THE SOVEREIGN COVENANT STATE OF ALETHEIA

The Constitution of the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia

The Covenant of Aletheia

Veritas in Foedere

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DRAFT — NO LEGAL FORCE

This is a proposed Constitution, published for consultation. It has no legal force. It describes the State that Aletheia intends to become; Aletheia is not a recognised state, holds no territory and exercises no legal authority, and the institutions named in this text do not yet exist. The Constitution will enter into force only when the conditions of its own Article on entry into force are met.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the founding members of the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia, gathered in freedom and bound by a common purpose,

Taking our name from the Greek word for truth that is not hidden, and resolved that the public power of our State shall be exercised in the open, recorded faithfully and answerable to the people from whom it derives;

Acknowledging with gratitude the Christian heritage from which our moral foundations, our respect for the dignity of every person and our understanding of covenant are drawn, and desiring that this heritage shall remain the living inheritance of the nation;

Holding that every human being bears an inherent dignity which no government confers and no government may take away, and that the family, the community and the free association of citizens are the first schools of responsibility and mutual care;

Determined that those who hold public office shall hold it as a trust under covenant, bound by oath to serve the common good, to tell the truth and to keep faith with those who entrust them with authority;

Resolved to govern ourselves by democratic means under the supremacy of this Constitution, with powers separated, limited and subject to the judgment of independent courts;

Purposing to establish, by lawful means and with respect for the rights of all nations, a maritime homeland built and owned by our own labour, and to be faithful stewards of the sea, its life and its resources for the generations who will follow us;

Committed to honest money, prudent public finances and institutions whose every account may be examined;

And seeking to found a peaceful, resilient and self-governing national community, at peace with its neighbours and faithful to the law of nations;

Do hereby propose this Constitution, to be adopted and ratified in accordance with its own provisions, as the Covenant of Aletheia.

Veritas in Foedere — Truth in Covenant.

This Preamble states the founding ideals of Aletheia. It describes a State that is proposed, not one that exists. Until this Constitution enters into force under Article 230, it confers no authority, territory or status on any person or body.

PART I

Foundational Principles and National Identity

THE STATE AND ITS CONSTITUTION

Article 1. Nature of the Sovereign Covenant State

(1) The Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia is a federal democratic republic and a European-oriented maritime nation, founded on truth, covenant, the Christian heritage of its people and the rule of law.

(2) Supreme authority in the Sovereign Covenant State resides in this Constitution, ratified by its citizens and the constituent states in accordance with Article 227.

(3) The Sovereign Covenant State adopts as its governing method the principle of Aletheia, truth that is not hidden: public records, enacted laws, public appropriations and official registers shall be kept so that their integrity can be verified, in accordance with Part XVII.

(4) The Sovereign Covenant State is founded as a seasteading state. Its territory consists of the platforms, structures and installations that it lawfully builds, acquires and owns, as provided in Part III.

Article 2. Name and Constitutional Identity

(1) The name of the State is the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia. In ordinary use it may be called Aletheia.

(2) The name of the State may be changed only by an amendment adopted under the procedure for entrenched provisions in Article 225.

(3) No person, body or undertaking may use the name, arms or seal of the State so as to suggest that it acts with public authority when it does not.

Article 3. Supremacy of the Constitution

(1) This Constitution is the supreme law of the Sovereign Covenant State.

(2) An Act, regulation, decree, administrative rule or decision that is inconsistent with this Constitution is void to the extent of the inconsistency.

(3) The High Court shall have final authority to determine whether any law or act is inconsistent with this Constitution, in accordance with Part XI.

(4) Every public authority, official and court is bound by this Constitution and shall apply it directly.

Article 4. Popular Sovereignty and Democratic Legitimacy

(1) All public power derives from the citizens of Aletheia and shall be exercised only in the forms and within the limits that this Constitution provides.

(2) The citizens exercise their sovereignty through elections, through referendums held under this Constitution and through their elected representatives.

(3) No person or group may claim to exercise public power in the name of the people except under this Constitution.

Article 5. The Rule of Law

(1) Every exercise of public power shall have a basis in law, shall be exercised for the purpose for which it was conferred and shall be subject to review by an independent court.

(2) Laws shall be published, accessible, sufficiently clear to be foreseeable in their effect and, save as this Constitution permits, prospective.

(3) No person is above the law. Every public official is personally answerable under law for unlawful acts done in office, subject only to the immunities expressly provided by this Constitution.

Article 6. Separation of Powers

(1) Legislative power is vested in the Covenant Assembly and, to the extent this Constitution provides, the Council of States.

(2) Executive power is vested in the Chancellor and the Cabinet.

(3) Judicial power is vested in the High Court and the courts established by law under Part XI.

(4) No branch shall exercise a power vested in another, except as this Constitution expressly provides. No person may hold office in more than one branch at the same time.

Article 7. Public Accountability and Open Government

(1) Public authorities shall act openly. Their decisions, the reasons for them and the public money spent in giving effect to them shall be recorded and, save as law permits for the protection of personal data, security or the rights of others, published.

(2) Every public office is a public trust. A holder of public office shall not use the office, or information obtained through it, for private gain.

(3) The independent institutions established by Part XIX shall have the powers necessary to hold public authorities to account.

Article 8. National Unity and Constitutional Loyalty

(1) The Sovereign Covenant State is one and indivisible. The constituent states exercise their powers within the federation and under this Constitution.

(2) Every citizen owes loyalty to the Sovereign Covenant State and fidelity to this Constitution. Loyalty under this Article does not require any person to hold or profess any belief, and is consistent with lawful dissent, peaceful opposition and advocacy for constitutional change.

Article 9. The State and the Constituent Territories

(1) The Sovereign Covenant State is composed of the Federal District of Antioch and the constituent states established under Part III.

(2) The constituent states possess the powers of self-government that this Constitution and Schedule 2 allocate to them. Powers not allocated to a constituent state are exercised by the federation.

(3) Federal law prevails over the law of a constituent state where the two conflict on a matter within federal competence.

(4) The federation shall respect the identity and self-government of each constituent state and shall consult the states, through the Council of States, on matters that particularly affect them.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS, LANGUAGE AND CALENDAR

Article 10. National Symbols

(1) The national motto is Veritas in Foedere — Truth in Covenant.

(2) The flag, the coat of arms, the Star of Truth, the national seal and the national anthem of the Sovereign Covenant State are as described in Schedule 1.

(3) The national symbols belong to the nation. Their use shall be regulated by law, and they shall not be used for commercial or partisan purposes without lawful authorisation.

(4) The national symbols may be altered only by an Act passed by two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly with the consent of the Council of States.

Article 11. Official Languages and Equal Access

(1) The official languages of the Sovereign Covenant State are English, German, Dutch, Serbian and Italian.

(2) English is the working language of the Covenant Assembly, the superior courts and official protocol. Where the texts of a law differ between official languages, the English text prevails.

(3) Every citizen, resident and e-resident has the right to communicate with any public authority in any official language and to receive a decision in that language within the time that law prescribes.

(4) The State shall provide interpretation in criminal proceedings to any person who does not understand the language of the court, free of charge.

(5) Law may provide for the protection and teaching of the languages spoken by the citizens of Aletheia.

Article 12. Calendar and Official Records

(1) The Gregorian calendar is the official calendar of the Sovereign Covenant State. Official dates are recorded in Coordinated Universal Time unless law provides otherwise.

(2) Official records shall be kept in a durable form, in at least one official language, and in a manner that permits their integrity to be verified under Part XVII.

Article 13. The National Capital

(1) The capital of the Sovereign Covenant State is Antioch, which shall be constituted as the Federal District.

(2) The Covenant Assembly, the Council of States, the Chancellery and the High Court shall have their seats in Antioch once the Federal District is established under Article 29.

(3) Until the Federal District is established, the seats of the constitutional institutions shall be determined under Part XXII.

Article 14. Public Holidays and National Commemorations

(1) The public holidays of the Sovereign Covenant State shall include Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Covenant Day, the anniversary of the entry into force of this Constitution.

(2) Further public holidays and national commemorations may be established by law.

(3) Members of every religion and belief shall be entitled, in accordance with law, to reasonable arrangements for the observance of their own holy days.

INTERPRETATION

Article 15. Constitutional Interpretation

(1) This Constitution shall be interpreted as a whole, according to the ordinary meaning of its words in their context and in the light of its purposes, including those stated in the Preamble.

(2) Where a provision is capable of more than one meaning, the meaning that best protects human dignity, the fundamental rights in Part V and the separation of powers shall be preferred.

(3) The Preamble and the headings of Parts, Chapters and Articles may be used as aids to interpretation but do not create rights or powers.

(4) Words in the singular include the plural and the plural the singular; words referring to any gender include every person.

(5) The terms defined in Schedule 1 have the meanings given there.

PART II

Christian Heritage, Religion and the Public Order

THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION OF THE NATION

Article 16. Christian Heritage of Aletheia

(1) Aletheia is founded upon the Christian heritage of its people. The moral teaching of that heritage — the dignity of every person, truthfulness, the keeping of covenants, mercy, justice and care for the weak — forms the foundation of the national covenant.

(2) The Christian heritage of Aletheia is part of its constitutional identity. The State shall honour, preserve and transmit that heritage through its public life, national symbols, calendar, education and cultural institutions, as this Constitution and law provide.

(3) The Sovereign Covenant State does not establish any church or denomination as a State church. No church is an organ of the State, and the State shall not govern the internal affairs of any church.

(4) Recognition of the Christian heritage does not diminish the rights guaranteed to every person by Part V, and shall not be invoked to justify any action that this Constitution otherwise prohibits.

Article 17. The Civic Meaning of the National Covenant

(1) The national covenant is the solemn bond between the citizens of Aletheia and the State, by which citizens undertake to uphold this Constitution and to serve the common good, and the State undertakes to govern justly, truthfully and within the law.

(2) The Covenant Oath in Schedule 5 gives expression to the national covenant. It may be taken in a religious or in a solemn non-religious form, which are of equal legal effect.

Article 18. Christian Institutions and Community Life

(1) The State recognises the historic contribution of Christian churches, charitable foundations, schools, hospitals and associations to the common good.

(2) The State may cooperate with churches and religious organisations by agreements concluded under law for purposes of public benefit, including education, health, social care, the relief of poverty and the care of heritage. Such agreements shall be published and laid before the Covenant Assembly.

(3) Public funding under an agreement made under this Article shall be granted for defined public purposes, accounted for under Part XIII and awarded on criteria set by law.

Article 19. Historic Christian Sites and National Religious Heritage

(1) The State shall protect the Christian heritage of the nation, including churches, chapels, monuments, works of art, archives and other sites and objects of historic or religious significance designated by law.

(2) Law may designate civic heritage zones in which the architecture, monuments and public spaces express the national heritage described in Article 16. Design rules for a civic heritage zone shall be published, shall apply to every building in the zone, and shall be reviewable by the courts.

(3) Property belonging to the national religious heritage that is held by the State shall be administered in trust for the nation and shall not be alienated except under an Act of the Covenant Assembly.

Article 20. Public Officials and the Founding Identity

(1) Holders of public office shall respect the Christian heritage and founding identity of the nation in the performance of their public duties and in the conduct of State ceremonies.

(2) No holder of public office shall be required to profess, practise or renounce any religion or belief as a condition of holding office, and no religious test shall be imposed for any public office.

(3) Public officials shall serve every person without discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief.

Article 21. Christian Principles, Civil Law and Judicial Review

(1) The civil law of Aletheia is made by the Covenant Assembly in accordance with this Constitution. Christian ethical principles inform the law of Aletheia; they are not themselves a source of law enforceable against any person except as enacted by law.

(2) Every law, including a law adopted in reliance on the Christian heritage of the nation, is subject to judicial review for its consistency with this Constitution.

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

Article 22. Legal Status and Registration of Religious Organisations

(1) A church or religious organisation may acquire legal personality by registration in the Register of Religious Organisations under law.

(2) Law shall set objective and published conditions for registration, which shall apply equally to every applicant. Those conditions may include a minimum number of adult members who are citizens or permanent residents, a written constitution, the identification of the persons responsible for the organisation, and a commitment to respect this Constitution and the rights of others.

(3) A refusal of registration shall state its reasons and is subject to appeal to the courts.

(4) Persons who do not form a registered organisation retain the freedom of religion guaranteed by Article 66, including the right to worship together in private.

Article 23. Internal Governance and General Law

(1) A religious organisation governs its own internal affairs, including its doctrine, worship, membership, ministry and the appointment of its ministers, without interference by the State.

(2) A religious organisation is subject to the general law in all other respects, including the criminal law, the law of contract, employment and property, the protection of children and vulnerable adults, data protection, building safety and the law relating to charities.

(3) The autonomy of a religious organisation does not exempt any person from criminal liability or from the duty to report abuse that law imposes.

Article 24. Financial Transparency and Foreign Funding

(1) A registered religious organisation shall keep proper accounts and shall publish annual accounts in the form that law prescribes.

(2) Every gift, loan or other funding exceeding a threshold set by law that a religious organisation receives from a source outside Aletheia shall be reported to the Register of Religious Organisations and published.

(3) Law may prohibit funding from a foreign State or foreign public authority, or from a person listed under law for involvement in terrorism or serious crime, and may require funding received in breach of the law to be returned or forfeited.

(4) The requirements of this Article apply equally to every religious organisation and to every other association that receives foreign funding above the same threshold.

Article 25. Safeguards Against Abuse of Religious Freedom

(1) No person may, under the cover of religion: coerce any person to join, remain in or leave a religion; obtain money or property by fraud or undue influence; incite violence, hatred or discrimination against any person; or direct a religious organisation in Aletheia on behalf of a foreign State in breach of law.

(2) A registered religious organisation that persistently and seriously engages in conduct described in clause (1), or whose purposes or activities are directed to the overthrow of this Constitution by force, may be deregistered and, where necessary, dissolved by order of the High Court on the application of the Attorney-General.

(3) Proceedings under clause (2) shall be heard in public unless the Court orders otherwise, and the organisation shall have the right to be represented and heard.

Article 26. Places of Worship and Assembly

(1) A registered religious organisation may establish and maintain places of worship, subject to the general law.

(2) Every place of worship and every other building used for public assembly is subject to the same law on planning, construction, structural and fire safety, maritime safety, environmental protection, noise and occupancy as any other building of comparable size and use.

(3) The planning, design and heritage rules that apply to a place of worship, including the rules for a civic heritage zone under Article 19(2), shall be published in advance and applied consistently to comparable buildings.

(4) No law or decision shall prohibit or restrict the places of worship of a particular religion by naming that religion or by any criterion designed to affect that religion alone. A restriction on places of worship is lawful only if it satisfies Article 55.

Article 27. Religious Heritage and Public Property

(1) Public land, platform space and buildings shall be allocated for religious, charitable or community use only under published criteria and by decisions that are recorded and reviewable.

(2) The State may maintain chapels and places of prayer in public institutions such as hospitals, schools, prisons and the Aletheian Defence & Security Service, and shall make reasonable arrangements for persons of other faiths in those institutions.

PART III

Territory, Maritime Jurisdiction and the Seastead

THE TERRITORY OF THE STATE

Article 28. The Territory

(1) The territory of the Sovereign Covenant State consists of the platforms, artificial islands, structures and installations that the State lawfully builds, acquires and owns, together with any land that it lawfully acquires with full title, as established under Article 29 and recorded in the Register of National Territory.

(2) Within the territory there shall be the Federal District of Antioch and the four constituent states: St. Barbara State, Augustine State, Benedict State and St. Brendan State.

(3) The Federal District of Antioch is the capital and the seat of the constitutional institutions.

(4) The Sovereign Covenant State shall not lease its territory from a foreign State, and no part of the national territory shall be held under an arrangement that permits another State to reclaim it.

(5) A declaration made under this Constitution does not by itself create sovereignty over any area. The territory exists only to the extent that it has been lawfully established in fact and in law.

Article 29. Establishment of the Territory and the Constituent Units

(1) A platform, structure or parcel of land becomes part of the national territory when: (a) the State holds full and unencumbered title to it; (b) it has been certified as fit for its purpose under the law on construction and maritime safety; and (c) its incorporation has been approved by an Act of the Covenant Assembly and recorded in the Register of National Territory.

