

**STATUTES
OF
THE RWANDA NATIONAL CONGRESS
(RNC)**



Objective: Peace – Unity – Freedom

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble

PART I: ESTABLISHMENT AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RWANDA NATIONAL CONGRESS

Chapter One: Name and Headquarters

Article 1: Establishment and Name

Article 2: Headquarters

Chapter Two: Principles and Emblem

Article 3: Principles of the Congress

Article 4: Emblem

Chapter Three: Languages

Article 5: Languages

PART II: MEMBERS, THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Articles 6–14: Membership, withdrawal, rights and duties

PART III: STRUCTURE AND ORGANS OF THE CONGRESS

Articles 15–23: Organs at national, provincial and district levels

Chapter Four: Supporting Organs

Articles 24–30: Advisory, oversight, disciplinary, electoral, radio, youth and women's structures

PART IV: SPECIAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Articles 31–40: Property, budget, financial year, terms, replacement, decision-making, rules and dissolution/amendment



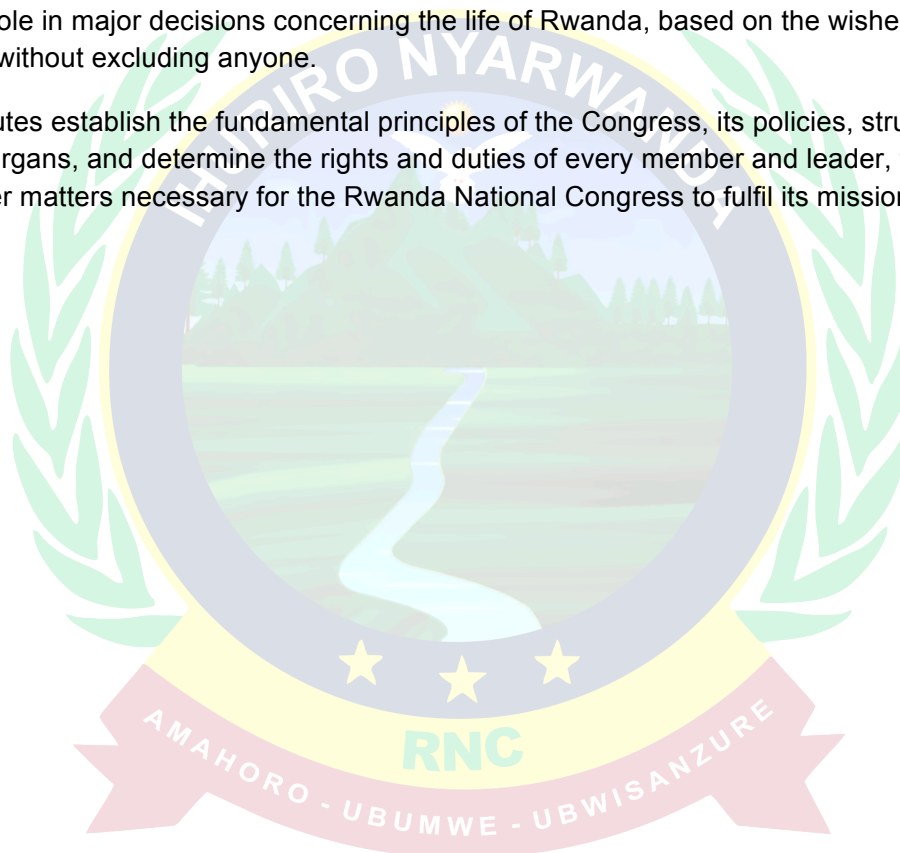
PREAMBLE

The Rwanda National Congress (Ihuriro Nyarwanda) is a political organization established by Rwandans who came together around shared ideas. Its objective is “Peace, Unity and Freedom.” The Congress seeks to achieve this objective by working for a Rwanda governed by the rule of law, with democracy and sustainable development, comprehensive security for all citizens, an independent judiciary and respect for human rights, and equitable sharing of the country’s public resources without discrimination based on ethnicity, region, favoritism, exclusion or any other consideration contrary to democratic principles in a state governed by law.

The Rwanda National Congress shall also work to ensure good relations between Rwanda and other countries, particularly neighboring states.

To achieve these objectives, the Rwanda National Congress undertakes to operate transparently, with freedom for every member and in full democracy. These objectives are to be pursued in cooperation with others capable of establishing a government or exercising a significant role in major decisions concerning the life of Rwanda, based on the wishes of all Rwandans without excluding anyone.

