

Araromi Youth Advocacy (AYA) Constitution

Preamble

We, the youth of Araromi Ekiti, recognizing the need for a unified and inclusive platform to empower and develop the welfare of our community, do hereby establish the Araromi Youth Advocacy (AYA) as an autonomous organization committed to advancing leadership, academic excellence, community engagement, and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Article I: Name and Identity

The name of this organization shall be Araromi Youth Advocacy (AYA), hereinafter referred to as "AYA."

Article II: Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Section 1: Vision

To create a thriving, self-sustaining youth community in Araromi Ekiti where every young person has the opportunity to realize their full potential, contribute positively to society, and lead with confidence and integrity.

Section 2: Mission

To empower the youth of Araromi Ekiti through innovative and inclusive development programs, enhancing leadership skills, educational opportunities, health and well-being, and community engagement.

Section 3: Core Values

- **Empowerment:** Providing youth with the tools, opportunities, and support they need to take charge of their futures and become leaders in their community.
 - **Inclusivity:** Creating a welcoming environment where all youth have equal access to programs and resources.
 - **Sustainability:** Promoting long-term impact through sustainable practices and community involvement.
 - **Collaboration:** Building partnerships with local organizations, stakeholders, and international bodies to maximize impact.
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Article III: Objectives

1. To provide leadership training through the Youth Leadership Academy.
2. To support academic excellence through scholarships and mentorship programs.
3. To promote physical health and community spirit through the establishment of a Community Sports Center.
4. To drive civic engagement through Community Service Projects.
5. To ensure sustainability and continuity of the 10-Year Youth Development Plan.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership is open to all individuals aged 15–40 years residing in or originating from Araromi Ekiti. Individuals above 40 may participate as Advisory Members, with limited voting rights

Section 2: Rights of Members

- Participate in all AYA programs and initiatives.
- Vote in elections and constitutional amendments.
- Run for leadership positions as outlined in this constitution.

Section 3: Duties of Members

- Uphold the vision, mission, and values of AYA.
- Actively participate in programs and initiatives.
- Contribute to the sustainability of AYA through agreed dues and contributions.

Section 4: Membership Dues

- The General Assembly shall determine the amount of membership dues based on recommendations from the Executive Leadership and Finance Committee.
- Dues shall be reviewed periodically to ensure sustainability.

Article V: Governance Structure

Section 1: General Assembly

- The highest decision-making body, comprising all registered members.
- Responsibilities include:
 - Approving the annual budget.
 - Appointing the Advisory Board.
 - Electing leaders.
 - Amending the constitution.

Section 2: Executive Leadership

- Elected representatives responsible for day-to-day operations.
- Positions and their roles include:

President

- Provides overall leadership and vision for AYA.
- Represents AYA in all official capacities.
- Presides over Executive Leadership and General Assembly meetings.
- Approves major initiatives and partnerships.

Vice President

- Assists the President in all duties.

- Acts as President in their absence.
- Oversees special projects and committees.

Secretary

- Maintains all official records and documentation.
- Prepares meeting agendas and minutes.
- Handles official correspondence.

Financial Secretary

- Manages financial records and reports.
- Oversees budget planning and financial sustainability.
- Works with the Finance Committee to ensure transparency.

Public Relations Officer (PRO)

- Handles communication, public relations, and branding.
- Manages AYA's website and social media accounts.
- Engages with media and stakeholders.

Program Coordinator(s)

- Plans and executes AYA programs.
- Works with committees to ensure effective implementation of initiatives.
- Tracks and evaluates project progress.

Women's Representative

- Advocates for gender inclusivity.
- Ensures the active participation of women in AYA programs.

Farmers' Representative

- Represents youth farmers and agribusiness interests.
- Works to support sustainable agriculture initiatives.

Section 3: Advisory Board

- Composed of 7 members, including the Grand Patron and Matron (the King and Queen) as non-voting members.
- Roles include:
 - Providing mentorship and oversight.
 - Reviewing and approving major proposals.
 - Mediating conflicts.

Section 4: Youth Leader (Ex-Officio)

- The Olori Odo of Araromi Ekiti shall serve as an ex-officio member with voting rights.
 - The Olori Odo shall represent youth interests in leadership discussions.
 - The Olori Odo will provide guidance and ensure that the views and interests of the youth of Araromi Ekiti are represented in all significant decisions.
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Article VI: Elections

1. Special Committee for the First Election:

- A special electoral committee shall be formed for the first election, composed of impartial members appointed by the General Assembly.
- Voting will be conducted online (virtual) to ensure inclusivity and transparency.

