

**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
GHANA FIRST PLATFORM**



**Motto: Ghana First, Coalition for Reform**

**PREAMBLE**

IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD;

We the members of Ghana First Platform (GFP), hereafter called the Ghana First Coalition

IN EMPATHY with and loyalty to our fellow compatriots, in the hope that we may by our actions this day help to further the development of a peaceful, prosperous democratic and economically developed Ghana and

IN EXERCISE of our natural and inalienable right to establish a framework of government which shall secure for ourselves and posterity the blessing of liberty, equality of opportunity and prosperity:

IN A SPIRIT of friendship, unity and peace with all peoples of the world;

AND IN SOLEMN declaration and affirmation of our commitment to;

Freedom, Justice, Probity and Accountability;

The Principle of Universal Adult Suffrage;

The Rule of Law;

The protection and preservation of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom, Unity and Stability for our Nation;

DO HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

This given birth to this 17th day of August 2020 by the registered Ghana First Platform (hereinafter referred to as the Association) who have freely decided to enact this Constitution.

The Provisions herein agreed to are effective from the 17th August, 2020, for the All persons of independent persuasion, Civil Society Organisations, Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Aspirants, Political Activist Groups, and Individuals that have given their signatures to it who are covered by this Constitution.

In furtherance of its purpose, the Ghana First Platform has adopted the People's Charter<sup>1</sup> as the binding charter for all members.

All groups that officially seek membership of the GFP must sign unto the People's Charter and adhere to its principles, objectives and goals as the guiding framework and mechanisms for collective advocacy and campaign in form of a coalition.

#### **ARTICLE 1: NAME**

The name of the Association of Independent thinkers, Independent Aspirants, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Political Activist Groups, and Individuals shall be called Ghana First Platform, abbreviated as GFP.

#### **(A): PURPOSE**

It is the intention of GFP that this Constitution shall promote and improve the relations between Independent political thinkers, non-partisan political activists, Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Aspirants and Associate Member organizations so as to consolidate their collective efforts into a united front, that shall function as a political coalition to seek a mandate to implement the objectives of the People's Charter. The said united front shall be called the Ghana First Coalition for

Reform. The GFP shall represent the said groups under the overarching federation of Ghana First Coalition for Reform and engage with Ghana's Electoral Commission to ensure equity in the discharges of its responsibilities of promoting democracy for good governance in Ghana, especially during the electoral process.

**(B): VISION**

A nation that delivers prosperity for transformed lives of all citizens of Ghana to enjoy decent living standards for a happy life. The GFP envisions prosperity for all and not a few.

**(C): MISSION**

Mobilizing and galvanizing a united front that facilitates a more effective campaign by Independent thinkers, their allies and their candidates to win a mandate to govern and / or influence others to govern in accordance with the commitments undertaken as a social contract with citizens of Ghana in the People's Charter.

**(D): AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To bring together Independent thinkers, Civil Society Organizations, Independent non-partisan political pressure groups and Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Aspirants in Ghana to form one united force to pursue the key constitutional and policy reforms that will help transform Ghana's system for governance, economy and social reconstruction. The association may act on behalf of any member or the whole to independently pursue their political objectives and to protect their Political, Legal and Constitutional rights under the laws of Ghana.
2. To serve as one UNITED FORCE within the framework of an overarching federation of groups and organizations in a coalition to pursue, uphold and defend the human, civil, legal, constitutional and economic rights of citizens as

outlined in the goals and objectives of fundamental reforms proposed for Ghana's 1992 constitution in the People's Charter.

3. To collaborate with the National Peace Council, Traditional Councils, Religious organizations and other Civil Society Organizations to champion the national interest for a more inclusive and peaceful society in Ghana.
4. To protect the dignity of all cultural traditions in Ghana and ensure freedom of worship as guaranteed in the constitution; and to protect entrepreneurs, their businesses and families from harm due to deliberate politically motivated persecution as a means of coercion, intimidation or retribution for their independent stance on political issues that are in the National Interest.
5. The association (GFP) shall serve as the focal overarching organ for formulation of a coalition campaign strategy, oversight of campaign operations, and mobilization of funds for all members of the Ghana First coalition (including organizations in political pacts with GFP) and / or, their parliamentary and Presidential aspirants that are formally endorsed as Independent Parliamentary Candidates and / or the Alternative Independent Presidential Candidate, subject to their successful registration with the Electoral Commission in Ghana to participate in any general election or bye elections.
6. To contend for recognition and proper representation of all members that are Independent Aspirants in connection with national issues which concern and affect the wellbeing of GFP and attainment of its agenda for reform.
7. To collaborate with any agencies and non-governmental organizations that have shared objectives to ensure representation of the Ghana First Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate, his/her Vice Presidential Candidate and

the Ghana First Coalition's Independent Parliamentary Aspirants in national and community debates during national general elections.

8. To issue press releases, organize conferences, seminars and campaigns that mount pressure on both the major opposition and ruling Government of the day to cooperate and set an agenda to implement the proposed reforms of the People's charter intended to provide improved governance that resets Ghana on a path of prosperity for all and not a few, for the common good of Ghana.

## ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the Association shall be voluntary and be open to individuals, informal and registered non-partisan political groups, all Independent Parliamentary Aspirants and Independent Presidential Aspirants that are endorsed by GFP and also meet all the conditions to successfully register with the electoral commission, and also suitable associate member organizations as may be determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of GFP in consultation with the Governing Board.
2. Associate membership would be open to all Socio-economic and Political Pressure Groups that include Labour Unions, Organized institutions of stakeholders at the recommendation of three members of the GFP in writing. Such written applications to the Executive secretary shall be accompanied by the recommendation of three members who are in good standing.
3. During Election Campaigns Political Parties that wish to rally behind the reform agenda of GFP and accept to stand down their Presidential Candidate and /or Parliamentary Candidates in favour of GFP's coalition endorsed Parliamentary Candidates and the Alternative Independent Presidential Candidate, may be accepted as associate members of GFP for the purpose of the coalition campaign under terms specifically proposed in a pact that is

accepted by the National Executive Committee of the GFP and endorsed by the Governing Board of GFP. The Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate and a representative of the Independent Parliamentary Candidates must be present in person at both the acceptance and endorsement stages of such a pact. The Ghana First Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate shall have veto powers over such a pact only during his tenure of service as described in Article 5 section 3.

4. Membership of the Association (GFP) begins by means of written application to the Executive Secretary of the Association. The applicant will be required to fill an application form and attach the following documents and submit to Executive Secretary of the Association:
  1. The constitution of the prospective applicant's organization
  2. A reference letter from two members of the GFP in good standing
  3. Application fee (determined by the National Secretariat of GFP in consultation with the Governing Board)
  4. Individuals – NIA card and Voter's registration Card
  5. Registered Political Activist Groups – Registration certificate and Declaration of Agenda
  6. CSO's - Registration Certificate, Articles of Association and Objectives
  7. Associate Members – Registration Certificate/ Articles of Incorporation,, and A Resolution by National Executive Council and Signed Acceptance of Terms (Pact) in the case of a political party
  8. Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Aspirants – Certificate of Clearance from CID, Tax Clearance certificate, Signatories of endorsement by two registered voters in a constituency for Parliamentary Aspirants and three registered voters in each of three Districts per each region for all Presidential Aspirants.

5. Political Parties - Political parties may join the GFP Coalition through a pact to prosecute an election campaign as partners. The GFP's coalition is a specific tool/vehicle for an electoral campaign and shall be dissolved after each election. The GFP coalition will support field Parliamentary candidates in constituencies where it sees fit and will support field a coalition Presidential candidate when it sees fit, and shall follow processes and procedures recommended by GFP's National Executive Committee and approved by GFP's Governing Board. Political parties in coalition with GFP are not members of the GFP organization.

6. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. A member of GFP shall cease to be a member, if the member:
  - a. Voluntarily withdraws its/his/her membership,
  - b. Is suspended for whatever period of time,
  - c. Is expelled by the Association.
2. Upon recommendations by the Disciplinary Committee and with advice of the Governing Board, the Executive Committee of the National Secretariat of the Association may apply the following necessary sanctions against any member or Candidate whose conduct brings the image of the Association into disrepute:
  - a. Temporarily Suspension
  - b. Permanent Suspension (Expulsion after opportunity to appeal)
  - c. Immediate Dismissal (Expulsion with no option of appeal)

7. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All members of the association shall pay yearly dues as shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the association.

2. All Independent Aspirants (Parliamentary/Presidential) of the association shall pay application fees as shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the association.
3. Associate members and CSO's shall contribute a quota of the National Secretariats administrative and overhead costs as shall be determined by the Executive Committee
4. An electronic Membership Certificate shall be given to each member of the association in good standing. The card shall bear the name and the position of the member if any and shall be signed by the Executive Secretary of the association.
5. The Constitution of GFP shall not override the respective Constitutions of Associate members and member CSO's.
6. Member organizations of GFP shall maintain their respective identities, internal rules and regulation but shall campaign under the guidance and in coordination with the National Coalition Campaign Committee of GFP, and in support of the GFP endorsed candidates.
7. The internal competition among Aspirant Independent Candidates shall cease with immediate effect upon the endorsement of approved candidates either as sole Independent GFP Parliamentary Candidate at constituency level or as the sole alternative Presidential Candidate at the national level. Any member that continues to hold themselves out as an aspirant and or files with the electoral commission as a competitor to any GFP endorsed candidate shall be considered summarily dismissed from the Association without recourse to appeal.
8. Any GFP member that engages in any conduct that is detrimental or a betrayal of any endorsed GFP candidate shall suffer immediate suspension subject to disciplinary action. Any overtures made to any GFP member by competing candidates of other parties must be immediately reported to the Executive Committee members for



attention of the Coalition Campaign Committee. Any actions and or utterances that seek favour from competing parties and their candidates at the expense of GFP endorsed candidates shall be considered an act of betrayal and punishable with immediate suspension subject to expulsion or immediate expulsion without recourse for appeal as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the Governing Board.

