



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE FORUM FOR PEACE (IDFP)

CONSTITUTION 2022.

MOTTO: - “DIALOGUE FOR PEACE”

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE FORUM FOR PEACE

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace, having accepted and firmly resolved to work together as The Forum of all Religions and Faith traditions recognized by the Nigerian law but Non-political, Non-tribal, Non-profit and Non-governmental, in order to Promote Peaceful Co-existence amongst the adherents of the different Religions and faith traditions in the Nigerian society at large, hereby make, enact, proclaim and give ourselves this Constitution in pursuit of the objectives of The Forum as set out hereinunder.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND DEFINITION

- (i) The Forum shall be known as “**Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace**” hereinafter referred to as “**The Forum**” or “**IDFP.**”
- (ii) The IDFP is a forum of all Religions and faith traditions represented and registered in the country with structures and systems of worship of a Supreme Being called God.
- (iii) The Forum aims to promote peace and peaceful co-existence amongst adherents of all Religions and faith traditions in Nigeria as a fulcrum for its activities, using religious dialogue as a tool to achieving love, Peace, Unity, and National Cohesion.

ARTICLE 2: REGISTERED OFFICE AND HEADQUARTERS

The Registered Office and/or Headquarters of The Forum shall situate at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

ARTICLE 3: VISION AND MISSION

(i) Vision

The IDFP envisions a Nigeria where there are religious tolerance, mutual co-existence and freedoms.

(ii) Mission

The Mission of The Forum shall be to mobilize adherents of all Religions and faiths traditions in Nigeria towards creating opportunities for learning and building Trust, Confidence and Cooperation through Dialogue.

ARTICLE 4: MOTTO AND LOGO

(i) Motto

The Motto of the IDFP shall be “**Dialogue for Peace.**”

(ii) Logo

The IDFP’s logo shall be two concentric circles with two horizontal chords at the lower part of the circles and in between the two chords is the inscription of the acronym of The Forum “**IDFP**” in black on a white background. Above the two chords, and also on a white background, is a symbol of an interfaith dialogue table discussion. At the Dialogue table is a Christian clergy, an Imam of the Islamic faith and a woman; signifying the importance of–dialogue for peace, gender sensitivity and unity. In between the two circles above the chords and on a green background is the name of **The Forum.**

ARTICLE 5: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

(i) This constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have a binding force on all members, organs and bye-laws.

(ii) Any bye-law that is inconsistent with any provisions of this Constitution shall, to the extent of its inconsistency, be null, void and of no effect.

ARTICLE 6: JURISDICTION

The territory in which The Forum relates shall be the territorial boundaries of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. However, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee (EC) subject to the approval of the Central Coordinating Council (CCC), IDFP may partner with organizations of similar aims and objectives globally to achieve its vision.

ARTICLE 7: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of The Forum shall be:

- (i) To serve as a platform for promoting Peace and Peaceful Co-existence through dialogue amongst adherents of all Religions and faith traditions in Nigeria.
- (ii) To use Religion as an agent of Love and Harmony for National Unity.
- (iii) To promote understanding and tolerance and downplay ethnicity and tribalism amongst the adherents of the various Religions and faith traditions in Nigeria.
- (iv) To promote mutual understanding and Inter-Religious Cooperation for engendering a culture of peace in Nigeria.
- (v) To encourage national cohesion and integration amongst adherents of the different Religions and faith traditions in Nigeria.
- (vi) To work with religious leaders and their followers with a view to enhancing Understanding, Mutual Trust, Respect and appreciating points of convergence and avoiding points of divergence.

- (vii) To act as a platform for members to consult together, and when necessary, make common statements and take common actions on behalf of the member organizations.
- (viii) To encourage respect for cultural and religious beliefs and practices through dialogue.
- (ix) To promote gender friendly environments through participation and inclusiveness.
- (x) To facilitate objective media reporting and knowledge-sharing without restriction on religious, ethnic and/or tribal lines in all The Forum's activities.
- (xi) To mobilize youth and women of all Religions in Nigeria for proper orientation so as to channel their resources for the promotion of the aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (xii) To detect early warning signals of violence and create appropriate response mechanisms.
- (xiii) To carry out such other functions that seek to promote the aims and objectives of The Forum in line with the Constitution.

ARTICLE 8: THE COMMON SEAL

There shall be a Common Seal that will symbolize the authority of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP).

- (i) The Common Seal shall be used on documents executed on behalf of IDFP and shall be kept at the Headquarters of The Forum under the custody of the Co-Secretaries who shall produce same when required.
- (ii) All relevant documents to be executed by the Incorporated Trustees shall be signed by no fewer than four of them (The Chairman, Secretary and two others) and shall be sealed with the Common

Seal, provided that not more than two signatories are from one Religion.

