



Women Peace Builders Network (WOPEN)

Motto: *"Love, Tolerance, Peace and Security"*.

Email: Wopen25@gmail.com, Tel : (+237) 699912544)

Reference N°: NW/GP/042/21/16845

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WOPEN

CONSTITUTION OF THE WOMEN PEACE BUILDERS' NETWORK (WOPEN) NORTH WEST REGION

Bamenda, July 2020

Location: Commercial Avenue, Mezam Division.

Website: <https://wopen25.wordpress.com/>

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CONSTITUTION

- Mindful of Law No. 06 of 18/01/1996 amending the Constitution of 2 June, 1972
- Mindful of Law No. 90/053 of 19 December 1990 on Freedom of Association as subsequently amended
- Aware of the need to build peace in the society as a means of fostering peaceful co-existence for development,
- Convinced that it is useful to contribute as women to conflict management for sustainable peace, stability, security and development of our fatherland,
- As women CSOs based in the North West Region of Cameroon hereby constitute ourselves into a Peace and advocacy Network and have adopted this as our Constitution on the 1st day of May 2020.

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Article I: Name, Motto and Salutation

Section 1: The name of this association shall be **Women Peace Builders’ Network** abbreviated ‘**WOPEN**’.

Section 2: The motto of the association shall be **Love, Tolerance, Peace and Security**.

Section 3: The salutation shall be, ‘**WOPEN... For Peace and Security**’.

Article II: Head Quarters and Permanent Secretariat

Section 1: The headquarters of the association shall be in Bamenda NW Region.

Section 2: The association shall operate a permanent secretariat at the seat of the headquarters.

Article III: Objectives

The objectives of the association shall be:

- a) To net-work with women led CSOs passionate about peace building

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- b) To share experiences/strategies to overcome challenges and build sustainable peace, security and development.
- c) To build trust within the association and with stakeholders for better management of conflicts, peace building and policy reforms.
- d) To pursue justice and equality for all, engage and participate in research, conflict prevention, resolution, mediation and in all peace building processes.
- e) To empower women and amplify their voices at the grassroots and foster peaceful co-existence for their collective sisterhood.
- f) Empowering women as agents of peace through capacity building and other peace programs.
- g) To promote exchanges between women led CSOs in carrying out advocacy programs and rapid humanitarian response.
- h) To do all other things that are commensurate to the attainment of the above objectives.

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Article IV: Membership

- a) Membership into the association shall be open to CSOs founded/headed by women or working for the interest of women and children.
- b) Payment of these dues shall be compulsory for all members
- c) Members shall subscribe to the provisions of this constitution.
- d) Upon admission members shall pay all existing dues failing which they shall not participate in network activities.

Article V: Loss of Membership

Membership is lost through:

- a) Non-payment of Annual dues even when you have paid your registration into the network.
- b) Notorious poor behavior and gross misconduct against a member or the association.
This shall be subject to the decision of the General Assembly.
- c) Failure to abide by the bye-laws of the association.
- d) Voluntary withdrawal
- e) Death or dissolution of the network.

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Article VI- Organization and Operations of the Network

The Network shall comprise the following organs:

1. A General Assembly.
2. An Executive Committee.

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Article VII: Composition, Eligibility Criteria and Term of Office for Members of the Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall comprise

- 01 Coordinator
- 01 Secretary General
- 01 Finance Officer
- 02 Communication and Advocacy Officers
- 02 Project and Research Officers
- 02 Advisers

Section 2: To be eligible for an executive post, interested persons must comply with the following eligibility criteria;

- Must be up to date with membership dues
- Must have been an **active** member of the association for a continuous period of at least one year.

Section 3:- Term of Office: The term of office of the executive shall be 2 years renewable once. However, the executive bureau members may take up new positions.

Article VIII: Operations of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be the supreme organ of the Association.

- i. It shall meet in ordinary session once in a calendar year at a convenient venue, time and date as determined by the Executive Committee.
- ii. The GA can also meet and conduct business online through social media handles.
- iii. An extraordinary General Assembly may hold as need arises.

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- iv. The General Assembly shall elect an executive bureau for a 2 years mandate renewable once.
 - v. All registered members of the Association shall attend the General Assembly and vote as of right.
 - vi. All debates and decisions geared towards the attainment of the objectives of the Association or its action plan shall be done in the General Assembly.
 - vii. The General Assembly shall determine the rates for membership registration and annual contributions.

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Article IX: Operations of the Executive Committee

- i. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Association.
- ii. It shall delegate to the Coordinator some of its powers that are necessary for the smooth running of the Association.
- iii. It may validly deliberate if holders of key positions in the Committee are present.
- iv. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the Coordinator in consultation with Secretary General and chaired by the former.
- v. The Executive Committee shall recommend a bank or financial institution of good repute where the Coordinator, Secretary General and Finance Officer shall be signatories to the account. Two of these signatories shall be accepted provided the Coordinator is one of them.

Article X: Duties of Executive Committee Members

Section I: The Coordinator

- i. The Coordinator of the Association shall coordinate and oversee the activities and enforce the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.
- ii. She shall chair the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee.
- iii. She shall be signatory to all withdrawals from the bank account of the Association.

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Section 2: The Secretary General

- i. Under the supervision of the Coordinator, the Secretary General shall carry out the general day-to-day administration of the Association.
- ii. She shall be the custodian of all records, archives, files and proceedings of the Association.
- iii. She shall co-sign withdrawals from the bank account of the Association.
- iv. She shall prepare all reports and minutes of meetings of the Association

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Section 4: The Finance Officer

- i. The Finance Officer shall be in charge of the funds and resources of the Association.
- ii. She shall keep safely the books and ledgers in compliance with the accounting standards in force.
- iii. She shall effect payments for commitments made by the Coordinator in line with an approved budget.
- iv. She shall co-sign withdrawals from the bank account of the Association.

Section 5: The Communication and Advocacy Officers

- i. The Communication Officers shall be responsible for relations between the association and the general public.
- ii. They shall make public pronouncements only as shall be directed by the Coordinator and promote the image of the Association.
- iii. They shall animate interaction among members of the Association.
- iv. They shall regularly update all social media handles.
- v. They shall be in charge of drafting all advocacy statements and campaigns.

Section 6: The Project and Research Officers

- i. They shall make draft project proposals for approval by the Executive bureau.
- ii. They shall seek for sources of funds for the association.
- iii. They shall identify research areas design research tools and coordinate the collection of data and analysis.
- iv. They shall be in charge of monitoring and evaluation.

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Section 7: The Advisers

- i. The Advisers shall give legal, technical and other advice to the Executive Committee and the association as a whole.
- ii. They may act as facilitators in the pursuit of objectives.

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Article XI: Bankers

- i. The Association shall operate an account with Afriland First Bank. The Coordinator, Secretary General and Finance Officer shall be signatories to the account.

Article XII: Amendment

- a) This Constitution may be amended only after a two-thirds majority vote.
- b) Proposals for amendment are presented to the executive bureau in writing. They are thereafter presented to the general assembly for debate and adoption.

Bamenda July 1st 2020

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