2. Subsequent Elections:

- Elections shall be conducted every 4 years by an electoral committee approved by the General Assembly.
- All eligible members may vote and contest in elections.

3. Election Procedures:

- Nominations, campaigns, and voting guidelines shall be defined by the electoral committee.
 - Voting can be conducted online or through physical ballots, depending on circumstances.
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Article VII: Committees

Statutory Committees for AYA

1. **Finance Committee:** Oversees financial management, fundraising, and budgeting.
2. **Program & Events Committee:** Plans and coordinates AYA initiatives and events.
3. **Ethics Committee:** Mediates conflicts and ensures adherence to the code of conduct.
4. **Monitoring & Evaluation Committee:** Tracks progress and impact of AYA programs.

Statutory Committees for the Advisory Board

1. **Conflict Resolution Committee:** Mediates disputes involving the Advisory Board or between the Advisory Board and the Executive Team.
 2. **Strategic Planning Committee:** Guides long-term organizational planning and growth.
 3. **Finance Oversight Committee:** Monitors the use of funds and ensures financial accountability.
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Article VIII: Meetings and Quorums

Section 1: General Provisions

- All meetings shall be announced in advance, with proper notice given to members (minimum of 7 days for ordinary meetings and 14 days for special meetings).
- Meetings can be held in-person or virtually (online), ensuring accessibility for all members.

Section 2: General Assembly Meetings

1. Frequency:

- The General Assembly shall meet biannually (twice a year).
- Additional special meetings may be called by the Executive Leadership, Advisory Board, or upon request by at least 20% of members.

2. Quorum:

- A quorum for General Assembly meetings shall be one-third (1/3) of registered members.
- In the absence of a quorum, the meeting may be adjourned and reconvened within 14 days, at which time decisions may be made regardless of attendance, provided prior notice is given.

3. Decisions:

- Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote (50% + 1) of members present, except for constitutional amendments, which require a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

Section 3: Executive Leadership Meetings

1. Frequency:

- The Executive Leadership shall meet monthly to discuss operational issues and monitor the progress of programs.
- Emergency meetings may be convened by the President or by a written request from at least 3 members of the Executive Leadership.

2. Quorum:

- A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Leadership members.

3. Decisions:

- Decisions are made by a simple majority vote.
- In the case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 4: Advisory Board Meetings

1. Frequency:

- The Advisory Board shall meet quarterly (4 times a year).
- Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Advisory Board or by request from at least 4 members of the Board.

2. Quorum:

- A quorum shall consist of seven (7) members of the Advisory Board.

3. Decisions:

- Decisions require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present.

4. Role in Proposals:

- All proposals from the Executive Team must be reviewed and approved in Advisory Board meetings before being implemented.

Section 5: Statutory and Ad-Hoc Committees Meetings

1. Frequency:

- Committees (both statutory and ad-hoc) shall meet as often as required to fulfill their mandates, with a minimum of 4 meetings per year.
- Committee members shall determine additional meetings based on workload.

2. Quorum:

- A quorum shall consist of 50% + 1 of the committee's members.

3. Decisions:

- Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of members present.

Section 6: Electoral Committee Meetings

1. Frequency:

- The Electoral Committee shall meet as needed, especially during election periods.
- Regular updates must be shared with the General Assembly to maintain transparency.

2. Quorum:

- A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the committee members.

3. Decisions:

- All decisions must be reached by consensus or a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Section 7: Special Committees for the First Election

1. Meetings:

- The special committee for the first election shall meet weekly until elections are conducted.

2. Quorum:

- A quorum shall consist of 50% + 1 of the committee members.

3. Reporting:

- The special committee shall report directly to the General Assembly to ensure the credibility and transparency of the election process.
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Article IX: Financial Management

Section 1: Funds Management

- All funds shall be deposited into the official AYA bank account.
- Disbursement of funds requires the approval of the Advisory Board and Finance Committee.
- The Executive Team shall submit quarterly financial reports to the Advisory Board.

Section 2: Signatories

- The signatories to the AYA account shall include:
 1. The President
 2. The Financial Secretary
 3. The Chairperson of the Advisory Board
- Two out of the three signatories are required to authorize fund withdrawals.

