

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (EPRDF) STATUTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

EPRDF is governed by the principles of Revolutionary Democracy and struggles for the objectives as specified in its party program. Its objectives being democratic and revolutionary and if put in action, will enable the people to rid themselves from abject states of poverty and backwardness and people to rid themselves of justice, democracy and prosperity. Therefore, **EPRDF** vehemently struggles to realize its program which is believed to be the key for transforming the Ethiopian society.

For the realization of the program of **EPRDF**, the people should internalize and struggle for their achievement. In order to enable people to rally behind the objectives of revolutionary democracy and to struggle for their accomplishment, **EPRDF** is expected to play the role of a vanguard by bracing up its organizational capacity to lead the people in their efforts to raise their consciousness and organize themselves.

In order for **EPRDF** to play a leading role in the process of the mobilization of the entire people in realizing its Revolutionary Democratic Program, it is imperative to have a lasting unity of ideas and practice between **EPRDF** and its member organizations from top to bottom. In order to create and persistently develop the unity of ideas and practice within the front of member organizations, it is essential to have a firm and regular democratic forum. There should be a lasting legal and organizational environment for the democratic struggle among ideas. Our statute allows for the creation of a legal and organizational environment that ensures presence of free institutional struggle to take place concerning ideas within **EPRDF** and its member organizations. Consequently, our statute leads us towards the development of mature consensus through the democratic struggle within ideas by creating a lasting democratic environment within our organization. Because of this, all organs and members should assume the highest awareness about its details and struggle towards its realization.

By using our democratic practices which have gained legal and organizational framework, our statute enables us to create the unity of ideas and its realization in an intensified form. When democracy assumes legal and organizational form, it enhances the creation of a reliable environment for the free struggle among ideas but it does not mean it eliminates differences. The

prevalence of a democratic situation does not guarantee the absence of differences between the front and its member organizations regarding its program or issues pertaining to the program. The democratic situation is not to make differences not to arise or to be eliminated but without threatening the unity of the Front and its member organizations, it enables them to manifest themselves in a systematic way.

Besides being democratic, our statute has another feature which emphasizes the interests and needs of the mass as a directive for operation and the struggle towards its realization. Without this operational unity, our Front cannot be seen as different from an ordinary discussion forum. Thus, our statute, on one hand, reinstates a democratic environment for the free and transparent struggle of ideas and, on the other hand, proclaims discretely the mutual obligations for the promotion of the realization of the needs of the mass. This enables our Front and its member organizations for a strong unity of ideas and their operations to be appropriate. As a result, we have to uphold and staunchly struggle for the realization our statute.

EPRDF is a front of unity of several national organizations. Member organizations realize the program of EPRDF by synchronizing it according to their respective objective realities. They also pursue national issues together on the basis of this program. The EPRDF statute stipulates that the political leadership we provide both at the national and regional levels is conducted by clear lines of the division of duties and makes clear the limits of the responsibilities of the Front and member organizations. By stipulating the limits of the rights and expected responsibilities of either EPRDF or each member organization, it consists of a system of dealing with situation where rights are transgressed or when responsibilities are not properly met. As a result, our statute enables EPRDF and member organizations to have political, economic and social activities that are interwoven and supportive of each other and ensures the realization of our Revolutionary Democratic Program.

The Statute of EPRDF enables the Front to have the legal and organizational system by specifying the duties and responsibilities of members of the different organs which will be organized and the members of the Front who are assigned to work in the different organs of EPRDF by stipulating the process of decision-making and execution, and by specifying the principles of operation and management to be used by the structures.

The statue of EPRDF provides us clear guidelines to tackle issues in dealing with the specification of the duties and responsibilities of the higher management organs, or when there are problems of dealing with interpretations. To sum up, our statute will bring ties between the Front and member

organizations, as well as the management organs, and as opposed to individualistic relationships, it will also bring an institutionalized work and management system thereby ensuring the objectives of the Revolutionary Democratic Program.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION EPRDF PERSUES

1. Since the development of a Democratic System and sustainable development could be achieved through the practice of the objectives of the Revolutionary Democracy in our country, member organizations responsibility to struggle for the realization of Revolutionary Democratic Objectives by fighting against the ideas of dependency and the tendency and practice of rent-seeking . It is also the obligation of member organizations to ardently struggle for the realization of the objectives of the Front and for the Statue.

2. Since Ethiopia is a multi-national country, the way to guide its different nationalities and peoples together with the struggle should be through a Front made up of multinational member organizations, and not in an organizational framework of individuals. This is because the Front consisting of multi-national organizations will fulfill two basic points:

A) Ethiopian nations and nationalities, by forming an organization based upon nations and nationalities of their own, are practically showing the will their rights and benefits to be protected in a fundamental way. The current situation indicates that nations and nationalities could secure a better organizational leadership and political participation when they are in struggle under the leadership of nation and nationality organizations of their own. As a nationality, under a respective national organization, each will improve the condition for the respect of their rights and benefits. EPRDF, being an organization of nations and nationalities and dedicated to the respect of rights and values of Ethiopian nations and nationalities, should embrace organizations that are formed on the basis of nations and nationalities to protect the rights and benefits of nations and nationalities.

B) National organizations are organizations that are formed in order to protect the rights and benefits of their nations and nationalities under the Revolutionary Democratic Program. Keeping this in mind, the formation of organizations of nations and nationalities that are governed by the democratic objectives that foster fraternity and unity among different organizations as a fundamental idea. The formation of nations' and nationalities' organizations under one Revolutionary Democratic Front will be better choice to realize this objective. So, as EPRDF is an organization which stands to secure equality and unity among the peoples of Ethiopia, it realizes

the objective by embracing member organizations that are dedicated to protect the rights and also gain support from their people easily.

3. Due to the fact that EPRDF is dedicated to the realization of Revolutionary Democratic Objectives, the organizations under its embrace are only those which have clearly dictated to the revolutionary democratic objectives within their programme. EPRDF does not either embrace organizations of every nations and nationalities or organizations that simply claim to have accepted its revolutionary democratic programme. They should struggle for the realization of its programme. Individuals that need EPRDF membership through their respective organizations should also be aware of this fact.

4. The Revolutionary Democratic objective could be represented in a nation and nationality only through one organization. Therefore, unfortunately if there are more than one organization in a nation/nationality which want to join the Front primarily they should be merged. If they are not merged, both or one of them will be subject to incorrect objective and organization.

5. For those national/nationality organizations which will observe the realization of revolutionary democratic objectives assure their benefits and who are ready to work in collaboration with EPRDF, the Front will seek an organizational framework to work in partnership and jointly and also will have a supportive organizational structure to accommodate other supporters.

6. Women as well as youth members of organization, who accept the Revolutionary Democratic Programme and ready to struggle for its realization will be organized under women and youth leagues within EPRDF. The women and youth leagues allow not only members of EPRDF but also other women and youth who accept the objectives of leagues, and they are, thus, forums that promote revolutionary democratic ideas and practices.

7. The objective of Revolutionary Democracy could be realized only if the internal and work ethics of the organization which stood for it remains to be democratic. Therefore, EPRDF will embrace the applicant organization whose leadership is elected in a democratic participation and decision of its members; whose members are free to express their ideas; democratic centralism system is in operation; endorsement of criticism, self-criticism and evaluation system are available; and only when the statute of the organization is respected and is only legally supreme and justified to be fair organization.

8. Since EPRDF is a Front representing the unity of organizations, organizational membership of the Front is endorsed only by accepting its revolutionary democratic programme and statute. Thus,

members will not have distinct political and ideological existence outside the Front. Due to this, member organizations should realize revolutionary democratic objectives in their respective regions and have the duty to implement the decisions of the EPRDF at national level. However, each member organization of the Front will have the opportunity to synchronize the programme and the general plan of the Front in accordance to their respective regions; facilitate their own internal organizational affairs; send representatives to different organs of the Front and would have the right to replace their representatives when needed. Since the member has joined the Front by its own interest, its freedom to quit membership in the Front is reserved. However, the need to quit membership is made effective by the articles stipulated within this statute.

9. EPRDF will protect its unity and realize its political programme when there is equality among member organizations. And since it is the Front of various revolutionary democratic organizations, the relationship among member organizations will never have been thought without equality. Therefore, all members of the Front having the same rights and responsibilities, will have the right to consult equally on common issues, participate in decision making processes and to be equally represented in the Front leadership.

CHAPTER ONE

BRIEFS

Article 1 Topic This statute can be referred to as “The Statute of the Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) modified and approved by the 6th Congress of the EPRDF”.

Article 2 Name of the Front

The name of the Front is the “Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front” (EPRDF).

Article 3 Emblem of the Front

The background being red, on the right wheat, on the left a wheel and conjoined with the shape of half a circle, a torch handled by two hands in the middle; at the top the of torch on the tips of the wheel and wheat an amber star.

Article 4 Interpretation of the Emblem

1. The red background stands for the sacrifice paid for the establishment of a democratic order.
2. The wheat, half the wheel and torch represents the sectors of the society both in rural and urban areas which are the social foundation of revolutionary democracy who have organized themselves under EPRDF.
3. The two hands represent the readiness of the peoples' to rally behind the revolutionary democracy and their comradeship.
4. The star represents the bright hope we have to establish a sustainable democratic order in our country.

Article 5 Organ of the Front

1. The Front's organ is "Revolutionary Democracy".
2. The organ uses Amharic which is the working language of the Front.
3. Although stated in sub article 2 above, organs of member organizations prepared in different languages will serve to express EPRDF's public stand.

Article 6 the Headquarters of the Front

The Headquarters of the Front will be in **Addis Ababa**.

Article 7 The principles of organization and operation of the Front

1. The Front's organizational principles

a. EPRDF is a Front founded by the union of revolutionary democratic organizations. It is not a Front organized by recruiting individuals.

b. All EPRDF member organizations have the obligations to make the national revolutionary democracy operational in their respective regions.

c. While keeping in mind what is stated in 'b', all member organizations have the freedom to realize EPRDF programme in a way suited to the objective realities of their respective regions. d. EPRDF is a Front for organizations which are equal.

e. All organizations that come under EPRDF umbrella are those which are led by democratic principles and those which respect democratic centralism.

f. EPRDF promotes its activities by making the basis and respecting the laws of the country.

2. Mutual actions and individual obligations

a. All organs of EPRDF found at all levels will pass decisions after mutual discussions and through majority votes.

b. One person will have only one vote. A proposed decision will be a common guideline if it wins above 50% +1 vote of the total votes in the particular meeting. When there is a draw, the side the chairperson belongs or supports will be the winning side.

c. All members supposed to be present in regular or urgent meetings have the obligation to attend the meetings. Any international move to avoid a quorum before a meeting or in the middle of a meeting is prohibited.

d. Anyone who internationally left in order not to fulfill a quorum will be considered to have been dismissed by him/herself. Each member organization assigns instead of the dismissed person; and until the end of the replacement, the quorum will be counted by the rest. Yet, having a special reason, the dismissed person has the right to appeal.

e. Any decision that wins above 50%+1 will be effective on the body passing the decision and on all bodies and members under it.

f. Excepting those which are specified by this Statute, any meeting by anybody can be taken as fulfilling the quorum when there is a 50%+1 of the expected participants are present.

g. Members who are supposed to attend the regular as well as the urgent meetings must attend. h. Any decision by a committee can be realized by giving the responsibility to the committee members or to those bodies or members below the committee individually or in collaboration.

i. Any lower committee or a member of a lower committee has the obligation to put into action any decision passed to it.

j. Any member who has complaints or who does not agree with the decisions of a committee while putting them in practice has the legal right to ask the respective decisions to be reviewed.

k. If 1/3rd of the meeting members ask for review of any decision, the issue will be opened for discussion. If above 50%+1 demand for a review, the issue will be seen as a new item to be discussed for decision.

l. If any complaint on any decision is not accepted on the same forum, the complaint is not forwarded for the second time. The complaint, however, will be brought forth while continuing participation and the issue will be posed for a review by gathering a signatory.

m. The complaint will be brought for a review orally or in a written form before the committee that had made decision, and the case will be justified according to the statement on article "L". If the former decision making body is dismissed, the appeal will be made through a written application. And the written appeal is presented clearly with legal grounds. The presenter submits

the written appeal to the chairperson of the decision making body. And the chairperson will in due time distribute the appeal to supporters to sign agreement. If one-third of the people concerned have made agreement in their signatory, the appeal will be discussed thoroughly on the next meeting or in an urgent meeting called according to conditions stipulated.

3. The working conditions of EPRDF are based on clarity and accountability.

a. Higher body decisions will be announced downwards throughout the hierarchy unless they are intended to be kept confidential.

b. Decisions kept confidential are only those which may eventually damage the revolutionary path if disclosed.

c. Decisions made by the high body of EPRDF and stands that negatively affect the country's peoples are disclosed in due time to peoples with supportive explanations.

d. The Front will consult women and youth leagues; Para organizations and communities on basic issues, and will develop the trend for use.

e. Respective EPRDF leadership bodies will report in a given period of time to the higher body the details of their work performance.

f. Respective leadership bodies will take responsibility for what they have decided upon. In addition, they are accountable to less performance or abuse.

g. Accountability case would be seen and be made effective according to the Front, the organization statute or by the country laws.

4. EPRDF actions will be implemented in all the regions by the national member organizations.

a. National EPRDF programmes, decisions, as well as tasks will be made effective by member national organizations in their respective region.

b. National member organizations should implement national decisions and basic implementation directives in their regions. However, they are free to modify the national decisions and implementation directives according to conditions in their respective regions.

c. EPRDF will not form a hierarchy in the regions separately from the national member organizations. However, contact may be made with co-organizations or individuals working with the national member organizations or with those temporarily assigned to implement responsibilities.

d. EPRDF with decision from the Executive or its Congressional body may assist member organizations in difficult cases which are beyond their capacity to perform. However, the support could remain until the organizations run duties by their own and to a limited period of time.

5. Federal Government offices, cities accountable to the Federal Government, Ethiopians living abroad, and institutions governed alongside by EPRDF with regard to its organizational structural should be accountable to the Office of EPRDF.

a. Keeping in mind that the above bodies are responsible to the Office of EPRDF, they are governed by a communal committee formed from each member organization.

b. The right to accept the acquaintance of representatives from the organizations' common work remains to EPRDF, and in no case would representatives be assigned for a different duty without the knowledge and confirmation from EPRDF.

c. Organizations that participate in this multinational structure will recruit their members independently but in compliance with the EPRDF structure. d. The details of the rules and regulations of the communal committees will be set by the Office of the EPRDF.

6. Regarding the organizational structure of other nations and nationalities organizations in the regions.

a. Other nations, nationality revolutionary democrats may operate by their own organizational structure where the national member organizations are in function.

b. The mission of organizational structure of sister organizations is to materialize Public Relations and organizational activities among members and to act social basics of revolutionary democratic foundations within members, nations or nationalities. Yet these bodies will not have separate administrative responsibilities.

c. Sister organizational structures of areas may obtain their basic directives from the national organization operating in their respective region. They also report their performance in due time to the regional organization. Besides they send similar report to their own national organization.

d. Details of implementation of this guide are set by the EPRDF Executive Committee.

CHAPTER TWO

Membership

Article 8 Becoming a member of the Front

EPRDF membership will require the following criteria.

1. That which accepts EPRDF Programme and the Statute and ready to ardently struggle for implementation; that which has operational internal democratic system; that which has social basis to implement the Programme, and that shows active participation;
2. A national political organization or a Front that is formed by a group of regional national revolutionary democratic organizations or a multi-national organization;
3. That which participates according to the rules and principles of the Front and if necessary that which is ready to participate in the system for a tangible contribution;
4. That which is ready to contribute financially for the implementation of EPRDF activities;
5. An organization which has completed membership probationary period.

Article 9 Temporary Membership

1. Any organization will have a probationary period of one year before getting approval for membership.
2. When it has found it to be fundamental, the Executive Committee can extend the probationary period up to a duration of one year.

Article 10 Approving Membership

1. Acceptance in a probationary membership will be decided by the EPRDF Council.
2. Full membership will be consolidated by the EPRDF Congress.

Article 11 The rights of a member organization

Every member organization of the Front will have the following rights:

1. Equally filling up higher vacant positions held up in the Front according to the rules and regulations stipulated in the Front Statute;
2. Representing candidates for the high positions held or replacing them when needed on the basis of the Front Statute;
3. Disseminating and voicing of ideas within the Front according to the rights allowed in the Front Statute;
4. Recruiting organizing and teaching people within the framework of one's organization;
5. Acting accordingly with one's internal organizational framework;
6. Using the Front property commonly and equally;
7. Making decisions on the common issues of the Front equally;
8. Resigning from the Front membership at any time according to the articles stated in the Statute.

Article 12 The obligations of a member organization

Each member organization of the Front will be subject to the following obligations:

1. Respecting and implementing programmes, statute rules and regulations, decisions and plans of the Front;
2. Respecting of and pursuing with the operational and leadership principles of the Front;
3. Keeping the wellbeing and secrets of both the Front and member organizations;
4. Participating in regular and urgent meetings of the Front through representatives and maintaining quorum life;
5. Fighting the anti-unity attitudes and activities and consolidating unity of the Front;
6. Consolidating and maintaining the relationship among member organizations equally;

Article 13 Dismissal and willful resigning from membership

1. Disciplinary ban and full dismissal:

- a. Organizations that are not in compliance with the obligations under article 12 above will temporarily be banned or fully be dismissed from the Front membership.
- b. Temporal ban or full dismissal from membership will be made effective on an organization only after giving a prior criticism and correction time and only if it does not show any improvement.
- c. Ban or dismissal decisions will be passed up on a member organization by the EPRDF Council.
- d. An organization subject to ban or dismissal will have the right to appeal to the EPRDF Controls Commission and will have its complaints be reviewed by the Congress. And if the Congress agrees to see the case representatives of the banned or dismissed organization will be allowed to the Congress only to present their appeal. The decision passed by the Congress will be final.
- e. An organization formerly dismissed from membership will present membership application after correcting mistakes and the case will be examined and will be a member after getting acceptance by the Congress.

2. Resigning from membership:

- a. Any member organization can resign from membership after a prior notification to the Front.
- b. In consistence to the statement in article “a”, the decision to resign will be made final by the Congress of the organization.
- c. In consistent to what are stated in article “a” and “b”, the resigning organization shall give chance for other member organizations to forward their opinion.

3. Council of the Front shall adopt detailed regulations of ban, resigning and dismissal from membership.

Article 14 The Rights of a Provisional Member Organization

1. Every provisional member organization shall abide by the following obligations.

a. Participating in different training forums, forwarding, voicing ideas within the framework and Statute of the Front;

b. Mute participation in the Congress and Council of the Front;

c. Working within the reach of people, recruiting, organizing and teaching persons for membership anywhere and under its own organizational pursuit;

d. Working within the framework of its own organization;

e. Departure by its own as far as it does not want continuance in the provision membership; 2. In consistent with sub article 1 (d), the intention to resigning from membership shall be notified to the Council.

3. The implementation of this article shall be governed by articles 13(2) and 13(3) above.

Article 15 Obligations of a provisional member

Including EPRDF membership fee, the details stated as obligations for member organizations in this Statute shall also be the obligations of the provisional members.

Article 16 about Partner Organizations

1. Any national organization that can fulfill the following criteria shall work in partnership with EPRDF.

a. That can recur to work cooperatively with EPRDF in the struggle for peace, development and democracy;

b. That can play a leadership role to popular mobilization in the struggle against poverty and backwardness;

c. That struggles the idea of dependency and materializes a democratic system within its own internal structure.

d. That have a positive attitude towards revolutionary democracy.

2. EPRDF can work together with the partner organizations on common issues; takes the leadership role; and at times offers support.

3. The details of EPRDF's communal work with partner organizations shall be set by the Council of the Front.

CHAPTER THREE

Organizational Structure

Article 17 Management organs and various structures of the Front

1. General Congress of EPRDF
2. Council of EPRDF
3. Executive Committee of EPRDF
4. Chairperson of EPRDF
5. Assistant Chairperson of EPRDF
6. Controls Commission of EPRDF
7. Office of EPRDF
8. Structure of EPRDF Parliament members
9. Women's League
10. Youths' League
11. Lower Bodies of EPRDF

Article 18 Congress of EPRDF

1. Establishment and Announcement of the Congress
 - a. The congress of EPRDF shall be conducted within 2 to 2^{1/2} years. However, the Congress may extend it to not greater than the duration of six months depending upon situations.

b. The Congress is structured by people voted equally from member organizations; members of the EPRDF Council and Controls Commission directly participate in the Congress.

c. Members of the Congress assume place permanently until replaced by the next Congress. 50 d. Necessary facilities for the congress are provided by a committee formed for this purpose by the Executive Committee.

e. The committee formed to facilitate activities for the Congress gathers agendas from the Executive Committee, the EPRDF Council and from member organizations.

f. Regarding the number and composition of participants of the Congress, the Facilitation Committee sets initial ideas; presents to the Executive Committee; and implements when it is approved. g. Representatives of the EPRDF Congress shall be recruited from their respective organizational Congress. However, any organization that has not conducted congress in due time shall represent its participants by conducting elections starting from a lower level.

2. Urgent Congress

a. Upon decision made by the council of the Front with votes, or upon a request by at least half of member organizations, or by a request from permanent Congress members who have got support from 50% + 1 of them, an urgent Congress be called.

b. When EPRDF's Controls Commission gets 1/3 of support from or permanent members of the Congress; it can make an urgent Congress.

When an urgent Congress is held, the former members of the Congress are made to participate directly; even if some members are absent and as far as it does not affect the quorum, a new election will not be conducted. d. The desired number of members of a quorum to hold an urgent congress shall be 50% +1.

3. Duties and responsibilities of the Congress

a. The Congress is the highest body of the Front.

b. It approves, modifies, and accordingly changes the Programme and the Statue of the Front.

c. Sets national policies and strategies for the Front to pursue.

d. Decides on activities and goals for the Front to implement until the next Congress.

e. Specifies the number of members for the Council and the Executive Committee of the Front.

f. Hears, evaluates and gives decision on the reports presented by the Council and the Controls Commission of the Front.

4. The Mode of Operation of the Congress

- a. Before the Congress to assume work, the Facilitation Committee will report on the future operational plans, activities of the Congress and gets them approved.
- b. The Congress shall be led by a Presidium. Members of the Presidium will be the Secretaries of each member organizations.
- c. Issues planned for discussion under the Congress shall be approved by the Congress.

Articles EPRDF Council- Establishment, Duties and Responsibilities and Mode of Operation

1. The Establishment of the Council

- a. The Council is the second highest body of the Front next to the Congress.
- b. The Council is represented with equal number of members from organizations. Members of the Council shall be elected from the Central Committee of each organization.
- c. Each member organization has the right to sack or replace other Council members.
- d. The Council is accounted to the EPRDF Congress.

2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Council

The council will have the following duties and responsibilities

- a. Leads the Front from the present to the next Congress.
- b. Based on the decisions of the Congress, it adopts policies on national roles and other relevant issues; plans the organization's activities.
- c. Elaborates interpretable and debatable points in the Front Statute.
- d. Sets and approves guidelines in order to implement the Statute.
- e. Organizes and improves structures needed to foster activities of the Front.
- f. Hears, evaluates and also makes decision when it is necessary.
- g. Accepts organizations to full Front membership by having the two-third vote of the Council members; bans or dismisses a member organization not fulfilled its obligation.
- h. Temporarily bans members from the Council for violations based on the 2/3rd vote obtained from the Council. The decision will be practical after getting approval by its national organization.
- i. Elects the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Front.
- j. Approves the Front's annual budget.

3. Meeting and mode of operation of the Council.

- a. The Council regular meeting will be conducted every six months
- b. In consistent to the statement in "a" above, the Council may call an urgent meeting if it is requested by getting 1/3 of the Council members or by the Executive Committee.

- c. Any decision passed by the Council shall be effective in all member organizations.
- d. The Council meeting shall be chaired by the Front Chairperson.
- e. An issue that only refers to a specific organization may be discussed separately by its own Central Committee.

Article 20 The EPRDF Executive Committee - Establishment, Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Establishment of the Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall be formed by equal votes from the Executive Committees of all the member organizations.
- b. Based on essentialities, each executive committee of member organizations may replace its Executive Committee representatives.
- c. The Executive Committee shall be accounted to the EPRDF Council.
- d. Members of the Executive Committee who are represented from each member organization shall be accountable to the EPRDF Executive Committee and to their own Organizational Central Committees.

2. Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee

- a. Implements decisions and guides of the Council;
- b. Leads the duties and activities of different communal member bodies;
- c. By consulting with national organizations, it assigns human power to communal institutions; d. Prepares reports and sets agendas for the Council meetings;
- e. Organizes temporary structures and operates when needed;
- f. Prepares operational manuals to implement the Council decisions;
- g. Takes agreements in the name of the Front;
- h. Admits provisional members; cancels at any time the provisional membership of organizations that have not accomplished the given practical assignments.
- i. Structures a committee that implements preliminary tasks for the Congress established on the basis of equality; prepares and presents a work manual with details for the Congress.

3. Meeting and Mode of operation of the Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee conducts a regular meeting every three months.
- b. When the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson as well as 1/3rd of members of the Committee request, an urgent meeting may be called.

- c. The meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held on prior agenda, unless and otherwise an urgent need arises.
- d. The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be effective in all member organizations.
- e. The Executive Committee meeting shall be chaired by the Front Chairperson.

Article 21 The EPRDF Chairperson, Duties and Responsibilities

- 1. Chairs the Council and Executive Committee meetings of the Front;
- 2. Implements Council decisions; coordinates the Executive Committee tasks;
- 3. Meets with other bodies by representing the Front; 4. Presents activity reports to the Executive Committee; and sets agendas for the Executive Committee meetings;
- 5. Coordinates the tasks of the Central bodies;
- 6. Implements additional tasks given by the Council and the Executive Committee.

Article 22 The EPRDF Deputy Chairperson, Duties and Responsibilities

- 1. Assumes the place of the Chairperson during absence.
- 2. Implements the tasks given by the Executive Committee and the Front Chairperson.

Article 23 EPRDF Controls Commission-Establishment, duties and responsibilities, and mode of operation

1. Establishment

- a. The EPRDF Controls Commission is established by electing two members from each member organization.
- b. The Controls Commission is accountable to the EPRDF Congress.

2. Duties and responsibilities of the Controls Commission.

- a. The Commission examines the respect of rights of assigned workers in each member organization and communal institutions of the Front. It examines cases of violation of rights committed by communal committees; and also passes its own decisions.
- b. Monitors the proper use and state of the Front finance and property according to the Front operation system. It also provides solutions to correct faults in this regard.
- c. If it believes and gets 1/3rd of support of the permanent EPRDF Congress members, it can call on urgent Congress.

- d. If the decision of the Commission is in line with that of the Executive Committee, it will fully be implemented. If there is a difference, the difference is passed to the EPRDF Council. Decision passed by the Council is implemented until the next Congress.
- e. If there are cases that refer to the Front or member organizations which need inquiry, the commission, requested by the Front Council, will serve as an independent examining body; and also reports to the Council.
- f. Consults concerned bodies on issues that need measures to take, and implements; closely works with the EPRDF Council and the Executive Committee.
- g. Establishes its own structures in line with sections under EPRDF direct control; prepares work manuals for these sections and for its other activities.
- h. Takes disciplinary actions within its staff; bans or dismisses members from power with the support of 2/3 of member votes;
- i. Reports regularly to the Front; j. Works closely with the Controls Commissions of the national organizations;
- k. Elects its Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary, and informs to the Congress.
- l. Based on this Statute it prepares its own guides and manuals.
- 3. Meeting and system of operation of the Controls Commission
 - a. Conducts regular meetings every three months;
 - b. The Chairperson and the Secretary will have their permanent office; they do not implement activities that are against their duties and responsibilities;
 - c. Members of the Office report their duties and responsibilities to the Commission;
 - d. The Commission prepares its annual plan and implements accordingly.

Article 24 The Office of EPRDF

- 1. Establishment
 - a. Office of the EPRDF is structured in a way to implement regular and supportive public relations and organizational activities together.
 - b. It is chaired by a Head and Deputy Head assigned by the EPRDF Executive Committee.

c. In connection with “b” above it is structured downwards as an Administrator Deputy administrator and in other positions related.

d. It is accountable to the Chairperson of the Front.

2. Duties and Responsibilities of the EPRDF Office.

a. Facilitates public relations, organizational, financial and administrative activities of the Front; acts as Centre for the Public Relations and organizational activities for the Front.

b. Leads and implements PRs and organizational activities inside and outside the country in a regular and supportive manner;

c. Plans and implements activities based on the EPRDF Council and Executive Committee decisions; it monitors and controls the implementation.

d. Directs and coordinates Public Relations and organizational activities which are implemented through the national organizations;

e. Leads directly EPRDF communal activities and bodies;

f. Publicizes the Front activity implementation; answers to questions posed by the public which are related to the Front;

g. Administers the budget approved by the EPRDF Council;

h. Administers Front finance, property and its personnel based on the manual approved by the EPRDF Executive Committee;

i. Controls the proper documentation and utilization of the Front documents; j. Communicates with third parties representing the Front as directed by the Executive Committee and the Chairperson.

k. Charges and gets charged representing of the Front;

l. Reports implementation activities to the Executive Committee and the Chairperson.

3. Mode of Operation of the EPRDF Office

a. The leadership Committee of the Office will have regular meetings.

b. The Office reports regular and occasional implementation activities to the Executive Committee and the Chairperson.

c. Its communication with member organizations will be conducted through Office of the member organizations.

d. The detail operational activities, duties and responsibilities of the Office will be decided by the Executive Committee established rules.

e. Its heads as well as supportive workers will be assigned proportionally from all the member organizations.

4. Head of the EPRDF Office

- a. The Head is accountable to Front Chairperson;
- b. The Head coordinates and leads Public Relations, and organizational, financial and human power administrative activities of the Office;
- c. As directed by the Executive Committee and the Chairperson, the Head communicates issues with third parties;
- d. Administers the budget and property of the Office;
- e. Reports regular implementation activities to the Front Chairperson;
- f. Takes different agreements by representing the EPRDF Office;

5. Deputy Head of the EPRDF Office

- a. The Deputy Head is accountable to the Head of the EPRDF Office.
- b. Implements activities of the Head in the case of absence;
- c. Leads a separate department.
- d. Implements additional activities given by the Front Chairperson and Head of the EPRDF Office.

Article 25 Structures Accountable to the EPRDF Office

1. Keeping the general structural principles of EPRDF, the following structures will be accountable to the EPRDF Office with regards to their organizational activities.
 - a. EPRDF structures in cities and offices which are accountable to the Federal Government;
 - b. Activities implemented by Ethiopians living abroad;
 - c. The EPRDF structure in Universities, Higher Institutions and Workers' Unions.
2. Details of the mode of operation of the structures stated in article 25: 1 above will be decided by the EPRDF Office.

Article 26 EPRDF Parliament Structure

1. Structure of the EPRDF Parliament

- a. EPRDF members found in the House of People's Representatives will be organized the parliament.
 - b. The Structure will be led by a Committee assigned by the EPRDF Executive Committee.
 - c. The EPRDF Parliamentary Structure will be accountable to the Front Chairperson.
 - d. The Parliament structure will communicate with the EPRDF Office.
2. Duties and Responsibilities of the parliament structure
- a. Equips the EPRDF parliament members with the ideas of revolutionary democracy;
 - b. Makes EPRDF parliament members active participants of development, democracy and peace;
 - c. Activates the parliament members to strengthen the democratic multi party system;
 - d. Based on the directives given by the EPRDF Executive Committee, the Parliament plans and implements Public Relations and organizational activities in the parliament.
 - e. Reports its work progress to the EPRDF Chairperson.
3. Additional manual of duties and responsibilities of the Parliament Structure will be prepared by the Executive Committee.

Article 27 The EPRDF Women's League

1. The Structure of the EPRDF Women League

- a. The Women's League is structured in common by the EPRDF members and other Women who accept the EPRDF Programme and wish to work together in order to realize the revolutionary democratic objectives.
- b. The Women League is strongly attached and structured as one body with EPRDF.
- c. It is structured in a similar way and alongside with all levels of the EPRDF structures.
- d. The Women League will have an equal number of its Council and Executive Committee members in the national EPRDF member organizations.
- e. Women League membership starts from 18 years old and above; and those less than 18 will be organized in the Youth League.
- f. The structuring, duties and responsibilities of the Women League will be detailed in the Guidelines of the League to be adopted by its own Congress.

2. The Rights of the EPRDF Women's League

- a. It will have its own manual, structure and mode of operation which are not in conflict with the EPRDF principles.

b. It will be represented in the EPRDF Congress, the council and in the Executive Committee; and the details will be decided by the manual to be adopted council by the EPRDF.

c. The Women League as an association, comments, criticizes and gets responses on issues of the EPRDF modes of operation and activities.

3. Obligations of the Women's League

a. Should work for the implementation of the EPRDF strategies of development, democracy and peace.

b. Should serve as an agent of struggle to free Ethiopian women from all kinds of oppressions. c. Should respect and implement EPRDF decisions.

Article 28 The EPRDF's Youth League

1. The structure of EPRDF Youth League

a. It is an association of youth aged 15-29 who have accepted and organized to struggle for the implementation of the EPRDF revolutionary democratic objectives.

b. It is an association of both members and non-members of EPRDF who struggle for their common rights and benefits. c. It is structured, strongly tied to and works closely with EPRDF.

d. It is structured in a similar way and alongside with all levels of the EPRDF structures.

e. It will have its Council and Executive Committee members represented in equal numbers from each EPRDF member organization.

f. Details of its structuring, duties and responsibilities and modes of operation are approved by Congress of the League.

2. The rights of the EPRDF Youth League

a. It will have its own manual, mode of operation and freedom in line with the EPRDF principles.

b. It will be represented in the EPRDF Congress, in the Council and in the Executive Committee; details will be adopted by the EPRDF Council.

c. As an association, it has the right to comment, criticize and get response on EPRDF's mode of operation and activities.

3. Obligations of the Youth League

a. Should work for the implementation of EPRDF strategies of development, democracy and peace.

b. Should struggle to make the youth efficient to succeed generation, and to equip them with the revolutionary democratic ideas and activities.

c. Should to respect and implement EPRDF decisions.

Article 29 EPRDF Lower Bodies

1. Structure and Mode of Operation of EPRDF Lower Bodies

a. In addition to the detailed structures and bodies stated in articles 17-24, extra EPRDF Bodies may be structured accordingly.

b. Bodies that implement major activities of the Front and permanent in their characteristics will be structured by the council of the Front; their dissolution and improvement of their duties may also be decided by the EPRDF Council.

c. Provisional Bodies that implement temporal activities may be structured by the Executive Committee decisions. And after completion of their mission they will be dissolved.

d. Lower Bodies of the Controls Commission that are under EPRDF administrative bodies will be established by the Commission itself. Dissolving, improvement of their duties and obligations shall be done only by the Commission.

e. The establishment of Lower EPRDF Bodies will be done upon organizational participation.

2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Lower Bodies

a. The Lower Bodies will be to accounted to their founders. If they are Central Bodies, they shall be accountable to the Office of the Front or accordingly to the Executive Committee.

b. Lower Bodies have the obligation to implement their duties and responsibilities; shall report to the respected body; shall report their activity implementation to the higher bodies; shall implement higher body rules and regulations; shall request and get assistance.

c. The Lower Bodies shall have communal and individual duties Committees and be and responsibilities; they shall pursue a democratic system of work; they shall implement criticism, self criticism and evaluation system of work.

d. Members have the right to report their activities to the national member organizations they are represented from. Yet they get operational activity guidelines from their founders only.

e. Details of the Lower Bodies shall be adopted by the Front Office or accordingly by the Executive Committee.

f. The Controls and Auditing Commission will also set directives to its Lower Bodies.

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSIVE ARTICLES

Article 30 Sources of financial income of the Front

The financial sources of income of the Front will be member contributions; aids obtained from supportive Ethiopians according to the country's party laws; and other sources.

Article 31 The Authority to Establish Rules and Regulations In reference to the authority given to different bodies according to this Statute, the EPRDF Council may adopt different guidelines for the implementation of this Statute.

Article 32 Improvement, change and revocation of this Statute

This Statute shall be improved, changed and revoked only by the EPRDF Congress.

Article 33 The Legislative Organ

This Statute was improved by the 6th Congress of EPRDF.

Article 34 Revoked Law As of the date of enforcement of this Statute, the Statute adopted and approve by the 5th EPRDF Congress shall be revoked and replaced by this Statute.

Article 35 Effective Date of this Statute

This Statute shall come into full effect as of **September 2006**.

Edited by **the Secretariat of the Council of EPRDF Public and Foreign Relations Department**

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