

# **THE BASIC RULES OF THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT – DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (SPLM-DC)**

## **PREAMBLE**

### **We, the members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement- Democratic Change:**

**Conscious** that the long history of Sudan is characterized by wars and constitutional instability due to colonialism, dictatorship, injustice and lack of balanced development;

**Inspired by** the historic struggles of the oppressed people of Sudan against the forces of colonialism, repression, injustice, racial chauvinism, exploitation, marginalization and religious bigotry;

**Guided by** the vision of a new Sudan that addresses the political, social and economic ills of the country;

**Committed to** the historic liberation of the people of Sudan and determined to build a better future for them by establishing a socio-economic and political order based on the principles of liberation, freedom, equality, democracy, justice, respect for human rights, equitable socio-economic development and progress;

**Convinced by** the necessity of participation in and contribution to building the nation;

**Conscious of** the urgent need to practise genuine democracy and define and develop appropriate and effective organizational structures for the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement- Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), as a broad-based political organization that enables the people of Sudan to effectively and enthusiastically participate in the realization of liberation objectives, and in the building of a new Sudan;

**Now** therefore, declare our adoption of these Basic Rules as the reference that govern us and we undertake to abide by and protect it.

## **CHAPTER ONE PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 1: NAME AND COMMENCEMENT**

These Basic Rules shall be cited as “The Basic Rules of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement- Democratic Change, 2008” and shall come into force upon adoption by the General Congress of the Party.

### **ARTICLE 2 DEFINITION**

In these Basic Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and terms shall have the meanings specified against each:

The Party or Movement: Refers to the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement-Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), with the objectives defined in these Basic Rules.

Basic Unit: Means the Basic Unit of the party and it comprises one or more chieftaincies in rural areas or blocks or wards in urban areas.

Branch: Means the organizational level next to the Basic Unit and comprises a number of Basic Units. The boundaries of a branch coincide with the administrative boundaries of a Payam or an Administrative Unit.

Area: Means the organizational level next to a branch and comprises a number of branches. The boundaries of an area coincide with the administrative boundaries of a County or a Locality.

State: Means the organizational level next to the area and comprises a number of areas.

Sector: Means an organizational level that brings together a number of states with the purpose of coordination among them on the level of the General Secretariat.

New Sudan: Means a Sudan that is free, just, democratic, secular, diverse, stable and ruled through a decentralized system of government based on the free will of the people and balanced development.

Regulations: Means the rules and regulations made by various structures of the party to regulate the conduct of its business or the business of organs on a level lower to it.

Convener: Means the official of the party elected by the National Delegates’ Congress to preside over the meetings of the same.

Chairperson: Means the top executive official of the party elected by the National Delegates’ Congress to preside over the meetings of the National Council and the National Executive Committee and whose functions and duties are defined in these Basic Rules.

Deputy Chairperson: Means the official of the party that acts in the absence of the Chairperson and whose functions and duties are defined in these Basic Rules.

Secretary General (SG): Means the official of the Organization elected by the National Council to be the chief administrative officer of the Organization.

General Secretariat (GS): Means the organ of the SPLM presided over by the Secretary General to run the day-to-day activities of the Movement under the supervision and direction of the National Executive Committee.

Secretary: Means the top executive and administrative official of the Organization at the levels of Area, Branch and Basic Unit, and also the chairpersons of the specialised committees of the General Secretariat.

Co-opt: This is the option whereby an elected body appoints further (non-elected) members to itself.

Just Ratio: Means the ratio that determines the representation of the various levels of the party in the next immediate levels. It is the product of division of the number of the registered members of the party in a given organ by the total number of the registered members of the party in all the corresponding organs on the same organizational level.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY**

#### **ARTICLE 3**

##### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY**

The principal objectives of the party shall be:

- 1 The establishment of a free, just, democratic and decentralized system of governance and a social contract based on the free will and popular participation of all the people of Sudan.
- 2 The achievement of the right to and exercise of self-determination by and for the people of the Southern Sudan in fulfillment of their aspirations.
- 3 The realization of voluntary unity between the various regions of the Sudan.
- 4 Building a national consciousness and common purpose in the Sudan through the liberation of the individual and society from all forms of political, economic, social and other constraints.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The party shall uphold and be guided by the following principles:

- 1) Voluntary Unity of the people of the Sudan on the basis of respect of diversity and balanced development.
- 2) Adoption of a social contract agreed upon by all the Sudanese people based on unified will and shared history between its constituents that form its elements and contemporary historical reality.
- 3) Peaceful rotation of power, promotion, protection and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms as stipulated in the international and regional conventions and covenants.
- 4) Strive to build a new Sudan where citizenship is the basis of rights and duties.
- 5) Practice multi-party democracy, respect of democratic institutions, supremacy of the rule of law, separation of powers and independence of the judiciary.
- 6) Justice, equity and equality among all citizens regardless of ethnic background, religion, gender or geographical origin.
- 7) Promotion of self-reliance and economic self-sufficiency.
- 8) Institutionalism, transparency, good governance and promotion of the decentralized system of government.
- 9) Protection and promotion of the diversity and the multicultural heritage and spiritual values.
- 10) Protection and preservation of the environment and sustainable utilization of natural resources.
- 11) Emancipation and social, economic and political empowerment of women
- 12) Promotion of a foreign policy based on mutual respect and interests, friendly relations among nations and the preservation of global peace and stability.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **ARTICLE 5**