9. In the event where an Associate member institution is saddled with internal issues which affects the status of its membership or its effective representation in the GFP Association, and where the matter is being settled by either a court of competent jurisdiction or its own internal dispute settlement mechanism, then the GFP association shall suspend the membership of the entire Associate member until it is duly notified in writing that the dispute is resolved.
10. The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day administration of the GFP and will support the National Coalition Campaign during general elections. Decisions of GFP Executive Committee shall be through consensus or voting by simple majority, such decisions shall be binding, and in the event of any ties the Chairman may cast another vote. During meetings of the National Coalition Campaign, The Alternative Presidential Candidate shall preside over the meetings with support of the Executive Committee and members of the Coalition Campaign Team. The Advisory Council may request for review of any decision taken by the Executive Committee alone or as part of the National Coalition Campaign Team.

### **ARTICLE 3: OFFICES**

1. Establishment of offices and Coordination centres

The Association shall establish offices and /or coordination teams at levels of the;

- a. National
- b. Regional.
- c. District.
- d. Constituency.
- e. The association shall also establish and maintain communication networks through virtual platforms and social media including an official website.

### **ARTICLE 4: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Ghana First Platform (GFP) shall be structured as follows:

1. Governing Board (GB) -Presided over by a Presiding Governor and comprised of Founding Members, Past Presidential Candidates, Associate Founding Members, Co-opted Member Organizations and Patrons.
2. National Executive Committee (NEC) - Presided over by a Chairman/ Chairperson to administrate a National Secretariat supported by National Executives and its management sub-committees, as shall be determined by the National Executive Committee with approval of the Governing Board.
3. National Coalition Campaign Team (NCCT) - Presided over by the GFP Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate with full support of the National Executive Committee. In the absence of the Presidential Candidate his/her vice or the NEC Chairman may preside over the proceedings of the NCCT.
4. Regional Coordination Committees - Presided over by Chairperson of GFP Regional Executives and designated officers to help form the Coalitions Constituency Campaign Teams (CCCT).

5. Constituency Coordination Committees - Presided over by Chairperson of GFP Constituency Executives and designated officers to help form the Coalitions Constituency Campaign Team (CCCT).
6. Polling station Coordination Committees - Presided over by Chairperson of GFP Polling Station Executives and designated officers to help form the Coalitions Polling Station Campaign Team (CPSCT).

#### **ARTICLE 5. LEADERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

1. The Presiding Governor of the Governing Board shall provide the supreme leadership of the Ghana First Platform (Association).
2. The Chairman of the National Executive Committee shall provide the Principal leadership for running the day to day business of the Association.
3. The Ghana First Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate shall become the undisputed overall leader of GFP (Association). He/she shall be the leader and principal representative of the GFP until twelve (12) months after the inauguration of the elected Presidential Candidate for Ghana. Where necessary an extension of his/her tenure as leader may be granted to secure announcement of a date for a referendum on campaign reforms.
4. The Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate shall lead the National Coalition Campaign Team during Election Campaigns with total support of the Governing Board and the National Executive Committee.
5. The Coalition's independent Presidential shall have veto powers over any pacts about other parties joining the coalition only during his tenure of service as the candidate.

#### **ARTICLE 6: GOVERNING BOARD**

1. The Governing Board is the supreme organ of the Ghana First Platform as well as the highest decision making body of the association. The founder,

Bishop Samuel Noi Mensah and co-founders Dr. Michael Abu Sakara Foster and Mr Jacob Osei Yeboah, shall have primary responsibility for the GFP and as such shall carry veto powers over any decision of the Association.

2. Any one time there shall be a maximum of three vetos held on the governing board. In event that it becomes necessary the founders may ascribe a veto vote to a member of the governing board.
3. The Governing Board shall act in a supervisory role over the National Executive Committee and all its organs. The Governing Board also guide the GFP's Coalition Campaign Team. The Governing Board shall consist of the Founders of GFP, Founding Associate member organizations and the Coalition's chosen Independent Presidential Candidate and his /her Vice Presidential Candidate when he/she is successfully registered with the Electoral Commission to contest in a general election, and the sitting Chairman of National Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary of the National Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Governing Board (without voting rights).

All past Presidential Candidates and Vice Presidential Candidates (Aspirants have successfully registered with the Electoral Commission and contested in general elections and their Vice Presidential Candidates) shall be co-opted members to the Governing Board.

4. The Governing Board shall also serve as the supreme advisory body of the association. They shall guide and provide relevant leadership towards achieving the aims and objectives of the association. The Governing Board shall furnish the guiding principles and procedures for the Association.
5. The Presiding Governor and Vice Governor of the Governing Board shall be elected by the Founders of GFP together with any GFP Coalition Independent Presidential Candidate and his/her vice (past Presidential Candidates that have

contested in any of Ghana's general elections) provided they are members of GFP in good standing.

6. The Presiding Governor of the Governing Board shall be responsible to the Governing Board in the discharge of his/her duties.
  - a) The tenure of the Presiding Governor and all members of Governing Board shall be three years. They may seek re-election for a second term of three years.
  - b) The Presiding Governor shall convene the meetings of the Governing Board and Preside over such meetings with the assistance of the Secretary to the Governing Board.
  - c) In the absence of the Presiding Governor the Vice Governor may convene meetings through the secretary to the Board.
  - d) The Governing Board shall meet once every three months. However, Presiding Governor shall convene meetings of the Governing Board when it becomes necessary to do so.
  - e) The Secretary to the Governing Board shall communicate details of such meetings to members, the agenda, time and venue at the direction of the Presiding Governor.

