

# **Constitution Of The World Owerri People's 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 PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, INC.

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION**

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

### **ARTILCE 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 World Owerri People's Congress (WOPC) community are encouraged to register with Chapter closest to them within the same State; and Chapters shall continue to accommodate members who moved out of their Chapter's zone or state, but will encourage them to register with a chapter nearest to their new residence.

Section 1.1 (a). 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. Owerri Community Association shall mean local Chapter of WOPC, which comprises of at least members from two of the three local government areas as long as they are not immediate family members. 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 an Owerri Community Association affiliated with WOPC except in cases of At-Large-Members who are not required to belong to such 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 go through the WOPC Secretariat and Membership Committee. Further membership shall be open to all sons and daughters residing in areas without pre-existing WOPC Chapter and such prospective members shall be considered “Members-At-Large”. At-Large members exceeding nine (9) persons within an incorporated area (i.e., a State) shall be required to incorporate an affiliate chapter or incur the risk of losing individual membership(s) to the national body.

Section 1.5. Members of Owerri community within 50 miles radius or less that wishes to form a chapter is required to have a minimum of nine (9) members and the officers must not come from the same family.

Section 1.6. Registration with WOPC shall be through the WOPC Executive Committee; such application shall be referred to the Membership and Mobilization Committee, or any other similar Committee (s) for investigation and recommendation to the WOPC Executive Committee. 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 1.7. (a). 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. And Such list must contain not less than nine (9) names of its members in good standing, their telephone numbers, residential addresses, and (where possible) email addresses.

(b). Every member Association must submit its most updated membership list **annually** 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 upon notification by the General Secretary or the Financial Secretary 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.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION COMPOSITION**

Section 1. 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.

Section (2). BOARD OF DIRECTORS: - The WOPC Board of Directors with ‘voting rights’ shall consist ‘only’ of the Presidents of all local WOPC Chapters and two appointees of the national President (Who shall serve at the discretion of the National President or the end of his 3-yearly tenure). The President, Vice President, and General Secretary of WOPC (Who shall be the custodian of the WOPC BOD in the absence of the President and Vice President) shall be un-official members of the Board of Directors and shall not have voting rights. The General Secretary shall be an officer of the Board of Directors, and shall be the Custodian of the Board in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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. When a WOPC Board of Directors’ member ceases to be a local Chapter

President, his or her tenure expires immediately based in the Board of Directors Operational Manual and is replaced by the newly elected local Chapter President. However, the tenure of office of the two appointees of the president shall end at the discretion of the President or with tenure of the appointing President.

*Sub-section (b). Jurisdiction:* - The Board of Directors is the highest Legislative and policymaking body of the WOPC; based on this premise, 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) shall be presented to the WOPC members through the chapters or the Annual Convention for consideration.

*Sub-section (d).* The Board of Directors at its regular annual meeting shall review, address and take action on an annual national program(s) 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, according to her governing byelaw that is adopted by the Association.

Sub-section (j). The WOPC Board of Directors by simple majority vote shall invite before it, any Officer or member of the WOPC that it wishes to invite. And refusal of such member to attend, or upon hearing, the decision of the Board of Directors are final based on simple majority vote.

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

Sub-section (l). The WOPC Board of Directors shall convene for consideration of impeachment charges against any elected officer and so 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 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 it 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.

## ARTICLE V

### **NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS**

Section 1. National WOPC Responsibilities to the Local Chapters:

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

Sub-section (b). Develop the strategic direction and policy guidance as espoused by the Board of Directors 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 initiated by 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-Owerri.

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 VI**

### **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 VII**

### **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. And shall be affirmed by the BOD. 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' members in attendance at the annual general 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 suspended from office with the votes of two-thirds majority members of the Board of Directors in attendance at a Board of Directors emergency or regularly constituted meeting acting on the impeachment referral by properly constituted committee(s) of WOPC and/or its agents.

## 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 .

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 reference to the Rules, Ethics, and Grievance Committee.

Step (4). If the charge(s) is/are reasonably supported by the evidence, the Board of Directors must vote to suspend the Executive or Member pending investigation as outlined this constitution by the Membership Committees and further due process procedures as outlined in this constitution.

Step (5). The Rules, Ethics, and Grievance Committee shall review the evidence and witnesses' testimonies before voting to support the position of BOD, suspend, or

impeach the erring officer or member. The Committee's 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 investigating committee shall be the final determination on the matter.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **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

Sub-section (j). Office of the Youths and Young Professionals  
(Coordinator, 18 – 22 years old).