(2) The Federal District and each constituent state shall be established by an Act of the Covenant Assembly, with the consent of the Council of States, defining its platforms and boundaries.

(3) Until a constituent state is established, its name and mandate remain as described in Schedule 2 and confer no rights or powers.

Article 30. Expansion and New Constituent Territories

(1) New platforms may be incorporated into an existing constituent unit, or new constituent states may be formed, by an Act of the Covenant Assembly passed by two-thirds of all members with the consent of two-thirds of all members of the Council of States.

(2) The boundaries of a constituent state may not be altered without the consent of its legislature, and, where law so provides, of its residents in a referendum.

(3) Representation in the Covenant Assembly and the Council of States shall be adjusted under Schedule 2 when a new constituent state is formed.

Article 31. Disputes Concerning Boundaries and Title

(1) Disputes between the federation and a constituent state, or between constituent states, concerning boundaries, title to platforms or the allocation of territory shall be determined by the High Court.

(2) Disputes with other States concerning title, navigation or the use of the sea shall be settled by peaceful means in accordance with Article 208.

PLATFORMS, STRUCTURES AND MARITIME JURISDICTION

Article 32. Legal Status of Platforms, Installations and Vessels

(1) Law shall distinguish between: (a) platforms, artificial islands and fixed structures forming part of the national territory; (b) installations held or operated by the State under contract but not forming part of the national territory; and (c) vessels.

(2) A vessel is not part of the national territory. A vessel may fly the flag of Aletheia only when Aletheia is able lawfully to grant its nationality to ships, and then only under a law that ensures a genuine link between the State and the ship, as international law requires.

(3) The rights and obligations of the State in respect of any platform, structure or installation are those that international law confers. This Constitution does not enlarge them.

Article 33. Maritime Jurisdiction and the Limits of International Law

(1) The Sovereign Covenant State shall claim no maritime zone beyond what the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international law allow.

(2) The State acknowledges that artificial islands, installations and structures do not possess the status of islands, have no territorial sea of their own and generate no exclusive economic zone or continental shelf.

(3) The State shall site no platform, structure or installation in the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone or continental shelf of another State without that State’s consent, and shall respect the rights of other States and their nationals at sea.

(4) Any safety zone around a platform, structure or installation shall be established only to the extent permitted by international law, and shall not interfere with recognised sea lanes essential to international navigation.

Article 34. Maritime Safety and Navigational Access

(1) The State shall ensure that its platforms, structures and installations are marked, lit, charted and operated in accordance with international maritime safety standards.

(2) The State shall respect the freedom of navigation of all ships around its platforms, outside any lawful safety zone, and shall render assistance to any person in danger at sea.

Article 35. Protection of the Marine Environment

(1) The State shall protect and preserve the marine environment and its biodiversity, and shall prevent, reduce and control pollution from its platforms, vessels and activities.

(2) No platform, structure or installation shall be built, extended or decommissioned without a published environmental impact assessment approved under law.

(3) Discharges of untreated sewage, industrial effluent and plastics into the sea from the national territory are prohibited. Law shall set limits for all other discharges.

(4) Environmental monitoring data collected by public authorities shall be published as open data.

(5) A platform that reaches the end of its service life shall be decommissioned and removed, or made safe, in accordance with international standards and at the cost of its owner.

LAND, PLATFORM SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Article 36. Registration of Title

(1) There shall be a Register of National Territory and a Register of Title, in which every platform, parcel of platform space and interest in it shall be recorded.

(2) Title is established by registration under law. A record on a distributed ledger or other verification system is evidence of a registered entry but does not by itself create, transfer or extinguish title.

(3) The Registers shall be public, save that personal data shall be protected in accordance with Article 64.

Article 37. Public Land, Private Holdings, Concessions and Ground Leases

(1) The platforms forming the national territory are held by the State in trust for the nation. Platform space may be granted to persons and undertakings by ground lease, licence or concession on terms published and recorded in the Register of Title.

(2) Ground rents and concession revenues are public revenues and shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund or the Covenant Endowment Fund as Part XIII provides.

(3) A ground lease shall be for a fixed term, shall state the permitted use and the rent, and may be terminated before its term only on grounds and by procedures set by law, with compensation where Article 70 so requires.

(4) The terms of ground leases shall be set by law on objective and published criteria, and shall not discriminate between applicants on any ground prohibited by Article 57.

Article 38. Infrastructure Corridors, Ports, Energy and Telecommunications

(1) The State may reserve platform space for infrastructure corridors, ports, energy generation and storage, water production, telecommunications and other public utilities.

(2) Critical infrastructure shall be planned, built and operated to published standards of safety, resilience and redundancy, and its protection is governed by Part XVI.

Article 39. Lawful Acquisition of Territory and Infrastructure

(1) The State may acquire territory and infrastructure only by lawful means: by construction, by purchase with full title, by gift or by other lawful transfer, in each case in accordance with international law and the law of any State in which the acquisition takes place.

(2) Every acquisition of territory or of infrastructure above a value set by law shall be approved by an Act of the Covenant Assembly, published and recorded in the Register of National Territory.

(3) The State shall not acquire or claim any area by force, by the threat of force or by unilateral declaration.

Article 40. Evacuation, Relocation and Continuity of Government at Sea

(1) The State shall maintain published plans for the evacuation of persons from any platform, for the temporary relocation of residents and for the continuity of the constitutional institutions in the event of storm, fire, structural failure or other emergency.

(2) If the seat of a constitutional institution cannot be used, the institution may meet or sit at any other place, within or outside the national territory, determined under law or, in an emergency, by the presiding officer of the institution.

(3) Measures taken under this Article are subject to Part XX.

PART IV

Citizenship, Nationality and Dual Citizenship

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

Article 41. Citizenship and its Foundations

(1) Citizenship of Aletheia is a civic covenant between the citizen and the Sovereign Covenant State, carrying equal rights and equal duties for every citizen however acquired.

(2) Citizenship is acquired only by birth, by descent, by adoption or by naturalisation, as this Part provides.

(3) Citizenship shall never be sold, auctioned or conferred in return for investment, donation or any other payment. No law may provide for citizenship by investment.

(4) The detailed conditions and procedures for the acquisition and loss of citizenship shall be laid down by the Nationality and Citizenship Act, within the principles of this Part and Schedule 6.

Article 42. Citizenship at Birth and by Descent

(1) A person born on or after the date on which this Constitution enters into force is a citizen of Aletheia at birth if, at the time of the birth, at least one parent is a citizen of Aletheia, wherever the birth takes place.

(2) A person born in the national territory who would otherwise be stateless is a citizen of Aletheia at birth.

(3) A child found in the national territory whose parents are unknown is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have been born there to a citizen parent.

(4) Law may require the birth of a child born outside the national territory to be registered within a reasonable period, but failure to register shall not deprive a child of citizenship.

Article 43. Adoption

(1) A child under eighteen years of age adopted by a citizen of Aletheia under an adoption recognised by the law of Aletheia acquires citizenship on the date the adoption takes effect.

(2) Law shall provide safeguards to ensure that adoption is not used to evade the requirements for naturalisation.

Article 44. Naturalisation

(1) A person of full age may be granted citizenship by naturalisation if the person: (a) has resided lawfully and permanently in the national territory for at least five years; (b) has certified civic integration, including knowledge of this Constitution, the history and heritage of Aletheia and at least one official language; (c) is of good character as defined by law; and (d) takes the Covenant Oath set out in Schedule 5.

(2) Law may reduce the residence requirement for the spouse or registered partner of a citizen, for a person who has rendered exceptional service to the nation, and for a stateless person or refugee, but not below three years.

(3) Marriage to a citizen does not by itself confer citizenship.

(4) A minor child of a person being naturalised may be included in the grant, subject to law.

(5) Every application shall be decided on its merits, in writing, with reasons, within the period that law prescribes. A decision refusing citizenship is subject to administrative appeal and to judicial review

under Article 51.

Article 45. Founding Citizens

(1) The persons who become the first citizens of Aletheia when this Constitution enters into force shall be determined in accordance with Part XXII and Schedule 10.

(2) Membership of the founding community, or registration of interest in it, before this Constitution enters into force confers no citizenship and no right to citizenship.

DUAL AND MULTIPLE CITIZENSHIP

Article 46. Dual and Multiple Citizenship

(1) A citizen of Aletheia may hold the citizenship of one or more other States.

(2) A citizen of Aletheia does not lose citizenship by acquiring, or by already holding, the citizenship of another State.

(3) A person shall not be required to renounce another citizenship as a condition of naturalisation as a citizen of Aletheia.

(4) A child whose parents hold different nationalities may hold the citizenship of Aletheia together with every other citizenship to which the child is entitled.

(5) In the national territory a citizen of Aletheia who holds another citizenship has the same rights and duties as every other citizen, and shall be treated as a citizen of Aletheia.

Article 47. Dual Citizenship, Voting and Public Duties

(1) A citizen may be registered to vote in the elections of Aletheia only once and in one electoral district.

(2) Dual citizenship does not by itself disqualify a citizen from public office. A holder of public office shall declare every other citizenship held, and the declaration shall be published.

(3) A citizen who holds the office of Chancellor, Minister, Justice of the High Court, Governor of the Reserve Bank, or the command of the Aletheian Defence & Security Service shall not, while in office, hold any public office, military commission or allegiance-bearing appointment in the service of another State.

(4) Law may require that holders of the offices listed in Schedule 4 as security-sensitive have held the citizenship of Aletheia for a minimum period before appointment. Such a requirement shall not distinguish between citizens by the manner in which citizenship was acquired, except by the length of time it has been held.

(5) Where the duties of a citizen to Aletheia conflict with duties owed to another State, the citizen shall declare the conflict, and law shall provide for its resolution in a manner that does not deprive the citizen of citizenship.

LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP AND SAFEGUARDS

Article 48. Voluntary Renunciation

(1) A citizen of full age may renounce the citizenship of Aletheia by a written declaration made under law.

(2) A renunciation does not take effect if the person would thereby become stateless.

(3) Renunciation during a state of emergency, or while the person is subject to criminal proceedings in Aletheia, takes effect only when the emergency or proceedings have ended, unless a court orders otherwise.

Article 49. Deprivation of Citizenship

(1) No citizen may be deprived of citizenship except as this Article provides. Citizenship shall never be withdrawn as a punishment for political opinion, religious belief, peaceful dissent or the exercise of any right guaranteed by this Constitution.

(2) Citizenship acquired by naturalisation may be revoked only where it was obtained by fraud, false representation or the concealment of a material fact attributable to the applicant, and only by order of a court, following proceedings in which the person has the right to be heard and represented.

(3) Revocation shall not be ordered if it would render the person stateless, save where the citizenship was obtained by fraud and international law permits; and in every case the court shall consider whether a less severe remedy, such as a penalty, is proportionate.

(4) Proceedings for revocation shall be commenced within ten years after the grant of citizenship.

(5) Citizenship acquired by birth or descent shall not be revoked.

(6) Loss of citizenship by one person shall not cause the loss of citizenship by that person’s spouse or children.

Article 50. Prevention of Statelessness

(1) The law of Aletheia shall be interpreted and applied so as to prevent statelessness.

(2) A person who has lost citizenship and would otherwise be stateless, other than by revocation for fraud, is entitled to have it restored on application.

(3) The State shall facilitate the naturalisation of stateless persons lawfully resident in the national territory.

Article 51. Decisions, Appeals and Judicial Review

(1) Every decision on the acquisition, renunciation, revocation or restoration of citizenship shall be made in writing, with reasons, and notified to the person concerned.

(2) A person affected by such a decision is entitled to an administrative review and to an appeal to the courts, which shall have full jurisdiction over the facts and the law.

(3) Where the decision rests on information withheld for reasons of security, the court shall have access to that information and law shall provide for a special advocate to represent the interests of the person concerned.

CITIZENSHIP RECORDS AND CONSEQUENCES

Article 52. Citizenship Documents and Records

(1) Every citizen is entitled to a certificate of citizenship and, once the State has the lawful authority to issue one, to a passport.

(2) The Register of Citizens is maintained by the Registrar General, an officer of the Ministry of Digital State and Registries appointed on merit by the Public Service Commission. It shall record only the personal data necessary to establish citizenship, and access to it is governed by Article 64.

(3) A passport is the property of the State and evidence of citizenship; its refusal or withdrawal is subject to judicial review.

Article 53. Citizenship, Residence, Voting and Office

(1) Citizenship confers the right to enter and reside in the national territory, the right to vote and stand in elections in accordance with Part VII, eligibility for public office subject to this Constitution, and the

protection of the State abroad.

(2) Permanent residence is a distinct legal status governed by Part XV. It confers no right to vote in elections to the Covenant Assembly, but law may grant permanent residents the right to vote in local elections.

(3) The State shall provide consular assistance and diplomatic protection to its citizens abroad to the extent that its international position and the law of nations allow.

PART V

Fundamental Rights, Liberties and Civic Duties

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 54. Scope and Holders of Fundamental Rights

(1) The rights in this Part bind the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and every public authority, and shall be applied directly by the courts.

(2) The rights in this Part belong to every person within the jurisdiction of Aletheia, except where an Article expressly confers a right on citizens only.

(3) The following rights are reserved to citizens: the right to vote and stand in national elections, the right of unconditional entry into and residence in the national territory, and eligibility for the offices listed in Schedule 4 as reserved to citizens.

(4) The rights in this Part apply to legal persons to the extent that their nature permits.

Article 55. Limitation of Fundamental Rights

(1) A fundamental right may be limited only by or under an Act of the Covenant Assembly, and only if the limitation: (a) is clear and accessible; (b) pursues a legitimate aim recognised by this Constitution, such as the protection of public safety, public order, health, the rights and freedoms of others, or national security; (c) is suitable and necessary to achieve that aim; and (d) is proportionate, in that its burden on the right is not excessive in relation to the benefit it secures.

(2) An Act that limits a fundamental right shall apply generally and not to an individual case, and shall name the right that it limits.

(3) The essence of a fundamental right is inviolable.

(4) A limitation shall be applied without discrimination on any ground prohibited by Article 57.

(5) Every limitation of a fundamental right is subject to review by the courts.

(6) The rights listed in Schedule 8 as non-derogable may not be limited or suspended at any time, including during a state of emergency.

DIGNITY, EQUALITY AND PERSONAL FREEDOM

Article 56. Human Dignity

(1) Human dignity is inviolable. Every public authority shall respect and protect it.

(2) Every person has the right to life. The death penalty is abolished.

Article 57. Equality Before the Law

(1) All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to its equal protection.

(2) No person shall be discriminated against, directly or indirectly, on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national origin, disability, age, birth or other status, save as this Constitution expressly provides.

(3) Measures adopted under law to remedy a demonstrated disadvantage are not discrimination if they are proportionate and temporary.

(4) Distinctions based on citizenship are permitted where this Constitution provides for them or where they

are justified under Article 55.

Article 58. Prohibition of Torture and Cruel Treatment

(1) No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

(2) No person shall be held in slavery or servitude, or required to perform forced or compulsory labour, save as law permits in respect of lawful sentences, civil emergencies and normal civic obligations.

(3) Evidence obtained by torture or cruel treatment is inadmissible in any proceedings.

Article 59. Personal Liberty and Security

(1) Every person has the right to liberty and security of person. No person shall be deprived of liberty except on grounds and in accordance with procedures established by law.

(2) A person who is arrested shall be told promptly, in a language the person understands, of the reasons for the arrest and of the person’s rights, including the right to remain silent and to consult a lawyer.

(3) A person arrested on suspicion of an offence shall be brought before a judge within forty-eight hours. A judge shall order release unless continued detention is lawful and necessary.

(4) Every person deprived of liberty has the right to have the lawfulness of the detention decided speedily by a court and to be released if it is unlawful.

(5) A person unlawfully detained is entitled to compensation.

(6) No person shall be detained in secret, and the place of detention of every person shall be notified without delay to a person of the detainee’s choosing.

