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1. PREAMBLE

We the registered political Parties of Nigeria, cognizant of the roles of Political Parties in consolidating and deepening our democracy, ensuring an environment conducive for successful elections, political stability, enduring democracy and overall wellbeing of Nigerians;

Aware of the need to be more democratic in the conduct of our activities in ensuring discipline, peace, unity, understanding, respect for each other, transparency and credibility in the electoral processes;

Mindful of the experiences and opinions of Nigerians with previous elections and the need for all political parties, in and outside of government, to work harmoniously towards the entrenchment and defense of democracy in Nigeria; and

Committed to respecting the legal framework guiding the electoral processes in Nigeria, particularly the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended);

Do hereby resolve to give to ourselves the following Code of Conduct, which shall be binding

2. PRINCIPLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code is based on the following principles:

- i. The legitimacy of a government chosen through a democratic multiparty election, rests on the extent to which elections are considered or perceived by the citizens to be free, fair, credible and reflecting the will of the people.
- ii. The creation of enabling environment, which ensures that citizens are informed through the electoral campaign of the policies and qualities of all political parties and candidates, ensures that voters are able to make an informed choice; and
- iii. That voters are able to vote freely, without interference, undue influence, fear, undue influence or bribery.
- iv. The acceptance of this Code of Conduct voluntarily by the political parties and in good faith to commit themselves to adhere to the code so that it will promote credible

elections that will be recognized as expressing the credible free choice of the voters; and the result of that choice will be respected by all;

v. This Code of Conduct shall be the ethical standard of Conduct for all registered political parties.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-PARTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

There shall be established, an Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), which shall be an association of all Nigerian registered Political Parties. IPAC will function at the National, State and Local Government Levels. The National IPAC shall conduct elections into the State IPAC elective positions, while the State IPAC shall conduct election into the Local Government Council IPAC elective positions under the observation of INEC officials without which such elections are invalid

3.1 OBJECTIVES

- a. To promote dialogue and adjudicate between and/or among political parties.
- b. To promote and defend the interest of all political parties in Nigeria.
- c. To contribute peaceful, free, fair credible and transparent elections.
- d. To promote adherence to the provisions of the Code of Conduct
- e. To advise and work harmoniously with the Commission in the discharge of its functions.

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The Council shall be constituted by one representative per political party who shall be the National Chairman or a member of the NWC, of his or her party; and
- b. A representative of the Commission, as an Observer.

3.3 STRUCTURE

(A) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly Council shall comprise of:

- i. The National Chairman or a representative of each political Party; and
- ii. A representative of the Commission, as an Observer.

(b) FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The functions shall include:

- i. To elect a nine-member Executive Committee, at least three (3) of whom shall be women, where possible, for a two-year renewable term, under the observation of the commission;
- ii. To elect members of the executive Committee and the following standing committees, for a two-year term;
 - a. Political Party Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee;
 - b. Strategy Committee; and
 - c. Disciplinary Committee.
- iii. To constitute Electoral Committee for the conduct of elections into the Executive Committee and the other standing committees, at least two months to the expiration of the current tenure, it shall be the responsibility of the Electoral Committee to propose an electoral guideline for the approval of the General Assembly;
- iv. To receive periodic reports from the National Chairman, Chairman of Standing and ad hoc committee on implementation of the report(s)

- v. To approve the Annual Budget of IPAC
- vi. To engage in dialogue on contentious party issues, reported to it.

(C) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a). Composition

The Executive Committee shall comprise of nine (9) members, at least three (3) of whom shall be women, where possible, with the following specific designations:

- a) National Chairman
- b) Deputy National Chairman
- c) National Secretary
- d) Deputy National Secretary
- e) National Treasurer
- f) National Financial Secretary
- g) National Publicity Secretary
- h) National Legal Adviser
- i) National Organizing Secretary

(b). FUNCTIONS

- i. To run the day-to-day affairs of the Council;
- ii. Carry out the decisions and instructions of the General Assembly;
- iii. Ensure that IPAC and all its Organs function effectively and democratically;

- iv. Initiate issues for Party dialogue, in consultation with other Committees;
- v. Present Annual Reports to the General Assembly;
- vi. Initiate and recommend policies and programs of implementation to the General Assembly;
- vii. To supervise the activities of the State Chapters of the Council and ensure that the activities are in tandem and in compliance with the provisions of this Code;
- viii. To establish Special Disciplinary Committees to review infractions by State Chapters of the Council and recommend and administer appropriate sanctions where necessary; and
- ix. To implement the decisions and recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee.

(c). DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

(i) **CHAIRMAN**

- a. Shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Council;
- b. Summon and preside over all Council Meetings;
- c. Shall assign tasks or responsibilities to any member or Officer of the Council, provided that such tasks or responsibilities have not been assigned by this Code to any member or Officer;
- d. Ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Code;
- e. Be signatory "A" to all Bank accounts operated by the Council;
- f. Approve all public statements by and on behalf of the Council;
- g. Approve expenditures and financial commitments of the Council;

(ii) DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

- i. Assist the Chairman in the discharge of his/her duties;
- ii. Deputize for the Chairman in his/her absence; and
- iii. Discharge any other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President.

(iii) SECRETARY

- i. Shall head the National Secretariat of the Council;
- ii. Keep and maintain all documents, records, Minutes of Council Meetings and correspondences, including the Seal of the Council;
- iii. Prepare the Annual Report of the Council, Executive Council, for presentation to the General Assembly;
- iv. Shall be signatory "B" to all Bank accounts operated by the Council

(v) DEPUTY SECRETARY

- i. Assist the Secretary General in the discharge of his/her duties;
- ii. Deputize for the Secretary General in his/her absence by the Council;

(vi) TREASURER

- i. Receive and pay into the Bank accounts of the Council, all funds and payments for and on behalf of the Council, within forty-eight (48) hours;

- ii. Disburse monies duly approved by the Council;
- iii. Prepare and submit quarterly reports and annual statement of account of the Council to the General Assembly Council; and
- iv. Be signatory "C" to all Bank accounts operated by the Council.

(vii) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- i. Receive, keep and maintain records of all monies, donations, grants, loans and subventions, made to the Council;
- ii. Keep and maintain all cheque books and other financial and security documents of the Council;
- iii. Recommend proposals and means of raising funds to finance the programs and activities of the Council;
- iv. Prepare and monitor the implementation of the annual Budget of the Council;
- v. Implement internal control measures to protect the assets of the Council and monitor expenditures; and
- vi. Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the Council.

(viii) PUBLICITY SECRETARY

- i. Manage and project the image of the Council;
- ii. Coordinate the flow of information from the Council to the public;
- iii. Publicize all decisions and programmes of the Council as may be approved by the Chairman;
- iv. Advise the Council on media matters; and

v. Shall form and operate a situation room under a committee, where national issues shall be critically analyzed and resolution made public.

(ix) LEGAL ADVISER

- i. Advise the Council on legal matters;
- ii. Arrange for the conduct of litigations and defense on behalf of the Council; and
- iii. Give legal opinions on laws, regulations and the provisions of the Code of the Council, in the event of ambiguity.

(x) ORGANISING SECRETARY

The National Organizing Secretary shall -

- i. Shall recommend programmes for the consideration of the Executive Council;
- ii. Shall mobilize Council members as directed by the Council;
- iii. Be responsible for field operations;
- iv. Shall ensure and give due consideration to women, youths and persons living with disabilities in designing programmes; and
- v. Shall facilitate accommodation, feeding and transportation during Council activities.

(D) STANDING COMMITTEES.

(a) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

There shall be a three-member Political Party ADR Committee, to be appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the Council, whose tenure shall run concurrently with that of the Executive Committee.

The Political Party ADR Committee shall have the following functions:

- a. To Receive Complaints, Petitions and investigate the veracity of the Claims and recommend to the National Executive Council, appropriate sanctions and/or remedies in accordance with the Code;
- b. To resolve disputes between and/or among political parties arising from misunderstanding and/or breach of the Code;
- c. To notify the Commission, of the recommendations, sanctions and/or remedies it has proposed on any matter or issue referred to it, upon endorsement by the General Assembly.

(b). STRATEGY COMMITTEE

There shall be a three-member Strategy Committee, appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the Council, whose tenure shall run concurrently with that of the Executive Committee.

The functions of the Strategy Committee shall include:

- a. To develop and recommend proposals that will enhance capacity of political parties to the National Executive Council, which shall present same to the General Assembly for onward submission to the Commission;
- b. To serve as a platform for engagements on topical issues of national importance and present same to the General Assembly;
- c. To identify issues that will require dialogue with the Commission during the electoral process and make proposals to the General Assembly.
- d. To articulate or cause to be articulated the positions and/or interests of political parties in the passage of electoral legislations; and
- e. To perform any other function(s) as may be assigned to it by the General Assembly

(iii). DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

There shall be a three-member Disciplinary appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the Council whose tenure shall run concurrently with that of the Executive Committee.

The functions of the Disciplinary Committee shall include

- a. To receive and consider all reports of cases of breach of this Code and notify the parties concerned for necessary remedial actions;
- b. If the breach(es) persist, the Disciplinary Committee, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall publish the cases of breach of this Code widely;
- c. Depending on the breach, to impose necessary sanctions and/or remedial actions including, but not limited to the following;
 - i. Caution
 - ii. Retraction and/or apology;
 - iii. Reversal of action;
 - iv. Letter of Undertaking by the offender;
 - v. Fine;
 - vi. Suspension;
 - vii. And any other sanction(s) and/or remedial action(s) as the Disciplinary Committee may recommend to the General Assembly through the National Executive Council; and
- d. The General Assembly may, by resolution, sanction the erring member or its representative in breach of the Code.
- e. The Disciplinary Committee Shall have powers to review infractions arising at the National and sub National levels of the Inter Party Advisory Council and recommend appropriate sanctions where necessary, to the National Executive Council for implementation.

4. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE/ COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(a) An elected member of the Executive Council or any of the appointed members of ad hoc or Standing Committees shall be removed from Office, for any of the following reasons:

- i. Where such a member decamps or cross-carpet from a Political Party, under which he/she represents
- ii. Where he/she is appointed into a political Office at all levels of government;
- iii. Where a member is clinically certified dead;
- iv. Where a member has become insane or of unsound mind;
- v. Where a member is convicted of a crime or pronounced bankrupt by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- vi. Where a member is withdrawn by his/her Party through a letter duly signed by the National Chairman of the Party.
- vii. Where a member loses his/her membership qualification when he/she ceases to be a member of his/her Party's National Working Committee NWC.

6. FUNDING

- i. Political Parties shall contribute funds (based on criteria/formula to be determined by the General Assembly for the running of the activities of the Council;
- ii. The Commission shall provide subventions to the Council on quarterly basis.
- iii. The Executive Committee shall device strategies to generate additional revenues to fund the programmes and activities of the Council;
- iv. The funds of the Council shall be maintained and administered through a Bank account with the Chairman as signatory "A", Secretary as signatory "B" and Treasurer as signatory "C" (Signatory mandate shall be "A" and "B" or "A" and "C").

7 COMMITMENTS

All Council parties, in collaboration with the Commission and other relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall ensure that this Code is well publicized and fully observed by members and supporters;

ii. Political parties, having freely subscribed to this Code shall -

a. Be bound by its provisions;

b. Take decisive steps to prohibit leaders, officials, candidates and members from infringing on the provisions of the Code;

c. Take all reasonable steps to discourage any type of conduct by their supporters which would, if undertaken by a party official, candidate or member, be in breach of this Code;

d. Not abuse the rights to complain about the violation(s) of this Code, nor make false, frivolous or vexatious complaints;

iii. Any political Party adversely affected by a breach of any of the provisions of this Code shall notify the breach to the offending Party and seek an amicable resolution of the disputes.

8. MEETINGS

i. The General Assembly or State Assembly shall meet, at least quarterly;

ii. A quorum for the meetings of the General Assembly shall be formed by fifty percent of its membership of the General Assembly

iii. The Executive Committee shall meet not less than six times in a year or at any other time as may be necessary.

iv. A quorum for the meetings of the Executive Council shall be formed by fifty percent of its membership;

v. The Standing Committees shall meet from time to time to deliberate on issues of importance to the Council or as the need arises, or as may be directed by the Chairman or their membership.

9. RULE OF LAW

i. All political parties, their leaders, members and supporters and candidates shall adhere to all existing laws and regulations pertaining to elections, and the conduct of political parties, especially the elections guidelines established by the Commission through the authority of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and shall do nothing whatsoever; individually or collectively to undermine, flout, disrespect or circumvent them.

ii. All political parties shall provide equal opportunity to qualified persons, as required by relevant laws, to participate in elections and election activities.

iii. All political parties shall uphold the rights and freedoms of the Nigerian people, as guaranteed by law.

iv. Political parties have the right and freedom to put forward their views to the electorate without hindrance.

v. All political parties shall ensure and practice internal party democracy by adhering strictly to the provisions of their Party's Constitution, Manifesto and Guidelines.

vi. No political party shall engage in violent activities of any kind, as a way of demonstrating its strength.

vii. All political parties shall ensure strict compliance with this Code of Conduct and assist the security agencies and the electoral officials in apprehending and sanctioning their members who attempt to, or flout the provision of the Code, the Electoral Act and or INEC electoral guidelines.

viii. All political parties shall cooperate with other stakeholders in developing further compliance and monitoring mechanisms to give full effect to this Code.

ix. All political parties shall ensure the promotion of active and equal participation of women, youths and persons living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in all political activities and the electoral processes.

x. All political parties shall:

a. Recognize the authority of the Commission in the conduct of all elections under the supervision of the Commission.

