

THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
FORUM OF SOUTH-EAST ACADEMIC DOCTORS (FOSAD)



FOSAD CONSTITUTION (FORUM OF SOUTH EAST ACADEMIC DOCTORS)

PREAMBLE

(i) Cognizant of the fact that south east geopolitical region of Nigeria has been adjudged marginalized in the scheme of things in Nigeria dating back to the first republic through the many years of military regime in Nigeria.

A conscious and deliberate need to raise the region to the highest level of moral and intellectual dignity is hereby conceived by the academic community of the region propelled by a determination to evolve the means of reconciling and uniting our various peoples and rekindling the spirit of brotherhood which has been the signature tune of Ndi Igbo.

(2) Pursuant to the balanced or structured development of the Nation, We the Academic community of the Southeast having resolved to specifically champion the developmental wellbeing of the Zone, do hereby accept this solemn call to duty of like-minded individuals from the Southeast extraction prompted by a duty to serve, assembled themselves and resolved:

(a) To bring together all patriotic and like-minded south easterners into a single formidable assemblage of patriotic academics, capable of organizing and harnessing a productive energy of the people;

(b) To work in synergy with other sister organizations under any body and umbrella for the speedy restoration of the Igbo identity, the achievement of national reconciliation, economic and social reconstruction and respect for human rights and the rule of law;

(c) To create a socio-political order conducive to foster both regional and national peace and unity, by ensuring fair and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities;

(d) To establish under the Nigerian law and the Constitution of our Forum, a moral social order which will result in the spiritual regeneration of the south east;

(e) To defend the sanctity of democracy through the firm enforcement of a strict code of conduct among the membership of the Forum;

(f) To mobilize like-minded Nigerians under the leadership of this August forum both at home and in diaspora to build a responsive body that can nurture to fruition the aspirations of its people, capable of satisfying the just hopes of the indigenous Igbo people through but not limited to building bridges across all continents of the world geared towards gaining the confidence of other nations; and

(g) to reinvent a true progressive and patriotic spirit determined to render service at all levels of governance; and to build a body which will guarantee equal opportunity for all, mutual and peaceful co-existence, respect and understanding, eliminating all forms of discrimination and social injustice across gender and rendering selfless service at all strata that will stimulate a new deep sense of oneness and patriotism that will endure in perpetuity.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, THE FORUM OF SOUTH EAST ACADEMIC DOCTORS (FOSAD) , for the purpose of effectual administration and the promotion of the ideals and objectives of our Forum HEREBY ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES the following Constitution

General Provisions

Chapter 1

Article 1.00 Name of the Forum

The name of the Forum shall be THE FORUM OF SOUTH EAST ACADEMIC DOCTORS (“hereinafter in this Constitution where the context and terms agree referred to as “The Forum” and with

the abbreviation “FOSAD”). It is an intellectual intervention and socio – cultural association that comprises all the doctorate degree holders (PhD) who are indigenes of the five states of southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria’ of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States by birth or marriage.

1.01; Supremacy of the Constitution

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and any other law in force, this Constitution shall be supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all members and organs of the Forum.

1.02; Motto and Slogan

The motto of the Forum shall be “TOWARDS A BETTER SOUTHEAST; NIGERIA” and the slogan of the Forum shall be “Promoting the Dignity of the Southeast”, demonstrated by raising a folded right hand.

1.03; Flag and Emblem

The flag of the Forum shall be a TRICOLOUR, comprising from top to bottom, equal stripes of WHITE, GREEN, PURPLE, and the emblem of the Forum shall be a TWIN GREEN TREE BRANCHES PLACED SIDE BY SIDE A CIRCLE WITH A DOCTORAL CAP UPON A RIPE PALM HEAD AND A STAR AT THE CREST.

1.04; Registered Office

The registered Head Office of the Part Forum shall be in Enugu, (the political headquarters of Southeast Region) and there shall be such other branch offices at the State Capital of the five Southeast States and or elsewhere as the Forum may, from time to time, approve.

1.05; Ethics and Character of the Forum

- (1) The Forum shall be a democratic association and shall pursue its objectives without chauvinism or creed while according full respect to the linguistic (dialectical) and cultural diversity of its members.
- (2) The policies and programmes of the Forum shall be determined by its leadership, who shall be accountable to the membership.
- (3) The Forum shall discharge all her businesses under strict democratic tenets and for that purpose; draw its support from all sections of the society.
- (5) The Forum shall with all intents and purposes support the emancipation and participation of our women in her scheme of things by encouraging their representation at all levels.

Article 2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.01; Vision

To become a strong formidable force in southeast geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

2.02; Mission

To promote and defend the interest of the entity; southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria

2.03 Aims and Objectives

- (a) To influence and stimulate human capital development of southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria
- (b) To serve as a civil society group to compliment the governances and government of Southeast geopolitical zone using constructive engagement and criticism as tools to deliver on her core mandates
- (c) To initiate programmes, seminars, trainings and lectures that will empower youth with contemporary proficiencies.
- (d) To seek to proffer solutions to the challenges facing southeast geopolitical zone.
- (e) To encourage doctorate degree holders in the zone to develop themselves in relation to contemporaries in other clime.
- (f) To become a voice for the voiceless in southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria.
- (g) To utilize the vast knowledge base and technical (technological) knowhow of the zone for the interest of humanity.
- (h) to change the negative narratives or aphorism that school is a scam in the zone which has dealt a devastating harm to the previous frontrunner position of the zone in the area of education and educational acquisition.
- (i) to attempt to turn around the socio – political and economic fortunes of the southeast through constructive engagements.
- (j) to source grants and scholarship opportunities for students in southeast in order to achieve sustainable developmental goals and global best practices.
- (h)to encourage research writing and paper presentations nationally and internationally by establishing FOSAD International Journal.
- (i) to drive leadership and sustained grass root mobilization that will galvanize purposeful mass action in the southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria.
- (j) to promote an egalitarian society founded on freedom, equality and justice which promotes self-respect, self-reliance and human dignity;
- (k) To promote and uphold the practice of internal democracy at all levels of the Forum’s organization characterized by maintaining and fostering representative democracy, discipline and strict observance of rule of Law
- (l) To actively condemn and resist all forms of oppression and exploitation of southeasterners under Nigerian polity.
- (m) To undertake any other activities as, which in the opinion of the leadership, may promote the attainment of the stated aims and objectives of the Forum.

2.04; Rules of Engagement

Posts on FOSAD social media platforms shall be guided by the following rules;

- (a) inform members on the latest trends and innovations in educational and social issues especially in the southeast.
- (b) engage members in conversations on matters relating to education and social issues.
- (c) members are encouraged to promote their academic research works on FOSAD platform such as books, articles, papers, essays, seminars, journals etc.

(d) job promotions, appointments, death of members (only) will be officially announced on FOSAD platform by the General Secretary.

(e) any form of financial contributions towards members events is strictly prohibited on FOSAD platform. If any FOSAD activity requires financing, members will be duly informed.

(f) nudity, pornography, comic skits, hate speech, political party, religious, prayers, chauvinistic, forwarding of irrelevant messages, abusive languages or any post that is at variance with the aims and objectives of FOSAD is strictly forbidden.

(g) As an academic and socio-cultural platform, diverse opinions on issues may arise, however, superior ideas and opinions shall be respected and or adopted.

(h) The Administrators of FOSAD platform reserve the rights to caution and politely sanction members who violate the rules. A repeat of similar offence shall attract a removal from the platform for 48 hours, further offence from the same member shall be seen as affront and therefore nuisance and the affected members contact shall be permanently removed without further notice. However affected persons reserve the right to complain against perceived or actual grievance, to any of the (Admins) but without any form of direct attack or vendetta on any member.

(i) Every financial transaction between a member and another or other members shall be strictly personal to that extent and at no time shall it be a subject for discussion.

Article 3.00 Membership

A member shall hail from any of the Southeast states, either by blood or by marriage. Persons becoming a “member” of the Association shall be bound by this constitution and be deemed to have had full notice hereof and to have accepted the same and no person shall become a member except on this basis.