## **ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There shall be a National Executive Committee which shall be the responsible for the day to day running and decision making for the Association. The National Executive Committee shall administrate the association through a national secretariat that reports to the Governing Board and shall work under its guidance and instructions.

### **1. NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- a. The Association shall have a National Secretariat in Accra headed by the Chairman and supported by the Executive Secretary of the Association.
- b. The National Secretariat shall be the day-to-day administrative organ of the association.

2. Officers of the National Executive Committee of GFP shall include;

- a. The Chairman /Chairperson (Head of the GFP Association).Vice-Chairman / Vice Chairperson (Second in command and in-charge of Fund Raising for the GFP) shall assist the Chairman
- b. Executive Secretary (Overall Administrative Head of the Association) shall be in charge of all correspondence of GFP and coordinate appointments of all executives and heads of sub-committees.
- c. Director of Finance (Treasurer and management of accounts)
- d. Director of Communications
- e. Director of Operations (National Organizer)
- f. Coordinator Women’s Affairs
- g. Coordinator Youth Affairs
- h. Coordinator Diaspora Affairs
- i. Senior Research Fellow & Research Officers
- j. And any other Officers appointed by the National Executive Committee in consultation with the Governing Board.

3. ELECTION AND SELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVES

In addition to appointed officers, the National Executive Committee shall consist of representatives from any of the CSO’s or Associate member organizations that are members of the association in good standing. No member organization shall hold more than two positions on the National Executive Committee. Any member or Associate member of GFP may officially submit the names of prospective applicants for National Executive positions to the Governing Board.

The members of the National Executive Committee shall be selected and / or elected as follows:

- a. The Chairman of the National Executive Committee shall be elected by Governing Board upon the recommendation of the

Founders of GFP. Chairman of the National Executive Committee shall be responsible to the Governing Board in the discharge of his/her duties.

- b. The Executive Secretary to the National Executive Committee may be selected and appointed by the Governing Board of GFP in consultation with the National Executive Committee Chairman
- c. Other officers of the National Executive Secretariat may be recruited from founding associate members of the associations by the National Executive Committee and approved by the Governing Board.

#### 4. TENURE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVES

- a. The tenure for the members of the National Executive Committee shall be four years. Each national executive may individually serve for only two tenures of four years each.

### **ARTICLE 8: FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS AT THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

The National Executive Committee shall meet once a month. In the interim the Chairman shall convene meetings of the National Executive Council when it becomes necessary.

1. The Chairman of the National Executive Committee or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall convene the meetings of the National Executive Committee at the National Secretariat's offices.
2. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, the Presiding Governor of the Governing Board shall delegate a member of the Governing Board to chair the meetings of the National Executive Committee and take charge of its functions until further notice

3. The National Executive Secretary shall communicate to members, the agenda, time and venue of such meetings at the direction of the Chairman.
  - a. The Executive Secretary shall be the Head of Administration and shall be responsible to Chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Association for the overall day-to-day administration of the Association.
  - b. The Executive Secretary shall coordinate the activities and operations of Association officers at the constituency, district, national and all the committees of the Central Executive Council of the Association.
  - c. The Executive Secretary shall be the Chief Spoke person for the Association on official administrative matter
  - d. The Executive Secretary shall have custody of the Association's seal and shall affix it on the documents of the Association.
- 4 The Treasurer of the Association shall maintain accounts and records of all finances and an inventory of all assets of the association. The Treasurer shall keep custody of all financial instruments and shall be a compulsory signatory to the bank accounts of the association.
- 5 The Director of Operations shall be responsible for organization and coordination of all operations needed to prosecute the agenda and annual goals of the association. He/ she shall oversee operations of the women and youth affairs.
- 6 The Director of Communications shall be the primary spokesperson for the association and speak for the association in close coordination with the chairman and senior executives of the NEC. He/she shall also work in under the guidance of Presidential Candidate within structure of the coalition campaign.



- 7 The Director of Research shall be responsible for gathering, collating and interpretation of information that is pertinent to the effective prosecution of GFP's agenda, especially in facilitating the coalition campaign to formulate more persuasive positions on policy, governance and management of the economy.

#### **ARTICLE 9: SUBCOMMITTEES OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The National Executive Committee, in consultation with the Governing Board shall constitute the following subcommittees for the association:

1. Fundraising Committee
2. Legal Committee
3. Political & Socio-Economic Committee
4. Disciplinary Committee
5. Communications Committee
6. Finance & Planning Committee
7. Monitoring & Evaluation Committee
8. Operations Management (Events & Programmes) Committee
9. Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (Diaspora Affairs)
10. Policy & Research Committee
11. Welfare & Human Resources Committee

#### **ARTICLE 10 : FUNCTIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEES OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. FUNDRAISING SUBCOMMITTEE
  - a. There shall be a Fundraising Committee which shall be responsible to mobilize funds for the National Coalition Campaign that will support

the GFP Coalition's Independent Presidential Candidate and also the Independent Parliamentary Candidates.