#### **CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 1 Membership of the Organization is open to all Sudanese citizens irrespective of gender, origin, race, creed or social status provided that the person:
  - 1.1 believes in and accepts the vision, objectives and programme of the Organization and abides by its Basic Rules and undertakes to actively participate in the execution of its decisions;
  - 1.2 is eighteen years of age or above;
  - 1.3 is of a sound mind;
- 2 Application for membership shall be made in writing to the appropriate Basic Unit.
- 3 The Regulations shall specify the procedures for considering the application for

- membership and the fees required;
- 4 Registered members shall be issued with membership cards upon payment of the prescribed fees;

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **RIGHTS**

A member of the party has the right to:

- 1 elect and be elected to any of the various offices and structures of the party;
- 2 participate in discussions, decision-making and activities at the relevant levels of the party and affiliated organizations;
- 3 be free to express his or her views and exercise his or her faith and shall not be victimized for statements made during official meetings;
- 4 vote at meetings.
- 5 access to information about the policies and activities of the party;

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **DUTIES**

A Member of the party has the following duties and obligations:

- 1 Abide by all provisions of these Basic Rules and uphold the Regulations and abide by the principles, objectives, programme and Code of Conduct of the party and work for their realization.
- 2 Propagate the objectives and programmes of the party and defend the same.
- 3 Pay an admission fee and subsequent monthly subscription fees.
- 4 Respond when called upon by the party.
- 5 Attend regular meetings as shall be called for.
- 6 Strive for the maintenance of the unity of the party.
- 7 Observe and keep the confidentiality of the classified information and matters of the party.
- 8 Maintain objectivity and constructive criticism in public debates and exercise self-criticism.
- 9 Desist from any behaviour that may bring the party to disrepute.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the party shall be terminated if a member:

- 1 resigns;

- 2 is expelled for violation of these Basic Rules and Regulations in accordance with the procedures set out in these Basic Rules;
- 3 becomes mentally incapacitated;
- 4 joins another Sudanese political party;
- 5 dies.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **RIGHTS OF WOMEN**

For the purposes of the empowerment of women, the party shall:

1. Guarantee the rights of women in equal participation with men in the organs of the party and public life.
2. In order to ensure the participation of women and as a measure of affirmative action, all organs and levels of the party hierarchy shall comprise a quota of twenty-five percent for women without prejudice to the right of women to compete equally as individual members of the party over the remaining seventy-five percent.
3. Encouragement of the various levels of government to involve women in public affairs and inclusion of their rights in the country's Constitution.

## **CHAPTER FOUR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

### **ARTICLE 10**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY**

The organizational structure of the party shall be as follows:

#### **1 National Organs**

- 1 The National Delegates' Congress (NDC)
- 2 The National Council (NC)
- 3 The National Executive Committee (NEC)
- 4 The General Secretariat (GS)

#### **2 Sectors Organs**

Secretariat of the Sector

#### **3 State Organs**

- 1 The State Conference
- 2 The State Council (SC)
- 3 The State Secretariat (SS)

#### **4 Area Organs**

- 1 The Area Conference
- 2 The Area Council (AC)

- 2 The Area Secretariat (AS)
- 5 Branch Organs**
  - 1 The Branch Conference (BC)
  - 2 The Branch Secretariat (BS)
- 6 The Organs of the Basic Unit**
  - 1 Basic Unit Meeting (BUM)
  - 2 Basic Unit Secretariat (BUS).

## **CHAPTER FIVE NATIONAL ORGANS**

### **PART 1 THE NATIONAL DELEGATES' CONGRESS**

#### **ARTICLE 11**

##### **COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

- 1 The National Delegates' Congress is the supreme political organ of the party, and shall be composed of:
  - 1.1 The Representatives of the States' Conferences. The number of delegates from every State shall be according to the just ratio. This category of membership shall form not less than ninety percent of the National delegates at the Congress.
  - 1.2 Representatives of the organizations that belong to the party.
  - 1.3 All Members of the National Council as ex-officio Members.
- 2 There shall be a Preparatory Committee for convening the National Delegates' Congress to be appointed by the National Council on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee.
- 3 The quorum for convening the National Delegates' Congress is two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of its membership and its resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. In the event of not attaining the Congress' quorum of two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) twice, the quorum of the third subsequent Congress shall be a simple majority and its resolutions shall be binding.
- 4 The resolutions of the National Delegates' Congress shall be by a simple majority.
- 5 Meetings of the National Delegates' Congress are convened once every five years. Such meetings may however be convened in extraordinary sessions with the same membership whenever deemed necessary.
- 6 Voting in the National Delegates' Congress shall be by standing up. However, secret ballot may be used if at least one third of the delegates demand it.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The functions and powers of the National Delegates' Congress shall be to:

- 1 Adopt the Basic Rules, the Charter, the programme of action and policies of the party.
2. Amendment of these Basic Rules provided that the amendments shall come into force in the next immediate session of the National Delegates' Congress.
- 3 Receive and discuss the reports of the National Council.
- 4 Review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision made by any organ or officials of the party.
- 5 Elect the Convener, Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson(s) and the other members of the National Council.
- 6 Adoption of its own rules of procedure in accordance with democratic principles and practices.

