



C O N S T I T U T I O

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S W A P O W O M A N ' S C O U N C I L

(S W C)

A D R A F T

P R E A M B L E

The Swapo Women's Council came into existence as an historical development in the process of Namibia's protracted struggle for national liberation. It was conceived at the December/January 1969/1970 Consultative Congress of SWAPO, held at Tanga, Tanzania, and it is constituted under Article XVI of SWAPO's Constitution.

Like other militant wings of SWAPO; the SWC was created as a response an historical necessity recognized by SWAPO, to develop a firm mass base reflecting all sections of the Namibian people, and to train cadres among these sections.

Under the present system of colonial rule and exploitative class society, women are among the most dowerodden and oppressed sections of the Namibian people. This system perpetuates all forms of feudal and bourgeois prejudices and inequality against women. Besides, the social obligation to work and in addition to assuming the weight of child-bearing, women are the object of all kinds of discrimination under the present system.

It is against background that the SWC was created as a women reserve and a transmission belt of SWAPO policy, ideology and programme with a specific mission to mobilize the Namibian women for their full and active participation in the struggle for national and social liberation. The SWC is, furthermore, called upon to develop and deepen a revolutionary consciousness among the Namibian women against all reactionay tendencies of secism, tribalism, racism and regionalism. It is also called upon to forster a spirit of internationalism in the Namibian women.

SWAPO considers the struggle for equality for women and their full participation in the national and social liberation, not only as a matter of elental justice but also as an imperative requirement of the Namibian Revulation. The economic reconstruction of a liberated Namibia will require full and active participation of women in the productive activity of that society.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the movement shall be the SWAPO Women's Council, hereafter to be referred as the SWC..

ARTICLE II

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the SWC shall essentially be those enshrined in Article III of the Constitution of SWAPO. However, the SWC shall, in addition, strive:-

- 1) to achieve equality for women as well as their full participation in the struggle for national and social liberation;
- 2) To develop and deepen political consciousness and revolutionary militance among the Namibian women;
- 3) To bring about women's full participation in the productive work, in the public administration, in education and in the cultural creativity of our society.
- 4) To prepare the thousand of feminine workers, now engaged in domestic work in Namibia, for productive jobs;
- 5) To campaign for the creation of sufficient nursery schools and day boarding schools in a liberation Namibia so as to facilitate women's full participation in productive work;
- 6) To inculcate in the Namibian child a sense of justice and a revolutionary respect for women; and
- 7) To develop an internationalist spirit in the Namibian woman by enabling her to work in solidarity with all militant and progressive feminine movements thereby strengthening the world-wide anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist front.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

The following information is being furnished to you for your information and guidance. It is classified "Secret" because its disclosure could result in the identification of sources and methods of the intelligence community, and thus be injurious to the national defense.

The information pertains to the activities of certain individuals and organizations in the United States, who are engaged in efforts to subvert the government of the United States and to bring about the overthrow of the present administration.

The individuals mentioned in this report are active in the field of labor union activities and are working to organize and lead strikes and other forms of industrial action against the government and its agencies.

The organizations mentioned in this report are active in the field of labor union activities and are working to organize and lead strikes and other forms of industrial action against the government and its agencies.

The information in this report is based on the activities of these individuals and organizations as reported to the intelligence community by reliable sources.

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SECRET

1. Every Namibian woman who agrees with and accepts the aims and objectives of SWAPO as well as those enanciated under Article II of this Costitution and whose age is 18 or above shall be eligible for SWC membership.
2. Any Namibian Woman aspiring for the SWC membership shall seek recommendation from the Branch Executive Committes of the SWC.
3. She shall write an application form and submit it to the Sectretary of the SWC Office closest to her.
4. There shall be an admission and a monthly fee to be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.
5. Membership of the SWC may be lost by:
 - a) Resignation; and
 - b) Expulsion
6. Every member of the SWC shall have the following rights:-
 - a) To elect and be elected to the leading bodies of SWC;
 - b) To participate in forums and meetings of the SWC organs as well as to petition and make propösel to such organs;
 - c) To demand the fulfilment of the SWC Constitution and all decisions made by the organs of the SWC; and
 - d) To receive concrète and timely answers to her questions.
7. Every member of the SWC shall have the following duties:-
 - a) To honour the Constitution of SWC and carry out all other düties assigned to her;
 - b) To be vigilant against imperialist subversive activities;
 - c) To constantly atrive to explain the policy and programme of SWAPO; and
 - d) To be an example in personal life and not diverge from or rise above the general line of SWAPO.