- b. The major function of the Fund raising Committee shall be the mobilization of financial and logistical support to the Association and also for onward distribution to endorsed Independent Presidential Candidate and Parliamentary Candidates. During the competition for endorsement all aspirants shall bear their own costs. Thereafter campaign expenses of successful aspirants and supporting campaign officials/ volunteers may be covered from GFP budget based on contributions and campaign funds mobilized.
- c. It shall also be the function of the fund raising Committee to mobilize funds from donor agencies and funding partners in consultation with the GPG endorsed Coalition Presidential Candidate.
- d. The Membership of the Fund raising committee shall comprise at least one representative of the Governing Board, the National Executive Committee, Regions, and Civil Society Organizations and donor partners. The committee shall ensure transparency and accountability.

## 2. LEGAL COMMITTEE

- a. The Legal Committee shall be responsible to the Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association for legal representation. The legal Committee shall offer legal services and directions to the association.

## 3. POLITICAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. The Political & Socio-Economic Subcommittee shall be responsible to Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association, for the offering of the best alternative political and socio-economic policies and programmes needed for the transformation of

Ghana's economy in conformity with the commitments and objectives of the People's Charter. The membership of this committee shall consist of renowned and experienced politicians, economists, technocrats and academicians from the membership of the association.

#### 4. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- a. The Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association, shall appoint a 5-member National Disciplinary Committee. The National disciplinary committee deal with disciplinary adjudications and shall report to the National Executives Committee and the Governing Board.
- b. The National Disciplinary Committee shall ultimately be responsible to the Governing Board.
- c. An appeal may be made to the Governing Board if the decision taken by the National Executive Committee, upon the advice of the Disciplinary Committee is unsatisfactory.
- d. The National Secretariat shall enforce the disciplinary measures approved by GFP Governing Board.
- e. All acts of indiscipline either from an executive member or member of GFP shall be referred to the National Disciplinary Committee of the association for appropriate sanctions. The sanctions by the National Disciplinary Committee shall be communicated to the affected executive member or member of GFP in writing by the Executive Secretary of the Association.
- f. There shall be regional, District and Constituency disciplinary committees that shall receive complaints and report to respective secretariats of Regional, District and constituency Disciplinary Committees.

- g. Unsatisfactory decisions by Constituency Disciplinary Committees may be appealed to the Regional Executives, who will in turn refer same to the National Disciplinary Committee. The National Executives shall refer all recommendations of the National Disciplinary Committee to the Governing Board.
- h. In all cases the plaintiff(s) and defendant(s) shall be heard in person. The Disciplinary Committee upon arriving at a verdict shall write to the parties involved of its decision. The decisions of the National Executive Committee when upheld by the Governing Board, are final and binding.
- i. Any member that seeks to challenge the decision of the GFP Governing Board outside of the structures and procedures of the association, shall automatically be put on suspension until such matters are resolved. During such period of suspension the affected member ceases to hold any office of GFP or enjoy any of the ordinary rights of membership and may not hold themselves out to represent GFP in any way, shape or form.

#### 5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. The Communications Subcommittee shall be responsible to the Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association, for the supervision and training of communicators for the association. This Committee shall also handle the media, marketing, public relations, public affairs and brand image for the Association.

#### 6. BUDGET & PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. The Budgeting & Planning Subcommittee shall be responsible to Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association for the budgeting and planning of the association's annual programmes and events.

- b. The Budget and Planning Subcommittee shall also be responsible for the accounting and auditing of the accounts of the association.

All annual budgets of the National Executive Committee and the campaign of the Coalition Independent Presidential Candidate and Parliamentary Candidates shall be referred to the Budgeting & Planning Committee for consideration and support.

#### 7. MONITORING & EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. The Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee shall be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the overall management of the Association.
- b. The membership of this committee shall consist of appointed professionals among members and at least one representative each from the Governing Board and the National Executive Committee. Professional assistance may be sought on retainer basis from a contractor.

#### 8. EVENTS & PROGRAMMES SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. The Operations management Subcommittee shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee of the Association for the organization of events and programmes of the association.
- b. The Director of operations shall coordinate and integrate the programmes of the Women and Youth Affairs into one national organization programme.
- c. Women's and Youth organization programmes shall be tailored to suit their stakeholders but will not be independent of the annual national organizational programme or the election campaign organizational and mobilization programmes.

- d. All organizational programmes shall be harmonized and focused to support the realization of goals and objectives committed to in the People's Charter.

9. POLICY & RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- a. The Policy & Research Committee shall report to Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association and shall be responsible direction and supervision of research activities of the association in conformity with commitments undertaken in the People's Charter.
- b. The Policy & Research Committee shall research into the Political and socio-economic issues affecting the good people of Ghana, and also the strategic positions and tactics deployed by political rivals, and make available to NEC and Governing Board recommendations for action.

10. WELFARE & HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. The Welfare & Human Resources Subcommittee shall be responsible to the Governing Board, and the National Executive Committee of the Association for the general wellbeing of the members of the Association.
- b. This Committee shall recruit and train staff for advancement of the Association and to increase its human resource capacity in line with the association's goals and objectives, with approval of the National Executive Committees.
- c. The committee shall gather and collate information to devise interventions that mitigate or celebrate circumstances of members as may be appropriate in their time of need.