Sub-section (k). Office of women and Children Affairs.

## 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 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: (i). Appoint ad hoc committees, (ii). Call emergency cabinet meetings, (iii). Veto executive committee decisions, however, the President's veto can be overridden by two-third majority members of his/her cabinet, (iv). Fine members for cause, (v). 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.

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 Director 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.

#### Sub-section 10. Youths and Young Professionals Officer.

- a) The youths and young professionals’ officer shall be responsible for coordinating activities for WOPC youths and young professionals in USA and in the diaspora.
- b) The youths and young professionals’ officer shall maintain a database of WOPC youths and young professionals.
- c) The youths and young professionals’ officer authority to perform his or her duties and any other duties requested by the presiding officer during a meeting is limited only by the President and shall carry responsibilities as assigned by the President.
- d) The youths and young professionals’ officer shall as needed or at least on quarterly basis hold meeting or teleconference of WOPC youths and young professionals to discuss issues concerning them and WOPC. And the outcome of such meetings shall be reported to the WOPC on at least quarterly basis.
- e) The youths and young professionals’ officer shall coordinate the activities of WOPC children, youths and young professionals during conventions.

Sub-section 11. Women's and Children's Affairs Coordinator.

- a) Shall develop programs and initiatives to ensure greater mobilization and participation of WOPC women and children in WOPC programs
- b) Initiate programs that will empower WOPC Women and children in the affairs of WOPC and Ala-Owerre.
- c) Develop and source for finance and grants to support WOPC programs or projects intended for women and children of WOPC and Ala-Owerre.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Section 1: PATRONS**

*Patrons:* The World Owerri People's Congress (WOPC) shall have Patrons. The World Owerri People's 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.

Subsection (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 Owerri People. The Patrons must make clear to groups with countervailing and detrimental interests that Owerri People 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-Owerri 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 Owerri People. 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 upon BOD summon with their resume. 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; with their acceptance and submission of their resume. The WOPC Patron must be an Owerri 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 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’. All standing committees shall develop and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive Committee for approval not more than 60 - days of its constitution as a Committee. Also, the ‘Standing Committees’ shall develop a database of Owerri people in Diaspora and at home within its expertise area of responsibility within 90-days by its constitution and such database shall be forward to the WOPC President and Board Chairperson Person.

### Sub-section 1.

- (a). Homeland Public Accountability, Legislative and International Affairs Committee.
- (b). Rules, Ethics and Grievance Committee,
- (c). Social, Cultural Committee, and Public Relations Strategy committee,
- (d). Technology, and Education Committee,
- (e). Economic Development Committee,
- (f). Health and Environmental Issues Committee,
- (g). Membership, Mobilization, and Rules Committee,
- (h). Fundraising and Grants Committee, and;
- (i). Women and Children Affairs Committee.
- (j). Youths and Young Professionals Committee.

### Section 2. Responsibilities

Sub-section (a). Homeland Public Accountability, Legislative and International Affairs Committee (PALIAC).

The Homeland Public Accountability, Legislative and International Affairs Committee shall be 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 to which WOPC is committed. The Committee shall track and verify all local and state government expenditure claims and shall raise alarm when there is evidence of impropriety. The Committee shall immediately report their findings to the WOPC President who is obligated to report the Committee's findings to the WOPC Board of Directors for determination of appropriate action. The Committee shall also, 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 other areas of Imo-State. The PALIAC shall monitor, make known to WOPC Executive, Board and Nde-Owerre at-large political maneuverings detrimental to Nde-Owerre; and develop resistance plan that shall be vigorously pursued. 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.

Sub-section (b): Rules Committee, Ethics, and Grievance Committee (REG):

- I. Shall be responsible for reviewing the rules and procedures set up by the different Committees of the WOPC and to ensure that the established 'Due Process' and 'Appeal' rights are accorded to every member of the WOPC as the case may be. The REG Committee may propose organizational rules for approval by the BOD, and shall report any infractions to the WOPC set conventions and Constitution to the President of WOPC.
  
- II. Shall monitor compliance with established rules, and ethical lapses and misconducts within the WOPC. This Committee shall be responsible for hearing and entertaining WOPC members' complaints and grievances. The Committee shall submit their findings and recommendations to the WOPC President for action. In instances where the WOPC President stands as the accused, the Committee shall submit their report to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors who in turn shall convene the WOPC Board of Directors for action. The Committee shall follow due process to formulate recommendations in each situation and write an Action Plan to be presented to the WOPC Executive

Committee (through the President) for implementation not more than 60-days of its constitution as a Committee.