Article 60. Due Process and Access to an Independent Court

(1) Every person is entitled, in the determination of civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge, to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial court established by law.

(2) Judgments shall be pronounced publicly, save where law permits otherwise for the protection of minors, privacy or security, and in every case shall state their reasons.

(3) Every person has the right to an effective remedy before a court for the violation of any right guaranteed by this Constitution.

(4) The State shall provide legal aid, in accordance with law, to persons who lack sufficient means where the interests of justice require it.

Article 61. Rights in Criminal Proceedings

(1) Every person charged with a criminal offence is presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

(2) Every person charged with a criminal offence has the right: (a) to be informed promptly and in detail of the charge; (b) to adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence; (c) to defend oneself in person or through a lawyer of one’s choosing, or to be given legal assistance free of charge where the interests of justice require; (d) to examine witnesses and to obtain the attendance of witnesses on the same conditions as the prosecution; (e) to the free assistance of an interpreter; and (f) not to be compelled to testify against oneself.

(3) No person shall be held guilty of an offence on account of an act or omission that did not constitute an offence under law at the time it was committed, nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one applicable at that time.

(4) No person shall be tried or punished again for an offence of which the person has been finally acquitted or convicted.

(5) Every person convicted of an offence has the right to have the conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher court.

Article 62. Protection Against Arbitrary Confiscation

(1) No property shall be confiscated as a penalty except by order of a court following a conviction, or in civil proceedings for the recovery of the proceeds of crime established by law in which the owner has the right to be heard.

PRIVATE LIFE, CONSCIENCE AND EXPRESSION

Article 63. Privacy, Home and Family Life

(1) Every person has the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

(2) The home is inviolable. It may be searched only under a warrant issued by a judge, save in an emergency to prevent imminent danger to life, as defined by law.

(3) The confidentiality of correspondence and communications by any means is guaranteed. It may be interfered with only by order of a judge in accordance with Article 65.

Article 64. Data Protection and Digital Privacy

(1) Every person has the right to the protection of personal data concerning them.

(2) Personal data shall be processed fairly, for specified purposes, on a lawful basis, and only to the extent necessary for those purposes.

(3) Every person has the right of access to personal data held about them by any public authority and the right to have it corrected.

(4) Compliance with this Article shall be supervised by the Information and Data Protection Commissioner under Part XIX.

Article 65. Protection Against Unlawful Surveillance

(1) General and indiscriminate surveillance of the population, and the general retention of communications data, are prohibited.

(2) Targeted surveillance is permitted only under a warrant issued by a judge of the High Court, for the investigation of a serious offence or the prevention of a grave threat to national security defined by law, and only for a limited period.

(3) A person who has been subject to surveillance shall be notified once notification no longer endangers its purpose, and is entitled to a remedy before the courts.

(4) Every use of surveillance powers shall be recorded and reported in aggregate each year to the Covenant Assembly.

Article 66. Freedom of Conscience and Religion

(1) Freedom of thought, conscience and religion is guaranteed to every person.

(2) This freedom includes the freedom to hold, to change and to decline to hold any religion or belief, and the freedom to manifest one’s religion or belief, alone or in community with others, in public or in private, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

(3) No person shall be compelled to join or leave a religious community, to take part in a religious act or to

receive religious instruction, or be penalised for refusing to do so.

(4) The freedom to manifest a religion or belief may be limited only in accordance with Article 55.

(5) The right to conscientious objection to bearing arms is guaranteed. Law shall provide an alternative civilian service of equal duration.

Article 67. Freedom of Expression and of the Press

(1) Every person has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas by any means, without interference by a public authority.

(2) The freedom of the press and of other media is guaranteed. Censorship is prohibited.

(3) The freedom of expression may be limited only in accordance with Article 55, including for the protection of the reputation and rights of others, the prevention of incitement to violence or hatred, and the protection of information lawfully classified under law.

(4) Academic and artistic freedom are guaranteed.

Article 68. Access to Public Information

(1) Every person has the right of access to information held by public authorities.

(2) Access may be refused only on grounds set by law that are necessary for the protection of personal data, national security, the prevention of crime, commercial confidentiality or the deliberations of government, and only for so long as the ground persists.

(3) A refusal of access may be appealed to the Information and Data Protection Commissioner and to the courts.

Article 69. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

(1) Every person has the right to assemble peacefully and without arms. Law may require prior notice of assemblies in public places, but not prior permission.

(2) Every person has the right to form and join associations, including political parties and trade unions.

(3) An association may be prohibited or dissolved only by order of a court, on grounds set by law that satisfy Article 55.

(4) Political parties shall respect the democratic order and this Constitution, and shall publish their accounts and the sources of their funding in accordance with Article 97.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Article 70. Property and Expropriation

(1) The right to own property, alone or in association with others, is guaranteed.

(2) No person shall be deprived of property except in the public interest, under law, and against fair compensation paid promptly.

(3) Compensation shall be determined in accordance with law and is subject to review by the courts.

(4) Law may regulate the use of property in the general interest, including for the protection of the environment and of the national heritage.

Article 71. Contractual Freedom and Lawful Commerce

(1) Every person has the right to engage in lawful economic activity, to enter into contracts and to have them enforced by the courts.

(2) Law may regulate economic activity in the public interest and for the protection of consumers, workers, competition, public health and the environment.

Article 72. Freedom of Movement

(1) Every person lawfully within the national territory has the right to move freely within it and to leave it.

(2) Every citizen has the right to enter the national territory.

(3) The entry and residence of persons who are not citizens are governed by law under Part XV.

(4) Movement on and between platforms may be regulated by law for reasons of safety, security and the protection of private property.

Article 73. The Right to Education

(1) Every person has the right to education. Primary and secondary education shall be compulsory and, in public schools, free of charge.

(2) Parents have the right to ensure the education and teaching of their children in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions, within the framework of Part VI.

Article 74. Health and Emergency Medical Assistance

(1) Every person has the right of access to preventive health care and to medical treatment under the conditions established by law.

(2) No person in the national territory shall be refused emergency medical assistance.

Article 75. Labour Rights and Workplace Safety

(1) Every worker has the right to fair and just working conditions, to safe and healthy workplaces, to reasonable limitation of working hours and to paid annual leave.

(2) Workers and employers have the right to organise and to bargain collectively. The right to strike is guaranteed in accordance with law, which may limit it in essential services.

(3) The employment of children below the minimum age set by law is prohibited.

Article 76. Marriage, Family and Parental Responsibility

(1) The family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and is entitled to the protection of the State.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. The forms and legal effects of marriage are governed by law.

(3) Parents have the primary right and duty to care for and bring up their children.

Article 77. Protection of Children

(1) In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

(2) Every child has the right to protection from neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence, and to the care necessary for the child’s well-being.

(3) A child may be separated from the child’s parents against their will only by order of a court, where necessary for the child’s best interests.

Article 78. Persons with Disabilities

(1) Persons with disabilities have the right to participate fully in the life of the community, and to reasonable accommodation in public services, education, employment and access to buildings and platforms.

(2) New public buildings, platforms and digital public services shall be designed to be accessible.

Article 79. Environmental Rights and Duties

(1) Every person has the right to a healthy environment and the duty to protect it.

(2) The State shall protect the sea, the air and living resources for present and future generations, and shall ensure that the use of natural resources is sustainable.

Article 80. Protection of Minorities

(1) Persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities have the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion and to use their own language, in accordance with law and subject to the rights of others.

Article 81. Rights of Lawful Residents and Non-Citizens

(1) Persons who are not citizens enjoy the rights in this Part, save those reserved to citizens by Article 54(3).

(2) A person lawfully resident in the national territory may be removed from it only under a decision reached in accordance with law, against which the person has the right of appeal under Part XV.

CIVIC DUTIES

Article 82. Civic Duties

(1) Every person in the national territory shall respect this Constitution, the law and the rights and freedoms of others.

(2) Every citizen shall, in accordance with law: (a) contribute to the common good; (b) serve on a jury when lawfully summoned; (c) render assistance in a public emergency; and (d) take part in the defence and civil protection of the nation, by military or civilian service, as law provides.

(3) Duties under this Article shall be imposed only by law and shall not be enforced so as to limit any right except in accordance with Article 55.

PART VI

Family, Education, Culture and Social Institutions

FAMILY AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Article 83. The Family and Child Welfare

(1) The State shall support families in the care and upbringing of children, through law, public services and the tax and benefit system.

(2) The State shall provide for the care of children who are deprived of a family environment, giving priority to placement within a family.

Article 84. Public Health and Social Care

(1) The State shall maintain a system of public health and social care that is universal in coverage, financed under Part XIII and delivered by public, charitable and private providers under law.

(2) Health outcomes, waiting times and the use of public health funds shall be published.

(3) Patient records belong to the patient, who shall control access to them in accordance with Article 64.

Article 85. Charitable Organisations and Community Service

(1) The State recognises the contribution of charitable organisations, including Christian charitable foundations, to the common good, and may support them under law.

(2) Charitable organisations shall be registered, shall publish their accounts and shall be supervised by an authority established by law.

(3) Law may encourage voluntary community service by young people and others.

Article 86. Safeguards Against Abuse in Institutions

(1) Every school, care home, hospital, religious organisation, youth organisation and other institution that has the care of children or vulnerable adults shall maintain safeguarding arrangements meeting standards set by law, and shall be subject to independent inspection.

(2) A person who works with children or vulnerable adults shall be subject to background checks under law.

(3) Every allegation of abuse in an institution shall be reported to the competent authorities. No institution may investigate such an allegation solely by itself.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Article 87. Education and the National Curriculum

(1) The State shall ensure a system of education that develops the full personality of every child, respect for human dignity and the knowledge and skills required for life and work.

(2) The national curriculum shall be established by law and shall include civic and constitutional education, and the history of Aletheia, its Christian heritage, its maritime identity and its founding principles.

(3) Teaching about the Christian heritage of the nation in public schools is part of the national curriculum. Religious instruction in the faith of any church is voluntary, and no pupil shall be required to attend it against the wishes of the pupil’s parents or, at an age set by law, of the pupil.

Article 88. Public, Private and Christian Schools

(1) The State shall maintain public schools open to all children.

(2) Every person and association, including churches and religious organisations, has the right to establish and run private schools, including Christian schools, which meet the standards set by law and are subject to inspection.

(3) Law may provide public funding for private schools on equal and objective criteria.

Article 89. Higher Education, Vocational Training and Research

(1) The State shall promote higher education, vocational training and lifelong learning, with particular attention to engineering, maritime science, medicine and the skills on which the nation depends.

(2) Universities are self-governing within the law. Academic freedom in teaching and research is guaranteed.

(3) Research funded by the State shall be awarded on merit, and its results published, save where law protects security or commercial confidentiality.

CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE

Article 90. Culture, Archives and Heritage

(1) The State shall establish and maintain a national library, national archives and other cultural institutions, and shall protect the cultural heritage of the nation.

(2) The national archives shall preserve the records of the constitutional institutions permanently.

(3) The State shall promote the official languages and support the preservation of the languages spoken by its citizens.

Article 91. Youth and Civic Participation

(1) The State shall promote the participation of young people in civic, social and cultural life.

(2) Law may establish a national youth council to advise the constitutional institutions.

PART VII

The Covenant Assembly and Legislative Power

COMPOSITION AND ELECTIONS

Article 92. The Covenant Assembly

(1) The Covenant Assembly is the legislature of the Sovereign Covenant State and represents all its citizens.

(2) The Covenant Assembly consists of sixty-one members, elected for a term of four years.

(3) Members of the Covenant Assembly represent the whole nation. They are bound by this Constitution and their conscience and are not subject to instructions.

Article 93. Electoral System and Districts

(1) Members of the Covenant Assembly are elected by universal, equal, free, direct and secret suffrage, by open-list proportional representation.

(2) Each constituent unit — the Federal District and each constituent state — forms one electoral district. Each district elects at least five members; the remaining seats are distributed among the districts in proportion to the number of registered voters, as set out in Schedule 2.

(3) Until the constituent units are established, the whole electorate forms a single electoral district.

(4) Law may set a threshold for the allocation of seats, which shall not exceed four per cent of the valid votes cast nationally.

(5) Electoral districts and the distribution of seats shall be reviewed by the Electoral Commission after each census and at least once every eight years.

Article 94. The Right to Vote

(1) Every citizen who has reached eighteen years of age is entitled to vote in elections to the Covenant Assembly and in national referendums, unless deprived of that right by a court on grounds that law defines and that satisfy Article 55.

(2) A citizen resident outside the national territory may vote, in accordance with law, in the electoral district with which the citizen has the closest connection.

(3) No person may vote more than once in any election or referendum.

Article 95. Eligibility for Membership

(1) Every citizen entitled to vote who has reached twenty-one years of age is eligible for election to the Covenant Assembly.

(2) The following may not be members of the Covenant Assembly while holding office: the Chancellor and the Ministers; Justices and judges; members of the Council of States; members of the independent institutions under Part XIX; the Governor and members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank; serving members of the Aletheian Defence & Security Service and the police; and civil servants, as law defines.

(3) A person elected while holding an incompatible office shall resign that office before taking the oath of a member.

Article 96. Election Schedule, Vacancies and By-Elections

(1) A general election shall be held not earlier than sixty and not later than ten days before the end of the term of the Covenant Assembly, on a date fixed by the Electoral Commission.

(2) The new Covenant Assembly shall meet within twenty days after the election.

(3) A vacancy is filled by the next eligible candidate on the list on which the departing member was elected. If no such candidate exists, a by-election shall be held in that district within ninety days, unless the general election is due within six months.

Article 97. Campaign Finance and Disclosure

(1) Every candidate, political party and campaign organisation shall disclose, in accordance with law, every donation and loan above a threshold set by law, and its expenditure on each election and referendum.

(2) Donations from foreign States and foreign public authorities, from anonymous sources and from undertakings holding public contracts above a value set by law are prohibited.

(3) Law shall limit campaign expenditure and may provide public funding for parties on equal and objective criteria.

(4) Compliance with this Article is supervised by the Electoral Commission.

Article 98. Dissolution and Early Elections

(1) The Covenant Assembly may resolve to dissolve itself by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, in which case a general election shall be held within sixty days.

(2) The Covenant Assembly may not be dissolved by any other person or body, and may not be dissolved during a state of emergency.

(3) An Assembly elected at an early election serves a full term of four years.

ORGANISATION AND MEMBERS

Article 99. Speaker, Rules and Committees

(1) The Covenant Assembly elects from among its members a Speaker and two Deputy Speakers, and adopts its own rules of procedure.

(2) The Covenant Assembly shall establish standing committees, including committees on public accounts, on security and intelligence, on the Constitution and justice, and on monetary affairs, and may establish committees of inquiry.

(3) The chairs of the committee on public accounts and the committee on security and intelligence shall be members of the opposition.

(4) Committee seats shall be allocated in proportion to the strength of the parliamentary groups.

Article 100. Quorum and Voting

(1) The quorum of the Covenant Assembly is a majority of all its members.

(2) Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, the Covenant Assembly decides by a majority of the votes cast.

(3) Where this Constitution requires a majority of all members, that majority is thirty-one; three-fifths of all members is thirty-seven; and two-thirds of all members is forty-one.

(4) The votes of each member on every final vote on a bill shall be recorded and published.

Article 101. Privileges of Members and their Limits

(1) No member shall be prosecuted or held liable in any proceedings for any vote cast or statement made in the Covenant Assembly or its committees, save for defamation knowingly made with intent to harm.

(2) A member may be arrested only when caught in the act of committing a serious offence or with the consent of the Covenant Assembly. The Assembly shall decide on a request for consent within fourteen days and may refuse it only if the proceedings are manifestly connected with the member's political activity.

(3) Members receive a remuneration fixed by an independent body established by law. A change in remuneration takes effect only after the next general election.

Article 102. Conflicts of Interest, Suspension and Removal of Members

(1) Every member shall declare, in a public register, all financial interests, gifts, outside employment, other citizenships and any interest that might reasonably be thought to influence the member's conduct.

(2) A member shall not vote on a matter in which the member has a direct personal financial interest.