## **ARTICLE 11. SUBORDINATION OF MEMBER TO GFP COALITION**

### **1. CEDING AUTHORITY TO GFP LEADERSHIP**

- a. GFP and its coalition members upholds a United Front of independent political voices in competition to any other political parties. The coalition aims to provide a credible independent alternative leadership to end the existing state of acrimonious polarization resulting from extreme and divisive partisanship. To this end, all members of the GFP coalition for reform shall cede the final selection of Parliamentary candidates to the leadership of the GFP's coalition in order to have a strong united front.
- b. All members of the GFP's coalition will therefore give their collective support to one GFP endorsed parliamentary candidate per constituency.
- c. Similarly all GFP's coalition members shall cede the selection of an Independent Presidential Candidate to a selection committee commissioned by the leadership of the GFP's Governing Board that will select a candidate following its own internal process and procedures without influence from external sources.
- d. The GFP's endorsed Independent Presidential Candidate shall represent all the political groups that are members of the GFP. Ultimately only one GFP endorsed Presidential candidate shall contest on behalf of a united Ghana First Coalition in any one general election.
- e. All endorsed candidates are subject to re-endorsement with each new general election. The terms and conditions for aspirants to seek endorsement from GFP shall be outlined by the National Executive Committee when nominations are opened.

## **ARTICLE 12. MODIFICATION**

1. The Association shall not have the unilateral right to modify or waive any provision of this Constitution. Modification of any provision of this Constitution shall be with the consent and approval of the members of

coordination committees at the Constituencies and Regions, including members and ex-officio members of the National, Executive Committee and the Governing Board.

### **ARTICLE 13. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

All members of the association shall strictly follow processes and procedures for grievances as stated below unless otherwise advised by the Governing Board:

1. A complainant shall write formally to the chairman at the constituency, Regional or National level with copy to the Director for Welfare and Human Resources who shall act as a clearing house for all grievances and complaints.
2. The resolution process shall begin and as much as possible be concluded at the level from which it emanated within one month of receipt of written complaint. The National Director for welfare and human resources shall maintain a catalogue of all grievances and complaints filed.
3. Where it is necessary, Disciplinary action shall be initiated and completed within a period of one month when recommendation by the NEC is made to that effect. Additional periods of extension may be sought from the Governing Board. As far as possible, no member shall suffer punishment without being given the opportunity of defending him/herself against charges proffered.
4. A member may appeal against a decision by the Disciplinary Committee made in relation to him / her and the Disciplinary Committee shall refer to the appropriate institutions concerned to address the matter as seems fit and report back to it and in compliance to Article 9 section 4 c.



5. Whenever any allegation of misconduct is made against a member party, such allegation shall be investigated by a Committee set up for the purpose that will listen to both sides before coming to conclusions. Persons making false allegations against other members that they are unable to prove shall face disciplinary action that shall be equivalent to the penalty that would have been given if the charges were proven to be true.

#### **ARTICLE 14: FUNDING OF GFP MEMBERS**

1. Association shall establish bank accounts and raise funds from membership, sympathizers and philanthropists for the normal day to day running of the organization. Association shall establish a CAMPAIGN FUND to assist the Registered Independent Candidates to meet their core campaign obligation.
2. The management of all Funds of the association shall be shall be under the control of the Director of Finance (Treasurer) with the authority for oversight by the Chairman of the National Executive Committee and the Presidential Candidate where campaign funds are concerned.
3. APPLICATION OF FUND - The fund shall be used to support setting up of Offices, the employment of capable staff as well as get expertise in Economics, Statistics, Sociology, Psychology and the Sciences, Finance, Accounting and other technocrats who will help to assist the Independent Presidential Candidate and Parliamentary Candidates to come out with well thought out manifestoes that will be of help to the people of Ghana to make informed decision.
4. Funds may also be applied to other important goals and purposes that support research and fact finding by CSO's and Independent Candidates to formulate and communicate insightful and incisive stimulating opinions on the National budget and the State of the Nation Address when it is presented.

5. National Research and communication teams may also be funded to find competitive answers to important national challenges on topics such as alternative strategies, mechanisms and tools to fix the state of the economy, unemployment, foreign policy deficiencies, and erosion of national unity.

#### **ARTICLE 15: HOW THE ASSOCIATION IS FUNDED**

1. GFP will depend principally on the support of members and good will of sympathizers from all walks of life including the business community, donor partners and agencies, Civil Society Groups and non-governmental organizations.
2. Successful Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Candidates that Contested on the GFP's coalition ticket shall also contribute yearly dues to the Association.

#### **ARTICLE 16: TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

1. The Association shall undertake to provide suitable training for the members and officers especially where such training will enable the member Independent Presidential Candidates to gain greater competency in the performance of their duties and effectiveness their overall capacities and capabilities so as to enhance Political participation, democracy for good governance of Ghana.

#### **ARTICLE 17: IPAC MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Association recognizes the important role IPAC has played in the Politics of Ghana but also is acutely aware of IPACS limitation as a consultative mechanism with no authority enforce recommendations to the Electoral Commission. GFP shall endeavour to be part of IPAC so as to champion the interest of Independent Aspirants.

## **ARTICLE 18: DISCRIMINATION IN GHANA POLITICS**

1. The Association is aware of the efforts made by some Civil Society Organization(s) to introduce discriminatory democratic practices between Political Parties and Independent Candidates in Ghana. GFP shall correct this discriminatory anomaly in the body politics of Ghana by engaging these COS's vigorously to share views candidly with the aim of correcting the discriminatory anomalies.

