



English Translation

CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PREFACE

We, the liberals of Sri Lanka, gather in Colombo at a time when violence, human rights violations, racism, terrorism, and various attempts to suppress individual freedoms are on the rise, and when representative democracy is being undermined.

- (a) Recognizing that a truly free, just, united, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka can be achieved only through steadfast determination, a firm commitment to the principles of liberalism, and the establishment of a liberal democratic framework,
- (b) Recognizing the contribution made by the Liberal Democratic Union to the advancement of liberalism and to the preservation of Sri Lanka as a liberal democratic system,
- (c) Recognizing the need for a political party oriented towards liberalism, as evidenced by the progress made by our movement,
- (d) We hereby adopt this constitution, to be known as the Constitution of the Liberal Democratic Party, in Colombo.

**CHAPTER 1
GENERAL**

Article 1 The Liberal Democratic Party is a political party dedicated to advancing, promoting, and protecting liberalism in Sri Lanka, and to upholding and preserving liberal democracy within the country.

Article 2 The ideology of the Liberal Democratic Party is based on the political philosophy of liberalism. The Party upholds and affirms the principles embodied in the 1947 Liberal Manifesto and the Oxford Liberal Manifesto of October 1967. In accordance with these principles, the Party is committed to the protection of individual liberty, the maintenance of parliamentary democracy, the establishment of a free-market economy, and the promotion of a welfare state. The Party firmly rejects all forms of nationalism, chauvinism, collectivism, authoritarianism, statism, and totalitarianism.

Article 3 The Liberal Democratic Party shall maintain international cooperation with liberals and liberal organizations worldwide and shall oppose, in all countries, human rights violations, nationalism, collectivism, and authoritarianism in every form

CHAPTER 2 MEMBERSHIP

Article 4 Any individual above the age of sixteen who accepts the liberal principles set out in the Preamble of this Constitution may apply for membership of the Party by submitting the prescribed membership application. Upon the acceptance of such application by the Party, the applicant shall be admitted as a member of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Article 5 Membership in the Liberal Democratic Party shall be valid only upon its approval by a duly convened meeting of the National Executive Committee.

Article 6 If a membership application is rejected by the National Executive Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party, the applicant may appeal the decision and shall be given the opportunity to appear before the National Executive Committee to present the reasons for seeking admission. The decision made thereafter by the National Executive Committee shall be considered final, unless it is altered by a subsequent meeting of the National Executive Committee.

Article 7 The National Executive Committee may require each member of the Party to pay an annual membership fee or a lifetime membership fee, as determined by the Committee.

Article 8 (i) Only lifetime members serving on the Standing Committee shall be eligible for appointment to the National Executive Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party. The Standing Committee may consist of up to forty (40) lifetime members. These members shall be appointed by the Party Leader, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

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- (ii) The Standing Committee shall meet at least twice each year, and one such meeting shall be convened during the first week of May prior to the Annual General Convention.
 - (iii) Notice of a meeting of the Standing Committee shall be given to all its members by the Deputy General Secretary of the Party at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting, either by letter, telephone, electronic mail, or short message service (SMS).
 - (iv) Every meeting of the Standing Committee shall be presided over by the Party Leader.
 - (v) Any vacancy arising in the Standing Committee as a result of the death, resignation, or lawful removal of a member shall be filled by a new appointment made by the Party Leader, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Article 9

Any member or members who act in contravention of the principles or provisions set out in this Constitution may be removed from membership by the Party Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. Such removal shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

CHAPTER 3 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 10

At the Annual General Convention, the following office-bearers of the National Executive Committee shall be appointed from among the members of the Standing Committee, subject to the provisions of Article 52:

- (a) The President
- (b) The Senior Vice President

- (c) Four (4) Vice Presidents
- (d) The General Secretary
- (e) The Deputy General Secretary
- (f) The Secretary for International Affairs
- (g) The Treasurer
- (h) The National Organiser
- (i) Four (4) Executive Committee Members

From among these fifteen (15) office-bearers, the Party Leader shall be appointed at the first meeting of the National Executive Committee. In addition, with the joint approval of the Party Leader, the President, and the General Secretary, the National Executive Committee may appoint six (6) additional members of the Standing Committee as Executive Committee Members.

Article 11

The National Executive Committee shall be the supreme body responsible for formulating policies and administering the organisational and financial affairs of the Liberal Democratic Party. It shall have the authority to determine and amend policies, and to take any decisions necessary for the effective functioning of the Party. Whenever deemed necessary for the activities of the Party, the Party President may appoint members of the Executive Committee to the following positions:

- (a) Secretary for Propaganda and Publicity
- (b) Secretary for Media Affairs

Article 12

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party may be convened by the General Secretary, the President, or the Party Leader. A meeting shall also be convened by the General Secretary upon a written request made by any four (4) members of the National Executive Committee.

Article 13

The establishment of Party branches shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee. This approval shall apply to the formation of provincial, district, and electoral division branches, as well as branches at local government levels. The Party may also establish affiliated organisations, including trade unions, student unions, women's organisations, farmers' associations, and other similar bodies.

