

Document Type Regulation

Topic Constitution (Draft 11)

Date September 22, 2019

First Draft October 7, 2016

Author(s) Christophe Simpson

Editor(s)



Identity

1. Name

- 1.1. The “Left Alliance for National Democracy and Socialism” is the official name of this organisation.
- 1.2. The acronym “LANDS” may be used to refer to the organisation in both formal and informal capacities. The acronym may serve as a substitute for the full name on official documents.
- 1.3. The organisation may be referred to as a political organisation or a political party.
- 1.4. The organisation may be referred to as “the organisation” or “the party” in the constitution.
- 1.5. The organisation may be referred to as “the organisation” or “the party” in resolutions passed by the bodies that exist within it.
- 1.6. The organisation may be referred to as “the organisation” or “the party” in other documents written by it.

2. Ideology

- 2.1. As long as the organisation exists, it should be recognised as a pan-Left organisation, which welcomes several schools of thought, as defined in Section 2.2. This is irrevocable.
- 2.2. The schools of thought mentioned in Section 2.1 are Communism, Democratic Socialism, Pan-Africanism, and Black Nationalism. This may be amended but not removed, on the condition stated in Section 2.3. This is irrevocable.
- 2.3. The party may never remove reference to Communism as one of its schools of thought in Section 2.2; any resolution that aims to do this is invalid. This is irrevocable.
- 2.4. The party understands Socialism to be a transition phase from Capitalism to Communism.
- 2.5. The party understands Capitalism to be a system that inevitably leads to the concentration of wealth into the hands of a few, while the hard-working majority is intentionally kept powerless.
- 2.6. The party understands Socialism to be a system where there is collective ownership of productive property, and workers have an increased role in governing the economy.
- 2.7. The party understands Communism to be a situation where there is a stateless and classless society.
- 2.8. The party understands that it is impossible for Communism to exist in any country while Capitalism is still the dominant economic order of the world
- 2.9. The party will support Socialism while Capitalism remains as the dominant economic order of the world.
- 2.10. The party should not intentionally weaken the country's ability to navigate through the current economic order of the world.
- 2.11. The party should draw a distinction between the national Capitalists and the imperial Capitalists, where the latter are aligned with monopoly capital; the top priority must be to combat the latter.
- 2.12. The party should uphold the rights of the workers and the broad Jamaican masses, defending them from both the imperial Capitalists and the national Capitalists.

Authority

3. Structure

- 3.1. The structure of the organisation is determined by the relationships among its bodies, which are outlined in Sections 17-22.
- 3.2. Members of the Politburo shall be recognised as the collective leadership of the party, as explained in Section 22.
- 3.3. In accordance with Section 3.2, the stance of the Politburo on any issue is regarded as the official stance of the party.
- 3.4. Any proposed change to the constitution must pass through 3 votes, as outlined in Section 4.

4. Constitutional Amendments

- 4.1. A constitutional amendment must first be approved by the incumbent Politburo with at least two-thirds of its members voting “Yes”.
- 4.2. A constitutional amendment, after being approved by the incumbent Politburo, must be approved by the incumbent Central Committee with at least two-thirds of its members voting “Yes”.
- 4.3. A constitutional amendment, after being approved by the Central Committee, must be approved by the following convention of the Party Congress, with more than two-thirds of present members voting “Yes”.
- 4.4. If a proposed amendment fails to pass through any of the 3 aforementioned voting procedures, it fails completely, and must go through the first step again.
- 4.5. No attempt can be made to change anything that has been deemed irrevocable in the original constitution, or to deem any new additions irrevocable. This is irrevocable.