## **ARTICLE 19: RECOGNITION**

1. The members hereby recognize GFP as an important body for and on behalf of all the members as individuals, member of groups of organizations and Independent Presidential and Parliamentary Candidates.

## **ARTICLE 20: STATUS OF THIS CONSTITUTION**

1. It is agreed that this Constitution shall:
  - a. Respect provisions of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
  - b. Act in concert with the Provisions of the Political Parties Law.
  - c. Where the Association is not happy about any part of existing Provisions of the National Constitution or any law in Ghana, Take steps to seek for the amendment or revision of such law especially where in the consideration of the Association any such law is outmoded or no longer in the national interest for it to be or the statute bodies.

## **ARTICLE 21: SAVING CLAUSE**

1. Should any part of the Provisions of this Constitution be rendered invalid by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation such invalidation of any part of the Provisions of this Constitution shall not nullify the remaining portions thereof.

2. In the event of any invalidation herein described, any member may upon 28 days notice request negotiations for the member or its Governing Council to meet for negotiation and consultations.

## **ARTICLE 22: INTERPRETATION**

1. In case of contravention of and / or misinterpretation of any grey areas of this Constitution the matter shall be referred to the Governing body and founders for their review. In such cases of where clarity is sought the interpretation of the Governing Board shall be final and binding without recourse to any arbitration procedures.

## **ARTICLE 23: DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of and throughout this Constitution:

1. Association means the Association of Independent minded individuals, Non-partisan Registered Political CSOs and Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Candidates/Aspirants who qualifies under the laws of Ghana with Electoral Commission.
2. Members mean any Independent minded individuals, Independent minded individuals, Non-partisan Registered Political CSOs and Independent Presidential/Parliamentary Candidates/Aspirants who qualifies under the laws of Ghana with Electoral Commission and have been accepted to be members of this Association.
3. Disciplinary Authority means any person or body of persons who have been given power to discipline any person or member covered by this Constitution.
4. Reference in this Constitution to the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender except where the contrary is specified.



## APPENDIX A



### **NATIONAL INTEREST MOVEMENT’S REFORM AGENDA** **BEYOND 2020**

#### **“A People’s Charter for the all, not a few”**

##### **A Reform Agenda for Systemic Change.**

*(Reform Agenda and Mechanisms to effect a systems Change in constitution and key policies).*

This People’s Charter seeks constitutional changes and introduction of key policies that will result in a profoundly different system of governance, economic structure and social fabric of Ghanaian society. The People’s Charter shall seek to mobilize support for comprehensive reforms that help to redefine Ghana’s democracy so that it works for all Ghanaians and not only an elite political class. NIM proposes the reforms and policy interventions below as a social contract between all organizations that commit to mobilizing support for the reform agenda and the People of Ghana. So that together they shall demand from those that govern a to:

#### **1. Governance**

1. have constitutionally inclusive government by general elections that shall be won by a simple majority of the Presidential candidate with the highest votes. No second rounds of voting shall be required. The Presidential Candidate with the highest votes has the first opportunity to form a government that will have a clear majority of

seats in parliament either on its own or by coalition with one or more political entities that have parliamentary seats.

Failure to form and/or maintain a government with a majority in parliament may lead to a fresh general election within one year of its occurrence if a vote of no confidence with a two thirds majority is cast in parliament to that effect.

2. constitutionally limit the excessive powers of the Presidency in favour of devolved power to the people through a series of measures that include a limit on range of appointments, control of budget, structure of governance and independence of civil service including sensitive government institutions (Judiciary and Army).
3. extend the tenure for Presidential office to one term of 6 years. This will help increase opportunity of continuity to enable completion of programs and also to protect against self-serving power hungry temptations to steal or divert public funds for a second term campaign. The exception that will permit a sitting president to contest a second term shall be only if he/she gains an average of at least eighty percent (80%) approval rating in the fifth year of the first six year term. The poll must be conducted by at least three reputable independent bodies one of which must be an international body of known repute and impartiality. Failure to attain the 80% approval rating automatically precludes the sitting candidate from contesting all subsequent presidential elections.
4. devolve power to Regions and re-designate regions as the tier for local government instead of Districts. This will give a new economy of scale that is functional and be a more attractive location for a hub of highly qualified technocrats needed to run the regions. Increase number of regions to 20 over the next 10 years. Regions will serve as provincial growth points to reduce current gross imbalance in infrastructure development between them and national capital. The latter continues to expand at the expense of regional capitals under the current system. A mandatory allocation of forty percent of the national budget to regions will ensure their financial empowerment to drive their development agendas.
5. make District and Municipality boundaries synonymous with Constituency boundaries, so that sum of all Districts and Municipal Assemblies are the same as the total number of constituencies. Eliminate the position of DCEs and MCEs and designate their functions to the elected Parliamentarians in each constituency. Parliamentarians upon election shall therefore work as both the Executive Official and the Parliamentary representative. It is an inconsistency for Ministers to be the spending officers at as head of Ministries and the MP to be divorced from executive function in their constituency.

ensure Constituencies (District Assemblies and Municipal Assemblies) shall be underpinned by Community Assemblies that correspond strictly with electoral areas with known polling stations at fixed locations.