3.01; Admission of Membership

Applicants wishing to be admitted to FOSAD shall;

- (a) Firstly join via FOSAD WhatsApp, Telegram or any other social media platform as may be approved by the Forum from time to time.
- (b) Pay a non-refundable registration fee of Two Thousand Naira (N2, 000.00) only or such other sum as may be prescribed and approved by FOSAD from time to time.
- (c) Such applicant shall be guaranteed by at least two extant members who shall be in full standing as a FOSAD member.
- (d) A member shall pay an annual membership renewal fee as shall be prescribed by organ of FOSAD empowered under this constitution to so prescribe.
- (e) Failure to renew membership by the end of the first quarter of the index year and after a reminder is communicated to the defaulting member amounts to being disinterested to continue membership.
- (f) A full register of members shall be available at FOSAD National Secretariat and at the states secretariat.
- (g) The membership register shall be a public document that can be assessable to all registered member.
- (h) A membership registration number shall be issued to a registered member of the Forum, which shall bear the photograph of the member.
- (i) The membership number shall be generated by the National Secretariat and authenticated by General Secretary.
- (j) FOSAD membership register shall be computerized to ensure control and to avoid fraud.

- (k) Procedure and processes of keeping membership records shall be standardized to ensure uniformity in our ways of keeping and preserving records at all levels of the Forum.

3.02; Right and Privileges of Members

(a) Only fully registered and financially up-to-date members of the Forum shall have the right to vote and be voted for into any of the elective positions, subject to the provisions made for such elections pursuant to this Constitution or other Laws or Regulations approved under the Constitution. Accordingly, non-financial members shall not enjoy the above rights.

(b) Subject to (i) above, members shall enjoy the privileges of the Forum and shall be entitled to be appointed to any committee of FOSAD at the various organs and levels.

3.03; Loss of Membership

(a) Any member who fails to renew his membership as contained in 3.02 (e) shall cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership and shall cease to be a member of FOSAD.

(b) any member who loses the capacity to contract under the Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria such as insanity, being declared bankrupt, conviction for fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction etc shall also be deemed to have lost his membership of FOSAD.

(c) Any member who fails to subject himself to the stipulations of this constitution and after due processes to conform but remains in default shall temporarily or permanently lose his membership of FOSAD but without prejudice to his rights for redress under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

3.04; Procedure for Rejoining

Any member who loses his membership on account of section 3.03 may rejoin FOSAD.

(a) Any member who loses his membership for failure to meet his/her financial obligations or any other obligation/requirements as contained in this constitution but wishes to rejoin shall resume membership only on the payment of all outstanding dues and serving out penalties.

(b) Any member who loses his membership for reasons other than nonpayment of annual subscription may be readmitted on the recommendation of the National Executive Council (NEC)

3.05; Resignation

(a) A member may resign from membership of the FOSAD by giving written notice thereof to the General Secretary through the applicant's state secretariat.

(b) Any member so resigning shall be liable for any outstanding financial obligations which shall be recovered as a debt due to the Forum.

3.06; Expulsion of a Member

A member may be expelled by the Forum for various infractions to the interest of FOSAD or upon a charge of misconduct to her interest.

(a) Subject to giving a member the opportunity to be heard under the fair hearing rule including making a written submission, FOSAD may resolve to expel a member.

(b) a Committee shall be set for the determination of the charge(s)

(c) Particulars of the charge shall be communicated to the member at least fifteen (15) working days before the meeting at which the matter will be determined.

(d) The determination of the Committee shall be communicated to the member, and in the event of an adverse determination the member shall have his/her membership suspended for an initial period of six (6) calendar months or permanently – depending on the allegation(s), veracity of the infraction(s) and the findings thereto.

(e) The Committees decision shall be ratified at the highest decision-making body of the Forum (FOSAD) as contained in section 3.06, sub section (c) above

Article 4.00; Organs of the Forum

The Government of the Forum shall be vested in the following organs:

- i. The National Delegate Conference (NDC)
- ii. The national executive council (NEC)
- iii. The State Executive council (SEC)

4.01; Obligations of the Forum to Members

(a) FOSAD shall create opportunities for members to serve, and shall espouse measures that encourage volunteer services.

(b) FOSAD shall put in place conscious measures aimed at strengthening the aspirations of members through services, and shall encourage regular gathering and social activities aimed at developing familiar bonds among members.

4.02; Obligations of Members to the Forum

(a) Members of FOSAD shall be obliged to affirm the Forum's aims and objectives and conduct themselves in a manner that shall not bring the Forum to ridicule, public odium and disrepute.

(b) Members of the Forum shall also observe the rules and regulations embedded in this Constitution.

Article 5.00; Discipline and Disciplinary Procedure

(a) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, FOSAD shall maintain a Disciplinary Committee at every level consisting of at least seven members (7) with proven integrity, one of whom shall be a legal practitioner called to Nigerian bar for not less than ten (10) years "post call".

(b) The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the appropriate organ of the Forum, dependent on at which level (National or State) where the breach occurred.

(c) All complaints should go to the SEC. Preliminary hearing should be by an adhoc committee of 3 persons set by the SEC. The membership shall be drawn from across board.

(d) The Forum at any level may, after preliminary hearings, suspend a member from the Forum for a period not exceeding one month, during which period the member so suspended shall temporarily lose his/her right to contest any election, ie vote or be voted for and shall be thereafter referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.

(e) Where an allegation is made against a member and the case is referred to the Disciplinary Committee, the Committee shall inform the member in writing of the allegations against him, explicitly stating place and time of hearing.

(f) A member who appears before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present his case orally or in writing either in person or through a counsel of his choice and shall be allowed to call witnesses.

(g) Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the charges against him or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself shall be null and void and of no effect.

(h) Where either the complainant or the Party against whom a complaint is made, makes out a prima facie case of bias, duress, coercion, intimidation or undue influence or likelihood of same by anybody seized with original jurisdiction to hear and determine such a matter or a member thereof or where the complaint is against any organ of the Forum, making it impracticable to support fair hearing rule, such complaint shall be transferred to the appropriate organ seized with appellate jurisdiction to hear and determine such matter.

ARTICLE 5.01 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

(a) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, FOSAD shall maintain a Disciplinary Committee at every level consisting of at least seven members (7) with proven integrity, one of whom shall be a legal practitioner called to Nigerian bar for not less than fifteen years (15years) “post call” - who shall serve as adviser to the Committee.

(b) The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed as the need arises, by the appropriate body of the Forum (National/State.)

(c) The Forum at any level may, after preliminary hearings, suspend a member from the Forum for a period not exceeding one month, during which period the member so suspended shall temporarily lose his/her right to contest any election, i.e. vote or be voted for and shall be thereafter referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.

(d) Where an allegation is made against a member and the case is referred to the Disciplinary Committee, the Committee shall inform the member in writing of the allegations against him, explicitly stating the offence/allegation, place and time of hearing.

(e) Any member who appears before a Disciplinary Committee shall be given opportunity to present his case orally or in writing either in person and shall be allowed to call witnesses.

(f) Any decision taken against a member who has not been informed of the charges against him or has not been given any opportunity of defending himself shall be null and void and of no effect.

(g) Where either the complainant or the Forum is against whom a complaint is made, makes out a prima facie case of bias, duress, coercion, intimidation or undue influence or likelihood of same by anybody seized with original jurisdiction to hear and determine such a matter, the deciding authority shall immediately recuse.

(h) Where the complaint or allegation is against any organ of the Forum, making it impracticable to support fair hearing rule, such complaint shall be transferred to the appropriate organ seized with appellate jurisdiction to hear and determine such matter.

(i) Provided that nothing in this Constitution shall preclude or invalidate any complaint submitted through the National Working Committee to the National Executive Committee concerning any person whatsoever

ARTICLE 6.00: FORMATION OF FORUM GOVERNMENT

The Forum Government

There shall be five (5) levels of the government of the Forum; (a) The Board of Trustees (BOT) (b) The National Delegate Conference(NDC) (c) The National Executive Committee (NEC) (d) The State Executive council, and the (e) The coordinator Diaspora government in Foreign Countries.