## **PART 2**

### **THE NATIONAL COUNCIL**

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

1. The National Council leads the party between sessions of the National Delegates' Congresses. It shall be composed of:
  - 1.1 The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson(s) and the Secretary General.
  - 1.2 Members elected by the National Delegates' Congress representing the States, where they shall compose not less than ninety percent of the membership of the National Council.
  - Members elected by the National Delegates' Congress representing organizations that belong to the party.
  - 1.4 The co-opted members by the above to cater for special expertise and representation.
2. The total membership of the National Council shall be three-hundred members. The members shall be elected by the National Delegates' Congress at a regular session for a period of five years.
3. The National Council shall be convened in regular sessions at least once every six months, and may be convened in extraordinary sessions whenever deemed necessary by the National Executive Committee or by one third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of its members.
4. The quorum for convening the National Council is by a simple majority of its

- members and its resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority.
5. Voting shall be by raising hands. However, secret ballot may be used if demanded by at least one third of the delegates.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The National Council shall:

1. Lead the party between the sessions of the NDC and represents the party in its relations with other associations, institutions and political parties.
2. Give effect to the policies of the NDC.
3. Oversee the work of the NEC.
4. Approve the annual budget of the party as proposed by the NEC.
5. Act as the appellate authority on the loss of membership of the party.
6. Elect the co-opted members of the National Council.
7. Elect the members of the NEC other than those elected by the NDC.
8. determine the time and place of convening the NDC on the recommendation of the NEC.
9. Report to the NDC.
10. Form the Electoral Committee that shall carry out the election process in the NDC and NC.
11. Adoption of its rules of procedure in accordance with the resolutions and procedure of the National Delegates' Congress.
12. The National Council may by a three-quarters majority of its members unseat the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson on gross violation of these Basic Rules. The motion to cast the vote of no-confidence shall be moved by at least one third of its members and communicated to all members. The National Council shall consider the motion within thirty (30) days from the date of submitting it.

## **PART 3**

### **THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **ARTICLE 15 COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

1. Apart from the members elected by the NDC, the NEC shall be elected by secret ballot by and from within the National Council and shall hold office for five years.
2. The NEC shall be constituted as follows:
  - 1.1 The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson(s) and Secretary General.
  - 1.2 Twenty (20) members elected by the National Council.
  - 1.3 Five (5) members elected by the above to cater for special expertise and representation.

- 3 The NEC shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the SPLM. The Secretary General shall be the Rapporteur.
- 4 The NEC shall hold regular meetings at least twice a month on the personal initiative of the Chairperson or on the recommendation of the Secretary General or on a written request to the Chairperson by at least one third of its members.
- 5 The NEC may invite any member of the party to attend its meetings. Such member may participate in the deliberations and be allocated tasks to perform on behalf of the NEC, but shall not vote on any issue.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The National Executive Committee shall:

- 1 Perform such functions as entrusted to it by the National Council.
- 1 Be responsible for supervising and directing the daily political, administrative and executive functions of the party.
- 3 Manage and control all the finances and assets of the party.
- 4 Issue directives and instructions to and receive reports from the Secretary General.
- 5 Ensure that all organs of the party function democratically and effectively.
- 6 Delegate any of its powers to the General Secretariat
- 7 Establish departments and committees as it considers appropriate.
- 8 Coordinate with State and Area organs, as appropriate, on the candidates they have selected for adoption as party candidates to contest elections for Governor, legislative assemblies and any other elections within the States.
- 9 Election of the Assistants Secretary General who shall be Supervisors of the Sectors.
- 10 Approve the nominations of the Secretary General for Secretaries and Chairpersons of Specialized Committees in the General Secretariat.
11. Determine the number and composition of the NDC and the States' Conferences depending on the financial position of the party and recommend to the National Council the time and place of holding the NDC.
- 12 When the party is in government, the NEC shall approve the list of nominations for the government constitutional positions on the national level.
- 13 Set its own rules of procedure provided that they are in conformity with those of the National Council.
14. Carry out any function as may be directed by the National Council.

## **PART 4**

### **THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

- 1 The General Secretariat shall comprise the Secretary General, Assistants  
Secretary General and the Secretaries of the Specialized Committees determined  
by the NEC.
- 2 The General Secretariat shall meet at least once a week and presided over by the  
Secretary General.
- 3 Meetings of the General Secretariat are held by invitation from the Secretary  
General and the quorum is a simple majority.
- 4 The decisions of the General Secretariat are taken by a simple majority and in  
case of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- 5 The secretariat General may invite any of the party members to its meetings. Such  
member may participate in the deliberations and be assigned tasks to carry out on  
behalf of the General Secretariat, but shall not vote on any issue.

