

# STATUTES OF THE ALLIANCE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

## PREAMBLE

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF),  
The Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUDP),  
The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF),  
The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF),  
The Sidama Liberation Front (SLF), and  
The Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front (EPPF)

Hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Reaffirming their unwavering determination to put an end to the underlying causes of repression, bloodshed, insecurity, political instability and exclusion in Ethiopia and the region which is inflicting severe hardships and suffering on all the people, and seriously hampers the prospects for development and the attainment of equality and social justice;

Reaffirming their commitment to shape a political order and a system of government inspired by the universal aspiration for freedom and founded on the values of justice, liberty, equality, democracy, good governance, pluralism, respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms, solidarity, mutual understanding, tolerance and cooperation;

Convinced that the realization of these ideals demands the cooperation of the Parties and the coordination of their activities towards the establishment of a democratic process leading to genuine healing and reconciliation and lasting peace;

Conscious that the failure of the political forces opposed to the TPLF regime to develop mutual understanding and coordinate their struggle benefited no one but rather contributed in prolonging tyranny and perpetuated the misery and agony of all,

Convinced that working together to materialize the higher interests of the people and the establishment of a genuinely democratic transition where competing visions could freely and peacefully compete for the verdict of the people is in the best interest of the Parties;

Resolved therefore to guarantee freedom and democracy in Ethiopia and the region,

Have in consequence decided to set up the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy, and have for this purpose adopted this Statute:

## **Chapter I – Establishment of the Alliance**

### **Article 1**

The Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (“the Alliance”) is hereby established. Its objectives, tasks, code of conduct, and organs shall be governed by the provisions of this statute.

### **Article 2**

Member organizations shall maintain their respective political programs and enjoy their organizational independence and autonomy.

### **Article 3**

The Parties commit themselves to refrain from any act or behavior contrary to the provisions of the Amsterdam Agreement, and to spare no effort to ensure that the provisions of the agreement are fully respected and implemented in their letter and spirit in order to ensure the attainment of genuine freedom, democracy, reconciliation, lasting peace, security for all and an equitable sharing of power and resources.

### **Article 4**

- a. The documents of the Alliance shall be made in English. Certified translations can be made in other languages;
- b. The official languages of the Alliance are Afaan Oromo, Amharic and English;
- c. Member organizations can however use the language of their choice for their independent activities without any prejudice by the Alliance or its members;
- d. The Alliance would strive to ensure that all languages and the positive aspects of the cultures they embody receive equal recognition and protection.

## **Chapter II – Aim of the Alliance**

### **Article 1**

The aim of the Alliance is to establish a working arrangement that:

1. Ensures liberty, peace, justice, and the rule of law;
2. Promotes peace in Ethiopia and the region, ensuring that the resulting peace dividend shall be enjoyed by all;
3. Lays the foundation for a fully democratic system in Ethiopia that meets the aspirations of all and address their grievances by instituting a genuinely representative political order;
4. Guarantees the supremacy of the rule of law based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant United Nations Covenants;

5. Reaffirms respect for and commitment to the basic norms of international law and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
6. Achieves a new, just, and democratic Ethiopia where all human and democratic rights are fully respected; and
7. Genuinely and boldly addresses the serious issues in Ethiopia and amicably resolves the many intractable conflicts in the region thereby laying the foundations for lasting peace, democracy, stability and development.
8. Promote the core democratic values of the rule of law, equality before the law and liberty of the individual, individual and collective freedoms, popular participation in decision making, free and fair elections, separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary;
9. Develop the mutual understanding and trust between parties, their members and constituents to boldly address the serious issues in Ethiopia that have been the root causes of conflicts lasting for generations and amicably resolve them thereby laying the foundations for lasting peace, democracy, stability and development throughout the region; and
10. These aims shall be pursued through the organs of the Alliance and the coordinated efforts of member organizations.

### **Chapter III – Functions of the Alliance**

#### **Article 1**

The Alliance shall:

1. Coordinate the activities of member organizations by mobilizing and galvanizing their respective constituencies in order to achieve freedom, lasting peace, and democracy;
- ② Convene an inclusive conference to establish a workable arrangement on the basis of the present framework of the Ethiopian constitution;
3. Pool together the Parties' resources and talents in order to conduct an effective political and diplomatic campaign;
4. Work together to promote brotherly relations among all the people in Ethiopia by mitigating and preventing all forms of inter-communal and inter-confessional discord;
5. Uphold a culture of peaceful resolution of intrastate and interstate conflicts in the region and enhancing regional cooperation as a vehicle to create conditions for peace, stability, economic development, and political integration;
6. Promote harmony between the Parties and their constituents by overcoming the history of mistrust through dialogue, mutual understanding and respect;
7. Advance the development of democratic culture and institutions; and
8. Actively promote good relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea based on the agreement to be reached between the two sister countries.

## **Chapter IV – Seat of the Alliance**

### **Article 1**

The seat of the Alliance shall be established at \_\_\_\_\_ (city), (Country).

### **Article 2**

The Alliance may move its headquarters elsewhere, whenever necessary.

## **Chapter V – Membership**

### **Article 1**

The members of the Alliance are the Parties to this Statute.

### **Article 2**

A political organization with a proven track record of struggle, recognized leadership, political program and constituency which is deemed to be able and willing to fulfill the provisions of this Statute may be invited or may itself submit application to become a member. Admission shall be based on the majority vote of the existing members.

### **Article 3**

A member may withdraw by formally notifying the Alliance of its intention to do so. Such withdrawal shall take effect a month after the receipt of the notification.

### **Article 4**

A member of the Alliance that violates the terms and conditions of this Statute may be suspended from membership. A suspended member has the right to appeal to the Governing Council within 30 days of the notification of suspension.

