

CONSTITUTION OF THE SIERRA LEONE FEMALE
PARLIAMENTARIAN'S CAUCUS (SLEFPAC)

PREAMBLE:

Whereas, we the Sierra Leone female parliamentarians, having realised that Sierra Leone female parliamentarians are more often marginalised and discouraged from participating actively in parliamentary decision-making and activities because of tradition, customary and religious beliefs, partisan and bureaucratic practices;

RECOGNISING:- the need for Sierra Leonean women to have equal opportunity to participate actively ⁱⁿ at all decision-making levels in parliament;

REALISING- that women have significantly contributed to the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights and the overall peace and development process in the country;

CONSCIOUS- of the fact that even though women constitute over 50% of the population in the country, they have been underrepresented in parliament and local government bodies and the fact that Sierra Leone can not develop without the effective participation of women in all spheres of life;

effective
Democracy

REAFFIRMING- our desire for parity and gender sensitivity in local and central government policies to reflect the urgent attainment of these through affirmative action aimed at increasing women's participation in politics,

DETERMINED- to break political barriers to ensure active participation of women in politics..

HAVING FELT THE NEED- for a non-partisan forum of female parliamentarians to promote a common agenda for women, children and the vulnerable;

THEREFORE- have resolved to form ourselves into a caucus called "The Sierra Leone Female Parliamentarians' Caucus;

ARTICLE 1- ESTABLISHMENT

There is hereby established an association that shall be called:
"The Sierra Leone Female Parliamentarians' Caucus.

ARTICLE 2-MISSION

The Mission of the Sierra Leone Female Parliamentarians' Caucus is to create a non-partisan forum to identify, discuss, adopt and implement issues of common interest/concern and challenges to women parliamentarians as well as integrating gender, children and the vulnerable at all levels of development.

all

VISION

A united women parliamentarians' caucus, working together, irrespective of their political party affiliation, to ensure equality for all, especially women, children and the vulnerable, by advocating, enacting and monitoring of gender and child sensitive laws and budget in Sierra Leone.

ARTICLE 3-MOTTO

Unity in diversity

ARTICLE 4-OBJECTIVES

Promoting solidarity among women parliamentarians across parties; *And*

Lobbying and influencing the revision and the abolition of laws that are discriminatory in gender;

Setting up common advocacy agenda for the integration of women and children's issues in all parliamentary operations;

Actively contributing to the discourse and advocacy for increased women's participation in decision-making positions at all levels;

Mobilising and encouraging women's effective participation in national development at all levels;

Researching, documenting and disseminating gender disaggregated data on the contribution of women to national development;

Strengthening female parliamentarians' capacity with regards to legislative and parliamentary operations;

Encouraging networking and collaboration ^{of} women MPs and link them with organisations with similar objectives so as to promote exchange programmes and cooperation in related fields;

Enhancing women's access ~~to~~ and control in political and economic spheres;

Serving as think tank and forum for the advancement and enforcement of human rights, particularly and children's rights according to national and international legal instruments; and

ARTICLE 5- MEMBERSHIP

ELIGIBILITY

Every female Member of Parliament

Associate male members of parliament-nominated by the Caucus members

REGISTRATION

The Caucus at a general meeting of its members shall determine the registration for members from time to time.

ARTICLE 6-ORGANS

THE GENERAL BODY:

The general body shall comprise all subscribing female members of parliament and shall ratify and or approve of all policies/projected activities and standing committees of the Association at the annual meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee shall comprise the following officers:

1. The President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Assistant Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Organising Secretary
7. Assistant Organising Secretary
8. Project Coordinator
9. Auditor
10. Advisers

11. Financial Sec.

The Executive committee shall be responsible for policy formulation and the day-day management of the Caucus. Members of the executive committee shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election provided that person shall not hold the same office for three consecutive terms.

THE PRESIDENT

Shall be the chief executive of the association and shall preside at all executive and general meetings.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, assumes the responsibilities of the President. He/She shall be the principal adviser to the President.

THE SECRETARY

Shall be in attendance at all meetings and shall prepare and present minutes or reports for the attention of members of the association. He/She shall be responsible for the proper co-ordination through the executive committee of the association's activities and shall be under the supervision of the President. All correspondence in the name of the organisation shall bear the association's seal and be counter-signed by the president. He/She shall serve as the custodian of the association's documents.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Shall assist the secretary as and when circumstances demand.

THE TREASURER

Shall record and keep all bank books, cheques, petty cash, financial records and valuables on behalf of the association. He/She shall collect and deposit all dues and levies into the association's accounts and shall provide financial records on members, applicants and other transactions.

THE ORGANISING SECRETARY

Shall be responsible for the mobilisation of stakeholders for enhancing the mission of the Caucus.

THE ASSISTANT ORGANISING SECRETARY

Shall assist the organising secretary in discharging his/her duties.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Shall be responsible for the formulation and execution of all projects of the Caucus.

ARTICLE 7-MEETINGS:

The general body shall meet once a month at such a time and place as may be determined by the executive committee or at the request of not less than one third of the members of the association. In the event of an emergency the general body shall meet as and when the circumstances demand. The executive committee shall meet prior to every general meeting. Notice of general meetings shall be served on all members before the date set for the meeting.

