

Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan

Programme and Internal Regulations

Adopted in the XIIth Congress
(24-26 November 2000)

PART I

PROGRAMME

Preamble:

1- For a long time, the Kurdish nation has been fighting for freedom and the right to self-determination. The entire 19th century bears witness to our nation's bloody past. From the beginning of the 20th century till the Second World War, this struggle has still continued. In the era of the struggle of the freedom-loving people of the world against reactionism and fascism, it was realized that the creation of a political organization capable of directing the struggle of the Kurdish people had become a historic necessity. It was the reaction to such a necessity that the Kurdish people in Iranian Kurdistan, taking advantage of the favourable historical circumstances resulting from the Reza Shah's 20 years of dictatorship, created the Democratic Party of Kurdistan on August 16th, 1945.

Thus, the creation of Democratic Party of Kurdistan was both the product of a historical necessity and an indication of a new awareness and vigilance of the pioneers of the Kurdish people. Since then, Democratic Party of Kurdistan that has gathered together the Kurdish revolutionaries among its ranks is the guide and the organizer of revolutionary struggle of the popular masses in Iranian Kurdistan.

The creation of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan represents a major change in the history of the Kurdish people, and marks the beginning of a new phase in our nation's struggle. It was under the leadership of our Party that the Kurdish people for the first time in their contemporary were able to establish a national government in a part of Kurdistan. The Republic lasted only eleven months, and after setback of the movement of the Iranian people, military dictatorship was once again imposed on all Iranian Kurdistan. However, the Kurdish people did not give up the fight, and still continued their struggle to realize their inveterate ideas.

Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) has left behind 55 years of difficult struggle, full of obstacles, and filled with sacrifices. It is evident that our Party in this period has become more competent, and has earned experiences from the Kurdish people and other nations' struggles.

2- Our era is the period of triumph of democracy, and an era of growth and the development of democratic and liberation forces worldwide. Within this 55 years after the end of the Second World War, widespread political developments have taken place globally that have changed the universal political image. The old colonial system has disintegrated, and dozens of large and small nations have acquired the right to self-determination, and have established their own independent states. In many countries, this political process has been accompanied by deep social changes; for instance, feudal class and feudal relationship have been dismantled, and the path for the development of society has been paved. In short, social forces capable of advancing human society have gained further freedom of action, and the possibility to construct a better, a more developed and humanitarian society has been created.

After the demise of the former Soviet Bloc in 1991, two important issues have gained prominence in the global dimension, and revealed their real value. First, national issue and the necessity to accommodate the national rights of oppressed people of the world. Even though it had been claimed for 70 years that there was not an issue such as national question in the socialist countries, still, when the Soviet system was demolished, and an appropriate opportunity was brought about for the people in these countries, we observed how these people stepped into the centre of struggle and established their national governments.

Second, it was the issue of democracy. This issue that was opposed in major parts of the world under the banner of protecting and defending workers' interests, finally proved its necessity in a way that resulted in the overthrowing of many dictatorial regimes, and many others fearing that they might fall into an uncertain destiny, opened their gates to democracy, and adapted themselves to modern conditions.

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3- The Middle East has taken on a particular importance in international relations, especially in the strategies of the larger states. Geographically, it is the meeting point of the three continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe. Economically speaking, this region is extremely rich in mineral resources, where more than 50% of the world's oil reserves are concentrated.

Moreover, the presence of national liberation movements, especially the Kurdish and Palestinian national movements that are a natural reaction against colonial divisions of the region and the imperialist and colonial policies in the region, have increased the importance and the value of the Middle East in the international forces' calculations and analysis.

All these realities have forged the prominent powers to carefully analyse all the developments and changes of the Middle East, and to be aware of any events in the region, and react to them. The events of the last 20-25 years, and continued prominence and practical presence of the military forces of foreign states, especially the United States in the region are apparent evidence to such a reality.

4- During the period following the Second World War, Iran was exposed to many economic, social and political transformations. In fact, it was impossible for Iran to remain removed from the considerable developments that had taking place throughout the world. However, the changes that had been introduced in Iran were not in any way reflective of the magnitude of natural and economic resources of our country. Iran is still considered as an underdeveloped country; popular masses still live under utter poverty; large portions of the population, particularly in the countryside are still illiterate and deprived from medical and treatment assistance.