These Statutes establish the fundamental principles of the Congress, its policies, structure and governing organs, and determine the rights and duties of every member and leader, together with all other matters necessary for the Rwanda National Congress to fulfil its mission.



PART I: ESTABLISHMENT AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RWANDA NATIONAL CONGRESS

Chapter One: Name and Headquarters

Article 1: Establishment and Name

The political organization known in Kinyarwanda as “Ihuriro Nyarwanda,” in French as “Congrès National Rwandais,” and in English as “Rwanda National Congress,” abbreviated “RNC,” was officially launched by a declaration dated 12 December 2010 in Bethesda, Maryland, United States of America. In these Statutes, the word “Congress” means the Rwanda National Congress.

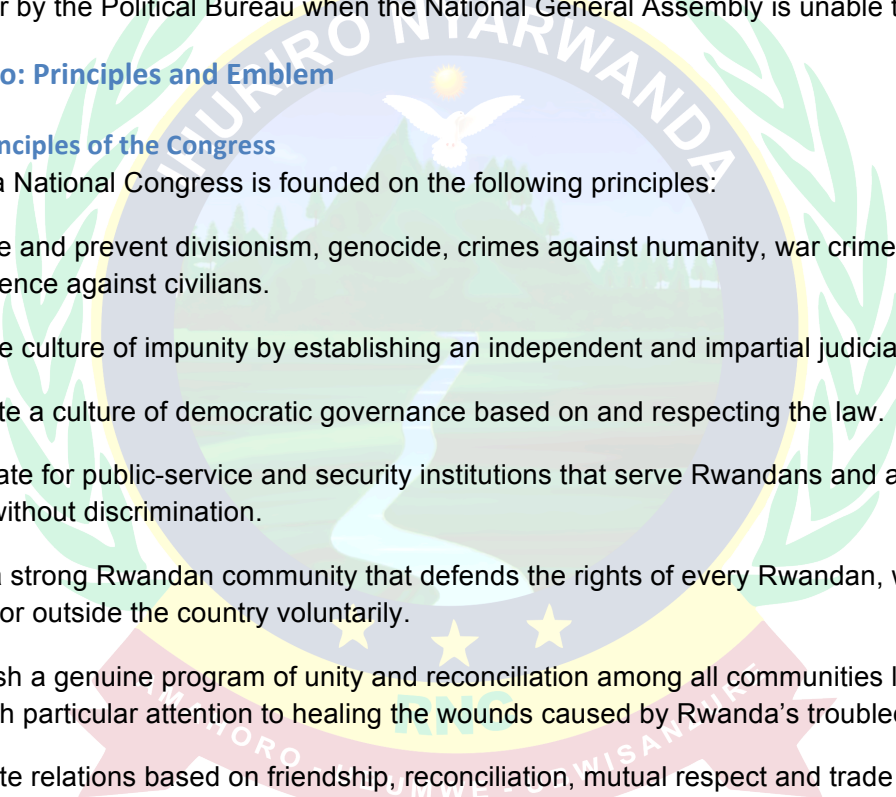
Article 2: Headquarters

The headquarters of the Congress shall be in Washington, D.C., United States of America. The headquarters may be transferred to another location by decision of the National General Assembly, or by the Political Bureau when the National General Assembly is unable to meet.

Chapter Two: Principles and Emblem

Article 3: Principles of the Congress

The Rwanda National Congress is founded on the following principles:

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- a) To oppose and prevent divisionism, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and all forms of violence against civilians.
 - b) To end the culture of impunity by establishing an independent and impartial judiciary.
 - c) To promote a culture of democratic governance based on and respecting the law.
 - d) To advocate for public-service and security institutions that serve Rwandans and all persons in Rwanda without discrimination.
 - e) To build a strong Rwandan community that defends the rights of every Rwandan, whether living inside or outside the country voluntarily.
 - f) To establish a genuine program of unity and reconciliation among all communities living in Rwanda, with particular attention to healing the wounds caused by Rwanda's troubled history.
 - g) To promote relations based on friendship, reconciliation, mutual respect and trade between Rwanda and other countries, especially neighboring countries.
 - h) To permanently resolve the refugee question affecting Rwandan children and eliminate all causes of displacement and exile.
 - i) To promote tolerance among Rwandans and resolve problems through dialogue, without excluding any side for any reason, even where the parties disagree.
 - j) To build a national economy based on Rwanda's resources and cooperation with other countries, in which all Rwandans can participate.
 - k) To combat corruption, discrimination and favoritism that have characterized governance in Rwanda.