Sub-section (c): Social, Cultural, and Public Relations Strategy (SCAPR) Committee.

- I. Shall be responsible for ensuring that the cultural identities of the Owerre people are perpetuated and kept alive for all Owerri 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 Owerri 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 Owerri people. This Committee shall be staffed by Owerre people that are deeply rooted in the Owerri culture and tradition.
- II. Shall develop year-to-year social and cultural programs for WOPC both in diaspora and in Nigeria.
- III. Shall develop a comprehensive agenda plan that will in conjunction with the PRO to address all image concerns of the WOPC and its catchment areas. The SCAPR Committee shall liaise with the Local Government Authorities to help in coordination and dissemination of all information and public affairs of WOPC and catchment communities and other entities. Also develop strategies for stimulating political consciousness of Nde-Owerre at home and in the Diaspora.

Sub-section (d): Technology and Education Committee

- I. The EDC shall develop a comprehensive plan for transferring technologies to the Owerre sub-region 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 EDC, shall partner with Owerre local government authorities to ensure that every elementary and high school student of Owerre extraction has solid foundation and exposure to computer usage.
- II. Shall develop a comprehensive education plan that will in conjunction with the education plans of the three Owerri local governments address all educations concerns of the WOPC catchment areas. The Committee 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 Committee shall liaise with the Local Government Authorities to help in curriculum development and implementation as well as in instructions methods and techniques.

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

- I. The Economic Development Committee (EDC) shall develop short, medium, and long- range plans for the economic development of the Owerri sub- region. This The Committee shall work pari-passu with the federal, state and Owerri local government officials in projects selection, evaluation, implementation and management.
- II. The EDC shall recommend funding sources for WOPC initiated projects; and The EDC shall identify for WOPC policymakers, issues of currency in economic development, such as; the provision of good roads network, transportation needs and bottlenecks, power generation needs, lack of a trained labor force, insecurity, non-existent infrastructures, non-existent healthcare services and infrastructures, telecommunication needs and chronic unemployment.; all of which are conditions against economic stability and sustainable development.

- III. It shall have be the primary responsibility of the EDC to ensure that WOPC policymakers are aware of the factors responsible for the underdevelopment of the Owerri sub-region and are provided with workable solutions and policy options for addressing these problems.

**Sub-section (f): Health and Environmental Issues Committee (HAEIC)**

- I. Shall be primarily responsible for developing an Action Plan that augments and addresses the healthcare needs of the Owerre people living at home in Nigeria and in the Diaspora. The HAEIC) shall identify short, medium and long run health issues affecting the Owerre people and shall develop proposals on how to address these healthcare problems. This Committee shall partner with all stakeholders to determine and coordinate healthcare efforts for the Owerre sub-region. The HC shall bring along all the wealth of healthcare experiences available in the WOPC family to bear on the Owerre sub-region. Voluntary contribution of time and money from Owerre healthcare professionals and WOPC members; acquisition of, and voluntary donations of healthcare equipment; the education of healthcare workers at Owerri, the provision of generic, if not brand name drugs; and, the establishment of simple healthcare clinics, etc. shall be emphasized.
- II. Shall responsible for identification and development of blueprint for solutions of environmental, sanitation and public utility concerns in the catchment areas of WOPC; including follow-up with the relevant agencies for solving the problem(s). Develop and issue annual report annual report during annual conventions environmental, waste, effective sanitation, and public utilities in the three local government areas of Owerri.

**Sub-section (g): Membership, and Mobilization, (MAMC).**

- I. The primary goal of the Membership, and Mobilization Committee (MAMC) shall be to ensure that every person of Owerre extraction in the Diaspora who qualifies for membership. The MAMC shall aggressively reach out to all Owerre people living outside the shores of Nigeria inviting them to join the WOPC family. This shall Committee coordinate the formation and registration of new Chapters of the WOPC worldwide recognizing that the march of Nde-Owerre towards greater relevance, influence and independence is strengthened with the resounding voice of every Owerre person everywhere.
- II. The MAMC shall aggressively pursue encouraging town unions and associations in United States and in the Diaspora can do by being in constant communication with their Executives and Members, felicitation wishes during their annual conventions, reaching out to members in times of joy and grieve; and sending a WOPC representation within their immediate vicinity during their annual conventions with felicitation messages from the WOPC President.
- III. The MAMC shall collate detailed information of Owerri towns Associations/Unions in at home, in USA and all over the world. Document contact information: email addresses, phones numbers, and contact addresses of such Associations Presidents and contact persons.
- IV. The MAMC shall collate the contact information of the Owerri traditional rulers, Secretary to the Palace of the Traditional Ruler and town union Presidents: email addresses, telephone numbers, and postal addresses.