ARTICLE 9: MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Membership of The Forum shall be open to:
 - i. The first one hundred (100) Christian and Muslim leaders who were invited to participate in the initial Dialogue Conference in Abuja in September 2016, by whose efforts The Forum was established.
 - ii. The indigenous adherents of other religious faiths in Nigeria who are committed to Dialogue for peace in the country.
 - iii. Leaders and Teachers of the various religious faiths, working against religious violence, misconceptions, misinterpretations, hate speech, misrepresentation; but are facilitating religious harmony may, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, be granted membership.
 - iv. Faith-based organizations working on areas that are similar to those of IDFP shall be registered as affiliate members of The Forum.
 - v. A member of the first 100 leaders nominated on merit even though he/she occupies an office in his/her faith group, shall remain a member of The Forum after the expiration of the tenure of the said office.
 - vi. Where any of the first 100 members dies, terminates his/her membership, or by reason of expulsion or dismissal from The Forum, such a vacuum shall not be filled by his/her faith group. However, The Forum may, for the sake of maintaining equality in membership, bring another person as a member of GA only.

vii. The names of the first 100 members shall be listed as an appendix to this Constitution as a mark of honour.

(2) In the selection of membership of The Forum, faith groups shall ensure 35% women representation.

ARTICLE 10: SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. SUSPENSION

- i. Subject to the recommendation by the disciplinary committee, the Executive Committee of The Forum shall have the power to suspend a member of The Forum for 1 year over a serious violation of any provision of the Constitution subject to the ratification of the CCC.
- ii. A member of the EC, CCC or GA who fails to attend the meetings for three consecutive times without cogent reason(s) for a period of 6 months shall be suspended for six months and persistent absenteeism for another six months shall lead to expulsion.
- iii. A member who fails to pay monthly dues for a period of 6 months shall be suspended for six months and failure for another six months shall lead to expulsion.
- iv. If any member ceases to be a member of his/her faith group or Institution by suspension such a person shall cease to be a member of The Forum provided that The Forum is communicated in writing.

2. TERMINATION

- i. Membership of a person in The Forum shall be terminated by the member's own resignation, or on the recommendation of

the Disciplinary Committee, subject to the approval of the CCC and ratification of GA.

- ii. Membership shall be terminated by The Forum if the person had earlier been terminated or withdrawn by the faith group or Institution being represented and The Forum is communicated in writing.
- iii. Membership shall be terminated by The Forum if the said member is found guilty of any criminal offence by a competent court of law. Termination in (i) and (ii) above shall be done by the EC subject to the approval of the CCC and ratification of the GA.

ARTICLE 11: POWERS OF THE FORUM

The Forum shall have legal power to do the following:

- (i) Purchase, Lease, Trusteeship, Administration and disposal of property of every description in the interest of The Forum.
- (ii) Accept, hold and administer, and if desired, advocate and dispose of legacies, donations and documents of every description in the interest of The Forum.
- (iii) The rights, powers and authority hereinbefore enumerated shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

ARTICLE 12: ORGANS OF THE FORUM

The Forum is composed of the following Organs:

- (i) The General Assembly (GA).
- (ii) The Board of Trustees (BoT).
- (iii) The Central Coordinating Council (CCC).
- (iv) The Executive Committee (EC).

ARTICLE 13: COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ORGANS

The General Assembly

Composition

- (1) The General Assembly is the highest policy and decision-making body of The Forum and comprise of the following:
- (ii) Members of Board of Trustees.
 - (iii) The body of Patrons and Patronesses of The Forum.
 - (iv) The Founding Members from the Christian and Islamic faiths.
 - (v) Members of the Central Coordinating Council.
 - (vi) Members of the Executive Committee.

(2) Functions

The General Assembly shall:

- (i) Coordinate initiatives of member organizations.
- (ii) Provide safe space for dialogue among its constituents.
- (iii) Discuss and approve the annual action plans of The Forum.
- (iv) Elect the CCC and the EC members.
- (v) Formulate policies for The Forum.
- (vi) Ratify decisions and recommendations from the CCC.
- (vii) Consider and approve Constitutional amendments.
- (viii) Refer all interfaith matters requiring investigations to the CCC.

ARTICLE 14: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(1) Establishment

There shall be a Board of Trustees (BoT) constituted in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act NO 1. Of 2020, LFN, PART C.

(2) Composition

- (i) The Registered Trustees shall be known and called “The Trustees of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace” (IDFP). They shall not be less than ten (10) and not more than fourteen (14) in number and shall be drawn equally from the two faith groups.
- (ii) The BoT shall have a Chairman and a Secretary who shall be alternately drawn from the two major faith groups for a tenure of 5 years single term.
- (iii) The Trustees of The Forum shall apply to the Corporate Affairs Commission for a Certificate of Incorporation under the Companies and Allied Matters Act NO 1 PART C, LFN 2020.

(3) Appointment of Trustees

The appointment of Incorporated Trustees of The Forum shall be as follows:

- (i) The appointment of members of the Board of Trustees shall be done by the General Assembly upon nominations received from the Intra-groups.
- (ii) Each member of the Board of Trustees shall hold office for life.
- (iii) Upon a vacancy occurring in the number of Trustees, the CCC shall appoint another eligible person as replacement in accordance with the rules and guidelines governing their appointments subject to the ratification of the General Assembly. The name of such a replacement must, however, be sent to the Corporate Affairs Commission thereafter, as required by law.
- (iv) A Trustee shall not in addition to his/her duties as a Trustee hold any other elective office in IDFP.

