



CONSTITUTION

OF

OKUOR INDIGENES IN DIASPORA
(OKUOR IN DIASPORA)

PREAMBLE.

The Okuor Indigenes in Diaspora (hereinafter called the OKUOR IN DIASPORA) is the umbrella body that represents all Okuor indigenes in the Diaspora. The Okuor indigenes in Diaspora hereby make and enact this constitution to govern and regulate the activities of the Okuor Indigenes in Diaspora on the principle of ethic conduct, dignity and justice.

ARTICLE 1.

Section 1: NAME

The name of the Community is OKUOR INDIGENES IN DIASPORA (hereinafter called Okuor in Diaspora). The community referred to, as Okuor in Diaspora is a charitable, and non-profitable Organization.

Section 2: MOTTO: Unity & Progress.

Section 3: LANGUAGE

The business of OID shall be conducted in Benin (Edo), Pidgin English and English languages.

ARTICLE 2.

OUR MISSION

The Okuor indigene in Diaspora (OID) is a social-cultural community association that embraces development, unity and humanitarian services. OID is a non-governmental association. The community association is non-political and non-religious.

Okuor in Diaspora shall have its offices in the Republic of Ireland and in Benin City, Nigeria.

ARTICLE 3.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To unite all Okuor Indigenes in Diaspora and create a forum for interaction
2. To promote and showcase our cultural heritage
3. To act as a resource centre to the Okuor Indigenes
4. To promote and foster the interest of Okuor indigenes towards the improvement and development of Okuor community
5. To render charitable and humanitarian services to desiring individual or group in Okuor community, Edo State and in Nigeria at large

6. To promote good relationship and foster the spirit of cooperation with other Okuor community groups by working together to achieve a common goal

ARTICLE 4

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to Okuor indigenes in Diaspora.

1. Who is by birth, or by associates with Okuor indigene
2. Such person referred to, must accept the aims and objectives of Okuor indigenes in Diaspora
3. Pay the registration fee if any, and all other dues and levies
4. Attend meetings/conferences at all times

NON-REGULAR MEMBERS

A person is a non-regular member if he/she is unable to attend meetings/conferences regularly, but attend functions, and takes the obligations of membership as well as fulfils his or her financial obligations.

Section 1: MEMBERS REGISTRATION

There shall be no registration fee. This may change in the future as deem necessary by the house.

1. It is mandatory that the Okuor indigenes in Diaspora, and its associates register to keep the unity and the culture of the Okuor community alive
2. All Okuor indigenes actively bodies in Diaspora shall register with the umbrella body, Okuor in Diaspora and participate fully in all its activities
3. Accept the aims and objectives of Okuor in Diaspora

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWAL

Any person who wishes to withdraw from Okuor in Diaspora shall inform the OID of his/her intention in writing. The letter shall include the reason/reasons for the withdrawal. He/she shall give OID one-month notice to allow the executives to look into the issue concerning the reason/reasons for his/her resignation.

ARTICLE 5

THE OID ORGANS:

OID meetings shall consist of the following bodies:

1. General meetings/conferences
2. Council of Elders
3. Executive Council
4. Special Committee

ARTICLE 5A

MEETING / CONFERENCE

The Chairman, with the consent of at least three others, shall summon an emergency meeting.

1. The general meetings/telephone conferences shall be held every two-weeks/or monthly
2. The executive members' telephone conference shall hold at all times, depending on issues that deserve emergency as the case may be
3. OID shall hold a meeting/gathering once a year; the house shall decide the venue of the meeting/gathering
4. A quorum at the meeting/discussion shall be by a simple majority
5. The Chairman (the oldest person) in Okuor in Diaspora shall preside over the meetings
6. Every meeting shall be governed by a by-law and the rules of the Okuor Community
7. The dignity of the elderly must be highly complied with and maintained at all times

Section 1. MEETING/CONFERENCE QUORUM

- a. A quorum shall be formed in OID meeting when at least one third (1/3) of the members including 2 of the four oldest persons in OID is present
- b. When no quorum is formed, the meeting shall be adjourned

Section 2. MEETING/CONFERENCE CONDUCTS

In the absence of the Chairman, the oldest among the members present shall preside over the meeting.