Sub-section (h): Fundraising and Grants Committee (FAGC)

- I. The Fundraising Committee 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 live 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 contact information, and amount of contribution of all donors to the WOPC. As needed, the FC shall prepare and submit periodic reports of all donors and the amount of their contributions.
  
- II. The Committee is charged with coordinating grant programs to further the interests and goals of WOPC and its members by soliciting for grants to cover targeted projects. The FAGC shall maintain a database of contact information, and amount of grant of all guarantors to the WOPC and for the purpose. As needed, the FAGCC shall prepare and submit periodic reports of all guarantors, the amount of their grants and time period.

Sub-section (i): Women and Children Affairs Committee (WACAC).

- I. The primary objective of the Committee is to solicit and empower Owerre Women married to and indigene daughters to be actively involved in the affairs of WOPC. The Women and Children Affairs Committee (WACAC) shall be responsible in the development of mobilization and participation of Owerre Women in WOPC and the social-cultural and economic development of Owerri Nigerian Legislative zone.
  
- II. The WACAC shall develop programs that shall bring our children in United States; and possible in Nigeria/Diaspora together.

- III. The WACAC shall develop and source for supports and funds (grants) to support WOPC programs and initiatives intended to support women and our children in Diaspora and in Owerre.

Sub-section (j): Youths And Young Professionals Committee (YAYPC).

- I. The primary objective of the Committee is to seek-out and involve Owerre Youths and Young Professionals that are to be actively involved in the affairs of WOPC.
- II. The YAYPC shall develop programs that shall bring WOPC young adults in United States; and possible in Nigeria/Diaspora together.
- III. The YAYPC shall develop a database within 120 days of its constitution of our youths and young professionals that shall be submitted to the Executive Committee.
- IV. The YAYPC shall develop programs that will bring together them in Nigeria/Diaspora together. And shall be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee for approval on annual basis and shall be accommodated in the WOPC Annual Budget.

## **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 People's Congress.

*Section 2. Eligibility:*

- I. Any individual desiring to contest for a WOPC office must be member of a WOPC member Association or At-Large-Member, and must be in good financial standing with their local WOPC Chapter and/or the National Body.
- II. The individual must have been a WOPC National Member for not less than 18 calendar months (National WOPC membership starts from date of payment annual dues to WOPC National).
- III. The individual's local WOPC Chapter must 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.
- IV. 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.
- V. Individuals elected to any office are precluded from serving as WOPC Board Members; with the exception of the President, Vice president and General Secretary.
- VI. Candidacy shall be declared according to the election rules developed by the electoral committee and published by the Executive Committee 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).      No more than two officers shall come from the same local member Chapter.
- Sub-section (d).      The offices of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer shall not come from the same member Association.

*Section 4: Candidates Commitment:*

- Subsection (i): 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 shall be disqualified.
- Subsection (ii): Candidates declarations must be consistent with the present organizational priorities of WOPC articulated by the current administration and endorsed by the BOD or the Board developed Policy and Strategic Plan for the organization.

*Section 5.      Electoral Committee:*

- I.The Electoral Committee shall consist of Electoral Committee Chairperson, Secretary, and not less than 3 other members. So as to facilitate planning all electoral officers shall be appointed by the President months prior to the election(s) and approved by the WOPC Board of Directors.
- II.The WOPC Board of Directors reserves the right reject any proposed Electoral Committee member by a simple majority vote.

*Section 6.      Electoral Committee Functions:*

- I.The Electoral Committee shall be responsible for preparing the election secret ballot papers, conducting, and supervising the election.
- II.The Chairperson shall oversee the handover to the newly elected officers.
- III.All members of the electoral committee shall report to the Chairperson.
- IV.The Chairperson may appoint additional electoral officers as he or she may deem fit.

V.Electoral Committee Members are ineligible to contest for any Office.

*Ballot Paper:* It shall be the responsibility of the electoral 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 Executive offices 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 until a bye-election is held at the next annual convention.