(3) The Covenant Assembly may suspend a member for a serious breach of its rules or of the code of conduct, for a period not exceeding sixty sitting days, on the report of the Commissioner for Public Standards, by a vote of a majority of all members.

(4) A member ceases to hold office upon conviction of an offence punishable by imprisonment of more than one year, upon losing citizenship, upon accepting an incompatible office, or upon a finding by the Commissioner for Public Standards, confirmed by the High Court, that the member was ineligible for election.

Article 103. Rights of the Opposition

(1) The parliamentary groups not represented in the Cabinet constitute the opposition. The leader of the largest of them is the Leader of the Opposition.

(2) The rules of procedure shall guarantee the opposition time for debate, the right to place matters on the agenda, and the right to obtain the establishment of a committee of inquiry on the request of one-quarter of all members.

LEGISLATION

Article 104. Legislative Power and Initiative

(1) Bills may be introduced in the Covenant Assembly by any member, by the Cabinet, by the Council of States on matters affecting the constituent units, and by citizens' initiative supported by at least two per cent of registered voters.

(2) A bill introduced by citizens' initiative shall be debated and voted on within six months.

(3) Matters reserved to law by this Constitution may not be regulated by decree.

Article 105. Ordinary Legislative Procedure

(1) A bill becomes an Act when it has been passed by the Covenant Assembly in accordance with Schedule 7, has completed its passage through the Council of States where this Constitution so requires, and has been promulgated under Article 107.

(2) Every bill shall be published on its introduction, together with an explanatory memorandum stating its purpose, its expected costs and its effect on fundamental rights.

(3) At least fourteen days shall elapse between the first reading and the final vote on a bill, save where the

Covenant Assembly resolves by two-thirds of all members that the matter is urgent.

(4) Public hearings shall be held on bills that the rules of procedure designate, and on any bill on the request of one-third of the members of the responsible committee.

Article 106. Financial Legislation

(1) Only the Cabinet may introduce the Budget Bill and bills imposing or increasing taxes or charges on the Consolidated Fund.

(2) The Covenant Assembly may reduce but not increase the total expenditure proposed in the Budget Bill, unless it identifies equivalent revenue or savings.

(3) The Council of States may make recommendations on a financial bill within fourteen days, but may not delay or withhold it.

(4) The procedure for the annual budget is governed by Part XIII.

Article 107. Promulgation and Publication of Acts

(1) The Chancellor shall promulgate an Act within fifteen days of receiving it.

(2) Within that period the Chancellor may, once, either return the Act to the Covenant Assembly with reasons for reconsideration, or refer it to the High Court on the ground that it is inconsistent with this Constitution.

(3) An Act returned for reconsideration shall be promulgated if the Covenant Assembly passes it again by a majority of all members. An Act referred to the High Court shall be promulgated if the Court finds it consistent with this Constitution.

(4) If the Chancellor fails to act within the period, the Speaker shall promulgate the Act.

(5) Every Act shall be published in the Official Gazette, with a verifiable record of its text under Part XVII, and enters into force on the date it specifies, which shall not be earlier than its publication.

Article 108. Delegated Legislation

(1) An Act may authorise the Cabinet or a Minister to make regulations. The Act shall specify the content, purpose and scope of the authority conferred.

(2) Regulations shall be published and laid before the Covenant Assembly, which may annul them by a majority of the votes cast within forty days.

(3) No regulation may create an offence punishable by imprisonment, impose a tax, establish a ministry or limit a fundamental right beyond what the authorising Act expressly permits.

OVERSIGHT

Article 109. Oversight of the Executive

(1) The Chancellor and the Ministers are accountable to the Covenant Assembly for the conduct of government.

(2) Members may put questions in writing and orally to the Chancellor and the Ministers, who shall answer them truthfully and within the time set by the rules of procedure. The Chancellor shall attend a question session in the Covenant Assembly at least once each month while it is sitting.

(3) A committee of inquiry may summon any person to give evidence and produce documents. Law shall protect witnesses and provide for the handling of classified information.

(4) Knowingly misleading the Covenant Assembly is a breach of the code of conduct of the person

concerned.

Article 110. Transparency of the Legislature

(1) Sittings of the Covenant Assembly and its committees are public, save where the Assembly or a committee resolves, for reasons of national security or the protection of personal data, to sit in private.

(2) A verbatim record of every public sitting shall be published, together with all bills, amendments, committee reports and recorded votes.

PART VIII

The Council of States and Federal Representation

THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Article 111. Composition and Purpose

(1) The Council of States represents the constituent units in the legislative process and safeguards their self-government.

(2) The Council of States consists of fifteen members: three for the Federal District and three for each constituent state.

(3) Until the constituent units are established, the Council of States shall be constituted as provided in Schedule 10.

Article 112. Selection, Terms and Qualifications of Members

(1) The members for each constituent state are elected by the citizens registered to vote in that state, for a term of six years, one-third of the Council being renewed every two years.

(2) The members for the Federal District are elected by the citizens registered to vote in the District, on the same terms.

(3) A member of the Council of States must be eligible for election to the Covenant Assembly and must have been registered to vote in the unit concerned for at least two years.

(4) The rules on incompatibility, privileges and conflicts of interest that apply to members of the Covenant Assembly apply equally to members of the Council of States.

(5) The Council of States elects its President and adopts its rules of procedure. A majority of all its members is eight; two-thirds of all its members is ten.

Article 113. Legislative Review and the Suspensive Veto

(1) Every bill passed by the Covenant Assembly shall be sent to the Council of States.

(2) On a bill that is not a consent bill or a financial bill, the Council of States may, within thirty days, return the bill to the Covenant Assembly with its objections. A bill so returned may be passed again by the Covenant Assembly only after ninety days have elapsed from its return, and only by a majority of all members.

(3) Bills concerning land and platform title, energy, and the currency, as defined in Schedule 7, may be returned under clause (2) within sixty days.

(4) If the Council of States does not act within the period allowed, the bill completes its passage.

Article 114. Consent Bills and Federal Matters

(1) A bill requires the consent of the Council of States, given by a majority of all its members, if it: (a) alters the powers of the constituent units; (b) alters the boundaries of a constituent unit or establishes a new one; (c) alters the distribution of seats under Schedule 2; or (d) is otherwise designated a consent bill by this Constitution or Schedule 7.

(2) If the Council of States withholds consent, either chamber may convene a joint mediation committee of seven members from each chamber, which shall propose a compromise within sixty days. If the compromise is not adopted by both chambers, the bill fails.

Article 115. Other Functions of the Council of States

(1) The Council of States consents to the appointment of the Justices of the High Court and of the Governor of the Reserve Bank, as this Constitution provides.

(2) The Council of States may hold public hearings on any matter affecting the constituent units, and may request information from the Cabinet, which shall be provided.

(3) The Council of States may refer a dispute between the federation and a constituent unit to the High Court.

(4) The Council of States has no power to remove the Chancellor or any Minister, and no power over the budget beyond Article 106(3).

PART IX

The Chancellor, Executive Government and Cabinet

THE CHANCELLOR

Article 116. The Office of Chancellor

(1) The Chancellor is the head of State and the head of the executive government of the Sovereign Covenant State.

(2) The Chancellor represents the Sovereign Covenant State in its international relations, promulgates Acts, directs the Cabinet and ensures that the laws are faithfully executed.

(3) The Chancellor exercises only the powers conferred by this Constitution and by law.

Article 117. Election and Term of the Chancellor

(1) The Chancellor is elected by the citizens by direct, universal, equal and secret suffrage. A candidate who obtains more than half of the valid votes cast is elected. If no candidate does so, a second ballot shall be held fourteen days later between the two candidates who received the most votes.

(2) The term of office of the Chancellor is five years, beginning on the day the Chancellor takes the Covenant Oath.

(3) No person may be elected Chancellor more than twice. A person who has held the office of Chancellor, or acted as Chancellor, for more than two and a half years of a term shall be treated as having been elected once.

(4) The election shall be held not earlier than ninety and not later than thirty days before the end of the term of the incumbent.

Article 118. Eligibility for the Office of Chancellor

(1) A citizen is eligible for election as Chancellor if the citizen is entitled to vote, has reached thirty-five years of age, and has been a citizen for at least ten years.

(2) During the first ten years after this Constitution enters into force, the requirement of ten years of citizenship shall be read as requiring citizenship since the date on which this Constitution entered into force.

(3) A candidate shall be nominated by at least one per cent of registered voters, or by at least seven members of the Covenant Assembly.

(4) The Chancellor shall hold no other public office, practise no profession and engage in no business during the term of office, and shall make a full public declaration of assets and interests on taking and on leaving office.

Article 119. Assumption of Office

(1) Before assuming office, the Chancellor shall take the Covenant Oath for holders of constitutional office, set out in Schedule 5, before a joint sitting of the Covenant Assembly and the Council of States, administered by the President of the High Court.

Article 120. Executive Authority and its Limits

(1) The Chancellor and the Cabinet conduct the policy of the government and direct the public administration, within the law.

(2) The Chancellor may not suspend this Constitution or any part of it, may not dissolve the Covenant Assembly or the Council of States, and may not legislate except by regulations authorised under Article 108.

(3) Executive orders that direct the public administration shall be published, shall be consistent with law and are subject to judicial review.

(4) The exercise of emergency powers by the Chancellor is governed exclusively by Part XX.

Article 121. Impeachment and Removal of the Chancellor

(1) The Covenant Assembly may, by a resolution supported by two-thirds of all its members, impeach the Chancellor before the High Court for a serious violation of this Constitution or for a serious criminal offence.

(2) The High Court, sitting as a full court, shall decide the impeachment within ninety days. If at least six Justices find the charge proved, the Chancellor is removed from office.

(3) A Chancellor so removed is disqualified from holding any public office for a period fixed by the Court, not exceeding ten years, and remains liable to criminal prosecution.

Article 122. Resignation, Death and Incapacity

(1) The Chancellor may resign by written notice to the Speaker of the Covenant Assembly.

(2) If the Covenant Assembly, by three-fifths of all its members, requests it, the High Court shall determine, after receiving the report of an independent medical panel established by law, whether the Chancellor is permanently unable to perform the functions of office. A finding of permanent incapacity vacates the office.

(3) A temporary inability of the Chancellor to act may be declared by the Chancellor in writing, or, if the Chancellor is unable to do so, by the High Court on the application of the Cabinet.

Article 123. Acting Chancellor and Succession

(1) At the start of each term the Chancellor designates one Minister as Deputy Chancellor, subject to confirmation by the Covenant Assembly.

(2) While the Chancellor is temporarily unable to act, or the office is vacant, the Deputy Chancellor acts as Chancellor; if the Deputy Chancellor is unable to act, the Speaker of the Covenant Assembly acts.

(3) An Acting Chancellor may not dismiss Ministers, return or refer an Act under Article 107, or declare a state of emergency except with the approval of the Covenant Assembly given in advance.

(4) If the office of Chancellor becomes vacant, an election shall be held within ninety days. The Chancellor so elected serves a full term of five years.

Article 124. Caretaker Government

(1) From the date of a Chancellor election until the new Chancellor takes office, and while an Acting Chancellor holds office, the government shall act as a caretaker government.

(2) A caretaker government shall conduct only the ordinary business of government and urgent matters, and shall not make senior appointments, conclude treaties or enter into major contracts or long-term commitments, save where the matter cannot lawfully be deferred and after consultation with the Leader

of the Opposition.

THE CABINET AND MINISTERS

Article 125. The Cabinet

(1) The Cabinet consists of the Chancellor and the Ministers. There shall be no more than nine Ministers, each of whom heads one of the ministries listed in Schedule 3.

(2) The Cabinet decides collectively on matters of general government policy, on bills to be introduced in the Covenant Assembly, on regulations, and on matters that this Constitution or law assigns to it.

(3) Cabinet decisions are taken by a majority of the members present, the Chancellor having a casting vote. The record of every Cabinet decision shall be published within thirty days, save where law permits it to be withheld for reasons of national security or the protection of personal data, for a period not exceeding thirty years.

Article 126. Appointment and Removal of Ministers

(1) The Chancellor nominates the Ministers. Each nominee shall appear at a public hearing before the responsible committee of the Covenant Assembly and is appointed upon confirmation by a majority of the votes cast in the Assembly.

(2) A Minister must be eligible for election to the Covenant Assembly and may not be a member of either chamber.

(3) The Chancellor may dismiss a Minister at any time.

(4) The Covenant Assembly may, by a resolution supported by a majority of all members, express no confidence in a Minister, who shall thereupon resign.

(5) Each Minister is responsible to the Covenant Assembly for the ministry and the agencies attached to it.

Article 127. Ethics, Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

(1) The Chancellor and the Ministers shall publish full declarations of their assets, interests, gifts received and other citizenships on taking office, annually and on leaving office.

(2) For two years after leaving office, a former Chancellor or Minister shall not accept employment or appointment with an undertaking that has dealt with the former ministry, without the approval of the Commissioner for Public Standards.

(3) The Chancellor and the Ministers shall abstain from any decision in which they have a personal interest.

Article 128. Public Appointments

(1) Appointments to public office are made on merit through open and fair competition, save for political advisers whose number for each Minister is limited by law and whose appointment ends with the Minister’s term.

(2) Senior public appointments designated by law shall be subject to a public hearing before the responsible committee of the Covenant Assembly.

PART X

The Nine Ministries and Public Administration

THE MINISTRIES

Article 129. Limitation of Ministries to Nine Portfolios

(1) The executive government is organised in no more than nine ministries, whose names and core responsibilities are set out in Schedule 3.

(2) No ministry may be established, abolished or renamed except by an amendment to Schedule 3 under Article 224.

(3) No executive order, regulation or agreement may create a body that exercises the functions of a ministry outside the nine ministries, or otherwise circumvent the limit in clause (1).

(4) Every public function shall be allocated to one of the ministries in Schedule 3, or to an independent institution established by this Constitution. The Chancellor shall publish the allocation of functions among the ministries.

Article 130. Statutory Agencies and Sunset Review

(1) A statutory agency may be established only by an Act of the Covenant Assembly, which shall attach it to a ministry listed in Schedule 3 and define its functions, governance and funding.

(2) Every statutory agency shall be reviewed by the Covenant Assembly at least once every eight years. An agency whose continuation is not approved by an Act within twelve months after the review is due shall be wound up in accordance with law.

(3) Every agency shall publish an annual report of its activities, expenditure and performance.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Article 131. The Civil Service

(1) There shall be a permanent civil service, recruited and promoted on merit through open competition, supervised by the Public Service Commission under Part XIX.

(2) Civil servants shall serve the government of the day with impartiality, integrity and political neutrality, and shall not be required to act contrary to law.

(3) A civil servant may be dismissed only for cause, under procedures established by law, and is entitled to appeal.

Article 132. Administrative Due Process

(1) Every person has the right to have matters affecting them handled impartially, fairly and within a reasonable time by public authorities.

(2) Before an authority takes an individual decision adversely affecting a person, the person has the right to be heard, save where law permits urgent action.

(3) Every individual administrative decision shall state its reasons and the remedies available against it.

(4) Every person is entitled to compensation for damage caused unlawfully by a public authority in the exercise of its functions.

Article 133. Public Procurement

(1) Public contracts above thresholds set by law shall be awarded through open and competitive procedures, on published criteria.

(2) Every public contract above a threshold set by law, together with the identity of the contractor, its beneficial owners and the value of the contract, shall be published.

(3) Decisions on the award of public contracts are subject to review by the Procurement Review Board under Part XIX and by the courts.

Article 134. Anti-Corruption Standards and Whistleblower Protection

(1) Bribery, embezzlement, abuse of office and trading in influence by any public official are criminal offences.

(2) A person who discloses in good faith information about wrongdoing in a public authority, through the channels established by law or, where those channels are ineffective, publicly, shall be protected from dismissal, retaliation and liability.

(3) Every public authority shall establish confidential reporting channels.

Article 135. Public Records and Performance Review

(1) Every public authority shall keep complete and accurate records of its decisions and their grounds, and preserve them in accordance with law.

(2) Every ministry and agency shall publish annually its objectives, its expenditure and an assessment of its performance against those objectives, which shall be examined by the Auditor-General.