Article 4: Emblem

The Congress emblem consists of an image containing two green branches meeting around the letters “RNC” and enclosing a blue circle bearing the words “Ihuriro Nyarwanda.” Within the circle are three yellow stars above the letters RNC, hills and a flowing river, a sun above the hills, and a flying dove. The image also contains a folded ribbon on the right and left bearing the words “Peace–Unity–Freedom.”

The elements of the emblem have the following meanings:

- a) The branches meeting at the letters RNC and the dove in the sky signify that RNC is a Congress of peace and places lasting peace above all else.
- b) The three equal stars represent equality among the three communities identified in the Statutes as making up the Rwandan population, united in their desire for peace, unity and freedom.
- c) The hills and flowing river represent the beauty of Rwanda and the wellbeing required for all Rwandans.
- d) The sun represents enlightenment and the good governance that RNC envisages for Rwandans.
- e) The circle bearing “Ihuriro Nyarwanda” represents the ring of commitment made by RNC to all Rwandans to bring them peace, stability and reconciliation, so that Rwanda may truly become a land of milk and honey.

Chapter Three: Languages

Article 5: Languages

These Statutes are written in Kinyarwanda but may also be rendered in other languages used and recognized in Rwanda, namely French and English. The Kinyarwanda text is the original text on which the other language versions are based.



PART II: MEMBERS, THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Chapter One: Members and Categories of Membership

Article 6: Admission to the Congress

The Rwanda National Congress admits, without discrimination based on sex, ethnicity, religion, origin or any other ground, every Rwandan aged 18 or above who applies and accepts the objectives, values, programs and plans, ideas, rules, procedures and other decisions adopted by the governing organs.

Membership is confirmed through possession of a Congress membership card or any other means that may be determined by the Political Bureau. The application is approved by the District Executive Committee in the district where the applicant resides. No person shall be forced to join the Congress.

Article 7: Categories of Members

The Congress has four categories of members: founding members who remain members; members who subsequently joined the Congress; honorary members; and supporters of the Congress.

Article 8: Founding Members Who Remain Members

Founding members are those who initially came together to establish the Congress, as recorded in the declaration signed on 12 December 2010 in Bethesda, Maryland, United States of America.

Article 9: Members Who Joined the Congress

Members who joined the Congress are persons who voluntarily became members and were issued a membership card or admitted through another procedure determined by the Political Bureau.

Article 10: Honorary Members

Honorary members are persons who support the Congress and have been granted honorary status by the National General Assembly. They may ask questions and provide opinions, but may not stand for office, vote or take decisions concerning the Congress.

Article 11: Supporters of the Congress

Supporters may be Rwandans or foreigners, whether individuals or organized groups, who accept the Congress principles and undertake to support it without having founded or joined it. Supporters may ask questions and give opinions but may not stand for office, vote or make decisions concerning the Congress.

Chapter Two: Withdrawal from the Congress

Article 12: Cessation of Membership

A person ceases to be a member when the person voluntarily resigns, is expelled, dies, or when the Congress is dissolved.

Chapter Three: Rights and Duties of a Member

Article 13: Rights of Members

Every member referred to in Articles 8 and 9 has the right to:

- a) Vote and stand for any leadership position.
- b) Participate in all activities of the Congress.
- c) Express opinions.
- d) Participate in the functioning of the Congress.
- e) Take decisions concerning leaders who fail properly to perform their duties.
- f) Explain and appeal against a decision taken against the member without having to pass through another level.

Article 14: Duties of Every Member

Every member referred to in Articles 8 and 9 has the duty to:

- a) Pay the Congress membership contribution.
- b) Comply with instructions and decisions issued by the governing organs.
- c) Respect the structure, procedures and governing organs of the Congress.
- d) Participate in Congress activities.
- e) Know, disseminate and defend the Congress programs and objectives.
- f) Do anything that advances the Congress.
- g) Avoid anything that obstructs or brings the Congress into disrepute.
- h) Promote and strengthen the unity of the Congress.
- i) Oppose all forms of discrimination, whatever their basis, including ethnicity, sex, religion and political opinion.