(4) Requirements for Appointment of Trustees

A person worthy of appointment as a Trustee of The Forum shall fulfill the following qualifications:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Not be below the age of 50 years.
- (iii) Be of sound mind, fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (iv) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (v) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(5) Functions of The Board of Trustees

The Trustees shall:

- (i) Have power to accept and hold in trust all assets including land belonging to The Forum.
- (ii) Acquire land and other assets on behalf of IDFP in accordance with the laws stipulated by Government.
- (iii) Uphold at all times the Constitution and Bye-laws of IDFP and represent IDFP in all Court cases.
- (iv) Render Report and Account to the General Assembly in respect of all properties and assets vested in them.
- (v) Be responsible to the General Assembly.

(6) Cessation of Office

An Incorporated Trustee ceases to hold Office if he/she:

- (i) Resigns his/her Office.
- (ii) Dies while still in active service.
- (iii) Becomes insane or incapacitated.
- (iv) Is declared bankrupt by a Court of competent jurisdiction.

- (v) Is involved in any unethical dealing that constitutes an embarrassment to IDFP.
- (vi) Is adjudged to be a member of a secret society.
- (vii) Convicted of any criminal offence(s) involving dishonesty by a Court or Tribunal of competent Jurisdiction.
- (viii) Ceases to reside permanently in Nigeria for a period of more than one year.

ARTICLE 15: THE CENTRAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (CCC)

(1) Composition

The Central Coordinating Council (CCC) shall comprise of the following 46 persons who shall have been with The Forum for a period of three years and shall be elected for a period of three years and may be renewable for another period of three years and no more.

- (i) 15 Delegates from the Christian Faith.
- (ii) 15 Delegates from the Islamic Faith.
- (iii) Co-Coordinator each from the Christian and Islamic faiths elected from the delegates who shall be the Co-Coordinator of The Forum.
- (iv) 10 members of Executive Committee (EC).
- (v) The Co-Secretaries of The Forum shall be the Co-Secretaries of CCC.
- (v) 4 delegates from the partners.
- (vi) 2 delegates from KAICIID.
- (vii) Delegates from other religious faiths recognized by the Nigerian laws, as may be decided from time to time by the GA upon recommendation of CCC.

(2) Responsibilities

The CCC shall:

- (i) Ensure that the Executive Committee implements policies and decisions of the forum.
- (ii) Provide Rules and Regulations for the smooth running of The Forum.
- (iii) Support faith groups in implementing Action Plans through coordination.
- (iv) Follow-up the implementation of the Action Plans and the directives and resolutions of the General Assembly.
- (v) Prepare and submit The Forum's Annual Work Plans to the GA.
- (vi) Approve project proposals for funding.
- (vii) Approve the engagement of The Forum by the EC with National and International bodies.
- (viii) Ensure strict adherence to the Financial Regulations of The Forum.
- (ix) Receive and consider half yearly reports of the activities of the EC.
- (x) Present an annual report of the activities of The Forum to the GA.
- (xi) Approve the budget of the EC and set its spending limit from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations.
- (xii) Assess the impact or delivery of all IDFP programmes and Projects.
- (xiii) Assess the level of compliance by IDFP with respect to attaining IDFP's vision of embracing religious tolerance, integration, openness and guard against religious extremism in the spirit of mutual trust and sincerity of purpose through Dialogue.
- (xiv) Assess and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of IDFP resources and programmes.

- (xv) Review programme implementation reports and, if necessary, make recommendations for corrections and improvements.
- (xvi) Follow up on the recommendations of IDFP to various stakeholders.
- (xvii) Execute regular situational assessment for peace building and co-existence.
- (xviii) Ensure constant dialogue amongst adherents of the various religious groups who have subscribed and committed themselves to the vision and ideals of IDFP.
- (xix) Recommend the dissolution of The Forum to the General Assembly.

(3) Duties and Functions of CCC Officers

(a) The Forum's Co-Coordiators

- (i) The Co-Coordiators shall preside over the Meetings of the CCC.
- (ii) In the absence of one of the Co-Coordiators at its meeting the one present shall solely preside over the meeting.

(b) The Qualifications for the Appointment of the Forum's Co-Coordiators

A person worthy of appointment as a Co-Coordinator of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Not below the age of 40 years.
- (iii) Have at least 10 years' experience in administration of interfaith organization and religious leadership.
- (iv) Be of sound mind, fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (v) Not be a member of any secret society.

- (vi) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 16: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

(1) Composition

- (a) The EC shall comprise the following:
 - (i) Co-Chairmen, each from the Islamic and the Christian faiths who shall be the only Co-Chairmen of The Forum.
 - (ii) The Treasurer.
 - (iii) The Financial Secretary.
 - (iv) The Internal Auditor.
 - (v) The Co-secretaries, each from the Islamic and Christian faiths who shall be the only Co-Secretaries of The Forum.
 - (vi) The Co-Publicity Secretaries, each from the Christian and the Islamic faiths.
 - (vii) The Legal Adviser.
- (b) The offices of treasurer, financial secretary, internal auditor and legal adviser shall rotate between the Islamic and Christian faiths provided that at no time shall two persons of the same faith group occupy the position of Internal Auditor and Treasurer.
- (c) In the event vacancy occurs in any of the offices by reason of death, incapacitation, or cessations another person shall be selected by the same intra faith group to complete the tenure.
- (d) For the purpose of the rotational offices, in the event where there is a vacancy in an office and a person cannot be found from the relevant faith group who has the requisite conditions of membership to fill such vacant position, such position can be advertised in order to get a qualified person provided that such a person comes from the required faith group.

