

CONSTITUTION

THE SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION IN SWITZERLAND

ARTICLE 1

The Mandate and Headquarters:

The Sierra Leone Association in Switzerland, hereinafter called "The Salone Association", is open for membership primarily to nationals of the Republic of Sierra Leone in Switzerland and its environs.

The group was constituted in line with articles 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, the articles that define what constitute an acceptable civil group.

The Salone Association has its address at the home of its secretariat.

ARTICLE 2

Goals

The Salone Association is a non-profit-making and non-political body that works towards the promotion of the culture and interests of the people of Sierra Leone, and the well-being as well as the dignity of Sierra Leonean nationals living in Switzerland and environs.

The Salone Association will, in collaboration with other groups of similar interests to the extent that this is feasible and necessary:

- a) Promote interest in the economic and socio-political development of Sierra Leone;
- b) Give moral and, to the extent possible, material assistance to Sierra Leoneans in difficulty;
- c) Organise cultural and social events for the benefit of its members and the public in general.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

a) Individual Member

An individual member is a person of Sierra Leonean origin, or a spouse of a Sierra Leonean, legally resident in Switzerland and environs who is registered in a personal capacity.

b) Collective Member

A collective member is a person under the age of 21 years whose parent(s) or guardian(s) is an individual member.

c) Honorary Member

An honorary member is a person who, though not of Sierra Leonean origin, wishes to contribute to the realisation of the goals of the association.

ARTICLE 4

Admission requirements

Membership of the Association is at the discretion of the General Meeting as manifested in a decision taken at a General Meeting. The procedures for applying for membership are as follows:

- a) Requests for admission should be made in writing to the President of the Association who will present the application to the next General Meeting for approval;
- b) Pending approval at the next General Meeting, the Committee¹, having satisfied itself that the conditions of admission have been met, could authorise the candidate to participate in the activities of the Association.

ARTICLE 5

Resignation

Resignations should be made in writing to the President who will then inform the members at the next general meeting.

ARTICLE 6

Expulsion

Any member

- a) Who has lied about his/her nationality; or
 - b) Who has been condemned by the Swiss judicial system for serious offences² or other crimes;
- shall be expelled by the Committee acting on behalf of the General Meeting.

This decision, by the Committee, can be reviewed by the General Meeting at the request of the affected Member.

¹ Article 10

² The General Meeting decides what constitutes to a serious offence

The Committee shall recommend to the General Meeting the expulsion of any member

- a) who does not respect his/her financial commitment, despite 2 written reminders from the Committee;
- b) who has gravely abused the Constitution of the Association;
- c) who persistently behaves in a manner unbecoming of a member of the Association.

ARTICLE 7

Programme of activities

The following persons can participate in activities organised by the association:

- 1) All registered members on the official list
- 2) All persons authorised by the Committee/General Meeting

ARTICLE 8

Organs of the Association

- a) The General Meeting
- b) The Committee
- c) The Auditors

ARTICLE 9

The General Meeting

- a) The General Meeting is the highest authority of the Salone Association. It comprises of all registered members on the official list (article 3a and 3b). It is convened at least three times each year and presided by the President or, in his absence, the Vice-President.
- b) The General Meeting shall follow an agenda as circulated by the Secretariat and amended by correspondence prior to the meeting.
- c) The decisions of the Association that are exclusive to the General Meeting are:
 - The admission and expulsion of members

- The appointment and removal of members of the Committee and the Auditors
 - The annual membership subscription
 - The approval of activities proposed by the Committee
 - The amendment and modification of the constitution
 - The dissolution of the association
- d) All decisions are taken by a simple majority vote of individual members present except for the amendment of the constitution (article 14) and the dissolution of the association (article 15).
- e) All individual members have equal voting rights
- f) In the case of a tie in votes, the Chairperson at the General Meeting will have a casting vote .
- g) All members are expected to attend each General Meeting.

ARTICLE 10

Committee

- a) The Committee shall consist of five members as follows:
- President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Publicity Secretary
- b) Members are elected for two calendar years and are eligible for re-election.
- c) A Member of the Committee can be removed by a simple majority vote at a General Meeting.
- d) The Committee is responsible for managing the activities of the association.

ARTICLE 11

Responsibilities of members of the Committee

a) The President

- Is responsible for the general administration of the association
- Presides over General and Committee Meetings
- Delegates tasks to members of the Committee, but takes responsibility for acts with respect to third parties and/or institutions
- Represents and speaks in the name of the association
- Forges relations with third parties in the interest of the association
- Approves correspondence to third parties
- Disseminates swiftly important information to members of the association
- Is responsible for the general welfare and success of the association.

b) The Vice-President

- Assists the President in the exercise of his/her responsibilities
- Deputises for the President in his/her absence

c) The Secretary

- Keeps and updates the addresses of members and other contacts
- Drafts and verifies all correspondence
- With the consent of the President, prepares the agenda and sends out invitations for Meetings
- Produces the minutes of Meetings
- Receives and sends out correspondence to third parties with the consent of the President
- Follows very closely all activities of the association

d) The Treasurer

- Manages the accounts and keeps the Association up-to-date on the state of the accounts.
- Prepares the budget for activities.
- Pays all invoices, receipted bills and all legal financial obligations of the Association promptly: signs all the cheques and other financial documents, jointly with the President or the Vice President.
- Prepares the Financial Reports at the end of each year.

e) The Publicity Secretary

Promotes and manages all the cultural and social activities of the association

ARTICLE 12

The Auditors

Audit the annual financial reports presented by the Treasurer

ARTICLE 13

Resources

The resources of the Association comprise of members' subscriptions, income from its activities and donations.

Membership fees shall be paid annually. The amount paid by Individual and Honorary members for a calendar year shall be determined at a General Meeting in the preceding calendar year.

ARTICLE 14

Amendments of the Constitution

The Constitution of the Salone Association shall be amended by at least a 2/3 majority vote in a General Meeting specially convened thereto. Only paid-up individual members are eligible to vote at such a meeting.

ARTICLE 15

Dissolution

The Salone Association shall be dissolved by at least a 2/3 majority vote in a General Meeting specially convened thereto. Only paid-up individual members are eligible to vote at such a meeting.

This Special Meeting shall decide on the liquidation of the resources of the Salone Association.

- END -

This Constitution is hereby approved by the General Meeting held

at Vevey.....

on 13 April 2002.....



Claude Stefanopoulos

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President



**Muriel Janet Lisk
Secretary**

I, Laurent BRECHBUHL, notary public in Geneva (Switzerland) hereby certify the signature affixed hereover by **Mr Claude STEFANOPULOS**.

Geneva, May 19, 2003

I, Laurent BRECHBUHL, notary public in Geneva (Switzerland) hereby certify the signature affixed hereover by **Mrs Muriel J. LISK**.

Geneva, May 13, 2003

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