

Rules of Procedure to Implement the Covenant by Political Parties

1.2 Adopting body

These rules of procedure are adopted by the Joint Council established by political parties under article 17(2) of the Covenant the parties signed on 14 March 2019.

1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 “Covenant” means the document on which political parties signed a covenant on 14 March 2019.

1.3.2 “Joint Council” means the Political Parties Joint Council established under part 3, article 14 of the Covenant.

1.3.3 “Chairperson” means the person that is elected as chairperson of the Joint Council in the manner indicated in article 14.4 of the Covenant.

1.3.4 “Inquiry Committee” means a committee that is established by the Joint Council on a temporary basis to investigate and make decisions on each complaint made by a party or parties that are signatories of the Covenant alleging that the Covenant has been violated, in the manner indicated under article 16.5 of the Covenant.

1.3.5 “Party” means a political party that signed the Covenant on 14 March 2019 or a political party that will sign the Covenant in the future.

1.3.6 “Committees” mean committees that the Joint Council constitutes from among its members on a temporary or permanent basis to perform its activities as needed.

1.4. Scope of application

1.4.1 These rules of procedure shall apply to a party against whom a complaint has been lodged.

1.4.2 Provisions set out in the masculine gender in these rules of procedure shall also apply to the feminine gender.

Chapter Two

2. Lodging a complaint, Investigation and Decision Making

- 2.1 A complaint can be lodged to the Joint Council by any party that is a member of the Joint Council that has a grievance, or believes that the Covenant's provisions have been violated, or that things prohibited under the Covenant have occurred, or that a move has been made in a manner that contradicts the Covenant's intent and purpose.
- 2.2 The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary of the Council, may take the initiative to lodge a complaint if they jointly believe there is sufficient grounds to lodge a complaint to the Council.
- 2.3 The above listed complainants must prepare the complaint in writing and submit all evidence they believe will sufficiently prove the complaint.
- 2.4 If evidence that should be presented along with the complaint is not in the complainant's possession, the complainant should indicate where the evidence can be found.
- 2.5 A complaint shall be lodged to the Council's Secretariat located in the premises of the electoral board.
- 2.6 The Chairperson of the Council shall immediately refer the complaint to the Inquiry Committee duly mandated to investigate and make proposals to resolve it.
- 2.7 The Inquiry Committee established to investigate the matter may, if it believes an investigation is needed, notify the party against whom the complaint is lodged to enable it to respond to the complaint and present its own evidence.
- 2.8 The party against whom a complaint is lodged must submit its response within the period of time set by the Inquiry Committee.
- 2.9 After examining the complaint, the response to the complaint and the evidence presented by both sides, the Inquiry Committee will set a date for oral hearings. On this date, both parties must be physically present to plead their respective positions.
- 2.10 After hearing from both sides and weighing the written complaint, the response of the other party and each side's evidence, the Inquiry Committee will make a proposal to the Joint Council on how to resolve the complaint.
- 2.11 The Joint Council may, on the basis of the proposal made by the Inquiry Committee, deploy efforts to first resolve the dispute between the parties through a mediator.

2.12 If the mediator's efforts do not succeed, or if the Joint Council believes that a resolution cannot be reached on the complaint and the proposal of the Inquiry Committee through a mediator, the Joint Council can commence the process of making a decision.

2.13 The Joint Council shall make a decision on the proposal made by the Inquiry Committee through consensus in the Council's general meeting. Notwithstanding this, if the Council's general meeting cannot reach a consensus, a decision can be reached by a 3/4th majority among the parties in attendance in the general meeting.

2.14 If a complaint has not been lodged within three months from the date on which the act that is the reason for the complaint occurred, the complaint shall be barred by the period of limitation.

Chapter three

3. Decision on Penalty

3.1 If the above indicated efforts to resolve the dispute are not successful, the Joint Council may put on notice the party or parties that it finds to be the reason for the complaint by offering them advice to the end of redressing or correcting the wrongful act.

3.2 If the party at fault does not abstain from its wrongful act in accordance with the Council's advice, the Joint Council may issue an official penalty barring the party from voting in the Council's meetings as well as from participating in the Council's committees for a specific period of time.

3.3 For the duration a party is barred from participating in committees in the manner indicated under section 3.2 above, the Council shall appoint another party to serve in the committee as a replacement.

3.4 If the Joint Council is convinced that the wrongful action of the party that is the subject of the complaint has violated the Covenant, and reaches a conclusion that broadcasting the wrongful action on mass media is an appropriate penalty, the Council may issue such a penalty.

3.5 The Council's Secretariat will follow up on the implementation of the above indicated penalties and may, if necessary, set up a temporary committee for this purpose.

- 3.6 Any party against whom a penalty has been issued may, after six months from the date the penalty was issued, request that the Council lift the penalty by indicating that it is remorseful and presenting evidence that it has rectified the wrongful actions it was accused of.
- 3.7 In the event that a request to lift penalties has been submitted to the Joint Council in the manner indicated under number 3.6 above, the Council will examine the request and issue a decision it deems appropriate.
- 3.8 The decision on penalty, the written complaint and response to it, as well as oral arguments and evidence presented by both sides should be recorded and kept on file by the Joint Council's Secretariat and by the parties involved in the dispute.
- 3.9 In case of behavior from Council members that causes disruptions during the Council's meetings, the Council shall record the disruption in its minutes and issue a rebuke. When a Council member commits acts that disrupt meetings repeatedly, the Council may take measures ranging from issuing a warning against that Council member, to barring it from participating in a specified number of Council meetings or from voting in meetings it participates in.
- 3.10 A copy of the decision on penalty will be sent to Board.

Chapter Four

4. Confidentiality

- 4.1 Members of an Inquiry Committee temporarily set up to investigate a complaint and make proposals to resolve it have a duty to keep the details of the matter under consideration in confidence.
- 4.2 The prohibition under article 4.1 above on discussing the matter with or notifying parties that are not connected to or concerned in the matter is applicable during the period where the matter is under consideration by a mediator, to whom the matter has been referred because it was believed that an attempt to reach resolution through a mediation should be made after the Council Chairperson received the Inquiry Committee's proposal on the complaint.

4.3 If the complaint receives a final decision by the mediator or the Joint Council, it will no longer be confidential.

Chapter Five

5. Miscellaneous

5.1 Amendment

The Joint Council has the mandate to amend these rules of procedure at anytime if it believes that they should be amended. The rules of procedure shall be amended if there is a consensus among Council members, or if a consensus cannot be reached, when 3/4th of members agree to the amendment.

5.2 Effective date

These rules of procedure shall come into force from the date of their signing by the members of the Council listed below on today 13th April 2019.

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112	አንድነት ለሰላምና ለእኩልነት ዲሞክራሲ ፓርቲ		
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