ARTICLE 8-QUORUM

At any executive committee and or general meeting the quorum shall comprise 1/3 of members.

ARTICLE 9-ELECTIONS

Voting shall be by secret ballot and shall be carried by simple majority by registered and paid up members. In case of tie during voting, the chair of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote.

ARTICLE 10-FINANCE

in which all monies received on behalf of the association (cash) shall be deposited

The association shall ^{establish @ with} operate bank accounts in the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank to which shall be deposited all monies received on its behalf. There shall be four signatories, any two of who must sign to validate the transaction for the withdrawal of funds. Signatories are the President, Secretary and the Financial Secretary.

The Executive Committee must approve all withdrawals and expenditures. The financial secretary shall receive and record all registration fees, subscription and income of the association and shall make returns to the secretary who shall acknowledge such returns, and shall present a monthly financial report at every general meeting.

An activity plan and a half yearly or quarterly budget shall be presented to the general membership at least one month before the annual general meeting by the executive for approval at the meeting at least one month before the other half quarter, this first half quarter exempted.

ARTICLE 11-AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by members at an extraordinary meeting provided members have been informed by written notice of the recommended changes at least two weeks prior to the meeting. An amendment shall require the approval of the two-thirds majority of the voting members.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2001

Witnessed:

President _____

Secretary _____

Member _____

Member _____

MISSION

The Mission of the Sierra Leone Female Parliamentarians' Caucus is to create a non-partisan forum to identify, share, discuss, adopt and implement issues of common interest/concern and challenges to women parliamentarians with a view to enhancing women's effective participation in political, social and economic activities.

VISION

A united women parliamentarians' caucus, working together, irrespective of their political party affiliation, to ensure equality for all, especially women, children and the vulnerable, by advocating, enacting and monitoring of gender and child sensitive laws and budget in Sierra Leone.

OBJECTIVE

The above mission and vision will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Promoting solidarity among women parliamentarians across parties;
- Lobbying and influencing the revision and the abolition of laws that are discriminatory in gender;
- Setting up common advocacy agenda for the integration of women and children's issues in all parliamentary operations;
- Actively contributing to the discourse and advocacy for increased women's participation in decision-making positions at all levels;
- Mobilising and encouraging women's effective participation in national development at all levels;
- Researching, documenting and disseminating gender disaggregated data on the contribution of women to national development;
- Strengthening female parliamentarians' capacity with regards to legislative and parliamentary operations;

Members B Parliament

- Encouraging networking and collaboration ^{to} women MPs and link them with organisations with similar objectives so as to promote exchange programmes and cooperation in related fields;
- Enhancing women's access to and control in political and economic spheres;
- Serving as think tank and forum for the advancement and enforcement of human rights, particularly, and children's rights according to national and international legal instruments.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY consist of 17 women parliamentarians

Executive Board

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Organising Secretary
- Assistant Organising Secretary
- Project Coordinator

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Executive Board
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Organising Secretary
- Assistant Organising Secretary
- Project Coordinator

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- President
- Vice President

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE SIERRA LEONE FEMALE PARLIAMENTARIANS CAUCUS (SLEFPAC)

This Rules of Engagement is aimed at ensuring an amicable and smooth operation of the Caucus and from time to time shall be reviewed and signed by at least two-third of the members for it to become law.

The position of the President ~~and other executives~~ shall be rotational among the political parties present in Parliament. ~~what about our positions?~~

The Caucus members are to agree on the order of rotation to avoid any conflict.

The position of President shall be held for a two-year term by each political party in Parliament.

Any political party who continues in office at the end of the parliamentary session shall continue in office in the new parliament until their term is completed.

The other positions are to be equitably distributed among the political parties by consensus.

All the political parties in Parliament shall occupy at least one substantive and deputy executive positions, either by voting or by consensus.

The substantive positions shall be as follows:

- President
- Secretary General
- Organising Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Project Co-ordinator
- Auditor
- Advisers