Objectives

5. National

- 5.1. The party should study, critique, refine, and apply the theories of past Socialists in a Caribbean context.
- 5.2. The party should advocate for the well-being of the people of Jamaica, with special focus on the working class and other marginalised groups which face material injustice.
- 5.3. The party should develop solutions to problems facing the people of Jamaica, to work towards a society without injustice.
- 5.4. The party should develop class consciousness in Jamaica, to encourage the masses to challenge the global Capitalist system which exploits and oppresses them.
- 5.5. The party should develop an understanding of politics and economics by analysing the past, the present, and possibilities for the future.
- 5.6. The party should inform the masses about ideas and examples of Socialism and genuine Democracy.
- 5.7. The party should cooperate and collaborate with other Socialist groups and progressive organisations in Jamaica to establish a truly democratic state and society.
- 5.8. The party should maintain solidarity and cooperation with other progressive forces in the Third World which are committed to anti-imperialism.
- 5.9. The party should maintain solidarity and cooperation with entities in imperialist countries which oppose their own nations' economic and military imperialism.
- 5.10. The party should mount aggressive and unrelenting opposition to Liberalism, Fascism, and any other ideologies which compete with Democracy and Socialism.
- 5.11. The party should support and endorse candidates from electoral parties who stand for Socialism or any other important positions of the organisation.

6. International

- 6.1. The party should advocate for the right of the world's peoples to national liberation and self-determination.
- 6.2. The party should promote the rights and dignity of peoples all over the world.
- 6.3. The party should develop an understanding of politics and economics by analysing the past, the present, and possibilities for the future, by building an understanding of colonialism and imperialism.
- 6.4. The party should cooperate and collaborate with governments and organisations which are working to combat Capitalism and imperialism.

Affiliation

7. Registration

- 7.1. Everyone initially registers as an observer as outlined in Section 12, before becoming a member.
- 7.2. Application for membership or observer status will be done by criteria decided by the Politburo.
- 7.3. Application forms or processes are to be administered by the Secretariat; the Politburo may be involved in the process to use its discretion or leave the process entirely up to fixed criteria, as also stated in Section 8.6.
- 7.4. There may be different criteria for different levels of membership.

8. Membership

- 8.1. Membership may be offered to a registrant who is believed to be suitable for membership in the organisation as outlined in Section 8.6, and who is considered to have vested interest in the national affairs of Jamaica as outlined in Section 8.7.
- 8.2. There are 2 tiers and 3 types of membership: partisan membership as outlined in Section 8.3, cadet partisanship as outlined in, and associate membership as outlined in Section 8.5.
- 8.3. Members of the higher tier of membership are called partisans; partisan status is given to those who are considered to be in line with the party's ideology and are mainly concerned with its national agenda. Partisan members may be involved in both cadre units and people's units.
- 8.4. Cadet partisan status is given to those who are considered to be generally in line with the party's values and are concerned with its national agenda. Cadet partisans are of the lower tier of membership and are involved in cadre units.
- 8.5. Associate status is given to those who are considered to be in line with the organisation's basic values and are mainly concerned with the organisation's work in their respective communities or locales. Associates are of the lower tier of membership and are involved in people's units.
- 8.6. The Politburo may set up an interview or a written exercise, in addition to assessing the form, to fully determine someone's suitability for membership.
- 8.7. Anyone is considered to have vested interest in the national affairs of Jamaica if they have been born in Jamaica, if they have spent more than half of their life in Jamaica, or if they had been residing in Jamaica at the time they applied for membership; the party shall not discriminate against emigrants or immigrants.

- 8.8. After accepting an offer for membership, a registrant may be required to present a form of identification issued by any government recognised by the organisation, featuring their full official name and date of birth.
- 8.9. A registrant gains membership after satisfying the Politburo's confidence in their suitability for the organisation and submitting the necessary identification if asked.
- 8.10. A registrant attains membership once the Politburo confirms it, and once they receive an ID number.
- 8.11. Membership may require the monthly or annual payment of a membership fee, set by the Central Committee. Different rates may apply to members who hold certain roles in the organisation, different tiers of membership, or members who reside in different countries.
- 8.12. There shall be no discrimination against any member or observer based on race, class, religion, age, physical disability, mental disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation, with the exception of cases that Section 8.13 or Section 8.14 may apply to.
- 8.13. The criticism of someone's ignorance or viewpoint based on their background or privileged social status – where such background or status may influence their political views – shall not be considered to be “discrimination against” that person.
- 8.14. Siding with oppressed groups should not be considered “discrimination against” persons belonging to the oppressive group.

