

THE YORUBA SELF-DETERMINATION MOVEMENT

~

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

BACKGROUND.

Following the resolve of many Yoruba to have our own independent nation outside of the union we now know as Nigeria. Several individuals established various groups and organisations, to pursue the dream of a sovereign Yoruba Nation. Many of these groups and organisations' activities were therefore duplicative of each other, causing drawbacks and at times, weariness to the many Yoruba patriots involved in our Self-Determination struggle. For these reasons, the vision of the Yoruba Self-Determination Movement emerged, as a collaborative body of Yoruba Self-determination groups or organisations, to create a framework for achieving the task ahead. After several consultations and closed-door virtual meetings, the Yoruba Self-determination Movement was established on 7 August, 2021 and thereafter inaugurated on 23 September, 2021.

ARTICLE 1. NAME.

The name of the organization is the Yoruba Self-Determination Movement ("YSDM").

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

To bring the various Yoruba self- determination groups under one roof to provide a united and clear voice.

SECTION 2. AIM.

The aim of YSDM is to achieve Sovereignty for the Yoruba Nation by peaceful means.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of the organizations shall be as follows but not limited to proactively:

- i. engage the Nigerian state using available instruments provided for by the international law and legislation.
- ii. engage the international communities through diplomacy, shared beliefs, and common interest.
- iii. facilitate trust, respect, honesty, and open relationships between Yoruba selfdetermination groups.
- iv. work towards the common goal of independence for Yorubaland, and v. accelerate the process of Yoruba Self-Determination.

SECTION 4. COLLABORATION.

While member-organizations shall enjoy autonomy in their individual Self-Determination activities, to avoid uncoordinated efforts which may frustrate YSDM objectives, waste resources by duplicating efforts, or unintentionally embarrass YSDM's efforts, member-organizations are therefore encouraged to propose and collaborate with YSDM on initiatives.

ARTICLE 3. STRUCTURE OF YSDM AND MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. STRUCTURE.

YSDM shall operate through the following organs the:

- i. Council, ii. Chairman and Executive Committee,
- iii. Expert Committees, and iv. Secretariat.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT.

- i. Every Yoruba group or organization shall be eligible for membership, if it shares the purpose of Yoruba Self-Determination, to create a sovereign Yoruba Nation.
- ii. Upon joining, each group or organization shall pay an admission fee as determined by the Council.
- iii. Each member-group or organization shall remain independent, operate as it chooses, be strong, vibrant, and uncompromising on the achieving our sovereign Yoruba Nation.
- iv. Every intending organisation shall satisfy such other requirement as may be stipulated by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. THE YORUBA SELF-DETERMINATION COUNCIL.

The Yoruba Self Determination Council ("YSC") shall:

- i. Be the supreme organ of YSDM.
- ii. Comprise of two representatives from each member-group or organization.
- iii. Hold oversight authority over and receive regular periodic reports from the:
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Expert Committees, and
 - c. the Secretariat.
- iv. Hold sole authority to propose and confirm any amendment of these Articles. v. Hold sole authority to dissolve YSDM. vi. Approve all agreements binding on YSDM.
- vii. Execute other duties set forth in this Articles of Association, and viii. perform functions as necessary and proper to further the purpose of YSDM.

SECTION 4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Council shall by majority vote establish the Executive Committee.

A. COMPOSITION.

1. The Executive Committee shall comprise of the:
 - i. Chairman, ii. Vice Chairman, iii. General Secretary, iv. Assistant General Secretary, and
 - v. the Directors of the Expert Committees.
2. There shall be no relation by blood or marriage within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, between members of the Executive Committee; where after being appointed to the Executive Committee, members thereof become related, one of them shall resign or both shall be removed from office, and replaced according to the process set forth herein.

B. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall:

1. Execute the decisions of the Council,
2. Recommend policies for the Council's consideration,
3. Maintain oversight of the Expert Committees, and
4. Represent YSDM, as necessary.