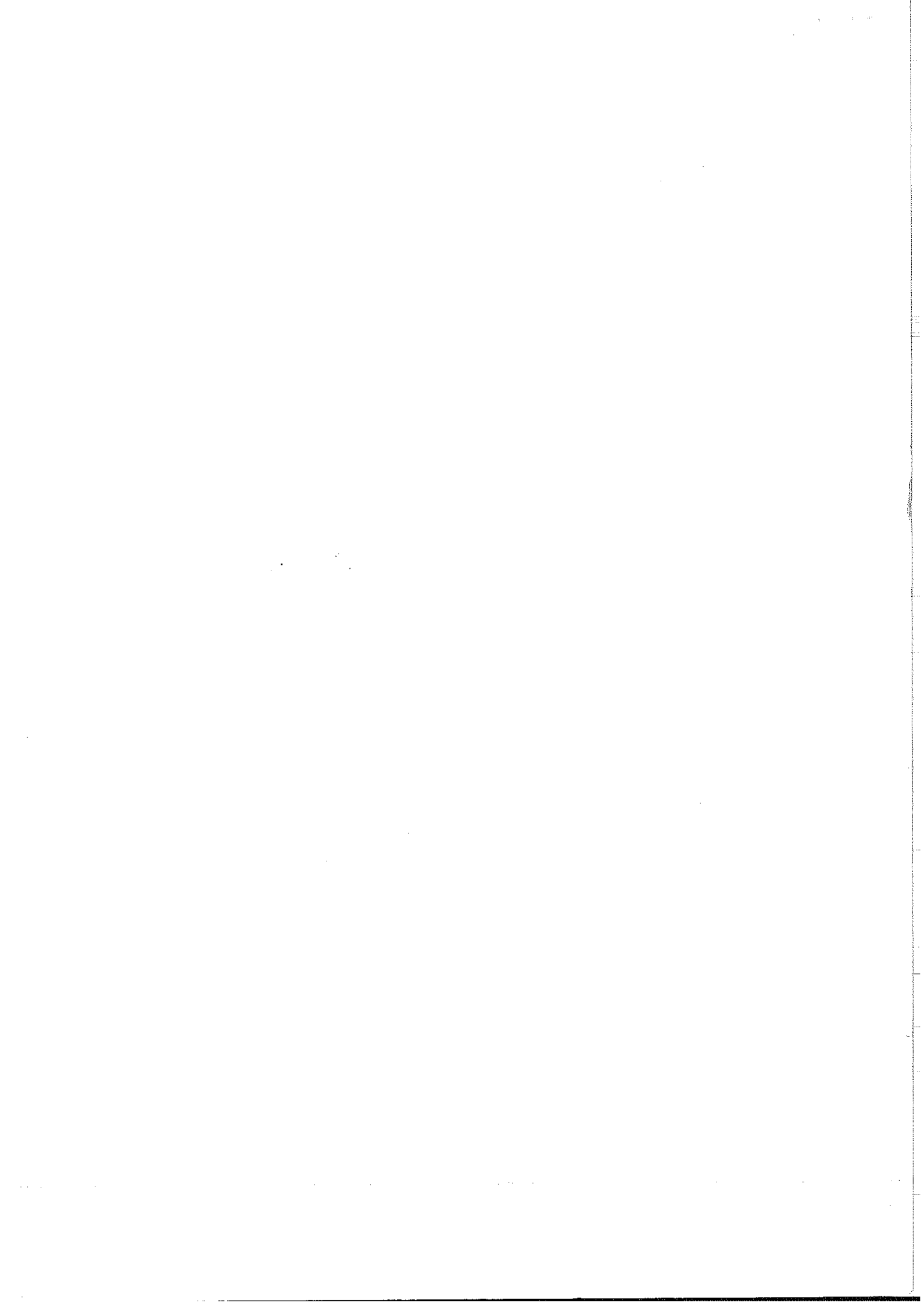
The Deputy positions are:

- Vice President
- Assistant Secretary General
- Assistant Organising Secretary

In the absence of the President and Vice President, members shall elect one of them to chair the meeting.

All political parties, where possible, shall be represented in international and national conferences

Name	Signature
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SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS
EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President	- Hon. Rev. Marie Yansaneh
Vice President	- Hon. Elizabeth Alpha-Lavalie
Secretary –General	- Hon. Nenneh Lebbie
Project Co-ordinator	- Hon. Bernadette Lahai
Financial Secretary	- Hon. Bintu Myers
Treasurer	- Hon. Salamatu Turay
Organizing Secretary	- Hon. Mabinty Fornah
Deputy Organizing Secretary	- Hon. Alice M. Foyah
P.R.O.	- Hon. Veronica Sesay
Auditor	- Hon. Emilie Safula Moijueh
Auditor	- Hon. Victoria Saidu Kamara
Adviser	- Hon. Frances Rogers
Adviser	- Hon. Isatu G. Koroma
Adviser	- Hon. Florence Kombe-Bundu

SIERRA LEONE FEMALE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS

Hon. Marie Yansaneh

Hon. Victoria Saidu Kamara

Hon. Marie Jalloh

Hon. Salamatu Turay

Hon. Isatu G. Koroma

Hon. Mabinty Forna

Hon. Elizabeth Alpha-Lavalie

Hon. Bernadette Lahai

Hon. Bintu Myers

Hon. Nenneh Lebbie

Hon. Emma Kowa

Hon. Emilie Safula Moijueh

Hon. Veronica Sesay

Hon. Theresa Suwu

Hon. Florence Kombe-Bundu

Hon. Frances Rogers

Hon. Alice M. Foyah

- Male Honoray Members** - **Hon. Yapoh Kondeh Conteh**
- **Hon. Musa Sam**
 - **Hon. Malcolm S. Bannister**
 - **Hon. Edward A. Soloku**
 - **Hon. Paul Kamara**
 - **Hon. Charles Kalawa**
 - **Hon. P.C. Dhaffie Benya**
 - **Hon. P.C. Bai Shebora Kasanga**
 - **Hon. P.C. Jeremiah Sinnah-Yovonie Kangova II**