(2) Responsibilities

The Executive Committee shall have the following responsibilities;

- (i) Implement policies and decisions for the day to day running of the Forum.
- (ii) Prepare and implement budgets of The Forum subject however to the approval and ratification of the Central Coordinating Council and the General Assembly respectively.
- (iii) Appoint, promote, train and exercise disciplinary measures on Staff of The Forum in accordance with the Operational Manual/Conditions of Service.
- (iv) Manage the resources and assets of The Forum with prudence and diligence in accordance with the approved Financial Guidelines and Regulations of The Forum.
- (v) The EC shall present quarterly reports of the activities of The Forum to the CCC.
- (vi) The EC shall present annual reports of the activities of The Forum to the General Assembly through the CCC.
- (vii) Consult with approved national and international partners.
- (viii) Engage services of such support staff as Technical Advisers, Administrative Secretaries, etc.
- (ix) Shall have the power to suspend a staff of The Forum for a serious violation of the staff Operational Manual/Conditions of Service or any provision of the Constitution, subject to the CCC final decision on the issue or issues which led to the suspension having given him/her fair hearing.
- (x) Perform such other functions that are not specifically reserved for the Central Coordinating Council and/or the General Assembly.

(3) Duties and Functions of the EC Officers

(1) Co-Chairmen

The Co- Chairmen of The Forum shall:

- (i) Preside over the Meetings of the EC and GA; both or either in the absence of the other, shall preside over the meeting.
- (ii) Ensure the fulfillment of IDFP's goals and objectives and strict adherence to all the provisions of IDFP's Constitution and Bye-Laws in the day-to-day running of the affairs of The Forum.
- (iii) Sign the minutes of the EC and GA meetings after adoption; both or either in the absence of the other, shall sign the minutes.
- (iv) Represent or delegate such other officers to represent The Forum in all their official engagements.
- (vi) Assign any other responsibility to any officer.

(2) The Qualifications for the Appointment of Co-Chairmen of The Forum

A person worthy of appointment as Co-Chairman of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals, aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Have at least 10 years' experience in administration of interfaith organization and 10 years' experience in religious leadership.
- (iii) Not below the age of 40 years.
- (iv) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (v) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (vi) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 19: SECRETARY/CO-SECRETARIES

- (1) Duties.

The Co-Secretaries of The Forum shall:

- (i) Take the minutes of all the EC, CCC and GA meetings.
- (ii) Be the Chief Administrative Officers and the only Co-Secretaries of The Forum.
- (iii) Give notices of meetings and prepare agenda thereto on the instructions of the Co-Chairmen and Co-Coordiators.
- (iv) Take minutes during meetings of the EC, CCC and GA except where they are absent delegate such other competent staff of The Forum.
- (v) Receive and keep records of all correspondences and documents of The Forum.
- (vi) Prepare and present annual reports to the EC.
- (vii) Keep and preserve the IDFP Seal and shall present same for use whenever the need arises.
- (viii) Issue letters of appointments to recruited staff of IDFP.
- (ix) Perform such other duties as shall be assigned to them by the Co-Chairs from time to time.

(2) The Qualifications for the Appointment of Co-Secretaries of The Forum

A person worthy of appointment as EC Co-Secretaries of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals, aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Have at least 10 years' experience in administration of interfaith organization and religious leadership.
- (iii) Not below the age of 40 years.
- (iv) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (v) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (iv) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 20: TREASURER

The Treasurer shall:

- (i) Receive and take custody of all moneys on behalf of The Forum.
- (ii) Keep proper records of all incomes and expenditures under his/her custody.
- (iii) Make available all books of accounts of The Forum whenever required.
- (iv) Submit all financial documents and records for auditing.
- (v) The Office shall be rotated, between the Islamic and Christian faiths at the expiration of at most two terms of 3 years each.
- (vi) Be one of the signatories to The Forum's Bank Account(s).
- (vii) Perform all such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Co-Chairmen from time to time.

(2) The Requirements for the Appointment of Treasurer

A person worthy of appointment as Treasurer of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals, aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Have basic knowledge of accounting.
- (iii) Not below the age of 35 years.
- (iv) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (v) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (vi) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 21: FINANCIAL SECRETARY

(1) Duties:

The Financial Secretary shall:

- (i) Collect all dues/moneys of The Forum and deposit same with the Treasurer within 48 hours.
- (ii) Keep records of incomes and expenditures.
- (iii) Render annual financial reports.
- (iv) Not below 40 years.
- (v) Shall be rotated between members of the Islamic and Christian faiths at the expiration of at most two terms of 3 years each.
- (vi) Perform such other responsibilities assigned to him/her by the Co-Chairmen.

(2) The Qualifications for the Appointment of The Forum's Financial Secretary

A person worthy of appointment as Financial Secretary of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Be a chartered accountant.
- (iii) Not below the age of 40 years
- (iv) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (iv) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (vi) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 22: Publicity Secretaries

(1) Duties:

The Co-Publicity Secretaries shall:

- (i) Be the image makers of The Forum.
- (ii) Issue statements and/or clarify issues on behalf of The Forum on matters of general interest to The Forum when directed to do so.