6.01; The National Delegate Conference (NDC)

There shall be the National Delegate Conference which shall;

- (i) Shall meet every three years otherwise the Triennial Delegate Conference during which there shall be elections to different elective positions permitted by the constitution
- (ii) Elections into the various positions of the National Executive Council shall be held during the triennial delegate conference
- (iii) Other activities of the Forum such as lectures, symposia, courtesy calls, exhibitions and other interactive sessions shall be built into the delegate conference.
- (iv) The venue of the delegate conference shall rotate among the five States capitals of Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra, and Imo but in no particular pattern.
- (v) Allocation of delegates to the conference shall be five (5) per state of Fosad, which respects full financial members.
- (vi) Only accredited delegates shall be allowed to vote during the conference.
- (vii) One man one vote shall be upheld and voting pattern to be implemented must be through secret voting
- (ix) The logistics and other organizational framework for the delegate conference shall be structured and implemented by the National Executive Council who may set up different committees and assign roles to them as appropriate.
- (x) The duration of the conference shall be at the discretion of the National Executive Council.

6.02; Composition of the National Delegate Conference

The NDC shall be composed of the following;

- (i) All members of the elected member at the National level including the General Secretary
- (ii) All elected executive members of the States of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo
- (iii) All delegates from the five States of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo
- (iv) All elected officers and delegates from different Diaspora Countries
- (v) All validly invited Guests (without voting right) such as Past Presidents and Secretaries, Members of the Board of Trustees, friends and allies of FOSAD (local and diasporas), Captains of Industries,

Distinguished Academia, Traditional Rulers etc. they shall participate during the plenary and not at any voting session hence; they shall have no voting rights

6.03; Functions of the National Delegates Conference (NDC)

- (i). The NDC shall consider and determine the Forum's policy matters, receive the State of the Union addresss, financial, audit, disciplinary reports and any other report NEC deems fit.
- (ii) The NDC shall receive a report from the External Auditor on the financial state of the Forum.
- (iii) The NDC shall have the powers to review cases of expulsion or any other disciplinary action against any officer, member or chapter of the Forum.
- (iv) The NDC shall elect National Officers of the Form and discuss any other matter slated for discussion on the agenda.
- (v). The NDC may set up committees to examine or investigate any issue(s) and such Committee(s) shall report its/their findings and recommendations to the NEC for appropriate action on behalf of the NDC.

Article 7.00 The National Executive Council

There shall be a body to be known and addressed as the National Executive Council (NEC) of FOSAD

- (i) The National Executive Council (NEC) shall be the second highest decision making body of the Forum
- (ii) They shall meet every quarter of the year and the venue shall be at the National Headquarters of FOSAD or at a venue to be chosen and communicated to members by the Secretary General in consultation with the President
- (iii) As there arises the need for emergency meetings. The reason, time and venue for the meeting shall be communicated to members by the Secretary General in consultation with the President

7.01; Composition of Membership;

- (i) All elected members of the National Executive Council including the Secretary General
- (ii) All the elected members of the States of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo – constituting the southeast geopolitical Zone of Nigeria and accredited Diaspora countries.

7.02; Functions of National Executive Council (NEC)

- (i) The Forum shall be administered by the NEC in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- (ii). The NEC shall safeguard and further the interest of members of the Forum
- (iii). The NEC shall implement the policies and decisions determined by the NDC.

- (iv). The NEC shall ensure proper and strict observance of the rules of the Forum by members and Chapters.
- (v). The NEC shall safeguard the funds of the Forum.
- (vi). The NEC shall constitute Committee(s) as it may deem necessary.
- (vii) The NEC shall approve and endorse the admission of people into **FOSAD HALL OF FAME** in recognition of their meritorious service to the country.
- (viii)The NEC shall issue directives for the proper governance and administration of the Forum's affairs.
- (ix)The NEC shall perform such other functions as may promote governance and administration of the Forum.
- (x)The NEC shall make a report to the NDC on any matter as it may deem necessary.
- (xii) The NEC shall determine and impose fees and levies in furtherance of the objectives of the Forum.
- (xiii)The NEC shall have the powers to appoint specialized staff for the smooth administration of the Forum. The emoluments of such staff shall be determined by the NEC and charged to the account of the Forum.
- (xiv)The NEC shall convene the meeting of the NDC or the Special NDC
- (xv)The NEC shall appoint the Chairman and Members of the BOT in consultation with appropriate organ(s).
- xvi)The NEC shall appoint other members of Think-Tank Committee in consultation with all the appropriate organ(s) of FOSAD.

7.03. Meetings and Proceedings

- a. Regular meeting of NEC shall be held as may be determined from time to time but shall not be at least once every month
- b. Emergency meetings of NEC may however be held as deemed necessary.
- c. The CNO shall meet at least once in between regular NEC meetings to among other issues. Appraise matters arising from the last NEC. This is outside the regular CNO Meetings at NEC.
- d. NEC shall make her standing rules to guide the proceedings of their meetings but such rules shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the FOSAD constitution

7.04. The State Executive Council (SEC)

- a. **COMPOSITION:** There shall be State Executive Council (SEC) for each State of the Southeast zone which shall comprise: Chairman and other ELECTED OFFICERS of the state and National Officers from the State
- b. The election of the State Executive shall be done during the state delegate conference at a meeting to be held at least three calendar months to the NDC.
- c. This election shall be held simultaneously across the five states of the southeast.
- d. The Returning Officer shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Secretary General.

- e. The SEC, in consultation with the National Secretariat shall work to safeguard the aims and the objectives cum the interest of FOSAD in the States.

ARTICLE 8.00: THINK – TANK COMMITTEE

There shall be a Committee to be known as Think Tank Committee who shall be set up by the President in consultation with the General Secretary and the approval by the National Executive Council of FOSAD. The appointment of Think Tank Committee shall be - (need/issue based). Therefore FOSAD may retain as many Think Tank Committees as applicable

8.01; Membership

Membership shall comprise of but not limited to the following;

- (i) All former Presidents and General Secretaries of FOSAD who have not been found wanting.
- (ii) Any other person the President deems fit to perform in this capacity
- (iii) Such person must be a guru in the related platform for which he/she shall be appointed.
- (iv) Each Think Tank Committee shall have a Legal Practitioner of not less than 10 years post call to the Nigerian Bar as a member who shall be the legal adviser.

8.02; Functions of the Think Tank Committee

- (i) The Committee shall be saddled with the responsibility of advising FOSAD on the context of the focal matter.
- (ii) Facilitating inter face, consultancy, mediation, incubation of ideas, research etc that will promote and protect the interest of the union.
- (iii) The discretion as to how to manage the Committee shall be as they deem fit – but must not be at variance to FOSAD ethos.

Article 09.00; Board of Trustees (BOT)

09.01 (a) Qualification/Eligibility for Membership

There shall be a body known and designated as FOSAD Board of Trustees. The BOT shall be the highest decision making body of FOSAD. The qualification and eligibility criterion for membership to the BOT shall be as follows;

- (i) Only a full financial and a registered member of FOSAD shall be eligible for appointment into the Board of Trustees if he or she:

- i. Can be rightly adjudged to have verifiable track records of service to humanity and contributed hugely in the development and advancement of the course of the Southeast geopolitical zone of

Nigeria and who must additionally be a person of proven high morality, transparency, integrity, impeccable and impeachable character.

iii. Shall be an indigene of a verifiable town in any of the five States of Southeast who has reasonably contributed to promotion of peace, security, education, commerce and general development of his country home in particular, his State and Southeast generally.

iv. Has not been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction for an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.

ii. Has not been adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind under any law or authority in force in any part of Nigeria.

iii. Shall not have been adjudged or declared bankrupt.

iv. Has not been dismissed from Private or Public Service of the Federation; State or Local Government Area or impeached/removed from public office for any impropriety or conduct.

v. Has not lost his citizenship of The Federal Republic of Nigeria

09.01; Composition of the Board of Trustees (BOT)

The Board of Trustees shall be composed as follows:

i. Past and serving Presidents of FOSAD who has been and remained full financial members.

ii. Past and serving Deputy President, Vice Presidents or Secretary General of FOSAD who has been and remained full financial members

iii. Members who has served or serving Nigeria in the capacity of President, Vice President, Governor, Deputy Governor, Senate President and Deputy Senate Presidents, Senator, Speaker and Deputy Speakers and Members of House of Representative who are members of FOSAD.