With the coming to power of the Islamic regime in 1979, Iran encountered retrogression from a few directions. While our country enjoyed an abundant natural resources, and even though it was situated within the authority of a dictatorship, it was going to obtain a decent position in the world community, the empowered clerics separated our country from the developed world by adopting policies based on animosity with the civilized developed world, and embarked on dragging the country back into the Middle Ages. Iran's economy that was about to stand on itself, and join the circle of economic powers of the region and the world, encountered disorder in such a way that now it is one of the most unstable economies; for instance, the value of its currency has deflated 11 000 percent on average relative to major world currencies.

Suppression of freedom has become the routine policies of the Islamic Republic authorities. None of the independent parties, organizations and syndicates enjoy the freedom to be active. Individual and collective freedoms have been exploited in its worst methods possible, and any opposition voices have been responded with detainment, imprisonment, torture, and even terror and execution. In this manner, Iran has become a large prison camp for all freedom-loving and freedom-thinking individuals.

5- Economically as well as socially, Iranian Kurdistan is considered as an underdeveloped region within an underdeveloped country. Although Kurdistan is rich in natural and mineral resources, in many aspects it is regarded as one of the most underdeveloped regions of Iran. Social and economic changes, especially industrial do not reach the lowest of the region. In medical and cultural aspects, there has been little or no improvement in the livelihood of Kurdistan inhabitants. The standards of living remains extremely low, and the farmers and workers live in an abject poverty and misery, and the countryside is practically without any form of health and medical services.

National oppression is noticeable in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects: the majority of regional administrators are appointed from centre, and the Kurdish people have little say in the administration of their own affairs; despite the existance of natural resources, no economic or industrial projects is conducted in Kurdistan; no independent political parties, organizations or unions are allowed to operate freely; the Kurdish children are forced to study in Persian in their first year of school, and the right of studying in their mother tongue has been taken away from them; thus, Kurdistan has become a prison for the Kurdish people of Iran.

6- Majority of these shortages and problems had existed in Iran during the monarchical ruling. The 2500 years of monarchical regime in Iran had never allowed our country to take the path of growth and development independently, especially Mohammad Reza Shah, had totally turned Iran into a dependant country and an imitator of Western capitalist countries. Human rights and freedom of masses had been violated, and a deep contradiction between the rulers and the masses of Iranian people had been created, a contrast that its remedy was only a deep populace revolution. At the end, in 1978, the popular masses of Iran entered the stage in an unprecedented way, and after a year of resistance and tolerating countless victims, wound up the 2500 years old monarchy.

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No doubt the revolution of the peoples of Iran that eliminated one of the main forces dependant on imperialism in the Middle East is one of the most important events in the history of our country, and at the same time, it has contained many precious experiences for those fighting for freedom and independence. The Iranian revolution demonstrated that whenever the people of a country break the chains of servitude with sacrifices and unity, no power can bloc their way, and they will finally overcome all the obstacles obstructing victory.

Even though the sombre period of the Pahlavi dynasty's dictatorship succeeded in uniting all the layers of society against the regime of Mohammad Reza Shah, regrettably, the democratic and revolutionary forces of Iran did not possess a common program that would have enabled them to establish a government after the fall of the monarchy. Furthermore, none of the patriotic forces in Iran were capable of uniting the popular masses, and capture political power by themselves; thus, a group of religious and retrograde fanatics, the clerics, exploiting the religious feelings of the population, appropriated for themselves the fruits of a revolution that had been paid for by the blood and tears of the children of the people of Iran, and imposed their domination on the whole of the country.

As a result of such conditions the Iranian revolution remained unsuccessful and failed to fulfil the hopes and objectives of the masses of Iranian people. For such means, thirsting for freedom, the people of Iran confronted the Shah's equipped army with their bare hands, and sacrificed thousands of their children hoping that democratic principles would be established all over the country; the workers who form the majority of the country's population and played a major role in the victory of the revolution, would be saved from misery and the oppressed people of Iran would be granted their legitimate national rights under a democratic regime.

