

Seychelles United Movement



Reform - Prosperity - Unity

CONSTITUTION

As amended and adopted by:

The GC on the _____ day of _____ 2023, at:

The House of Francis Ile Du Port, Mahe, Seychelles

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Purpose

Seychelles United Movement aims to build a society based on the ideals of democracy and the equal value of every person. The aim of democratic socialism is free and equal individuals in a society based on solidarity.

Each person must be free to develop as an individual, control their own life and influence their own community. Freedom means freedom from external coercion and pressure, hunger, ignorance and fear of the future, as well as freedom to participate in decision-making, to develop themselves, to interact freely with others and to have the opportunity to control their own life and choose their own future.

This human freedom requires equality. Equality means that every individual, regardless of background, is given the same opportunity to build their own life and influence their society. This equality implies the right to choose and develop differently, without the differences leading to subordination and inequalities in power and influence over everyday life and society.

Freedom and equality concern both individual rights and collective solutions to achieve what is best for the common good and also form the basis for the individual's life and opportunities. Human beings are social creatures who develop and grow in interaction with others, and much that is important for the well-being of the individual can only be created through cooperation with others.

The common good demand solidarity, the unity which arises from the realisation that we are all mutually dependent on each other and that the best society is based on cooperating with mutual consideration and respect. Everyone must have the same rights and opportunities to influence solutions, and everyone must have the same obligations to take responsibility for them. Solidarity does not expel the desire for individual development and success, but it does not accept the egotism which makes it permissible to exploit others for personal gain.

All power in society must come from the individuals who together make up the society. Economic interests never have the right to set limits to democracy; democracy always has the right to specify the conditions for the economy and set limits to the market.

Democracy must be exercised on many roads and levels. Seychelles United Movement will strive for a social order in which people as citizens and individuals can influence both societies as a whole and community work at an everyday level. We strive for an economic order in which every individual as a citizen, a wage earner and consumer can influence the direction and distribution of production, and the movement and conditions of working life.

Seychelles United Movement wishes to see these democratic ideals characterise all of society, as well as the mutual relationships between people. Our aim is a society free from superiority and submission, without class distinctions, segregation or ethnic divisions, a society without prejudices and discrimination, where everybody is needed and where there is room for everybody, where everybody has the same rights and the same value, where each child can grow up to become a free and independent adult, where each person is free to develop as an individual and in equal and loyal cooperation with others is free to search for the solutions which best serve the public good.

These ideals of democratic socialism are the solemn aspiration of the Seychelles United Movement and have been shaped in the light of the experience of Societies that have achieved the highest quality of life and social well-being for the citizen. They are the driving force of all our political endeavours, now and in the future. The deepest roots of social democracy lie in the conviction that all people are of equal value and every individual is sacrosanct.

Preamble

WE the concerned people of the Republic of Seychelles **CONSCIOUS** of the need to promote the common interest of a non-partisan political system favoring the establishment of a system of governance that is people-centered, agree:

To **promote** a society and build a nation based on social justice, freedom, equality, peace and progress,

To **defend** the constitution of the Republic of Seychelles from enemies, both local and international,

To **defend** the sovereignty of the Republic of Seychelles by upholding the rule of law based on the recognition of the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in this Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles

To **develop** a democratic system which will ensure the creation of an adequate and progressive social order guaranteeing food, clothing, shelter, education, health and a steadily rising standard of living for all Seychellois;

To **create** and support equal opportunity for all Citizens to participate actively in the sustainable economic and social development of our society;

To **exercise** our individual rights and freedoms with due regard to the rights and freedoms of others and the common interest;

To **help** preserve a safe, healthy and functioning environment for ourselves and for posterity;

Hereby establish the Seychelles United Movement, ADOPT, ENACT and give this Constitution to ourselves, as the Seychelles United Movement, National General Conference and to our future generation.

Article 1: Name of the Party

The Movement shall bear the name (Seychelles United Movement) or (Mouvman Linite Seychellois)

Article 2: Place of Business

The Registration place of business of the Party shall be at 103, House of Francis, Ile Du Port, Mahe, Seychelles or any other place in the Seychelles which the Party may from time to time determine.

Article 3: Our Responsibilities

(1) Seychelles United Movement based its political agenda on social democracy principles. The party's political vision for the future of Seychelles depends on close contact with members and electors. The movement must, therefore, be an active, modern, popular movement firmly rooted in the everyday lives of the people.