iv. Past and serving Secretary General, Directors of United Nations, Common Wealth, African Union, ECOWAS (including their different Commissions, affiliate bodies, Past and serving Ambassadors and High Commissioners of countries etc who are members of FOSAD

v. Heads of International Non Governmental Organizations, International Development Partners Regional Development Agencies who are members of FOSAD.

vi. Former and serving Managing Directors of Commercial, Merchant, Development Banks, Financial Houses, Conglomerates in Nigeria who are members of FOSAD.,

vii. Chairmen and Captains of Industries who have contributed tremendously in the development of southeast geopolitical zone

viii. Former and serving Chancellors and Vice Chancellors of duly recognized Universities in Nigeria and overseas who are members of FOSAD.

ix. Chairmen of State Traditional Rulers Council of the five Southeast States who are members of FOSAD.

x. Any or other person or persons considered by the President via the National Executive Council as fit and proper persons to serve in the capacity of the exalted office of the FOSAD BOT..

xi. Pursuant to Article 10.01(B)(x), the proposal for appointment to the BOT shall first be presented by the General Secretary as a proposal from the President to the National Executive Council in session and it shall be debated and voted for and against. The decision of the National Executive Council shall be final and the President shall not resubmit a disqualified member during the currency of his tenure.

09.02. Internal Governance of *the Board of Trustees shall –*

(i) Shall elect, appoint or select her Chairman from its members, who shall also be a member of the FOSAD

(ii) The BOT should have two(2) members per state

(iii) The Secretary General of FOSAD shall serve as its Secretary;

(iv) The Board without prejudice to the provisions of this Constitution ensures that the person to be elected as Chairman is of proven integrity and have the vision and mission of FOSAD at heart;

(v) Ensure that all officers of the Board of Trustees are subject to all sections and subsections of this constitution, and serve a term of four years;

(vi) Members and Board Chairman may be reelected for another term subject to satisfactory previous performance which must be approved by two-third majority of members voting at her National Delegate Conference.

9.03; Functions of the BOT

The Board of Trustees shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution -

(i) Ensure highest standards of morality in all the activities of FOSAD by acting as the conscience of the FOSAD, with power to call to order any officer of the FOSAD whose conduct falls below the norms;

(i) Ensure high morale of members of the FOSAD and that the FOSAD enjoys a good image within and outside Igboland, Nigeria and the global world in general;

(ii) Harmonize, co-ordinate, review and advice on policies, programmes and activities of the Forum at the national / state level;

(iii) Be vested with the assets of the forum / association and shall serve as custodians of such assets;

(iv) Mediate in disputes between the Executive(s) and or any other person or group of persons within the Forum;

(v) Offer advice on matters for the interest of the Igbo nation;

(vi) Attend any meetings of any other organs of the forum according to the constitution.

(vii) Undertake all other functions and activities as may be referred to it by the National Executive Committee of or on behalf of the Forum FOSAD;

(vii) The Board of Trustees shall regulate its own proceedings and shall draw up its own code of conduct for its members but must not be contrary to the general constitution of FOSAD.

9.04; Removal and Resignation

A member of the Board of Trustees shall -

(i) Be removed from office by a resolution of the National Executive Council on the recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee constituted for such purpose on the grounds of infirmity or misconduct; or both

(ii) Such a person ceases to hold office if he resigns his membership of the Board of Trustees by tendering a letter to that effect to the National President through the General Secretary.

(iii) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Constitution, a member of the

Board of Trustees shall also lose his membership of the Board, if.

a he is expelled from the forum / association, or

b. he is removed from the appointive or elective office which made him an automatic member of the Board of Trustees under this Constitution;

c. if found guilty of any criminal offense by any court of component of jurisdiction.

(iv) Fresh appointment or election shall be made to fill any such vacancy(ies) in the Board of where applicable

9.05; Meetings and Quorum of the BOT

(i)The Board of Trustees shall meet at the instance of the Chairman or at the request of the two-third majority of members of the Board or following a resolution of the National Executive Council requesting for such a meeting;

(ii)The quorum of the Board of Trustees shall be two-third of its members drawn from at least two-third of the States and shall constitute the simple majority and shall pass any resolution/decision..

(iii). Any resolution passed by the house at its sitting is legal, valid and shall be used as a working document capable of eliciting conformity or enforcement as appropriate.

9.06;Running on a Nonprofit

(i).The board of trustees shall be run as a non-profit body of the Forum

(ii) However, the BOT can harness ways to attract funds to the Forum.

Through;

(i). Donations;

(ii). Gifts;

(iii). Franchise/Endorsements

(iii). Cash / or other material awards; etc.

Article 10.00; Officers of the National Executive Council and Functions

There shall be members of the National Executive Council (NEC). They shall be elected at the National Delegate Conference save for the debut Executive Members who shall be elected during the first formal meeting/inauguration of FOSAD. However the tenure and possible re-election shall apply in tandem with the Constitution of FOSAD. The National Executive Council shall be made up of (i) President, Deputy President, Vice President 1 – 5, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, National Provost/Welfare Officer, Assistant National Provost/Welfare Officer, National Auditor. Assistant National Auditor, National Legal Adviser, Assistant National Legal Adviser, Assistant National Legal Adviser, Ex – Officio 1 – 5.

Functions of the National Officers

10.01(a) ROTATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

The leadership (Presidency) positions of FOSAD shall rotate among the five southeast states in Alphabetical order while the leadership at the state branches should as well be rotational among the senatorial zones in Alphabetical order.

10.01(b); President

(a) The President shall perform the duties generally incumbent on the President, and shall preside at all meetings of the Forum.

(b). The President shall provide strong and effective leadership and direct the activities of the Forum subject to the overall supervision of the National Executive Council;

(b). The President summons and preside over the meetings of the National Executive Council, National Delegate Conference and other meetings (within Nigeria and outside Nigeria) as may be considered applicable other than at the State levels.

(c). In his/her absence the Deputy-President, shall preside over all meetings as applicable to sub section sub section (b) supra.

- (d). In the absence of both the President and Deputy President, any of the Vice-Presidents shall preside and such vice President shall be nominated from among the Vice Presidents.
- (e) The President shall be directly responsible for the organization of the Forum at its level in all matter and activities.
- (f) He shall sign the minutes of meetings as adopted in conjunction with the General Secretary including all other documents of the Forum once such document as is incumbent on them to sign.
- (g) In conjunction with the General Secretary, he shall superintend the general administration of the Forum's affairs & endeavor to secure strict observance of the rules by all concerned.
- (h) He shall together with the General Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer be signatories to the Forum's Bank account in accordance with the provision of the Constitution.
- (i) The President shall promote and preserve the integrity, policies and programmes of the Forum and shall make pronouncements for and on behalf of the Forum.
- (j) The President shall assign specific functions to any member or officer of the Forum
- (k) The President shall work in close association and consultation with Secretary General & other Executive members for the general interest of the Forum but with strict adherence to the constitution as a guide.
- (l) The President shall give lawful directives to all officers, organs, and members of the Forum at all levels
- m. The President shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Forum or any of its organs during the currency of the tenureship.
- n. The President shall ensure the implementation of the directives of all superior organs of the Forum properly constituted.
- o. The President shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie in the meetings of the Forum which he presides
- p. The President may delegate any of his duties to the Deputy President or any Member of the Executive as circumstances demand it.

q. The President shall guarantee strict compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and do all such other things as shall promote the growth and welfare of the Forum

(r) The President shall perform oversight functions on all the Directorates (sections 11.19) (sub section (a-i) as the Appointor of the Chairmen and members and shall provide direction as he deems fit and proper.

All acts or decisions done or made by the President seating at organs of the Forum thereof shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that it was or were defect (bona fide) be as valid and effective as they had all been properly executed, unless it is proved that the decision(s) was made - tainted with bias, fraud or mala fide.

10.02; Deputy President

There shall be a Deputy President who shall work directly under the President who shall perform the following functions –

(a) Assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties under the strict principles of *deleatus non potent delgare*

(b) Deputize for the President in the latter's absence; and

(c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him/her.