1. Any person who intends to speak shall do so by permission by way of a signal
2. Any person who disturbs the peace of the meeting/ conference shall be disciplined and imposed a monetary fine to be decided by the house
3. No one has the right to use offensive and improper languages on another person during meeting/conference, anyone that commits this offence shall pay a fine to be decided by the house
4. Nobody has the right to fight any other person during functions or at any of the Okuor in Diaspora gatherings/parties. Any person who does so, and found guilty shall pay a fine of fifty Euros (50 Euro) only

Section 3. ATTENDANCE

All Okuor indigenes in Diaspora shall attend meetings and conferences subject to the provision of the OID.

1. Anyone who wishes to be absent for any reason shall inform the Chairman, the Secretary or any regular member of his/her intention before the meeting commences
2. Anyone who absents his/herself from meeting without excuse shall attract a fine to be decided by the house
3. Anyone who walks out or logout in annoyance during meetings/conferences shall pay a fine to be decided by the house.
4. All Okuor indigenes in Diaspora shall attend the Okuor in Diaspora gathering/party at the end of each year /or every second year

Section 4. DECISION MAKING:

The house shall be the highest decision-making body. They shall implement all matters in Okuor in Diaspora

1. A simple majority shall adopt resolution in meeting when a matter is put to the vote
2. The decisions taken in each meeting are to be minute by the Secretary, endorsed by the Chairman and the General house
3. The house shall refer matters not resolved in the house to the Council of Elders

ARTICLE 5B

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Council of elders is responsible for the running of Okuor in Diaspora. They can summon an emergency meeting when necessary. The Council of Elders shall consist of the Chairman plus six (6) other persons next in age, anyone crowned as Odion in Okuor community, the Chairlady/Vice Chairlady and the Secretary.

1. The Council of Elders shall resolve matters referred to the Council amicably and honestly
2. The Council of Elders shall be the supreme head of OID, be pro-active and voluntarily supportive financially to OID

ARTICLE 5C

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

In order to ensure reliability and the smooth running of OID, there shall be administrative bodies to take charge of the administration of OID. The officers are:

1. The Chairman
2. Vice-Chairman (next in age)
3. General Secretary
4. Assistant Secretary
5. Public Relation Officer
6. Financial Secretary
7. Treasurer
8. Warfare Officer
9. Assistant Warfare Officer
10. Chairlady
11. Vice Chairlady

Chairman in Diaspora

The Chairman shall be a male, and if a female becomes the oldest in Okuor in Diaspora, she shall be the women Chairlady.

1. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings
2. Summon emergency meetings with the consent of at least three of the elders (next in age) and may summon emergency meetings when necessary
3. Veto any decision for the good of Okuor community except such decision is put to vote

Vice-Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman in his absence

1. Shall perform such duty/duties delegated to him by the Chairman
2. Shall succeed the Chairman in the event the post becomes vacant by any reason

General Secretary

The General Secretary shall take the minutes of all meetings, and keeps the minutes.

1. He/she shall be responsible for all correspondence on behalf of OID
2. He/she shall convey meetings of OID at the request of the Chairman and the house
3. He/she shall notify members when meeting is fixed, date, time and the venue of such meetings
4. He/she shall manage the OID website/Facebook

Assistant Secretary

1. Shall perform the duties of the Secretary in his/her absence
2. Shall assist the General Secretary in carrying out his/her duties

Public Relation Officer

The PRO shall be in charge of press releases, provided the Chairman and Secretary approve such publications.

1. He/she shall uphold good image of OID
2. Be the mouthpiece of the OID in respect of events and gatherings, provided such are approved by a simple majority of the house
3. Manage the OID website/Facebook with the Secretary

Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for:

1. Keeping records of all financial transactions of OID
2. Keep all the OID receipts/ Financial books
3. Receive and collect all monies due to OID
4. He/she with the Treasurer, shall prepare and present financial statements
5. Submit copies of all financial records to the Secretary
6. Must provide on request the OID properties in his/her possession

Treasurer

A person who holds this office must be an individual of integrity. He/she shall be responsible for:

1. Deposit/transfer all monies into OID bank
2. Present quarterly report of OID financial statements
3. He/she shall collect registration/membership fees, dues, levies and other payments to OID in the absence of the financial Secretary; and provides payees with appropriate receipts
4. Must not disburse money without the approval of the house
5. He/she shall keep, and preserves OID leftover after function
6. He/she shall be in charge of OID properties and must provide on request all the properties in his/her possession

Warfare Officer

The Warfare Officer shall be responsible for the following:

1. Shall ensure that all functions are conducted appropriately, and protocol observed
2. Shall ensure that meetings/ conferences or venue as the case may be are correctly planned and arranged
3. He/she shall monitor who to speak first by enforcing the principle of first come first serve during meetings, subject to the overriding power of the Chairman/Secretary

Assistant Warfare Officer

1. Shall perform the duties of the warfare officer in his/her absence
2. He/she shall assist the warfare officer in carrying out his/her duties

Chairman Lady

The oldest female in the Okuor in Diaspora shall be the women Chairlady.