(2) Our responsibilities are:

- (a) bringing into the movement everyone who shares the fundamental values of social democracy,
- (b) influencing public opinion in favor of the ideals of social democracy based on the movement's programmed,
- (c) the development of social democratic ideas, programmes and policies,
- (d) planning and coordinating election campaigns for the movement
- (e) coordinating the political work of the Seychelles United Movement at the national level,
- (f) coordinating the Movement's international activities,
- (g) strategic development of trade union-political activities,
- (h) the election of political representatives for the presidential election,
- (i) support for organisational development and activities of the movement,
- (j) strategic planning for growth in movement membership,
- (k) the development of movement-wide systems for member registers and the collection of membership fees.

Article 4: Membership registers and fees

(1) Membership of the Seychelles United Movement shall be open to all Seychelles Citizens

above the age of 18 years, who accept its principles, policies and programmes and are prepared to abide by its Constitution and rules.

(2) Membership applications shall be considered by the executive committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to accept or refuse any application for membership provided such acceptance or refusal shall be subject to review by the next higher organ of the Seychelles United Movement.

(3) Membership cards shall be issued to registered members of the Seychelles United Movement and to persons whose application for membership has been accepted, subject to review as aforesaid, and, in all cases, subject to payment of the prescribed subscription.

(4) The Executive Committee is responsible for registering all individual members in the movement and for the collection of membership fees.

(5) Each member must pay a membership fee as delineated by the General Conference in accordance with the payment term and conditions as may be established by Executive Committee.

(6) Membership fees are to be remitted to the Executive Committee of the party. All fees are to be remitted by 31st of January for each calendar years.

(7) Any objection to any application for membership may be made by the membership to the Secretary General of the Movement within eight weeks of the notification.

(8) At any time before the individual is accepted as a full member of the organisation, or in exceptional circumstances even after the member has been admitted, the Secretary-General may rule that the application or the membership may be rejected if it was invalidly obtained.

(9) In the absence of any objection from the structures and/or any ruling by the Secretary-General, the applicant shall, on the expiry of eight weeks from the date of notification of membership, become a full member.

(10) The reasons for the rejection of an application for membership by the Secretary-General or the objection by the membership to the application for membership must be sent to the individual applicant in writing.

Article 5: Membership by Affiliation

(1) Rules on the affiliation to local trade unions and associations are established by the Executive Committee of the Movement. Membership by Affiliation will not be subjected to Membership Fees. However, the affiliated organization or individual belonging to an

organization must abide by the rules of the Seychelles United Movement and must adhere to the Social Democracy Ideology and must strive to uphold a non-partisan approach in the political views.

Article 6: Rights and Duties of the Members

(1) Rights:

A member of the SUM shall have the right to:

- (a) Take a full and active part in the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policy of the SUM.
- (b) Receive and impart information on all aspects of SUM policy and activities.
- (c) Offer constructive criticism of any member, official, policy programme or activity of the SUM within its structures.
- (d) Take part in elections and be elected or appointed to any committee, structure, commission or delegation of the SUM.
- (e) Submit proposals or statements to the Executive Committee of SUM, provided such proposals or statements are submitted through the appropriate structures as may be established by the Movement.

(2) Duties:

A member of the SUM shall:

- (a) Belong to and take an active part in the life of the movement.
- (b) Take all necessary steps to understand and carry out the aims, policy and programme of the SUM.
- (c) Explain the Purpose, policy and programme of the SUM to the people.
- (d) Deepen his or her understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic problems of the country.
- (e) Combat propaganda detrimental to the interests of the SUM and defend the policy, Purpose and programme of the SUM.
- (f) Observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally decisions of the majority and decisions of higher bodies.

(g) Refrain from publishing and/or distributing any media without authorisation which purports to be the view of any organised grouping, faction or tendency within the SUM.

(h) All members shall ensure that they are registered as voters in the constituency where they live.

(i) Members of SUM willing to participate in the legislative election at the national level are required to do so as independent candidates per the election act of Seychelles. As an independent candidate, he or she may choose to affiliate with SUM under while maintaining their independent approach to their political campaigns and future deliberation as a member of the National Assembly.

Article 7: Organisational Structure

(1) The Seychelles United Movement shall consist of the following organs:

(a) **General Conference (GC)** - The GC shall be the ultimate decision-making body of the SUM. The GC is responsible for the election of the Executive Committee.

(b) **National Conference of Members (National Congress)** - The Congress will be responsible for the election of representatives of SUM for the Presidential Election. The Congress shall meet Two year before the election to select Appropriate Members as representatives.

(c) The Congress shall consist of not more than 50 delegates appointed at the GC to represent the membership of the Movement.

(d) **Youth and Women Special Program** - Taking into consideration the dynamic of SUM, this Movement will support the establishment of SUM young and women special program to ensure that everyone is effectively represented within the movement.