Article 136. Digital Government Standards

(1) Public services shall be available by digital means, while ensuring that no person is excluded from a public service for lack of digital access.

(2) The digital systems of the State shall meet the standards set under Part XVII.

PART XI

The Judiciary and Constitutional Review

THE COURTS

Article 137. Judicial Power and Independence

(1) Judicial power is exercised by the High Court and by the courts established by law: the District Courts, the Court of Maritime and Commercial Disputes and the Court of Appeal.

(2) Judges are independent and subject only to this Constitution and the law. No person or authority may give instructions to a judge in the exercise of judicial functions.

(3) Extraordinary or special courts shall not be established. Military tribunals may try only serving members of the Aletheian Defence & Security Service for service offences, subject to appeal to the civilian courts.

Article 138. Jurisdiction of the Courts

(1) The District Courts have original jurisdiction in civil, criminal, family and administrative matters, as law provides.

(2) The Court of Maritime and Commercial Disputes has original jurisdiction in maritime, commercial, insolvency and arbitration matters, as law provides.

(3) The Court of Appeal hears appeals from the District Courts and the Court of Maritime and Commercial Disputes.

(4) The High Court is the final court of appeal in all matters, and has original jurisdiction in constitutional matters as this Part provides.

Article 139. The High Court

(1) The High Court consists of nine Justices.

(2) The High Court sits in benches for civil, commercial and maritime, criminal and administrative appeals, and as a full court in constitutional matters.

(3) The Justices elect from among themselves the President of the High Court for a term of four years, renewable once.

(4) A full court is constituted by at least seven Justices. A decision of the full court declaring an Act of the Covenant Assembly inconsistent with this Constitution requires the votes of at least five Justices.

Article 140. Qualifications and Appointment of Justices

(1) A Justice must be a citizen, of high moral character, and have at least fifteen years of experience as a judge, as a practising lawyer or as a professor of law.

(2) When a vacancy arises, the Judicial Appointments Commission shall publish a shortlist of three qualified candidates, selected on merit after open competition.

(3) The Chancellor nominates one of the shortlisted candidates. The nominee shall appear at a public hearing before the committee on the Constitution and justice, and is appointed upon confirmation by three-fifths of all members of the Covenant Assembly and a majority of all members of the Council of States.

(4) If a nominee is not confirmed within sixty days, the Chancellor shall nominate another candidate from

the shortlist; if none remains, the Commission shall publish a new shortlist.

(5) The Judicial Appointments Commission consists of: two Justices chosen by the High Court; one judge of the Court of Appeal chosen by that Court; two lawyers chosen by the professional body of lawyers established by law; and two lay members, one appointed by the Speaker of the Covenant Assembly after consulting the Leader of the Opposition, and one by the President of the Council of States.

Article 141. Tenure of Justices

(1) A Justice holds office for a single term of twelve years and may not be reappointed.

(2) The terms of the Justices shall be staggered so that three Justices are appointed every four years, in accordance with Schedule 10.

(3) A Justice retires on reaching seventy-five years of age, even if the term has not expired.

(4) A Justice whose term has expired continues in office until a successor is appointed, but not for more than six months.

Article 142. Other Judges

(1) The judges of the other courts are appointed by the Chancellor on the binding recommendation of the Judicial Appointments Commission, following open competition.

(2) Judges hold office until the retirement age set by law and may not be transferred without their consent, save as part of a general reorganisation of the courts established by law.

Article 143. Incompatibilities, Ethics and Discipline

(1) A judge may not be a member of a political party, hold any other public office or engage in any other paid occupation, save teaching and writing in law.

(2) Judges are bound by a code of judicial conduct adopted by the judiciary and published.

(3) Disciplinary proceedings against a judge are conducted by a Judicial Conduct Tribunal established by law, composed of judges and retired judges, with a right of appeal to the High Court sitting without any Justice concerned.

Article 144. Removal of Judges

(1) A Justice or judge may be removed from office only for proven serious misconduct or for permanent incapacity to perform judicial functions.

(2) A Justice may be removed only by a resolution of two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly, following a finding by the Judicial Conduct Tribunal that the ground for removal is established.

(3) Any other judge may be removed by the Judicial Conduct Tribunal, subject to appeal to the High Court.

(4) A judge shall not be removed or disciplined for the content of a judicial decision.

Article 145. Remuneration and Budget of the Judiciary

(1) The remuneration of judges is fixed by law and shall not be reduced during their term of office, save as part of a general reduction applying to all holders of public office.

(2) The budget of the judiciary is prepared by the President of the High Court and laid before the Covenant Assembly together with the Budget Bill. The Cabinet may comment on it but may not alter it before it is laid.

(3) The courts are administered by a Courts Administration under the direction of the judiciary, as law provides.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Article 146. Constitutional Jurisdiction

(1) The High Court, sitting as a full court, has jurisdiction to decide: (a) whether an Act, regulation or decree is consistent with this Constitution; (b) disputes between constitutional institutions concerning their powers; (c) disputes between the federation and a constituent unit, or between constituent units; (d) electoral disputes concerning elections to the Covenant Assembly, the Council of States and the office of Chancellor, and referendums; (e) the impeachment of the Chancellor; (f) the procedural validity of constitutional amendments; and (g) constitutional complaints.

(2) An application under clause (1)(a) may be made by the Chancellor, by one-quarter of all members of the Covenant Assembly, by a majority of all members of the Council of States, or by the government of a constituent unit.

(3) Any court that considers that an Act on which its decision depends is inconsistent with this Constitution shall refer the question to the High Court.

(4) Any person who claims that a fundamental right has been violated by a public authority may, after exhausting other effective remedies, lodge a constitutional complaint with the High Court.

Article 147. Effect of Constitutional Decisions

(1) Where the High Court declares a law or act inconsistent with this Constitution, it is void from the date the Court determines, which may be deferred for no more than twelve months to permit the Covenant Assembly to legislate.

(2) Decisions of the High Court in constitutional matters bind all public authorities and courts and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(3) Every decision of a court on a constitutional question shall state its reasons, and Justices may publish concurring or dissenting opinions.

Article 148. The Method of Constitutional Interpretation

(1) In interpreting this Constitution the High Court shall apply Article 15, shall have regard to its own previous decisions, and may have regard to the decisions of the courts of other democratic States and of international courts, and to international law binding on Aletheia.

(2) The High Court may depart from a previous constitutional decision only by a decision of at least six Justices, giving reasons.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Article 149. Public Justice, Legal Representation and Dispute Resolution

(1) Judgments of the courts shall be published, with personal data removed where law requires.

(2) Every person has the right to be represented by a lawyer of their choosing in any proceedings. The legal profession is independent and self-regulating within the framework of law.

(3) Law shall establish a public legal assistance service.

(4) Law shall promote mediation and arbitration. Arbitral awards are enforceable by the courts in accordance with law and international conventions binding on Aletheia.

Article 150. The Attorney-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions

(1) The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser to the government and represents the State in legal proceedings. The Attorney-General is appointed by the Chancellor and may not be a member of either chamber.

(2) The Director of Public Prosecutions is responsible for the prosecution of crime and is independent in the exercise of prosecutorial decisions. The Director is appointed for a single term of seven years on the recommendation of the Judicial Appointments Commission and may be removed only on the grounds and by the procedure that apply to a judge of the Court of Appeal.

Article 151. Continuity of the High Court

(1) If the number of Justices available is insufficient to constitute a full court, the President of the High Court, or failing the President the most senior Justice, shall call upon judges of the Court of Appeal, in order of seniority, to sit as acting Justices for the matter.

(2) An acting Justice may not sit in a case in which the judge took part at an earlier instance.

PART XII

The Reserve Bank of Aletheia and the Aletheian Guilder

THE CURRENCY

Article 152. The Aletheian Guilder

(1) The unit of account of the Sovereign Covenant State is the Aletheian Guilder (AEY), divided into one hundred cents.

(2) The Reserve Bank of Aletheia has the exclusive right to issue the Guilder, in banknotes and in such other forms, including digital forms, as law permits.

(3) The Guilder becomes legal tender in the national territory when an Act of the Covenant Assembly so provides, which may be passed only after this Constitution has entered into force and the State has the lawful authority to designate legal tender.

(4) The issue of banknotes is not by itself a monetary system. Before the Guilder is designated legal tender, the Reserve Bank shall publish its monetary framework under Article 161, and the Auditor-General shall certify that the issuance register and the reserves, if any, are as published.

Article 153. Rules of Issue and the Issuance Register

(1) The Reserve Bank shall issue currency only under published rules adopted under Article 161. Undisclosed, arbitrary or unrecorded issuance is prohibited.

(2) Every issue and every withdrawal of currency shall be recorded in a public Issuance Register, stating the date, the amount, the form and the authority for the issue. The Register shall be verifiable by any person in accordance with Part XVII.

(3) The total amount of currency in circulation and the assets held against it shall be published at least monthly.

Article 154. Banknotes, Design and Authentication

(1) The denominations, design and security features of banknotes are determined by the Reserve Bank and published. Banknotes shall bear the coat of arms, the national motto and the signature of the Governor.

(2) Counterfeiting the currency, and knowingly uttering or possessing counterfeit currency, are criminal offences.

(3) The Reserve Bank shall replace damaged banknotes in accordance with published rules and shall publish the procedure and timetable for the withdrawal of any series.

Article 155. Truthfulness of Monetary Claims

(1) No public authority, and no person acting on its behalf, shall make any public statement concerning the backing, reserves, convertibility, redemption, exchange rate or international acceptance of the Guilder that is not accurate and verifiable.

(2) The Reserve Bank shall not promise or imply convertibility or redemption of the Guilder into any other currency or asset unless the resources, legal commitments and operational arrangements to honour that promise exist and have been published and certified by the Auditor-General.

(3) Any exchange-rate arrangement, including a fixed rate or a currency board, may be adopted only under Article 161 and shall be accompanied by the publication of the reserves that support it.

THE RESERVE BANK

Article 156. The Reserve Bank of Aletheia

(1) The Reserve Bank of Aletheia is the central bank of the Sovereign Covenant State. It is a public legal person established by this Constitution and the Reserve Bank Act.

(2) The primary objective of the Reserve Bank is to maintain the stability of the value of the Guilder. Without prejudice to that objective, it supports the stability of the financial system and the general economic policy of the government.

(3) The Reserve Bank is responsible for issuing the currency, conducting monetary policy, managing reserves, overseeing payment systems and, if law so assigns, supervising banks and other financial institutions.

Article 157. Independence of the Reserve Bank

(1) In the performance of its functions the Reserve Bank, its Governor and the members of its decision-making bodies shall neither seek nor take instructions from the Chancellor, the Cabinet, any Minister or any other person or body.

(2) The Reserve Bank has its own budget, approved by its Board and audited under Article 162. Its profits are transferred to the Consolidated Fund after the reserves required by law.

(3) Law may not reduce the independence of the Reserve Bank, and no decision of the Reserve Bank on monetary policy is subject to approval by any other authority.

Article 158. The Governor and the Monetary Policy Committee

(1) The Reserve Bank is headed by a Governor, appointed by the Chancellor with the consent of three-fifths of all members of the Covenant Assembly and a majority of all members of the Council of States, for a single term of seven years.

(2) The Governor must be a citizen of recognised standing and professional experience in monetary or banking matters, and may not hold any other office or engage in any business during the term or for two years after it, save with the approval of the Commissioner for Public Standards.

(3) Monetary policy is decided by a Monetary Policy Committee of five members: the Governor, a Deputy Governor and three external members, appointed by the same procedure as the Governor for staggered terms of six years, not renewable.

(4) The Governor or a member of the Monetary Policy Committee may be removed only if the person no longer fulfils the conditions required for office or has been guilty of serious misconduct, by decision of the High Court on the application of the Covenant Assembly made by three-fifths of all members.

(5) The Monetary Policy Committee shall publish its decisions with reasons and the record of its deliberations within a period fixed by law.

Article 159. Reserves, Payment Systems and Financial Stability

(1) The Reserve Bank holds and manages the official reserves of the State, which may include foreign currencies, gold and other assets designated by law. Their composition and value shall be published at least quarterly.

(2) The Reserve Bank oversees payment systems and settlement systems, including any distributed-ledger system used for the issue or transfer of the Guilder, to ensure their safety and efficiency.

(3) The Reserve Bank may provide emergency liquidity to solvent financial institutions against adequate collateral, under rules published in advance; every such operation shall be reported to the committee on

monetary affairs of the Covenant Assembly in confidence promptly and published within twelve months.

(4) Unclaimed balances held by the Reserve Bank shall be dealt with in accordance with law and published.

Article 160. Prohibition of Monetary Financing

(1) The Reserve Bank shall not finance the deficits of the State. It shall not grant overdrafts or any other credit facility to the federation, a constituent unit or any public undertaking, and shall not purchase debt instruments directly from them.

(2) The Reserve Bank may provide banking services to the Treasury on commercial terms, including the holding of deposits and the management of payments.

(3) Clause (1) may not be suspended during a state of emergency.

(4) The official reserves held by the Reserve Bank shall not be used to finance the construction of platforms, public works or any other expenditure of the State. The building of the national territory shall be financed from the sources set out in Part XIII.

Article 161. The Monetary Framework

(1) The Reserve Bank shall adopt and publish a monetary framework, stating its quantified policy objective, the instruments it will use, the rules for the issue of currency, any exchange-rate arrangement and the policy on reserves and redemption.

(2) The monetary framework and any amendment to it shall be laid before the Covenant Assembly, which may debate it but not alter it.

(3) An exchange-rate arrangement that commits the reserves of the State, and accession to any monetary union, require an Act of the Covenant Assembly passed by three-fifths of all members.

Article 162. Accountability of the Reserve Bank

(1) The Governor shall appear before the committee on monetary affairs of the Covenant Assembly at least twice each year and present the annual report of the Reserve Bank.

(2) The accounts of the Reserve Bank shall be audited annually by independent external auditors appointed by its Board, and examined by the Auditor-General, whose report shall be published.

(3) The Reserve Bank shall publish monetary and financial statistics in accordance with recognised international standards.

(4) Decisions of the Reserve Bank are subject to judicial review for their legality. Parliamentary oversight under this Article shall not extend to instructions on monetary policy.

PART XIII

Treasury, Taxation, Public Debt and National Wealth

PUBLIC REVENUE

Article 163. The Treasury and the Consolidated Fund

(1) The Treasury is the part of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance responsible for public revenue, expenditure, accounts and debt.

(2) All public revenues are paid into the Consolidated Fund, save those assigned by this Constitution to the Covenant Endowment Fund or by law to a fund established under Article 169.

(3) No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund except under an appropriation made by law.

Article 164. Taxation and the Zero-Tax Principle

(1) No tax, duty or charge shall be levied except under an Act of the Covenant Assembly.

(2) No tax shall be levied on personal income, on capital gains or on inheritances and gifts.

(3) Public services are financed by ground rents and concession revenues from the national territory, by fees and charges for public services, by the yield of the Covenant Endowment Fund, and by such other taxes as law imposes in accordance with this Article.

(4) A new kind of tax may be introduced only by an Act passed by three-fifths of all members of the Covenant Assembly, stating the purpose of the tax and the period for which it is imposed.

(5) Taxes shall be levied in accordance with the principles of equality, legality and capacity to pay, and shall not be retroactive.

Article 165. The Covenant Endowment Fund

(1) There is established the Covenant Endowment Fund, a permanent fund held in trust for present and future generations of Aletheians.

(2) The Fund receives the share of ground rents, concession revenues and other public revenues assigned to it by law, and such other contributions as law provides.

(3) The capital of the Fund shall be preserved. The amount that may be transferred each year to the Consolidated Fund shall not exceed a percentage of the average market value of the Fund over the preceding five years, fixed by law and not exceeding four per cent.

(4) The Fund shall be managed by an independent board appointed under law, in accordance with a published investment policy, and audited annually by the Auditor-General. Its holdings and returns shall be published at least quarterly.

