



CONGRESS OF NATIONS AND STATES

CHARTER

24 August 2021

CHARTER of the Congress of Nations and States
Adopted by the Convening Council
(full text)
24 August 2021

Preamble

We the Peoples of Nations and States establish this Charter to proclaim the Congress of Nations and States as a representative international institution to promote freedom, security, justice, and respectful relations; and

Together as member Nations and States, we shall advance our expressed commitment to self-determination, fundamental rights, and equalities for all Peoples under International Laws and Treaties and find common and mutually beneficial solutions through diplomacy, cooperation, and new measures to resolve conflicts, sustain natural life, and engage Nations and States toward lasting peace, progress, and prosperity; and

Be it resolved that, with the inherent enabling powers of the Nations and States and thereupon the derived authority of the Congress of Nations and States Convening Council, this Charter shall hereby be approved, and become effective upon the power of the undersigned signatories.

Article I. PURPOSE

1. Create a permanent international organization for Nations and States to directly negotiate policies and practices, conflicts, and disputes to create new international norms acceptable to all members of the Congress of Nations and States.
2. Provide a permanent international forum through which peaceful means and discourse are used to address and develop mutually beneficial governing policies.
3. Formulate and adopt affirmative measures and protocols that advance the rights and equality of Peoples worldwide.
4. Identify and establish mechanisms to resolve differences that may include, but are not limited to, the loss of life; violations of political, social, economic, cultural, and territorial rights; violent conflicts at the sub-regional, regional and continental levels; the decline of socio-economic conditions, status, and livelihoods of Nations and States; and the impending global challenges to life and sustainability including biodiversity collapse, unrestrained development that breaks down ecosystems, human societies, and the climate.

ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

1. Self-determination is the inherent right of all peoples to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.
2. Sovereignty is an absolute authority or power of governance over a given territory and its people within fixed or non-fixed borders.
3. A People, or Peoples, is a distinct population with a shared heritage, common culture, religion, history, language, and social system who may live in a territory governed by the inherent powers of customary laws or may be in a diaspora to many parts of the world.
4. A Nation is a self-identifying people with the capacity to enforce their customary laws and exercise administrative power over a given territory within fixed or non-fixed borders.
5. A State is a polity within a territory with fixed boundaries having sovereignty, exercising a monopoly over the use of force, and imposing constitutional law within the boundaries.
6. A territory is a geographic area belonging to or is under the jurisdiction of a governmental authority.
7. Territorial space refers to all the waters and the land surface, subsurface, and the space above surface that are under the jurisdiction of an administrative entity.
8. Consensus voting is a decision-making process of deliberation and agreement where no party disagrees, but that differences of opinion, interest, and perspective are allowed to influence the eventual outcome of a matter presented for consideration and passage at Congress Assembly or during a CNS authorized meeting.

ARTICLE 3. PRINCIPLES

1. Joint commitment to creating and preserving international norms that represent international, domestic, and customary laws of Nations and States when essential and consistent with advancing quality of life and protecting human rights.
2. Prevention and resolution of conflicts that diminish the social, economic, political, and cultural existence of Nations and States.
3. Recognition of Nations' territorial domains and the inherent powers of governance as well as their historical, political, and cultural foundations in the territories.
4. Recognition of the right of self-determination of member Nations and States.
5. Negotiation between States and Nations on an equal political plane through judicial process that represent relevant legal traditions and precedents in the world.
6. Recognition of free, prior, and informed consent between Nations and States.

ARTICLE 4. ORGANIZATION

1. The Congress of Nation and States (CNS), to realize the vision and mission and to effectively serve the mutually beneficial interests of member Nations and States, shall consist of the Congress, Convening Council, Commissions, Secretariat, Justice Mechanism, and other organizational bodies and agencies.
2. The convening of various parts of the Congress of Nations and States at the bi-annual session to transact organizational business shall be known as the “Congress.”

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership to CNS shall be open to all authorized representatives of Nations and States with a signature placed on the CNS Charter and any other required documents as requested by the Secretariat or Convening Council.
2. The number, status, qualification, and designation of members in CNS, and the positions of officeholders, shall be determined and approved by the Convening Council.
3. Approved membership applicants shall be admitted as sitting representatives in the Congress with all the accorded rights and privileges.
4. CNS may issue to a sitting member Nation or State a certificate, card, or a diplomatic letter of approved membership.
5. The Secretariat shall keep all membership information, documents, and records confidential and shall not disclose or release them to the public without approval.
6. The membership obligations are created and approved by the Convening Council and may be adjusted from time to time depend on necessity and circumstances.