(e) The SUM Youth Special Program shall be open to all persons between the ages of **14** and **35**.

(f) A member of the Youth Special Program shall not be eligible for any position as office-bearer of the SUM or to attend SUM conferences, members' or executive meetings of the SUM (unless specially invited), unless he or she is a full member of the SUM.

(2) **Quorum**

Subject to this constitution, the quorum for General Conference will be set at two-thirds of paid-up Members registered with SUM present in person or by proxy. It shall be lawful for two-thirds of the members present in person or by proxy at such meeting to add to, alter or otherwise amend the rules of the Constitution.

Article 8: Duties of the Office Bearers

(1) **The President.** The President shall be the head and chief directing officer of the SUM and the leader of the house at a General Conference. He or she shall:

- (a) Present to the General Conference a comprehensive statement of the state of the nation and the political situation generally.
- (b) Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the Executive Committee, outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of the SUM on any question.
- (c) Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee in conformity with the Constitution, by-laws and rules of procedure adopted by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Under the overall supervision of the Executive Committee, orient and direct the activities of the SUM.
- (e) Shall have an extra vote on decisions to be taken by ballot by the EC in case where there is a tie.
- (f) Be an ex-officio member of the Youth and Women Special Program.

(2) Secretary-General

- (a) Keep the minutes of the GC and the EC, as well as other records of the SUM.
- (b) Conduct the correspondence of the GC and the EC and send out notices of all conferences and meetings at the national level.
- (c) Convey the decisions and instructions of the GC, and EC to the all members and organs of SUM and see to it that all organs of the SUM carry out their duties properly.
- (d) Prepare annual reports on the work of the EC and such other documents which may, from time to time, be required by the GC and the EC.
- (e) In the absence of the President or the Deputy President, the Secretary-General shall assume the functions of the President.

(3) **The Treasurer.** The Treasurer General is the chief custodian of the funds and property of the SUM. He or she shall:

- (a) Receive and bank all funds on behalf of the SUM and shall, together with any two members of the EC, operate a banking account.
- (b) Keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of the SUM.
- (c) Submit to the GC a report showing the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the SUM for the period since the previous GC, and shall submit periodic reports to the EC.
- (d) Develop and execute the fundraising plan for SUM.
- (e) Be an ex-officio member of the Youth and Women Special Program.

(4) Ordinary Members

The constitution shall make provision for the appointment 3 ordinary members to function on the Executive committee. The ordinary member shall be appointed at the GC.

Article 9: Mode of Voting

Voting at all GC, NCM or EC shall be by show of hands or by secret ballots as may be decided by the majority of members present in person or by proxy.

Article 10: Discipline

(1) Discipline is indispensable for preserving and strengthening the unity of the Movement for enhancing its strength, its fighting ability and its prestige and for enforcing the principles of the Movement.

(2) Discipline is based on conscious acceptance of the aims, the programme and policies of the Movement. All members of the Movement are equally bound by the Movement's discipline irrespective of their status in the Movement or in public life.

(3) Violation of the Movement's Constitution and decision of the Movement as well as any other action and behaviour unworthy of a member of the Movement shall constitute a breach of the Movement's discipline and is liable to disciplinary action

(4) The disciplinary actions are:

- (a) Warning.
- (b) Censure.
- (c) Removal from the post in the Movement.
- (d) Suspension from full Movement membership for any period but not exceeding one year.
- (e) Expulsion from the Movement.

(5) Expulsion from the Movement shall be the severest of all disciplinary measures and this shall be applied with utmost deliberation and judgement.

(6) No disciplinary measures involving removal from the post held in the Movement, suspension from the full Movement's membership other than suspension pending enquiry, expulsion from the Movement, shall come into effect without confirmation of the GC.

(7) There shall be right of appeal in all cases of disciplinary action.

Article 11: Appointment of Auditor

(1) The treasurer shall cause the accounts and financial records to be audited by an auditor appointed by the members of a GC.

(2) The audited statement of accounts shall be presented to the GC for its approval or otherwise.

Article 12: Inspection of Books

The records of the proceeding of the EC and the GC, the audited accounts and records containing the names of the members shall be open to inspection by the members during such reasonable times and places which the EC may notify the members.

Article 13: Amendment to Constitution

The General Conference may, subject to the laws of Seychelles amend this Constitution.

Article 13: Dissolution

The General Conference may subject to the laws of Seychelles, dissolve this Movement.

Declaration

I Mr. Maarco Francis, President of the Seychelles United Movement, hereby certify that this constitution is to the best of my knowledge a true copy of the original adopted at a duly convened meeting held on day of ----- 2023

SIGNATURE -----

DATED THIS DAY OF