- (iii) Interface with the public in creating awareness on the activities of the forum.
- (iv) Head the committee on media and publicity.
- (v) Each hold office for a period of 3 years in the first instance subject however, to eligibility for re-election for a final term of 3 years.
- (vi) Perform all such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Co-Chairmen of The Forum from time to time.

(2) The Qualifications for the Appointment of the Publicity Secretaries of The Forum

A person worthy of appointment as Publicity Secretary of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals, aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Not below the age of 35 years.
- (iii) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (iv) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (v) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.
- (vi) Have at least 5 years practicing experience in media and publicity.
- (vii) Be proficient in spoken and written English language.

ARTICLE 23: Internal Auditor

(1) DUTIES:

The Internal Auditor shall:

- (i) Audit all accounts of The Forum.
- (ii) Submit annual audited report of The Forum to the Executive Committee (EC) for onward transmission to the Central Coordinating Council (CCC).

- (iii) The office shall be rotated between members of the Christian and Islamic faiths at the expiration of at most two terms of 3 years each.
- (iv) Perform all such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Co-Chairmen.

(2) The Qualifications for the Appointment of the Internal Auditor of The Forum

A person worthy of appointment as Internal Auditor of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals, aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Be a chartered accountant.
- (iii) Not below the age of 40 years.
- (iv) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (v) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (vi) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 24: LEGAL ADVISER

(1) DUTIES

The Legal Adviser shall:

- (i) Be the Chief Law Officer of The Forum.
- (ii) Render advice to The Forum on all legal matters and shall also act for or take steps to represent and protect the interest of The Forum in any Arbitration or Tribunal.
- (iii) Prepare, vet and render legal advices on all contractual documents, literature, etc.
- (iv) Shall head committee on legislation.

- (v) The office shall be rotated between members of the Islamic and Christian faiths at the expiration of at most two terms of 3 years each.

(2) The Qualifications for the Appointment of Legal Adviser of The Forum

A person worthy of appointment as Legal Adviser of The Forum shall fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) Be of proven integrity with unqualified devotion to the ideals, aims and objectives of The Forum.
- (ii) Be qualified to practice as a legal practitioner in Nigeria and has been so qualified for a period of not less than 5 years.
- (iii) Not below the age of 30 years.
- (iv) Be of sound mind and fit and proper to be so appointed.
- (v) Not be a member of any secret society.
- (vi) Not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

ARTICLE 25: BODY OF PATRONS AND PATRONESSES

- (1) There shall be a Body of Patrons and Patronesses to be appointed by GA on the recommendation of CCC and who shall serve in honorary capacity.
 - (i) The leaders of NSCIA and CAN shall be the Grand Patrons of The Forum by virtue of the offices they occupy and not by their individual personalities.
 - (ii) The Grand Patrons shall be the Co-Chairmen of the appointed Patrons and Patronesses.
 - (iii) The Patrons and patronesses shall be men and women of both good moral and spiritual authorities who are expected to provide guidance to The Forum and stand ready to support its

activities, particularly on issues pertaining to projects, advocacy and/or relationships with the Government and other bodies.

(2) Functions of Grand Patrons

In addition to the functions of the Patrons and Patronesses, Grand Patrons shall:

- i. Serve as the Fathers of The Forum.
- ii. Serve as a liaison between IDFP and KAICIID.
- iii. Serve as a liaison between IDFP and the Government of Nigeria/other related international organizations.
- iv. Provide guidance for The Forum.
- v. Be the final body in internal conflict resolution of The Forum (ombudsman).
- vi. Be responsible for the calling of meetings of patrons and patronesses.

ARTICLE 26: MEETINGS

There shall be the following meetings for effective administration of The Forum:

(1) The General Assembly

- (i) The General Assembly at the instance of the CCC and the BoT shall, except in emergency situations meet annually in Abuja, Nigeria.
- (ii) The Forum's meetings shall be organized by its members, in partnership with King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), etc.
- (iii) The Co-Chairmen of The Forum shall preside over the General Assembly meetings.

(2) Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting

The Trustees shall:

- (i) Meet once a year but may hold emergency meetings as the need arises.
- (ii) The Trustees shall meet in Abuja, Nigeria.

(3) The Central Coordinating Council Meeting

- (i) The Central Coordinating Council (CCC) shall meet twice each year but may hold emergency meetings as the need arises.

(4) The Executive Committee Meeting

- (i) The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times in a year but may hold emergency meetings as the need arises.

(5) Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

- (i) The Ad-hoc committee constituted by The Forum shall meet as frequent as possible in order to meet their target.
- (ii) With the exception of emergency meetings all others shall hold upon notification to members who are qualified to attend the proposed meeting not later than 3 weeks to the date of the meeting.

(6) Quorum for Meetings

- (i) At every meeting of each of the organs of The Forum, a quorum shall be deemed to have been formed by at least 2/3 of its registered members.
- (ii) For emergency meetings, at least 1/3 of the registered members across the Faith groups shall form a quorum.

