LOYALTY, MEMBERSHIP CONTINUITY, DEFECTION, RE-ADMISSION AND LEADERSHIP ELIGIBILITY POLICY

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RECITALS

WHEREAS AAAIC is a voluntary political association founded on principles of collective action, political participation, discipline, accountability, and organisational integrity;

AND WHEREAS membership of AAAIC is founded upon voluntary association and mutual commitment between the Party and its members;

AND WHEREAS the Party recognises the constitutional principles of freedom of association and the right of individuals to join, leave, or re-join political organisations;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary for the proper functioning of the Party to regulate membership continuity, renewal, resignation, defection, re-admission, and leadership eligibility in a manner that is fair, transparent, consistent, and objectively verifiable;

AND WHEREAS the Party seeks to balance individual political rights with the legitimate interests of organisational stability, internal democracy, and protection of members who maintain continuous loyalty;

NOW THEREFORE this Policy is adopted as an internal governance framework binding on all members and structures of AAAIC.

SECTION 1

1. **DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

In this Policy, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(a) "Member" means a person whose membership has been validly admitted and remains active in accordance with this Policy.

(b) "Membership" means a continuing voluntary relationship between a person and AAAIC subject to compliance with membership obligations.

(c) "Good Standing" means a member whose membership fees are current, who has complied with renewal obligations, and who is not under suspension.

(d) "Defection" means objectively verifiable participation in, candidature for, or formal association with another registered political party.

(e) "Resignation" means a voluntary termination of membership communicated in a clear and unambiguous manner and confirmed by the Party in accordance with this Policy.

(f) "Membership Lapse" means termination of membership due to failure to comply with renewal obligations following due notice and opportunity to rectify.

(g) "Re-admission" means acceptance of a former member back into the Party under conditions determined in accordance with this Policy.

(h) "Leadership Position" means any elected or appointed position within any structure of AAAIC.

(i) "Competent Structure" means Branch, Regional, Provincial or National Executive Committee, depending on jurisdiction.

Interpretation:

This Policy shall be interpreted in a manner that:

(a) promotes procedural fairness,
(b) ensures objective decision-making,
(c) prevents arbitrariness,
(d) and maintains organisational integrity.

SECTION 2

2. LEGAL STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION

2.1. AAAIC is a voluntary political association. Membership is not a proprietary right but a contractual and associative relationship governed by this Policy.

2.2. Membership confers rights only while the member remains in good standing and compliant with this Policy.

2.3. No provision in this Policy shall be interpreted to:

(a) compel continued membership,
(b) prevent resignation, or
(c) unlawfully restrict political association.

2.4. However, membership rights, leadership eligibility, and internal privileges are conditional upon compliance with this Policy and may be withdrawn in accordance with fair procedure.

2.5. This Policy creates internal rules governing:

(a) admission,
(b) continuation,
(c) termination,
(d) and re-admission of membership.

SECTION 3

3. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

3.1. The purpose of this Policy is to:

(a) regulate membership continuity in a clear and objective manner;
(b) ensure fair treatment of all members;
(c) protect organisational stability and continuity;
(d) establish clear standards for leadership eligibility;
(e) regulate defection and re-admission processes;
(f) prevent disputes arising from unclear membership status;
(g) protect the integrity of AAAIC structures.

3.2. This Policy applies to:

(a) all members of AAAIC;
(b) all office bearers;
(c) all candidates for leadership positions;
(d) all structures of the Party.

3.3. This Policy shall be applied consistently across all structures of AAAIC.

3.4 In case of conflict between this Policy and internal practices, this Policy shall prevail unless otherwise determined by the National Executive Committee in a formally recorded resolution.

SECTION 4

4. MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION AND CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS

4.1. Admission as a Discretionary Administrative Act

Membership of AAAIC is acquired only upon:

(a) submission of a valid application; and
(b) formal acceptance and recording by a competent Party structure.

No person shall be regarded as a member unless such admission has been recorded in the official membership register.

4.2. Nature of Membership

Membership constitutes a continuing voluntary association subject to compliance with:

(a) this Policy;
(b) the Constitution of AAAIC; and
(c) lawful resolutions of Party structures.

4.3. Continuing Obligations

Every member must:

(a) maintain accurate membership records;
(b) pay prescribed membership fees;
(c) comply with renewal requirements;
(d) participate in reasonable Party activities;
(e) refrain from conduct that materially undermines the Party.

4.4. Good Standing Requirement

Only members in good standing may:

(a) vote in internal processes;
(b) be nominated for leadership;
(c) hold office;
(d) represent the Party.

4.5. No Automatic or Perpetual Rights

Membership does not confer:

(a) permanent entitlement to office;
(b) automatic seniority; or
(c) vested leadership rights.

SECTION 5

5. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE VALIDITY

5.1. Annual Renewal Requirement

Membership shall be subject to annual renewal as determined by the Party.

Renewal is an administrative requirement for maintaining active status.

5.2. Renewal Notice Requirement

The Party shall provide reasonable notice of renewal requirements to members using available communication channels.

Failure to receive notice shall not automatically invalidate renewal obligations where reasonable means of communication were used.

5.3. Cure Period for Non-Renewal

Where a member fails to renew timeously, the Party shall provide a minimum cure period of 30 (thirty) days to regularise membership.

During this period, membership status remains provisional.

5.4. Confirmation of Renewal

Membership renewal is only effective upon:

(a) payment confirmation; and
(b) administrative recording in the membership register.

5.5. Burden of Proof

A person asserting membership bears the responsibility of proving valid renewal where disputed.

SECTION 6

6. MEMBERSHIP LAPSE AND ADMINISTRATIVE TERMINATION

6.1. Principle of Procedural Lapse

Membership does not terminate automatically by mere failure to renew.

Membership may only be terminated through a **formal administrative determination** confirming lapse.

6.2. Grounds for Membership Lapse

A finding of membership lapse may be made where:

(a) renewal has not occurred;
(b) the cure period has expired; and
(c) the member has failed to respond to formal notice.

6.3. Mandatory Notice Before Lapse

Before any determination of lapse, the Party must:

(a) issue written notice of non-compliance;
(b) allow a minimum 30-day response period; and
(c) inform the member of possible consequences.

6.4. Decision by Competent Structure

Membership lapse only becomes effective after a decision is made and recorded by:

(a) Branch Executive Committee; or
(b) Regional Executive Committee, depending on structure rules.

6.5. Effective Date of Lapse

Lapse takes effect only from the date of the recorded decision.

6.6. Right to Challenge

A member may dispute a lapse determination through internal appeal mechanisms provided in this Policy.

6.7. Legal Character of Lapse

A membership lapse is:

(a) administrative;
(b) reviewable; and
(c) subject to internal appeal.

It is not punitive in nature.

SECTION 7

7. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

7.1. Right to Resign

(a) Every member has an unrestricted right to resign from AAAIC at any time.
(b) This Policy does not limit or penalise the lawful exercise of that right.

7.2. Valid Resignation Requirements

A resignation is only valid if it is:

(a) clear and unambiguous; and
(b) communicated to a competent Party structure (in writing, electronically, or orally in a

verifiable setting); and

(c) confirmed by the Party through administrative recording.

7.3. Requirement of Confirmation

No resignation shall be regarded as finally effective until:

(a) it has been received; and
(b) it has been formally recorded in the Party membership register.

7.4. Withdrawal Before Confirmation

(a) A member may withdraw a resignation before confirmation by the Party.
(b) After confirmation, the member must apply for re-admission.

7.5. No Presumed Resignation

Resignation shall not be presumed from:

(a) silence;
(b) temporary absence;
(c) non-attendance at meetings; or
(d) internal disagreements.

SECTION 8

8. DEFECTION AND ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES

8.1. Definition Based on Objective Proof

Defection shall only be established where there is reliable and objective evidence that a member has:

(a) formally joined another political party; or
(b) accepted candidacy or office in another political party; or
(c) publicly represented another political party in an official capacity.

8.2. No Assumptions of Defection

Defection shall not be inferred from:

(a) political opinions;
(b) attendance at public events; or
(c) unverified allegations.

8.3. Verification Requirement

Before any determination of defection is made, the Party must:

(a) obtain supporting evidence; and
(b) provide the member an opportunity to respond.

8.4. Interim Protective Status

Where defection is alleged but not yet confirmed, the member may be placed under:

(a) administrative review status; or
(b) precautionary suspension from leadership duties,
pending final determination.

8.5. Effect of Confirmed Defection

Once confirmed through due process:

(a) membership status shall be terminated administratively;
(b) leadership positions shall cease; and
(c) re-admission procedures shall apply.

SECTION 9

9. DETERMINATION PROCEDURES AND EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS

9.1. Principle of Natural Justice

All decisions under this Policy must comply with:

(a) notice of allegations;
(b) reasonable opportunity to respond;
(c) impartial decision-making; and
(d) written reasons.

9.2. Standard of Proof

All findings shall be made on a balance of probabilities.

9.3. Evidence Requirements

A decision affecting membership status must be supported by at least one of the following:

(a) documentary evidence;
(b) verified communications;
(c) official Party records;
(d) credible witness testimony; or
(e) admissions by the member.

9.4. No Hearsay-Based Decisions

Decisions shall not be based solely on:

(a) rumours;
(b) unverified social media claims; or
(c) anonymous allegations.

9.5. Written Reasons Requirement

Every decision affecting membership status must include:

(a) factual findings;
(b) evidence relied upon; and
(c) reasons for the decision.

9.6. Right to Internal Review

Any affected member may request review in accordance with the internal dispute resolution framework of AAAIC.

SECTION 10

10. LEADERSHIP ELIGIBILITY FRAMEWORK

10.1. General Principle

Leadership within AAAIC is not a right arising from membership, but a position of trust conferred through internal democratic processes and subject to eligibility criteria set out in this Policy.

10.2. Core Eligibility Requirements

A person is eligible for nomination or appointment to any leadership position only if:

(a) they are a member in good standing;
(b) their membership has not been subject to unresolved disciplinary action;
(c) their membership status is active and verified in the Party register; and
(d) they comply with any applicable eligibility conditions in this Policy.

10.3. Continuous Membership Consideration

(a) Continuous membership may be taken into account as a relevant factor in assessing

suitability for leadership.

(b) However, it shall not operate as an automatic disqualification mechanism unless expressly determined under this Policy.

10.4. Defection and Past Membership Interruptions

Where a person has previously:

(a) resigned;
(b) had membership lapse; or
(c) been confirmed as having defected;such history may be considered in assessing leadership suitability.

This consideration must be:

(a) rational;
(b) documented; and
(c) relevant to organisational integrity.

10.5. No Automatic Exclusion

(a) No person shall be automatically excluded from leadership consideration solely on the basis of prior resignation or defection.

(b) All eligibility determinations must be made on a case-by-case basis.

10.6. Discretion of Competent Structures

The National Executive Committee or delegated structure may:

(a) approve eligibility;
(b) defer eligibility pending further review; or
(c) impose reasonable conditions for eligibility.
Such discretion must be exercised in good faith and for a legitimate Party purpose.

10.7. Cooling-Off as a Conditional Factor

Where applicable, a prior break in membership may justify a **conditional eligibility period**, which may include:

(a) delayed eligibility for leadership nomination;
(b) probationary participation in Party structures; or
(c) performance-based assessment prior to leadership consideration.

10.8. Reasoned Decisions Required

All decisions relating to leadership eligibility must:

(a) be recorded in writing; and
(b) include reasons based on objective considerations.

SECTION 11

11. RE-ADMISSION OF FORMER MEMBERS

11.1. Re-Admission as Discretionary

Re-admission to AAAIC is a discretionary administrative decision and not an entitlement.

11.2. Application Requirement

A former member seeking re-admission must submit:
(a) a written application;
(b) disclosure of previous membership history; and
(c) reasons for departure and return.

11.3. Assessment Criteria

The Party shall consider:

(a) previous conduct within AAAIC;
(b) reasons for resignation or defection;
(c) conduct during absence;
(d) current commitment to Party principles; and
(e) impact on organisational stability.

11.4. No Restoration of Prior Status

Re-admission does not restore:

(a) previous leadership positions;
(b) seniority; or
(c) historical privileges.

All returning members enter on a **new membership footing**, subject to this Policy.

11.5. Probationary Membership

The Party may place a re-admitted member under probation, during which:

(a) leadership eligibility may be restricted;
(b) participation may be monitored; and
(c) continued membership may be reviewed.

11.6. Conditions of Re-Admission

Re-admission may be subject to reasonable conditions, including:

(a) signing of a commitment declaration;
(b) participation in induction processes; and
(c) compliance monitoring.

11.7. Decision Authority

The National Executive Committee shall be the final decision-maker on re-admission matters.

SECTION 12

12. COOLING-OFF AND ELIGIBILITY PERIODS

12.1. Purpose

Cooling-off periods are intended to:

(a) ensure stability in Party leadership;
(b) allow assessment of commitment; and
(c) prevent rapid movement between political organisations and leadership positions.

12.2. Discretionary Nature

Cooling-off periods are not automatic penalties.

They may be imposed only where the competent structure considers them reasonable and necessary.

12.3. Factors for Imposition

In deciding whether to apply a cooling-off period, consideration shall be given to:

(a) length of absence from the Party;
(b) nature of departure;
(c) conduct during absence;
(d) impact on Party integrity.

12.4. Form of Cooling-Off Measures

Cooling-off measures may include:

(a) delayed eligibility for leadership;
(b) restricted nomination rights; or
(c) probationary participation in leadership structures.

12.5. No Retrospective Punishment

Cooling-off periods shall apply prospectively from the date of re-admission and shall not operate as retrospective disciplinary sanctions.

SECTION 13

13. PROTECTION OF CONTINUOUS MEMBERS

13.1. Principle of Continuity Protection

AAAIC recognises that members who maintain continuous membership contribute to organisational stability and must not be unfairly prejudiced by re-admission of former members.

13.2. Non-Prejudice Rule

The re-admission of a former member shall not, in itself, result in:

(a) displacement of existing office bearers;
(b) automatic reduction of seniority of existing members; or
(c) removal of members from positions lawfully held.

13.3. Merit-Based Allocation of Positions

All leadership appointments shall be determined on the basis of:

(a) competence;
(b) organisational need;
(c) performance; and
(d) compliance with eligibility criteria.

13.4. Protection Against Disruption

The Party shall avoid structural disruption arising from re-admission processes by ensuring that:

(a) existing leadership structures remain stable; and
(b) any integration of returning members is managed in an orderly manner.

13.5. No Preferential Restoration

Returning members shall not be entitled to preferential treatment over continuously active members unless expressly justified by objective criteria recorded in writing.

SECTION 14

14. INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

14.1. Hierarchical Authority Structure

Decisions under this Policy shall be made in accordance with the following hierarchy:

(a) Branch Executive Committee (first instance);
(b) Regional Executive Committee (review level);
(c) Provincial Executive Committee (appeal level);
(d) National Executive Committee (final internal authority).

14.2. Scope of Authority

Each structure may only exercise powers expressly granted to it under this Policy.

No structure may assume powers beyond its designated jurisdiction.

14.3. Delegated Authority

The National Executive Committee may delegate administrative functions but shall not delegate:

(a) final interpretation of this Policy; or
(b) final determination of disputes affecting membership status or leadership eligibility.

14.4. Consistency Requirement

All structures must apply this Policy consistently to ensure uniform governance standards across AAAIC.

14.5. Written Record Requirement

All decisions affecting membership or leadership eligibility must:

(a) be recorded in writing; and
(b) be stored in official Party records.

SECTION 15

15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND APPEALS

15.1. Internal Resolution Principle

All disputes arising under this Policy must be resolved internally within AAAIC structures before any external consideration.

