

THE REGULATIONS AND BYE-LAWS OF COUNCIL OF IGBO STATES OF AMERICAS (CISA)

Preamble: We the apex organizations of all the Igbo states of Nigeria resident in Nigeria, having recognized the need for Ndiigbo to come together and speak with one voice and act with unity and love for the progress of Ndiigbo, now form a council of all the Igbo states and other Igbo people in other states living in USA/Canada (North America). And having formed the council, we do hereby ordain and make for the council the following rules and bye-laws:

1. Name and Legal status:

The name of the council is COUNCIL OF IGBO STATES OF AMERICAS (CISA) CISA shall maintain a 501 (c) 3 non-profit status under the Internal Revenue Code. It shall be lawful and permissible for the CISA to be registered in any part of United States of America

2. **Motto:** The motto of CISA is “one people, one voice, one destiny“.

3. Aims and Objectives:

- (A) To advocate for NdiIgbo at the highest level.
- (B) To internalize Igbo matters and work for the general good of NdiIgbo
- © To seek to attain one global Igbo voice by perfecting a global Igbo union.
- (E) To render selfless and positive services for the wellbeing of NdiIgbo

4. Membership:

- A. Members of the council are the national association of all the Igbo states that reside in Americas represented by their designated leaders and officials. However any Igbo indigene can become a member only if the indigene is recommended by the president of his/her state national association.
- B. Membership also includes all Igbo speaking people from other states through their Igbo organizations in Americas.
- C. Every member of CISA is a leader in his own right and must be prepared to render selfless and humanitarian services to NdiIgbo.

5. The organs of CISA:

For proper and efficient administration of the council, there shall be the following organs:

1. The board of National presidents.
2. The Governing Council (Supreme Headquarters)
3. The General Assembly (Grassroots Anchor)
4. The Igbo security Council
5. Igbo Economic Council
6. Igbo Social Council
7. Igbo Elder and Trusteeship Council (Advisory Arm)
8. Igbo Legal Defense Council (Legal Department)

9. Igbo Media and Public Relations Council

10. The Secretariat (Department of Administration)

Sub-Councils/Committees

The different organs can have as many sub councils or committees as they find necessary for proper attainment of their goals.

Each sub-council will be headed by as Deputy Secretary General. (DSG). The DSG shall be responsible for organizing, sourcing personnel (with the approval of Board of National Presidents), managing those personnel and be accountable for executing the mandate of CISA governing council.

For one to be qualified to head a sub-council or be a DSG, one must have excellent organizational and leadership skills, must be able to perform team work and a track record of outstanding community service. The Deputy Secretary General has the following responsibilities.

1. Keeping their various Councils fully manned and operational
2. Presenting reports, resolutions and recommendations to the Governing Council.
3. Executing the resolutions duly adopted by the Governing Council.

Each Council shall have considerable latitude to fulfill its mission including the right to hold their own meetings, adopt their own resolutions as warranted and present the Governing Council with modalities for attaining their own mission and shall also have considerable latitude to implement and achieve their mission under the aegis of Council of Igbo States of America.

Notwithstanding the forgoing provisions, each Council shall rely on the secretariat for Budgetary, Publications and administrative support and all substantive resolutions by a council must be presented to and adopted by the Governing Council prior to implementation.

The CISA Governing Council.

The Governing Council Comprises:

- A. The Board of National Presidents;
- B . The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General
- C. Emeritus members of the Governing Council.

Special invitees by the National Presidents such as Ohaneze Liason and the likes may be invited to attend meetings of the Governing Council

1. The Chairman of the Governing Council of CISA is called the National President of CISA and shall be a National President or Representative of a state or Igbo speaking national association.
2. This Position is held on a two year rotational basis of state alphabetical order.
3. The National President and the Executives runs the organization and manages its daily affairs
3. Decisions at the Governing Council shall be reached on the basis of one state one vote. Ndi Anioma and Ndi Rivers shall also have one vote each.
4. The following shall be a format for the Governing Council's regular meetings.
 - i. Report from the Secretariat, including the financial and treasury reports.

- ii. State of the state report by each state national President.
- iii. Matters arising from the states' report.
- iv. Report by DSGs of each organ of CISA
- v. Matters arising from DSGs report
- vi. Report from chairpersons of each special projects of the Governing Council.

A. The Board of National Presidents.

The Board of National Presidents shall consist of all dully recognized Presidents of the National Igbo State Association, and such other associations of Igbo speaking indigenes in other states in Nigeria.