10.03; Vice President 1 - 5

(a). There shall be the office known and addressed to as the Office of Vice Presidents 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. However, all the Vice Presidents are on the same pedestal as they are not named in any order of seniority, superiority or importance.

(b). The Vice Presidents shall be elected one from each of the five States in the Southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria

(c). One eligible and qualified Vice President shall be elected at the State Executive Council meeting during a meeting convened for that purpose with adequate notice for the meeting published through her regular medium – via the office of the Publicity Secretary (FOSAD).

(d). Such notice of meeting for the purposes of electing the Vice Presidents 1 - 5 must be published at least one full clear month for such election to be valid.

(d). The simple majority of votes cast and counted by eligible and qualified members (in full financial standing) shall be adopted as the basis for winning the election.

(e). The Returning Officer for such election must be a person sent by FOSAD Secretariat - Secretary General. Such Returning Officer must be a member of the central organ (National Officer) who must be an indigene of a state other than the extant state conducting such election.

(f). In case of a tie in vote count during the first tier of such voting, another election shall be conducted the same day after ample time (30 – 60 minutes) would have been granted by the Returning Officer to candidates for further brief campaigns.

(g). Each candidate shall be represented by an agent while the counting of votes is conducted.

(h). The method of election shall be via secret ballot system.

10.04; Functions of the Vice Presidents 1 - 5

(a). They shall be members of the National Executive Council and other National bodies of FOSAD

(b). They shall represent their respective States at the National Executive Council

(c). They are not members of their respective State Executive Council; however they may attend their State meetings as observers only but with no voting right.

10.05; Secretary General

There shall be an office to the Secretary General of FOSAD who shall be a pensionable career staff but an eligible and qualified member of the Forum. He shall be appointed by the NEC of FOSAD and confirmed by the BOT. HE SHALL BE THE Administrative head of the Secretariat of FOSAD and all other staff of the Forum works under his directives as protected under the constitution.

(a). The Secretary General shall carry out all the Secretarial duties of the Forum including the summoning of all meetings on the directives of the President.

(b). The General Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Forum at the National levels, take minutes of the proceedings and shall have the custody of all books and records on behalf of the FOSAD save for those usually kept by the Treasurer.

(c). The Secretary General shall supervise the day-to-day activities at the National Secretariat under the general direction of the National President.

(d). The Secretary General shall cause to be issued as directed, notices of meetings of the National Executive Council, National Delegate Conference and the other meetings valid under this constitution.

(e). The Secretary General shall cause to be kept all records of books of proceedings of the National Executive Council, National Delegate Conference, and other authorized proceedings of the Forum which he attends as Secretary General or an authorized attendee.

(f). The Secretary General shall carry out with utmost diligence any other duty as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Trustees, the National Delegate Conference, the National Executive Council and the National President.

(g). The Secretary General shall render a written annual report of the activities of the Forum to the National Executive Council, NDC, and National Working Committee National Delegate Conference.

(h). Secretary General shall be a co-signatory to all the Forum's Bank Account(s).

(i). The Secretary General shall be the custodian of the common seal and other insignia of the Forum.

(j). In conjunction with the President, he/she shall write, sign and address all press and press conferences for and on behalf of the Forum and cause same (where applicable) to be released to the press and the general public and such position shall represent the official stand of the Forum when properly executed.

(k). shall be the official signatory to all correspondences of the Forum including endorsements, product ambassadors etc

10.06; Assistant Secretary General

There shall be an office of Assistant Secretary General of FOSAD

The Assistant Secretary General shall:

(a). Shall act in the stead of the Assistant Secretary General in his absence or where delegated.

(b). Shall assist the Secretary General in the discharge of his duties as may be so directed or as the situation or circumstance(s) demand or arises.

(c). Shall execute such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Secretary General or the National President or any other organ of the Forum.

10.07; National Treasurer

There shall be the office of the National Treasurer to be occupied by one who shall be a qualified and certified Accountant (preferably Chartered) with professional track records of prudence. He or she shall;

(a). Receive the Forums monies and not later than 24 hours of the receipt of (cash) and (12 hours (for electronic transactions) into the Forum's Bank Accounts on behalf of the Forum.

(b) Receive for and on behalf of FOSAD keep all cheque books, bank tellers, other negotiable instruments and other banking documents of the Forum;

(b). Ensure discreet management of the Forums funds and financial transactions.

(c). Prepare and submit a yearly Statement of Bank Account of the Forum to the National Executive Council and a quarterly financial account to the National Delegate Conference for purposes of keeping members abreast with the Forum's finances, approval or disapproval.

10.08;Assistant National Treasurer.

There shall be the office of The Deputy National Treasurer who shall;

(a) Assist and deputize the National Treasurer in his absence according to the constitutional provision.

(b) Shall upon the directive of the National Treasurer perform such duties and functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Secretary General, National Treasurer, The National President and other recognized organs of the Forum at the National level

10.09; National Financial Secretary

There shall be a National Financial Secretary of FOSAD to be occupied by one who shall be a qualified and certified Accountant (preferably a Chartered Accountant) with professional track records of prudence and transparency in the discharge of his/her duties .

(a) The National Financial Secretary shall collect and keep records of all monies, dues, levies, subscriptions, donations etc paid or made to the Forum.

(b). Shall ensure that proper account and records are kept and cause such books, items etc to be produced for inspection as may be required

(c). Collect all monies, dues etc due to the Forum and pay same to the National Treasurer not later than 24 hours after the collection.

(d) Shall carry out strict supervision of budgeting, budgetary control and financial reporting accruing to the Forum

(e) Shall prepare the inventory of the Forum's property and critically guard all her assets and institute their handling procedures through a well defined and coordinated internal control mechanism

(f) Shall institute and co-ordinate policies for the investment of the Forum's fund so as to generate maximum income or return on investment for the Forum.

(g) Shall be co-signatory to the Forums Bank Accounts.

10.10; Assistant National Financial Secretary

The Assistant National Financial Secretary shall assist the National Financial Secretary generally and other lawful assignment as may be directed by the President, NEC or any other properly constituted body of FOSAD

10.11; National Publicity Secretary

There shall be the office of the National Publicity Secretary of FOSAD who shall have bias or possess academic qualification in Languages, information and communication disciplines and whose functions shall be while carefully striking a delicate balance with the office and that of the General Secretary do the following;

(a) Co-ordinate all information and public relations of FOSAD; -

(b) He /she shall be the chief image maker of the Forum and cause to be publicized, the policies and programmes of the Forum in tandem with the aims and objectives of the Forum.

10.12; Assistant National Publicity Secretary

There shall be the office of the Assistant National Publicity Secretary of FOSAD who shall assist the National Publicity Secretary in the discharge of his/her constitutional duties. The same academic and professional qualifications consistent with the provisions of section 11.10 supra applies

(a) He/she shall deputize the National Publicity Secretary in his absence.

(b) He/she shall perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned to him by the National Publicity Secretary, National President, and National Executive Council.

10.13; National Provost/Welfare Secretary

There shall be the office of the Provost/Welfare Secretary.

(a) The National Provost/Welfare Secretary shall be responsible for general protocols and organizational logistics of the Forum during meetings.

(b) Promote the welfare of the members of the Forum; generally.

(c) Be responsible for conducting members during all such meetings and gatherings to ensure tranquility and adherence to set rules and ethics

(d) He/she shall have powers to enforce obedience and met out minor sanctions or punishments on recalcitrant members found to be causing chaos or being wantonly disruptive during meetings and gatherings as may be directed by the President or any other officer presiding during such meetings including easing such member out of the arena.

(e) Perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Executive Council, National Working Committee or the National Delegate Conference (NDC).

(f) Shall work in concert with the President and the Secretary General to arrange a liaison with public and or private security agencies to ensure the security of lives and property of FOSAD and her members during meetings and other such public gatherings

10.14; National Auditor

There shall be the office of the National Auditor who shall preferably be an Accountant by training and profession (Charter is an added advantage) who shall:

(a) Examine the books of accounts of the Forum from time to time and shall raise audit query or audit alert against the financial transactions of any or other officer of the Forum.

