

Constitution Of The World Owerri Peoples Congress

PREAMBLE

The people of the three local government areas of Owerri, namely, Owerri Municipal (OM), Owerri North (ON) and Owerri West (OW) and any future geographical and politico- socio-economic derivatives of these three local government areas, being perceptive of the economic, social, educational, and other benefits fostered by a united front; in recognition of our African heritage vis-à-vis the American and Western heritage; and in affirmation of the importance of smooth fusion of our various cultures; do hereby proclaim a clarion call to our people in the Diaspora to rally together, unite, and are hereby organized as the WORLD OWERRI PEOPLES CONGRESS, INC.

ARTICLE I

NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association shall be WORLD OWERRI PEOPLES CONGRESS INC., hereinafter, shall be referred to as “WOPC” and/or “Association”.

ARTICLE II

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. WOPC is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501C (3) of the United States of America’s Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of WOPC shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, patrons, or other private persons, except that WOPC shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Constitution and to reimburse reasonable expenses.

Section 2. To promote a forum to discuss and monitor the larger issues of the mutual, social, educational, cultural, and, economic well being of its members and Owerri people on a non-partisan basis.

Section 3. To serve as a common social umbrella and united front for constructive dialogue, solidarity, social interaction, networking and the healthy promotion of Owerri people and their purposes.

Section 4. To receive, invest, acquire property and disburse funds for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of WOPC.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be open to all indigenes of the three local government areas of Owerri-Municipal (OM), Owerri-North (ON), Owerri-West (OW), and any future geographical and politico- socio-economic derivatives of these local government areas, through membership in a local Owerri Community Association. Individuals in areas without an Owerri Community Associations or branches are encouraged to affiliate with Owerri Community Associations in areas closest to them.

Section 1.1. For purposes of membership, indigene shall mean persons who are citizens of any of the three local government areas and, or, their future geographical, and, or, politico-socio-economic derivatives either by birth, naturalization, adoption, marriage, or others with age-old history of family settlement in any of the three local government areas who wish to continue their traditional identification and affiliation with Owerri people and as Owerri people. Specifically excluded from qualification as an acceptable indigene under these provisions are in-laws. Owerri Community Association shall mean local Chapter of WOPC, which comprises of at least members from two of the three local government areas. However; where only citizens from one local government area are predominant, they shall be allowed to register but are required to keep their membership open to citizens from the other Owerri Local Government areas.

Section 1.2 There shall be three classes of membership under this article namely,

Sub-section 1. *Associations*: - Affiliation with local WOPC Chapter.

Sub-section 2. *At-Large-Members*: – Where no local WOPC Chapter exists.

Sub-section 3. *Honorary*: - Elder statesmen or stateswomen.

Section 1.3. Membership in WOPC shall inure to an Owerri person ‘only’ through his or her membership in one Owerri Community Association except in cases of At-Large-Members who are not required to belong to an Owerri Community Association.

At-Large-Members shall submit their application directly to the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

Section 1.4. Application for membership shall be by a simple declaration of intent at a duly constituted WOPC meeting. Further, membership shall be open to all sons and

daughters residing in areas without pre-existing WOPC Chapter and such members shall be considered “Members-At-Large”. At-Large members exceeding five persons within an un-incorporated area shall be required to incorporate or incur the risk of losing individual membership to the national body.

Section 1.5. Only applications from officials of Owerri Community Associations signed by the duly elected President and General Secretary of such Association shall be considered for membership into WOPC.

Section 1.6. Doubts about the legitimacy of an Owerri Community Association's intention to register with WOPC shall be referred by the reviewing authority to the Membership Committee or other similar Committee (s) for investigation and recommendation to the WOPC Executive Committee.

Section 1.7. Every member Association must submit to the WOPC General Secretary, a filed copy of its registration certificate or Article of Incorporation issued by the appropriate jurisdictional authorities.

Section 1.8. Every member Association must submit its most updated membership list to the WOPC General Secretary. Such list must contain the names of its members in good standing, their telephone numbers, residential addresses, and (where possible) email addresses.

Section 1.9. Individuals whose names appear on more than one member Association's list shall have one month from admission into the WOPC to choose which of the Associations they shall belong.

Section 2.0. Application for membership shall be through registration with the affiliated local WOPC Chapter having geographical jurisdiction at the time of submission over the applicant’s principal place of residence.

Section 2.1. All applications under this article shall be uniform and shall be on such forms as shall be created by the Executive Committee of the WOPC.

Section 2.2. Any applicant whether an Association or individual whose application has not been approved within thirty days, or denied by the Membership Committee from the date of submission of such application may petition the Executive Committee of the WOPC. Where the Executive Committee ruled against the applicant Association or individual, the Association or individual (s) may petition the WOPC Board of Directors for review of the denial or delay in the processing of their application by letter, certified mail, return-receipt requested. Where the WOPC Board of Directors was unable to resolve a membership issue to the satisfaction of an applicant, the issue shall be presented to the WOPC General Assembly for final determination and resolution. A vote of two-thirds of the members of the WOPC General Assembly present and voting at a regular meeting of the convention shall be required for approval or denial of an application.

Section 2.3. No applicant for WOPC membership shall be entitled to pursue any remedies outside of the WOPC unless and until such applicant shall have exhausted review procedures provided by this section (Article III, Sec. 2.2) and by the rules provided for, herein in this constitution.

Section 2.4. A WOPC Chapter Association shall be formed in any City of the United States of America or any City in any other Country where Owerri people as defined in the preamble and reinforced under *ARTICLES 3*, Sections 1 through Sections 2.2 reside, and where there are no pre-existing local WOPC Chapters. Only one member Chapter per City shall be admitted to the WOPC.

ARTICLE IV

STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION

Section 1. Representation: - its delegate when necessary shall represent each member Association at the national or international body and it's President in the Board of Directors (BODs) forum.

Sub-section (a). Member Associations shall send one delegate for all of its registered members.

Sub-section (b). For purposes of delegate representation, At-Large-Members may affiliate with local WOPC Chapter of their choice.

Section (2). Executive Committee: - There shall be an Executive Committee comprising of all nationally or internationally elected WOPC officers for the day-to-day administration of the Association.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BODs) AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES (HODs)

Section 1. *Composition:* - The WOPC Board of Directors with 'voting rights' shall consist 'only' of the Presidents of all local WOPC Chapters. The President, Vice President, and General Secretary of WOPC shall be un-official members of the Board of Directors and shall not have voting rights.

Sub-section (a). *Tenure of Office:* - The tenure of office for each WOPC Board of Directors member shall be based on their continuation in office as their local WOPC Chapter President. When a WOPC Board of Directors member

seizes to be a local Chapter President, his or her tenure expires and is replaced by the newly elected local Chapter President. This seamless transition is effective immediately upon the inauguration of the newly elected local Chapter President by his or her local Chapter.

Sub-section (b). *Jurisdiction:* - The Board of Directors is the highest legislative and policymaking body of the WOPC. Its decisions, whether rendered by ballot or in session, shall be the final governing decision of the WOPC and shall be binding on every member of WOPC including all of her elected officers.

Sub-section (c). *Scope of Authority:* - The WOPC Board of Directors' scope of authority and decisions are superseded only by the direct vote of WOPC members meeting in a general assembly. Specific problematic issue (s) must be submitted to the WOPC members in a general referendum at the Annual Convention. Election to a national office is not evidence of superior or greater authority over the WOPC Board of Directors.

Sub-section (d). The Board of Directors at its regular annual meeting shall review, address and take action on an annual national program presented by the President to affirm and, or establish priorities and strategies for the upcoming year.

Sub-section (e). The WOPC Board of Directors shall provide oversight of the Association's general management and business affairs.

Sub-section (f). The WOPC Board of Directors shall develop strategic direction and establish policies to be followed by all its members.

Sub-section (g). In the event of a dispute arising out of the meaning or intent of the WOPC Constitution and Bylaws, the WOPC Board of Directors shall interpret the Constitution and Bylaws and such interpretation shall be final and govern the WOPC in the conduct of its business and affairs.

Sub-section (h). The WOPC Board of Directors shall convene at will, through however, and whatever, means necessary.

Sub-section (i). The WOPC Board of Directors shall elect its own Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Sub-section (j). The WOPC Board of Directors shall invite before it, any Officer or member of the WOPC that it wishes to invite.

Sub-section (k). The WOPC Board of Directors shall suspend/impeach, after due process (see Article VIII, sec. 6 and 7), any Officer of the WOPC whose actions or activities are subversive and anti-WOPC or nde-Owerre.

Sub-section (l). The WOPC Board of Directors shall convene the WOPC Delegates for consideration of impeachment charges against any elected officer and to initiate removal proceedings.

Sub-section (m). The WOPC Board of Directors shall approve, disapprove or amend the WOPC budget proposals presented by the WOPC President.

Sub-section (n). The WOPC Board of Directors shall help raise funds for the Association.