ARTICLE 27: COMMITTEES

The EC shall constitute Committees and Task Forces for the smooth running of The Forum's activities, subject to ratification of the CCC in the following areas:

- (i) General Assembly Committee.
 - (ii) Electoral Committee.
 - (iii) Finance committee.
 - (i) Capacity Building, Education and Empowerment Committee.
 - (ii) Advocacy and Sensitization Committee.
 - (iii) Gender and Child Right Committee.
 - (iv) Media and Publicity Committee.
 - (v) Legislation.
 - (vi) Disciplinary.
- (2) In each of this committee established there shall be equal representation from the two faith groups and from which two committee members shall alternately be Chairman and Secretary within the committee except for electoral and General Assembly committees which shall consist of Co-Chairmen and Co-Secretaries.
- (3) Such other Committees that may be established from time to time as the need arises by the EC or such other authorities that are permitted to do so by the Constitution.

ARTICLE 28: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

Committees or task forces may be established by the EC for the smooth running of its activities, including the following:

(1) General Assembly Committee

- (i) The EC shall constitute the General Assembly Committee for the purpose of the smooth hosting of the annual General Assembly consisting of sub-committees.
- (ii) The membership of the committee shall consist of 17 persons who are to be drawn from the two faith groups, taking cognizance of experience, integrity, and commitment.
- (iii) The composition of the committee shall take the following sequence:
 - (a) Four members of the General Assembly
 - (b) One person each from our local partners
 - (c) Four Members of EC
 - (d) Four Members of CCC
 - (e) Representative(s) of funding Organizations

(2) Electoral Committee

- (i) There shall be an electoral committee consisting of ten (10) members that shall be selected on equal representation from the two faith groups, inclusive of the Co-Chairmen and the Co-Secretaries.
- (ii) The Committee shall conduct election to fill The Forum's Offices at the intra level meetings subject to ratification by the General Assembly.
- (iii) The five members from each faith group in the Committee shall conduct elections at the intra level meetings.
- (iv) In the conduct of election, all Officers whose tenures of Office have expired shall be dissolved while the Co-Chairs of the Electoral Committee preside over the election of members of EC and CCC.

(3) Capacity Building, Education and Empowerment Committee

This committee shall:

- (i) Address the issues and challenges faced by IDFP in penetrating the larger Nigerian society through capacity building, education and empowerment.
- (ii) Advise the Forum on the strategies and methodologies to be adopted in capacity building, education and empowerment.
- (iii) Promote the exchange of views, experiences, research and improved cooperation and understanding amongst the various religious faiths in Nigeria, in Diaspora and with other sister organizations with similar vision aims and objectives.
- (iii) Set the standard in terms of quality of materials, human resources and certification process.
- (iv) Aid in the planning, coordination and supervision of workshops, seminars, and training programmes for IDFP members and other stakeholders in the society.
- (v) Support and regularly monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of agreed standards for capacity building, education and empowerment.
- (vi) Act in any other capacity from time to time as The Forum may deem necessary.

(4) Advocacy and Sensitization Committee

This committee shall:

- (i) Act as a platform for advocacy and sensitization both at intra and interfaith levels of IDFP dialogue programmes towards achieving sustainable peace and development.
- (ii) Address the issue of interpretation and misinterpretation of the tenets of the two major Religions (Christianity/Islam) in Nigeria.

- (iii) Take advantage of and use the cultural diversities of the Nigerian society in sensitizing and encouraging good moral upbringing for both Muslims and Christians.
- (iv) Encourage image building of Faith groups and Faith traditions through advocacy.
- (v) Act in any other capacity from time to time as The Forum may deem necessary.

(5) Gender and Child Right Committee

This committee shall:

- (i) Engage and encourage adolescents through capacity building so that they are capable of participating in programmes intended to benefit them.
- (ii) Mobilize Youth and Women towards proper orientation for peace building and sustainability.
- (iii) Make recommendations to IDFP to partner with such other organizations to respond to complaints of gender-based violence in the society.
- (iv) Engage in programmes that will ensure that the rights of youths and women are protected at all times.
- (v) Ensure gender equality and protect the child from reckless abuse.

(6) Media and Publicity Committee

This committee shall:

- (i) Engage in creating awareness through media on the activities of the forum.
- (ii) Ensure that all materials meant for public consumption are free of hate speeches, misrepresentation of facts and misconception of other faiths and faith traditions.

- (iii) Emphasize on issues of religious commonalities and not those that divide us.
- (iv) Ensure adequate publicity of all IDFP's programmes such as seminars, symposia, workshops etc.
- (v) Create and ensure a media friendly relationship and environment with media organizations.
- (vi) Interface and partner with media organizations and stakeholders with a view to impacting the larger Nigerian society with the activities of the forum.

(7) Legislation Committee

This committee shall:

- (i) Make recommendations for the support of or against a bill (s) that are pending in any State or National Assembly that its passage into law may have positive or negative effect on IDFP's vision and objectives.
- (ii) Liaise and or communicate effectively with legislative authorities with a view to advancing and protecting the interest of The Forum at all times.
- (iii) Initiate on the instructions of IDFP leadership, bills for legislation towards the advancement of the objectives of The Forum.
- (iv) Give legal advice to IDFP as a body and individual members of The Forum when necessary.
- (v) Be responsible for the interpretation of the IDFP Constitution and such other legal instruments when the need arises.
- (vi) Organize periodic symposia and seminars on legal matters for officers and members of The Forum.