**ARTICLE 18**  
**FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

- 1 Initiation of policies, programmes and plans to be approved by the NEC.
- 2 Implementation of the policies, programmes and decisions adopted by the  
NEC.
- 3 Undertake the running of the day-to-day activities of the party.
- 4 Receive reports from Sectors and States Secretariats for consideration by the  
NEC.
- 5 Prepare Internal Regulations in accordance with these Basic Rules and  
presenting them to the NEC for adoption.
- 6 Involve members of the party in standing committees, task forces or  
discussion forums to help in the performance of its functions and duties.
- 7 Management of the party finance and assets.
- 8 Set its own rules of procedure provided they are in conformity with those of  
the NEC.
- 9 Carry out any other function as may be directed by the NEC or the National  
Council.

**PART 5**  
**SECTORAL ORGANS**  
**ARTICLE 19**

- 1 The States shall be organized into eight sectors as follows:
  - (a)- Northern Sector, comprising the Nile River and Northern States.
  - (b)- Darfur Sector, comprising Northern, Southern and Western Darfur States.
  - (c)- Kordofan Sector, comprising Northern and Southern Kordofan States and  
Abyei Area.
  - (d)- Central Sector, comprising White Nile, Blue Nile, Gezira and Sennar  
States.
  - (e)- Eastern Sector, comprising Gadaref, Kassala and Red Sea States.
  - (f)- Upper Nile Sector, comprising Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity states.
  - (g)- Equatoria Sector, comprising East, Central and Western Equatoria States.
  - (h)- Bahr el Ghazal Sector, comprising Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr

- el Ghazal, Lakes and Warrap States.
2. Each Sector shall be under the supervision of an Assistant Secretary General.
  3. The Supervisor is responsible for the coordination of the work of the Secretariats in the States that form the Sector.
  4. A Sector may form a Secretariat comprising not more than four Departments or Specialized Committees as approved by the NEC on the recommendation of the Secretary General.
  5. The Sector Supervisors shall render regular reports to the Secretary General who shall be responsible for the proper performance of their duties.
  6. The Party Chairperson in Khartoum State shall have the same competence as an Assistant Secretary.

## **PART 6**

### **DUTIES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE OFFICIALS**

#### **ARTICLE 20 THE CONVENER**

The Convener shall:

- 1 Preside over the National Delegates' Congress, whose mandate ceases at the end of its sessions.
- 2 Sign all the decisions taken by the NDC.
- 3 Carry out such additional tasks as the NDC may direct.

#### **ARTICLE 21 THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson shall:

- 1 Be the head and chief executive directing officer of the party.
- 2 Preside over the meetings of the NC and the NEC.
- 3 Ensure that the policies and programmes of the party are implemented.
- 4 Undertake the overall supervision of the NEC and perform any other functions necessary for the proper implementation of the principles and policies of the party.
- 5 Present progress reports to the meetings of NDC, the NC and the NEC.
- 6 Perform any other duty or function as may be directed by the National Council.

#### **ARTICLE 22 DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

The Deputy Chairperson shall:

- 1 Assist the Chairperson in the performance of his/her functions.

- 2 Act in the absence of the Chairperson.
- 3 Perform any other functions and duties entrusted to him/her by the Chairperson or the NEC.
- 4 In the event that the position of the Chairperson falls vacant, the Deputy Chairperson shall assume the functions of the Chairperson and call for an extraordinary meeting of the National Council within thirty days to elect a new Chairperson to complete the remaining term of office.

**ARTICLE 23  
THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Secretary General shall:

- 1 Be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, and answerable to the Chairperson and the NEC.
- 2 Be the Secretary of the NDC, NC, NEC and keeps the minutes of the same.
- 3 Preside over the meetings of the General Secretariat.
- 4 Receive the reports of all departments and committees.
- 5 Assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson, in the absence of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson(s).
- 6 Prepare for the meetings of the NDC, NC and the NEC and inform all members accordingly.
- 7 Convey the decisions and directives of the NDC, NC and the NEC to the State Secretariats and see to it that all units of the party carry out their duties properly.
- 8 Prepare periodic reports on the work of the NEC and such other documents that may from time to time be required by the NEC and the General Secretariat.

**ARTICLE 24  
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Assistant Secretary General shall:

- 1 Supervise the work of a Sector.
- 2 Preside over the meetings of the Sector Secretariat.
- 3 Coordination of the work of the Secretariats in the States that form the Sector under his supervision with the General Secretariat.

**ARTICLE 25  
SECRETARIES OF SPECIALIZED DEPARTMENTS**

1. The Secretary in charge of a specialized department shall carry out such functions and perform such duties as specified by the NEC under the direct supervision of the Secretary General.
2. The Regulations shall specify the number of the specialized departments and define their functions.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **STATE ORGANS**

#### **PART 1**

#### **STATE CONFERENCE**

##### **ARTICLE 26 COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

- 1 The State Conference is the highest organ of the party in the State. It shall be composed of:
  - 1.1 the delegates of all the Areas in the State represented in accordance with the Just Ratio. This category shall comprise not less than 90% of the delegates to the State Conference.
  - 1.2 representatives of the organizations that belong to the party.
  - 1.3 members of the State Council as ex-officio members.
- 2 The quorum for convening the State Conference shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates. If the quorum is not obtained in the first sitting, the quorum for the second sitting shall be a simple majority and its decisions shall be binding.
- 3 Decisions of the State Conference shall be by a simple majority.
- 4 The State Conference is convened and meets in regular sessions once every five years. However, an extraordinary meeting can be convened if the Secretariat or one third of the Areas in the State demand it.
- 5 Voting in the State Conference shall be by the show of hands. However, secret ballot may be accepted if one third of members demand it.