Sub-section (o). The WOPC Board of Directors shall establish its own internal operating procedures for the smooth running of the BODs. The Board of Directors operating procedures shall be consistent with the WOPC Constitution and made readily available for all WOPC members to see. The Board of Director's internal operating procedures Manual (if any) must be filed with the WOPC General Secretary.

Sub-section (p). The WOPC Board of Directors shall make all rules necessary for the proper functioning of the WOPC.

Sub-section (q). The WOPC Board of Directors' Chairperson shall have the authority to convene the WOPC Board of Directors' meeting whenever he or she deems appropriate.

Sub-section (r). The WOPC Board of Directors Chairperson and in his/her absence, the Vice Chairperson, must immediately, convene the WOPC Board of Directors meeting at the request of one-third of the local Chapter Presidents or at the request of the WOPC national President.

Sub-section (s). The WOPC Board of Directors Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall stand for re-election amongst their peers on the 'WOPC Board' every two years.

Section 2.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Sub-section (a). *Composition:* - The House of Delegates (HODs) shall comprise 'only' ONE delegate per local WOPC Chapter. Each Chapter delegate shall cast one vote for his or her local Chapter.

Sub-section (b). *Function:* - The function of the delegates is to consider impeachment allegations against any WOPC Officer. The delegates must impeach any WOPC Officer accused of any of the wrongdoings articulated under *ARTICLE VIII, Section 6 (a) through (h)*. whenever, the allegation (s) is, are substantiated.

Sub-section (c). *Result:* - Impeachment shall be subject to the recommendations of a two-third-majority vote of the Chapter Associations' delegates in attendance at the delegates meeting. The member or member Associations initiating the impeachment proceedings must clearly articulate in writing all the impeachable offences. The delegates shall forward the result of the impeachment proceedings within three days to the Board of Directors for removal consideration.

ARTICLE VI

THE COMPACT

Section 1. WOPC Rights and Responsibilities to the Local Chapters:

Sub-section (a). Develop a generally accepted Owerri agenda that will be pursued by all nde-Owerre in the Diaspora.

Sub-section (b). Develop the strategic direction and policy guidance for the WOPC and all its affiliated local Chapters and members.

Sub-section (c). Serve as the official mouthpiece for the WOPC and all its affiliated local Chapters and members on all issues of significance.

Sub-section (d). Assist all affiliated WOPC local Chapters in any legitimate dispute or struggle for equity, fairness and justice, wherever, and whenever the need arises.

Sub-section (e). Final arbiter in local Chapter disputes except in instances where legal remedies are sought.

Sub-section (f). Stay out of local Chapter politics and issues except when specifically invited by a local Chapter or members of a local Chapter.

Sub-section (g). Has the authority to expel any non-compliant WOPC local Chapter from the Association of WOPC members. Expulsion of a local WOPC Chapter shall be contemplated or used sparingly and even then, it must be done with the full acquiescence of the WOPC Board of Directors and the blessing of the WOPC General Assembly.

Section 2. Local WOPC Chapter's Rights and Responsibilities to the WOPC

Sub-section (a). Forward in a timely manner all dues, fees, and levies mandated by the WOPC constitution or as determined by the appropriate WOPC authorities to the WOPC national Financial Secretary.

Sub-section (b). Promote a positive image for the WOPC and pursue the goals and objectives of the WOPC.

Sub-section (c). Adhere to all legitimate WOPC directives and instructions.

Sub-section (d). Promptly inform the WOPC Executive Committee and the WOPC Board of Directors of any threats or subversive activities aimed at WOPC or at nde-Owerre.

Sub-section (e). Local WOPC Chapters have the right to annul, disassociate, secede, or separate from membership in the national WOPC by providing six-months written notice and substance of the contemplated action to the President, General Secretary, and Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The WOPC general Convention shall be held once every year.

Section 2. The Convention shall be a joint effort between the local hosting Chapter and the WOPC. The venue for the Convention shall be the responsibility of the local hosting WOPC Chapter but it must be approved by the WOPC Executive Committee.

Section 3. The WOPC Convention Planning Committee Chairperson shall be appointed from the hosting Chapter by the Executive Committee prior to the Convention.

Section 4. The Chairperson of the Convention Planning Committee shall have the authority to appoint ad-hoc committees needed to effectively organize a successful convention. All Committee appointments shall be approved by the WOPC Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Convention Planning Committee members may be selected from the local Chapter or any other Chapter.

Section 6. The WOPC Convention Chairperson shall work with the WOPC Executive Committee to develop the format and agenda for the Convention.

Section 7. The selection of the Convention host City shall be announced in a meeting of the General Assembly. The WOPC Executive Committee shall set forth the conditions and criteria for selecting a host City for the Convention. To ensure transparency, the WOPC Executive Committee must publish the host City selection criteria prior to the invitation announcement and commencement of bidding process.

Section 8. If no WOPC Chapter is interested in hosting the Convention, the WOPC Executive Committee in consultation with the WOPC Board of Directors shall decide on a host City, however; it must not be imposed or mandated.

ARTICLE VIII

DISCIPLINE, CENSURE, SANCTION, IMPEACHMENT & REMOVAL

Section 1. *Discipline:* An alleged violation by a WOPC Chapter (s) or individual member (s) shall be referred to the Ethics and Grievance Committee who shall determine whether a violation occurred.

Sub-section (a). The Ethics and Grievance Committee shall have thirty-days to investigate and report their findings and recommendations to the WOPC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of WOPC, in turn, shall have thirty-days to make their decision public.

Sub-section (b). Punishment shall not be arbitrary or capricious and shall fit the offense. Punishment shall be one or a combination of the following:

Section 2. *Censure:* A fine not to exceed *two hundred and fifty dollars* or, and, the loss of any Committee or Executive Committee portfolio or any other office held by the individual member. The same level of punishment shall be applicable to any other offending member for similar offences.

Section 3. *Sanction:* Sanctions shall be subject to the recommendations of the Ethics and Grievance Committee and shall be ratified by the WOPC Board of Directors.

Section 4. *Impeachment:* Shall be subject to a two third majority votes of the Chapter Associations' delegates in attendance at the delegates meeting. The member (s) or member Chapter (s) initiating the impeachment proceedings must expressly articulate all the impeachable offences.

Section 5. *Removal:* An erring WOPC officer shall be removed from office with the votes of two-thirds majority members of the Board of Directors in attendance at a Board of Directors meeting acting on the impeachment referral from the *House of Delegates (HOD)*.

Section 6. IMPEACHABLE OFFENSES

Sub-section (a). Embezzlement of WOPC funds,
Sub-section (b). Conflict of interest- e.g., use of WOPC office for personal gain,
Sub-section (c). Flagrant violation of WOPC Constitution & Bylaws – *The Documents*.

- Sub-section (d). Subversive and or anti-WOPC activities,
- Sub-section (e). Criminal conviction,
- Sub-section (f). Abuse of office,
- Sub-section (g). Failure to follow and, or, implement the policies and objectives of WOPC as articulated and directed by the WOPC Board of Directors or as authorized by the WOPC General Assembly, and;
- Sub-section (h). Incompetence, non-performance and, or, dereliction of duty.

Section 7. 'DUE PROCESS' PROCEDURE

- Step (1). Specific charge (s) must be brought in writing by a WOPC member (s) or Chapter (s) against the WOPC officer being accused.
- Step (2). One or more of the offenses articulated under Article VIII, Section 6, must be alleged before the consideration of a suspension or impeachment hearing.
- Step (3). The WOPC Board of Directors must meet to determine if the charge (s) are of such consequence, and is/are supported by the evidence (s) to warrant empanelling the WOPC 'House of Delegates'.
- Step (4). If the charge (s) is/are reasonably supported by the evidence, the Board of Directors must vote to empanel the 'House of Delegates' for consideration of the evidence.
- Step (5). The Delegates shall review the evidence and witnesses' testimonies before voting to either suspend or impeach the erring officer. Their decision by a two-third majority vote shall be forwarded to the WOPC Board of Directors within three days for ratification or rejection.
- Step (6). A two-third majority vote of the WOPC Board of Directors either to affirm or reject the recommendation (s) of the "House of Delegates" shall be the final determination on the matter.

ARTICLE IX

OFFICES, POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. *Offices:* This constitution authorizes the establishment of the following offices and positions for the efficient running of the WOPC.

- Sub-section (a). Office of the President
- Sub-section (b). Office of the Vice President
- Sub-section (c). Office of the General Secretary
- Sub-section (d). Office of the Assistant General Secretary
- Sub-section (e). Office of the Financial Secretary
- Sub-section (f). Office of the Assistant Financial Secretary
- Sub-section (g). Office of the Treasurer
- Sub-section (h). Office of Public Relations
- Sub-section (i). Office of the Provost

Section 2. Authority Enumeration and Responsibilities of the Officers:

Sub-section 1. The President:

- (a). The President shall preside at all WOPC official meetings when he or she is present. The exceptions are the WOPC Board of Directors and Delegates meetings which have separate presiding provisions under the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
- (b). The President is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Association and shall co-ordinate all WOPC officers in the performance of their duties.
- (c). The President shall be responsible for the day-to-day operational decision-making of the Association.
- (d). The President and his/her Cabinet shall submit an annual budget on the scheduled WOPC Board of Directors meeting in January of each year or at some other agreed upon date following the end of the WOPC Convention. The President's budget shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors for the BODs approval, prior to 'any' expenditures being made.
- (e). The President is the Chief Spokesperson of the WOPC and shall represent the WOPC in all official functions.
- (f). The President is the Chief Fundraiser of the WOPC and shall perform this duty legally and within the law.

