

BYLAWS OF THE ERITREAN SOVEREIGNTY Network (ESN)

Preamble

The Eritrean Sovereignty Network (ESN) is established as a global, diaspora-driven initiative of Eritrean professionals, scholars, and civic-minded individuals committed to upholding and protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea. Rooted in the collective strength and expertise of Eritreans worldwide, guided by authoritative historical documentation, established international legal principles, and fact-based advocacy, these Bylaws set forth the framework for ESN's governance, operations, and adherence to its foundational principles.

Mission Statement

The Eritrean Sovereignty Network (ESN) is dedicated to safeguarding the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea through a globally coordinated, non-violent, and legally compliant three-pillar strategy. We aim to mobilize the collective expertise and commitment of the Eritrean diaspora to proactively defend Eritrean interests on diplomatic, legal, informational, and community fronts, ensuring a unified and resilient national posture.

Vision Statement

The ESN envisions a future where Eritrea's sovereignty and territorial integrity are unequivocally recognized, respected, and unassailable on the global stage. We strive for a unified Eritrean diaspora that acts as a disciplined vanguard, effectively countering all threats to national independence and fostering a strong, informed, and resilient Eritrean identity for generations to come.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1.01 Name

The name of this organization shall be the Eritrean Sovereignty Network, hereinafter referred to as "ESN" or "the Task Force."

Section 1.02 Foundational Principles

All operations and conduct within the ESN must adhere to the following immutable principles:

- (a) **Principle of Unwavering Unity:** The defense of Eritrean national sovereignty shall unequivocally transcend all internal political, ideological, religious, or regional differences. Every member of the ESN is mandated to actively reject and counter any action or rhetoric that fosters division or weakens the unified national position, embodying the spirit of the "Unwavering Custodians of National Identity."

- (b) **Principle of Non-Violence & Legal Adherence:** All activities undertaken by the ESN must be conducted strictly within the parameters of international and continental law, the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN-supervised 1993 Referendum, and the prevailing laws of the host countries where operations occur. The ESN is explicitly a non-military, civilian-led initiative.
- (c) **Principle of a Singular Voice:** All external communications, lobbying efforts, and advocacy campaigns originating from the ESN (across Pillar I, II & III) must adhere to a meticulously crafted, unified, and principled narrative as formally approved by the National Sovereignty Steering Committee (NSSC). This protocol is critical to deny adversaries any opportunity for diplomatic ambiguity or the exploitation of perceived contradictions within the Eritrean national stance.
- (d) **Principle of Professionalism & Integrity:** Every member of the ESN is expected to execute their responsibilities with the highest degree of professionalism, intellectual rigor, ethical conduct, and strategic discipline, as befits the "Disciplined Information Vanguard" and the gravity of the mission.
- (e) **Principle of Transparency & Accountability:** The ESN is committed to transparent operational and financial practices, ensuring accountability to the General Assembly, and the wider Eritrean diaspora.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Section 2.01 Eligibility

Membership in the ESN shall be open to all Eritrean individuals and organizations committed to the mission of the ESN and upholding its foundational principles, regardless of political affiliation, religion, gender, or regional origin.

Section 2.02 Categories of Membership

- (a) **Individual Members:** Open to all eligible individuals.
- (b) **Organizational Members:** Open to Eritrean community organizations, associations, and civic groups that endorse the ESN's mission and principles.
- (c) **Supporters:** Individuals or entities who support the mission but do not meet full membership criteria (non-voting).

Section 2.03 Rights and Responsibilities

- (a) **Voting Rights:** All eligible individual members and designated representatives of organizational members shall have the right to participate in Public Meetings/Conventions, propose resolutions, and vote on matters presented to the General Assembly, including the election of NSSC members.
- (b) **Responsibilities:** All members are expected to actively contribute to the ESN's mission, abide by these Bylaws, adhere to the Foundational Principles, and uphold the highest standards of conduct.

Section 2.04 Affiliation with OEU and Partners

The ESN acknowledges its establishment at a Convention organized by the Organization of Eritrean Unity (OEU) and all interested Partners and shall maintain a collaborative working relationship with these entities.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL ASSEMBLY / PUBLIC MEETINGS / CONVENTIONS

Section 3.01 Authority

The General Assembly, comprising all eligible members present at duly called Public Meetings or Conventions, shall be the supreme governing body of the ESN. It holds ultimate authority in electing the NSSC and approving major policy and strategic directives.