### **Article 5**

1. Save for those specifically delegated to the Alliance in accordance with this Statute, any member organization shall maintain its organizational independence.
2. Member organizations shall have the right to air their ideas and participate in the activities of the Alliance in accordance with this Statute.
3. Member organizations are entitled to petition for the convening of the meeting of the Governing Council in accordance with this Statute.
4. The Alliance shall have its financial records audited once a year and such report shall be made available member organizations.

5. Member organizations shall refrain from engaging in activities directed against each other and in any activity that in any way compromises the security of a member organization. Violator of this article is subject to expulsion.
6. Notwithstanding Article 3.5 of this Constitution, member organizations are not prohibited from expounding their political belief, and recruiting their own members in accordance with their respective laws, rules and programs.
7. Member organization shall refrain from engaging in any activity that in any way compromises the security of another member organization.
8. Without prejudice to Article 3.6, member organizations may establish bilateral cooperation to further coordinate their activities.
9. All member organizations shall have the duty to propagate and promote the objectives of the Alliance, support all its activities and implement decisions taken by it.

## **Chapter VI – Organs of the Alliance**

### **Article 1**

The organs of the Alliance are:

- i. the Governing Council; and
- ii. the Executive Committee

### **Article 2**

The Executive Committee may establish other bodies as it deems necessary.

### **Article 3**

The Governing Council is the highest organ of the Alliance.

### **Article 4**

- a. The Governing Council shall consist of representatives of each member, delegated by its organization from among its leadership.
- b. Each member organization shall be entitled to three representatives on the Governing Council, and each representative shall be entitled to one vote. The head of a member organization shall be one of the representatives on the Council.
- c. Each representative must be a member in good standing of his/her organization.
- d. Member organizations may recall their representatives at any time, with or without cause, by giving written notice.

**Article 5**

The Governing Council shall adopt its rules of procedure and shall elect through consensus the Chairperson and Vice-Chairman for a period of 1 year.

**Article 6**

Subject to the provisions of this Statute, all resolutions of the Governing Council shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the representatives.

**Article 7**

The Governing Council shall meet in ordinary session twice a year

**Article 8**

The Governing Council may be convened in special session, upon the initiative either of the Chairman or the written request of at least three member organizations.

**Chapter VII – Executive Committee**

**Article 1**

The Executive Committee is made of the following:

1. Chairman
2. Vice-Chairman and Head of Political Affairs
3. Head of Foreign Relations
4. Deputy Head of Relations
5. Head of Information
6. Deputy Head of Information
7. Head of Finance

**Article 2**

The Executive Committee may suspend a member organization for due cause. Failing to fulfill ones financial obligation may be a cause for suspension.

**Article 3**

The Executive Committee shall report of its activities at all sessions of the Council.

**Article 4**

The Executive Committee shall hold an ordinary meeting once a month.

**Article 5**

The Executive Committee shall prepare and implement the specific criteria of admittance into the Alliance and also set the internal rules and regulations.

**Chapter VIII – Duties of the Officers of the Alliance**

**Article 1**

**Chairman:**

1. Represents the Alliance.
2. Serves as the chief executive and chief spokesperson of the Alliance.
3. Directs and supervises the Executive Committee in the implementation of the decisions of the Council.
4. Calls and presides over the meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council.
5. Presents at each regular or special meetings of the Council the report of the work of the Executive Committee.
6. Co-signs the checks or drafts of the Alliance.

**Article 2**

**Vice-Chairman:**

1. Carry out the duties of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
2. Head the Political Affairs Committee
3. Execute all other duties assigned by the Chairman.

**Article 3**

**Head of Foreign Relations:**

1. Carry out the diplomatic mission of the Alliance.
2. Head the Foreign Relations Committee of the Alliance.
3. Execute all other duties assigned by the Chairman.

**Article 4**

**Head of Information:**

1. Disseminate information to the public.
2. Build good working relations with the media
3. Head the Information Committee of the Alliance.
4. Execute all other duties assigned by the Chairman.

**Article 5**

**Head of Finance:**

1. Manage the financial activities of the Alliance
2. Head the Finance Committee of the Alliance.
1. Serve as a custodian for all the funds and properties of the Alliance.
2. Co-sign the checks or drafts of the Alliance.
3. Prepare the financial reports and the budget of the Alliance.
4. Execute all other duties assigned by the Chairman.

**Chapter IX – Dues**

1. The major source of resources for the Alliance shall be from members.
2. There shall be a \$20,000 annual membership fee.
3. The fiscal year shall be from June 1st until May 31st.
4. Membership Dues must be paid in full by July 31st within the fiscal year.

**Chapter X – Settlement of disputes**

1. Any dispute concerning the activities of the Alliance shall be settled through dialogue between the parties affected.
2. Any other dispute between two or more Parties relating to the interpretation or application of this Statute which is not settled through negotiations within three months of their commencement shall be referred to the Governing Council.
3. The settlement given by the Council by a 2/3 vote shall be final and binding.



**Chapter XI- Final Provisions**

**Article 1**

The Statutes may be amended or repealed and new Statutes may be adopted by a 2/3 vote of the Governing Council at any regular meeting, or at special meeting called for this purpose, provided a written notice and intention of the meeting is conveyed to members .

**Article 2**

This Statute shall be in effect on the date it is signed by the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized thereto by their respective organizations, have signed this Statute.

DONE at (city), this --- the day of May 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)  
Dawud Ibsa, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yoseph Yazew, NA Committee Chairman  
Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUDP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Abdulkadir Hirmooge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman  
Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fasika Belete, Chairman  
United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Galfato Seqa, Chairman  
Sidama Liberation Front (SLF)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meskerem, Chairman  
Ethiopian People's Patriotic Forces (EPPF)