# POINT FOR DISCUSSIONS

## **Discussion Points**

## **Abstract**

[Draw your reader in with an engaging abstract. It is typically a short summary of the document. When you're ready to add your content, just click here and start typing.]

Our Future Name [Email address]















# Agenda May 24-25, 2019 **Omni Shorham Hotel** 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC 20008

Organized By Eritrean communities throughout North America.

Hosted By Eritrean Community for Justice Washington Metropolitan.



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Point of Discussion

North American Eritrean (Our Future Name)

Article I. Vision, Mission, Core Values and Objectives

#### Section 1.01 Vision Statement

Building a more inclusive, sustainable, prosperous and democratic Eritrea whose administrations are accountable to its citizens.

## Section 1.02 Mission Statement

To speed up the salvation of Eritrea and its citizens, facilitate and accelerate the democratization of Eritrea through civic engagement, political participation and fair representations.

## Section 1.03 Core Values and Principles

This core values and principles are a cornerstone of democracy in Eritrea. It enshrines the rights of all people in our country and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

- (a) Core Value
  - (i) (OUR FUTURE NAME) strongly believes that Eritreans are entitled to fundamental and basic human rights to establish a democratic government whose essential powers and authorities are to guarantee the freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of worship and the right to change their government through the democratic process.
  - (ii) (OUR FUTURE NAME) strongly believes that Eritreans are free to make political choices, which includes the right—(a) to form a political party; (b) to participate in the activities of, or recruit members for, a political party; and (c) to campaign for a political party or cause;
- (iii) (OUR FUTURE NAME) strongly believes that democracy involves the right of the people to freely determine their own destiny;
- (iv) (OUR FUTURE NAME) strongly believes that existence of economic, political, social and cultural institutions are the foundations of the democratic process and the best guarantor of individual and group rights and freedoms.
- (b) Principles

(OUR FUTURE NAME) is founded on the following principles:

- (i) Maintenance of our national sovereignty, preservation of the unity of our people and the territorial integrity of Eritrea, within the internationally recognized geographical boundaries.
- (ii) Supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law.
- (iii) Every Eritrean is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in Universal Human Right Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- (iv) No one shall be held in slavery or servitude and no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile in Eritrea.
- (v) No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- (vi) Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
- (vii) Recognition of our citizenship as the basis upon which rights and duties are predicated.
- (viii) Recognition of the religious, cultural and ethnic plurality of Eritrea and commitment to respecting this diversity and its attendant rights and freedoms, in line with the fundamental rights stipulated by international conventions and law.
- (ix) That political power resides with the Eritrean People and is exercised through their elected representatives and free election.
- (x) That all Eritrean languages are national and equal. Every Eritrean community has the right to use and develop its own language.
- (xi) Recognition of the right of any nationality to identify itself using any name it chooses.
- (xii) Pursuance of a foreign policy based on mutual interests and recognition of parity in relations between nations, respect of national sovereignty, and the preservation of peace and the endorsement of international agreements and conventions.

## Section 1.04 Initiatives

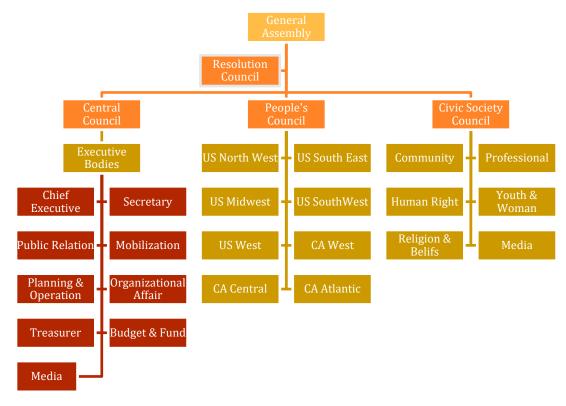
(OUR FUTURE NAME) is an action oriented civic movement that believes in setting tasks and objectives that highlight, resist, protest, persuade, defy, and intervene against tyranny in Eritrea. (OUR FUTURE NAME) takes initiatives, sponsor joint projects, organize events to create awareness, promote justice, democracy and human rights in Eritrea through the following initiatives:

- (a) (OUR FUTURE NAME) will advance public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems in Eritrea by advocating policies that strengthen the Eritrean people's participation in their own affairs. The (OUR FUTURE NAME) is steadfast in advocating public policies whose primary goal is the abolishing of the dictatorial regime in Eritrea and help in the establishment of a democratic government accountable to its citizens.
- (b) (OUR FUTURE NAME) seeks to raise public awareness about the ongoing crimes against humanity that are being committed by the regime in Eritrea. (OUR FUTURE NAME) shall rally the Eritrean people by exposing these criminal acts that are being committed by the current regime daily.
- (c) The (OUR FUTURE NAME) will Investigate, document and expose individuals or regime officials who engage in such acts that violate the god given rights of the Eritrean people.
- (d) Promote dialogue among Eritreans and various organizations on current challenges facing Eritrea. (OUR FUTURE NAME) will also seek to coordinate with other likeminded organizations across the globe. It seeks to narrow differences among various justice seeking organizations to be able to arrive at a consensus platform.
- (e) To educate the Eritrean people and help their community organizations build their capacity so that they can better defend their economic, social and political Rights.
- (f) To assist, protect and defend the rights of Eritrean refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced communities.
- (g) Escalation of the resistance against the undemocratic regime by all possible fair, civic and legitimate means.
- (h) Adopt an approach of dialogue to resolve internal disputes and conflicts at the Eritrean level.
- (i) Consolidation of civic intent and coordination of efforts at all levels to harness popular support for the Eritrean justic seekers and to isolate the regime politically and socially.
- (j) Remedy the crisis of confidence that has prevailed for a long time within the Eritrean people, based on a shared spirit of responsibility.
- (k) Promote alliances, so as to narrow differences and minimize fragmentation and focus on convergence and agreement, including the encouragement of merger between organizations that are close in their orientation.
- (I) Adopt a civic discourse that stimulates the various constituent parts of our society to take their rightful place and support the forces for democratic transformation.
- (m) Instill democratic values, concepts and practices within varoius organizations civic.
- (n) Formulate an action plan for diplomacy, based on the principles of credibility, seriousness and efficiency, and pursue a constructive, fruitful and effective diplomatic approach.
- (o) Build consensus on the detail of our civic discourse, taking into account common civic interests, and based on equalityand parity.
- (p) Support local lobbying by communities, civil organizations and individuals and make use of the opportunities offered by specialized non-governmental organizations.

- (q) Mobilize the entire population at home and abroad to accelerate the pace of democratic change in Eritrea.
- (r) Draw attention to the suffering of the Eritrean people in refugee camps as well as in the Diaspora, by providing healthand education services and by assisting them in their efforts to regularize their status.
- (s) Establish broad umbrella organizations for the various professional unions and associations where they can practice their professions.
- (t) Set a media policy with clear objectives to reflect the magnitude of the challenges facing the Eritrean people.
- (u) Overcome secondary disagreements and create a unified media message, by focusing on the main objectives and by refraining from being drawn into peripheral issues.
- (v) Improve the functioning of the various media outlets and seek to establish a satellite TV channel to serve the objectives of the Opposition, draw attention to the suffering of the Eritrean people and expose the practices and humanrights violations of the PFDJ regime.
- (w) Develop a financial plan to support the funding of the Eritrean justic seekers. Enhance programmes for collectingmembership fees and voluntary contributions, and arrange fund-raising parties and other events in support of the Eritrean justic seekers.
- (x) Continuously appeal to the Eritrean Defense Forces to join the people in their will to change the regime.

#### Article II. Option one Organizational Structure

- (a) OUR ENTITY shall have elected members from chaptered unit and civic societies and collectively they shall be known as the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall be the supreme body of the OUR ENTITY and shall hold office for two years, ending when their successors are elected and installed.
- (b) The General Assembly shall elect the Executive bodies
- (c) (OUR FUTURE NAME) Assembly has the power to enact and repeal all rules/procedures and supervises executive activities through its committees. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for General Assembly shall be prescribed in bylaws.
- (d) Each Council can have certain standing and special committees selected by the council members chairs. All committees appointed under this article shall be approved by and serve at the pleasure of the (OUR FUTURE NAME) General Assembly.
- (e) (OUR FUTURE NAME) Central Council, People's Councils, Civic Societies Councils and the Resolution Council shall select their own council Spokesperson and Secretary.
- (f) Members of the North American General Assembly may not vote at a meeting of the North American Assembly meeting unless his/her delegating chapter have paid chapter due or received a fee waiver.
- (g) No Person shall be a member of the General Assembly unless he/she has been elected by people of the charter, and who shall, when elected, be a resident of that charted unit in which he/she shall be chosen



## Section 2.02 General Assembly

General Assembly consist of -

- (a) Central Council
- (b) People's Council
- (c) Civic Society Council
- (d) Resolution Council

## Section 2.03 Central Council,

The Central Council is elected from the chaptered unites to represent the chapter and to ensure chaptered unit fair representations. It does this by choosing the Executive Bodies, by passing legislation and by scrutinizing and overseeing executive action.