- (g). The President shall have the power to: (a). appoint ad hoc committees, (b). call emergency cabinet meetings, (c). veto executive committee decisions, however, the President's veto can be overridden by two-third majority members of his/her cabinet, (d). fine members for cause, (e). cast tiebreaker vote in cases of tie votes.
- (h). The President's signature is required on all official agreements entered into on behalf of the WOPC or such agreements shall be deemed 'null and void'.
- (i). The President shall approve all WOPC payment or expenditure requests within his or her authorized budget, in writing, before any disbursements are made.
- (j). The President shall articulate and give a State of the WOPC address to the general assembly in a plenary session once a year.
- (k). The President is an ex-officio member of the WOPC Board of Directors and all WOPC Committees. Whereas, his/her attendance at WOPC Board of Directors meetings is mandatory, he/she is not required to attend Committee meetings.
- (l). The President is an authorized signatory on WOPC Bank accounts.
- (m). The President shall perform all other such functions as shall be assigned by the WOPC Board of Directors.

Sub-section 2. The Vice President:

- (a). The Vice President shall carry out all the duties of the President during the President's absence and/or when he or she becomes incapacitated and unable to carry out the essential functions of the Office of the WOPC President.
- (b). The Vice President shall perform all other such functions as shall be assigned by the President or, by the WOPC Board of Directors.
- (c). The Vice President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

Sub-section 3. The General Secretary:

- (a). The General Secretary shall be responsible for all official correspondences of the Association.
- (b). The General Secretary shall issue notices of meetings of the Association,

and of the Board of Directors' as prescribed in this Constitution.

- (c). The General Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, minutes of all meetings of the WOPC and of the Board of Directors.
- (d). The General Secretary shall be the official repository and custodian of all records and documents of the Association 'except' for those records kept by the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary in the performance of their duties.
- (e). The General Secretary shall have custody of the common seal of the WOPC and shall maintain or cause to be maintained the register of all WOPC members.
- (f). The General Secretary's signature is required on all official agreements entered into by or, on behalf of the Association or such agreements shall be 'null and void'.
- (g). The General Secretary shall assist the President in developing the agenda of all WOPC official meetings.
- (h). The General Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.
- (i). The General Secretary shall issue a *Communiqué* within one week following the end of every WOPC Convention.
- (j). The General Secretary shall issue the Convention *Minutes* within forty-five days following the end of every annual Convention.

Sub-section 4. The Assistant General Secretary

- (a). The Assistant General Secretary shall carry out all the duties of the General Secretary during the General Secretary's absence or if he or she becomes incapacitated and unable to carry out the essential functions of the Office of the WOPC General Secretary.
- (b). The Assistant General Secretary shall develop and maintain a comprehensive database of names, physical addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, occupations and awards (voluntary) of all Owerri sons and daughters living outside the shores of Nigeria.
- (c). The Assistant General Secretary shall provide copies of the most updated database of names, physical addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, occupations and awards of all Owerri sons and daughters living outside the shores of Nigeria to the WOPC Board of Directors

Chairperson, President and General Secretary on a quarterly basis.

- (d). The Assistant General Secretary shall perform all other functions as shall be assigned by the General Secretary or by the President.

Sub-section 5. The Treasurer

- (a). The Treasurer shall maintain records of receipts and deposits of all WOPC funds and shall make available on demand by the WOPC President, or by the WOPC Board of Directors, evidence of such records.
- (b). The Treasurer shall issue an official receipt to the Financial Secretary for all WOPC monies received from the Financial Secretary.
- (c). The Treasurer must receive an official invoice with all the required signatures, from the Financial Secretary, prior to any disbursement of WOPC funds.
- (d). The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies received and, or collected on behalf of the Association in WOPC's official bank account.
- (e). The Treasurer shall ensure that WOPC monies are deposited into WOPC accounts no later than *five* working days from when received.
- (f). The Treasurer shall exercise due diligence to ensure that WOPC funds and assets are securely protected.
- (g). The Treasurer is an authorized signatory on WOPC Bank accounts.

Sub-section 6. The Financial Secretary

- (a). The Financial Secretary shall pay, or cause to be paid, all debts incurred by the Association after securing the appropriate approvals and signatures.
- (b). The Financial Secretary shall hand-over all WOPC monies to the Treasurer no later than *three* working days from the date of collection.
- (c). The Financial Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept all WOPC financial records necessary to comply with local, state, and federal rules, and render quarterly financial statements to the executive committee, directors, and members.
- (d). The Financial Secretary is WOPC's Chief Debt Collector and shall be responsible for ensuring that each WOPC Chapter and Members-At-

Large are up to date with all financial obligations approved by the WOPC general assembly or by other authorizing bodies as stated in this Constitution.

- (e). The Financial Secretary shall provide summary financial statements as well as, information on collections and outstanding balances at each general assembly meeting or other meetings as prescribed by this Constitution.
- (f). The Financial Secretary shall issue receipts for all monies collected and shall generate invoices for all payment requests to the WOPC Treasurer prior to the disbursement of any funds.
- (g). All verbal requests for payments must be followed up with a written confirmation of the request no later than *three* business days or such verbal requests must be ignored.
- (h). The Financial Secretary must forward an invoice to the Treasurer no later than *three* days from when the necessary approvals were received.
- (i). The Financial Secretary is an authorized signatory on WOPC Bank accounts.

Sub-section 7. The Assistant Financial Secretary

- (a). The Assistant Financial Secretary shall carry out all the duties of the Financial Secretary during the Financial Secretary's absence or if he or she becomes incapacitated and unable to carry out the essential functions of the Office of the WOPC Financial Secretary.
- (b). The Assistant Financial Secretary shall keep and maintain a record of all financial donors to the WOPC. An updated list shall be provided to the Financial Secretary and WOPC President on a monthly basis.
- (c). The Assistant Financial Secretary shall work hand in hand with the Financial Secretary and shall perform other such functions as shall be assigned by the Financial Secretary, or by the WOPC President.

Sub-section 8. The Public Relations Officer

- (a). The Public Relations Officer (PRO) is the Chief Image-Maker of the WOPC and has overall responsibility for public relations. He or She shall develop a public relations plan that will present the WOPC in the best possible impression to the public, WOPC members, and other stakeholders.

- (b). The Public Relations Officer shall write, edit, and arrange the production of newsletters, in-house magazines, pamphlets and brochures in furtherance of WOPC goals and objectives.
- (c). The Public Relations Officer shall write speeches, prepare visual aids, and make public presentations to promote WOPC goals and objectives.
- (d). The Public Relations Officer shall oversee the production of visual film, video, and, or audio electronic materials, including managing the WOPC Website and Email system.
- (e). The Public Relations Officer in the exercise of his or her official duties shall be a permanent member of the WOPC Convention Planning Committee.

Sub-section 9. The Provost

- (a). The Provost shall be the official Sergeant-In-Arms during WOPC meetings.
- (b). The Provost shall be responsible for maintaining law and order during official WOPC meetings.
- (c). The Provost's authority to perform his or her duties and any other duties requested by the presiding officer during a meeting is limited only by the authority of the presiding officer.
- (d). The use of any enforcement methods during a meeting must be approved by the presiding officer.
- (e). The Provost is the WOPC expert on parliamentary and, or, presidential procedures and shall be knowledgeable in the 'Roberts Rules of Order'.
- (f). At the direction of the presiding officer, the Provost shall recognize those who wish to speak at WOPC forums.

Section 3. *Patrons:* The World Owerri Peoples Congress (WOPC) shall have Patrons. The World Owerri Peoples Congress Board of Directors shall determine the appropriate number of Patrons. The number of Patrons shall be equally distributed amongst the three local government areas of Owerri-North, Owerri-Municipal and Owerri-West, and/or, any future geographical or politico-socio-economic creations arising out of these three local government areas.

Sub-section (a).

Duties of the Patrons

The WOPC Patrons are ambassadors extraordinaire. They shall serve as emissaries for the entire WOPC and shall be sent by the WOPC President and/or, the WOPC Board of Directors to visit with any group or groups, or governments, whose interests and purposes are at cross-purpose, or inimical to the interests and purposes of nde-Owerre. The Patrons must make clear to groups with countervailing and detrimental interests that nde-Owerre will not stand for, or tolerate their stance. The Patrons shall advise the WOPC Board of Directors as well as the WOPC President of options on how to address any emergent anti-Owerre problems or activities. Similarly, the WOPC Patrons shall be sent by the WOPC President and, or, Board of Directors to visit with any group or groups, or governments, whose interests and purposes are in alignment with those of nde-Owerre. The Patrons shall forge and solidify stronger alliances with these groups in furtherance of the mutual and collective interest. The Patrons shall motivate the WOPC and shall help the Association raise money for its mission.