ARTICLE 6. REPRESENTATIVES

1. Each member Nation and State signatory to the Charter shall have one seat at the CNS Congress Assembly to be occupied during a Session by the authorized representative.

ARTICLE 7. CONGRESS

1. The Congress shall consist of all sitting representatives who convene at the bi-annual session to transact its regular business, deliberate policy resolutions submitted by the specialized commissions, or address petitions by the members.
2. Congressional session shall be approved by the Convening Council with notices given to sitting members no less than ninety days prior to the start of the assembly.
3. The Convening Council can call a special session of Congress in time of crisis or emergency, deemed detrimental to the organization and its membership, to discuss the situation and mitigate any adverse impact.

4. Representatives present at the Congress and accounting for more than one-half of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for meeting and transaction of business.

5. Any substantive matter or petition coming before the Congress shall be presented in the form of a written resolution and passed by consensus to become a standing organizational policy, protocol, or treaty until such time when it is properly repealed.

6. Each representative is eligible to one vote on a matter coming before the Congress. An affirmative consensus vote passed at the Congress at which a quorum is met shall constitute the lawful act of the whole membership.

ARTICLE 8. CONVENING COUNCIL

1. The Convening Council constitutes the governing officeholders of CNS and has the general power to control and manage its affairs, funds, and property. The Convening Council shall not permit any part of the net earnings or capital in the Organization to inure to the benefit of any individual member.

2. Council members shall be nominated and elected to office at the Congress to represent the diverse membership of the Organization. Each Council member shall serve a two-year staggered term in office but not to exceed four consecutive terms.

3. Vacancies in the Council can be filled by the Convening Council for the remainder of the office term until the next proper replacement.

4. The Convening Council shall review recommendations submitted by the Commissions and address petitions by the members and shall consult with the Secretariat in preparation for Congress.

5. The Convening Council shall request that the Secretariat submit an annual executive report and, when necessary, periodic work summaries, to the membership and to the public.

ARTICLE 9. COMMISSIONS

1. Specialized commissions are created to assist in specific area of work directed by the Congress or required by the Convening Council and shall consist of the Economic Commission, the Culture and Society Commission, the Environmental Commission, the Political Commission, the Justice Commission, and the Security Commission.

2. The specialized commissions shall be responsible for drafting resolutions and protocols that are useful to member Nations and States.

3. Each specialized commission can establish specific ad hoc sub-commission deemed necessary and essential at the time to meet a specific organizational goal or objective.

4. The Commissioners will be appointed by the Secretariat through an application process and approved by the Convening Council to serve their term and can be terminated after careful consideration by the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 10. SECRETARIAT

1. The Convening Council shall designate the Secretary General to oversee the operations of the Secretariat and those of other CNS operating bodies, implement policy and programs, manage personnel and compliance, administer funds, and maintain property.

Article 11. JUSTICE MECHANISM

1. CNS shall authorize an International Peoples Crimes Treaty (IPCT) to define crimes against Peoples and Nations and shall establish an independent permanent Justice Mechanism, with the necessary and proper oversight and support, to ensure the prosecution of those crimes and the pursuit of justice.

2. The International Crimes Treaty shall be approved by the Convening Council and ratified by Congress prior to the institution, placement, and first hearing of the permanent Justice Mechanism.

ARTICLE 12. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Members, management, and staff serving the Organization must show a high level of commitment, integrity, confidence, competence, and ethical standards and must avoid conflict of interest with personal dealings.

2. When an elected officeholder becomes incompetent to carry out the assignments and duties for the best interest of CNS, or such officeholder duly places the organization in actual and apparent jeopardy and peril, the said officeholder shall be properly asked by the Convening Council, in accordance with all due process, to diligently and respectfully step down or terminate service in the position or the office.

3. Members, whether peoples, nations, or states, are held to the same standards of conduct and responsibility as stipulated in this Charter and under the rule of law and are expected to ensure secure, stable, respectful, and peaceful relations inside and outside of the organization. Members who breach the Charter, CNS policies and protocols, or treaties approved by the Congress can be subject to membership review, termination, expulsion, and public exposure.