## Section 2.04 People's Council and

People's Council represents the chartered unit to ensure that peoples interests are taken into account. It does this mainly by participating in the legislative process and by providing a forum for public consideration of issues affecting its constituents.

## Section 2.05 Civic Societies Councils.

- (i) (OUR FUTURE NAME) will have the civic society councils and collectively known as the Economic and Social Council of Civic Society. Civil society is the "third sector" of our society that manifest the interests and will of our people.
- (ii) They are grouped into 1) community-based organizations, 2) women's rights organization, 3) faith & belief -based association, 4) professional associations, 5) human right, Civil rights & humanitarian organization and 6) the not-for-profit media groups.
- (iii) To be eligible for status, each Civic Society must have been in existence for at least two years, must have democratically-adopted bylaws, authority to speak for its members, a representative structure, appropriate mechanisms of accountability and democratic and transparent decision-making processes.
- (iv) Each group of the Civic Societies shall delegate one member to the General Assembly.

## Section 2.06 Resolutions council

Five Resolution Council are elected from General Assembly convention from a general public and they shall hear proceedings against Members and shall investigate, arbitrate, resolve, and report on serious disputes which do not fall within the jurisdiction prior to their final resolution by the North American Assembly.

## Section 2.07 Chaptered Unit

- (a) The lowest functional structure of (OUR FUTURE NAME) shall be a chartered Unit.
- (b) Chartered Unit shall be composed of registered members residing in their respective territories.
- (c) There may be no more than one (1) chartered unit in any territory.
- (d) Chartered unit shall be certified by the General Assembly and are subject to renewal at Convention.
- (e) All unit charters that have not been renewed by the close of a Convention shall be terminated at that time.
- (f) Unit charters may be revoked for inactivity or non-compliance with the bylaws.

## Section 2.08 Executive Bodies

- (a) The executive power shall be vested in executive bodies.
- (b) The (OUR FUTURE NAME) shall have 9 members and collectively they shall be known as the (OUR FUTURE NAME) Executive bodies.
- (c) The General Assembly shall elect the following offices 1) Chief Executive Officer 2) General Secretary, 3) Finance, 4) Public Relations, 5) Organizational Affairs, 6) Public Mobilization 7) Budget and fund Raising and 8) Media and Communication, 9) Research, Planning and Operations.
- (d) (OUR FUTURE NAME) North American executive responsibility will be specified in (OUR FUTURE NAME) bylaws.

## Section 2.09 Resolution Council

Five Resolution Council are elected from General Assembly and they shall hear proceedings against Members and shall investigate, arbitrate, resolve, and report on serious disputes which do not fall within the jurisdiction prior to their final resolution by the North American Assembly.

## Section 2.10 General Assembly Convention

- (a) The North American General Assembly Convention shall be the highest authority of the North American Assembly. Convention shall be held in May every three years and place so designated by the General Assembly, pursuant to bids received from interested localities
- (b) The North American General Assembly Convention shall recognize the Charted Unit and Civic Societies entitled to participate in the conduct of the national affairs, including its conventions, conferences and committees.
- (c) The North American General Assembly Convention shall elect executive bodies, adopt a platform and act upon such other matters as it deems appropriate.
- (d) The North American General Assembly Convention shall be composed of delegates equally represented from each Chaptered Unit. The delegates shall be chosen through processes which 1) assure all Democratic process and equal opportunity to participate and 2) assure that delegations fairly reflect the diversity of our people
- (e) The delegate vote allocable to each chartered unit shall be three (3) and the delegate vote allocable to each Civic Society groups shall be one (1).
- (f) In the North American General Assembly Convention, votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.

#### Article III. **Powers**

All affairs of (OUR FUTURE NAME) shall be conducted and powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the (OUR FUTURE NAME) North American General Assembly.