1. She shall be an advisor and engage with the OID women in all affairs
2. She shall organize/meet with our OID women to discuss the preparation of function/events and submit such report to the house
3. She shall ensure women meetings/conferences are appropriately planned and executed

Assistant Chairman Lady

Shall be by nomination or vote.

1. She shall act as the women secretary and write the minutes of all their deliberations to be presented the house, and forward a copy of such report to the Secretary
2. Shall assist the women chairlady to carry out her duties

ARTICLE 5D

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Special Committee shall be set-up for any of the following reasons:

1. For emergency issues/matters that may arise
2. To resolve a conflict between members and forward the resolution outcome to the house
3. To recommend, and plan OID conventions/ functions or events
4. For disciplinary action against members

ARTICLE 6

TERMS OF OFFICE

The Chairman, Chairlady and the Council of Elder's positions shall remain permanent.

1. All executive officers shall be nominated/elected by a simple majority vote of yes or no, and officers shall hold office for two years
2. An officer is eligible for re-election or nomination for another two years if such person accessed to be excellent and hardworking by the general house

ARTICLE 7

ELECTION/NOMINATION

The nomination/election of the executives of OID shall be conducted by the Council of elders and approved by the general house.

1. The nomination/election shall be held every two years

2. If by-election, the executives of OID shall be elected by a simple majority vote of yes or no.

ARTICLE 8

BYE-ELECTION

There shall be bye-election if a vote of no confidence is passed on any executive member.

1. If an executive member resigns
2. If an officer is unable to perform his/her duties as a result of ill health or other issues
3. In the event of an executive member's death.

ARTICLE 9

ELIGIBILITY OF EXECUTIVES

Persons to be nominated or vying for any executive member position must be an indigene of Okuor in the Diaspora.

1. He/she must be financially up to date
2. He/she must be regular in meetings and conferences
3. He/she must know the responsibilities and duties of the office he/she intends to run
4. He/she must be honest, reliable and dedicated to Okuor community
5. He/she must be leaving legally in the country where he/she is residing

ARTICLE 10

FINANCE

Funds shall be raised through the following means:

- a. Quarterly Dues – €50 quarterly and a total of €150.00 annually
- b. Levies
- c. Donations
- d. Fundraising

ARTICLE 11

BANKING

Okuor in Diaspora shall maintain a Bank Account with a recognized Financial Institution in the Diaspora.

1. Signatories to the account shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer or any other nominated persons approved by the house
2. All monies of OID shall be deposited in the account within two working days of receipt

3. At least two or all of the signatories to the OID account must be present in an expenditure of over Three Hundred Euros (€300.00)

Section 1. EXPENDITURES

Money can only be withdrawn from OID account on approval by the general house; no expenditure shall be made without prior permission by the general house.

1. Money and/or monies can only be spent only when a budget is presented and approved by the Council of Elders.
2. Any/all expenditures shall be receipted for.

Section 2. AUDITORS.

The financial statement of OID shall be presented quarterly.

- a. All the financial books and records shall be submitted to the audit committee
- b. The Chairman, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and the Secretary shall be members of the audit committee
- c. The financial report and findings of the auditors shall be made known to the house at the end of the financial year

ARTICLE 12

REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

An executive officer of OID shall be removed from office by way of impeachment upon a petition presented to the Council of Elders supported by the house on any of the following grounds:

1. Financial mismanagement
2. Violation of this constitution and inappropriate behaviour
3. Any act or activity detrimental to the well being of OID
4. If an executive member involves in criminal activities

An executive member shall be replaced by reason of insanity, approved by the Council of Elders

ARTICLE 13

BENEFITS/ ASSISTANCE

All members of Okuor in Diaspora shall be entitled to the following benefits/assistance:

1. Member in difficulties: sickness or accident, etc. with proof of such issues, the OID shall help with a cash donation to be decided by the house depending on the seriousness of such issues
2. In the event of a member parent's death, the OID shall voluntarily donate to assist such member or to be decided by the house.
3. In case of a member's wife or husband's death, the OID shall send members in same country to visit the affected person

4. However, in case of a member's death, the family shall be entitled to a Thousand Euros (1000). In case of the corps being taken home (Nigeria) the OID shall not be responsible for the transportation, but shall send two (2) representatives
5. To be eligible for the benefits above, a member must have been a financial member for at least twelve months
6. Every reigning Odionwere of Okuor community shall be entitled to Fifty Thousand Naira (N50.000) at the time of his coronation and a donation of a Hundred Thousand Naira (N100.000) to his family in the event of the Odionwere death, as amended 2023.
7. OID shall assist the Okuor community at large with foodstuffs annually, depending on OID financial status.

Note: In the event of a member's invitation to wedding, birthday or other ceremonies, OID shall where possible, send representatives to celebrate with the member.

ARTICLE 14

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The Okuor in Diaspora shall take any of the following measures against anyone who do not comply with the rules and regulations of OID.

Respect:

1. Everyone must be respected, embraced and welcomed.
2. The dignity of the elderly must be highly complied with and maintained. Anyone that insults an elderly person shall pay a fine to be decided by the house.
3. An elderly person who deliberately insults or intimidates any member shall be liable to a fine to be decided by the house.

Absentee:

- a. Any member who fails to attend a conference/meeting without an excuse shall pay a fine of Ten Euros (10) only.
- b. An excuse could be made by telephone to the Secretary or the Chairman or any regular member of OID before the meeting commences

Lateness:

1. Any member who joins conference thirty minutes (30m) after the meeting commences shall be liable to a fine of five (5.00) Euros, unless he/she has earlier informed the house that he/she will be coming or joining late.

Fighting

1. Fighting and, or inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable in any Okuor in Diaspora meetings or gatherings. Any person found wanting shall be liable to a fine of fifty Euros (50 Euros) only. The Chairman has the right to send such member out of the house or gathering/event

2. In case a dispute arises among members during conferences/meetings or at any OID gathering/event, the dispute shall be settled amicably by the house or by a special committee

Others:

1. A member who annoyingly vacates the house during proceedings shall be liable to a fine of Ten Euros (10) only
2. Leaving the house without permission shall abstract a fine of five Euro (5.00) only
3. Side discussions, or shouting during meetings proceedings are prohibited. Defaulters shall pay a fine of Five Euros (5.00) only
4. Okuor indigenes have right to exercise individual belief. Prayers can be said in any individual's faith; nobody has the right to criticize another person's faith. Anyone who does so shall be guilty of discrimination charge and liable to a fine of fifty Euros (50) only
5. Nobody has the permission to post a ceremonial photo/music video or advert/information that is not related to Okuor community on OID Platform. Anybody that does so shall be liable to a fine of Ten Euros (10) only

ARTICLE 15

OATH OF OFFICE

Every nominated/elected executive members shall swear to an oath of office in the manner stated in this constitution.

OATH OF OFFICE

I, ----- of -----

Having been nominated/elected to the office of -----
of Okuor in Diaspora, do solemnly swear this day -----/-----/-----
to uphold, respect and abide by the constitution of Okuor in Diaspora and
to do my best with all my ability, help and defend Okuor in Diaspora and
the Okuor Community at large.

.....

Signature

ARTICLE 16

AMENDMENT:

This constitution or part of it shall be subjected to change when a motion is moved by a member. The motion shall be put to vote and receives a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present

ARTICLE 17

LEGAL ADVICE:

The OID shall have a Legal Adviser. The OID reserves the right to seek legal advice on a variety of matters and act accordingly. OID shall find the services of a legal adviser on any issue affecting Okuor community and, or OID member, as deemed necessary by Okuor in Diaspora.

ARTICLE 18

SUPREMACY OF THIS CONSTITUTION

This constitution is designed and written to guide, protect and defend the rights, interests and privileges of all members of Okuor indigenes in Diaspora. This constitution shall supersede all other Okuor community affiliates in Diaspora. This constitution shall remain sovereign and binding on all the Okuor indigenes in Diaspora.