Section 3.02 ESN Formation Convention

The initial NSSC members were elected at the ESN Formation Convention organized by the OEU and its Partners.

Section 3.03 Annual Convention

An Annual Convention of the ESN General Assembly shall be held no later than the end of the first quarter of each calendar year for the purpose of electing NSSC members (as terms expire), receiving comprehensive reports from the NSSC and Working Groups, and conducting other essential business.

Section 3.04 Special Conventions

Special Conventions of the General Assembly may be called by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the NSSC or upon a written petition signed by no less than 10% of the eligible members, submitted to the NSSC. The specific purpose(s) of the Special Convention must be clearly stated in the official call.

Section 3.05 Notice of Meetings/Conventions

Written or electronic notice of all Public Meetings or Conventions, including the detailed agenda, shall be distributed to all known eligible members no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3.06 Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at any Public Meeting or Convention shall consist of a minimum of fifty (50) eligible members, or 10% of the total recorded membership, whichever is greater, present in person or via approved electronic means.

Section 3.07 Voting

Each eligible individual member or designated organizational representative present at a Public Meeting or Convention shall be entitled to one vote. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of members present and voting.

ARTICLE IV: NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY STEERING COMMITTEE (NSSC)

Section 4.01 Role and Authority

The NSSC serves as the apex strategic and decision-making body for the ESN, ensuring cohesive action and alignment with overarching objectives. Its mandate and

responsibilities include:

- (a) **Strategic Oversight:** Providing overall strategic direction, defining objectives, and ensuring the consistent alignment of all Task Force activities with the foundational three-pillar strategy.
- (b) **Cross-Pillar Synergy:** Facilitating seamless coordination and integration across the three Working Groups, ensuring that their efforts are mutually reinforcing.
- (c) **Decision-Making Authority:** Exercising final decision-making authority on all strategic, policy, and cross-cutting operational issues affecting the ESN.
- (e) **Resource Allocation & Management:** Approving budget allocations, overseeing fundraising strategies, and ensuring the judicious utilization of all financial and human resources.
- (f) **Risk Management:** Identifying potential strategic and operational risks to the Task Force's objectives and developing mitigation strategies.
- (g) **Performance Monitoring:** Establishing key performance indicators (KPIs) and regularly reviewing the efficacy and impact of ESN initiatives against defined strategic goals.

Section 4.02 Composition

The NSSC shall consist of eleven (11) voting members and an optional, non-voting Legal Advisor:

- (a) **Chairperson/Coordinator:** A distinguished and respected figure with significant experience in international relations, strategic leadership, or advocacy.
- (b) **Vice-Chairperson (Primary):** A distinguished and respected figure who shall assist the Chairperson and deputize in their absence.
- (c) **Secretary:** Responsible for official records and communications.
- (d) **Treasurer:** A professional with proven capabilities in financial management and financial oversight.
- (e) **Vice-Chair for Resource Mobilization & Administration:** A professional with proven capabilities in fundraising and logistical coordination, who also serves as a key NSSC officer.
- (f) **Vice-Chair, Working Group I (The Unified Diplomatic and Legal Action Group):** The designated head of Working Group I, bringing deep expertise in their domain.
- (g) **Vice-Chair, Working Group II (The Information and Digital Advocacy Group):** The designated head of Working Group II, bringing deep expertise in their domain.
- (h) **Vice-Chair, Working Group III (The National Unity and Resilience Group):** The designated head of Working Group III, bringing deep expertise in their domain.
- (i) **Core Committee Member 1:** An elected member actively participating in NSSC deliberations and assigned specific tasks or portfolios.
- (j) **Core Committee Member 2:** An elected member actively participating in NSSC deliberations and assigned specific tasks or portfolios.
- (k) **Core Committee Member 3:** An elected member actively participating in NSSC

deliberations and assigned specific tasks or portfolios.

- (l) **Legal Advisor (Ad-hoc):** A prominent international legal expert, providing specialized counsel on complex legal matters. This advisor shall be a non-voting member of the NSSC, attending meetings as needed.