ARTICLE 29: SOURCES OF INCOME

The Sources of Income of The Forum shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (i) Voluntary Donations and grants from individuals, corporate bodies, Government and Non-Governmental Organizations, and membership dues.
- (ii) Local and International Partners.
- (iii) Membership dues shall be ₦1000 monthly subject to review by the EC and ratification by the CCC.
- (iv) Payment of membership dues shall be made into The Forums designated account and relevant receipt obtained from the treasurer upon presentation of evidence of payment.

ARTICLE 30: DISBURSEMENT AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

- (i) The Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) shall disburse and apply its funds for the effective administration of its aims, objectives and in accordance with its Financial Regulations, and with the agreement signed with the donor(s).
- (ii) Leaders of The Forum shall exhibit prudence, accountability, transparency and sincerity in the management of the resources of The Forum at all times.
- (iii) Every withdrawal from The Forum's bank Account (s) or cash at hand shall be approved/authorized by the EC or the CCC in accordance with the Financial Regulation.
- (iv) An Imprest shall be maintained for the purposes of day to day administration of The Forum and such shall be approved from time to time by the EC.

ARTICLE 31: BANKERS/ SIGNATORIES OF THE FORUM

- (i) The Bankers of The Forum shall be such Bank or Banks as the Central coordinating Council shall decide upon from time to time.
- (ii) The Co-Chairmen, the Treasurer and the Co- Secretaries of The Forum shall be the only authorized signatories to the Bank (s) Accounts of The Forum.
- (iii) The Co-Chairmen who shall be the principal signatories (A specimen) and any of Treasurer or Co-Secretaries (B specimen) shall sign for withdrawal of money from the Bank; provided that no signatories to the account from the same faith group shall sign for any withdrawal of funds from the Bank.
- (v) Without prejudice to (iii) and (iv) above, the Central Coordinating Council shall set a bench mark in accordance with the provisions of the financial regulation of The Forum to regulate the Executive Committee's spending whereof an amount exceeding the bench mark shall require its approval.

ARTICLE 32: CODE OF CONDUCT

- (1) The following code of conduct shall guide relationships among members of The Forum:
 - (i) Intra-faith members of the religious groups should at all times relate harmoniously with each other so as to ensure peaceful coexistence.
 - (ii) Each religious group at the inter-faith level should ensure harmonious co-existence.
 - (iii) Being mindful of the Interfaith Code of Conduct for Religious Communities in Nigeria, members of The Forum shall be respectful of each other and obedient of lawful directives and instructions of The Forum at all levels.

- (iv) Members shall regularly attend meetings, maintain decorum at meetings, put the interest of The Forum and its members above personal interest, be trustworthy and responsible, ensure financial propriety and uphold and defend the provisions of this Constitution.
- (iv) No official of The Forum shall place himself/herself in a position where his/her personal interest conflicts with his/her official responsibilities or which enables him/her to exploit other members of The Forum.

(2) Non-compliance or breach of the Code of Conduct shall attract the following sanctions:

- (i) Removal from the office being held by the defaulting official of The Forum.
- (ii) Disqualification from holding any office for such period of time as the CCC may consider subject to ratification by General Assembly.
- (iii) Where it is established that any member/officer/staff has engaged in any act of corruption or abuse of office, The Forum shall require the indicted person to return the property corruptly acquired and/or proceeds of the crime, which shall be forfeited to The Forum and such person be sanctioned appropriately.
- (iv) Where the indicted person fails or refuses to return the properties corruptly acquired, The Forum shall initiate necessary legal procedures to recover same.

ARTICLE 33: RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

- (i) IDFP may partner with government at all levels without compromising its independence.

- (ii) IDFP may collaborate with the government and inter-governmental agencies at all levels to ensure effective legislations, policies/programmes that could promote peaceful coexistence and understanding in the country.

ARTICLE 34: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (1) An aggrieved member of The Forum shall not resort to litigation but must explore means of peaceful dispute resolution mechanism within The Forum.
- (ii) Where a member is aggrieved by any decision of The Forum he/she will explore the dispute resolution mechanism within the EC.
- (iii) Where the aggrieved representative is not satisfied with the decision of the EC he/she can approach the dispute resolution mechanism within the CCC.
- (iv) Where the aggrieved member is not satisfied with the decision of the CCC he/she can approach the dispute resolution mechanism within the BoT
- (v) Where the aggrieved member is not satisfied with the decision of the BoT he/she can approach the Grand Patrons.
- (vi) Where the aggrieved representative is not satisfied with the decision of the Grand Patrons, he can nominate an arbitrator while The Forum nominates one arbitrator and the two arbitrators will nominate the third arbitrator. The arbitration panel shall determine the finality of the matter.
- (vii) The Grand Patrons shall be the final body in internal conflict resolution.

ARTICLE 35: BYE-LAWS

The Forum shall also be regulated by other documents, which must be in conformity with the provisions of this Constitution:

- (i) IDFP Financial Regulations.
- (ii) Interfaith Code of Conduct for Religious Communities in Nigeria.
- (iv) IDFP Operational Manuals/Condition of Service.
- (vii) Other bye-laws.