Article 14

The National Executive Committee may appoint special committees for the analysis and determination of political policies and administrative policies.

Article 15

All positions of the National Executive Committee shall be appointed from among the members of the Standing Committee. However, the appointment of the President and the Senior Vice President shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 52. Both the office-bearers and the non-office-bearing members of the Committee shall hold office until the next Annual Convention.

CHAPTER 4
OFFICERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Article 16

(a) The Party Leader shall be elected by vote at the first meeting of the National Executive Committee held after the Annual General Convention.

(b) The Party Leader may hold another position within the National Executive Committee in addition to the office of Party Leader.

(c) Subject to the provisions of Article 52, the Party President shall be elected at the Annual General Convention. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Liberal Democratic Party. The President shall have the authority, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, to appoint District Managers, District Organisers, and Organisers for Parliamentary Electorates and Local Government Electoral Divisions.

Article 17

All meetings of the Liberal Democratic Party shall be presided over by the President.

Article 18

There shall be no more than five (5) Vice Presidents, and they shall be elected by vote at the Annual General Convention. From among them, the Senior Vice President shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article 52.

Article 19

In the absence of the President, the Senior Vice President shall perform the duties and functions of the President. The Senior Vice

President shall also carry out any special duties assigned by the General Secretary.

Article 20 The General Secretary shall be elected by vote at the Annual General Convention.

Article 21 The General Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the Party. The General Secretary shall be accountable to the National Executive Committee and shall have the authority to make administrative decisions. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the Liberal Democratic Party Secretariat and for the staff employed therein.

Article 22 No officer of the Liberal Democratic Party shall make any decision or undertake any action beyond the scope of his or her assigned responsibilities. However, any such action may be carried out with the approval of the National Executive Committee. In circumstances where urgent action is required due to time constraints, such action may be taken with the approval of the Party Leader, in an appropriate manner.

Article 24 The Deputy General Secretary shall be elected by vote at the Annual General Convention.

Article 25 The Deputy General Secretary shall be the officer in charge of the administration of the Party. He or she shall be responsible for maintaining the register of members. Acting under the directions of the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary shall issue all notices to members, convene ordinary meetings and special meetings of the National Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the General Secretary. In the absence of the General Secretary from the country, the Deputy General Secretary shall perform all the duties and functions of that office.

Article 26 In the event that the office of the General Secretary becomes vacant, or the General Secretary is incapacitated or absent from the country, the Deputy General Secretary shall exercise the powers and perform the functions of the office of General Secretary.



Article 27

The Treasurer shall be elected by vote at the Annual General Convention.

Article 28

(a) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial matters of the Liberal Democratic Party. The Treasurer shall maintain and cause to be maintained proper accounts of the Party, organise and oversee methods of fund-raising, and shall be accountable to the National Executive Committee for all bank accounts, deposits, and financial investments of the Party.

(b) The National Organiser shall be appointed at the Annual General Convention. The National Organiser shall have the authority to establish Party organisations at the level of Pradeshiya Sabhas, Urban Councils, Municipal Councils, Parliamentary Electoral Divisions, and Districts, and shall keep the Party Leader, the General Secretary, and the President duly informed of such organisational activities. The National Organiser shall also be responsible for organising Party conferences, lectures, press briefings, and public meetings, and shall have the authority to establish international branches and to organise youth, women's, and professional union activities of the Party.

Article 29

Four (4) non-office-bearing members shall be elected by vote at the Annual General Convention to serve on the National Executive Committee.

Article 30

The National Executive Committee may assign special positions or responsibilities to non-office-bearing members of the National Executive Committee.

Article 31

Any member of the Standing Committee who seeks to hold office in the National Executive Committee shall do so with his or her consent, and such nomination shall be proposed and seconded by two (2) other members. The nomination shall be submitted to the General Secretary by registered post only, not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Annual General Convention.

Article 32

(a) Where more than one nomination is received for the offices of President, General Secretary, National Organiser, Deputy General

Secretary, Secretary for International Affairs, Treasurer, or Senior Vice President, or where more than four (4) nominations are received for the office of Vice President, such nominees shall be entitled to confirm their candidature and address the Annual General Convention. A member shall be eligible to contest for only one (1) office, subject to the provisions of Article 52.

(b) The Party Leader, or any other member appointed by him or her, shall act as the Returning Officer for such elections.

Article 34

The office held by any office-bearing or non-office-bearing member of the National Executive Committee shall become vacant upon the death or resignation of such member, upon the adoption of a resolution at a Special General Meeting for removal, or upon the cessation of membership in the Liberal Democratic Party.

Article 35

Any decision taken by the National Executive Committee may be reviewed, amended, or rescinded by a majority vote at a subsequent meeting of the National Executive Committee.

**CHAPTER 5
ANNUAL GENERAL CONVENTION AND SPECIAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Article 36

The Annual General Convention of the Liberal Democratic Party shall be held in the month of June of each year.

Article 37

The date of the Annual General Convention shall be determined by the National Executive Committee. The Deputy General Secretary shall give notice of the Convention to all members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date on which the Convention is to be held.

Article 38

Any resolutions proposed for adoption at the Annual General Convention shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary or the Deputy General Secretary not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Convention.