9. Misconduct

- 9.1. Misconduct occurs when a member is found to have acted or be acting in an offensive manner towards another member.
- 9.2. Depending on the degree of misconduct, the guilty member may face a simple warning, a Special Disciplinary Committee, or immediate suspension from the organisation.
- 9.3. In accordance with Section 9.2, the Politburo may ask the Secretariat to simply issue a warning if the offence is found to be forgivable or correctable.
- 9.4. In accordance with Section 9.2, and as outlined in Section 11, the Politburo may convene a Special Disciplinary Committee to determine a resolution to the matter if it is deemed neither too major nor too minor, and if it is more of an offence against the organisation than an offence against a member.
- 9.5. In accordance with Section 9.2, the Politburo may immediately suspend a member indefinitely if allegations include abuse, harassment, sexual violence, or any form of unacceptable and unreasonable violence.
- 9.6. The Politburo may ask the Secretariat to issue a restraining order, which would bar the alleged offender from attending physical meetings or events where the victim may be, while investigations are ongoing.

10. Suspension of Membership

- 10.1. Membership may be suspended, in which a member's status will be noted as "Suspended" or reverted to the status of observer, depending on the circumstance.
- 10.2. A member is not required to pay fees for the period of time that their membership has been suspended.
- 10.3. A member may voluntarily ask to have their membership reverted to observer status indefinitely, or for a specific period of time. Such a member will be considered an observer, as noted in Section 15.4
- 10.4. Membership may be considered to be suspended if fees are outstanding for more than 3 months. Such a member will be treated like an observer, as noted in Section 15.3.
- 10.5. A Special Disciplinary Committee may suspend a member indefinitely, as outlined in Section 11 and with the effect noted in Section 15.3.
- 10.6. Membership status may be reinstated when a suspended member reassures the Politburo that they are suitable to remain a member of the organisation.

11. Special Disciplinary Committees

- 11.1. A Special Disciplinary Committee may be convened if the Politburo finds a member to be acting against the interests of the party, if the conditions in Section 11.2 are satisfied.
- 11.2. A Special Disciplinary Committee may only consist of members who joined before the member in question; it must consist of at least 3 such members. This is irrevocable.
- 11.3. The Politburo must invite all eligible persons to sit on the Special Disciplinary Committee, to invite them to volunteer.
- 11.4. If no one volunteers to sit on the Special Disciplinary Committee within 3 months of being invited, the issue will be dropped, unless it involves sexual violence, criminal charges, or otherwise violates the constitution.
- 11.5. When the first 3 members volunteer and notify the Politburo, the Politburo must notify the member in question, and the Special Disciplinary Committee must meet within 3 months of the member in question being notified.
- 11.6. Additional members may be added to the Special Disciplinary Committee, if they meet the conditions in Section 11.2.
- 11.7. If there are at least 3 volunteers for the Special Disciplinary Committee who meet the conditions in Section 11.2, and if the member in question fails to appear before the Special Disciplinary Committee within 3 months, the member in question may be suspended indefinitely.
- 11.8. If the Special Disciplinary Committee convenes, the Politburo and the member in question may present their cases for the Special Disciplinary Committee to make a decision. Members of the Special Disciplinary Committee may vote on whether they believe that the member in question has done wrong or not; members may not abstain. If more than a half of the members of the Special Disciplinary Committee find the member in question to be wrong, the member in question is suspended indefinitely.
- 11.9. The Politburo may overturn any suspension that is done “indefinitely”, as stated in Section 10.6.