Sub-section (b).

Patron Selection Process

Every WOPC member shall have the right to submit the name or names of any Owerri person of independent stature to the WOPC Board of Directors for consideration of the individual for the honor of WOPC Patron. The individuals nominated for WOPC Patrons shall be beyond reproach, well connected politically and economically and above all, shall have the interest of nde Owerri at heart. In addition, such individuals must be law abiding, devoid of corrupt practices; and must have a track record that had been proven, quantifiable and observable. The WOPC Board of Directors shall convene a special meeting to consider all the nominated candidates and to select the Patrons. Equal number of Patrons shall be selected for each of the three local government areas that comprise the WOPC. The WOPC Board of Directors shall seek the agreement and acquiescence of the individuals selected as Patrons, prior to announcing their names. The WOPC Patron must be an Owerre indigene.

Sub-section (c).

Patrons Term of Office

The WOPC Board of Directors shall review the WOPC Patron's term of office every two years. An extension or extensions of term may be granted if the WOPC Board of Directors adjudges a Patron or Patrons as having substantially met or exceeded the requirements of the position.

ARTICLE X

STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

Section 1. Standing Committees: For purposes of operational efficiency, this Constitution authorizes the creation of the following ‘Standing Committees’.

Sub-section 1.

- (a). Public Accountability Committee,
- (b). Rules Committee,
- (c). Ethics and Grievance Committee,
- (d). Cultural Committee,
- (e). Economic Development Committee,
- (f). Public Health Committee,
- (g). Membership Committee,
- (h). Technology Committee,
- (i). Education Committee,
- (j). Fundraising Committee, and;
- (k). Legislative and International Affairs Committee.

Section 2. Responsibilities:

Sub-section (a). Public Accountability Committee (PAC)

The Public Accountability Committee is responsible for monitoring and collating all inflows and outflows of the peoples treasures in every form manifested. A primary focus of this Committee shall be the constant tracking of the revenue allocations intended for Imo State and the three local government areas of Owerri to which WOPC is committed. The PAC shall track and verify all local and state government expenditure claims and shall raise alarm when there is evidence of impropriety. The PAC shall immediately report their findings to the WOPC President who in turn is obligated to report the Committee’s report to the WOPC Board of Directors for determination of appropriate action. The PAC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation. The PAC shall move with deliberate speed.

Sub-section (b). Rules Committee (RC)

The Rules Committee is responsible for reviewing the rules and procedures set up by the different Committees of the WOPC and to ensure that ‘Due Process’ and ‘Appeal’ rights are accorded to every member of the WOPC. It is the

responsibility of the Rules Committee to ensure that procedures established by the different Committees and Organs of the WOPC with the acquiescence of the WOPC Executive Committee are followed and that all rules set up by the different Committees and Organs of the WOPC are geared toward maximizing operational efficiencies. The RC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to implementation. The Rules Committee shall report any infractions to the President of WOPC.

Sub-section (c). Ethics and Grievance Committee (EGC)

The primary function of the Ethics and Grievance Committee EGC is to investigate ethical lapses and misconducts within the WOPC. This Committee shall be responsible for hearing and entertaining WOPC members' complaints and grievances. The Committee has the authority to exonerate WOPC members who have been wrongly accused of wrongdoing as well as the authority to indict WOPC members who have been found guilty of wrongdoing. The EGC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to implementation. The EGC shall submit their findings to the WOPC Executive Committee for action. In instances where the WOPC President stands as the accused, the EGC shall submit their report to the WOPC Chairperson of the Board of Directors who in turn shall convene the WOPC Board of Directors for action.

Sub-section (d). Cultural Committee (CC)

The Cultural Committee CC is responsible for ensuring that the cultural identities of the Owerre people are perpetuated and kept alive for all Owerre people in the Diaspora and for generations unborn in honor of our forebears. In all matters and events where the WOPC members are involved and, or, are gathered in the name of nde-Owerre, the Owerre peoples' culture and tradition shall be promoted and honored. This Committee shall develop a manual, a cultural guide for the breaking of kola-nut, traditional dances, and other identifying symbols of the Owerre people. This Committee shall be staffed by Owerre people that are deeply rooted in the Owerre culture and tradition. The CC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation.

Sub-section (e). Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Economic Development Committee EDC is responsible for developing short, medium, and long- range plans for the economic development of the Owerri sub-

implementation.

Sub-section (j). Education Committee (EC)

The Education Committee shall be responsible for developing a comprehensive education plan that will in conjunction with the education plans of the three Owerri local governments eradicate the current rut and malaise in the education sector. The EC shall enlist the voluntary services of Owerri professionals in the different disciplinary backgrounds in the Diaspora for teaching assignments while visiting the Owerri area. Solicitation and acquisition of education equipment and materials shall be encouraged. The EC shall help in curriculum development and implementation as well as in instructions methods and techniques. The natural sciences should be emphasized more vigorously. The EC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation.

Sub-section (k). Technology Committee (TC)

The Technology Committee TC shall develop a comprehensive plan for transferring the marvels of technology to the Owerre sub-region. Simple but overlooked methods of doing work more efficiently shall be explored and taught. Training in the use of computer applications and software should be emphasized and encouraged. Computer programming techniques should be taught and made part of the education curriculum. Free seminars and workshops should be organized for local government workers as well as for all Owerre people who desire to be trained in computer applications. The TC, shall partner with Owerre local government actors to ensure that every elementary and high school student of Owerre extraction has solid foundation and exposure to the uses and wonders of the computer. The TC, shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation.

Sub-section (l). Fundraising Committee (FC)

The Fundraising Committee FC shall sustain an all year round fundraising effort for the WOPC. This Committee shall reach out, every year, to all Owerri persons living outside the borders of Nigeria soliciting voluntary contributions of money from them. The FC shall also reach out on a yearly basis to Owerri sons and daughters of means, who lives in Nigeria and may have favorable dispositions towards the WOPC and its goals. Aggressive modern fundraising techniques such as telephone solicitations, emails, mail-outs, marketing of WOPC's 501C (3) status designation, member-employer matching contributions, registration with federal, state and local fundraising groups, etc. shall be employed. The FC shall maintain a database of names, email addresses, physical addresses, telephone numbers, and amount of contribution of all donors to the WOPC, by year, and shall publish on a quarterly basis, the names and amounts of all donors during the

month. For purposes of transparency and encouragement, the FC shall prepare a quarterly and annual report of all donors and the amount of their contributions for distribution to all members of the WOPC. The FC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation.

Sub-section (m). Legislative and International Affairs Committee (LIAC)

The Legislative and International Affairs Committee LIAC shall closely monitor legislations in both the local, state and federal legislative bodies of Nigeria with a view to ensuring that the interests of *nde Owerre* are not ignored or sacrificed for the benefit of their competitors. Political maneuverings detrimental to *nde Owerre* shall be resisted very vigorously and destroyed. This Committee shall take active interest to ensure that politicians of *Owerre* extraction are not working at cross-purposes or engaged in zero-sum games or trading the interest of *nde-Owerre* for the satisfaction of their own private interest. The LIAC shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation.

ARTICLE XI

VOTING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. *Frequency of Election:* Election of officers shall be held every *three* years following the last general election and must be held at the annual convention of the World Owerri Peoples Congress.

Section 2. *Eligibility:* Any individual desiring to contest for a WOPC office must be member of a WOPC member Association, and must be in good financial standing with their local WOPC Chapter. The individual's local WOPC Chapter must in turn, be in good financial standing with the WOPC national body or, the individual must be an At-Large-Member of WOPC in good financial standing with WOPC national body. The local WOPC member Association shall certify the good financial standing of its members. Individuals, who are not in good financial standing with their local WOPC Chapter, are ineligible to contest for a WOPC office.

Sub-section (a). Individuals elected to any office are precluded from serving as a WOPC delegates.

Sub-section (b). Candidacy must be declared in consonance with directives from the executive committee and prior to the election.

Section 3. *Election Rules:* All officers of WOPC shall be elected under the following guidelines.

- Sub-section (a). Election of officers shall be by secret ballot.
- Sub-section (b). Each eligible WOPC member shall have one vote.
- Sub-section (c). Member Associations shall have one delegate vote each.
- Sub-section (d). No more than two officers shall come from the same local member Chapter.
- Sub-section (e). The offices of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer shall not come from the same member Association.
- Sub-section (f). Each contestant for any of the WOPC national offices must publish his or her biography and vision for the office prior to eligibility certification or they shall be disqualified.