ARTICLE IV
NATIONAL ORGANS

There shall be the following National Organs of the SWC:

- A. Congress
- B. Central Committee
- .C. Executive Committee

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A. CONGRESS

- 1) The Congress shall be the Supreme Organ of SWC.
- 2) It shall meet once in every five years after the Congress of SWAPO.
- 3) It shall elect members to the Central Committee.
- 4) The Congress shall be composed of the following:-
 - a) All members of the Central Committee;
 - b) Five delegates from each region;
 - c) Four delegates from each district;
 - d) Three delegates from each branch;
 - e) Any member who may be invited by the Central Committee to participate in the deliberations of the Congress if her presence may contribute to the successful outcome of the work of the Congress.
- 5) The Congress shall hear the Central Committee on the SWC activities and adopt general policy to guide the SWC activities.
- 6) The Congress shall have the power to amend the Constitution of the SWC by a 2/3 majority vote, provided that conditions stipulated in Article XII of this Constitution are adhered to.
- 7) By a 2/3 majority vote, the Congress may expel a member upon the recommendation of the Central Committee.
- 8) The Congress shall have be called by the Central Committee. It shall make the announcement three months before the actual date of the Congress and make known the agenda of the Congress two months before its commencement.
- 9) The Congress shall fix the tasks for the Central Committee and the Central Committee is duty bound to fulfil that task.

B. CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

- 1) The Central Committee shall be the governing organ of the SWC between Congresses and shall be directly answered to the Congress.

- 2) The Central Committee shall be composed of 19 members, and its term of office shall be five years.
- 3) The Central Committee shall be elected by the Congress except for the Secretary for SWC who shall be a member of and be elected by the Central Committee of SWAPO.
- 4) The Central Committee shall meet annually or as often as it shall be requested by the Executive Committee to review reports of the SWC activities and work out an programme of action to be fulfilled the following year.
- 5) The Central Committee shall control the activities of the Executive Committee.
- 6) The Central Committee shall have the power to suspend any member of SWC by a 2/3 majority vote.
- 7) The Central Committee shall ensure the implementation of the decisions of Congress.
- 8) The Central Committee shall approve the budget of SWC on yearly basis on the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Council.
- 9) The Central Committee of the SWC recommend to the Central Committee of SWAPO to remove the Secretary for Women's Council for serious misconduct or violation of the Constitution.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- 1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members including the following:
 - a) Secretary fo SWC
 - b) Deputy Secretary fo SWC
 - c) Assistant Secretary for Information and Political Orientation
 - d) Assistant Secretary for finance; and
- 2) Its member shall be elected for a five years term of office from among the members of the Central Committee and it shall meet at least once a month and as often as it may be requested by any of the Regional Executive Committees.
- 3) It shall be charged with the running of the day-to- day affairs of the SWC.
- 4) It shall be answerable to the SWC Central Committee.

ARTICLE V

FUNCTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OFFICERS

A. The Secretary for SWC:

- 1) She shall be the executive head of the SWC and shall preside over the meetings of the Congress and Central Committee;
- 2) She shall be head of the SWC Secretariat;
- 3) She shall be the major link between the SWC and the Central Committee of SWAPO;
- 4) She shall be principle spokesperson of the SWC and shall be responsible for contants between the SWC and other militant youth movements.
- 5) She shall ensure that SWC members maintain maximun disciplines in the executive of their duties in the SWC and towards their responsiblities in SWAPO
- 6) She shall co-ordinate the activities between the various organs of the SWC;
- 7) She shall mobilize and organize SWC members for popular demonstrations, learning, production, and national and international festivals, etc.;
- 8) She shall be responsible for the promtion among the SWC members of revolutionary culture, arts and other popular traditional activities; and
- 9) She shall organize a force of working women in the SWC that will be ready to participate in various economic undertakings in the best interest of SWAPO and the Namibian people.

B The Deputy Secretary for SWC:

- 1) She shall be the principle assistant to the first Secretary and, she shall act on behalf of the Secretary for SWC in the latter's absence.

C The Secretary of Information and Political Orientation

- 1) She shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the activities of the SWC, both to the SWC members, nationally and internationally.
- 2) She shall ensure the promotion of political and ideological consciousness of the SWC members; and
- 3) She shall co-ordinate her activities with the Secretary for information of SWAPO.

D. Assistant Secretary for finance:

- 1) She shall be responsible for all the SWC property and funds;
- 2) She shall, together with the Secretary for SWC or any other member of the Executive Committee acting on her behalf, co-sign the SWC financial documents; and
- 3) She shall occasionally present a financial report to the Central Committee members in the Secretariat.

ARTICLE VI

Secretariat

- 1) There shall be a secretariat of SWC
- 2) The Secretariat shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee
- 3) The composition will be as follows:
 - a) Secretary for SWC
 - b) Deputy Secretary for SWC
 - c) Assistant Secretary for finance
 - d) Assistant Secretary for Information and Political Orientation
 - e) Other officials and Functionaries including technical cadres whom the Executive Committee may appoint.

