

The GAMBIA TEACHERS UNION
2014 National Delegates Congresses
Standing Orders

A. Preamble

- 1 The Congress Task Team (CTT) shall provide technical and policy guidance on all matters related to Congress and its attendant issues.
- 2 The ruling of the President (Chair) on any question related to the Standing Orders or on points of order or explanation shall be final. For any dissenting views to be honoured, at least seven congress delegates must challenge the President's decision with 2/3s of the delegates present voting against the Chair's ruling;
- 3 The Chair may invite non-members, prospective members, GTUWW & CCU Executive and Board members and Full Time Officers of the Union to attend as observers;
- 4 Smoking is not permitted within the congress premises.

B. Notice

- 5 Delegates Congress notices shall be sent through Regional Executive Committees (RECs), GRTS and/or the Print Media for publicity;
- 6 The Agenda for the NDC shall include:

* **DAY 1**

- .a. Prayers
- .b. Ascertainment of quorum and apologies
- .c. Presentation of Reports
 - .c.1. Activity Report by General Secretary and Discussions
 - .c.2. Financial Report by National Treasurer & Discussions
- .d. Presentations of the Draft Resolutions
- .e. Presentation of Candidates and Reading of Manifestoes
- .f. Vote of Thanks
- .g. Socialization and Campaigns

* **DAY 2**

- .a. Prayers
- .b. Opening ceremony
 - .b.1. Introduction of Chairman by MC
 - .b.2. Welcome Address by Chairman
 - .b.3. Fraternal Messages
 - .b.4. Key Note Address/Opening Statement
 - .b.5. Dissolution of NEC
 - .b.6. Vote of Thanks and Announcements
 - .b.7. Closing Prayers
- .c. Lunch
- .d. Elections and Declaration of Results
- .e. Oath-of-Office
- .f. Departure Formalities

C. Voting

- 7 The NDC delegation is open only to Elected School Representatives (by their respective Regional Congresses) as prescribed by the GTU Constitution, all Regional Executive Committee Chairs, GTUWW/CCU Regional Reps, GTU MoBSE Focal Persons (Regional and HQs) and NEC members. The staff shall have no voting rights.
 - The size of the Regional delegation shall be as follows
 - Regions 1 & 2, 30 delegates each with at least 11 females (each)
 - Regions 3 to 6, 20 delegates each with at least 7 females (each)
- 8 In the event of votes being equal the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 9 No resolutions passed by the Congress shall be rescinded or amended at the same meeting at which it was passed, except with the consent of two-thirds majority of congress members present and voting.
- 10 Voting of NEC officials shall be by secret ballot for all the business of the National Delegates Congress unless otherwise decided by two-thirds of Congress members present and voting.
- 11 Candidates shall be nominated as prescribed;

D. Motion

- 12 Only Delegates and members of NEC shall take part in voting;
- 13 The Quorum for the NDC is 100 delegates. If the meeting is inquorate, the CTT Chairman/Committee in consultation with the General Secretary shall advise the President on what to do next;
- 14 Any proposal moved, that is, put forward, for adoption by a meeting is a “motion”. The process by which a motion becomes a “resolution” depends on whether decisions are agreed by consensus or by determining the majority view. Decisions shall be favoured by a majority view. If a majority is in favour of a motion, it is “carried” thus forming a resolution. That is, the meeting has resolved to take the point of view and/or course of action detailed in the motion
- 15 A meeting shall not make decisions whilst it is inquorate. The Chair may suspend business until the quorum is re-established or close the meeting
- 16 Motions should normally be submitted in writing to the CTT through the General Secretary. Notice of motions and business items from regions shall be sent to the office of the General Secretary not later than the date specified by the CTT;
- 17 Emergency motions may be included after the opening of the Congress subject to the approval of the 1/3 majority of Congress members present and voting;
- 18 Every motion or amendment at the Congress must be proposed and seconded by members present at the meeting;
- 19 Once moved and seconded, motions and amendments may only be withdrawn with the consent of the meeting;
- 20 When an amendment to a motion is moved, no further amendments shall be discussed until the first amendment is disposed of. However, notice of the wording of any further amendments must be given before the first amendment is put to the vote;
- 21 If an amendment is adopted, the amended motion becomes the substantive motion. After all amendments have been disposed of, the surviving proposition may be put to the vote;

- 22 The mover of the original motion shall be allowed 3 minutes to move and 3 minutes for a “right to reply” to arguments raised against the motion; Other members may speak once on the motion, for 2 minutes, and once on each amendment, for 2 minutes. The mover of the amendment shall be allowed 3 minutes and has no right of reply;
- 23 The Chair shall call a vote immediately after the mover has had the right to reply and no further discussions shall be allowed;
- 24 Speakers should start by stating whether they are speaking in support or against the motion or amendment in question;
- 25 The General Secretary or his/her representative shall at all appropriate times have the right to speak on matters of policy
- 26 Any delegate may for stated purposes move the suspension of the Standing Orders. This motion on being seconded shall be forthwith put to the Congress without debate or amendment and if two-thirds of the delegates present vote in favour thereof, the suspension moved shall immediately take effect. In such instances, the Chairperson shall have the prerogative to preside over the congress,
- 27 The Chairperson reserves the right to suspend any delegate who in his/her opinion misconduct himself/herself and thereby stifling the smooth working order of the Congress Agenda;