

## **Introduction:**

We, the members of the Change for Syria Network (C4S), pledge to work together to establish an effective network that reflects the aspirations of those concerned with Syrian affairs, both within and outside Syria. We strive to create a network based on cooperation, transparency, the promotion of human rights, safeguarding freedoms, and preserving Syria's heritage and diverse identities. This constitution aims to guide the network's work toward achieving its goals within a sustainable framework.

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## **Article 1: Name and Purpose**

### **Section 1: Name**

The network is called the "Change for Syria Network" (C4S).

### **Section 2: Purpose**

**Vision:** A democratic, secular Syria founded on the principles of equal citizenship that ensures human rights inside and outside Syria.

The network aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Increasing the participation of those concerned with Syrian affairs in civic, political, and cultural events.
  - Building bridges of communication among networks, individuals, organizations, and Syrian civil societies locally and internationally to promote sustainable political, social, and cultural cooperation.
  - Protecting and promoting Syria's diverse cultural heritage.
  - Preserving Syrian narratives and experiences.
  - Supporting and guiding initiatives aimed at achieving justice and peace in Syria based on UN resolutions and in line with the network's vision.
  - Advocating for the rights of Syrians at all levels and amplifying their voices in decision-making centers.
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## **Article 2: Membership**

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

Membership is open to all individuals concerned with Syrian affairs who adopt the network's goals and commit to its values.

## Section 2: Membership Criteria

- Members must be at least 18 years old, with a special emphasis on encouraging youth (ages 18–25) to join.
  - Commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and cultural diversity.
  - Details regarding membership categories, application procedures, and responsibilities are outlined in the Membership Mechanism document.
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## Article 3: Governance Structure

### Section 1: General Assembly

- The General Assembly is the highest authority and source of legitimacy within the network and consists of all members.
- It convenes at least once a year to review reports and elect the Executive Committee.
- Decisions concerning the network are made through member voting during General Assembly meetings.

### Section 2: Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee oversees key roles:
  - **Strategic Oversight:** Provides high-level guidance and ensures the network stays on track with its objectives.
  - **Decision-Making:** Addresses major decisions, such as approving changes in scope, resources, or timelines.
  - **Risk Management:** Identifies, discusses, and mitigates risks associated with the network.
  - **Accountability:** Ensures the network is meeting milestones and delivering expected results.
- Members are elected for a one-year term, renewable once, as per the internal regulations.
- It consists of one representative from each Executive Office (political, civic, cultural), one member from the Administrative Body, and one member from the General Assembly.
- Transitional processes last no less than three months to ensure smooth handovers.

### Section 3: Administrative Body

- The Administrative Body manages the network's daily operations and represents it legally and externally.
- It includes a Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, General Secretary, and heads of Finance, Public Relations, Programs and Projects, Legal Affairs, and Technology.
- Administrative Body members cannot simultaneously serve on the Steering Committee or Executive Teams to maintain checks and balances.

## **Section 4: Advisory Board**

- The Advisory Board provides strategic advice and support to the Steering Committee.
- Members are experts in relevant fields and must be approved by the General Assembly.

## **Section 5: Offices and Executive Teams**

- Specialized committees and working groups can be formed within the offices to implement initiatives and programs.
  - Teams can focus on specific projects such as education, health awareness, economic empowerment, etc.
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# **Article 4: Elections and Appointments**

## **Section 1: Nominations and Elections**

- The Steering Committee is elected during the General Assembly's annual meeting.
- The nomination process opens and closes during the same meeting, with voting conducted through a secret ballot.

## **Section 2: Appointment Mechanism During Transitional Periods**

- During transitional periods, the General Assembly nominates interim Executive Committee members until the next general meeting.

## **Section 3: Voting Validity**

- **Steering Committee:** Decisions are valid with a 50% +1 quorum.
  - **General Assembly:** Voting is valid with:
    - A quorum of 50% +1 of active members.
    - Simple majority decisions requiring 50% +1 agreement.
    - Supermajority decisions requiring a 2/3 +1 agreement.
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# **Article 5: Meetings**

## **Section 1: Annual General Meeting**

- The General Assembly convenes annually, called by the Steering Committee and organized by the Administrative Body, to review reports and elect the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee presents an annual report on financial performance, achievements, and future plans.

## **Section 2: Steering Committee Meetings**

- The Steering Committee meets monthly to make operational decisions and coordinate between Executive Offices.
- It is responsible for maintaining communication with the General Assembly members.

## **Section 3: Emergency Meetings**

- Emergency meetings can be called upon the request of one-third of the General Assembly members or the Steering Committee.
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# **Article 6: Decision-Making**

## **Section 1: Voting System**

- All strategic decisions in the Steering Committee are made by consensus.
- Decisions in the General Assembly require a simple majority, except for constitutional amendments or network dissolution, which require a two-thirds majority.

## **Section 2: Conflict Resolution**

- Conflicts among members are resolved per the Code of Conduct (using internal or external mediators).
  - Conflicts concerning operational decisions are addressed by the Steering Committee.
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# **Article 7: Code of Conduct**

Members must adhere to the Code of Conduct, available in the internal network regulations.

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# **Article 8: Financial Management**

## **Section 1: Funding Sources**

- The network aims to diversify funding through small donations, grants, and partnerships with international institutions, aligning with its vision.
- An annual budget is approved by the General Assembly and audited by the Financial Review Committee.

## **Section 2: Financial Auditing and Transparency**

- Annual financial audits are conducted to ensure accountability.
  - Regular financial reports are presented to the General Assembly for transparency.
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## **Article 9: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Proposal Process**

- Active members with at least one year of membership can propose constitutional amendments directly to the Steering Committee, which prepares them for a General Assembly vote.
  - Internal regulations (membership, Code of Conduct, etc.) can be amended by a simple majority vote during the annual meeting.
  - Constitutional articles require a two-thirds majority vote for amendments.
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## **Article 10: Dissolution of the Network**

### **Section 1: Dissolution Procedures**

- The network can be dissolved by a two-thirds General Assembly vote after all internal solutions are exhausted and relevant committees are consulted.
  - Upon dissolution, remaining assets will be distributed to non-profit organizations with similar goals.
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## **Article 11: Data Protection and Privacy**

### **Section 1: Data Policy**

- The network commits to protecting members' personal data per international and local data protection laws.

### **Section 2: Member Consent**

- Members' consent is required before collecting or using personal data.
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## **Article 12: Evaluation and Review**

The constitution will be reviewed periodically every three years to ensure it aligns with the organization's needs.

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**Conclusion:**

This constitution provides the organizational framework for the Change for Syria Network (C4S) and aims to promote solidarity among members while achieving the shared goals of Syrians inside and outside the country.