancing the constitutional protection and advancing constitutionalism and rule of law.
 4. Recruiting members and maintaining databases of all members.
 5. Fundraising for the CDF.
 6. Setting up and supervising the processes of selection and setting up of chapters, wards and branches
 7. There shall be diaspora federation structures in every country outside Zimbabwe where there is membership of CDF which shall be constituted by having local federation structures.

8. The diaspora working committee together with the organizing committee shall oversee the establishment of diaspora federal structures

ARTICLE 26

LOCAL CHAPTERS

1. There shall be local chapters in every district with the structures which shall mirror those at National level.
2. Local Chapter structures shall be supervised by Federal Structures.

ARTICLE 27

WARD STRUCTURES

1. There shall be ward structures in every local Chapter whose leadership shall mirror those at National level.
2. Ward structures shall be supervised by the local Chapter Structures
- 3.

ARTICLE 28

AMENDMENT AND ADOPTION TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. This constitution shall come into effect on the day of the formal launch of the CDF
2. Any amendment to this constitution shall be made by the Working Committee and adopted by the General Council.

3. The Working Committee shall have the function of expanding this constitution and pushing for its final adoption, within one year after the launch of the CDF.

ARTICLE 29

Disciplinary Proceedings

- I. The General Council shall come up with a disciplinary manual which applies to all CDF members

ARTICLE 30

1. If any member fundamentally violates the spirit, values, objectives, and principles of these articles or commits any act, including by omission. The Working Committee shall define the disciplinary process to deal with such omission.

Signed at _____ this _____ Day of _____ 2025

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE