



المجموعة السودانية للديمقراطية أولاً
Sudan Democracy First Group



CONSTITUTION OF SUDAN DEMOCRACY FIRST GROUP (SDFG)

Amended July 2015



المجموعة السودانية للديمقراطية أولاً
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Article 1: Establishment

There shall be established a non-profit making organization of Sudanese democrats, activists, trade unionists and academic men and women representing different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, with the objectives and powers stated here below.

Article 2: Name

The name of the organization shall be: Sudan Democracy First Group, hereafter (SDFG)

Article 3: Vision

SDFG envisions a democratic inclusive society in Sudan where justice, equality, peace and development prevail.

Article 4: Mission

SDFG works towards empowering Sudanese people across the country through working with them to promote democracy in its intersection with peace, justice, human rights and development. SDFG is committed to the raising up of marginalized groups (whether marginalization is based on culture, ethnicity, class, gender, race, region, age, political affiliation or religion) by providing platforms for inclusive and transparent engagement.

Article 5: Objectives of SDFG

1. To contribute to sustainable peace, democracy, justice and liberation from repression in Sudan
2. To contribute to the consolidation of a principled civil society movement/thought that is enriched with values of democracy, human rights, justice and equality.
3. To expand freedom of expression and range of media outlets as well as free access to information.
4. To facilitate engagement of independent civil society/ civic actors in political processes and dialogues.

5. To strengthen coordination and networking among civil society groups, social and political movements and democratic initiatives.
6. To provide a flexible quick response/quick impact support to unforeseen needs to strengthen independent civic actors/ initiatives.

Article 6: Priorities of SDFG

1. Research and analysis on democratization in its intersection with human rights, justice and development
2. Advocacies for legislation promoting democracy, peace and human rights s
3. Advocacy around democracy related issues
4. Coordination between different democratic movements
5. Supporting independent civic actors/ initiatives in terms of protection, solidarity and innovative small activities.

Article 7: Approaches of SDFG

1- SDFG is a Sudanese think tank and campaigning organization working to enlighten civic struggles towards democratization in its intersection with peace, justice, human rights and development. SDFG conducts systematic action-oriented research; disseminates knowledge and designs and implements evidence-based advocacy and campaigns nationally, regionally and internationally. It seeks to bring the voice and concerns of the voiceless to the center of public debates. It seeks to enhance the capacity of civil society and democratic movements through providing consistent analysis drawn from Sudanese perspectives, involving them in advocacy based on this research and consolidating coordination and consensus building around the major challenges that face inclusive democratic processes.

2- SDFG will work to build partnerships with different regional and international civil society groups and will strive to inject Sudanese perspectives in debates and campaigning waged by these groups. While SDFG welcomes the roles of different international governmental and non-governmental mediators to end conflicts and ensure respect of justice and human rights, it will resist paternalistic, neo-colonial interventions that do not respect Sudanese view. In some occasions such endeavors have turned a blind eye to human rights violations and rigged electoral processes.

3- SDFG will also work towards promoting values of solidarity, protection and cooperation among independent democratic civil society and civic actors through creating and providing support to

individuals and groups that face challenges and/or are in need for urgent support. In doing so, SDFG will aim at mobilizing Sudanese resources, in addition to sister domestic organizations and understanding international partners that believe in the objectives and values of the group and initiatives it is leading.

4- SDFG will encourage and work towards cooperation, transparency, close coordination and constructive competition among sister democratic/ independent CSOs and civic actors. Planning and implementations of activities will be based on wide consultation with sister groups to avoid duplications and to create consensuses and wider support.

Article 8: The organization structure

SDFG shall have the following organs: The Board of trustees, and the Executive

Article 9: Board of Trustees:

9:1- Composition

- The Board of Trustees is the highest level of decision making in SDFG. The Board will be composed of maximum 13 members.
- A Board member is to serve for a term of three years renewable once.
- Criteria for selection and recruitment of new Board members are detailed in the board bylaws,
- SDFG was founded by the following members: Hala Alkarib, Dr. Albaqir Alafif Mukhtar, Abdalmonim Aljack, Dr. Ahmed Abdarahman Saeed and Shamsaddin A. Dawalbait

9.2- The termination of board service will take place according to the following reasons:

- a) Death
 - b) Resignation
 - c) End of service term
 - d) In capacity
 - e) Violation of SDFG constitution and ethics
 - f) Implicated in acts related to financial or moral misconduct
- Board members assigned to paid task the board of trustees shall freeze their membership for the duration of assignments

9.3 Role of the Board

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of SDFG

The board shall meet at least once a year to consider the matters and affairs of SDFG, including audited accounts, the manner in which SDFG funds should be applied and membership applications. It is the duty of the Board:

- To approve strategies and policies and revise them
- To supervise and monitor the overall work of the SDFG
- To develop and support fund-raising processes
- To appoint the Executive Director.
- To assign Board Members or others to lead specialized committees such as finance, policy and programs.