(5) The Fund shall not lend to the State or acquire assets from members of the Cabinet or persons connected to them.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

Article 166. The Annual Budget

(1) The Cabinet shall lay the Budget Bill for each financial year before the Covenant Assembly not later than three months before the year begins, together with a medium-term fiscal plan for at least four years and a statement of contingent liabilities.

(2) The budget shall include all revenue and expenditure of the State. Off-budget funds and expenditure are prohibited, save for the funds established under Article 169 and the Covenant Endowment Fund, whose accounts shall be published with the budget.

(3) If the Budget Bill has not been enacted when the financial year begins, the Cabinet may spend, for each month until it is enacted, no more than one-twelfth of the appropriations of the previous year, and only for continuing purposes.

(4) Supplementary appropriations require an Act of the Covenant Assembly.

Article 167. Fiscal Responsibility and Public Debt

(1) The budget of the State shall, over the economic cycle, be balanced without recourse to borrowing, save for borrowing for public investment.

(2) The State may borrow only under an Act of the Covenant Assembly. The total public debt, including guarantees, shall not exceed the limit set by law, which shall not exceed sixty per cent of the national income as measured under law.

(3) The terms of all public borrowing and guarantees shall be published.

(4) Borrowing in excess of the limit is permitted only in a state of emergency declared under Part XX or in the event of a natural disaster, by an Act passed by three-fifths of all members of the Covenant Assembly, which shall include a plan for repayment.

Article 168. Guarantees, Contingent Liabilities and Public Undertakings

(1) The State may give a guarantee or assume a contingent liability only under an Act of the Covenant Assembly. Every guarantee shall be published and recorded in a register of contingent liabilities.

(2) State-owned undertakings shall be established by law, governed by independent boards, subject to audit by the Auditor-General and required to publish their accounts.

(3) Agreements between public authorities and private undertakings for the financing, construction or operation of public infrastructure shall be published, assessed for value for money by the Auditor-General before signature, and approved by an Act where their value exceeds a threshold set by law.

Article 169. National Infrastructure Funds and Maritime Revenues

(1) Law may establish a National Infrastructure Fund and other special funds for defined purposes, whose accounts shall be published with the budget.

(2) Revenues from the lawful use of marine resources, energy generation and port operations within the national territory are public revenues and shall be accounted for under this Part.

Article 170. Multi-Year Capital Planning and Emergency Expenditure

(1) The Cabinet shall publish a national capital plan of at least ten years, updated every two years, identifying the major infrastructure to be built, its cost and its funding.

(2) In a state of emergency the Cabinet may authorise expenditure not provided for in the budget, up to a limit set by law, provided that a supplementary appropriation bill is laid before the Covenant Assembly within thirty days and every such expenditure is published.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Article 171. Public Accounts and Reporting

(1) The Treasury shall publish monthly statements of revenue, expenditure and borrowing, and annual consolidated accounts of the State prepared in accordance with recognised public-sector accounting standards.

(2) The public shall be able to see how public money is spent: the State shall publish every payment above a threshold set by law, with the payee and the purpose.

(3) Records of public revenue and expenditure shall be kept in a manner that allows their integrity to be verified under Part XVII.

Article 172. External Audit

(1) The accounts of every public authority, the Reserve Bank, the Covenant Endowment Fund and every state-owned undertaking are audited by the Auditor-General under Part XIX.

(2) The Auditor-General's reports are laid before the Covenant Assembly and published, and are examined by the committee on public accounts.

Article 173. Intergenerational Fiscal Responsibility

(1) The State shall manage the public finances so that the burdens and benefits of public spending are shared fairly between present and future generations.

(2) Every five years the Treasury shall publish a long-term fiscal sustainability report covering at least thirty years, which shall be examined by the Auditor-General.

PART XIV

Economy, Property, Trade and National Development

THE ECONOMIC ORDER

Article 174. Principles of the Economic Order

(1) The economy of Aletheia is founded on private property, free enterprise, fair competition, honest money and the rule of law, with due regard to social responsibility and the protection of the environment.

(2) The State shall ensure a predictable legal environment for lawful commercial activity, including the enforcement of contracts, the protection of creditors and the orderly resolution of insolvency.

(3) Commercial disputes may be resolved by the Court of Maritime and Commercial Disputes or by arbitration, in accordance with law.

Article 175. Competition, Enterprises and Consumers

(1) Agreements and practices that restrict competition, and the abuse of a dominant position, are prohibited in accordance with law.

(2) Law shall provide for companies, partnerships, cooperatives, foundations and other forms of enterprise, and for a public register of their beneficial owners.

(3) Law shall protect consumers against unsafe products, unfair terms and deceptive practices.

Article 176. Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Energy

(1) The State shall promote food security through controlled-environment agriculture, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries.

(2) The production and distribution of fresh water and the generation, storage and distribution of energy are services of public importance, which law shall regulate to ensure their safety, continuity and fair pricing.

(3) Fisheries and other uses of living marine resources shall be conducted sustainably and in accordance with international law.

Article 177. Ports, Maritime Commerce and Foreign Trade

(1) The State may establish and operate ports and may grant concessions for port services, on published terms.

(2) Foreign trade is free, subject to law, to the obligations of the State under international agreements and to measures necessary for security, health and the protection of the environment.

(3) Customs duties may be imposed only by an Act of the Covenant Assembly.

Article 178. Foreign Investment and Strategic Partnerships

(1) Foreign investment is welcome in accordance with law.

(2) Law may require the screening and approval of foreign investment in critical infrastructure, sensitive technology and undertakings important to national security, under published criteria and subject to judicial review.

(3) An agreement granting a foreign State or a foreign public undertaking control over critical infrastructure in the national territory requires an Act passed by three-fifths of all members of the

Covenant Assembly.

Article 179. Public Concessions and State Assets

(1) Concessions for the use of public assets, platform space, marine resources or public services shall be granted only under law, through transparent and competitive procedures, for a limited period and against fair payment to the State.

(2) Every concession shall be published, together with its holder, beneficial owners, duration and payments.

(3) Public assets of significant value shall not be sold or transferred except under law and at a value certified independently.

Article 180. National Development

(1) The Cabinet shall prepare and publish a national development plan setting out the priorities for infrastructure, energy, housing, education, health and economic development, consistent with the capital plan under Article 170.

(2) Development shall comply with the obligations of the State under Article 35 and international maritime law.

(3) Nothing in this Part authorises any public authority to grant concessions or enforce commercial law before this Constitution has entered into force and the State has lawful jurisdiction to do so.

PART XV

Immigration, Residence and E-Residency

ENTRY AND RESIDENCE

Article 181. Immigration Law

(1) The entry, residence, employment and removal of persons who are not citizens are governed by the Immigration and Residence Act, within the principles of this Part.

(2) Admission decisions shall be made under published criteria, which may include the needs of the economy and community, the ability of the applicant to support themselves, civic integration and security, and which shall not discriminate on any ground prohibited by Article 57.

(3) The State shall control entry into the national territory at designated points of entry by sea and air, and shall verify the identity of every person entering.

Article 182. Residence, Permanent Residence and Work Authorisation

(1) Law shall provide for temporary residence permits, work authorisation and permanent residence.

(2) Permanent residence may be granted after a period of lawful residence fixed by law, not exceeding five years, and confers the right to live and work in the national territory without restriction of time.

(3) Permanent residence may be withdrawn only on grounds set by law, by a decision reached in accordance with Article 132.

Article 183. Removal and Deportation

(1) A person who is not a citizen may be removed from the national territory only in accordance with law and by a reasoned decision.

(2) The collective expulsion of persons who are not citizens is prohibited.

(3) No person shall be removed to a State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would face a real risk of death, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

(4) A person subject to a removal decision has the right of appeal to a court, which shall suspend removal where the person claims a risk under clause (3).

Article 184. International Protection and Stateless Persons

(1) The State shall grant international protection to persons entitled to it under international law binding on Aletheia, in accordance with law.

(2) The State shall facilitate the status and, in accordance with Article 50, the naturalisation of stateless persons lawfully in the national territory.

DIGITAL STATUS

Article 185. E-Residency

(1) The State may confer e-residency upon applicants who pass identity verification and background checks in accordance with law.

(2) E-residency confers a digital legal identity, the capacity to establish and administer undertakings registered in Aletheia, and access to the public digital services specified by law.

(3) E-residency does not confer citizenship, physical residence, a right of entry into the national territory or

the right to vote. It is not a step towards citizenship and shall not be counted as residence for naturalisation.

(4) E-residency may be refused, suspended or withdrawn only under law, by a reasoned decision subject to appeal.

Article 186. Digital Identity and Fraud Prevention

(1) The State may issue digital identity credentials to citizens, residents and e-residents in accordance with law.

(2) Identity data shall be processed in accordance with Article 64 and protected by the measures required under Part XVII.

(3) Law shall establish offences and procedures for the prevention and prosecution of identity fraud.

Article 187. Administrative Appeals and Judicial Review

(1) Every decision under this Part refusing, withdrawing or limiting a status shall state its reasons and the available remedies.

(2) An independent Immigration Appeals Tribunal established by law hears appeals against decisions under this Part, with a further appeal on points of law to the Court of Appeal.

PART XVI

ADSS, Police, Civil Protection and National Security

THE SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

Article 188. The Aletheian Defence & Security Service

(1) There is established the Aletheian Defence & Security Service (ADSS), responsible, in accordance with law, for the defence of the national territory, maritime safety and protection, search and rescue, civil protection and disaster response, border and immigration enforcement, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

(2) The ADSS is under the civilian command of the Minister of Resilience and Civil Protection, who is accountable to the Covenant Assembly for it. The Chancellor is the supreme commander of the ADSS.

(3) The organisation, functions, powers and discipline of the ADSS are governed by the ADSS Act. The ADSS may exercise only the powers that law confers on it.

(4) Members of the ADSS shall be politically neutral. They may not be members of a political party while in service.

Article 189. The Police

(1) There is established a Police Directorate, responsible for civilian law enforcement, the prevention and investigation of crime, and the protection of persons and their rights.

(2) The Police Directorate is institutionally distinct from the ADSS. No part of the ADSS shall exercise general police powers over the civilian population, save as Article 191 provides.

(3) The Police Directorate is headed by a Commissioner of Police, appointed by the Cabinet after a public hearing before the Covenant Assembly for a single term of seven years, and removable only for cause by the procedure that applies to a judge of the Court of Appeal.

Article 190. Lawful Use of Force and Human-Rights Protection

(1) Members of the ADSS and the police may use force only when strictly necessary and proportionate to a lawful purpose. Lethal force may be used only where strictly unavoidable to protect life.

(2) Every use of force causing death or serious injury, and every death in custody, shall be investigated by the Police and Security Conduct Office of the Ombudsman, whose findings shall be published.

(3) No order to commit an unlawful act shall be obeyed, and obedience to orders is no defence to a charge of torture, unlawful killing or any crime under international law.

(4) Every person whose rights are violated by a member of the ADSS or the police is entitled to a remedy before the courts.

Article 191. Deployment Among the Civilian Population

(1) The ADSS may be deployed to assist the civil authorities within the national territory: (a) in response to a natural disaster, accident or other emergency, at the request of the civil authorities; (b) for search and rescue; and (c) in a state of emergency declared under Part XX, in the manner and for the purposes stated in the declaration.

(2) No security service may be deployed for law enforcement against the civilian population except under a state of emergency approved by the Covenant Assembly under Part XX.

(3) When deployed under this Article, members of the ADSS act under the direction of the civil authorities, are bound by the same legal limits as the police, and are accountable before the civilian courts.

(4) The ADSS shall not be used to influence elections, to suppress peaceful assembly or to act against any person for political reasons.

Article 192. Intelligence Functions

(1) Intelligence functions may be conducted only by a body established by law, attached to a ministry in Schedule 3, with functions confined to the protection of national security as defined by law.

(2) Every intelligence operation that interferes with privacy requires a warrant under Article 65.

(3) No intelligence body may exercise powers of arrest or detention.

Article 193. Parliamentary and Independent Security Oversight

(1) The committee on security and intelligence of the Covenant Assembly oversees the ADSS, the police and any intelligence body. Its members have access to classified information, subject to the obligation of confidentiality.

(2) The ADSS, the Police Directorate and any intelligence body shall report to the committee at least twice each year and publish an annual public report.

(3) The Police and Security Conduct Office, established by law within the Ombudsman, investigates complaints and serious incidents involving the ADSS and the police, independently of both.

(4) The Minister of Resilience and Civil Protection, the head of the ADSS and the Commissioner of Police shall not direct any operation for a political purpose, and any attempt to do so is a criminal offence.

CIVIL PROTECTION AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Article 194. Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination

(1) The State shall maintain a national system of civil protection and emergency management, including published plans for storms, fire, flooding, structural failure, pandemics, infrastructure failure and cyber incidents.

(2) The Minister of Resilience and Civil Protection coordinates the response of all public authorities to emergencies, within the law and subject to Part XX.

(3) Emergency plans and the results of exercises shall be published, save for information whose disclosure would endanger public safety.

Article 195. Protection of Critical Infrastructure

(1) Law shall designate critical infrastructure, including energy, water, communications, ports, payment systems and the digital systems of the State, and shall require its operators to meet standards of security and resilience.

(2) The operators of critical infrastructure shall report serious incidents to the competent authorities without delay.

PART XVII

Cybersecurity, Digital Government and Public Records

CYBERSECURITY

Article 196. The Aletheian Cybersecurity Department

(1) There is established the Aletheian Cybersecurity Department, a permanent agency attached to the Ministry of Digital State and Registries, charged with the protection of the networks and information systems of the State, the validators and registers of public record, identity systems and maritime telemetry.

(2) The Department operates the National Computer Emergency Response Team and administers a public coordinated vulnerability disclosure programme, under which persons who report vulnerabilities in good faith are protected from liability.

(3) The Department has no power to conduct general surveillance of the population, which is prohibited by Article 65. It may access the content of private communications only under a warrant issued under that Article.

(4) The Department shall publish an annual report on the security of public systems and the incidents that affected them.

Article 197. Cybersecurity Standards, Incidents and Audit

(1) The digital systems of the State shall meet cybersecurity standards published by the Cybersecurity Department.

(2) Every public authority and operator of critical infrastructure shall report significant cyber incidents to the National Computer Emergency Response Team within the period set by law, and persons whose data is affected shall be informed without undue delay.

(3) The security of the principal systems of the State shall be audited at least once every two years by independent auditors, whose summary findings shall be published.

(4) Systems shall be designed for resilience, with tested arrangements for backup and recovery that do not depend on a single location or provider.

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC RECORDS

Article 198. Verifiable Public Records

(1) The Acts of the Covenant Assembly, regulations, the decisions of the Cabinet, public appropriations, the Issuance Register, the Register of National Territory and other public registers designated by law shall be kept so that any person can verify that a published record has not been altered.

(2) Verification may use cryptographic methods, including digital signatures, hashing and distributed ledgers. A verification record proves the integrity of a published record; it does not by itself establish the truth of the facts recorded or confer any legal authority on the body that made it.

(3) Where a published record contains an error, it shall be corrected by a new published record that identifies the error and the correction. No record shall be silently altered or deleted.

Article 199. Data Minimisation and Privacy in Public Systems

(1) Public digital systems shall collect only the personal data necessary for their purpose and shall be designed to protect privacy by default.

(2) Personal data of private persons shall not be published on any public register or ledger except as law expressly requires.

(3) Access to personal data in public systems shall be limited to authorised officials for defined purposes, logged and auditable. Every person may obtain a record of the public authorities that have accessed their data, save where law permits otherwise for the investigation of crime.

Article 200. Digital Signatures and Electronic Transactions

(1) Law shall provide for the recognition of qualified electronic signatures and electronic documents, which shall have the same legal effect as their written equivalents, save for transactions that law requires to be made in another form.

(2) Electronic contracts are valid and enforceable in accordance with law.

Article 201. Retention and Preservation of Records

(1) Public records shall be retained and preserved in accordance with a published schedule established by law, and transferred to the national archives when no longer in current use.

(2) Records of permanent value shall be preserved in formats that remain accessible as technology changes.

Article 202. Lawful Investigative Access

(1) Access by investigating authorities to data held in public or private systems is permitted only under law, for the investigation of crime or the protection of national security, and subject to judicial authorisation where it interferes with privacy.