ARTICLE 13. MEETINGS

1. All regular and special meetings can be called by any entity of the Organization provided that a notice of the date, time, and place based on an agenda is given to the respective members with sufficient time in advance.

2. Except where stipulated in the Charter, approval by a majority vote is required to pass a resolution.
4. All organizational meetings may be conducted virtually. Minutes taken from such meeting shall reflect the voting members present and any approved resolution.
5. A quorum to conduct an organizational meeting requires the presence of a majority members. Any transacted business or vote absent a quorum shall be invalid.
6. Each member of an organizational entity may cast one vote on a particular matter or resolution. Proxy voting shall not be permitted. An affirmative vote, whether by consensus or by majority, at which a quorum is met shall be the act of the entire respective group.

ARTICLE 14. SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS AND RECORDS

1. CNS shall keep correct and complete records of all the summary proceedings conducted by the organization and must preserve and protect them as proprietary, confidential, and in all available technical formats in accordance with current applicable laws.

ARTICLE 15. BUDGET

1. CNS shall act with integrity, prudence, and accountability in fiscal budgeting, financial management, capital investment, and programmatic expenditures. Any known breach with regulatory compliance and governmental requirements shall be timely reported to the Convening Council for proper and appropriate remedy.
2. The Secretariat must submit an annual budget to the Convening Council for approval and must have a bookkeeping system in place that follows international generally accepted accounting principles and practices.

ARTICLE 16. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

1. Matters concerning financial transactions such as compensations, benefits, leases, contracts, investments, checks, drafts, and orders for payment must be presented to the Convening Council for approval before they become effective, final, and dispositive.
2. The Organization shall not, incidentally, or otherwise, offer any monetary gain to its sitting members, elected officeholders, representatives, or any other private persons not employed by CNS.
3. Any member or elected officeholder knowingly violates the pecuniary prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Convening Council, including but not limited to, suspension and removal of membership rights and privileges, termination of employment contracts, and expulsion from office, as well as any other additional legal liabilities.

ARTICLE 17. FISCAL YEAR

1. The Fiscal Year of the Organization shall run from the first of October to the last day of September of each calendar year. A financial report shall be presented by the Secretariat to the Convening Council for review and made available to the members after the conclusion of the Fiscal Year.

ARTICLE 18. INDEMNIFICATION

1. The Organization shall have the power to indemnify and hold harmless any office holder from any liability arising out of, or asserted to arise out of, the conduct of the officeholder acting within the scope and authority of this Charter, except in cases of willful misconduct whereby the individual officeholder involved and responsible shall be personally and severally liable for the legal consequences.

2. No sitting member, nor any current officeholder of the Organization, shall be personally held liable for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of the Organization solely because of membership or office position within the Organization or any of its subsidiary entities.

3. The costs and expenses incurred by the elected officeholder that arise out of litigation, claim, judgment, or liability for which this Charter provides indemnification shall include, among other things, attorney's fees, damages, and reasonable amounts paid in settlement.

ARTICLE 19. DISSOLUTION

1. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the Congress of Nations and States, whether voluntary or involuntary, or by operation of law, all remaining property and assets shall exclusively go toward charitable purposes as stipulated under the relevant laws and statutes of the hosting Nation or State.

2. In no event shall any sitting member, elected officeholder, management staff, or any representative be entitled to the distribution of the organization's property or assets upon its dissolution.

ARTICLE 20. SEAL, LOGO, AND INSIGNIA

1. CNS shall have a seal, logo, or insignia to be used for official documents and stationery, website, social media, or any other corporate products.

ARTICLE 21. AMENDMENTS

1. Any number of amendments, articles, or even an entire revision of the Charter, or any section thereof, may be proposed by a sitting member of the Congress in the

form of a written resolution to the Convening Council at least six months before the annual convention.

2. A proposed amendment to any part of the Charter shall be approved by the Convening Council and passed by a majority voting members at the Congress.

ARTICLE 22. RATIFICATION

1. The Charter of the Congress of Nations and States shall be open for signature once it has been approved by the Convening Council and shall thereafter come into full force and effect. Any subsequent changes and amendments to the Charter, in part or in whole, shall be approved by the Convening Council and adopted by consensus of at Congress.