Section 4.03 Election and Term of Office

- (a) **Initial Election:** The initial NSSC voting members were elected at the ESN Formation Convention.
- (b) **Subsequent Elections:** All NSSC voting members shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the eligible members present and voting at the Annual Convention. A Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates, and nominations from the floor shall be permitted.
- (c) **Term:** The term of office for all NSSC voting members shall be two (2) years, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. Terms shall be staggered where practical to ensure continuity of leadership.
- (d) **Re-election:** Members who have served their maximum consecutive terms may be eligible for re-election after a hiatus of at least one full term.

Section 4.04 Vacancies

- (a) A vacancy occurring in any NSSC voting member position (excluding Chairperson/Coordinator) shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining NSSC voting members, serving for the unexpired portion of the term.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairperson/Coordinator, the Vice Chairperson (Primary) shall automatically assume the office of Chairperson/Coordinator for the remainder of the term. A new Vice-Chairperson (Primary) shall then be elected by the remaining NSSC voting members.

Section 4.05 Resignation and Removal

- (a) **Resignation:** Any NSSC member may resign by submitting written notice to the Chairperson/Coordinator or Secretary.
 - (b) **Removal:** Any NSSC voting member may be removed from office for cause (e.g., gross misconduct, dereliction of duty, violation of these Bylaws or Foundational Principles, —conservative absentee) by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the NSSC members present and voting, provided that at least fifty percent (50%) of all sitting NSSC voting members are present at the meeting. The member subject to removal shall be given reasonable notice of the charges and a fair opportunity to be heard prior to the vote. The Legal Advisor may be removed by a simple majority vote of the NSSC.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF NSSC OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Section 5.01 Chairperson/Coordinator

The Chairperson/Coordinator shall:

- (a) Preside over all meetings of the NSSC and the General Assembly/Public Meetings. (b) Be the chief spokesperson for the ESN, upholding the Principle of a Singular Voice.
- (c) Provide overall strategic leadership and direction for the Task Force. (d) Sign, with

the Secretary or Treasurer, contracts or other instruments which the NSSC has authorized to be executed.

(e) Exercise general supervision over the affairs of the ESN.

Section 5.02 Vice-Chairperson (Primary)

The Vice-Chairperson shall:

(a) Assist the Chairperson/Coordinator in the performance of their duties.

(b) Perform the duties of the Chairperson/Coordinator in their absence or inability to act.

(c) Undertake special projects and assignments as directed by the NSSC.

Section 5.03 Secretary

The Secretary shall:

(a) Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the NSSC and the General Assembly/Public Meetings.

(b) Oversee the maintenance of all official records and documents of the ESN. (c) Be responsible for official correspondence of the ESN, adhering to the Principle of a Singular Voice.

(d) Ensure proper notice is given for all meetings and conventions.

(e) Maintain a register of members and NSSC contact information.

Section 5.04 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

(a) Be the chief financial officer of the ESN.

(b) Have custody of all funds and financial records of the ESN.

(c) Receive and disburse funds as authorized by the NSSC.

(d) Keep accurate records of all financial transactions.

(e) Prepare and present regular financial reports to the NSSC and the General Assembly/Public Meetings.

(f) Ensure compliance with all applicable financial regulations and audits, separate from broader resource mobilization.

Section 5.05 Vice-Chair for Resource Mobilization &

Administration This Vice-Chair shall:

(a) Lead the development and execution of fundraising strategies.

(b) Oversee logistical coordination for ESN activities.

(c) Ensure that all financial contributions, donations, and resource allocation decisions are comprehensively documented and reviewed, working in close coordination with the Treasurer.

(d) Actively participate in NSSC deliberations and decision-making as a full voting member.

Section 5.06 Vice-Chair, Working Group I (The Unified Diplomatic and Legal Action Group)

This Vice-Chair shall:

(a) Provide strategic leadership and direction for Working Group I. (b) Act as the

primary conduit between Working Group I and the NSSC, ensuring cross-pillar synergy.

- (c) Ensure the execution of WG I's mandate in alignment with the ESN's mission and Foundational Principles.
- (d) Submit detailed bi-weekly Activity Reports to the NSSC.
- (e) Actively participate in NSSC deliberations and decision-making as a full voting member.