- b. Work with the Commission to promote transparency, impartiality and confidence in the electoral processes;
- c. Obey any lawful directives, instruction or order of the Commission;
- d. Establish and maintain effective lines of communication with:
 - (i) The Commission; and
 - (ii) Other registered parties contesting an election
- e. Facilitate the access of the Commission or any person authorized by the Commission to their meetings, marches, demonstrations, rallies, fund raising and other public political events of that party or candidate;
- f. Cooperate in any lawful investigation by the Commission
- g. Take all reasonable steps to ensure:
 - (i) The safety of members, employees and officers of the Commission, and the Chief Electoral Officer, in the exercise of their powers or the performance of any duty assigned by the Electoral Act;
 - (ii) That persons referred to in subparagraph (i) are treated with utmost respect and not subjected to insult, hazard or threat by any representatives or supporters of that party or their candidate;
 - (iii) That representatives of Political Parties or their Candidates attend meetings of any party liaison committee or other forum convened by the Commission; and
 - (iv) No private security organization or any other group is brought to provide security or assist in that regard during meetings, campaigns, rallies, processions or election, except as permitted by law.
- h. All political parties shall explore alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in managing disputes, including mediation by the Council's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

10. GENERAL ELECTIONS

10.1 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS

All Political Parties shall:

- i. Ensure that the processes of nomination of candidates for any election, comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended), various Party Constitutions and the Commission's guidelines and regulations.
- ii. Ensure that the nomination processes, including the substitution of candidates, are transparent, democratic and non-violent and are conducted by legally recognized organs of the party.
- iii. Ensure that nomination and/or substitution of nominated candidates are done democratically within the period stipulated by the Commission.

10.2 ELECTIONEERING CAMPAIGNS

- i. All political parties shall sign a peace accord ahead of elections at all levels.
- ii. All political parties, their candidates, officials and agents shall work towards ensuring an environment conducive for successful, peaceful, free and fair election campaigns.
- iii. All political parties shall mobilize in ensuring that their members and Nigerians of voting age are encouraged to fully participate in the Continuous Voter Registration Exercise.
- iv. All political parties shall ensure that their agents and officials are sufficiently trained to mobilize for Continuous Voters Registration and other election related activities.
- v. No political party or its candidates shall during campaign resort to the use of inflammatory language, provocative actions, images or manifestations that incite violence, hatred, contempt or intimidation against another party or candidate or any person or group of persons on grounds of ethnicity, religion, gender, social status or any other reason whatsoever. These conditions apply to the use of social media by political parties, members and/or their candidates.

vi. All political parties shall take all necessary steps to coordinate their campaign activities in such a way as to avoid holding rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations close to one another at the same time.

vii. Where there is a clash in the date, venue or timing of any such activities of different political parties, their representatives shall meet, in the presence of law enforcement agencies or the Commission, where necessary, to resolve the issue amicably, without recourse to intimidation, force or violence.

viii. No political party shall sponsor or cause to be sponsored or allow the wearing of uniforms and emblems depicting militant activities or the carrying of dangerous weapons during rallies, marches, and at polling, collation and registration centres.

ix. All political parties shall have equal access to public owned print and electronic media, as guaranteed by law.

x. All political parties, their agents or their candidates shall not protect, or exercise undue influence for the release of persons arrested for carrying offensive weapons, violation of any electoral law, regulations and guidelines of Commission and the provision of the Code of Conduct.

xi. All political parties shall work with other relevant stakeholders to ensure the secrecy of the voting process.

xii. All political parties or their candidates shall not prevent other parties or their candidates from posting their posters or distributing their leaflets, handbills and other publicity materials in authorized public places. Furthermore, all parties and their candidates shall give directives to their members and supporters not to remove or destroy the posters and other campaign materials of other parties or their candidates. All parties, their members and supporters shall ensure that all their party posters, leaflets and other election campaign materials are removed from public places as soon as practicable when the campaign period ends.

xiii. All political parties shall discourage their members in government from using their power of incumbency to the disadvantage of other parties or their candidates during campaign.

xiv. All political parties shall specify in their constitutions and guidelines, ceilings on spending during nomination and campaign in accordance with existing legal framework.

10.3 **VOTER EDUCATION**

- i. Voter Education shall be the responsibility of political parties, the Commission, and other relevant statutory stakeholders.
- ii. To this end, political parties shall collaborate with the Commission and other relevant statutory stakeholders to discharge this responsibility.
- iii. The Commission may assist political parties with funds toward voter education.

10.4 **CONDUCT AT ELECTIONS**

- i. All political parties, their candidates and agents shall respect the law restricting access of unauthorized persons to polling stations, collation centres and discourage undue interference with the voting process.
- ii. All political parties shall instruct its members and supporters that no dangerous weapons shall be brought to the polling stations or collation centres and that no party attire, colours, symbols, emblems or other insignia shall be worn to a polling stations or collation centres, on Election Day.
- iii. All political parties shall recognize and acknowledge the rights of accredited observers and monitors at polling stations for the purpose of observing the conduct of elections and shall grant full lawful access to party activities to such observers.
- iv. All political parties and their candidates shall ensure that their Polling Agents and their officials are sufficiently trained to adequately represent their parties to ensure that the electoral process is free and fair.
- v. All political parties, their candidates and members shall cooperate fully with law enforcements agents to ensure the safety and security of election materials, election officials, party agents and the electorates on Election Day.
- vi. All political parties shall refrain from procuring votes and/or election results by fraud, invasion or forceful occupation of polling or collation centres, manipulation of ballot boxes and/or result sheets.

vii. All political parties and their agents shall work with the Commission to ensure that persons living with disabilities (PWDs) are able to cast their votes without let or hindrance.

viii. All political parties and their agents shall not engage in any of the following practices:

a. Forceful occupation and/or invasion of polling stations, collation centres and/or the Commission's Offices;

b. Destroy any electoral material or property of the Commission;

c. Encourage any supporter(s) and/or member(s) to cast more than one vote;

d. Encourage any supporter(s) and/or member(s) to vote in the name of another person, living, dead or fictitious;

e. Buy votes or offer any bribe, gift, reward, gratification or any other monetary or material considerations or allurement to voters and electoral officials;

f. Canvass for votes within the vicinity of polling station on a polling day;

g. Any other act contrary to the provisions of the Electoral Act, rules and regulations;

h. Obstruct, harass or intimidate journalists in the course of their duties on Election Day.

viii. All political parties and their candidates shall accept election results as announced by the Commission or challenge same in court.

10.5 POST ELECTION ISSUES

i. All political parties shall not intimidate, harass or cajole any polling agent of another political party to sign election result, if in the judgement of such an agent the election in the polling station was not free and fair.

ii. All political parties and their candidates, agents and supporters shall refrain from any form of violence or extra judicial means in expressing their non-acceptance of election results.

iii. All political parties and their candidates shall ensure strict adherence to provisions of the law in seeking redress against perceived electoral irregularities.

11. PARTY FINANCE

i. All political parties shall at all times maintain a record of their sources and application of funds for all their activities, including elections and campaigns

ii. All political parties shall endeavour to submit their audited account and reports to INEC as required by law.

iii. All political parties and their candidates shall strive at all times to adhere strictly to election and campaign expenses limit as contained in the provisions of relevant laws.

12. DECLARATION

This document comes into effect and is binding on all registered political parties upon its acceptance by at least fifty percent of the registered political parties in Nigeria.

DATED this 25th Day of May, 2021.

13. INTERPRETATION

In this Code

"Commission" means the Independent National Electoral Commission and the various State Electoral Commissions.

"Council" means the Inter Party Advisory Council of Nigeria.

"NWC" means the National Working Committee of a registered political Party in Nigeria.

"Political Party" means any association lawfully registered by INEC as such.

14. ENDORSEMENT/SIGNATORIES

1. **Accord (A)**
2. **Action Alliance (AA)**
3. **African Action Congress (AAC)**
4. **African Democratic Congress (ADC)**
5. **Action Democratic Party (ADP)**
6. **All Progressives Congress (APC)**
7. **All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)**
8. **Allied Peoples Movement (APM)**
9. **Action Peoples Party (APP)**
10. **Labour Party (LP)**
11. **New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP)**
12. **National Rescue Movement (NRM)**
13. **Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)**
14. **Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)**

15. Social Democratic Party (SDP)

16. Young Progressives Party (YPP)

17. Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)