##### **ARTICLE 27 FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The State Conference shall:

- 1 Promote and implement the policies and decisions of the NDC, NC and the NEC on the level of the State as a whole.
- 2 Receive and consider the reports of the State Council and State Secretariat.
- 3 Review, ratify, amend or rescind decisions taken by the State Council or officials of the party in the State.
- 4 Elect the State Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and the other members of the State Council.
- 5 Elect the State's delegates to the National Delegates' Congress in proportion to the delegates of each Area.
- 6 Nominate the party's candidate for the office of the State Governor and any other national office bearers representing the State.

- 7 Adoption of its own rules of procedure provided that they are in conformity with the procedures of the NEC, NC and the NDC.

**PART 2  
THE STATE COUNCIL**

**ARTICLE 28  
COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

1. The State Council is the body that leads the party in the State between State Conferences and is composed of sixty persons as follows:  
The State Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary;  
Members elected by the State Conference representing the Areas. This category shall be not less than ninety percent of the total membership of the State Council;  
Members elected by the State Conference representing the Women, Youth and syndicated organizations belonging to the party;  
Co-opted members elected by the above to cater for special expertise and representation.
2. Members of the State Council are elected for five years.
3. The State Council holds regular meetings once every three months. However, it can be held in an extraordinary meeting on the invitation of the Chairperson or by a written request by at least one-third of members of the State Council.
4. The quorum for the meetings of the State Council is a simple majority.
5. The decisions of the State Council are taken by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
6. The voting in the meetings of the State Council shall be by the show of hands. However, secret ballot may be used if one-third of the members so demand.

**ARTICLE 29  
FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The State Council shall:

1. Lead the party in the State between the State Conferences and represents the party in its relations with organizations, institutions and other political parties on the level of the State.
2. Oversee the implementation of the policies and resolutions of the party on the State level.
3. Oversee the work of the State Secretariat.
4. Approve the annual budget of the party in the State on the recommendation of the State Secretariat.
5. Approve members of the State Secretariat.
6. Render reports to the State Conference.

7. Form the election committee that shall carry out the election process during the State Conference.
8. Election of the co-opted members to the State Council.
9. Issue rules of procedure to organize its work provided that it is in conformity with these Basic Rules and the Regulations.

### **PART 3**

#### **THE STATE SECRETARIAT**

##### **ARTICLE 30 COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

- 1 The State Secretariat (SS) shall comprise the State Secretary and a suitable numbers of Assistants to the Secretary as may be decided by the State Council on the recommendation of the State Chairperson.
- 2 The State Council shall specify the structure, functions and powers of the State Secretariat and the Specialized Committees in accordance with the provisions of these Basic Rules and the Regulations.
- 3 The State Secretariat shall meet at least once a week and its meetings shall be presided over by the Secretary.
- 4 The meetings of the State Secretariat shall be convened by the Secretary.
- 5 The quorum shall be a simple majority.
- 6 Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- 7 The State Secretariat may invite any member of the party to attend any of its meetings. Such member can participate in the deliberations and may be assigned tasks to perform on behalf of the State Secretariat. However, he is not entitled to vote on any issue discussed.
- 8 The State Secretariat shall determine its rules of procedure provided that they are in conformity with those of the State Council.

##### **ARTICLE 31**

#### **FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The State Secretariat shall:

- 1 Initiate policies, programmes and plans to be approved by the State Council.
- 2 Implement the policies, programmes and decisions of the higher organs.
- 3 Run the day-to-day affairs of the party.
- 4 Submit periodic reports to the State Chairperson and State Council.
- 5 Receive and consider reports from the Areas Secretariats.
- 6 Manage the finances and assets of the party on the State level and submit regular financial reports as determined by the State Council.
- 7 Issue directives to the Areas Secretariats.

- 8 Supervise the work of the party organs in the State.
- 9 Oversee the work of the Women and Youth organizations that belong to the party on the State level.
- 10 Form a State Elections Committee to co-ordinate with the Areas Committees on the campaigning for any elections held in the State.

**PART 4**  
**DUTIES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF OFFICIALS**  
**ON THE STATE LEVEL**

**ARTICLE 32**  
**THE STATE CHAIRPERSON**

The party State Chairperson shall:

1. Be the head of the party in the State.
2. Preside over the meetings of the State Conference and the State Council.
3. Ensure the dissemination and implementation of the policies and programmes of the party in the State.
4. Supervision of the party organs in the State and ensure that they carry out their duties and functions in a satisfactory manner.
5. Deliver statements and any related party documents to the State Conference and State Council.

**ARTICLE 33**  
**THE STATE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

The State Deputy Chairperson shall:

1. Assist the State Chairperson in carrying out his/her duties.
2. Act in the absence of the State Chairperson.
3. In the event that the position of the State Chairperson falls vacant, the Deputy Chairperson assumes his/her position and convenes the State Conference within thirty days to elect a new State Chairperson for the remaining period.