PART III: STRUCTURE AND ORGANS OF THE CONGRESS

Chapter One: Organs of the Congress

Article 15: Structure of the Congress

The Congress has three administrative levels: the national level ("National"), the provincial level ("Province") and the district level ("District"). For purposes of these Statutes: (a) National means Rwanda; (b) Province means a country or other area containing Congress members and designated as such; and (c) District means an area determined by the Provincial General Assembly according to its structure and membership.

The governing organs at each level are as follows:

15.1 National level:

- (a) National General Assembly;
- (b) Political Bureau of the Congress;
- (c) National Executive Committee.

15.2 Provincial level:

- (a) Provincial General Assembly;
- (b) Provincial Executive Committee.

15.3 District level:

- (a) District General Assembly;
- (b) District Executive Committee.

Article 16: Supporting Governing Organs at National Level

The supporting organs of the Congress are:

- (a) Oversight Committee;
- (b) Committee responsible for member discipline;
- (c) Advisory Committee of Elders;
- (d) Electoral Commission; and
- (e) Radio Ihuriro.

Supporting organs are governed by specific rules that must not conflict with these Statutes.

Chapter Two: General Assemblies and Their Duties

Article 17: National General Assembly

17.1 Composition. The National General Assembly consists of:

- a) Members of the National, Provincial and District Executive Committees.
- b) The Oversight Committee.
- c) The Committee responsible for member discipline.
- d) The Electoral Commission.
- e) The Advisory Committee of Elders.
- f) The Director of Radio Ihuriro.
- g) Founding members who remain members.
- h) Former members of Congress Executive Committees at national, provincial and district levels.
- i) Representatives of members who do not hold leadership positions.
- j) Any other person invited by the Bureau of the National Executive Committee; such invitees have no right to vote or make decisions.

Where substantial reasons prevent the National General Assembly from meeting, the Political Bureau may exercise all powers that would have been exercised by the General Assembly.

17.2 Duties. The National General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Congress. Its duties include:

- a) Electing members of the Bureau of the National Executive Committee;
- b) Establishing and electing leaders of permanent national groups;
- c) Determining the Congress's principal policies and strategies;
- d) Establishing and amending rules governing the Congress; receiving, reviewing and approving the report of the National Executive Committee;
- e) Approving the Congress action plan;
- f) Receiving reports on use of Congress assets;
- g) Receiving reports from supporting organs;
- h) Determining and approving Congress programs;
- i) Approving agreements with political organizations and other agreements with persons or organizations outside the Congress;
- j) Reviewing, approving or annulling decisions of the Political Bureau; and
- k) Approving rules governing member conduct and
- l) The functioning of the Congress.

17.3 Meetings. The National General Assembly ordinarily meets once a year. It is convened in writing and chaired by the National Coordinator. It may be called extraordinarily whenever the National Executive Committee considers it necessary or upon request by at least one-third of its members.

Article 18: Provincial General Assembly

18.1 Composition. It consists of;

- a) Members of the Provincial Executive Committee;
- b) Members of District Executive Committees;
- c) National-level members residing in the province;
- d) Representatives of members who do not hold leadership positions;
- e) All members in the province;
- f) And any other person invited by the Bureau of the Provincial Executive Committee, without voting or decision-making rights.

18.2 Duties. It elects;

- a) The Bureau of the Provincial Executive Committee;
- b) Establishes, where possible, permanent provincial groups and elects their leaders;
- c) Elects provincial representatives to the Political Bureau;
- d) Approves provincial activity planning;
- e) Approves the provincial budget;
- f) Receives the Executive Committee report on use of assets;
- g) Receives the provincial Executive Committee activity report;
- h) Receives the report of the representative of members outside leadership organs; and
- i) Reviews, approves or annuls decisions of subordinate organs.

18.3 Meetings. It ordinarily meets at least twice a year, convened and chaired in writing by the Provincial Coordinator. It may meet extraordinarily when necessary or at the request of at least one-third of its members.

Article 19: District General Assembly

19.1 Composition. It consists of all members resident in the district and any other person invited by the Bureau of the District Executive Committee, without voting or decision-making rights.

19.2 Duties.

- a) It elects the Bureau of the District Executive Committee;
- b) Establishes, where possible, permanent district groups and
- c) Elects their leaders;
- d) Elects representatives of members who do not hold leadership positions to the District, Provincial and National General Assemblies;
- e) Approves district activity planning; implements decisions of the National and Provincial General Assemblies and other instructions from superior organs;
- f) Approves the district budget; receives the Executive Committee report on use of assets;
- g) Receives the District Executive Committee activity report; and
- h) Receives the report of the representative of members outside leadership organs.