(b) Upon any audit query against any officer of the Forum by the National Auditor, such officer shall upon been informed in writing of the alleged financial impropriety respond in writing too to such query within one full calendar month. If the matter cannot be resolved by the officer and the Auditor, the matter shall be referred to the President who shall constitute an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the matter and report to the National Executive Council in her next meeting. Subject to

the findings of the committee, the matter may be dealt with by NEC or further referred to the Disciplinary Committee while the affected officer shall be suspended until the final outcome of the case

- (c) Audit the account books of the Forum annually, prepare and present same accordingly to the National Executive Council in session and at the Quadrennial National Delegate Conference.
- (d) In conjunction with the External Auditors, present the audited accounts of the Party to the National Convention annually and to the Quadrennial National Delegate Conference.
- (e) Carry out any other functions as may be directed by the National Executive Council.

10.15; National Assistant Auditor

There shall be an office of the National Auditor who shall assist the National Auditor 1 who shall;

- (a) Assist the National Assistant Auditor in the discharge of his/her duties in line with the constitutional provision of the Forum
- (b) The National Assistant Auditor shall deputize National Auditor in his absence to serve the Forum in their constitutional roles.
- (c) Carry out any other functions as may be directed by the National Executive Council, National Delegate Conference and National Working Committee.

10.16; National Legal Adviser

There shall be the office of The National Legal Adviser of FOSAD who must be occupied by a Nigerian called to the Nigerian Bar for not less than ten years (10) post call and must have actively practiced law either in academia or advocacy. He must be a person of high standing in matters of integrity, discipline and professionalism. He/she shall;

- (a) Be the Legal Adviser to the Board of Trustees.
- (b) Conduct all litigation and prosecute and defend actions on behalf of the Forum, including her organs, officials and assets in so far as the subject matter(s) of the litigation bothers on the interest of FOSAD.
- (c) He/she shall be the leader of the defense team in all cases and disputations and shall address the press on all matters of law concerning the Forum.
- (c) Interpret and give legal opinion on all Laws, Regulations and the Constitution of the Forum in the event of ambiguities.
- (d) Advise the Forum on all legal matters
- (e) Shall be qualified to practice Law under the Legal Practitioners Act,

10.17; Assistant National Legal Adviser

There shall be the office of The Assistant National Legal Adviser of FOSAD who must be occupied by a Nigerian called to the Nigerian Bar for not less than ten years (10) post call and practiced law either in the academia or advocacy. He must be a person of high standing in matters of integrity, discipline and professionalism.

10.18; The Assistant National Legal Adviser shall:

- (a) Hold brief for the National Legal Adviser in his absence.
- (b) Deputize the National Legal Adviser in the discharge of his constitutional duties and functions.

Perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Legal Adviser, the National President, the National Executive Council, the National Delegate Conference or any superior body of FOSAD.

10.19; Ex Officio Members 1 - 5

There shall be the offices of the Ex - Officio Members comprised of 5 active members to strengthen states presence at the National level of leadership. Their numbering of 1 – 5 is not predicated on any basis of seniority, superiority or importance; instead they are all at equal and coordinate levels. They shall each represent the five respective States of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States

10.20 (a) Composition and Functions of Ex – Officio 1 - 5 shall include;

- (a) Attend all meetings and gatherings of FOSAD at the National level such as National Executive Council, National Delegate Conference and National Working Committee etc.
- (b) Shall have voting rights at such meetings
- (c) Shall have full benefit and allowances accruing to the members of the National Executive Council but without portfolio.
- (d) Their emergence at the State level shall follow the rules and guidelines as applicable to the office of the Vice Presidents as stipulated under sections 11.03 and 11.04 supra.
- (e) However, emphasis for who shall emerge as Ex – Officio member from their respective States must be attached to social, political, economic etc standing, actual and perceived prospective contributions to the society especially to the development of southeast geopolitical zone.

10. 21; Officers at Other Levels (States and Diaspora)

There shall be offices and officers of FOSAD at State and Diaspora levels.

- (a) Subject to the express provision(s) of this Constitution all other officers at the State and Diaspora levels shall bear the nomenclatures adopted at the National level except that the State shall be used as prefix but with the same powers and functions as prescribed for National Officers.

(b) Provided that Legal Advisers at the Diaspora levels shall as far as practicable be Legal Practitioners qualified and in full standing to practice law either in advocacy or academia (or both) fit and proper person to practice under the applicable laws of the extant country.

10.22; Directorates

There shall be Directorates created for a more critical and discipline focused administration and general execution of projects/programs of the Forum. The Directorates shall include but not limited to the following as the President reserve the right to expand or limit as appropriate; (i) Political, Economic, (ii) Cultural, (iii) Science and Technology, (iv) New Media (social media), (v) Education and Research, (vi) Diaspora, (vii) Gender/Special Challenges etc.

(a) The President shall in consultation with the General Secretary appoint the Heads who shall be so designated and members which shall not exceed fifteen (15) for each of the Directorates. The President must appoint Heads and members and secure their ratification within sixty days (60) from the day he was sworn - in as FOSAD President. The National Executive Council shall approve and ratify the appointees from the President upon the receipt of the request from the President through the General Secretary

(b) The Heads shall be a full financial member of FOSAD with academic specialty directly related to the discipline of the Directorate so appointed

(c) Other members shall be discriminately picked from diverse disciplines as the President deem fit and appropriate to facilitate robust engagements.

(d) The tenure of the Head and members shall be tied to the Presidents.

(e) All appointees to the Directorate(s) shall serve for a period of four (4) years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another period of four (4) years only. However, an Officer appointed to fill a vacancy arising from death, resignation or otherwise of a member shall notwithstanding be eligible to the same office for two terms.

(f) Any member so appointed by the President reserve the right to decline to serve. She/he shall write a formal notice, addressed to the Secretary General who shall in turn communicate same to members of NEC. Such a person may or not give reason(s) for so declining to serve

(g) Any Head or member(s) shall resign or be removed from office when such person conducts him/herself in a manner unbecoming of a FOSAD member through a direct and or indirect conduct which conflicts with the provisions of the Forum's constitution, common sense, morality and sensibilities of a reasonable man

(h) No member shall serve in the same Directorate for more than eight (8) years continuously save for the provisions of section 11.19 (e)

(i) The Directorate of Diaspora shall be headed by a Lawyer or a Political Scientist with bias in Jurisprudence/International Law or Diplomacy and International Relations. Membership shall respect section 11.19 (c)

11.00 STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

The National Executive Council shall have power to set up Standing Committee(s), Ad-hoc Committees etc where and when necessary; whose membership shall be proposed by the President and ratified by at least two third 2/3 members of the National Executive Council voting in a properly convened meeting.

Article 12.00; The External Auditor(s)

The National Executive Council in conjunction with the house shall appoint a competent Accounting Firms to conduct an audit of the accounts of the Forum at the end of every administration and present the report of the audited accounts at the Triennial National Delegate Conference.

The Accounting Firm shall have at her disposal the capacity to conduct modern day auditing including conventional and forensic auditing

Article 13.00; Elections

It is hereby enacted that FOSAD shall through the National Executive Council, subject to the provisions of the Constitution formulate guidelines and regulations for the nomination of candidates for election into offices of the Forum at all levels and shall be the final authority for resolving all disputes relating to the emergence of candidates for any election. This is however without prejudice to individuals' right to assert his/her rights including rights to seek redress in courts for infringements of aforesaid rights as applicable. The procedure adopted for nomination of candidates, election procedures, timing, eligibility, bye – election, etc may be reviewed by the electoral committee appointed within the election period through issuance of Notices and Regulations by the general Secretary,⁴ to keep pace with latest trends and circumstances.

13.01; Mode of Election

The mode of elections into all offices of FOSAD's Executive positions both at the national, States or diasporas shall be through secret ballot system

13.02; Nomination of Candidates for Election

Nomination of candidates for all elective positions can be done by physical or virtual and shall be;

(a) Purchase of expression of interest form as may be released by the Secretary General for a fee as stipulated in the extant election guidelines.

(b) The candidate shall pay the sum of money as stipulated for the position into the FOSAD bank account

(c) Official receipt shall be issued to the candidate specifically specifying the post to be contested.