**ARTICLE 34**  
**THE STATE SECRETARY**

The State Secretary shall:

1. Be the chief administrative officer of the party in the State and shall be answerable in the performance of his/her duties to the State Chairperson and the State Council.
2. Be secretary to the State Conference and State Council and shall be the custodian of the minutes and records of the same.
3. Preside over the meetings of the State Secretariat.
4. Receive reports of all the departments and committees of the State Secretariat.
5. Act in the absence of the State Chairperson and/or Deputy Chairperson.
6. Make preparations for the State Conference and State Council and inform members accordingly.

7. Communicate the resolutions and directives of the State Conference, State Council and the General Secretariat to the Areas and ensure their implementation.
8. Prepare periodic reports on the performance of the State Secretariat and State Council and deliver the same to the General Secretariat through the State Chairperson and the concerned Sector.
9. Prepare budget proposals for the State Secretariat and present that to the State Council and the General Secretariat for approval.
10. Carry out any duty entrusted to it by the State Council, the Sector or the General Secretariat.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **THE AREA ORGANS**

#### **ARTICLE 35**

In accordance with ARTICLE 10(4), the National Council shall determine the composition, functions and meetings procedures of the party organs on the level of the area. It shall also determine the duties and powers of the party chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary on the same level in line with the corresponding National and State organs.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

### **THE BRANCH ORGANS**

#### **ARTICLE 36**

In accordance with ARTICLE 10(5), the National Council shall determine the composition, functions and meetings procedures of the party conference and secretariat on the Branch level. It shall also determine the duties and powers of the party chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary on the same level in line with the corresponding National and State organs.

## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **ORGANS OF THE BASIC UNIT**

#### **PART 1**

#### **MEETING OF THE BASIC UNIT**

#### **ARTICLE 37**

#### **COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

1. The Meeting of the Basic Unit is composed by all the registered members of the party in the Basic Unit.
2. The quorum for the Meeting of the Basic Unit is two-thirds (2/3) of the members. In the event that quorum is not obtained in the first meeting, the second meeting is held by a simple majority and its decisions are binding to all members.
3. Decisions of the Meeting of the Basic Unit are made by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair has a casting vote.
4. The Meeting of the Basic Unit shall be held once every three months. However, it can hold an extraordinary meeting when necessary.
5. The voting in the Meeting of the Basic Unit is either by the show of hands or by standing up.

### **ARTICLE 38 FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The Meeting of the Basic Unit shall:

1. Discuss the issues related to the Basic Unit and making recommendations to the Branch Conference.
2. Implementation of the policies and programmes of the party in the Basic Unit.
3. Receive and discuss reports presented by the Basic Unit Secretariat.
4. Review, ratify, amend or rescind decisions of the Basic Unit Secretariat.
5. Elect the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary of the Basic Unit and the other members of the Basic Unit Secretariat provided the representation of women is not less than twenty-five percent (25%).
6. Election of the delegates of the Basic Unit to the Branch Conference.

### **PART 2 THE BASIC UNIT SECRETARIAT**

#### **ARTICLE 39 COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

1. The Basic Unit Secretariat is composed of the Basic Unit Secretary and four assistants as is decided by the Meeting of the Basic Unit on the recommendation of the Basic Unit Chairperson provided that the representation of women is not less than twenty-five percent (25%).
2. The Meeting of the Basic Unit shall decide on the structure, functions and duties of the Assistants of the Basic Unit Secretary and its committees in accordance with these Basic Rules and the Regulations.
3. The Basic Unit Secretariat shall meet once every week and its meetings shall be presided over by the Basic Unit Secretary.
4. The meetings of the Basic Unit Secretariat are convened by the Basic Unit Secretary.

5. The quorum for the meetings of the Basic Unit Secretariat is three members.
6. The decisions of the Basic Unit Secretariat are made by a simply majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
7. The Basic Unit Secretariat may invite any member of the party to attend any of its meetings. Such member can participate in the deliberations and may be assigned tasks to perform on behalf of the Basic Unit Secretariat. However, he is not entitled to vote on any issue discussed.

#### **ARTICLE 40 FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The Basic Unit Secretariat shall:

1. Initiate policies, programmes and plans to be adopted by the Meeting of the Basic Unit.
2. Implement the policies, programmes and decisions of the higher party organs on the level of the Basic Unit.
3. Mobilization and recruitment of new members and keeping regular records of membership.
4. Be responsible for the day-to-day running of the party on the level of the Basic Unit and preparations for the Meeting of the Basic Unit.
5. Manage the finances and assets of the party on the level of the Basic Unit and render reports on that to the Chairperson and Meeting of the Basic Unit.
6. Implement the directives of the Branch Secretariat.
7. Oversee and supervise the performance of the party organs in the Basic Unit.
8. Carry out any function as directed by the Chairperson or Meeting of the Basic Unit.

#### **PART 3**

#### **FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF LEADERS IN THE BASIC UNIT**

#### **ARTICLE 41 THE BASIC UNIT CHAIRPERSON**

The party Basic Unit Chairperson shall:

1. Preside over the meetings of the Meeting of the Basic Unit.
2. Ensure the proper dissemination and implementation of the policies and programmes of the party in the Basic Unit.
3. Supervision of the party organs in the Basic Unit and ensure that they carry out their duties and functions in a satisfactory manner.
4. Deliver statements and any related party documents to the Meeting of the Basic Unit.