12. Observer Status

- 12.1. Observers will not have any voting power at the Units, Party Congress, Central Committee, Politburo, or any other body of the organisation that represents the general membership. This is irrevocable.
- 12.2. Observers will have the right to speak when they are invited to the convention of any of the organisation's bodies.
- 12.3. The Chairperson may arbitrarily dismiss observers from any convention of any of the organisation's bodies.
- 12.4. The Politburo may arbitrarily suspend or revoke the observer status that has been granted to any individual or organisation.

13. Organisations

- 13.1. Organisations may be granted Observer Status in an official capacity, where a delegation from such an organisation is sent to represent it at meetings held by the organisation.
- 13.2. Organisations may be granted official representation in the composition of a Policy Committee and will therefore be allowed to vote where their voting weight is clearly stated in the composition of the committee.
- 13.3. Observers may not collectively possess more than one third of the voting weight within any single body or committee.

14. States

- 14.1. Any state recognised by the party may have a designated person granted Observer Status in an official capacity, where their diplomats or other officials are allowed to attend conventions of the organisation's bodies.
- 14.2. The Politburo decides which states are recognised by the party.

15. Individuals

- 15.1. Unofficial observer status is given to persons who have attended at least 4 meetings but have not submitted a registration form to the party.
- 15.2. Official observer status is given to persons who have submitted a registration form to the party, thereby providing the party with a file to keep on permanent record.
- 15.3. Unofficial observer status is given to members who have been suspended for any reason; "Suspended" will be their official status.
- 15.4. Official observer status is given to members who voluntarily ask for their membership to be reverted to observer status.

16. Assimilation

- 16.1. An existing entity – whether a group, club, association, party, or whatever else – may assimilate itself into the organisation by becoming one of its units.
- 16.2. To assimilate itself into the organisation, an entity needs to pass a resolution recognising this constitution, and at least 3 members of the existing entity must become members of the organisation.
- 16.3. After becoming a part of the organisation, an existing entity is not required to change how it operates internally unless it violates this constitution.
- 16.4. An existing entity may retain its internal leadership structure, but its delegates to the organisation must be elected by the method outlined in this constitution.
- 16.5. An existing entity may retain its internal meeting style, but it must submit meeting reports like any other unit in the organisation.

Party Membership Structure

17. Units

- 17.1. The base level of the organisation is the unit. Members will interact with their respective units more frequently than they interact with other bodies within the party.
- 17.2. Cadre units are tight-knit political groups that mainly consist of partisans and cadet partisans, whereas people's units are non-political groups based in communities or locales that welcome associates to get involved in the organisation's projects. At-large units are for persons who have difficulty being placed in a suitable or convenient cadre unit or people's unit.
- 17.3. Each unit must meet at least once per month to facilitate discussion and development of members' concerns and ideas.
- 17.4. Each unit is allowed to pass its own resolutions, representing the views and official stances of its membership.
- 17.5. Every member of the organisation is allowed to be a member of 1 unit. A member of the organisation may not officially be a member of 2 or more units at the same time.
- 17.6. Each unit will have a Senior Delegate, who is responsible for organising and conducting meetings, as well as communicating with other bodies in the organisation.
- 17.7. The Senior Delegate is responsible for sending periodical reports to inform the Secretariat of which members and observers attend its meetings.
- 17.8. The Senior Delegate of a unit may be alternatively referred to as the "unit leader" or "unit coordinator" in official party material.
- 17.9. Each unit is entitled to send 2 partisans as delegates to the Party Congress if it has at least 4 partisans.
- 17.10. Each unit is entitled to send 2 cadet partisans as delegates to the Party Congress if it has at least 4 cadet partisans.
- 17.11. Each people's unit is entitled to send 2 associates as delegates to the Party Congress if it has at least 4 associates.
- 17.12. Each unit should hold internal elections 3 months before and 3 months after each session of the Party Congress, following an announcement by the Secretariat.
- 17.13. All members of a unit, whether deemed active or not, may vote for its delegates; all delegates are voted upon by all members.
- 17.14. Only "active" members – as defined in Section 17.15 – may run in a unit's internal election.
- 17.15. An "active" member is a member who has attended at least 50% of their unit's meetings since their first meeting or since the last Party Congress, whichever is later.

- 17.16. The date considered someone's "first meeting" in Section 17.15 may be reset after a member has upgraded from observer status, or after a suspension under Section 10.
- 17.17. Each unit should elect its delegates through a system of Approval Voting, as outlined in Section 23.
- 17.18. The candidate with the highest approval rating shall be given the position of Senior Delegate.
- 17.19. If some delegate posts are not filled, the Senior Delegate will be responsible for appointing members of the unit to be delegates.
- 17.20. For the purposes of the following sections, a "local unit" is a unit based in Jamaica, while a "diaspora unit" is a unit based outside of Jamaica.

18. Blocs

- 18.1. Local units may organise themselves into blocs.
- 18.2. Local cadre units may organise themselves into blocs based on ideology, demographics, or geography.
- 18.3. Local people's units may organise themselves into blocs based on geography.
- 18.4. By default, each local unit originally belongs to the "All-Units Bloc".
- 18.5. Each diaspora unit will be a part of a single "All-Diaspora Bloc".
- 18.6. A new bloc requires a minimum of 3 units.
- 18.7. If a unit wants to start or join a bloc, it must hold an internal vote in which at least two-thirds of all the members agree with the decision to start or join the bloc. A report on the vote must be submitted to the Central Committee, which has the authority to accept or reject it.
- 18.8. A "Bloc Council" consists of the delegates from all the units in the bloc.
- 18.9. A Bloc Council may pass a resolution to admit or expel a unit; either action requires two-thirds of all the delegates in the bloc to approve it.
- 18.10. The Bloc Council may elect a President to preside over meetings and votes.
- 18.11. The Central Committee and the Secretariat must be immediately informed of any changes to any bloc, i.e. whenever any unit joins or leaves a bloc.
- 18.12. The Central Committee may force the dissolution of any bloc for any reason.

19. Party Congress

- 19.1. The Party Congress is a representative body for the members of the organisation, which convenes once per year in November, for the purposes of electing the Central Committee and voting on constitutional amendments.
- 19.2. A special session of the Party Congress may be convened in May, after passing a resolution in the Central Committee.
- 19.3. If the number of members in the organisation is lower than 50, then all members are entitled to attend and vote in the Party Congress; otherwise, the number of delegates is determined by the following sections, in which case each unit elects its own delegates as stated in Section 17.12.
- 19.4. Each unit will be entitled to send 2 partisans as delegates, given that it meets the conditions stated in Section 17.9.
- 19.5. Each unit will be entitled to send 2 cadet partisans as delegates, given that it meets the conditions stated in Section 17.10.
- 19.6. Each people's unit will be entitled to send 2 associates as delegates, given that it meets the conditions stated in Section 17.11.