15.2. Right to Be Heard

Any member affected by a decision shall have the right to:

(a) receive written notice of the issue;
(b) respond within a reasonable time; and
(c) present relevant information.

15.3. Grounds for Review

A decision may be reviewed where it is alleged that:

(a) procedural fairness was not observed;
(b) relevant facts were ignored;
(c) irrelevant considerations were taken into account; or
(d) the decision was unreasonable on available evidence.

15.4. Appeals Hierarchy

Appeals shall proceed through the following stages:

(a) Branch → Regional Committee;
(b) Regional → Provincial Committee;
(c) Provincial → National Executive Committee.

15.5. Standard of Review

Appeal bodies may:

(a) confirm the decision;
(b) vary the decision; or
(c) remit the matter for reconsideration.

15.6. Finality of Internal Decisions

The decision of the National Executive Committee shall constitute final determination within AAAIC internal governance structures.

15.7. Written Reasons

All appeal decisions must include written reasons referencing:

(a) facts considered;
(b) policy provisions applied; and
(c) rationale for the outcome.

15.8. Good Governance Standard

All dispute resolution processes shall be conducted in accordance with:

(a) fairness;
(b) transparency;
(c) consistency; and
(d) rational decision-making.

OATH OF LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT

1. PREAMBLE

I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily associate myself with **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC),** a voluntary political organisation founded on principles of democratic participation, organisational discipline, accountability, and service to the public interest.

I acknowledge that membership of AAAIC is voluntary and subject to the Party's Constitution, policies, and lawful internal governance structures.

2. DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

I solemnly declare that:

2.1. I voluntarily choose to become and/or remain a member of AAAIC.
2.2. I commit to uphold and respect the Constitution, policies, resolutions, and lawful decisions of AAAIC.
2.3. I shall act in good faith in my participation within the structures of the Party.
2.4. I shall not intentionally engage in conduct that materially and demonstrably undermines the legitimate functioning of AAAIC.

3. POLITICAL ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that:
3.1 I retain the constitutional right to freedom of association, including the right to resign from or join any political organisation at any time.
3.2 However, I accept that continued participation in AAAIC leadership structures is conditional upon compliance with internal eligibility requirements as determined in accordance with Party policy.

3.3 Any future re-admission into AAAIC after resignation, lapse, or defection shall be subject to the Party's applicable rules at the time of application.

4. LEADERSHIP AND OFFICE BEARER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Where applicable, I acknowledge that:

4.1. Leadership positions within AAAIC are positions of trust and are not automatic entitlements arising from membership.
4.2. Prior leadership experience does not create an automatic right to reinstatement or preferential appointment upon re-admission.
4.3. Eligibility for leadership positions shall be determined in accordance with the Party's applicable policies and procedures.

5. DISCIPLINARY AND PROCEDURAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I further acknowledge that:

5.1. Any alleged breach of Party rules or this commitment shall be dealt with through internal processes that comply with principles of procedural fairness.
5.2. I shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to respond to any allegations made against me before any adverse determination is made.
5.3. I accept that decisions of competent Party structures, made in accordance with due process, shall be binding within the internal governance framework of AAAIC.

6. VOLUNTARINESS AND NO DURESS

I confirm that:

6.1. I enter into this commitment freely and voluntarily.
6.2. I have not been subjected to coercion, undue influence, or misrepresentation in signing this Oath.
6.3. I understand the content and implications of this Oath.

7. GENERAL PRINCIPLE

I acknowledge that this Oath is an internal governance instrument of AAAIC intended to regulate organisational discipline, participation, and accountability, and does not create obligations beyond the Party's lawful internal framework.

8. SIGNATURE

Signed at: _____

Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Identity Number: _____

Signature: _____

WITNESSES

Witness 1: _____
(Name and Surname)

Identity Number : _____

Signature: _____

Witness 2: _____
(Name and Surname)

Identity Number : _____

Signature: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

The two witnesses must be the paid up members of the party