#### **ARTICLE 42 THE BASIC UNIT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

The Basic Unit Deputy Chairperson shall:

1. Assist the Basic Unit Chairperson in carrying out his/her duties.
2. Act in the absence of the Basic Unit Chairperson.
3. In the event that the position of the Basic Unit Chairperson falls vacant, the Deputy Chairperson assumes his/her position and convenes the Meeting of the Basic Unit within two weeks to elect a new Basic Unit Chairperson for the remaining period.
4. Perform any other duties entrusted to him by the Basic Unit Chairperson.

**ARTICLE 43**  
**THE BASIC UNIT SECRETARY**

The Basic Unit Secretary shall:

1. Be the chief administrative officer of the party in the Basic Unit and shall be answerable in the performance of his/her duties to the Basic Unit Chairperson and the Meeting of the Basic Unit.
2. Be secretary to the Meeting of the Basic Unit and shall be the custodian of the minutes and records of the same.
3. Preside over the meetings of the Basic Unit Secretariat.
4. Receive reports of all the departments and committees of the Basic Unit Secretariat.
5. Act in the absence of the Basic Unit Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.
6. Make preparations for the Meeting of the Basic Unit and inform members accordingly.
7. Implement the decisions and directives of the Meeting of the Basic Unit.
8. Prepare periodic reports on the performance of the basic Unit Secretariat and deliver the same to the Branch Secretariat through the Basic Unit Chairperson.
9. Prepare budget proposals for the Basic Unit Secretariat and present that to the same for approval.
10. Carry out any duty entrusted to it by the Basic Unit Chairperson or the Meeting of the Basic Unit.

**CHAPTER TEN**

**FINANCES OF THE PARTY**

**ARTICLE 44**  
**SOURCES OF INCOME**

The party finance shall derive from the following sources:

1. Membership registration fees and monthly subscriptions.
2. Donations, grants and donations from acceptable sources.
3. Returns on investments and deposits.
4. Any other legal source as approved by the National Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE 45**  
**THE MANAGEMENT OF FINANCE**

- 1 The financial year for the party shall commence on the first of January and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December in the same year.
- 2 All monies of the Organization shall be kept in bank accounts as shall be decided by the NEC.
- 3 The monies of the party shall be managed in accordance with the financial and accounting regulations approved by the NEC.
- 4 The General Secretariat shall prepare an annual budget of the party the elements of which are collected from all party organs and submit it to the NEC for approval after which it shall be submitted to the National Council for final approval.
- 5 Every level Secretariat shall submit reports on the income it has collected to the next immediate higher level up to the General Secretariat, and no expenditure shall be made except as approved by the General Secretariat in accordance with the budget approved for each level.
- 6 The General Secretariat may render financial support to any lower level when deemed necessary.

**ARTICLE 46**  
**AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS**

1. The accounts of the party shall be audited annually within three months of the end of the financial year by certified accountants appointed by the NEC
2. The General Secretariat, especially the Secretary in charge of finance, shall allow the auditors to have access to any document that will assist them in the performance of their work.
3. The certified auditors shall render a report to the General secretariat which in turn shall present the same to the NEC for consideration.

**CHAPTER ELEVEN**

**DISCIPLINE**

**ARTICLE 47**  
**GENERAL CONDUCT**

- 1 All party members, without exception, must abide by these Basic Rules, regulations, the standing orders, code of conduct, all policies and decisions properly adopted or made in accordance with these Basic Rules.
- 2 Every member of the party must support all the candidates of the party in General Elections at all levels.

- 3 Every candidate representing the party during an election at any level of government, must undertake in writing, prior to the election, to abide by these Basic Rules and the relevant code of conduct for elected representatives.
- 4 Disciplinary proceedings against a member shall be confined to the violation of these Basic Rules, regulations, standing orders, code of conduct, policies and decisions of the party.

#### **ARTICLE 48**

#### **ACTIONS CONSIDERED AS MISCONDUCT**

The following conduct by a member shall constitute misconduct in respect of which disciplinary proceedings may be invoked and instituted against him or her:

- 1 Conviction in a court of law, for any serious non-political offence with or without a sentence;
- 2 Behaviour which brings the party into disrepute or which manifests a flagrant violation of the moral integrity expected of members or conduct unbecoming of a member;
- 3 Showing racism, sexism, tribal chauvinism, religious and political intolerance, regional or any form of discrimination;
- 4 Abuse of elected or employed officer in the party to obtain any direct or indirect undue advantage or enrichment;
- 5 Behaving corruptly, seeking or accepting bribe for performing or not performing any task;
- 6 Misappropriation of the funds of the party or destruction of its properties;
- 7 Behaving in such a way as to provoke serious divisions or a breakdown of unity in the party;
- 8 Undermining, showing disrespect for or impeding the functioning of the organs of the party;
- 9 Participating in organized factional activity that goes beyond the recognized norms of free debate inside the party and threatens its unity;
- 10 Supporting a political organization or party other than those in alliance with the party in a manner contrary to the aims, objectives and policy of the party;
- 11 Standing in an election for a government institution or acts as an election agent or canvasser of a person standing for such election in opposition to a candidate duly endorsed by the party;
- 12 Joining another political organization or party;
- 13 Fighting or behaving in grossly, disorderly or unruly manner;
- 14 Deliberately disrupting meetings and interfering with the orderly functioning of the party; or,
- 15 Drunkenness while on duty.