Section 5.07 Vice-Chair, Working Group II (The Information and Digital Advocacy Group)

This Vice-Chair shall:

- (a) Provide strategic leadership and direction for Working Group II. (b) Act as the primary conduit between Working Group II and the NSSC, ensuring cross-pillar synergy.
- (c) Ensure the execution of WG II's mandate in alignment with the ESN's mission and Foundational Principles, specifically upholding the discipline in information dissemination.
- (d) Submit detailed bi-weekly Activity Reports to the NSSC.
- (e) Actively participate in NSSC deliberations and decision-making as a full voting member.

Section 5.08 Vice-Chair, Working Group III (The National Unity and Resilience Group)

This Vice-Chair shall:

- (a) Provide strategic leadership and direction for Working Group III. (b) Act as the primary conduit between Working Group III and the NSSC, ensuring cross-pillar synergy.
- (c) Ensure the execution of WG III's mandate in alignment with the ESN's mission and Foundational Principles.
- (d) Submit detailed bi-weekly Activity Reports to the NSSC.
- (e) Actively participate in NSSC deliberations and decision-making as a full voting member.

Section 5.09 Core Committee Members (3 positions)

These members shall:

- (a) Actively participate in NSSC deliberations and decision-making as full voting members.
- (b) Undertake specific tasks, projects, or subcommittee responsibilities as assigned by the Chairperson/Coordinator or NSSC.
- (c) Contribute to the strategic and operational objectives of the ESN, enhancing its overall capacity and representation.

Section 5.10 Legal Advisor (Non-Voting)

The Legal Advisor shall:

- (a) Provide specialized legal counsel on complex international law matters relevant to sovereignty and international law.

(b) Attend NSSC meetings as needed or as requested by the NSSC. (c) Ensure that all ESN activities adhere to the Principle of Non-Violence & Legal Adherence.

ARTICLE VI: IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUPS (WGs)

Section 6.01 Establishment

The ESN shall comprise three specialized Implementation Working Groups (WGs), each mandated to execute one of the three strategic pillars as defined in the ESN Strategic Framework.

Section 6.02 Working Group I: The Unified Diplomatic and Legal Action Group (Pillar I)

(a) **Objective:** To proactively shape international policy, counter adverse narratives, and impose political and legal costs on entities challenging Eritrean sovereignty. (b) **Leadership:** Led by the NSSC Vice-Chair, Working Group I. (c) **Sub-Units:** Shall include (i) International Advocacy & Policy Development, and (ii) Legal Strategy & Targeted Lobbying, with functions and expertise as defined in the ESN Strategic Framework.

Section 6.03 Working Group II: The Information and Digital Advocacy Group (Pillar II)

(a) **Objective:** To guard the truth, counter disinformation, and proactively disseminate accurate narratives about Eritrean sovereignty and national identity. (b) **Leadership:** Led by the NSSC Vice-Chair, Working Group II. (c) **Sub-Units:** Shall include (i) Counter-Disinformation & Intelligence Monitoring, (ii) Education & Strategic Narrative Development, and (iii) Digital Diplomacy & Mobilization, with functions and expertise as defined in the ESN Strategic Framework. All facts, historical assertions, and claims disseminated externally must undergo rigorous internal vetting and be meticulously supported by credible, verifiable evidence and reputable sources (Operational Guideline).

Section 6.04 Working Group III: The National Unity and Resilience Group (Pillar III)

(a) **Objective:** To foster unity within the diaspora, strengthen national identity, and build resilience against divisive external influences. (b) **Leadership:** Led by the NSSC Vice-Chair, Working Group III. (c) **Sub-Units:** Shall include (i) Community Engagement & Mobilization, and (ii) Internal Communications & Feedback Mechanism, with functions and expertise as defined in the ESN Strategic Framework.

Section 6.05 Working Group Membership

Each Working Group shall be comprised of individuals possessing the required expertise as outlined in the ESN Strategic Framework, and who are committed to its objectives. Members shall be recruited and managed by their respective Vice-Chairs with NSSC oversight.

Section 6.06 Inter-Pillar Coordination & Synergy

- (a) All Working Groups are required to convene mandatory bi-weekly cross-pillar strategy sessions. These sessions are designed to identify interdependencies, optimize resource deployment, and ensure seamless collaboration.
- (b) Formal channels for inter-WG communication and document sharing will be established and utilized consistently, as per Operational Guidelines.