**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 until a bye-election is held at the next annual convention.

**Section 11. *The General Secretary:***

When it occurs, the Assistant General Secretary shall fill the vacancy in the Office of the General Secretary until a bye-election is held at the next annual convention.

*Section 12. The Financial Secretary:*

When a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Financial Secretary, the Assistant Financial Secretary shall fill the vacancy until a bye-election is held at the next annual convention.

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. An official communication shall 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. An official communication 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 People's 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.

## **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 acceptance of a new member or Chapter.

## **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**

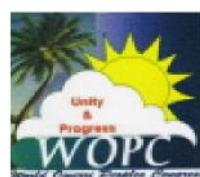
Section 1. The President of the WOPC shall nominate a legal adviser for the WOPC. The President’s legal adviser nominee shall be submitted to the WOPC Board of Directors for confirmation. Selection of a legal adviser must be based on solid legal qualification and experience. The legal adviser shall provide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

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **MOTTO AND LOGO**

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

Section 2. The LOGO of the World Owerri People’s 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 People's Congress at any Annual Convention 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 thirty business days after the adoption of the same.

Section 3. A written motion for amendment duly signed by three WOPC Chapter Associations in good financial standing is read by its sponsors on the floor of a duly constituted WOPC annual Convention. Any At-Large member supported by three Chapter Associations in good standing may submit a proposal to amend this constitution.

Section 4. A discussion on the proposed amendment shall follow on the same day, followed thereafter by a vote during Conventions or Annual Meeting the Amendment is listed.

Section 5. A two-third-majority vote of WOPC members present at a duly convened Convention or annual meeting shall be obtained to amend the constitution

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **DISSOLUTION OF WOPC**

Section 1: WOPC shall not dissolve while there are at least seven local Chapters who wish to continue the Association.

Section 2. Sub-section (i): The proposal to dissolve the Organization shall be presented to the membership at an annual convention, who shall discuss and vote to affirm or reject by two-third votes of chapters present ( Board of Directors Members).

Sub-section (ii): The proposal/motion to dissolve the Organization shall meet the criteria set forth in *Article XVI* (Sections 1 through 5).

Section 3: 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 nonprofit institutions choice in USA or anywhere in the world.

Section 4: 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 eachChapter 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.

## **FOR POSTERITY**

The WOPC Constitution was originally drafted by Tony Mba (President), Prince Harold Njemanze (Vice President), Chidi Ejiogu (General Secretary), Ojinika Ihekwoaba (Financial Secretary), Obed Ejiogu (Treasurer), Tony Njoku (P.R.O.), and Benson

Ekeocha; and was adopted during 2004 Annual General/Convention in Baltimore, Maryland on Friday, August 27, 2014.

The Constitution was first reviewed by CRC comprising of Eddy Abakporo (Vice President & Chairperson), Martin Ajaero (Dallas Delegate & CRC Secretary), Vincent Nnadi (MD, DC, VA Chapter), Henry Otulle Eke (Austin Chapter), Ernest Amadi (Denton Chapter), Damian Ohale (Houston Chapter), Chris Opara (Atlanta Chapter), Dr. Rosalind Abara (Philadelphia Chapter), Obed Ejiogu (NY, NJ, CT Chapter), Emmanuel Nzeocha (Sugaland Chapter), and George Ejim (Boston Chapter); and was adopted during 2008 Annual General/Convention in Austin, Texas on Friday, July 17, 2008.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **WOPC CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REVIEW MEMBERS' DECLARATION**

In Witness thereof, this WOPC Constitution is presented for amendment to the general assembly by the following WOPC members constituted as the Constitution Review Committee at the WOPC annual convention in the City of Laurel, Maryland, United States of America, this twenty-first day of July, two-thousand and seventeen.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nze (Prince) Charlie O. Chiaka Muruako  
President, WOPC Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Ohio &  
Chairperson of Constitution Review Committee

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Kelechi Lawrence (Members)  
President, Ogbako Nde-Owerre Delaware, Inc

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Barbara Njemanze (Member)  
Immediate Past Vice-President, WOPC Inc

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Ekene Amaefule (Member)  
President, WOPC Pacific Northwest, Seattle

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Onyegbula Denis Ekwerike  
Past WOPC Board Chairman

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Ejike Ben Aharanwa  
President, Nzuko Umu Owerre, Dallas

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Kenneth Opara  
WOPC – PRO &  
Secretary, Constitution Review Committee

