ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)

POLICY ON PARTY CONFERENCES AND POLICY FORUMS

Adopted by the National Executive Committee (NEC) on: 05th February 2025

Effective Date: 05th February 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Policy on Party Conferences and Policy Forums serves as a framework for **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)** to structure, convene, manage, and implement outcomes of its conferences and forums.

1.2. This policy aims to ensure that such activities are held with integrity, transparency, inclusivity, and democratic participation.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Regulate the manner in which party conferences and policy forums are convened.
- Promote participatory democracy and internal accountability.
- Facilitate ideological, strategic, and operational development.
- Strengthen party cohesion and programme delivery.

2.2. Objectives:

- To unify members under a common policy and ideological platform.
- To allow members to review party performance and set future priorities.
- To ensure democratic renewal of leadership through elective conferences.
- To create a space for policy research, analysis, and debate.

3. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

- All structures of the party including Branch Executive Committees (BEC), Regional Executive Committees (REC), Provincial Executive Committees (PEC), and the National Executive Committee (NEC).
- All officially recognised members of AAAIC.
- All delegates nominated to attend AAAIC conferences and forums.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. **Party Conference**: A formally convened assembly of elected and/or appointed delegates to deliberate on and adopt resolutions on party policy, leadership, and programmes.

4.2. **Policy Forum**: A structured engagement platform for in-depth analysis and debate on specific thematic areas or policy sectors.

4.3. **Delegate**: A representative appointed or elected by a lower structure to attend a higher-level conference.

4.4. **Quorum**: The minimum number of delegates required for the decisions of the forum or conference to be valid.

4.5. **Resolutions**: Formal decisions taken by a forum or conference.

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

5.1. **Democratic Participation**: Equal opportunity for participation without discrimination.
5.2. **Accountability and Transparency**: Open and fair processes.
5.3. **Ideological Clarity**: Forums must reflect the values of AAAIC.
5.4. **Inclusivity and Representation**: Balanced gender, age, and sectoral representation.

6. TYPES OF PARTY CONFERENCES

6.1. Founding Conference

Establishes the Constitution, vision, and ideological foundation of AAAIC.

6.2. Branch General Meetings (BGM)

Annual or biennial meetings to review local performance and elect BEC.

6.3. Regional Conferences

Elect RECs and align regional programmes.

6.4. Provincial Conferences

Elect PECs, debate policy resolutions, and prepare for national conferences.

6.5. National Elective Conference

Held every four (4) years, twelve (12) months preceding the National and Provincial Elections (NPEs), to elect the NEC, amend the Constitution, and adopt national policy.

7. TYPES OF POLICY FORUMS

7.1. Sectoral Policy Forums

Focus on health, education, economy, land, governance, etc.

7.2. National Policy Dialogue

Held to debate national priorities and feed into conference resolutions.

7.3. Strategic Retreats

Closed high-level sessions to assess the political environment.

8. CONVENING AUTHORITY AND CUSTODIANSHIP

8.1. The NEC is the highest administrative authority for convening national conferences and forums.

8.2. The PEC shall convene provincial conferences in accordance with this policy.

8.3. RECs may convene regional events subject to approval.

8.4. **The General Council (Council of the Party Founders), in conjunction with the NEC, shall serve as the ultimate custodian of this policy**, ensuring ideological and constitutional compliance.

9. COMPOSITION AND DELEGATES

- Delegates must be democratically elected.
- Each branch, region, or province must submit credentials in advance.
- Observers may be invited but may not vote.

10. AGENDA AND PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

- Draft agenda must be circulated 30 days in advance.

- Agenda items must include:
    - Political report
    - Organisational report
    - Financial report
    - Policy debates
    - Elections (where applicable)
    - Resolutions

11. QUORUM AND DECISION-MAKING

- Quorum shall be 50% + 1 of accredited delegates.
- Decisions shall be taken by simple majority.
- Amendments to the Constitution require a two-thirds majority.

12. RESOLUTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Resolutions are binding on all structures.
- Implementation plans must be developed within 30 days post-conference.
- Resolutions must be published and communicated to members.

13. FREQUENCY AND TIMING

13.1. **Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Conferences**: Held every four (4) years, twelve (12) months before the proclamation of Local Government Elections (LGEs).

13.2. **Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) Conferences**: Held every four (4) years, twelve (12) months prior to the proclamation of National and Provincial Elections (NPEs).

13.3. **National Executive Committee (NEC) Conference**: Held every four (4) years, twelve (12) months prior to NPEs.

13.4. **Policy Forums**: Convened as needed, but at least once annually.

14. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **NEC**: Strategic direction and national coordination
- **PEC/REC**: Convening and execution at provincial/regional level
- **BEC**: Grassroots mobilisation
- **Secretary-General**: Oversight of logistics and communication
- **Treasurer-General**: Financial management

15. FUNDING AND LOGISTICS

- Conferences and forums shall be funded through party funds, donations (subject to the Political Party Funding Act), and grants.
- A dedicated bank account must be used.
- All procurement must follow the party's financial policies.

16. PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT

- All delegates must observe party discipline and ethical behaviour.
- Any disruptive conduct will lead to removal.
- Code of conduct to be signed by each delegate.

17. REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

- All proceedings must be recorded.
- Reports must be submitted within 14 days to the NEC.
- Conference resolutions to be archived and made accessible online.

18. CONFIDENTIALITY AND MEDIA

- Only the designated spokesperson may engage the media.
- Confidential sessions must be clearly marked.
- Media participation requires accreditation.

19. CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS POLICY AND OTHER POLICIES

Where this policy is found to be inconsistent with any other party policy, the policy that best reflects the outcomes and purpose of democratic conference participation shall prevail. This policy must be read in conjunction with all other policies dealing with party governance, decision-making, and constitutional compliance.

20. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

20.1. This policy shall be reviewed every 5 years or earlier by resolution of the NEC in consultation with the General Council.

20.2. Amendments must be tabled in writing and adopted by a two-thirds majority of the NEC or the National Conference.

21. EFFECTIVE DATE AND COMMENCEMENT

This policy shall come into effect on the date of its adoption by the NEC or as specified herein. All subsequent conferences and forums shall comply with the provisions of this policy.

22. CUSTODIANSHIP

22.1. The **General Council (Council of the Party Founders)**, in conjunction with the **NEC**, shall be the principal custodians of this policy.

22.2. The Secretary-General shall be responsible for its dissemination, interpretation, and implementation by all party structures.

22.3. All records of conferences and forums shall be maintained by the Office of the Secretary-General.

23. ACCESSIBILITY AND ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE

23.1. This policy shall be made publicly accessible to all members of the party through:

- Uploading it to the official AAAIC website and internal party communication platforms.
- Circulating it via provincial, regional, and branch structures.
- Distributing printed copies to all official party offices.

23.2. All office bearers, elected representatives, delegates, and active members are **assumed to be knowledgeable** of the contents of this policy upon its adoption and publication.

23.3. Ignorance of this policy shall not be accepted as a defence or excuse for non-compliance.

23.4. It is the responsibility of each structure and official to:

- Familiarise themselves with the policy.
- Ensure its implementation.
- Incorporate its provisions into the planning and execution of conferences and forums.

23.5. Workshops, inductions, or orientation sessions must integrate this policy into their curricula to reinforce understanding and ensure uniform application throughout the party.

Signed:

President – AAAIC
Date: 05th February 2025

Secretary-General – AAAIC
Date: 05th February 2025