Section 4. *Electoral Committee:* The Electoral Committee shall consist of a Returning Officer, Secretary, and Counting Officer. All electoral officers shall be elected at the general meeting during the convention.

Section 5. *Electoral Committee Functions:* The Electoral Committee shall be responsible for using the election secret ballot papers, conducting and supervising the election. The Returning Officer shall oversee the handover to the newly elected officers. All members of the electoral committee shall report to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer may appoint additional electoral officers as he or she may see fit.

Section 6. *Ballot Paper:* It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to develop ballot papers and tally sheets for use in all WOPC elections.

Section 7. *Election Results:* The person with the highest number of votes in the election for any office wins the election and shall be declared the winner.

Section 8. *Term of Office:* The term of office shall be for three years from the date of the officer's election into the office. All officers of the WOPC are precluded from serving in the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 9. *Vacancies in Office:* The President: When a vacancy occurs in the Office of the President, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy.

Section 10. *The Vice President:* When a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Vice President, the WOPC Board of Directors shall appoint a WOPC member in good financial standing to fill the vacancy.

Section 11. *The General Secretary:* When it occurs, the Assistant General Secretary shall fill the vacancy in the Office of the General Secretary.

Section 12. *The Financial Secretary:* When a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Financial Secretary, the Assistant Financial Secretary shall fill the vacancy.

Section 13. When a vacancy in an office other than those in sections 9 through 12 occurs for any reason, the President shall within thirty-days from the date the vacancy occurs; appoint a member in good financial standing to serve in said office. A mail ballot will be sent to the Board of Directors to confirm the appointee within thirty-days. The WOPC Board of Directors must affirm the appointment for the appointment to be valid. A new election for the office shall be held at the next general Convention immediately following the vacancy.

Section 14. When a vacancy in the Offices of the President and the Vice President occurs at the same time for any reason, the WOPC Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall appoint members in good financial standing to serve in the offices. A mail ballot shall be sent to each member of the Board of Directors to confirm the appointees within thirty-days. Majority members of the WOPC Board of Directors must affirm the appointment for the appointment to be valid. A new election for the offices shall be held at the next general convention immediately following the vacancy.

Section 15. *Swearing-In.* The WOPC Patrons or other qualified persons shall swear-in all incoming WOPC officers immediately after the election at the Convention. The newly elected executive committee shall assume office after the swearing-in ceremony.

Section 16. *Oath of Office:* WOPC sample oath of office shall be as follows:

I..... do solemnly swear that I shall conscientiously and faithfully bear true allegiance to the World Owerri Peoples Congress (WOPC) and its constitution; that I shall impartially serve all categories of members of the Association and show honor, probity and accountability in the discharge of my official duties as the; that I shall not in any manner whatsoever divulge any information entrusted to me in my official capacity; nor allow my personal interest to override my sense of responsibility and commitment to the Association and its Constitution. SO, HELP ME GOD.

SWORN TO THIS.....DAY OF..... 20.....
IN THE PRESENCE OF WOPC MEMBERS AND WITNESSED BY WOPC PATRONS AND DIGNITARIES.

.....
Deponent

.....
Witness

Section 17. *Voting on Common Issues:* When deliberating common issues, voting shall be by open ballot (i.e. raising of hands) or by voice vote.

ARTICLE XII

SEPARATION AND RE-ADMISSION

Section 1. A former local WOPC Chapter who wishes to separate from the WOPC may do so by providing in writing to the principal officers of the WOPC a six-month notice of intent to separate from the Association.

Sub-section (a). *Separation:* If at the end of the six-month period, which shall begin from the notice date and the former local Chapter desiring separation, is still irrevocably committed to the idea of separating from the WOPC, the separation shall automatically become effective.

Section 2. A former local WOPC Chapter who had previously separated from the WOPC but wishes to be re-admitted into the WOPC shall be re-admitted after satisfying the conditions for re-admission as enumerated below:

Sub-section (a). *Readmission:* The former local Chapter that wishes to be readmitted shall pay a readmission fee that is twice the prevailing amount paid for registration into the WOPC.

Sub-section (b). The former local Chapter that wishes to be readmitted shall promise to comply with all the provisions of the WOPC Constitution and Bylaws and any other enactments of the appropriate WOPC authorities.

Sub-section (c). Members of the former local WOPC Chapter that wishes to be readmitted shall wait for a period of two years before contesting for any elected WOPC office.

Sub-section (d). All levies, dues, and solidarity payments (i.e., death levies) if applicable in the year of the readmission application shall be paid prior to re-admission.

Sub-section (e). Members of a former local WOPC Chapter that is readmitted into the WOPC shall serve a probationary period of one-year before the resumption of benefits. The probationary period begins immediately from the date of readmission.

Sub-section (f). Readmission application shall be made to the Chairperson of the Membership Committee with copies to the WOPC General Secretary and President.

Sub-section (g). If the readmission application is denied, the former local Chapter desiring to be readmitted into the WOPC may petition the Executive Committee of the WOPC and where the Executive Committee denies the readmission petition, then the former local Chapter may petition the WOPC Board of Directors through its Chairperson.

Sub-section (h). The Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or the people in an annual general assembly (in this order) may readmit a former local WOPC Chapter if the conditions for readmission as stipulated under these provisions are met.

ARTICLE XIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Authorities not expressly given to any officer of the WOPC shall inhere in the WOPC Board of Directors or, and, in the people meeting in a general assembly.

Section 2. Expenditure proposals in excess of one-hundred-thousand-dollars shall be submitted by the WOPC Board of Directors to the WOPC members meeting in a general assembly for consideration and approval.

Section 3. This Constitution authorizes the establishment of the WOPC Bylaws. The WOPC Bylaws shall have the force and effect of the WOPC Constitution and shall be binding on all members of the WOPC.

Section 4. *Constitutional Supremacy:* In cases of conflict between the provisions of the WOPC Constitutions and the provisions of the WOPC Bylaws, or the provisions of any other enactment of the WOPC Board of Directors or approving authorities, the WOPC Constitution shall be the controlling document. The WOPC Constitution hereby asserts its supremacy over every other documents of the WOPC.

Section 5. No individual or group has the authority to suspend, amend, or abrogate any or, all parts of the WOPC Constitution. The WOPC Board of Directors have the authority to recommend the suspension, amendment or abrogation of any part, or parts of this Constitution to the entire membership of the WOPC, meeting in a general assembly. Such recommendation of the WOPC Board of Directors shall be voted upon by the entire membership of the WOPC present at the annual Convention. Suspension, amendment, or abrogation of the recommended part or parts shall occur with the majority vote of the membership voting in favor of the recommendation.

Section 6. WOPC Ad hoc Committees shall have a life span of three months. The President of WOPC may extend the life span of an Ad hoc Committee by no more than one term of three months. Under no circumstance shall an Ad hoc Committee's life span

be extended more than three months in total (i.e., only one extension of three months is allowed).

Section 7. Investment of any portion or parts of WOPC assets shall require the written approval of the WOPC Board of Directors.

Section 8. In furtherance of its stated objective of improving the lives of Owerri people and society, every Owerri person living in Diaspora is encouraged to make yearly voluntary contributions of money to the WOPC.

Section 9. All WOPC Standing and Ad-hoc Committees are required under the provisions of this Constitution to submit their internal operating rules, regulations and procedures to the “Rules Committee” for clearance prior to its implementation.

ARTICLE XIV

LEGAL ADVISER

Section 1. The President of the WOPC shall nominate a legal adviser for the WOPC. The President’s legal adviser nominee shall be submitted to the WOPC Board of Directors for confirmation. Selection of a legal adviser must be based on solid legal qualification and experience. The legal adviser shall provide legal advise to the WOPC.

ARTICLE XV

MOTTO AND LOGO

Section 1. The Motto of the World Owerri Peoples Congress shall be “Unity and Progress”

Section 2. The LOGO of the World Owerri Peoples Congress shall be:



ARTICLE XVI

AMMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be altered, amended or repealed in whole or in part by members of the World Owerri Peoples Congress at any Annual Convention following the initial waiting period of five years provided that the substance and notice of such Annual meeting or Convention shall contain a statement of such contemplated alteration, amendment or repeal. A copy of such amended Constitution shall be sent to each member of the WOPC within ninety business days after the adoption of the same.

Section 2. Amendment Process: All or any of the provisions of this Constitution shall be subject to amendment only after it has been in operation for at least five calendar years.

Section 3. A written motion for amendment duly signed by three WOPC Chapter Associations in good financial standing is read by it sponsors on the floor of a duly constituted Convention or annual meeting.

Section 4. A discussion on the proposed amendment shall follow or, at a subsequent WOPC Convention.

Section 5. A motion for amendment shall not be voted upon on the same day it was introduced.

Section 6. A two-third-majority vote of WOPC Chapters present at a duly convened Convention or annual meeting shall be obtained to amend the constitution.

ARTICLE XVII

DISSOLUTION OF WOPC

WOPC shall not dissolve while there are at least seven local Chapters who wish to continue the Association.