19.3 Meetings. It ordinarily meets at least three times a year, convened and chaired in writing by the District Coordinator. It may be called extraordinarily when necessary or at the request of at least one-third of its members. Chapter Three: Governing Organs and Their Duties.

Article 20: National Political Bureau

20.1 Composition:

- a) Members of the National Executive Committee;
- b) Founding members who remain members;
- c) Members of the supporting organs referred to in Article 16;
- d) Provincial Coordinators;
- e) Provincial representatives;
- f) And persons invited by the Bureau of the National Executive Committee when necessary, without voting or decision-making rights.

20.2 Duties:

- a) Monitor implementation of National General Assembly decisions;
- b) Determine matters to be considered by the National General Assembly;
- c) Determine responsibilities of permanent groups;
- d) Determine responsibilities of members of the National Executive Committee;
- e) Establish temporary national groups where necessary and define their duties;
- f) Determine methods for implementing Congress programs;
- g) Approve the draft Congress budget;
- h) Review, approve or annul decisions of subordinate organs where necessary;
- i) Declare exceptional periods, determine their duration and issue instructions for Congress operations during such periods;
- j) And make all decisions concerning the Congress when the National General Assembly cannot meet.

20.3 Meetings. The Political Bureau ordinarily meets once every two months. It is convened and chaired by the National Coordinator and may be called extraordinarily when necessary or at the request of at least one-third of its members.

Article 21: National Executive Committee

21.1 Composition: members of the Bureau of the National Executive Committee and leaders of permanent groups.

21.2 Duties:

- a) Implement decisions of the National General Assembly
- b) Implement decisions of Political Bureau;
- c) Coordinate the activities of Provincial Executive Committees;
- d) Appoint the Congress spokesperson;
- e) Appoint the management of Radio Ihuriro;
- f) And review, correct, finally approve or annul urgent decisions taken by the Bureau of the National Executive Committee at the first Executive Committee meeting following those decisions.

21.3 Meetings. The National Executive Committee ordinarily meets twice a month. It is convened and chaired by the National Coordinator and may be called extraordinarily when the National Coordinator considers it necessary or upon request by one-third of its members.

21.4 Bureau. The Bureau consists of:

- a) National Coordinator;
- b) First Deputy National Coordinator;
- c) Second Deputy National Coordinator;

- d) Third Deputy National Coordinator;
- e) Secretary General;
- f) and Treasurer General.

The National General Assembly may increase or reduce the number of deputy national coordinators where necessary.

21.5.1 General duties of the Bureau: manage the day-to-day functioning of the Congress; represent all Congress organs on a daily basis; take urgent decisions when necessary and in the interests of the Congress; monitor implementation of decisions taken by all Congress organs; and manage and protect the security and integrity of the Congress on a daily basis.

21.5.2 Specific duties:

- a) The National Coordinator is the chief leader of the Congress.
 - I. The Coordinator manages the proper functioning of the Congress,
 - II. Handles external relations,
 - III. Represents the Congress in legal disputes,
 - IV. Convenes and chairs the National General Assembly, Political Bureau and National Executive Committee,
 - V. And monitors the work and receives reports from deputy national coordinators.

If the National Coordinator fails to convene a meeting as required by these Statutes, two-thirds of the Bureau may agree to convene it.

- b) Deputy National Coordinators assist the National Coordinator in carrying out duties and act on the Coordinator's behalf when absent.
- c) The Secretary General follows up the day-to-day activities of the Congress.
 - I. The Secretary General receives work plans and reports from all groups;
 - II. Sends invitations for meetings of the National General Assembly, Political Bureau and National Executive Committee;
 - III. Prepares and keeps minutes of meetings of those organs;
 - IV. Receives and keeps communications addressed to the national leadership;
 - V. Transmits instructions and other communications and publishes documents issued by the national leadership;
 - VI. And performs other duties assigned by the Political Bureau.
- d) The Treasurer General
 - I. Coordinates fundraising and management of Congress assets;
 - II. Prepares projects relating to raising and using Congress resources;
 - III. Prepares the Congress budget according to activities planned by the National Executive Committee and the Congress programs;
 - IV. Prepares financial reports and submits them to the Political Bureau at least twice a year, with the annual report prepared no later than 31 July each year;
 - V. And withdraws funds from Congress accounts jointly with the National Coordinator.

21.6 Permanent national groups.

The Congress has ten permanent groups:

1. Women and Girls;
2. Youth;
3. Human Rights and Refugee Affairs;
4. Foreign Relations;
5. Planning;
6. Finance and Projects;
7. Media and Communications;
8. Mobilization;
9. Legal and Ethics;
10. And Training.

The National General Assembly may add or reduce permanent groups where necessary. Their duties and operations are set out in the Congress internal regulations.

Article 22: Provincial Executive Committee

22.1 Composition: members of the Bureau of the Provincial Executive Committee; leaders of permanent provincial groups; provincial representatives in the Political Bureau; and District Coordinators.

22.2 Duties:

- a) Implement decisions of the Provincial General Assembly, Political Bureau, National General Assembly and instructions from the National Executive Committee;
- b) Coordinates District Executive Committees;
- c) Establish temporary groups where necessary;
- d) Determine the provincial budget;
- e) And monitors its use.

22.3 Meetings. The Provincial Executive Committee ordinarily meets monthly. It may be called extraordinarily by the Provincial Coordinator when necessary or at the request of one-third of its members. The Bureau may invite senior leaders; invitees have no voting or decision-making rights.

22.4 Bureau:

- a) Provincial Coordinator,
- b) Deputy Provincial Coordinator,
- c) Secretary
- d) And Treasurer.

22.4.1 General duties:

- a) Manage the day-to-day functioning of the Congress in the province;
- b) Represent Congress organs on a daily basis;
- c) Monitor implementation of decisions;
- d) Manage and protect the security and integrity of the Congress;
- e) And meet at least once a month.

22.4.2 Specific duties.

- a) The Provincial Coordinator is the chief Congress leader in the province and
 - I. Manages daily operations
 - II. And convenes and chairs the Provincial General Assembly and Provincial Executive Committee.
- b) The Deputy assists and acts in the Coordinator's absence.
- c) The Provincial Secretary prepares and keeps minutes of the Provincial General Assembly and Executive Committee;
 - I. Receives and keeps communications;
 - II. And transmits instructions and
 - III. Publishes documents from provincial or superior leadership.
- d) The Provincial Treasurer
 - I. Develops resource-raising and asset-use projects;
 - II. Prepares the provincial budget;
 - III. Prepares an annual financial report for the Provincial General Assembly;
 - IV. Withdraws funds jointly with the Provincial Coordinator;
 - V. Reports finances to the Provincial Executive Committee; and
 - VI. Submits a monthly financial report to the Treasurer General.

22.5 Permanent provincial groups are established and their leaders elected by the Provincial General Assembly. At minimum, where possible, each province shall have a diplomacy group, mobilization group, women and girls group, and youth group. Their duties are set out in the internal regulations.

22.6 Provincial representatives to the Political Bureau are elected by the Provincial General Assembly. Their duties are set out in the internal rules of the Congress.

Article 23: District Executive Committee

23.1 Composition:

- 1. Members of the Bureau of the District Executive Committee and
- 2. Leaders of permanent district groups.

23.2 Duties: implement decisions of the District Assembly and superior organs;

- a) Manage day-to-day Congress operations in the district;
- b) Monitors good governance
- c) Establish temporary groups where needed;
- d) Organize and conduct district meetings;
- e) Determine the district budget;
- f) Encourage non-members to join;
- g) Collect members' views to improve Congress programs and governance;
- h) Propose ways to increase Congress resources; and
- i) Establish youth and women/girls groups where possible.

23.3 Meetings. The District Executive Committee ordinarily meets monthly and may be called extraordinarily by the District Coordinator or upon request by one-third of its members. The Bureau may invite a senior leader when necessary, without voting or decision-making rights.

23.4 Political Bureau: Consist of

- a) Coordinator,
- b) Deputy Coordinator,
- c) Secretary and
- d) Treasurer.

23.4.1 General duties:

- I. Manage daily operations in the district;
- II. Represent all Congress organs;
- III. Monitor implementation of decisions;
- IV. Protect Congress security and integrity;
- V. And encourage non-members to join.

23.4.2 Specific duties.

- a) The District Coordinator is the chief leader in the district,
 - I. Manages operations and
 - II. Convenes and chairs the District General Assembly and Executive Committee.
- b) The Deputy assists and acts in the Coordinator's absence.
- c) The Secretary
 - I. Prepares and keeps minutes of District General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings and
 - II. Transmits instructions and publications from district or superior leadership.
- d) The Treasurer;
 - I. Develops resource and asset-use projects;
 - II. Prepares the district budget;
 - III. Prepares the annual financial report for the District General Assembly;
 - IV. Withdraws funds jointly with the District Coordinator;
 - V. Reports finances to the District Executive Committee;
 - VI. And submits a monthly financial report to the Provincial Treasurer.

23.5 Permanent groups at district level are determined by the District General Assembly, which also elects their leaders. Their duties and operations are set out in the Congress internal regulations.

Chapter Four: Supporting Organs

Article 24: Advisory Committee of Elders

24.1 Composition. The Advisory Committee of Elders consists of five members recognized for ability, expertise, integrity and sound judgment. Where possible, it should include at least a legal expert and a woman. At their first meeting they elect a Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary. They meet at least once every three months or whenever necessary. The Committee establishes its own rules of procedure, provided they do not conflict with these Statutes, and operates independently.

24.2 Duties:

- a) Advise Congress leadership without making decisions;
- b) Advise on any matter, including disputes or disagreements between leaders or members;
- c) Hear disciplinary appeals by Political Bureau members, with the final decision approved by the Political Bureau;
- d) Advise on matters referred to it by Congress organs;
- e) And prepare at least once a year a report on its work for the Political Bureau.

Article 25: Congress Oversight Committee

25.1 Composition. The Oversight Committee consists of four members: the Chief Inspector, who chairs it; the Deputy Chief Inspector responsible for Congress operations; the Deputy Chief Inspector responsible for finances; and the Oversight Secretary. It meets at least once every three months or whenever necessary and operates independently.

25.2 Duties:

- a) Supervise the general functioning of the Congress;
- b) Supervise use of assets;
- c) Submit to the Political Bureau a brief report on operations and use of assets;
- d) And prepare and submit to the National General Assembly an annual report on general operations and use of assets.

Article 26: Disciplinary Committee

Independent disciplinary committees are established at national and provincial levels to deal with member conduct. They seek to reconcile members and leaders when a disagreement is brought to them by a member or a Congress organ, and they also reconcile leaders when disagreements arise between governing organs. They may impose sanctions provided for in Article 35 of the Code of Conduct where necessary.

26.1 Composition. At national level, the disciplinary committee consists of five members known for truthfulness, good character and conduct, and the ability to receive and fairly hear both sides. At their first meeting they elect a chair, deputy and secretary. Where possible it should include a woman and a lawyer. At provincial level, it consists of three members with the same qualities; they elect a chair and secretary and, where possible, include a woman and a lawyer.

26.2 Duties. The national disciplinary committee receives and resolves matters concerning members of the Political Bureau. The provincial disciplinary committee receives and resolves matters concerning members and leaders at provincial and district levels, except persons serving on the Political Bureau. The Congress Code of Conduct governs their powers and procedures.

Article 27: Electoral Commission

A permanent independent Electoral Commission is established at national level to conduct general elections for all Congress organs and by-elections where necessary to fill leadership positions before the end of a term.

The Electoral Commission consists of a Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Returning Officer and any other experts the Commission may require. It may appoint representatives and other personnel wherever elections are held. The Commission establishes rules describing the duties of candidates for each office, except deputies of the candidate for the office concerned, and all other requirements; those rules are approved by the Political Bureau.

Article 28: Congress Radio

A Congress radio station called “Radio Ihuriro” is established. It is a communication channel used by the Congress to communicate its policies to Rwandans and foreigners. Its operation and duties are governed by the Congress internal regulations.

Article 29: Youth League

At provincial and district levels, where possible, a Youth League affiliated with the Youth Group is established. It is responsible for making the Congress known among young people and encouraging them to participate in practical activities intended to advance the Congress. Membership, rights and duties are provided in the internal regulations.

Article 30: Women and Girls League

At provincial and district levels, where possible, a Women and Girls League affiliated with the Women and Girls Group is established. It is responsible for promoting the Congress specifically among women and girls and encouraging their participation in practical activities intended to advance the Congress. Membership, rights and duties are provided in the internal regulations.

PART IV: SPECIAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Chapter One: Property and Budget of the Congress

Article 31: Congress Property and Its Sources

Congress property consists of movable and immovable property, including Congress documents, trademarks and insignia, all Congress equipment, money and any other property created for or acquired by the Congress.

Congress property is derived from: (a) members’ contributions; (b) gifts and bequests; (c) other assets and income-generating activities permitted by the rules governing the Congress; and (d) anything else created for or acquired by the Congress.

Congress property is separate from the property of any member or leader at any level and shall be used only for Congress activities. Any property, regardless of its source, must be reported to the Treasurer General of the Congress.

Article 32: Annual Budget

All Congress organs shall prepare annual activity plans and budgets and submit them to the General Assembly at their respective level for approval.

Chapter Two: Financial Year of the Congress

Article 33: Congress Financial Year

The financial year of the Congress begins on 1 July of each year and ends on 30 June of the following year.

Chapter Three: Terms of Office of Congress Leaders

Article 34: Terms of Office

Members of the Bureaus of Executive Committees and heads of permanent groups at national, provincial and district levels, together with provincial representatives to the Political Bureau, are elected by the General Assembly at each level as provided in Article 15 of these Statutes.

A leader at any level is elected for a three-year term in general elections. In a by-election, the person elected completes the term of the person replaced. No person may be elected to more than two consecutive terms in the same position.

A person elected in a by-election may serve two terms in the subsequent general elections for that position because the uncompleted term of the person replaced does not count as that person's term.

At the request of the Electoral Commission, the Political Bureau may allow a leader who has completed two consecutive terms in the same position to stand again where there is no other candidate for that position.

Names of members of supporting organs are proposed by the National Executive Committee and approved by the Political Bureau. Their term is three years. However, the first term of the Electoral Commission shall be two years, after which it shall move to three-year terms so that general elections can thereafter be held when the Commission has one year remaining on its term.

Article 35: Replacement in Office

When a Congress leader resigns, is removed, is elected or appointed to another position, or dies before completing the term, the Executive Committee of the level concerned shall provisionally appoint a replacement. If the leader was a member of the National Executive Committee, the replacement must be approved by the Political Bureau.

The permanent Electoral Commission shall be notified so that an election can be conducted within 60 days.

Chapter Four: Decision-Making at Congress Meetings

Article 36: Congress Meetings and Decision-Making

At any level, a Congress meeting has a quorum when one-half plus one member of the members of that organ are present. If quorum is not reached, the authorized leader shall convene another meeting within 15 days.

At every level, decisions are first sought by consensus among participants. Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by vote. Subject to Articles 39 and 40, a decision is adopted when at least one-half plus one of the members present and entitled to vote approve it.

Chapter Five: Internal Rules, Code of Conduct and Other Congress Documents

Article 37: Internal Rules, Code of Conduct and Other Governing Documents

These Statutes are the fundamental document governing the Congress. Their implementation may be supplemented by internal regulations, the Congress Code of Conduct, instructions and other decisions of Congress organs, provided that none conflicts with these Statutes.

Article 38: Interpretation and Use of These Statutes

Where a dispute or uncertainty arises concerning the interpretation, understanding, application or meaning of any provision of these Statutes, or where a provision may be understood in different ways, the Permanent Legal and Ethics Group has authority to interpret the Statutes in order to remove the uncertainty.

Chapter Six: Final Provisions

Article 39: Dissolution of the Congress

Dissolution of the Congress shall be approved by a three-quarters majority of Congress members attending the National General Assembly. In such circumstances, the General Assembly shall determine where the assets are to be transferred after payment of debts and all other obligations of the Congress.

Article 40: Amendment, Adoption and Entry into Force of the Statutes

40.1 Amendment and approval. These Statutes may be revised or amended by the National General Assembly with the approval of three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote.

40.2 Approval of the Revised Statutes. The revised Statutes were approved by the Political Bureau of the Congress, representing the General Assembly at its meeting conducted using electronic means on 18 May 2024.

40.3 Entry into force. These Statutes enter into force on the date on which they are approved by the National General Assembly. All previous provisions that conflict with these Statutes are repealed. The structure of Congress organs, and the leaders serving when these Statutes are revised, shall continue until the next general elections. All other provisions of these Statutes take effect immediately upon approval.

Done at Washington, on 18 May 2024.

Denis Serugendo

Frank Ntwali

Secretary General of the Congress

National Coordinator of the Congress