#### **ARTICLE 49**

## INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

- 1 Disciplinary proceedings shall normally be conducted at the level where the alleged violation or misconduct took place, namely the Basic Unit, Branch, Area, State or national levels of the party, and may be heard by the relevant structure.
2. The National Council, NEC, the General Secretariat, Sector Secretariat or the State Secretariat may institute investigation or disciplinary committees at its level.
3. Alleged misconduct of a member must first be investigated by a properly instituted impartial investigation committee.
4. The investigation committee shall be instituted by a written order showing the charges leveled against the member in question and the membership of the committee shall range from three to five members.
5. The investigation committee shall investigate the charges and recommend whether to drop the charges or proceed with them.
6. Should the investigation committee recommend that the accused member has a case to answer for and the authority that instituted it accepted the recommendation, the same authority or a higher one shall issue an order instituting a disciplinary committee which membership shall range between five and seven members.
- 7 Any person faced with disciplinary proceedings shall:
  - (a)- Receive due written notice of any hearing and of the basic allegations and charges against him or her and be accorded reasonable opportunity to make his or her defence.
  - (b)- Be entitled to be represented by a member in good standing and who is a registered member for at least three months prior to the receipt of such written notice referred to in sub-section (a) above.
- 8 If disciplinary proceedings are instituted against a member and such member does not appear at the venue and at the time determined for such proceedings or does not remain in attendance when required to do so, the relevant disciplinary committee, if satisfied that such member was properly and timely notified of such venue and time, may order that the proceedings continue in the absence of such member.
- 9 Penalties or sanctions, which may be imposed by a disciplinary committee, for proven violations of these Basic Rules, Regulations, Code of Conduct, policies and decisions of the party, shall include warning, reprimand, payment of compensation and /or the performance of a useful task, remedial action, suspension of membership for a specified period or expulsion from the party and in the case of a public representative also the removal from the institution in which such person enjoys public representation.
- 10 The relevant Disciplinary Committee shall in writing report the outcome of each disciplinary proceedings to the relevant official of the executive structure which established it and then the decision shall be publicly announced by the relevant Disciplinary Committee.
- 11 The authority that instituted the Disciplinary Committee or a higher authority may suspend the imposition of any of the above penalties or sanctions, with or without certain conditions, for a period to be determined by such authority.

- 12 If a member is expelled from the party, he or she may appeal to the National Council.

## **CHAPTER TWELVE**

### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 50**

##### **PERPETUAL SUCCESSION**

The party shall have perpetual succession and power, apart from its individual members, to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and do all lawful things necessary to carry out its aims and objectives and defend its members, its property and its reputation.

#### **ARTICLE 51**

##### **HEADQUARTERS**

- 1 The seat of the National Headquarters of the party shall be in the Khartoum State.
- 2 The seat of the State Headquarters shall be at the Capital of the same State.
- 3 The seat of the party at the levels of Areas, Branches and Basic Units shall be decided by these organs.

#### **ARTICLE 52**

##### **AMENDMENTS**

1. These Basic Rules may not be amended except by three quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority decision of the members of the National Delegates' Congress (NDC).
2. The motion for amendment shall be tabled before the NDC by the Chairman or by a written request made by no less than one-third of the members of the NDC.

#### **ARTICLE 53**

##### **DISSOLUTION**

The National Delegates' Congress (NDC) in a regular or an extraordinary session may dissolve the party by three quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority of the delegates present. The same Congress shall decide on the disposal of the assets and liabilities of the party.

## ARTICLE 54

### THE PARTY LOGO

The logo of the party is a shield, the shape of which is as follows. The top is a straight horizontal line each end of which is joined to a concave arc. The other end of each arc is joined to a vertical line extending downwards, one and a half times as long as the horizontal line. The two vertical lines are joined by a semi-circle. The shield is completed by an identical construction inside of and parallel to the one above. Inside the shield are two olive branches crossing at the base, and a Torch of Liberty is standing vertically on the crossing point of the two olive branches. Inside the two lines forming the shield is written the acronym "SPLM-DC" at the top whereas the name of the party in the Arabic language is inscribed at the lower part.

## ARTICLE 55

### THE PARTY FLAG

The SPLM flag is rectangular; it is twice longer than it is wide. It is a horizontal band of four colours, comprising from top to bottom, black, white, red, white and green. The black, red and green colours are equal bands. The width of each of the two white bands is one-third of any of the other bands. A blue isosceles triangle with the base at one end has its apex at the middle, a distance of one-third of the length. A **red** star occupies the middle of the triangle's height.

The black colour, represents the identity of Sudan and Africa. The first white colour represents peace at different times. The red colour represents the blood of our martyrs in the struggle for liberation. The Green colour represents our land, agriculture and its natural riches. The Blue triangle represents the Nile waters. The Star represents our vision and guiding principles, kept alive by tremendous human sacrifices.