6. ensure legislators are based in their communities by reducing time in Accra. A general assembly of parliamentarians shall be convened for two weeks in every quarter to pass legislation. The rest of the time will be spent in their constituencies.

Hotel accommodation shall be provided to parliamentarians during periods of call through a PPP arrangement. This will make further savings on staffing, houses, cars and travel expenses.

7. preclude Members of Parliament from serving as Ministers in the executive. Ministers shall be recruited from public or private sector at the behest of the President.
8. Appoint Ministers purely on merit, proficiency and competence from among all Ghanaians irrespective of partisan leanings.
9. permit Ghanaians with dual nationality to hold any public office including the Presidency provided they were Ghanaian at Birth and have two Ghanaian parents.
10. permit and encourage private members bill .

## **Economy**

11. Redirect investment into growth areas of economy by ensuring the financial systems are actively incentivised to direct investment into productive sectors of the economy in conformity with the declared objective of changing the architecture of the economy. Also interventions are undertaken to ensure;
  - a. A mandatory allocation of fifteen percent (15%) per annum of the national budget shall be allocated for investment in growth of the real economy (Agriculture and related manufacturing industries) to be administered from regions as focal points for industrial growth.
  - b. Interest rates for commercial lending shall be capped at fifteen percent (15%) percent. Rapacious activity of loan sharks shall be banned and eliminated.
  - c. A special window for agricultural lending (including agro-processing) shall be opened in a revamped national development bank with interest rates set at 8% or less.
  - d. A savings culture shall be promoted in public and private life.
  - e. Local entrepreneurs will be put into a position of enhanced competitiveness through a weighted procurement process that will aim to develop the top 15 Ghanaian owned companies in every sub sector.
12. Promote a Savings Culture
  - a. Ensure reduced expenditure on travel by public officials - With exception of the President and Vice President and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Travel abroad by public officials for official business shall be restricted only to the most essential and certainly no more than one trip per official per annum for the Ministers and senior technocrats, irrespective of whether trips are funded by government budget or not.



- b. Ensure reduced emoluments of public official – Ex-gratia for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Ministers and Parliamentarians will be paid only once irrespective of the number of tenures in office.
  - Housing will be provided for only the most senior government officials of the rank of cabinet Ministers and above only during their tenure of office.
  - Members of parliament (ordinarily resident in their constituencies) will be accommodated for only two weeks in every quarter during parliamentary sessions at the capital city. It is proposed that for this purpose a PPP should be used to build a five-star hotel with relevant amenities in the area behind parliament. The hotel shall be privately managed with government having an equity share holding for its contribution of land. Government will also get special rates for guaranteed block bookings for 300 plus for two weeks in every quarter.

## Social

13. **Initiate social reconstruction** that targets the younger generation to influence emergence of more patriotic citizens with enduring positive values and attitudes that foster meritocracy, pragmatism and integrity within the ethos of social justice.
  - a. All youth between the ages of 16 to 30 shall serve at least 2 years of compulsory military service with option to extend it for additional two (2) years. Training shall be district based.
  - b. For regular ranks the additional two (2) year extension of the military service shall be contingent on recruitment into a technical training course with intention of passing a guilds certification at the end of the two-year period.
  - c. Officer corps may complete a further 2 years as national service after or during completion of tertiary education.
  
14. **Ensure aggressive Anti-Corruption** - set up citizen's complaints desk in every public and private office of corporate institutions and organizations. Complaints shall be addressed at community, constituency and national level. Justice shall be administered swiftly and with certainty with emphasis on the top public officials and heads of large corporations that operate foul of the law.
  
15. Review the Chieftaincy system to help modernize it by ensuring that each Ghanaian enjoys their full rights as citizens of the republic regardless of allegiance to cultural rulers. The medieval nature of traditional rule shall be modernized to better reflect a twenty first century republic.

We therefore herein invite to all Ghanaians to join in support of the National Interest Movement's initiative to implement the above as undertakings in a People's Charter for Ghana. NIM seeks a partnership with individuals and independent organizations of like mind. NIM herein undertakes to foster a coalition of independent political persuasions to campaign for a mandate to ensure implementation of the reforms proposed in the People's Charter. It is NIM's goal to reset Ghana on a new path to prosperity for all and not a few.

All members of NIM and its affiliate members are therefore encouraged to join together with other independent voices in a coalition for Ghana to support a campaign for reform in 2020 and beyond. Ghana, through collective support of the coalition, will benefit from a change in the political discourse in favour of fundamental reforms and candidates that are dedicated to the pursuit of the common good in the national interest.

NIM's influence on transformation of governance, economy and society for the welfare of all Ghana's citizens is the object of our commitment, so help us God.

To this end we the undersigned append our signatures as testimony that we have adopted the aforesaid People's Charter for fundamental reforms to Ghana's 1992 Constitution.

### **Signatories to The People's Charter**

<b>Name &amp; Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date.</b>
1. Dr. M Abu Sakara Foster Founder	National Interest Movement		
2. Dr. Susan Adu Amankwa Executive Director Secretariat	National Interest Movement		
3. Md. Rhoda Ayana Rep. Advisory Council	National Interest Movement		

## REFERENCES

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2. The National Constitution of Ghana 1992; Parliament. Office of the Speaker.
3. The Constitutional Review Committee 2010; Office of the President