Article 39

In consultation with the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary shall ensure that copies of the resolutions to be debated at the Annual General Convention and the list of candidates for office

are circulated to the members at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the Convention.

Article 40 The Annual General Convention shall be presided over by the President. In the absence of the President, the Senior Vice President shall preside, and in the absence of both the President and the Senior Vice President, the General Secretary shall preside.

Article 41 All procedural matters shall be decided by the President or, where applicable, by the officer presiding over the Convention. Such decisions shall be made after hearing differing views and opinions, as the presiding officer considers necessary.

Article 42 Any procedural decision taken by the President or the member presiding over the Annual General Convention may be questioned by the members of the Convention.

Article 43 Upon the consent of not fewer than twenty (20) members, a special political resolution may be introduced, debated, and decided upon at the Annual General Convention.

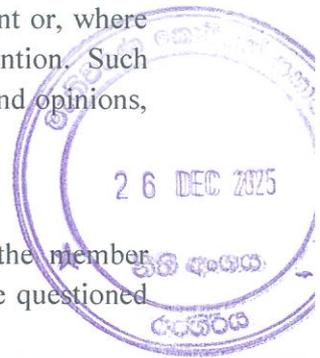
Article 44

(a) The Party Leader shall address the Annual General Convention.

(b) The General Secretary shall present to the Convention a report on the activities carried out by the Party during the preceding year and shall place before the Convention such matters relating to the future activities of the Party as he or she considers appropriate.

Article 45 The Treasurer shall present a statement of accounts for the preceding financial year and shall also place before the Convention his or her views and proposals regarding the future financial affairs of the Party.

Article 46 Members shall be entitled to raise questions to office-bearing members regarding the manner in which they have performed their duties.



Article 47 With the concurrence of the President and the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary may convene a Special General Meeting.

Article 48 A Special General Meeting may be requisitioned for the discussion of a political matter upon written notice to the President or the General Secretary by not fewer than twenty (20) members of the Standing Committee.

Article 49 The Deputy General Secretary shall ensure that notice of a Special General Meeting is published in at least two (2) national newspapers not less than five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.

CHAPTER 6 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 50 Any matter not expressly provided for in this Constitution shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.

Article 51 Any person who is elected to a legislative office upon a nomination given by the Liberal Democratic Party shall not, for any reason whatsoever, change party affiliation, extend support to any other political party or group without the approval of the National Executive Committee, or act independently in contravention of the collective decisions of the Party. Any such conduct shall constitute grounds for the suspension or termination of his or her membership in the Liberal Democratic Party.

CHAPTER 7 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 52 The person holding the office of President of the Liberal Democratic Party as at 20 July 2024, and the person appointed as Senior Vice President by resolution approved by the National Executive Committee convened after 20 July 2024, shall continue to hold the offices of President and Senior Vice President

respectively until such time as they vacate those offices. Upon the vacation of office by the President or the Senior Vice President, the National Executive Committee may appoint an Acting President or an Acting Senior Vice President at its next meeting. Thereafter, at the ensuing Annual General Convention, a member of the Standing Committee shall be elected by vote to fill the vacant office of President or Senior Vice President, as applicable. Thereafter, all future appointments to the offices of President and Senior Vice President shall be made by election at the Annual General Convention.

CHAPTER 8 Amendments to the Constitution



Article 53

Any member may propose an amendment to this Constitution by submitting a written notice to the General Secretary or the Deputy General Secretary.

Article 54

(a) Upon a decision of the National Executive Committee in respect of such proposal, the Deputy General Secretary, with the concurrence of the General Secretary, may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for the purpose of considering the proposed constitutional amendment. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the membership not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the meeting.

(b) The Deputy General Secretary shall, after informing the General Secretary, circulate a copy of the proposed constitutional amendment to the members not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

Article 55

At an Extraordinary General Meeting, any provision of this Constitution may be amended, except the provisions contained in Chapter 01.

Article 56

The provisions contained in Chapter 01 of this Constitution and the provisions set out in the First Schedule shall not be amended unless not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the registered members are present and voting, and the Party Leader, the President, and the General Secretary are in attendance.

SCHEDULE

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I accept the principles of liberalism and commit myself to the building of a free and just Sri Lanka based on individual liberty, representative democracy, and a free-market economy founded on the principles of a welfare state, and free from nationalism, racism, caste discrimination, religious extremism, nepotism, elitism, gender discrimination, discrimination based on sexual orientation, or class-based discrimination. Accordingly, I express my willingness to obtain membership in the Liberal Democratic Party.

ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was adopted in Colombo on Monday, the nineteenth day of January, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven (1987).

INTERIM AMENDMENTS

Amendment I

This Constitution was amended and adopted at a Special General Meeting held in Colombo on Sunday, the twenty-second day of May, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (2022).

Amendment II

This Constitution was amended and adopted at a Special General Meeting held in Pamunugama on Saturday, the twentieth day of July, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four (2024).

(In the event of any inconsistency or dispute arising from the wording of the Tamil or English translations of this Constitution, the Sinhala text shall prevail and be deemed authoritative)