Section 3: Revenue Sources

- Membership dues.
 - Donations and grants.
 - Fundraising events and partnerships.
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Article X: Sustainability Mechanisms

1. **Youth Development Trust Fund:**
 - Managed by the Finance Committee and Advisory Board to ensure financial stability for future projects.
 2. **Annual Strategic Plan:**
 - Updated yearly by the Executive Team with input from the Advisory Board and General Assembly.
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Article XI: Amendments

- Amendments require a two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly after review and approval by the Advisory Board.
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Article XII: Dissolution

- In the event of dissolution, all remaining assets shall be transferred to a community-managed trust fund dedicated to youth development initiatives.

Article XIII: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Amendments Committee

Section 1: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Committee

Mandate:

The M&E Committee is responsible for tracking the progress, effectiveness, and impact of AYA's programs, ensuring transparency and accountability in organizational operations.

Composition:

1. The M&E Committee shall consist of 7 members, including:
 - 2 representatives from the Advisory Board.
 - 2 members from the Executive Leadership.
 - 3 General Assembly members appointed during a General Assembly meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Define and update Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for all programs and initiatives.
2. Develop an annual M&E framework and timeline for program evaluation.
3. Conduct surveys, interviews, and data collection to assess program outcomes.
4. Prepare and present quarterly and annual M&E reports to the Advisory Board and General Assembly.
5. Recommend improvements to ongoing programs and initiatives.

Processes:

1. Establish an M&E Plan at the beginning of each program, including baseline data, targets, and evaluation timelines.
 2. Collect data through direct observation, stakeholder feedback, and community surveys.
 3. Conduct program evaluations mid-term and at the end of each initiative to measure results.
 4. Share findings transparently with stakeholders during biannual General Assembly meetings.
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Section 2: Amendments Committee

Mandate:

The Amendments Committee ensures that the AYA Constitution remains relevant, adaptive, and reflective of the organization's evolving needs.

Composition:

1. The Amendments Committee shall consist of 5 members:
 - 2 representatives from the Advisory Board.
 - 1 representative from the Executive Leadership.

- 2 General Assembly members.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Review the constitution biennially or as requested by the General Assembly.
2. Draft proposed amendments and submit them to the Advisory Board for review.
3. Facilitate discussions on proposed amendments during General Assembly meetings.
4. Ensure alignment of all amendments with the mission and vision of AYA.

Processes:

1. Any member may propose an amendment, which must be submitted in writing to the Amendments Committee.
 2. The committee reviews the proposal, ensuring it aligns with the AYA vision, mission, and core values.
 3. Approved proposals are submitted to the Advisory Board for review and comments.
 4. The final draft is presented to the General Assembly for approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
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Article XIV: Dispute Resolution and Ethics Committee**Mandate:**

The Dispute Resolution and Ethics Committee ensures that all conflicts within AYA are resolved amicably, fairly, and transparently while upholding the organization's ethical standards.

Composition:

1. The committee shall consist of 6 members, including:
 - 2 Advisory Board representatives.
 - 2 Executive Leadership members.
 - 2 members appointed by the General Assembly, ensuring gender representation.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Mediate disputes involving members, committees, or leadership teams.
2. Investigate breaches of ethical conduct or violations of the AYA Constitution.
3. Recommend sanctions or corrective actions for individuals or groups found in breach of the constitution or ethical standards.

4. Provide quarterly reports to the Advisory Board and General Assembly on disputes resolved and ethical compliance.

Processes:

1. **Filing Complaints:**

- Any member may file a formal complaint in writing to the Dispute Resolution and Ethics Committee.
- Complaints must include details of the issue, parties involved, and any supporting evidence.

2. **Investigation and Mediation:**

- The committee investigates the complaint through interviews, documentation reviews, and evidence collection.
- A mediation session is organized with all involved parties to resolve the issue amicably.

3. **Resolution:**

- If mediation fails, the committee submits a resolution report to the Advisory Board for final approval and implementation.
- Corrective actions, sanctions, or suspensions must align with the AYA Constitution and organizational values.

4. **Appeals:**

- Parties unsatisfied with the resolution may appeal to the General Assembly, where the decision will be reviewed and finalized.

Code of Ethics:

1. All members must adhere to principles of honesty, integrity, respect, and accountability.
2. Members in breach of these principles will face disciplinary actions ranging from warnings to suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity of the violation.