ARTICLE 36: SPECIAL CLAUSES

The income and property of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace whenever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the aims and objectives of The Forum as set forth in the Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividends, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the members of The Forum.

- (i) Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of The Forum or to any member of The Forum, returns for any service actually rendered to The Forum, nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding five percent per annum on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member to The Forum, but so that no member of The Forum or management or governing body shall be appointed to any salaried office of The Forum or to any office of The Forum paid by fees, and that no remuneration or other benefits in money or moneys shall be given from The Forum to any member of such Forum or management or governing body except repayment of out of pocket expenses and reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to The Forum.

- (ii) Provided that the provision last aforesaid shall not apply to any payment to any company of which a member of The Forum may be a member in which such member shall not hold more than one hundred part of the capital and such member shall not be bound to account for any share of profits he may receive in respect of any such payment.
- (iii) No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the Constitution for the time being in force, unless the same have been previously submitted to and approved by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 37: APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

- (i) The General Assembly shall appoint independent, qualified and licensed Auditors to audit the financial records of The Forum annually and submit an audited report to the Annual General Assembly Meeting of The Forum.
- (ii) The audited financial statements (Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account) duly certified by the Independent Auditors, shall be annexed to the annual returns and filed with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

ARTICLE 38: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended, provided that the proposed amendment shall first come before the Central Coordinating Council and if approved shall be sent to all member-bodies at least six months before the date of the meeting of the General Assembly at which a simple majority of the members at the General Assembly shall be necessary to carry out the amendment.

ARTICLE 39: WINDING UP

If upon the winding up or dissolution of IDFP, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among members of The Forum but shall be given or transferred to some other institutions having similar objectives to those of The Forum. Provided that no Institution shall benefit from the property of IDFP unless its members have determined at the winding up that such institution is a fit and proper institution to benefit from IDFP property.

ARTICLE 40: TENURE OF OFFICES FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE FORUM;

- (i) BoT: The Chairman and Secretary of BoT shall have 5 years tenure of single term while all members shall be for life.
- (ii) CCC: The CCC Co-Coordination shall have 3 years tenure of two terms.
- (iii) All the EC officers shall have 3 years tenure of two terms.
- (iv) The office of Grand Patrons, patron and patronesses shall be for life.

ARTICLE 41: INTERPRETATION

In this Constitution, the following words and phrases shall, when the context admits, have the meaning ascribed thereto hereunder:

- (i) **“Common Seal”**: means the Common Seal of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP).
- (ii) **“Fit and proper Institution”**: means an institution having objectives similar to those of IDFP which can benefit from IDFP’s properties at winding up.
- (iii) **“Fit and proper person”**: means a person who is of good report and repute both at home and abroad; above reproach, suitable and

devoid of both physical and spiritual incapacity or disability and exudes both moral and spiritual fitness.


- (iv) **“The Forum”**: means Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP).
- (v) **“Incapacitated”**: means to be deprived of effectiveness in such a way as to be unable to discharge the functions of an office for a period of one year.
- (vi) **“Members”**: means individual persons so identified with and presented by any religious faith group recognized by law as its member and who is committed to the ideals and objectives of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace.
- (vii) **“*Mutatis mutandi*”**: means in all particular materials and facts.
- (viii) **“Property”**: in this Constitution means real and personal property belonging to or vested in or under the control of the Board of Trustees.
- (ix) **“Secret society”**: means an organization whose members engage in heretical teachings either by word of mouth, through publication or audio and video recording; whose meetings or other activities are held in secret and whose existence or manner of operation has been classified or confirmed as occultic, secret and satanic under statute and/or judgment of a Court of competent Jurisdiction.
- (x) **“Trustees”**: means the Incorporated Trustees for the time being of Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace or such of them exercising delegated powers in that behalf. They are persons that symbolize and express the physical existence of Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP).
- (xi) **“Co-Chairmen”**: means the two leaders drawn each from Islamic and Christian faiths who preside over all the meetings of EC and GA and are the only Co-Chairmen of The Forum.

- (xii) **“Co-Coordiators”**: means the two leaders drawn each from Christian and Islamic faiths who preside over all the meetings of CCC and are the only Co-Coordiators of The Forum.
- (xiii) **“Faith group”**: means a group of people belonging to or representing a particular religious faith; either Islamic or Christianity etc. the members of a particular faith considered collectively.

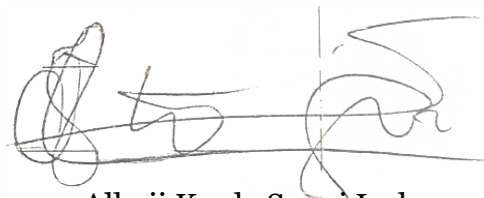
ARTICLE 42: ENTRY INTO FORCE;

This Revised Constitution of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace shall come into effect on the 28th day of October, 2021 following the resolution of the General Assembly of The Forum at its meeting held in Abuja provided that the changes hereunto made shall take effect from January 2023.

Signed this 28th day of October, 2021 by the Co-Coordiators and Co-Secretaries of The Forum.



Bishop Sunday Onuoha
Co-Chairman



Alhaji Kunle Sanmi Isah
Co-Chairman



Alhaji Ibrahim A. Yahya
Co-Secretary



Pastor Ibrahim Joshua Adamu
Co-Secretary