ARTICLE VII: NSSC MEETINGS AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Section 7.01 Regular NSSC Meetings

The NSSC shall hold regular meetings at least monthly, or more frequently as required by operational demands, at a time and place determined by the Chairperson/Coordinator or a majority of the NSSC.

Section 7.02 Special NSSC Meetings

Special meetings of the NSSC may be called by the Chairperson/Coordinator or upon written request of at least three (3) NSSC voting members, with proper notice given.

Section 7.03 Notice of NSSC Meetings

Written or electronic notice of NSSC meetings shall be given to all NSSC members (voting and non-voting) at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

Section 7.04 Quorum for NSSC Meetings

A quorum for the transaction of business at any NSSC meeting shall consist of a simple majority of the voting members of the NSSC.

Section 7.05 NSSC Voting

Each NSSC voting member shall have one vote. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of voting members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

Section 7.06 Participation

NSSC members may participate in meetings in person, by conference call, or by other electronic means approved by the NSSC, provided all participants can hear each other.

Section 7.07 Mandate Exclusivity

The ESN's operational mandate is strictly confined to the implementation of the three-pillar strategy. Any proposed activity extending beyond this defined scope requires explicit prior approval from the NSSC.

Section 7.08 Resource Mobilization & Stewardship

All financial contributions, donations, and resource allocation decisions must be comprehensively documented, regularly audited, and reviewed by the Treasurer and the Vice-Chair for Resource Mobilization & Administration. The specialized skills, professional networks, and volunteer efforts contributed by the global diaspora are

to be systematically cataloged in a secure database and strategically deployed based on Task Force priorities.

Section 7.09 Reporting and Accountability Framework

- (a) **Working Group Reports:** Each NSSC Vice-Chair leading a Working Group is obligated to submit detailed bi-weekly Activity Reports to the NSSC. These reports will outline progress against objectives, challenges encountered, resource utilization, and upcoming planned activities.
- (b) **NSSC Strategic Reviews:** The NSSC will conduct a comprehensive Quarterly Strategy Review. This review will critically assess the cumulative impact of implemented actions against the ESN's defined strategic goals and inform necessary strategic adjustments.
- (c) **Annual Performance Audit:** An independent audit of financial and operational performance will be conducted annually to ensure accountability and efficiency to the General Assembly, and the wider Eritrean diaspora.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 8.01 Standing Committees

The NSSC may establish standing committees as deemed necessary to carry out the mission of the ESN (e.g., Regional Coordination Committee, Youth Engagement Committee, etc.). The Chairperson of each standing committee shall be an NSSC voting member.

Section 8.02 Ad Hoc Committees

The NSSC may establish ad hoc committees for specific, temporary tasks or projects.

Section 8.03 Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the NSSC at least three (3) months prior to the Annual Convention to identify and vet candidates for NSSC voting positions.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE

Section 9.01 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the ESN shall be January 1 to December 31.

Section 9.02 Funds

All funds of the ESN shall be deposited in the name of the organization in such banks or financial institutions as the NSSC may designate.

Section 9.03 Disbursements

All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairperson/Coordinator or another designated NSSC voting member, as authorized by the NSSC.

Section 9.04 Audit

The NSSC shall ensure an annual independent audit of the financial records of the ESN, as part of the Annual Performance Audit.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section 10.01 Procedure

These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible members present and voting at any duly called Public Meeting or Convention, provided that:

(a) Notice of the proposed amendment(s) is included in the meeting agenda. (b) Such notice is provided to all known members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION

Section 11.01 Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the ESN, any remaining assets after payment of debts shall be distributed to one or more non-profit Eritrean humanitarian, educational, or national interest organizations as determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the NSSC at the time of dissolution, provided such organizations qualify as exempt under relevant tax codes.

ARTICLE XII: INDEMNIFICATION

Section 12.01 Indemnification

The ESN shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, indemnify any NSSC member, officer, Working Group Vice-Chair, or authorized agent against liability incurred in connection with any proceeding in which they may be involved by reason of their service to the ESN, provided they acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the ESN.

Eritrean Sovereignty Network Organizational Structure with Detailed Functions