(d) Upon the completion of the nomination form, it will be returned to the appropriate office as shall be contained in the electoral guideline and an acknowledgment letter of the receipt of the returned form issued to the candidate. Such acknowledgment letter shall bear the official receipt of the issuing office, dated and dully signed

(e) The candidate shall be acquainted with other procedures and processes regarding the election including mode and method of campaigning, declaration of results and other details contained thereto.

(f) Each candidate shall be nominated by at least two member of the Forum who must be full financial members in case of State election.

(g) For elections into any of the National office, such candidate shall be nominated by at least two persons from five States.

13.03; Timing of the Election

Elections can be by physical and virtual mode and shall be held every three (3) years and all elected officers shall serve for a single term of three years and no more.

(a) The power to issue electoral guidelines for the election is hereby vested of the Electoral Committee for both the Federal and States elections.

(b) Elections into State Executive Offices shall come one year after the National elections. Elections shall be held during the triennial delegate conference for both the States and National

13.04; Eligibility and Qualifications

(a) All full financial members of FOSAD shall be considered eligible to vote and be voted for during all times when voting is required to elect officers of the Forum

(b) However, all the spirits and letters of FOSAD constitution and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be put into contemplation to the extent that anybody incapacitated by any provision of the two constitutions cited supra stands disqualified and ineligible to run.

13.05; Procedure

The General Secretary shall issue guidelines and any other guidelines as may be approved by the National Executive Council for the conduct of the elections shall qualify to be deemed the procedure for the elections

13.06; Oath of Office and Allegiance

After the conduct of the elections, the winners shall be announced by the Returning Officer. Letter of Return shall be issued to the winners and the Legal Adviser shall administer the Oath of Office to each and every one of them and shall further reiterate their allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

13.07; Tenure

(a) The tenure of office of every elected officer of FOSAD shall be a single term of three years.

(c) Any candidate who emerged through bye election shall conclude the tenure of his predecessor and stand qualified to seek reelection for a fresh term. The concluding of the term of his/her predecessor shall not be counted as a term having not served in that capacity for three years. Such a person reserve the right to seek reelection in the same office if he/she so wishes.

(d) Candidates who lost election to another candidate shall reserve the right to contest during another election.

13.08; Bye Election

(a) A bye election shall be conducted where for any acceptable reason; a particular candidate fails to conclude his/her tenure due to resignation, incapacity, death etc.

(b) The Secretary General shall issue notice of such election following the constitutional provisions of FOSAD.

14.00; Resignation of Officer

An elected Officer may resign his/her position after an election had been conducted, declared the winner and sworn in to function in the capacity of his/her office.

14.01; Procedure for Resignation

Such Officer shall follow the procedure as contained in FOSAD Constitution. Issues of his/her rights and privileges shall apply in strict observance of the relevant sections

15.00; Removal of Officer

An elected Officer of FOSAD may be removed from office if he/she contravenes the provisions of FOSAD constitution. Issues of his/her rights and privileges shall apply in observance of the relevant sections and with strict application of the provisions of FOSAD Constitution

15.01; Procedure for Removal of Officer

An elected officer may be removed from office if he/she contravenes any part of FOSAD's constitution.

A disciplinary committee shall be appointed by NEC which will be vested with the power to start and finish the investigations and advise the house accordingly and stipulate the offences.

The procedure for removal of such Officer shall be copiously followed to serve justice.

Article 16.00; Funding:

The Forum's activities shall be funded through such sources as subscription, donations/gifts, monthly dues, special levies, sale of the Forum's property, endorsements, franchise and others.

16:01; Membership Subscription:

An initial subscription fee of two thousand Naira (N2,000) only or any other amount that may be agreed by the majority of the members of the Forum from time to time shall be paid into the forum's account by any subscribing member upon application for membership

16.02; Donations:

Members of the Forum are at liberty to make freewill donations to support the forum's activities. Such donations shall be made directly into the forum's account and notification made to the forum's financial secretary for records and accountability.

16.03; Gifts:

The Forum welcomes special gifts and unclassified supports from third parties in accordance with the law, so long as such gifts do not jeopardize or compromise the tenets of the Forum's goal, objectives and mission. Such gifts, if made in monetary terms, shall be paid directly into the Forum's account and notification made to the forum's financial secretary for records and accountability.

16:04; Monthly dues:

(a) Every eligible member of the Forum shall be committed to the payment of monthly dues of one thousand Naira (N1,000) payable directly into the forum's account and notification made to the forum's financial secretary for records and accountability.

(b) Such payments may be made piece meal or paid *en blocke*.

16:05; Levies and Fines:

(a) An amount, otherwise referred to as levy, as may be agreed by the majority of the members shall be charged on each member when the need arises.

(b) Penalties in the form of fines shall be levied on any member who contravenes the rules of the Forum or engages in any action considered inimical to the tenets of the Forum.

(c) The amount to for subsections (a) and (b) shall be subject to the nature of the offence committed and shall be determined either by the constitutional provisions or by the simple majority of the members present in any general meeting where the matter is raised.

16.06; Sale of the Forum’s Property:

Proceeds from sale of the Forum’s property shall form a source of funding to the forum’s activities. Any property considered obsolete or ineffective for continued use for the Forum’s activities shall be disposed subject to the approval of the appropriate authority. The proceeds therefrom shall be paid into the Forum’s account according to the provisions of the constitution.

Article 17.00; Finances

17.01; Bankers of the Forum: The Forum shall maintain current bank accounts with a viable Commercial Banks as shall be decided by the appropriate authority.

17.02; Signatories to the Forums Account: The signatories of the forum’s bank accounts shall be as prescribed by the constitution.

17.03; Account Mandate (Clause):

(a)Withdrawal from the Forum’s accounts shall be the signatories as submitted to the bank and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

(b) Withdrawal made without the approval of the accredited signatories shall be invalid, null and void to the extent of the inconsistency (ies).

(c) The office of the General Secretary shall be awake to the challenging and quick pacing digital banking currently taking place in the financial sectors and shall make efforts to ensure that FOSAD is not left behind by adopting the best world practices in our banking experience.

17.04; Internal Audit of Forum’s Accounts:

(a)The accounts of the Forum shall be internally audited on annual basis and the report shall be presented during the last meeting of NEC and SEC for the year.

(b) The National Auditor shall be responsible for rendering the Audit Report.

(c) There shall be a triennial auditing of the National account by an external auditing Firm.

(d) The Audit team shall be appointed on an ad-hoc basis and shall perform a one-off function to the Forum.

Article 18.00; Meetings

18.01; Order of Proceedings at National Executive Council Meeting:

(a) Language:

(i) The language to be adopted during NEC meetings shall be English for purposes of capturing details for recording of minutes.

(ii) However, FOSAD shall be enjoined to seek for Igbo Language expert for the purposes of capturing a contributor who may choose to be recorded in Igbo Language (as a pilot project to see how it fits the purpose).

(b) Quorum:

The quorum for all NEC meetings shall be three quarter of the total number of expected attendees calculated by the actual expected members from the National and States.

(c) Officiating:

All NEC meetings of the forum shall be presided over by the National President or in his or her absence, the National Deputy President.

(d) Attendance:

All NEC members are under strict obligation to attend NEC meetings. Late attendance or non-attendance attracts a fine to be decided by the National Executive Council except with accepted apologies.

(e) Venue and Mode for NEC Meetings:

NEC meetings shall be held; online or physically depending on any mode considered more convenient at any point in time. The Online meetings can be held on any chosen online platform including whatsapp group chat, Google Meet, Zoom or any other platform considered more efficient from time to time. The physical meetings shall be rotated among the five South Eastern states in no particular order.

(f) Frequency of NEC meetings: Except in the event of any development that may warrant emergency meeting, NEC of the Forum shall meet bimonthly (that is, once every two months).

18.02; Order of Proceedings at State(s) Executive Council Meeting:

(a) Language:

Same as section 19.01(i)(ii) above.

(b) Quorum:

The quorum for all State Executive Council (SEC) meetings shall be the two-third (2/3) majority of the members of the SEC.