20. Central Committee

- 20.1. The Central Committee of the organisation is its central authority, which has the authority to pass regulations and to oversee the organisation's executive bodies.
- 20.2. The Central Committee is chaired by the First Secretary if one is designated, as outlined in Section 21.5. If one is not designated, or if the purpose of a meeting is to subject the Secretariat to scrutiny, the meeting is to be chaired by the Chairperson or another Member of the Politburo designated by the Chairperson.
- 20.3. The size of the Central Committee is determined by the size of the Party Congress at the time of its election. If the size of the Party Congress is less than 150 delegates, the Central Committee shall have 7 members; otherwise, the size of the Central Committee is the cubed root of the size of the Party Congress (rounded down to 0 decimal places) multiplied by 2, minus 3.
- 20.4. The Central Committee is elected during the annual convention of the Party Congress.
- 20.5. For the purpose of the election, the Central Committee seats may be divided into blocs, as outlined in Section 20.6 and Section 20.7.
- 20.6. Representation of each bloc is proportional to its share of the organisation membership; a system of D'Hondt proportional representation is used to allocate seats to the blocs based on the weight of their membership, where each partisan member holds a weight of 3, each cadet holds a weight of 2, and each associate holds a weight of 2.
- 20.7. The Diaspora Bloc may not have more than 33% of representation in the Central Committee. If the Diaspora Bloc has more than 33% of the membership weight, its representation must be capped at 33%, and the local blocs will share the next 67%.
- 20.8. If a local bloc is not large enough to have a seat in the Central Committee, its units' delegates will vote in the All-Units Bloc.
- 20.9. Delegates may only vote and run within their own respective blocs, i.e. the blocs that their respective units belong to.
- 20.10. Only delegates who are partisans may become candidates for their bloc's seats in the Central Committee, and a system of Approval Voting will be used, as outlined in Section 23. Cadet partisans and associate members may not sit on the Central Committee.
- 20.11. Blocs are only relevant to the composition of the Central Committee at the time of an election. Between elections, changes in blocs will not result in any changes in the Central Committee.
- 20.12. Any spending of the organisation's funds must be approved by the Central Committee.

21. Secretariat

- 21.1. The Secretariat is the executive body of the organisation, which is responsible for organising and carrying out the necessary tasks to ensure that the organisation runs smoothly, and that its goals are met.
- 21.2. The Secretariat is subordinate to the Central Committee and the Politburo; it must therefore answer to the Politburo regarding its work on political goals and to the Central Committee regarding all its work in general.
- 21.3. The Secretariat may exercise autonomy in its execution of routine tasks but must accept guidance from the Politburo when offered.
- 21.4. The Central Committee may pass resolutions to define the portfolios in the Secretariat, and the responsibilities of the Secretary and officers of each portfolio.
- 21.5. The title “First Secretary” is given to the head of the Secretariat when they are a member of the Central Committee and when their responsibilities include chairing the Central Committee, whereas “Secretary-General” is the title given when the head of the Secretariat is not a member of the Central Committee or when the head of the Secretariat is a member of the Central Committee but is not expected to chair it.
- 21.6. Candidates for any position in the Secretariat – including the head of the Secretariat – may be nominated by any Member of the Politburo and must be approved through a vote passed by the Central Committee.
- 21.7. Members of the Secretariat are not required to be members of the Central Committee or the Politburo, except for the head of the Secretariat if they are to go by the title of First Secretary; members of the Secretariat are not prohibited from being members of the Central Committee or the Politburo.
- 21.8. The Secretariat may consist of subcommittees to assist the Secretaries with tasks; the head of each subcommittee is the Secretary, and its other members are officers and members without portfolio.
- 21.9. An “officer” is a member of the Secretariat who is appointed by the Central Committee and ranked lower than a Secretary, while members without portfolios in committees are volunteers who are not necessarily members of the Secretariat.
- 21.10. Observers may sit on subcommittees in the Secretariat, as the Secretariat is not a body that represents the general membership like those stated in Section 12.1.
- 21.11. The Secretariat may issue advisories and directives on its own; these directives outline how the Secretariat intends to go about its actions, and therefore how other bodies in the organisation should best behave to cooperate with the Secretariat.