C. MEETINGS.

The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary, but no less than once in a month.

D. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Aside from the founding Chairman, Professor Banji Akintoye, whom the Council selected, the succeeding chairman and all members of Executive committee shall be:

1. Nominated from within the Council or any YSDM organs,
2. Nominated by an individual or member-organization, and
3. Confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Council.
4. The Directors of the Expert Committees, however, shall be selected by the members of their respective committees.

E. DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

1. The Chairman shall:
 - i. serve a term of two years renewable for an additional term; the founding chairman shall be exempt from term limits,
 - ii. provide leadership with regard to the purpose, aims, and objectives of YSDM,
 - iii. represent, speak, and act on behalf of the Yoruba People,
 - iv. represent YSDM with third parties, unless otherwise set forth in these articles, or agreed by Council, and
 - v. Chair the meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee.
2. The Vice Chairman shall support the Chairman as needed, and where the Chairman is unavailable, shall assume the duties of the Chairman.
3. The General Secretary shall:
 - i. be the secretary to the Council and Executive Committee,
 - ii. coordinate the Secretariat, and
 - iii. convene Council meetings according to the meeting calendar approved by the Council, and where necessary, convene meetings as directed by the Chairman, or as determined by the Council.
4. The Assistant General Secretary shall:
 - i. support the General Secretary as needed, and
 - ii. where the General Secretary is unavailable, shall assume the duties of the General Secretary.
5. The Directors of the Expert Committees shall:
 - i. Chair and coordinate the work of the committee,
 - ii. Sit on the Executive Committee, and
 - iii. Report to the Executive Committee.
6. The Executive committee shall use good judgment in giving periodic reports to the Council.

SECTION 5. THE EXPERT COMMITTEES.

The Yoruba Self-determination Council shall by majority vote, establish the following standing or permanent committees.

- i. Security Committee,
- ii. Finance Committee,
- iii. Legal Committee,
- iv. International Diplomacy Committee,
- v. Publicity, Awareness and Sensitization Committee,
- vi. Disciplinary and Conflict Resolution and Interfaith Committee,

vii. Research, Strategy and Think-Tank Committee, and viii. Welfare and General Purpose Committee.

A. SECURITY COMMITTEE.

The duties of the Security Committee shall include:

- i. Providing, coordinating and advising YSDM on security, in pursuit of YSDM's objectives,
- ii. Protecting YSDM's information system,
- iii. Formulating policies to conduct initial and periodic vetting of individuals and organizations, which may be approved by the Executive Committee,
- iv. Using global best practices to advise the Executive Committee on the appropriate security level approval, for the individuals and organizations recommended to the Council.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee shall:

- i. Establish the Yoruba National Fund ("YNF"),
- ii. Maintain a register of all YSDM assets, iii. Advise the Council on fundraising,
- iv. Deliberate and advise on expenditures of the YNF, for the purpose of YSDM and other activities as approved by the Council,
- v. Establish an accountable system for the custody and disbursement of funds, vi. Facilitate yearly auditing of all YNF accounts, by a committee nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council, and vii. Provide regular and periodic financial reports to the Executive Committee.

C. LEGAL COMMITTEE.

The Legal Committee shall:

- i. Provide legal advisory services to YSDM, ii. Coordinate legal action on behalf of YSDM, iii. Ensure compliance with YSDM rules and regulations, iv. Establish a register of lawyers to be on standby, voluntarily or on retainer, and v. Provide regular and periodic reports to the Executive Committee.

D. INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY COMMITTEE.

The Diplomacy and Foreign Relations Committee shall:

- i. Advise YSDM on:
 - a. Establishing and maintaining diplomatic relations with foreign governments and international agencies,
 - b. Engaging in international knowledge exchange, and
 - c. forging alliances to promote Yoruba culture,

- ii. Implement YSDM decisions on matters of the committee's mandate, and iii. Provide regular and periodic reports to the Executive Committee.