ARTICLE VII

REGIONAL ORGANS

There shall be the following Regional Organs of the SWC;

- A. Regional Conference; and
- B. Regional Executive Committee

A Regional Conference:

- 1) The Regional Conference shall be composed of all members of the Regional Executive Committee and seven delegates from every District in the Regional.
- 2) It shall discuss matters of regional interest and, if necessary, make recommendations to the National Congress of the Central Committee.
- 3) It shall elect members of the Regional Executive Committee for a two year term of office.
- 4) It shall meet once every years before the National Congress.
- 5) It shall elect delegates to the National Congress of the SWC.

B. Regional Executive Committee:

The Regional Executive Committee shall be composed of the following members:-

- a) Regional Secretary
- b) Assistant Regional Secretary
- c) Secretary for Information; and
- d) Regional Treasurer

FUNCTIONS

a) The Regional Secretary

- 1) She shall be the head of the SWC at the regional level;
- 2) She shall be elect by the Regional Conference for a period of two years.
- 3) She shall be eligible for re-election; and
- 4) She shall co-ordinate the activities of the Regional Executive Committee and shall preside over the meetings of the Regional conference and the Regional Executive Committee.

b) The Assistant Regional Secretary:

- 1) She shall be the pricipale assistant to the Regional Secretary; and
- 2) In the absence of the Regional Secretary, the Assistant Secretary shall exercise all the powers of the Regional Secretary.

c) The Secretary for Information:

- 1) She shall be responsible for the dissemination of information about the SWC activities at the regional level;
- 2) She shall be responsible for compiling press release, press statements, etc.; and
- 3) She shall be responsible for mobilizing the SWC members at the regional level for demonstrations, public meetings and all other popular manifestations.

d) The Treasurer:

- 1) She shall be responsible for the property and funds of the movement in the given region.
- 2) She shall, together with the Regional Secretary or another member of the Regional Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Regional Secretary, co-sign all the SWC financial documents in the region; and
- 3) She shall present occasional financial reports to the Regional Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

There shall be the following District Organs:-

A. District Conference, and

B. District Executive Committee.

- 1) The composition of the District Conference shall be determined by the District Executive Committee.
- 2) The District Conference shall be highest organ of the SWC in the District.
- 3) It shall discuss district Women affairs and make recommendations to the Regional Executive Committee.
- 4) It shall elect the District Executive Committee.
- 5) It shall elect the delegates to the Regional Conference.
- 6) The District Conference shall be held once every year.
- 7) The composition and functions of the District Executive Committee shall be the same as those of the Regional Executive Committee, except that these shall be conducted at district level.

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ARTICLE IX

THE BRANCH

There shall be the following Branch Organs:-

- A. Annual Conference; and
- B. Branch Executive Committee.

A. Annual Conference:

- 1) The Annual Conference shall meet once every year.
- 2) It shall discuss and decide on matters pertaining to women activities in the area under the Branch jurisdiction.
- 3) It shall elect delegates to the District Conference.
- 4) The Annual Conference shall be convened by the Branch Executive Committee.

B. Branch Executive Committee:

- 1) It shall be a Branch Executive Committee.
- 2) The composition and functions of the Branch Executive Committee shall be the same as those of the Regional Executive Committee except that the activities of the Branch shall be limited to its area of jurisdiction.

ARTICLE X

PRIMARY ORGANIZATION

- 1) The basic unit of the SWC shall be the Primary Organization.
- 2) It shall be established at places, such as, factories, farms, schools, hospitals, military units and residential areas.
- 3) Each Primary Organization shall elect a Chair-Lady and Secretary.
- 4) Twenty or more members of the SWC form a Primary Organization.
- 5) The Chair-Lady shall be in charge of the activities of the SWC in the Primary Organization.
- 6) The Secretary shall be responsible for recruitment and general administrative matters.
- 7) The Primary Organization shall have its general meeting after every three months and it shall hold its election after every twelve months.
- 8) The Chair-Lady and Secretary shall be required to give reports annually.

- 9) The general meeting shall elect delegates to the Branch Conference.

ARTICLE XI

SOURCES OF REVENUE

- 1) The funds of the SWC shall be derived from cultural activities, selling of the SWC bages, reading maretials, etc.
- 2) The SWC shall accept financial donations from national and international organizations provided that such offers and donations are not detrimental to the aims, objectives and priciples of SWAPO. A report of such financial donations shall be submitted to the Treasurer of SWAPO.

ARTICLE XII

METHODS OF AMENDMENT

In accordance with Article XVI, paragraph (2) of SWAPO Constitution, this Constitution may be amend by the Congress of the SWAPO Women's Council provider that:-

- 1) Notice of the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Central Committee, at least one month before the convation of the Congress to be included in the agenda in accordance with Article IV (8); and
- 2) In the case of an emergency Congress being convened, two weeks notice of the appropriate amendment shall be required.