9.4 Meetings of the Board

Each Board Member shall endeavor to attend all Board meetings in person.

- Notes and documents to be discussed at the board meeting shall be sent to members at least one week before the board meeting.
- Each Board member shall confirm their participation to the Executive at least two weeks before the meeting.
- The Executive shall keep proper records of the meetings of the Board.
- The quorum shall be fifty %+1 members present in person or virtually
- Decisions of the Board shall be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached a vote shall be taken and the motion shall be carried if it is supported by a simple majority of the members present at the voting

9.5 Tasks and Responsibilities

Tasks and responsibilities in the Board of Trustees will be divided between the board members in the following manner:

Chairperson: The chairperson will head the SDFG. He/ she will:

- Call for and chair board meetings
- Set agenda for the board meetings in consultation with the Executive Director
- Provide overall leadership of the board
- Maintain close but independent working relationship with the executive director
- Represent the organization when it is required

- The chairperson to assign two members to undertake the annual performance assessment of the executive director

Deputy Chairperson

Acting as a chairperson during his/her absence or incapacity and advice the board on the tasks assigned.

The Deputy chairperson will lead the organization governors and compliance

Treasurer

Follow up with executive director and advise the board on financial control

Will be responsible of financial planning and control

Twice a year shall review organization financial statement

Fund raising officers: two members of the board will have the responsibility for fund

Public relations and information officer: The tasks shall be to:

- Collect information about activities
- Prepare and disseminate publicity materials
- Liaise with media, other networks, donors and international agencies

The Board Rapurtuire

Shall keep proper record of the board including board meeting mints, decisions' and decisions

To liaise with the executive director to ensure the submissions of documents of the board meeting and to coordinate with the chairperson.

Article 10: The Executive Body

1. The Executive body of SDFG shall be situated at the country agreed upon by the Board of Trustees.
2. The board will hire one Executive Director who will report directly to the board.
3. The board shall develop a detailed job descriptions of the executive director
4. The Executive Director appointed by the Board shall be the head of Executive body. The Board shall have the power to terminate such a contract.
5. The decision to appoint and/or terminate the Executive Director shall be decided by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached a vote shall be taken and the motion shall be carried if it is supported by a simple majority of the members present at the voting.
6. The Executive Director shall be a person of integrity, with a commitment to furthering the objectives of and to keep the Board and general membership informed of activities.

7. The Executive Director post shall be filled through equal opportunities process for Applicants from different regions of Sudan
8. The Executive Director in consultation of the board shall select staff through a professional process based on need and availability of funds.
9. The Executive Director will develop detailed Terms of Reference, minimum requirements for potential candidates and basic human resource rules necessary for the team.

Article 11: Accounts

1. Finances and accounts of SDFG shall be kept according to appropriate financial standards and regulations
2. The sources of finances of SDFG operations comprised of donations.
3. All fundraising and income generation activities shall be consistent with the overall principles of SDFG
4. The financial policies and procedures of the SDFG shall be overseen by the Board in accordance with the financial reports prepared by the executive
5. The financial year of SDFG shall commence on 1st of January and shall end on 31st of December.

Article 12: Amendment of the Constitution

- The Constitution of SDFG shall be amended by a resolution of at two third of all the Board members.
- Notice of the amendment shall be sent at least two months before the date of the meeting.
- The text of the proposed amendment shall be sent to each member of the Board together
- With the notice calling the meeting.
- The amendment shall be communicated to all members of board of trustees of SDFG as soon as is practical, an in any case not later than two (2) months after the amendment is passed.

Article 14: By laws

- The board shall have the power to make by-laws for the effective implementation of this constitution.
- Such by-laws shall be read together with this constitution.

- The executive director shall be exempted from the SDFG Bylaws

Article 15: Dissolution

- SDFG shall have perpetual existence but may be wound up and dissolved by a resolution supported by at least 80% of the Board members.
- Before a motion proposing the winding up of SDFG is tabled before the Board, it shall be sent to all members of SDFG Board of Trustees not less than six (6) months before the date of meeting at which it is to be tabled.
- In the event of dissolution the Board shall dispose of the surplus assets of SDFG, after its liabilities have been met, to any other body or bodies which in the opinion of the Board of Trustees have objectives similar to the objectives of SDFG, or in a manner in the opinion of the Board of trustees that would further democracy in Sudan