E. PUBLICITY, AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION COMMITTEE.

The Publicity Committee shall:

- i. Coordinate and harmonize the publicity for YSDM,
- ii. Inform and Sensitize our People on YSDM's purpose,
- iii. Execute mobilization toward YSDM's goal,
- iv. Identify and mobilize media houses, and
- v. Provide regular and periodic reports to the Executive Committee.

F. DISCIPLINARY, CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE, INTERFAITH.

The Disciplinary and Conflict Resolution Committee shall:

- i. Receive allegations of misconduct, institute disciplinary proceedings and recommend disciplinary measures to the Council, as set forth in Article 6, Section 3,
- ii. Arbitrate and resolve any issues of conflict that may arise between YSDM individuals and member-organizations,
- iii. Foster peaceful interfaith relations within YSDM, and
- iv. Provide regular and periodic reports to the Executive Committee.

G. RESEARCH, STRATEGY, AND THINK-TANK COMMITTEE.

The Research, Strategy, and Think-Tank Committee shall:

- i. Conduct research on issues germane to the aim of YSDM,
- ii. Collect and collate data,
- iii. Maintain a data repository,
- iv. Make such data available to members of all YSDM organs,
- v. Analyse data, interpret data, and produce reports,
- vi. Develop policy, strategy, and other recommendations regarding the aim of YSDM,
- vii. Interface and collaborate with other committees and the Secretariat, and
- viii. Provide regular and periodic reports to the Executive Committee, as necessary.

H. WELFARE AND GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE.

The Welfare and General-Purpose Committee shall:

- i. Monitor the welfare of the Yoruba People,
- ii. Recommend for Council approval, programs for the welfare of the Yoruba People,
- iii. Execute welfare programs approved by the Council
- iv. Create programs to support Youth development,
- v. Serve as a standing committee for general purposes and tasks assigned by the Council, and
- vi. Provide regular and periodic reports to the Executive Committee.

SECTION 6. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP.

- i. Each member-organization shall nominate from among its ranks, the individuals who shall serve on the Expert Committees.
- ii. The Legal Committee shall review the nominations and make final recommendations for the Council's approval.
- iii. Upon thorough discussion within each committee, the members of the Committee shall by a simple majority vote, nominate their Director, who shall be confirmed by the Council to a term of **two years**.
- iv. The Secretariat shall facilitate feedback on each director, and provide such to the Council, for the Council's assessment of performance.
- v. One person may direct only one committee at a time.
- vi. Every committee shall also appoint its Secretary for record-keeping, without the confirmation of the Council.
- vii. The Director of each Committee shall not vote on any committee decision, unless to break a tie.

SECTION 7. COMMITTEE RECORDS.

The Secretary of every committee shall maintain accurate records of the committee's activities, and archive such records with the Secretariat in the manner prescribed by the Secretariat; the archived records shall include but not be limited to minutes of meetings, and all documents generated.

SECTION 8. THE SECRETARIAT.

Members of the Secretariat shall be selected by the Council, upon thorough discussion and a simple majority vote. The number of personnel to be nominated to the secretariat shall be decided by the needs of YSDM.

The Secretariat shall:

- i. Provide administrative support for the work of YSDM organs,
- ii. Facilitate meetings and prepare the agenda of the meetings,
- iii. Disseminate information to the various YSDM organs, and
- iv. Provide regular and periodic reports at Council meetings.

ARTICLE 4. NATIONAL CONFERENCES.

I. The YSDM member-organizations in each country shall form a conference, which shall be named after each country (e.g., Homeland YSDM Conference, U.S. YSDM Conference, Australia YSDM Conference, etcetera).

II. The objectives of each country's conference are to:

- I. Promote cooperation among the member-organisations in the country,
- II. Review developments and trends in the general Yoruba Self-Determination struggle,

- III. Encourage the self-determination organisations to contribute more energetically to the struggle, and
- IV. Plan joint action, such as rallies, contact with leaders and the government of the country, etc.

ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS AND VOTING PROCEDURES.

SECTION 1. MEETINGS.

- i. The Council shall hold general meetings, which shall be held every two weeks, facilitated by the Secretariat, and run according to basic Rules of Order.
- ii. The Secretariat shall issue a calendar of meetings at the beginning of the fiscal year, and for a reminder, issue notice of the meeting at least three calendar days ahead of the meeting.
- iii. Where there is an urgent issue or other circumstances, an emergency meeting may be called by the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Secretariat, or by consent thirty percent (30%) of the Council; the emergency meeting shall run according to basic Rules of Order.
- iv. Notice of an emergency meeting shall be issued to the Council, as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
- v. Quorum, being 50% of the Council, is required to conduct business at all meetings.
- vi. The Committees shall hold their own meetings, as necessary.
- vii. An annual general meeting shall be held every August to review the activities of the previous year, and to highlight the goals and aspiration for the coming year.

SECTION 2. VOTING.

- i. Matters shall be decided by a simple majority of Council members who are present a meeting and vote.
- ii. A simple majority is 50% plus one of those active members present and voting at any meeting.

ARTICLE 6. WITHDRAWAL, REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL, AND REMOVAL PROCESS.

SECTION 1. WITHDRAWAL BY MEMBER-ORGANIZATION.

- i. A member-organization may withdraw from the Council, via a written statement submitted to the Secretariat by the secretary of the member organization, certifying that majority of that member-organizations' individual members, have decided to withdraw from the Council, and the Secretariat shall promptly inform the Council accordingly.

- ii. A member-organization may recall a nominee to the Council, via a written statement submitted to the Secretariat by the secretary of the member organization, certifying that the member-organization decided to recall a particular nominee to the Council, and the Secretariat shall promptly inform the Council accordingly.
- iii. The representatives of a member-organization that withdraws or has been removed from the Council, shall forthwith cease to appear at Council meetings, and are not entitled to the removal procedure outlined in Section 3 of this Article.
- iv. A member-organization that withdraws from the Council may be readmitted to the Council upon a simple-majority vote by the members of the Council who are present and voting at that Council meeting.

SECTION 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL.

Any individual or member-organization may be removed from YSDM, upon

- i. severe violation of these Articles of Association or
- ii. by an act of the Disciplinary Committee, due to gross misconduct which:
 - a. potentially tarnishes the image of YSDM, or
 - b. impedes the purpose of YSDM as set forth in Article II.

SECTION 3. REMOVAL PROCESS.

The process:

- i. Shall begin with the submission of a written complaint to the Disciplinary Committee by a member of the Council, a Committee member, or the Secretariat.
- ii. The Disciplinary Committee shall conduct a thorough investigation within 30 days of receiving the written complaint.
- iii. Upon conclusion of an investigation, the Disciplinary Committee shall give two weeks' notice of a hearing to the individual or member-organization accused, all other committees, the Secretariat, and to the Council.
- iv. The hearing shall be open and transparent to as many members of all YSDM organs who wish to attend.
- v. A Disciplinary Panel of seven members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be composed, comprising of the director and six other members.
- vi. A member of the Disciplinary committee who shall not sit on the panel, shall present the case at open hearing.
- vii. The individual or member-organization accused shall be afforded a meaningful opportunity to present a defense, and evidence, including but not limited to witness testimony.
- viii. At the conclusion of the hearing, the panel shall withdraw for private deliberation and vote; the director of the Disciplinary Committee shall not vote on the panel's decision, except to break a tie.

- ix. After deliberation, the panel shall return with its findings and recommendation to the Council, based on a simple majority vote, which shall be announced by the Director of the Disciplinary Committee; the decisions of the individual panelists, however, shall remain confidential.

ARTICLE 7. CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE.