22. Politburo

- 22.1. All subsections in Section 22 are irrevocable.
- 22.2. The Politburo is the collective leadership of the party, which will serve as the face of the party and make short-term decisions between Central Committee meetings.
- 22.3. The Politburo is elected at the annual convention of the Party Congress; all delegates to the Party Congress may vote, using a system of Approval Voting as outlined in Section 23.
- 22.4. The Politburo is a subset of the Central Committee; therefore, only the newly-elected members of the Central Committee may stand as candidates for the Politburo.
- 22.5. The size of the Politburo is determined by the size of the Central Committee. If the Central Committee has only 7 members, then the size of the Politburo is 3 members; otherwise the size of the Politburo is the cubed root of the number of Central Committee seats (rounded down to 0 decimal places) multiplied by 2, minus 1.
- 22.6. Candidates' rankings in the election will be their ranking in the Politburo.
- 22.7. The highest-ranking candidate will chair the Politburo and be regarded as the Chairperson for the entire organisation. The 2nd and 3rd place candidates will each be granted the role of Deputy Chairperson; if the Politburo has more than 3 members, others will simply be referred to as Members of the Politburo.
- 22.8. The Chairperson may be alternatively referred to as "Chairman" or "Chairwoman" at their preference.
- 22.9. Any decision made by or within the Politburo is simply made with a majority vote, while the Chairperson has veto power.
- 22.10. If any Member of the Politburo – including the Chairperson or any Deputy Chairperson – becomes incapacitated, the next-ranked candidates from the election will ascend the ranks, given that they are still members of the organisation.
- 22.11. The Chairperson possesses veto power within the Politburo; veto power is exercised by the Chairperson simply casting a "No" vote on a resolution. Abstention is not considered a veto.
- 22.12. The Politburo cannot be convened without the presence of the Chairperson.

Voting

23. Approval Voting

- 23.1. All subsections of Section 23 are irrevocable.
- 23.2. Approval Voting refers to the system outlined in the rest of this Section.
- 23.3. In any election, each voter is entitled to the opportunity to cast 1 “Yes” vote for each candidate.
- 23.4. Each voter may cast a “Yes” vote for any number of candidates, whether 1 candidate, multiple candidates, all candidates, or even no candidates.
- 23.5. Candidates are ranked according to their Approval rating, which is the number of “Yes” votes divided by the total number of voters.
- 23.6. In the event that any ties existing in the ranking, each tie is broken by ranking candidates by their ID number, with favourability going to members who joined earlier and would therefore have lower ID numbers.

24. Resolutions

- 24.1. A body in the organisation – whether it is a unit, bloc, or committee – may express its official stance or exercise its authority on a matter by passing a resolution.
- 24.2. A resolution may be voted on without a physical meeting; members of a body may communicate their vote to the head of the body by electronic means that have a timestamp.
- 24.3. The ‘head of the body’ in Section 22.2 refers to the Chairperson in the case of the Politburo, a Member of the Politburo or the First Secretary as outlined in Section 20.2 in the case of the Central Committee, the President in the case of a bloc, or the Senior Delegate in the case of a Unit.
- 24.4. There are 3 types of votes: “Yes”, “No”, and “Abstain”.
- 24.5. At least two-thirds of the members of a body must deliberately vote either “Yes”, “No”, or “Abstain” for a vote to be concluded.
- 24.6. A “Yes” vote indicates support for the stance of a resolution.
- 24.7. A “No” vote indicates opposition to the stance of a resolution.
- 24.8. An “Abstain” vote recognises a resolution as valid but indicates neither support nor opposition towards the stance of the resolution.
- 24.9. Refusing to vote is not automatically considered to be an “Abstain” vote.
- 24.10. Absence occurs when a member of a body has either refused to vote or has failed to communicate their vote to the head of the body by the time that a vote has concluded.
- 24.11. A resolution is passed when it has more “Yes” votes than the number of “No” votes, regardless of the number of persons who choose to “Abstain” on the vote and given that no more than one-third of the members of the body are absent, i.e. at least two-thirds of the members of the body have voted either “Yes”, “No”, or “Abstain”.
- 24.12. A resolution fails when it does not have more “Yes” votes than the number of “No” votes, regardless of the number of persons who chose to “Abstain” on the vote and given that at least two-thirds of the members of the body have voted either “Yes”, “No”, or “Abstain”.