(c) Officiating:

All SEC meetings of the Forum shall be presided over by the State Chairperson or in his or her absence, the State Vice Chairperson.

(d) Attendance:

All SEC members are under obligation to attend the SEC meetings. Late attendance or non-attendance attracts a fine to be decided by the SEC members except on express permission by the State Chairperson.

(e) Venue for NEC meetings:

SEC meetings shall be held online or physically depending on the mode considered more convenient at any point in time. The Online meetings can be held on any chosen online platform including Whatsapp group chat, Google meet, Zoom or any other platform considered more efficient from time to time. The physical meetings shall be held at the State Capital.

(f) Frequency of NEC meetings:

Except in the event of any development that may warrant emergency meeting, SEC shall meet bimonthly.

(g) Order of Proceedings at Emergency Meeting:

The proceedings for emergency meetings at the national or state levels shall be same under this constitution.

Article 19.00; Social Benefits

TO BE HANDLED BY STATE CHAPTERS

20.00; Salaries, Honoraria, Allowances, Bonuses, Severances

20.01; Salary of Secretariat Staff:

The staff of the National secretariat shall be paid using the National Salary Chart of the Federal Republic of Nigeria while that of the State shall adopt the Salary Chart of the respective States.

20.02; Honorariums and Allowances:

Honorariums of any amount as may be the appropriate authority of the Forum shall be paid to BOT, NEC, SEC members as sitting allowance while NEC and SEC members shall also be entitled to allowances during official assignments as may be determined by the appropriate authority.

20.03; Bonuses and Severance Package:

(a) A severance package of two months monthly salary of the secretariat staff shall be paid to any secretariat staff relieved of his or her job on reasons other than gross incompetence, official misconduct, misappropriation of the Forum's resources and fraud.

(b) Such person shall deliver a three months notice of intention to voluntarily resign his/her appointment to the General Secretary to be so entitled

21.00; ARTICLE 21: TRANSITION

21.01 The National Executive Council (NEC) as well as State Executive Councils (SEC) shall stand dissolved at the expiration of the four-year tenure single tenure following a motion to that effect to be moved by an authorized person at the National Delegate Conference and State Delegate Conference respectively immediately after elections results are announced and winners declared. There-after the winners shall be sworn in immediately by the National Legal Adviser assisted by the Returning Officer and Chairman of BOT or his/her delegate

21.02; In the event that the elections could not hold as envisaged by the constitution, the Chairman of the BOT shall in consultation with his member shall appoint an interim government of three months life span and nothing more with a mandate to conduct elections within three (3) months at a special National Delegate Conference convened for such purpose only and same for the State also.

21.03; The hand-over notes shall indicate, unambiguously, the account balances, banking documents (including specimen signatures of designated signatories, all relevant files (permanent and temporary), relevant documents and other assets of the Forum shall be handed over to the new Executive Officers within two weeks from the date of election effective results.

21.04 If elections remain inconclusive, for whatever reasons, at any state chapter;

(i). the chapter shall come under the “retainership” of the National Executive Council (NEC) who shall in consultation with the Chairman and members of Board of Trustee immediately constitute a five man interim government who shall in turn conduct election within three (3) months

(ii) The tenure of the affected State shall be deemed to have commenced as if there was a successful election in such State. This is to avoid disruption of election calendar that will create off cycle elections in the affected State.

(iii) If a state is under the retainership of the NEC, the immediate past state Executive Council stand dissolved and shall not, for any reason what-so-ever, conduct any activity, under any guise, at the chapter.

ARTICLE 22: BREACHES AND PENALTIES:

22.01 Breaches of the constitution and Code of Conduct for FOSAD members shall include but not limited to the following:

(a) Non-compliance with any or all the provisions of this Constitution

(b) Non-performance of Constitutional duties by elected officers and members of the FORUM.

(c) Non-compliance with the Constitutional provisions regarding convening National or State Conferences of the Forum.

d. Extension or attempt to extend tenure beyond the provisions of the Constitution.

e. Engaging in Anti-Forum activities

f. Non-preparation and presentation of Financial Reports at the National, or State Meetings or Conferences by concerned officers.

g. Non-attendance at meetings of National Executive Council (NEC), National Delegate Conference (NDC), State Executive Council (SEC), State Delegate Conference (SDC) and such “Special Meeting”.

h. Illegal boycott of constitutional meetings or conferences

i. Disruption of statutory meetings

- j. Use of abusive or foul language during meetings and other public events
- k. Non-payment of dues, levies, fines and subscriptions
- l. Presentation of misleading account statements through understatement of income, overstatement of expenditure, over/undervaluation of assets and over/understatement of liabilities.
- m. Forgery (of any nature) – signatures, certificates and degrees; false claim of educational attainment.
- n. Other anti-societal crimes and misdemeanour.

ARTICLE 23: INTERPRETATION

23.01 The following concepts, here-in contained in this constitution, shall bear the following meanings, unless the context expressly otherwise requires further interpretation:

- a. FORUM: association of registered Doctorate Degree Holders (PhD) who are indigenes of the five states (Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu & Imo) of South East geopolitical zone of Nigeria.
- b. Authorized Body: For the purpose of executing official functions, authorized body shall comprise constituted committee for the specific tasks.
- c. Authorized Person: a person or an individual constitutionally appointed or elected for the execution of a specific task or function.
- d. Due Process: for the purposes of election, membership adoption, meetings, and disciplinary actions, due process shall mean adhering strictly to the stipulates of the applicable article of the constitution.
- e. Just Cause: For the purpose of taking disciplinary action, just cause shall mean a breach of any provision of this constitution or of the code of conducts of the FORUM or any other misconduct considered to be unworthy of a member of the Forum by the National Executive Council (NEC) or National Disciplinary Committee (NDC) so constituted.
- f. Special Meeting: Meeting convened by authorized body or authorized person in compliance with constitutional stipulates.
- g. Anti-Activity: any activity expressly done to bring the FORUM to disrepute, and construed to be a misrepresentation and a contravention of the aims and objectives of the Forum.

23.02 Tenure of Office for both elected and appointive Officers:

All elected and appointed officers of FOSAD including committees' member be shall be three (3) calendar years.

ARTICLE 24: Amendment of the Constitution

- 24.01. The powers to amend the constitution shall be vested in the National Delegate Conference (NDC)
- 24.02 Any provision of this constitution shall be open for amendment only after four (4) years from the date of its approval or when the National Delegate Conference (NDC) deems it necessary and calls for its amendment.
- 24.03 The procedure shall be that a member of the National Delegate Conference (NDC) or any member following the prescribed procedure shall, in writing prior to the NDC meeting, initiate a motion for the amendment of the constitution or part thereof. A written proposal for such amendment shall be delivered to the Secretary General, at least, three (3) months prior to the NDC where such proposal shall be read and or considered for amendment.
- 24.04 Any alteration or changes to this constitution must be by a simple majority of delegates present and voting at the NDC Meeting
- 24.05 All amendments to the constitution shall take effect only after registration and approval of the altered section (part) by the Registrar of Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria.

Article 25: STAFF AND STAFF RULES

- (i) Employees of the Forum shall be subject to the direction, control and discipline of the National and state Secretariat(s) of the Forum; appeals on matters of discipline and routine administration shall lie with the secretary and at various levels, in compliance with the Forum's manual.
- (ii) All employees of the Forum shall be bound by the provisions of this constitution, the rules and regulations of the Forum and the decisions of the National Executive Council and other authorized organs of the Forum.

Article 26: Forum Engagement and Collaboration.

The National Executive Council in consultation with the BOT shall from time to time, as occasion demands, seek/welcome collaboration with sister organizations with similar interest, as long as it promotes the ideas and aspirations of the Forum. The collaboration with such sister organization(s) shall be subject to ratification at the National Executive Council.

Article 27: Contractual liability

- (i) The Forum shall be a Body Corporate with perpetual succession and can sue or be sued in its corporate name with power to acquire, hold alien on property, enter into agreements and to do all things necessary to promote her general-purpose clause.
- (ii) To carry out its Aims and Objectives and defend its members, property and reputation.
- (ii) Only national officers of the forum shall have the authority to create any legal relationship binding on the forum.