### **RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION**

**This Constitution of World Owerri People's Congress (WOPC), Inc, USA has been adopted as amended/reviewed by the membership present in the Annual General Meeting at the City of Laurel, Maryland, United States of America, this twenty-first day of July, twenty-seventeen.**

**Signature of President**

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**President (Print name)**

**Signature of General Secretary**

---

**General Secretary (Print name)**

# *Bylaws of The*

## **World Owerri People's Congress**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Location of Offices**

Section 1. The principal offices of the World Owerri People's Congress shall be at the residences of the WOPC President and General Secretary until such a time the World Owerri People's Congress can establish a permanent office. The World Owerri People's 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 People's Congress WOPC shall be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Section 2. Notice of the date, time, place and purpose of an annual general meeting shall be electronically communicated to every WOPC member at least six (6) months before the meeting.

Section 3: 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 4. 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 5. 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 6. 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 7. 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 8. 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 9. 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**

## The Executive Committee

Section 1. Except for the authorities expressly reserved for members of the World Owerri People's Congress by the WOPC Constitution, by these Bylaws, and/or by the WOPC Board of Directors' resolutions; the Executive Committee of the WOPC shall have management and administrative authorities of the World Owerri People's 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 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 less than five persons.

Section 7. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to have WOPC financial records and transactions audited once a year by a Committee. The WOPC Board of Directors may cause the

books of the World Owerri People's Congress to be examined at any time as well as requesting whatever documents needed from an officer of the World Owerri People's 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 Processes 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.

Section 8 (a). 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 before the on-set of due 'Due Process.'

Sub-section (b): The Officer's suspension shall be lifted if the "Rules, Ethics, and Grievance Committee" after investigation declares no guilty ruling.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **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 6. 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 7. 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 8. 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 9. 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 (70:30%) in favor of the National Association.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **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 People's Congress and received by the Financial Secretary of the WOPC on behalf of the World Owerri People's 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 or through electronic medium, 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 Board of Directors' member from a Board of Directors' Annual 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 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, or official electronic mail 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 VI**

### Member Benefits

Section 1. WOPC shall provide the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) 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 thirty (30) business days from the date of formal notification of bereavement. The payment maybe graduated in no more than three (3) payments within 12 calendar months.

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 VII***

### **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 Congress 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 VIII**

### **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 be a delegate during the National Convention and have full membership rights and privileges.
- 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 \$5,000.00 to assist the bereaved family.

## **ARTILCE IX**

### **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 X**

### 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 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/send electronic mail 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 any way 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 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 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 and the Officers of the Board of Directors 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 XI

### Official Language

Section 1. The official language of the World Owerri People's 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 People's 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 XII**

### **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 XIII**

### **Seal**

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

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **FOR POSTERITY**

The By-Law was initially written by CRC comprising of Eddy Abakporo (Vice President & Chairperson), Martin Ajaero (Dallas Delegate & CRC Secretary), Vincent Nnadi (MD, DC, VA Chapter), Henry Otulle Eke (Austin Chapter), Ernest Amadi (Denton Chapter), Damian Ohale (Houston Chapter), Chris Opara (Atlanta Chapter), Dr. Rosalind Abara (Philadelphia Chapter), Obed Ejiogu (NY, NJ, CT Chapter), Emmanuel Nzeocha (Sugarland Chapter), and George Ejim (Boston Chapter); and was adopted during 2008 Annual General/Convention in Austin, Texas on Friday, July 17, 2008.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **REVIEW OF THE BYLAWS**

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 Laurel, Maryland, United States of America, on this Twenty First day of July, Twenty Seventeen.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nze (Prince) Charlie O. Chiaka Muruako  
President, WOPC Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Ohio & Chairperson of Constitution Review Committee

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Kelechi Lawrence (Members)  
President, Ogbako Nde-Owerre Delaware, Inc

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Barbara Njemanze (Member)  
Immediate Past Vice-President, WOPC Inc

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Ekene Amaefule (Member)  
President, WOPC Pacific Northwest, Seattle

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Onyegbula Denis Ekwerike  
Past WOPC Board Chairman

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Ejike Ben Aharanwa

President, Nzuko Umu Owerre, Dallas

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Kenneth Opara

WOPC – PRO & Secretary, Constitution Review Committee

**This reviewed Bylaws is further witnessed by the following officers of the World Owerri People's Congress**

1. Engr. (Pastor) Tony Mba (President) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Mr. Kenneth Ekechi (Board Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_