(2) No law may require the provider of a communications or digital service to weaken the security of its systems for all users.

PART XVIII

Foreign Affairs, Treaties and International Cooperation

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Article 203. Conduct of Foreign Relations

(1) The conduct of foreign relations is the responsibility of the federation. The Chancellor represents the Sovereign Covenant State abroad, accredits and receives diplomatic representatives, and directs foreign policy with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice.

(2) Aletheia shall conduct its foreign relations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, including sovereign equality, the peaceful settlement of disputes and respect for the territorial integrity of States.

(3) The establishment of diplomatic and consular missions shall be authorised by law.

Article 204. Recognition and International Legal Personality

(1) The Sovereign Covenant State shall seek recognition by other States and admission to international organisations by lawful, open and peaceful means.

(2) This Constitution does not by itself confer international legal personality, recognition or the capacity to enter into treaties. The State shall exercise those capacities only to the extent that it has acquired them under international law.

Article 205. Negotiation, Approval and Publication of Treaties

(1) Treaties are negotiated and signed on behalf of the Sovereign Covenant State by the Chancellor or a person authorised by the Chancellor.

(2) A treaty that concerns the territory, the defence of the State, membership of an international organisation, the currency, public finances, the status or rights of persons, or that requires legislation for its implementation, may be ratified only after approval by an Act of the Covenant Assembly. A treaty that affects the powers of the constituent units also requires the consent of the Council of States.

(3) A treaty that transfers sovereign powers to an international organisation, or that alters the territory, requires approval by two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly and, where it alters the territory, the consent of two-thirds of all members of the Council of States.

(4) Every treaty binding on Aletheia shall be published in the Official Gazette and, where international law so provides, registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

(5) A treaty that is inconsistent with this Constitution may not be ratified unless this Constitution is first amended. The High Court may be asked to determine the question before ratification under Article 146.

Article 206. International Law in the Legal Order

(1) The generally recognised rules of international law form part of the law of Aletheia.

(2) A treaty ratified and published in accordance with this Constitution forms part of the law of Aletheia and prevails over an inconsistent Act, save as this Constitution provides.

(3) Treaties on human rights binding on Aletheia shall be taken into account in interpreting the fundamental rights in Part V.

Article 207. Limits on Commitments that Bind Future Governments

(1) No agreement, guarantee or undertaking that commits public funds or national territory beyond the current financial year, or that binds the State for more than five years, may be entered into by the executive without the approval of the Covenant Assembly, save as law expressly permits.

(2) A list of all international agreements and non-binding arrangements entered into by the executive shall be laid before the Covenant Assembly every six months.

Article 208. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

(1) Aletheia renounces war as an instrument of policy and shall settle its international disputes by peaceful means.

(2) The State may accept the jurisdiction of international courts and tribunals by a declaration approved by the Covenant Assembly.

(3) The ADSS may be deployed outside the national territory only in self-defence, in accordance with a decision of an international organisation of which Aletheia is a member, or for search and rescue and humanitarian assistance, and in every case with the prior approval of the Covenant Assembly, save in an emergency requiring immediate action, in which case approval shall be sought within seven days.

Article 209. International Cooperation

(1) The State shall cooperate with other States and international organisations in maritime safety, environmental protection, the prevention of crime and the protection of human rights.

(2) Extradition and mutual legal assistance shall be provided in accordance with law and treaties binding on Aletheia. No person shall be extradited to face the death penalty or a real risk of torture, or for a political offence.

(3) The State shall comply with sanctions adopted by international organisations of which it is a member, in accordance with law.

(4) The Reserve Bank may cooperate with foreign central banks and international financial institutions within its functions under Part XII.

PART XIX

Independent Institutions and Public Integrity

COMMON PROVISIONS

Article 210. Status of the Independent Institutions

(1) The independent institutions are: the Auditor-General; the Electoral Commission; the Commissioner for Public Standards; the Ombudsman; the Information and Data Protection Commissioner; the Public Service Commission; the Procurement Review Board; and the National Statistician.

(2) The independent institutions are not ministries and are not attached to any ministry. They are subject only to this Constitution and the law, and shall not take instructions from any person in the performance of their functions.

(3) Unless this Part provides otherwise, the head of each independent institution, or each member of a collegiate institution, is appointed by the Covenant Assembly by three-fifths of all its members, on the proposal of a selection panel established by law after open competition, for a single term of seven years.

(4) The head or a member of an independent institution may be removed only for serious misconduct or permanent incapacity, on the finding of a tribunal of three judges, by a resolution of two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly.

(5) The budget of each independent institution is laid before the Covenant Assembly with the Budget Bill, and shall be sufficient for the performance of its functions.

(6) Each independent institution shall report to the Covenant Assembly at least once a year and publish its reports. It is accountable for its expenditure to the Auditor-General, or, in the case of the Auditor-General, to independent auditors appointed by the committee on public accounts.

(7) The independent institutions shall cooperate and avoid duplication. Law may not establish a further independent institution except by amendment of this Constitution.

THE INSTITUTIONS

Article 211. The Auditor-General

(1) The Auditor-General audits the accounts and examines the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of every public authority, fund and state-owned undertaking, and certifies the matters that this Constitution requires.

(2) The Auditor-General has access to every record and person necessary for an audit, and decides independently what to audit and what to publish.

Article 212. The Electoral Commission

(1) The Electoral Commission organises and supervises elections and referendums, maintains the electoral register, reviews electoral districts and supervises campaign finance.

(2) The Electoral Commission consists of five members, of whom no more than two may have been members of the same political party in the preceding five years.

(3) The decisions of the Electoral Commission are subject to review by the High Court.

Article 213. The Commissioner for Public Standards

(1) The Commissioner for Public Standards keeps the registers of interests and declarations of assets of holders of public office, investigates breaches of the codes of conduct and of the rules on conflicts of interest and post-office employment, and may refer suspected offences to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(2) The Commissioner has the investigative powers of an anti-corruption authority established by law, including the power to require the production of documents.

Article 214. The Ombudsman

(1) The Ombudsman investigates complaints of maladministration and of violations of fundamental rights by public authorities, and may act on the Ombudsman's own initiative.

(2) The Ombudsman may make recommendations, publish findings and bring proceedings before the courts in the public interest. The Ombudsman also exercises the functions of the national human-rights institution and, through the Police and Security Conduct Office, the oversight of the ADSS and the police under Part XVI.

Article 215. The Information and Data Protection Commissioner

(1) The Information and Data Protection Commissioner supervises the protection of personal data under Article 64 and the right of access to public information under Article 68, hears complaints and may impose penalties established by law.

Article 216. The Public Service Commission

(1) The Public Service Commission ensures that appointments and promotions in the civil service are made on merit, sets standards of conduct for civil servants, and hears appeals in disciplinary matters.

Article 217. The Procurement Review Board

(1) The Procurement Review Board hears complaints concerning the award of public contracts and concessions, may suspend a procedure and set aside an award, and publishes its decisions.

Article 218. The National Statistician

(1) The National Statistician produces the official statistics of the State, including the census, in accordance with recognised professional standards, and determines independently their methods and the timing of their publication.

PART XX

Emergency Powers and National Resilience

STATES OF EMERGENCY

Article 219. Declaration of a State of Emergency

(1) A state of emergency may be declared only where the life of the nation, or the safety of the population of the national territory or a part of it, is threatened by armed attack, by a natural disaster, by the failure of critical infrastructure, by a cyber incident, by a public-health emergency or by serious public disorder, and the threat cannot be met by the ordinary powers of the authorities.

(2) The Chancellor declares a state of emergency by a published proclamation, which shall state its grounds, the area to which it applies, the measures authorised and its duration.

(3) The proclamation shall be laid before the Covenant Assembly immediately. It lapses unless approved by a majority of all members within seven days. If the Assembly cannot meet, it shall be convened at the earliest possible moment.

(4) A state of emergency may not exceed thirty days. It may be extended by the Covenant Assembly for periods of not more than thirty days, by three-fifths of all members, and, after ninety days, by two-thirds of all members.

(5) The Covenant Assembly may revoke the state of emergency at any time by a majority of the votes cast.

Article 220. Limits on Emergency Powers

(1) During a state of emergency, measures that limit fundamental rights are permitted only to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, only for the duration and in the area of the emergency, and without discrimination.

(2) The rights listed in Schedule 8 as non-derogable may not be limited or suspended.

(3) During a state of emergency: (a) this Constitution may not be amended; (b) the Covenant Assembly and the Council of States may not be dissolved and shall remain in session; (c) the courts continue to function and their jurisdiction may not be restricted; (d) no election may be postponed, save by an Act passed by two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly, for a period not exceeding six months; and (e) the prohibition on monetary financing in Article 160 remains in force.

(4) A person detained under emergency measures shall be brought before a judge within forty-eight hours, informed of the reasons for detention, and entitled to consult a lawyer. Detention without charge under emergency measures shall not exceed fourteen days.

(5) Emergency regulations lapse at the end of the state of emergency and may not create offences punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

Article 221. Judicial Review and Accountability

(1) The declaration of a state of emergency, its extension and every measure taken under it are subject to review by the High Court, which may set them aside if they do not satisfy this Part.

(2) All emergency measures, regulations and expenditure shall be published without delay.

(3) Within six months after a state of emergency ends, the Cabinet shall lay before the Covenant Assembly a report on its use of emergency powers, and the Assembly shall establish an independent review of the emergency.

(4) Every person who suffers loss through an unlawful emergency measure is entitled to compensation.

Article 222. National Resilience and Disaster Response

(1) In a natural disaster or maritime emergency the authorities shall give priority to the protection of life, including evacuation in accordance with Article 40.

(2) Emergency procurement during a state of emergency is permitted only for measures directly required by the emergency, shall be published within thirty days and shall be examined by the Auditor-General.

PART XXI

Constitutional Amendments and National Ratification

AMENDMENT

Article 223. Proposal of Amendments

(1) An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by the Cabinet, by one-quarter of all members of the Covenant Assembly, by a majority of all members of the Council of States, or by citizens' initiative supported by at least five per cent of registered voters.

(2) This Constitution may be amended only by an Act that expressly amends its text. No amendment may be made by implication.

Article 224. Ordinary Amendment Procedure

(1) An amendment is adopted if it is passed by two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly at a final vote held not earlier than ninety days after the first reading, and approved by two-thirds of all members of the Council of States.

(2) An amendment that alters the powers or boundaries of the constituent units, their representation, or Schedule 2 also requires the consent of the legislature of each constituent unit whose powers or boundaries are altered.

(3) If the Council of States does not approve the amendment within ninety days, it shall be submitted to a national referendum on the request of one-third of all members of the Covenant Assembly, and is adopted if approved by a majority of the votes cast and by a majority of voters in a majority of the constituent units.

Article 225. Entrenched Provisions

(1) The provisions listed in Schedule 9 as entrenched may be amended only by the procedure in Article 224(1) followed by approval in a national referendum by a majority of the votes cast and by a majority of voters in a majority of the constituent units.

(2) The following may not be amended in a manner that abolishes or destroys their essence: the inviolability of human dignity; the democratic, federal and constitutional character of the State; the separation of powers; the independence of the courts; and the prohibition on selling citizenship.

(3) The purpose of entrenchment is to protect the foundations of the national covenant from casual alteration, while permitting legitimate democratic reform by the people themselves.

Article 226. Publication and Review of Amendments

(1) An adopted amendment is promulgated by the Chancellor and published in the Official Gazette, together with a consolidated text of this Constitution, and enters into force on the date it specifies.

(2) The High Court may review an amendment only for compliance with the procedures of this Part and with Article 225(2), on an application made within sixty days of publication.

(3) No amendment may be adopted during a state of emergency.

RATIFICATION

Article 227. Ratification of this Constitution

(1) This Constitution shall be ratified by a referendum of the persons entitled to vote under Schedule 10, in which it is approved by a majority of the votes cast, with a turnout of at least half of those entitled to vote.

(2) The referendum shall be organised and supervised by an independent electoral body established in accordance with Schedule 10, whose report shall be published.

(3) Ratification alone does not bring this Constitution into force. It enters into force only when the conditions in Article 230 are met.

PART XXII

Transitional, Founding and Implementation Provisions

THE FOUNDING PHASE

Article 228. The Founding Phase and the Status of Institutions

(1) Until this Constitution enters into force, Aletheia is in its founding phase. During the founding phase no person or body exercises the public power of a State in the name of Aletheia.

(2) The institutions named in this Constitution are classified, for the purposes of public disclosure, as: (a) proposed constitutional institutions; (b) institutions operating as project or administrative structures of the founding community; (c) institutions requiring legal establishment; (d) institutions requiring physical territory or infrastructure; and (e) institutions requiring ratification, recognition, licensing or other external legal conditions. The founding administration shall publish, and keep current, the classification of each institution.

(3) No founding-phase body shall describe itself, or permit itself to be described, as exercising governmental, judicial, monetary or diplomatic authority.

Article 229. The Constitutional Convention

(1) Before this Constitution is submitted for ratification, it shall be settled by a Constitutional Convention of founding members, constituted and conducted in accordance with Schedule 10.

(2) The Convention shall publish every draft, every proposed amendment and its record of proceedings, and shall invite public comment for at least ninety days before adopting the final text.

(3) Founding members participate in the Convention in accordance with Schedule 10. Participation confers no citizenship and no public office.

Article 230. Entry into Force

(1) This Constitution enters into force on the date, fixed by the Constitutional Convention and published in the Official Gazette, on which all of the following conditions are met: (a) it has been ratified under Article 227; (b) at least one platform has been established as national territory under Article 29 and is permanently inhabited; and (c) the Register of Citizens has been established in accordance with Schedule 10.

(2) The Auditor-General ad interim appointed under Schedule 10 shall certify publicly, with reasons, whether each condition in clause (1) has been met before the date of entry into force is fixed.

(3) Until this Constitution enters into force, it is a proposal without legal force.

Article 231. Establishment of the First Institutions

(1) Within six months after this Constitution enters into force, elections shall be held for the Covenant Assembly, the Council of States and the office of Chancellor, in accordance with Schedule 10.

(2) The first Justices of the High Court shall be appointed within twelve months after entry into force, in accordance with Article 140 and the transitional rules on staggered terms in Schedule 10.

(3) The Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the independent institutions shall be established within the periods set in Schedule 10.

(4) The Federal District of Antioch and the constituent states shall be established under Article 29 as

platforms are built and incorporated.

Article 232. Transfer of Functions and Founding Documents

(1) The functions performed by the founding administration shall pass to the constitutional institutions as each is established, in accordance with a published transition plan.

(2) Agreements, records and assets of the founding administration pass to the State only to the extent approved by an Act of the first Covenant Assembly, after audit by the Auditor-General.

(3) Draft statutes, design records and other documents published during the founding phase have no legal force unless enacted or adopted under this Constitution.

Article 233. Record of Editions and Amendments

(1) Every edition of this draft Constitution before entry into force, and every amendment after it, shall be published with its date, a summary of the changes and a verifiable record of its text, and the earlier texts shall remain available.

PART XXIII

Final Provisions

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 234. Schedules

(1) The Schedules form part of this Constitution. Schedules 1 to 10 may be amended only in accordance with Part XXI, save where a Schedule expressly permits a matter to be regulated by law.

Article 235. Authoritative Text

(1) This Constitution is drawn up in English. Official translations into the other official languages shall be published by law; in the event of any difference, the English text prevails.

Article 236. Citation

(1) This Constitution may be cited as the Constitution of the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia or as the Covenant of Aletheia.

SCHEDULES

Schedules to the Constitution

Schedule 1. National Symbols and Constitutional Definitions

Gives effect to Article 10, Article 15.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

1. The national flag (the Covenant Flag) is a field of Covenant Navy within borders of Ledger Parchment, bearing at its centre the eight-pointed Star of Truth in gold. Its proportions are two to three.

2. The coat of arms is a quartered shield bearing the emblems of the four constituent states — a tower for St. Barbara, a book and heart for Augustine, wheat and the sun for Benedict, and a caravel on waves for St. Brendan — with an inescutcheon of Antioch, crested with the eight-pointed Star of Truth, encircled by a laurel wreath, and bearing the motto Veritas in Foedere.