Upon the dissolution of the WOPC, the WOPC Board of Directors shall donate all assets of the Association, including all monies, computer equipment, software, reference materials and any other tangible assets to a recognized educational institution or non-profit institutions.

To ascertain whether or not, seven local Chapters desire to retain the Charter, there shall be subtracted from the complete Chapter list for the current month the name of each

Chapter in good financial standing who has, during the current month, submitted to the General Secretary a personally signed, notarized, individual affidavit attesting to their desire to sever their membership ties from the WOPC. Such affidavit shall be forwarded to the General Secretary in the month in which it is signed. It shall be conclusively presumed that those who have not executed such individual affidavits still desire to retain the Charter.

ARTICLE XVIII

RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION

In Witness thereof, this Constitution is approved as amended by the unanimous votes of the WOPC members present and in favor; meeting in a general assembly at the City of Dallas, in the State of Texas, United States of America, this eleventh day of August, two-thousand and seven.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Eddy Abakporo
WOPC – Vice President &
Chairperson of Constitution Review Committee

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Martin Ajaero (Delegate – Dallas Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Vincent Nnadi (Delegate - MD, DC, VA Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Henry Otulle Eke (Delegate –Austin Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Ernest Amadi (Delegate – Denton Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Damian Ohale (Delegate – Houston 1 Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Chris Opara (Delegate – Atlanta Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Mrs. Rosalind Abara (Delegate – Philadelphia Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Sir. Obed Ejiogu (Delegate - NY, NJ, CT Chapter).

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Emmanuel Nzeocha (Delegate – Houston 2 Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. George Ejim (Delegate – Boston Chapter)

This reviewed Constitution is further witnessed by the following officers of the World Owerri Peoples Congress.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Attorney Chidi Ejiogu (WOPC Legal Adviser)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chief Chris Nwaneri (WOPC-President)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Denis Ekwerike (WOPC – Board Chairperson)

The reviewed Constitution pays tribute to the writers of the original document whose hard work and dogged determination no doubt provided the underbelly for the current work. The names of the original writers of the WOPC Constitution which provided impetus and gave rise to this reviewed Constitution are listed in the original document.

Bylaws of The **World Owerri Peoples Congress**

ARTICLE I

Location of Offices

Section 1. The principal offices of the World Owerri Peoples Congress shall be at the residences of the WOPC President and General Secretary until such a time the World Owerri Peoples Congress can establish a permanent office. The World Owerri Peoples Congress (WOPC) may also have offices or agencies or representatives in such places as the Executive Committee of WOPC may deem expedient.

ARTICLE II

Meeting of Members

Section 1. The annual meetings of members of the World Owerri Peoples Congress WOPC shall be held on the 3rd or 4th weekend of July of every year for fundraising activities and other businesses as may properly come before the Assembly, and, if in the 3rd year, following the last general election of WOPC national officers; for the election of new national officers. Notice of the date, time, place and purpose of an annual general meeting shall be electronically communicated to every WOPC member at least six months before the meeting.

Section 2. At the annual meeting of members as called for under section 1 of this article, and properly convened, a simple majority of members in attendance shall constitute a quorum of the members for the transaction of WOPC business except as otherwise provided by law or by WOPC Constitution or by this Bylaws.

Section 3. At each general assembly meeting of WOPC members, each member of a WOPC Chapter in good standing and duly certified by the WOPC Financial Secretary as such, shall be entitled to one vote. Members of WOPC Chapters that are not in good standing shall be denied the right to vote on any issue presented before the WOPC general assembly until such a time that their local Chapter is restored to good standing by satisfying the requirements of the precipitating occurrence. A Presidential or Board of Director's fiat or waiver intended to circumvent the simple requirements for restoration to good financial standing status shall be void and of no consequence.

Section 4. The President, and in his or her absence, the Vice President, and in their absences, the General Secretary, shall call the meeting of members to order and shall act as the Chairperson of such meeting. The Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors (BODs) may designate any member in good financial standing to act as Chairperson in the absence of the President or Vice President or the General Secretary.

Section 5. The President in consultation with the General Secretary and three other members of the WOPC Executive Committee shall summon an emergency general meeting whenever circumstances dictate.

Section 6. The President or Vice President or the General Secretary and any other three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for a member (s) petitioned emergency meeting. The Executive Committee quorum plus the petitioner (s) shall form the quorum of a petition convened emergency meeting.

Section 7. If a meeting fails to achieve a quorum, under procedures outlined above, the President or presiding officer shall inform members that the meeting failed to form a quorum and therefore cannot hold, but that they may remain to discuss business informally.

Section 8. The President or anyone authorized to preside in his/her stead may at his or her discretion delay calling the meeting to order by up to thirty minutes.

ARTICLE III

Meeting of Delegates

Section 1. A delegate or delegates may petition the WOPC Chairperson of the Board of Directors and copy each Executive Committee member to summon an emergency delegates meeting when circumstances warrant.

Sub-section 1. Such delegate (s) shall secure two-thirds approval of members of it's local WOPC Chapter whose endorsement of the request shall be attached to the petition.

Sub-section 2. The petition and the approval (s) shall be submitted to the WOPC Chairperson of the Board of Directors for verification by the Board of Directors.

Sub-section 3. After the verification of the approvals, the WOPC Board of Directors shall convene a delegate-summoned emergency meeting within 4-6 weeks from when the petition was received.

Sub-section 4. The report from the delegates meeting shall be subject to ratification and approval by the WOPC Board of Directors.

Section 2. The venue for delegates meeting 'except' in emergencies shall be determined prior to the adjournment of delegates meeting. Electronic meeting venues such as teleconferencing and others may be used in lieu of a physical venue when necessary.

Section 3. Delegates from two-third (2/3) member organizations shall form a quorum of a delegates meeting.

Section 4. The Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors, and in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors, and in their absences, any other deputizing member of the WOPC Board of Directors shall call the delegates meeting to order and help organize the delegates until they elect their own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for purposes of the presenting event 'only'.

Section 5. Once the delegates have elected their own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, all members of the WOPC Board of Directors present in the conference or at the venue of the meeting shall take leave of the delegates.

ARTICLE IV

The Executive Committee

Section 1. Except for the authorities expressly reserved for members of the World Owerri Peoples Congress (the people), or precluded by law, or by the WOPC Constitution, or by this Bylaws, or by the WOPC Board of Directors' resolutions, the Executive Committee of the WOPC shall have all the management and administrative authorities of the World Owerri Peoples Congress and shall perform all the duties usually exercised by, or imposed upon the executive of similar organizations. The Executive Committee shall be entrusted with the day-to-day management of the affairs of the World Owerri Peoples Congress.

Section 2. The WOPC Executive Committee may hold their meeting at any time with a 72-hour notice to its members, by means of teleconferencing or in person at any location deemed expedient and appropriate as they may from time to time determine. Executive meetings shall be convened by the President in consultation with the General Secretary.

Section 3. A majority of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Executive Committee. All questions or issues shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the Executive Committee members present. The yeas and nays shall be taken and recorded.

Section 4. In case of vacancies in the Executive Committee of WOPC occurring by death, resignation, failure to accept office, inability to discharge the duties thereof, or otherwise, before the expiration of the term, the President, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee shall within thirty (30) days from the date of the vacancy appoint a member in good financial standing to assume the office. A mail ballot shall be sent to the WOPC Board of Directors to confirm the appointee within thirty-days from the decision of the Executive Committee. The WOPC Board of Directors must affirm the appointment (s) to be valid. A new election for the office (s) shall be held at the next general Convention immediately following the vacancy. WOPC members shall be notified in writing shortly after the nomination is confirmed by the WOPC Board of Directors. In case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy with the blessing of the WOPC Board of Directors until the next general Convention when a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

Section 5. Immediately after the adjournment of each annual meeting of the WOPC, the officers shall meet for the purpose of organization and transaction of such other business as shall come before them.

Section 6. The President, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint Chairpersons and members of all Standing Committees. It is recommended that all members of the Standing Committees are subject matter experts (SMEs). Except where it is not possible, it is recommended that the Chairpersons of all Standing Committees are Subject Matter Experts (SME) on their Committee's work to enable guidance and focus to it. *All Standing Committees shall comprise of no more than five persons.*

Section 7. It is the duty of the Executive Committee at least once a year, to inspect or examine, or cause to be inspected or examined by a Committee or otherwise, the books, vouchers, papers and accounts (financial records) of the World Owerri Peoples Congress. The WOPC Board of Directors may cause the books of the World Owerri Peoples Congress to be examined at anytime by requesting whatever documents needed from any officers of the World Owerri Peoples Congress. A copy of the audited report should be made available to the Chapters.

Section 8. Any Executive Committee Officer shall be subject to removal from office with cause by a majority vote of members of WOPC meeting in a general assembly, with notice to the officer. The affected officer shall have the right to 'Due Process' prior to the removal. A WOPC member (s) shall be selected to fill the vacancy or vacancies caused by the removal at the time of the removal. The World Owerri Peoples Board of Directors have the authority to immediately suspend and shall suspend any WOPC officer indefinitely for egregious wrongdoings as articulated under the impeachable offenses provisions of the WOPC Constitution.