1. A member such as the State National President/Representative in the board of CISA shall be the Chairman of Board of National Presidents.
2. The Board of National Presidents shall be responsible for appointing personal and ensure that CISA has adequate personal to perform its duties effectively and efficiently.
3. The Board of National Presidents are the custodians of CISA ethics, worth and values and as such understands that its mission for Ndigbo is sacred and requires error-free operation by its crew members.

B. The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the grassroot arm of CISA.

1. It comprises all the national Presidents (or their delegates) of all Igbo states and other national associations of Igbo speaking people from other states in Nigeria living in America.
2. It also includes all members of CISA duly admitted into CISA in accordance with CISA rules and requirements.

The duties of the General Assembly include:

1. Organizing annual or biennial "United Igbo Summit for NdiIgbo
2. Adopting a consensus Nigerian Presidential candidate of Igbo extraction by majority vote of CISA accredited affiliates voting their membership interests.
3. Making yearly recommendations for Igbos with outstanding record of public service to NdiIgbo for special citation by the Governing Council.
4. Making non-biding recommendations to CISA Governing Council
5. Remitting operational dues per Capita to CISA for CISA operations.
6. Such other duties and functions as may be found pertinent to CISA's aims and objectives.

c. The Secretary General

1. The Secretary General of CISA shall be responsible for providing administrative and logistical support to the Governing Council and shall work with the respective Deputy Secretary Generals to ensure that resolutions of the Governing Council are duly implemented.
2. The secretary General shall also handle all correspondence of CISA and CISA General Assembly.

There shall be a CISA secretariat.

The secretariat shall comprise the following:

- A. The Secretary General as the head of the secretariat, and Assistant Secretary General.
- B. The Deputy Secretary Generals
- C Assistant Deputy Secretaries as needed who may be called names more appropriate for their functions such as treasurer, Financial Secretary, etc.

The Duties of the Secretariat.

- A. Co-coordinating the various councils within CISA
- B. Recording and Documenting Custodial Services.
- C. Accounting and Budgeting Services.
- D. Treasury and Financial services
- E. Other pertinent administrative services.

The Media and Public Relations Council

This organ is charged with the following three responsibilities:

1. To secure for CISA and NdiIgbo resident in United States and North America as much positive press and positive institutional relations as possible.
2. To promote CISA to the highest level possible and help CISA achieve international concern and activity for Igbo causes.
3. To cultivate relevant relationships with Nigeria media/journalists of Igbo extraction and sensitize them to Igbo advocacy.

Members of this Organ shall be

- A. People that have excellent writing and advocacy skills and are passionate about defending Igbo interest.
- B. Media specialists who meet the requirements of 'A' above.

The Igbo Elders and Trusteeship Council.

This council shall comprise:

- A. Men and women of suitable discretion and maturity appointed by the board of national presidents.
- B. Ex-Presidents of National Igbo Association after severing a one year period as Emeritus members of the Governing Council
- C. Ex-Secretary Generals and Deputy Secretary Generals after serving out a one year period as Emeritus members of the Governing Council.

Duties of the Igbo Elders and Trusteeship Council

- A. It is the Dispute Resolution Headquarters of CISA - both internally and externally and shall have binding authority and final arbitration powers in certain disputes matters properly submitted to it.

B. This council shall be the ambassadors of CISA and present non-biding advisory recommendations on any matter of Igbo interest to the Governing Council.

C. It shall help cultivate a positive communication channels between CISA and other Igbo organizations - particularly Ohaneze and other Nigerian Igbo organizations. In future, CISA shall have a permanent representative at ohaneze drawn from this council.

Election of Officers.

CISA does not hold elections. It officers assume office in the following arrangement:

1. The National President of CISA shall be the duly recognized President or the official Representative of a national Igbo state association or the national president of an Igbo speaking association in USA/North America.

2 The position of National President rotates among the national presidents/ the official representative on alphabetical order of the states/ associations.

3. Other positions shall be by appointment only. Such appointments shall be for a two year tenure and may be renewed. The appointment may be rescinded or re-assigned at any time for cause by the Governing Council.

4. Other than the Deputy Secretary General, other positions within an organ of CISA may be filled by selection as that particular organ desires, subject to the approval of the Governing Council.

I remain

yours sincerely,

Fidex Nwaozuzu Esq.

ASG, Council of Igbo States of America. (CISA)