- i. Members of YSDM organs shall use good judgment in advising of any information that is sensitive, which shall then be treated as confidential, and shall not be disclosed.
- ii. All individuals who work through any of the organs of YSDM and are exposed to sensitive information, hereby undertake a duty of confidentiality; they are never to share such sensitive information with any individual, without authorization from the director of the committee.

ARTICLE 8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The conflict-of-interest policy is to protect YSDM's interest when it is contemplating a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a member.

SECTION 2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT.

Every person or entity contracted for a transaction or arrangement must sign a statement or clause, submitted to the Secretariat, disclosing any direct or indirect connection, to the members of YSDM who are delegated with authority to decide or participate in deliberating a proposed transaction or arrangement. If the person issuing the Statement is not aware of any conflict of interest, the statement shall so indicate.

SECTION 3. APPLICABLE LAW.

This policy shall supplement but not replace any applicable laws governing conflict of interest.

SECTION 4. NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

A member of YSDM shall not:

- i. hold any governmental office in Nigeria, nor
- ii. affiliate with any political party in Nigeria, nor
- iii. affiliate with any group whose purpose conflicts with YSDM or the Yoruba People.

ARTICLE 9. STAFF.

SECTION 1. DECISION TO EMPLOY STAFF.

If in furtherance of YSDM's purpose, it becomes necessary to employ staff or contract a professional's service, the Secretariat, or any member of YSDM may suggest such to the Council, which upon a majority vote, may authorize to employ staff or retain a professional.

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY, PERMANENT, OR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE.

Staff may be temporary, permanent, or an independent professional (lawyer, researcher, etcetera) contracted for a specific temporary project.

SECTION 3. SECRETARIAT DETERMINING DETAILS.

Upon the Council approving the recommendation for staff or professional service, the Secretariat shall determine the scope, parameters, duties, powers, and compensation of the staff or independent professional contracted.

SECTION 4. STRUCTURE FOR MULTIPLE EMPLOYEES.

Aside from an independent professional contracted for a specific project, where there is more than one staff, the Secretariat shall, as needed, create a structure or hierarchy for YSDM's staff and report this to the Council.

ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT.

Member-organizations may propose an Amendment through their representatives.

SECTION 2. NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING ON AMENDMENT.

Written notice of the proposed amendment, along with a summary of the changes to be effected thereby, shall be submitted to the Secretariat, which shall disseminate it to the Council and place on the Council's meeting agenda; after the Secretariat receives the proposed amendment, no more than two Council meetings shall pass, before the general meeting where the Council shall discuss and vote on the proposed amendment.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY COUNCIL'S MAJORITY VOTE.

Upon public debate at a Council meeting, where members present shall be allowed an opportunity to speak on any proposed amendment, these Articles of Association may be amended by a simple-majority vote of the Council.

ARTICLE 11. ADOPTION OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 1. MEMBERS AFTER ADOPTION.

All member-organizations who join YSDM after the adoption of these Articles of Association, do so pursuant to these Articles of Association, and agree to be bound thereby.

SECTION 2. ADOPTION.

Upon adoption of these Articles of Association by the Council at the final review meeting, each representative on the Council shall formally adopt these Articles of Association by appending their signatures to the adoption statement:

SECTION 3. ADOPTION STATEMENT.

We, the undersigned, being the founding Council of the Yoruba Self-Determination Movement, do hereby adopt the foregoing clauses, as the Articles of Association of YSDM.

The following are the members of the Interim Secretariat, tasked with producing these Articles of Association:

1. Kayode Emola
2. Mandy Balogun
3. Toyin Ojobaro
4. Titi Aboyade-Cole
5. Chief Terry Osipitan
6. Chief Dr. Olusola Oni
7. Barrister Adéremilekun Omojola
8. Dr. Abimbola Sonaïke
9. Barrister Olasupo Ojo, and
10. Gani Alagbala

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Council on this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Member-Organization 1

Member-Organization 2

Member-Organization 3

By:

By:

By:

Member-Organization 4

Member-Organization 6

Member-Organization 7

By:

By:

By: