ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)

ELECTIVE CONFERENCE INTEGRITY, ELIGIBILITY AND ANTI-MANIPULATION POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

1.1. **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)** is a democratic political organisation founded on the principles of meritocracy, ethical leadership, accountability, transparency, discipline, and the rule of law.

1.2. AAAIC affirms that elective conferences constitute the highest and most consequential expression of internal democracy, legitimacy, and leadership renewal within the organisation.

1.3. AAAIC acknowledges that internal electoral processes are vulnerable to manipulation through premature campaigning, factional lobbying, slate formation, vote buying, abuse of organisational platforms, and artificial inflation of membership.

1.4. This Policy is therefore adopted to comprehensively regulate all phases of elective conferences, including pre-nomination conduct, campaigning, accreditation, voting, and post-conference accountability, in a manner consistent with constitutional, legal, and ethical standards.

2. LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL AUTHORITY

2.1. This Policy derives its authority from:

a) The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, in particular sections 1(d), 19, and the rule of law;
b) Applicable electoral and political party legislation;
c) Common law principles of legality, rationality, proportionality, and procedural fairness;
d) The AAAIC Constitution, which remains supreme.

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2.2. In the event of any conflict, this Policy shall prevail over all conference rules, guidelines, or practices.

3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Policy is to:

a) Prevent corruption, manipulation, and premature factional mobilisation;
b) Ensure orderly, fair, and transparent elective processes;
c) Promote merit-based leadership selection;
d) Regulate member conduct before, during, and after elective conferences;
e) Protect AAAIC from legal challenges and reputational harm.

4. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

4.1. This Policy applies to all members, structures, leaders, deployees, volunteers, and affiliates of AAAIC.
4.2. Compliance with this Policy is mandatory at Branch, Regional, Provincial, and National levels.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1. ***"Premature Campaigning***" means any expression, declaration, mobilisation, endorsement, or lobbying in favour of a prospective candidate or slate before the official opening of nominations and campaigns.
5.2. ***"Lobbying"*** includes persuasion, canvassing, social media advocacy, meetings, statements, or symbolic acts intended to influence delegate preferences.
5.3. ***"Accredited Delegate"*** means a person formally approved to attend and participate in an elective conference.

6. FUNDAMENTAL ELECTIVE CONFERENCE PRINCIPLES

All elective processes shall be guided by:

a) Equality of members;

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b) Institutional neutrality prior to campaign opening;
c) Secrecy of the ballot;
d) Ethical conduct and discipline;
e) Independence of electoral administration.

7. REGULATION OF PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LOBBYING

7.1. Prohibition of Premature Endorsements

7.1.1. No member may publicly or privately announce, endorse, campaign for, or lobby in favour of any prospective candidate or leadership slate before the Secretariat formally announces:
a) The opening of nominations; and
b) The commencement of campaign activities.

7.1.2. This prohibition applies to all platforms, including meetings, social media, public events, religious gatherings, and media engagements.

7.2. Duties of Members Upon Premature Lobbying

7.2.1. Any member whose name is publicly associated with premature lobbying, whether directly or indirectly, shall have a positive duty to:
a) Issue a written public statement distancing themselves from such lobbying;
b) Reaffirm commitment to institutional neutrality;
c) Notify the Secretariat in writing within seven (7) days.

7.2.2. Failure to comply shall constitute prima facie misconduct.

7.3. Consequences of Non-Distancing

7.3.1. Any member who:
a) Encourages premature lobbying; or
b) Fails, neglects, or refuses to distance themselves from such lobbying,shall be deemed to have violated this Policy.

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7.3.2. Sanctions may include:

a) Disqualification from nomination;
b) Removal from delegate lists;
c) Suspension;
d) Nullification of votes influenced by such conduct.

8. MEMBERSHIP GOOD STANDING AND CUT-OFF REQUIREMENTS

8.1. A member shall be in good standing only if:

a) Membership fees have been paid continuously for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months;
b) No bulk or third-party payments were made;
c) The member has complied with organisational duties;
d) The member is not under disciplinary sanction.

8.2. Membership cut-off dates shall be declared at least twelve (12) months before an elective conference.

9. ABNORMAL MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND AUDIT MECHANISM

9.1. Sudden growth in membership numbers or fees **within twelve (12) months** before a conference shall automatically trigger a Membership Integrity Review.

9.2. Where no growth occurred in the preceding three (3) years, such increase shall be presumed irregular unless rebutted.

9.3. The Independent Membership Audit Committee shall verify legitimacy and recommend remedial action.

10. NOMINATION ELIGIBILITY AND CAMPAIGN CONDUCT

10.1. Only members in good standing for thirty-six (36) months may stand for leadership.

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10.2. All campaign funding and support must be disclosed.

10.3. Slate politics, vote buying, inducements, and coercion are prohibited.

11. ACCREDITATION OF ELECTIVE CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

11.1. Accreditation Authority

All attendees must be accredited by the Independent Electoral Commission of AAAIC (IECA).

11.2. Categories of Accredited Attendees

Accredited attendees may include:

a) Voting delegates;
b) Non-voting observers;
c) Electoral officials;
d) Accredited media or guests (where applicable).

11.3. Accreditation Requirements

11.3.1. To qualify for accreditation, an attendee must:

a) Be a member in good standing;
b) Appear on a certified membership register;
c) Have paid all required fees;
d) Produce valid identification;
e) Meet minimum attendance and participation requirements at the relevant structure.

11.3.2. Any person failing accreditation requirements shall be denied access.

12. VOTING AND DELEGATE QUALIFICATIONS

12.1. Only accredited delegates may vote.

12.2. Delegates must:

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a) Have attended a minimum number of meetings;

b) Have no pending disciplinary matters;

c) Be free from audit disputes.

13. OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS

13.1. Breach of this Policy constitutes serious organisational misconduct.

13.2. Sanctions include disqualification, suspension, removal from office, nullification of results, or lifetime bans.

14. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND LEGAL FINALITY

14.1. All disputes must be resolved internally before any external process.

14.2. Decisions taken in accordance with this Policy shall be final and binding, subject to procedural fairness.

15. COMMENCEMENT AND STATUS

15.1. This Policy takes effect upon adoption.

15.2. It forms an integral annexure to the AAAIC Constitution.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENTS GOVERNING ELECTIVE CONFERENCES

This document contains standalone and binding instruments adopted pursuant to, and in support of, the **AAAIC Elective Conference Integrity, Eligibility and Anti-Manipulation Policy**.

PART A:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CANDIDATES AND SUPPORTERS

1. STATUS AND PURPOSE

1.1. This Code of Conduct is a standalone, binding instrument regulating the conduct of all candidates, prospective candidates, supporters, lobbyists, and campaign operatives.

1.2. Compliance with this Code is mandatory and constitutes a prerequisite for participation in any elective process of AAAIC.

2. APPLICATION

This Code applies to:

a) All declared and prospective candidates;

b) All members acting in support of any candidate;

c) Campaign teams, formal or informal;

d) Any person acting with the knowledge or consent of a candidate.

3. GENERAL DUTIES

Candidates and supporters shall:

a) Uphold the principles of meritocracy, discipline, and integrity;

b) Respect institutional neutrality prior to official campaign periods;

c) Comply with all directives issued by the Secretariat and IECA;

d) Act honestly, transparently, and in good faith.

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4. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct is strictly prohibited:

a) Premature campaigning or lobbying;

b) Vote buying or inducements of any kind;

c) Bulk payment of membership fees;

d) Formation or enforcement of slates;

e) Abuse of party platforms, insignia, or resources;

f) Intimidation, coercion, or misinformation.

5. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORTER CONDUCT

5.1. Candidates are strictly liable for the conduct of their supporters where:

a) Such conduct is reasonably foreseeable; or

b) The candidate fails to take reasonable steps to prevent or repudiate it.

5.2. Failure to issue a public distancing statement constitutes endorsement.

6. SANCTIONS

Sanctions include:

a) Warning;

b) Disqualification;

c) Suspension;

d) Nullification of election results;

e) Permanent ineligibility for leadership.

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PART B:

IECA REGULATIONS (OPERATIONAL RULES)

7. ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

7.1. The Independent Electoral Commission of AAAIC (IECA) is hereby established as the sole authority responsible for administering all elective conferences.

7.2. IECA shall operate independently, impartially, and without interference.

8. COMPOSITION

IECA shall consist of members who:

a) Are not candidates;

b) Have no conflict of interest;

c) Possess integrity and organisational experience.

9. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

IECA shall have the power to:

a) Manage nominations and campaigns;

b) Accredit delegates and attendees;

c) Conduct audits and investigations;

d) Enforce compliance and impose sanctions;

e) Announce and certify results.

10. PROCEDURAL POWERS

10.1. IECA may issue binding directives.

10.2. IECA may suspend or postpone conferences where integrity is compromised.

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PART C:

CONFERENCE ACCREDITATION REGULATIONS (SCHEDULE A)

11. ACCREDITATION PRINCIPLES

11.1. Accreditation shall be objective, transparent, and verifiable.

11.2. No person may access a conference venue without accreditation.

12. ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION

To be accredited, a person must:

a) Be a member in good standing;

b) Appear on the certified register;

c) Have paid all fees personally;

d) Meet attendance thresholds;

e) Produce valid identification.

13. CATEGORIES OF ACCREDITATION

13.1. Voting Delegates;

13.2. Non-Voting Delegates;

13.3. Observers;

13.4. IECA Officials.

14. DISQUALIFICATION FROM ACCREDITATION

Accreditation shall be denied where:

a) Membership is disputed;

b) Audit findings are unresolved;

c) Disciplinary proceedings are pending.

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PART D:

TRANSITIONAL CLAUSE – FIRST NATIONAL ELECTIVE CONFERENCE

15. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

15.1. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the first National Elective Conference of AAAIC shall be governed by this Policy and its supplementary instruments.

15.2. Given the formative nature of the organisation:

a) Minimum membership periods may be reduced by IECA resolution;
b) Special verification measures shall apply;
c) Enhanced audits shall be mandatory.

15.3. No waiver may compromise integrity, fairness, or legality.

16. FINALITY

16.1. These instruments are binding and enforceable.
16.2. They shall be read together with the AAAIC Constitution and Elective Conference Integrity Policy.

17. POLICY HIERARCHY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

17.1. This Policy establishes a uniform, comprehensive, and binding framework governing all matters relating to elective conferences, including nominations, campaigning, accreditation, voting, and leadership selection within **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)**.

17.2. In the event of any overlap, duplication, inconsistency, or contradiction between this Policy and:

- any other AAAIC policy;
- any code of conduct;
- any guideline, manual, directive, circular, or protocol; or

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- any resolution, custom, practice, or precedent dealing with similar or related subject matter,

  this Policy shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

17.3. Where two or more policies regulate the same issue without direct inconsistency, they shall be interpreted harmoniously, provided that such interpretation:

- does not undermine electoral integrity;
- does not dilute anti-corruption safeguards; and
- does not weaken enforcement mechanisms contained in this Policy.

17.4. No structure, office bearer, candidate, or member may rely on another policy or instrument to justify conduct that is prohibited, restricted, or more strictly regulated under this Policy.

17.5. Any uncertainty, dispute, or interpretive conflict arising from overlapping policies shall be referred to the **Independent Electoral Commission of AAAIC (IECA)**, whose determination shall be binding, subject only to internal appeal mechanisms provided for in the Constitution.

AMENDED DISPUTE-RESOLUTION CLAUSE

18. DISPUTE RESOLUTION, POLICY CONFLICTS AND LEGAL FINALITY

18.1. All disputes arising from the application, interpretation, or enforcement of this Policy—including disputes relating to conflicts between this Policy and any other AAAIC policy or instrument—shall be resolved internally.

18.2. Where a dispute concerns overlapping or conflicting provisions:

- this Policy shall enjoy primacy;
- the interpretation that best advances meritocracy, fairness, transparency, and electoral credibility shall prevail; and
- no member may rely on ambiguity, silence, or alternative instruments to evade compliance.

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18.3. Decisions taken in accordance with this Policy and confirmed through internal appeal mechanisms shall be final and binding.

18.4. No member or structure may approach any court or external forum unless all internal remedies have been fully exhausted.

19. CONSTITUTIONAL INCORPORATION AND SUPREMACY CLAUSE

19.1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Clause is to formally incorporate the **Elective Conference Integrity, Eligibility and Anti-Manipulation Policy** and its Supplementary Instruments into the Constitution of ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC), and to confer upon them binding constitutional status.

19.2. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

19.2.1. The following instruments are hereby incorporated into, and form an integral part of, the AAAIC Constitution:

a) The *Elective Conference Integrity, Eligibility and Anti-Manipulation Policy*;

b) The *Code of Conduct for Candidates and Supporters*;

c) The *Independent Electoral Commission of AAAIC (IECA) Regulations*;

d) The *Conference Accreditation Regulations (Schedule A)*;

e) Any lawful amendments or schedules adopted in terms thereof.

19.2.2. These instruments shall be binding on:

a) All members of AAAIC;

b) All structures at Branch, Regional, Provincial, and National level;

c) All leaders, deployees, candidates, and supporters;

d) All persons participating in AAAIC elective processes.

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20. POLICY HIERARCHY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

20.1. This Clause establishes a uniform, comprehensive, and binding framework governing all matters relating to elective conferences, nominations, campaigning, accreditation, voting, and leadership selection within AAAIC.

20.2. In the event of any overlap, duplication, inconsistency, or contradiction between this Clause or its incorporated instruments and:

a) Any other AAAIC policy;
b) Any code of conduct;
c) Any guideline, manual, directive, circular, or protocol; or
d) Any resolution, custom, practice, or precedent dealing with similar or related subject matter,**this Clause and its incorporated instruments shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.**

20.3. Where two or more policies regulate the same issue without direct inconsistency, they shall be interpreted harmoniously, provided that such interpretation:

- does not undermine electoral integrity;
- does not dilute anti-corruption safeguards; and
- does not weaken enforcement mechanisms contained in this Clause.

20.4. No structure, office bearer, candidate, or member may rely on another policy or instrument to justify conduct that is prohibited, restricted, or more strictly regulated under this Clause.

20.5. Any uncertainty, dispute, or interpretive conflict arising from overlapping policies shall be referred to the **Independent Electoral Commission of AAAIC (IECA)**, whose determination shall be binding, subject only to internal appeal mechanisms provided for in the Constitution.

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21. SUPREMACY AND PRECEDENCE

21.1. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between:
a) Any conference rules, guidelines, practices, resolutions, or customs; and

b) The instruments listed in this Clause ,**the instruments listed in herein shall prevail.**

21.2. No structure or office bearer shall have the authority to suspend, waive, or derogate from the application of these instruments, except as expressly provided therein.

22. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

22.1. The Independent Electoral Commission of AAAIC (IECA) is hereby constitutionally mandated as the sole authority responsible for:

a) Interpretation;

b) Implementation;

c) Enforcement; and

d) Administrationmof all elective conference processes.

22.2. Decisions of IECA taken in good faith, lawfully, and in accordance with due process shall be final and binding, subject only to internal appeal mechanisms provided for in the Constitution.

23. LEGAL FINALITY, POLICY CONFLICTS AND INTERNAL REMEDIES

23.1. All disputes arising from the application, interpretation, or enforcement of this Clause, including disputes relating to conflicts between this Clause or its incorporated instruments and any other AAAIC policy or instrument, shall be resolved internally.

23.2. Where a dispute concerns overlapping or conflicting provisions: a) This Clause and its incorporated instruments shall enjoy primacy; b) The interpretation that best advances meritocracy, fairness, transparency, and electoral credibility shall prevail; and c) No member may rely on ambiguity, silence, or alternative instruments to evade compliance.

23.3. Appeals shall be lodged within prescribed timelines and determined by the appropriate internal body.

23.4. Internal remedies must be exhausted before any court, tribunal, or external forum may be approached.

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23.5. This Clause is intended to promote internal democracy, legal certainty, organisational stability, and uniform policy compliance.

24. TRANSITIONAL VALIDATION

24.1. All elective conferences conducted after the adoption of this Clause shall be governed by the incorporated instruments.

24.2. Any prior practices inconsistent with these instruments are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

25. ADOPTION AND COMMENCEMENT

25.1. This Clause shall be adopted by resolution of the National Conference or any competent constitutional structure of AAAIC.

25.2. It shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication.

ADOPTED IN TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)

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