ARTICLE V

General Assembly Meetings (Conventions)

Section 1. The President and the General Secretary shall prepare an agenda, outlining the order of business that may only be amended at the start of the meeting. In determining the order of motions, priority shall be given to those submitted by petition of members. Motions submitted by petition shall be ranked in order of the number of signatures submitted.

Section 2. The President shall at the time of closure of the meeting move to the summation speech and vote on the matter under discussion provided the opportunity has been given for an equal number of speeches to be heard on both sides of the debate.

Section 3. The order of speeches on a motion shall be:

- Sub-section 1. A speech proposing the motion;
- Sub-section 2. A speech against the motion;
- Sub-section 3. An even number of speeches for and against the motion;
- Sub-section 4. A speech summarizing the motions.

Section 4. All speeches shall be given by members in good financial standing.

Section 5. Speakers shall be entitled to speak for two minutes for and against the motion or amendment and for one minute on the summation.

Section 5. The person who proposed the motion or amendment shall have the right to make or waive the summation speech. The summation speech shall not contain new information and may be given immediately before the vote.

Section 6. Points of information may be requested by members in good financial standing from speakers but, shall be taken at the discretion of the speaker and may not be made on procedural motions. These shall contain only matters raised in the speech.

Section 7. Points of order may be made by members in good financial standing and shall concern one of the followings:

- Sub-section 1. A ruling from the Chair,
- Sub-section 2. A breach of the Constitution, Bylaws or other regulations;
- Sub-section 3. The conduct of the meeting.

Section 8. Robert's rules of order for deliberative assemblies, a handbook which sets the guidelines for such issues as leading debates; recognizing speakers; defining the role of the Chair and other officers; proposing, seconding, and voting on motions; writing and

amending Constitution and Bylaws shall be followed by the WOPC to the extent possible.

Section 9. *Convention Business:* - The National Convention is open to all members of the WOPC and to any Owerri son or daughter. However, voting at the Convention or at any other session of the WOPC shall be limited 'only' to financially registered members. The business transacted at the annual general meeting of the WOPC must together with whatever other matters the Executive Committee may deem appropriate, include the followings;

Sub-section (a). Reading of the minutes of prior year Convention.

Sub-section (b). State of the association's address by the WOPC President.

Sub-section (c). The election of officers (in an election year).

Sub-section (d). The annual financial report of the WOPC (receipts, expenditures, and deposits) by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Copies shall be made available to members.

Sub-section (e). The annual reports of all Standing Committees (status of projects and assignments).

Sub-section (f). Raising of funds for the WOPC.

Sub-section (g). Shall receive and discuss the annual report from the Executive Committee members and Auditors.

Sub-section (h). Shall review all major Executive and Board of Directors actions during the year and take necessary actions to affirm or disaffirm those actions.

Sub-section (i). Shall receive and discuss, if necessary, papers dealing with the association or other topics of interest including the elections in an election year.

Sub-section (j). *Convention Funding:* With the exception of the voluntary and customary Friday night Convention entertainments (food and drinks, etc.), which shall remain the sole responsibility of the local WOPC hosting Chapter and excluded from this funding allocation, all expenses for, and receipts from, the Convention shall be shared between the WOPC national body and the local organizing WOPC Chapter in the ratio of 7: 3 (70% to 30%) in favor of the WOPC national.

ARTICLE VI

Chapter Member Responsibilities and Expectations

Section 1. WOPC member Chapters are required and obligated to pay \$500.00 in registration fee. A \$100.00 per member annual dues shall be paid to the WOPC through their local Chapters. Chapter registration fees shall be made payable to the World Owerri Peoples Congress and received by the Financial Secretary of the WOPC on behalf of the World Owerri Peoples Congress.

Section 1.1. WOPC member Chapters are required to pay all levies and fines approved by members meeting in a general assembly or by the WOPC Board of Directors. Fines and levies duly made by the WOPC President or those acting in his or her stead shall form and constitute an integral part of the member's general financial obligation to the WOPC, and shall be charged to the erring member through their local WOPC Chapter.

Section 1.2. Annual individual member dues are due no later than December 31 of each year.

Section 1.3. After March 31 of each year, the Financial Secretary shall notify member organizations whose members' annual dues are delinquent by certified mail, return-receipt requested of the delinquency. Member organizations whose members' annual dues continue to be delinquent by April 30 of each year shall forfeit those member benefits, rights and privileges until when restored to full membership status.

Section 1.4. A delinquent member Chapter whose membership rights and privileges have been forfeited shall be restored to good standing upon payment of a resuscitation fee of two hundred dollars (\$200) plus any outstanding dues, fees, and levies.

Section 1.5. The Board of Directors shall determine when a levy or other forms of financial contributions are necessary. Member association that fails to pay these levies or fees shall be sanctioned.

Section 1.6. WOPC strongly discourages absenteeism from meetings. Unexcused absence by Chapter delegate from a delegate meeting or a Board of Directors member from a Board of Directors meeting shall attract an automatic fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the local Chapter.

Section 1.7. A member Association is absent if it did not have a representation at a WOPC delegates meeting or Board of Directors meeting and the member association had not notified the Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors in writing of its intended absence at the meeting or Convention.

Section 1.8. The General Secretary shall notify a member organization, by certified mail, return-receipt requested, when its delegate or President is absent at a duly constituted meeting.

Section 1.9. WOPC members shall promote, encourage and share relevant information amongst its members as well as become good ambassadors for the World Owerri Peoples Congress.

Section 2. When advised by the Executive Committee of issue (s) or situation (s) requiring urgent attention, WOPC members are expected to respond favorably and with dispatch to enable the realization of a solution to the problem (s) as fashioned by the Executive Committee or by the WOPC Board of Directors.

Sub-section (1). Each WOPC local Chapter shall immediately remit the sum of *five hundred dollars (\$500.00)* in 'solidarity' payment to the WOPC when informed by the national President of the WOPC of the passing (death) of a WOPC member in good financial standing.

ARTICLE VII

Member Benefits

Section 1. WOPC shall provide the sum of *ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00)* to the next of kin of a deceased member in good financial standing with the WOPC, and, whose Chapter is also in good financial standing with the WOPC. Good financial standing means meeting 100 percent of the member's and Chapter's financial obligation to the WOPC prior to the onset of the qualifying event (i.e., death). Next of kin is as recognized by state-law in the deceased member's primary place of residence prior to death. The exception is if the deceased member had made beneficiary election that is different from the next of kin and in this instance, the deceased member's elected beneficiary shall receive the benefits.

Section 2. It shall be the responsibility of the bereaved member's next of kin or beneficiary designee to notify the deceased member's local WOPC Chapter President or the General Secretary of the WOPC of their loss.

Section 3. Immediately upon notification of bereavement or loss, the WOPC President and in his or her absence, the Vice President and in their absences, the General Secretary, shall convene an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the WOPC for formal certification of benefit eligibility. A check shall be sent to the qualifying member's Chapter President for delivery to the decedent's next of kin or designated beneficiary within seven business days from the date of formal notification of bereavement.

Section 4. For purposes of expediency, the WOPC President has the authority to request the release of death benefit as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the WOPC without resorting to the Board of Directors for authorization and approval.

Section 5. All benefits shall be paid or denominated in US dollars 'only'.

ARTICLE VIII

Budgetary Authority & Earmarks

Section 1. The President and his/her Cabinet shall submit an annual budget on the scheduled WOPC Board of Directors meeting in January of each year or at some other agreed upon date following the end of the WOPC Convention. The President's budget shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors for the BODs approval, prior to 'any' expenditures being made. To be valid, the budget shall be approved by at least two-third members of the Board of Directors present.

Section 2. For its purposes, WOPC shall operate a Calendar year accounting period (January 1, of every year through December 31, of the same year).

Section 3. The President of WOPC has the authority to release in timely manner monies for specific 'allocations' within his approved budget. The President must use the monies specifically for the intended allocations. Any redirection of monies within the approved budget for other purposes shall require the WOPC Board of Directors' approval. Beyond the President's approved budget allocations, the President's unapproved or unbudgeted spending limit is capped at \$1,000.00 per year.

Section 4. Receipts and proof of expenditures must be submitted to the WOPC Financial Secretary prior to the disbursement of WOPC funds. In situations where receipts and proof of expenditures are unavailable, a statement sworn to before a Notary public must be provided prior to any reimbursement.

Section 5. The President and the Treasurer shall sign all checks and other instruments for withdrawal of funds from the WOPC bank account. In the absence of the President, or the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary shall be the co-signer. In no event shall an instrument for withdrawal of funds from the WOPC bank account(s) not bear the signatures of any combination of at least two (2) of these designated officers.