3. The Star of Truth is the eight-pointed emblem of the nation.

4. The national seal bears the coat of arms and the words “The Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia”. It is kept by the Chancellor and affixed to Acts, treaties and commissions as law provides.

5. The national colours are Covenant Navy, Ledger Parchment, Seal Gold and Laurel Green.

6. The national anthem shall be adopted by an Act of the Covenant Assembly under Article 10(4).

7. The precise specifications of the national symbols shall be set out in law.

DEFINITIONS

1. In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:
   (a) “Act” means an Act of the Covenant Assembly promulgated under Article 107;
   (b) “citizen” means a citizen of Aletheia under Part IV;
   (c) “constituent unit” means the Federal District of Antioch or a constituent state;
   (d) “constituent state” means St. Barbara State, Augustine State, Benedict State, St. Brendan State or a state formed under Article 30;
   (e) “fundamental right” means a right guaranteed by Part V;
   (f) “law” means this Constitution, an Act, and regulations made under an Act;
   (g) “national territory” means the territory of the State under Article 28;
   (h) “platform” means a fixed or floating artificial island, structure or installation at sea capable of supporting human habitation or economic activity;
   (i) “public authority” means any body or person exercising public functions under law, including the federation, the constituent units, statutory agencies and state-owned undertakings when exercising public functions;
   (j) “registered voter” means a person entered on the electoral register under Article 94;
   (k) “resident” means a person lawfully residing in the national territory under Part XV.

Schedule 2. Constituent Territories and Federal Representation

Gives effect to Article 28, Article 29, Article 93, Article 111.

THE CONSTITUENT UNITS

1. The Federal District of Antioch: the capital and the seat of the constitutional institutions, laid out as a concentric city around the Constitutional Plaza.

2. St. Barbara State, with its capital at Port Michael, bearing Quarter I of the arms (the Tower):

engineering, aerospace, civil protection and cybersecurity.

3. Augustine State, with its capital at Port Luke, bearing Quarter II of the arms (the Book and Heart): the national university, medicine, research and family health.

4. Benedict State, with its capital at San José, bearing Quarter III of the arms (Wheat and Sun): energy, water, agriculture and manufacturing.

5. St. Brendan State, with its capital at Port Nicholas, bearing Quarter IV of the arms (the Caravel on Waves): the deepwater port, maritime trade and logistics.

6. The mandates in this section describe the purposes for which each unit is designed. They do not restrict the activities lawfully carried on in any unit.

POWERS OF THE CONSTITUENT UNITS

1. Each constituent unit has a legislature and an executive, organised by its own constitution adopted in conformity with this Constitution and approved by the Council of States.

2. Subject to federal law, the constituent units are responsible for local planning and building control within federal standards, primary and secondary schools, local public services, local roads and transit, cultural affairs, and the organisation of their own administration.

3. The federation is responsible for all other matters, including foreign affairs, defence and security, the currency, citizenship and immigration, criminal and civil law, maritime affairs, ports, energy and water networks, the courts and the national registers.

REPRESENTATION IN THE COVENANT ASSEMBLY

1. Each of the five constituent units elects at least five members of the Covenant Assembly.

2. The remaining thirty-six seats are distributed among the units in proportion to their registered voters, by the method of the largest remainder, by the Electoral Commission before each general election.

3. While fewer than five constituent units are established, the seats of the units not yet established are distributed among the established units in proportion to their registered voters.

REPRESENTATION IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES

1. Each of the five constituent units elects three members of the Council of States, regardless of population.

2. If a new constituent state is formed under Article 30, the number of members of the Council of States increases by three, and this Schedule shall be amended accordingly.

Schedule 3. The Nine Ministries and their Responsibilities

Gives effect to Article 129, Article 125.

THE MINISTRIES

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Justice: foreign relations, treaties, diplomatic and consular services, the administration of justice, the courts administration in its non-judicial aspects, prisons and legal aid.

2. Ministry of Treasury and Finance: the Treasury, taxation and customs, the budget, public debt, public procurement policy, state-owned undertakings, financial regulation not assigned to the Reserve Bank, and liaison with the Covenant Endowment Fund.

3. Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ports and Environment: ports and shipping, navigation and maritime safety, the incorporation and maintenance of platforms, fisheries, the protection of the marine environment and environmental regulation.

4. Ministry of Digital State and Registries: digital government, the national registers (citizens, title, territory, companies and religious organisations), digital identity, e-residency, public records and the Cybersecurity Department.
5. Ministry of Resilience and Civil Protection: civilian command of the ADSS, the Police Directorate, civil protection and emergency management, border and immigration enforcement, and critical-infrastructure protection.
6. Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy: construction standards, energy generation and networks, water production and distribution, transport, telecommunications, and the national capital plan.
7. Ministry of Education and Science: schools, universities, vocational and maritime training, research, the national library and archives, culture and heritage, and youth.
8. Ministry of Health and Social Well-being: public health, health care, social care, family support, disability services and charities supervision.
9. Ministry of Economy, Trade, Agriculture and Labour: economic policy, enterprise and competition, foreign trade and investment screening, concessions policy, agriculture and food security, labour standards and consumer protection.

ALLOCATION

1. The Chancellor may, by a published order, allocate a function between ministries within the descriptions in this Schedule, but may not create a tenth ministry or transfer a function to a body outside the ministries and the independent institutions.

Schedule 4. Constitutional Offices and Term Limits

Gives effect to Article 47, Article 54.

OFFICES AND TERMS

1. Member of the Covenant Assembly: sixty-one members; term of four years; no limit on re-election.
2. Member of the Council of States: fifteen members; term of six years, one-third renewed every two years; no limit on re-election.
3. Chancellor: term of five years; no more than two terms.
4. Minister: no more than nine; serves at the pleasure of the Chancellor, subject to Article 126.
5. Justice of the High Court: nine Justices; single term of twelve years; retirement at seventy-five.
6. President of the High Court: elected by the Justices for four years, renewable once.
7. Governor of the Reserve Bank: single term of seven years.
8. External member of the Monetary Policy Committee: single term of six years.
9. Director of Public Prosecutions, Commissioner of Police and heads of the independent institutions: single term of seven years.

OFFICES RESERVED TO CITIZENS

1. The offices of Chancellor, Minister, member of the Covenant Assembly or Council of States, Justice of the High Court, Governor of the Reserve Bank, Director of Public Prosecutions, Commissioner of Police, head of the ADSS and head of an independent institution are reserved to citizens.

SECURITY-SENSITIVE OFFICES

1. The offices of Chancellor, Minister of Resilience and Civil Protection, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice, Governor of the Reserve Bank, Justice of the High Court, head of the ADSS, Commissioner of

Police, head of the Cybersecurity Department and head of any intelligence body are security-sensitive for the purposes of Article 47(4).

Schedule 5. The Covenant Oath

Gives effect to Article 17, Article 44, Article 119.

THE COVENANT OATH OF CITIZENSHIP

1. Religious form: “I, [name], swear before Almighty God that I will be faithful to the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia, that I will uphold its Constitution and obey its laws, that I will respect the rights and dignity of every person, and that I will fulfil my duties as a citizen in truth and in good faith. So help me God.”
2. Solemn form: “I, [name], solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will be faithful to the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia, that I will uphold its Constitution and obey its laws, that I will respect the rights and dignity of every person, and that I will fulfil my duties as a citizen in truth and in good faith.”

THE COVENANT OATH FOR HOLDERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE

1. Religious form: “I, [name], swear before Almighty God that I will be faithful to the Sovereign Covenant State of Aletheia, that I will uphold and defend its Constitution, that I will discharge the office of [office] truthfully, impartially and to the best of my ability, without fear or favour, for the good of all its people, and that I will never use this office for my own gain. So help me God.”
2. Solemn form: the same words, beginning “I, [name], solemnly and sincerely affirm” and omitting the words “before Almighty God” and “So help me God”.
3. The choice of form is that of the person taking the oath. Both forms have equal legal effect.

Schedule 6. Citizenship and Nationality Principles

Gives effect to Article 41, Article 46, Article 49, Article 50.

PRINCIPLES BINDING ON THE NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP ACT

1. Citizenship is acquired only by birth, descent, adoption or naturalisation, and is never sold.
2. Dual and multiple citizenship are permitted. No person is required to renounce another citizenship.
3. Marriage does not by itself confer or remove citizenship.
4. The law shall prevent statelessness, particularly of children.
5. Citizenship acquired by birth or descent cannot be revoked. Citizenship acquired by naturalisation may be revoked only for fraud, by a court, within ten years.
6. Every decision on citizenship is reasoned, in writing and subject to appeal and judicial review.
7. All citizens are equal, however their citizenship was acquired.

MATTERS FOR THE NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP ACT

1. The Act shall provide for: the documents required for applications; the content and assessment of civic integration; the definition of good character; registration of births abroad; the procedure for renunciation and restoration; the fees for applications, which shall not exceed the cost of administration; and the protection of citizenship records.

Schedule 7. Legislative Procedure

Gives effect to Article 105, Article 113, Article 114, Article 106.

STAGES OF A BILL IN THE COVENANT ASSEMBLY

1. First reading: the bill is introduced, published with its explanatory memorandum and referred to the responsible committee.
2. Committee stage: the committee examines the bill, holds any required public hearing and reports, with any amendments, within the period set by the rules of procedure.
3. Second reading: the Assembly debates the bill and votes on amendments.
4. Final vote: the Assembly votes on the bill as a whole, not earlier than fourteen days after the first reading, save as Article 105(3) permits.

CLASSES OF BILLS

1. A financial bill is the Budget Bill, a supplementary appropriation bill, or a bill whose sole or principal purpose is to impose, alter or abolish a tax or charge or to authorise borrowing.
2. A land, energy or currency bill is a bill whose principal purpose concerns title to platforms or platform space, ground leases or concessions; energy generation and networks; or the currency, the Reserve Bank or the monetary framework.
3. A consent bill is a bill described in Article 114(1).
4. Every other bill is an ordinary bill.

DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHAMBERS

1. Where the Council of States returns an ordinary bill or a land, energy or currency bill, the Speaker shall publish its objections. The Covenant Assembly may amend the bill to meet them, in which case it is sent again to the Council of States, or may pass it again under Article 113(2).
2. The Speaker of the Covenant Assembly certifies the class of each bill on its introduction. A dispute about the certification may be referred by the President of the Council of States to the High Court, which shall decide within thirty days.

Schedule 8. Emergency Powers

Gives effect to Article 219, Article 220, Article 55.

NON-DEROGABLE RIGHTS

1. The following rights may not be limited or suspended at any time, including in a state of emergency:
   (a) the inviolability of human dignity and the right to life (Article 56);
   (b) the prohibition of torture, of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and of slavery and servitude (Article 58);
   (c) the prohibition of retroactive criminal offences and penalties, and the presumption of innocence (Article 61);
   (d) freedom of thought, conscience and religion, save that public manifestation may be limited under Article 220(1) (Article 66);
   (e) the right not to be deprived of citizenship save under Article 49;
   (f) the right to have the lawfulness of detention decided by a court (Article 59(4));
   (g) the right to an effective remedy before a court for the violation of any non-derogable right (Article 60(3)).

PROCLAMATIONS

1. A proclamation of a state of emergency shall state: the grounds; the area affected; the measures authorised, by reference to the provisions of law they rely on; the fundamental rights limited and the reasons; the duration; and the authorities responsible.

2. Each extension shall be accompanied by a report on the measures taken and the reasons why the emergency continues.

Schedule 9. Constitutional Amendment Procedures and Entrenched Provisions

Gives effect to Article 224, Article 225.

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES

1. Ordinary amendment: two-thirds of all members of the Covenant Assembly, with ninety days between first reading and final vote, and two-thirds of all members of the Council of States (Article 224).

2. Federal amendment: as for an ordinary amendment, with the consent of the legislature of each affected constituent unit (Article 224(2)).

3. Entrenched amendment: as for an ordinary amendment, followed by approval in a national referendum by a majority of votes cast and a majority of voters in a majority of the constituent units (Article 225).

ENTRENCHED PROVISIONS

1. The following provisions are entrenched:
   (a) Article 1 (Nature of the Sovereign Covenant State) and Article 2 (Name and Constitutional Identity);
   (b) Article 3 (Supremacy of the Constitution) and Article 6 (Separation of Powers);
   (c) Article 16 (Christian Heritage of Aletheia);
   (d) Article 41 (Citizenship and its Foundations) and Article 46 (Dual and Multiple Citizenship);
   (e) Article 55 (Limitation of Fundamental Rights) and every right listed as non-derogable in Schedule 8;
   (f) Article 117(3) (limit of two terms for the Chancellor);
   (g) Article 139 and Article 141 (composition of the High Court and tenure of the Justices);
   (h) Article 129 (Limitation of Ministries to Nine Portfolios);
   (i) Article 157 (Independence of the Reserve Bank) and Article 160 (Prohibition of Monetary Financing);
   (j) Article 164(2) (no tax on personal income, capital gains or inheritances);
   (k) Part XX (Emergency Powers) and Part XXI (Constitutional Amendments).

2. The purpose of each entrenchment is to protect a foundation of the national covenant — its identity, the rights of its people, the limits on power, honest money and the stability of its institutions — so that it can be changed only by the people themselves.

Schedule 10. Transitional Implementation Framework

Gives effect to Article 228, Article 229, Article 230, Article 231, Article 232.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1. The Constitutional Convention consists of delegates elected by the founding members registered under the founding-member procedure published by the founding administration, in accordance with rules adopted and published by the founding administration at least ninety days before the election.

2. The Convention adopts its own rules of procedure, elects its presiding officer and decides by a majority of two-thirds of its delegates on the final text to be submitted for ratification.

RATIFICATION AND THE FIRST CITIZENS

1. The persons entitled to vote in the ratification referendum are the founding members of full age who have been verified as to identity and enrolled on the founding register by the date set by the Convention.
2. On entry into force, the first citizens are the persons on the founding register who, within twelve months, take the Covenant Oath and are verified by the Registrar General, together with their minor children. Thereafter, citizenship is acquired only under Part IV.
3. The Register of Citizens is established when the Registrar General, appointed ad interim by the Convention, certifies that the register has been opened under law.

INTERIM INSTITUTIONS

1. The Convention appoints an Auditor-General ad interim and an independent electoral body ad interim, whose terms end when their constitutional successors take office.
2. Until the constituent units are established, the Council of States consists of fifteen members elected by the citizens in a single national constituency by proportional representation, for a term ending when the members for the first established units take office.
3. Until the Federal District is established, the constitutional institutions sit at a place determined by the Convention.

TIMETABLE AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. Within six months: first elections to the Covenant Assembly, the Council of States and the office of Chancellor.
2. Within twelve months: appointment of the first nine Justices of the High Court. Of the first Justices, three are appointed for four years, three for eight years and three for twelve years, as determined by lot at the first sitting; none of them may be reappointed.
3. Within twelve months: establishment of the Treasury, the Covenant Endowment Fund and the independent institutions.
4. Within eighteen months: establishment of the Reserve Bank and publication of its first monetary framework. No currency may be issued as legal tender before Article 152(4) is satisfied.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE DURING THE TRANSITION

1. The founding administration, and after entry into force the Cabinet, shall publish and keep current the classification required by Article 228(2), stating for each institution whether it is proposed, operating as a founding-phase structure, or established under this Constitution.

Edition history

Edition 2026.5 (2026-10-21)

A clause is added to the Article on the prohibition of monetary financing: the official reserves of the Reserve Bank may not be used to finance the construction of platforms, public works or any other expenditure of the State.

Edition 2026.4 (2026-10-21)

Complete draft published for consultation. The nine provisions of edition 2026.3 are carried forward and renumbered within a full text covering Christian heritage and religion, the seastead territory, citizenship and dual citizenship, fundamental rights, the federal institutions, the judiciary, the Reserve Bank and the Guilder, public finance, security, emergency powers, amendment and the founding transition.

Edition 2026.3 (2026-01-15)

Nine provisions published for review.