Section 6. The World Owerri Peoples Board of Directors shall approve all expenditures between \$1,000.01 and \$100,000.00. Expenditures of \$100,000.01 and above must be approved by the WOPC Board of Directors as a precondition before submission to the entire WOPC members at a general Convention for final approval and authorization of the planned expenditure.

ARTICLE IX

Membership Rights and Privileges

Section 1. Rights and Privileges: - All WOPC members who have been duly registered and meet all financial obligations shall be referred to as “members in good standing”. All members in good standing shall be accorded full rights and privileges of membership. Membership rights in WOPC include but are not limited to the following:

Sub-section (a). The right to serve as a delegate to the National Convention.

Sub-section (b). The right to hold office.

Sub-section (c). The right to vote and be voted for.

Sub-section (d). The right to participate in all deliberations and activities of the WOPC.

Sub-section (e). The right to represent WOPC in a public forum when requested to do so.

Sub-section (f). The right to official condolence message during bereavement of immediate family members, such as children, parents, brothers, and sisters, and;

Sub-section (g). Upon death, the Executive Committee shall constitute an ‘Ad-hoc Bereavement Committee’ to act as the liaison between WOPC and the bereaved family. WOPC shall (through solidarity levy of members) donate the sum of \$10,000 to assist the bereaved family.

ARTILCE X

Election Rules

Section 1. There shall be an Ad-Hoc Electoral Committee made up of one member from each of the existing and duly registered WOPC Chapters. They shall ensure that all the declared candidates for elections are qualified to run. The Ad hoc Electoral Committee shall declare a candidate ineligible if they determine that the candidate is non compliant with the WOPC election and other rules.

Section 2. Members of the Executive Committee shall appoint the Chairperson who will serve as the Chief Electoral Officer.

Section 3. No member of the Electoral Committee shall be eligible to run for office in the year that he or she is serving on the Committee.

Section 4. No later than 120 days before the annual Convention, the General Secretary of WOPC shall send a circular or letter, via email or any other means to all members of WOPC with a deadline requesting the names of candidates for election into the various offices.

Section 5. The General Secretary shall announce the names of the candidates for election to the general membership of the WOPC upon receipt, via email, or by any other means.

Section 6. No person shall be qualified to contest for a WOPC office unless the person's dues and financial obligations to the WOPC are met.

Section 7. In an election year, and no later than 30 days prior to the annual Convention, the General Secretary of WOPC shall prepare and mail to all members in good standing, a listing of the offices to be filled at the election, with the names of all qualified candidates for each office.

Section 8. No later than 30 days to the election, each candidate for elective office shall submit to the General Secretary for publication to the general membership his or her biography and vision statement.

Section 9. Election of WOPC officers shall be held at the annual Convention. The Chief Electoral Officer shall formally announce the results of the election, and the candidates receiving the highest number of votes for their respective offices shall be declared duly elected.

Section 10. In the event of a tie vote among the candidates for a particular office, a run-off election shall be held immediately, and the candidate who receives the highest number of votes from the run-off election shall be declared the winner.

Section 11. All the newly elected officers shall be sworn in immediately upon the conclusion of the elections and shall assume office upon the adjournment of the annual convention/meeting.

Section 12. Withdrawal Deadline: A candidate must officially withdraw from the race in writing at least thirty (30) days before election.

Section 13. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE XI

Common Provisions

Section 1. *Standing Committees:* - All Standing Committees shall submit a Quarterly Report to the Executive Committee and an Annual Report to WOPC members at each annual Convention.

Section 2. *At-Large-Members:* - At-Large-Members shall pay a one-time registration fee of \$100.00. They shall pay the same annual dues (\$100.00) that are applicable to every other member of the WOPC.

Section 3. *Default Status:* - No WOPC member in default status shall be qualified to exercise or be entitled to receive any benefit or privilege of membership. If a member is in default status in the payment of dues, levies or fines for a period of two months after the due date, the Financial Secretary shall notify such person that, unless such dues are paid within two months thereafter, such default will be reported without further notice to the Executive Committee with recommendation for the suspension of the said member's members benefits and privileges. Upon such report being made to the Executive Committee, it may, without further notice, cause the name of such member to be stricken from the register for non-payment of dues, levies, fines, etc., and the membership rights and privileges in respect thereto of such person shall thereupon cease.

Section 4. *Increases and Decreases:* - In the event of a proposed dues increase or decrease, the General Secretary shall mail a notice to each member at least 60 days prior to the next, general Convention advising each member that a vote will be taken on the proposed dues increase or decrease at the Convention.

Section 5. *Handover:* - In an election year, all serving officers of the WOPC, including all Committee Chairpersons shall come to the Convention with every documents developed on behalf of the WOPC in the performance of their assigned tasks. The documents shall be handed over to the Chairperson of the WOPC Board of Directors.

Sub-section (a). Information developed in the course of WOPC work shall remain the exclusive property of the WOPC and shall not in anyway become the office holder or developer's property.

Sub-section (b). The WOPC Board of Directors shall determine appropriate action for refusal by an individual to handover documents belonging to the WOPC in an election year or, on demand. Actions may include expulsion of the individual from the WOPC, suspension of any or all benefits that may be due the individual, or, authorization of funds for the Executive Committee for legal remedies against the individual.

Section 6. *Parliamentary Authority:* In all procedural matters not covered by the Constitution, WOPC shall be use the current version of Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Section 7. *Fiscal Year:* The fiscal year of WOPC shall begin by 12.01 am of January 1, each year to 12:00 midnight of December 31, of the same year.

Section 8. *Guests Invitation:* - Special and open invitations may be extended to individuals or groups, home and abroad, whose attendance would benefit the WOPC materially and, or, non-materially. Invited guests shall be responsible for their expenses, unless other arrangements were agreed upon between the guests and the WOPC Executive Committee at the time of the invitation.

Section 9. *Meetings:* - WOPC member associations are obligated to attend all Delegates or Board of Directors meetings and the annual Convention.

Section 10. *Travel:* - Member organizations shall be responsible for traveling and other related expenses incurred by the member associations' representatives for the purpose of attending duly called meetings of the WOPC. The WOPC national body shall be responsible for the travel, related expenses and administrative expenses incurred by the elected Executives of the WOPC in the discharge of their duties as authorized by this Constitution. However, such anticipated expenses must be included in the President's annual budget.

Section 11. *Democratic Principles:* All decisions of the WOPC must be arrived at through established democratic principles.

ARTICLE XII

Official Language

Section 1. The official language of the World Owerri Peoples Congress (WOPC) shall be Igbo and English languages, or a mixture of both languages as a speaker or speakers may choose. Members and non-members shall not be harassed or hassled when speaking or addressing the World Owerri Peoples Congress in any of these languages. Exceptions may be made for the use of other languages if these other languages shall be simultaneously interpreted into the Igbo or English Language. Where feasible a sign language interpreter could be utilized to interpret and translate the user's language at the time.

ARTICLE XIII

Checks, Notes and Drafts

Section 1. All checks, notes, drafts, warrants or orders for payment of money, shall be signed by such officer, as mandated by the WOPC Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV

Seal

Section 1. The seal of the World Owerri Peoples Congress shall be in the form of a circle and shall bear the name of the World Owerri Peoples Congress and the year of formation.

ARTICLE XV

Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed in whole or in part by the members of the World Owerri Peoples Congress at any annual meeting provided that the notice and substance of such annual meeting shall contain a statement of such contemplated alteration, amendment or repeal. A copy of such amended bylaws shall be sent to each WOPC member within ten (10) business days after the adoption of the same.

In Witness thereof, these Bylaws, deriving its authority from the WOPC Constitution, are approved as amended, by the unanimous votes of WOPC members present and in favor; meeting in a general assembly at the City of Dallas, in the State of Texas, United States of America, this eleventh day of August, two-thousand and seven.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Eddy Abakporo
WOPC – Vice President &
Chairperson of Constitution Review Committee

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Martin Ajaero (Delegate – Dallas Chapter)
Secretary - Bylaws Review Committee

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Vincent Nnadi (Delegate - MD, DC, VA Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Henry Otulle Eke (Delegate –Austin Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Ernest Amadi (Delegate – Denton Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Damian Ohale (Delegate – Houston 1 Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Chris Opara (Delegate – Atlanta Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Mrs. Rosalind Abara (Delegate – Philadelphia Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Sir. Obed Ejiogu (Delegate - NY, NJ, CT Chapter).

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. Emmanuel Nzeocha (Delegate – Houston 2 Chapter)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Mr. George Ejim (Delegate – Boston Chapter)

This reviewed Bylaws is further witnessed by the following officers of the World Owerri Peoples Congress.

Signed: _____
Attorney Chidi Ejiogu (WOPC Legal Adviser)

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Chief Chris Nwaneri (WOPC-President)

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Dr. Denis Ekwerike (WOPC – Board Chairperson)

Date: _____

The reviewed Bylaws pay tribute to the writers of the original document whose hard work and dogged determination no doubt provided the underbelly for the current work. The names of the original writers of the WOPC Constitution which provided impetus and gave rise to this reviewed Constitution are listed in the original document.