The reactionary elements that grabbed the fruits of the struggle and the sacrifice of the people of Iran, in contrary to the expectations of the popular masses prevented the most sacred wishes of the people to become realized. With the establishment of this reactionary regime, the democratic freedoms have been even more heavily trampled than during the monarchist epoch. The dispossessed and the toiling masses of our country have been confronted with poverty, high cost of living and unemployment more than ever, and the new government has not yet taken any effective steps to solve the many problems of every day of their life. Not only the oppressed peoples of Iran have not yet obtained their legitimate rights, but also all their rightful claims have been responded with fire and blood.

The theocratic dictatorship has been not only unable to tolerate any dissenting opinions, but it has also reacted violently against any form of thinking different from its reactionary beliefs even if they have not opposed the regime. In the course of the past 23 years, the Islamic regime has assassinated more democrats and freedom fighters than the 54 years of monarchical period of Pahlavi.

This dictatorship's unpleasant image was revealed most flagrantly in Kurdistan. Although the Kurdish population had taken on a very active role in the Iranian revolution, and even though through their representatives our people had tried to obtain their legitimate rights in a peaceful way and by negotiations, the reactionary regime of the mullahs not only rejected the rightful claims of the Kurdish people, but it also launched its army into Kurdistan, and issued mass murders. Moreover, Khomeini in contrary to Islamic principles declared a holy war against the Kurdish Muslim population, and proclaimed that it was lawful to murder the young, the old, the men and women of Kurdistan.

It has been 22 years that war has been waged against the Kurdish population. The region has been so much militarised that it has become a large army barrack. Currently, there are thousands of regime's military bases in Kurdistan. In this period more than 4 000 members of PDKI and approximately 50 000 civilians have sacrificed their lives defending their honour and freedom. However, the revolutionary movement of the Kurdish people is more than ever determined to fight against the oppression of the mullahs and continue its resistance in various ways. In such a manner, the reactionary and bloodthirsty regime of Islamic Republic has demonstrated its hostility to the rightful claims of the people and to all the international rules and laws, and has declared war on all the patriotic forces in Iran.

In order to free Iran from oppression of dictatorship, PDKI deems it necessary to establish a democratic system, which will heed the rightful claims of the peoples of Iran instead of the unpopular and reactionary regime of the clerics. Our Party believes that after the present regime is abolished, the people should be allowed to choose their favourable form of republican system freely, and elect a constituent assembly, which will draw up the constitution of the new republic.

7- To achieve the main goals of autonomy within the framework of a democratic system, PDKI considers the unity of the democratic and patriotic forces of Iran as fundamental conditions. Our Party believes that for the democratic movement in Iran not once again find itself without a program, and its achievements

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become plundered, the democratic and progressive forces of Iran must from now on agree on a common platform for the country's future.

To obtain such a union, our Party also fights against the Iranian chauvinism, which denies the existence of the Kurdish people, and against the narrow-minded nationalism of those Kurds who make no distinction between the central dictatorship and the peoples of Iran. Iranian chauvinism and the narrow-minded Kurdish nationalism are both the enemies of the union of the peoples of Iran. At the same time, our Party believes that the danger of arrogant Iranian chauvinism to be a major threat at present times.

It is nearly 22 years that PDKI has led the Kurdish people's uprising against the savage aggression of the clerical regime with competence and skilfulness. The struggle, resistance and sacrifices of our heroic members, supporters and sympathizers have increased the respect and influence of our Party among the masses. PDKI currently has not only been the most widely respected political party in Iranian Kurdistan, but it has also gained the respect of other nationalities of Iran, and of the progressive and anti-imperialist organizations within Iran and abroad. Our Party's strategic slogan (Democracy for Iran and Autonomy for Kurdistan) has become the essential demand of all the Kurdish population and is widely supported by all the progressive forces all over Iran.

PDKI presents this Programme to the people of Kurdistan, and request from all those who live in Kurdistan consisting of workers, farmers, urban and rural toilers, intellectuals, students, civil servants, craftsmen, traders and all patriots of every social stratum to strive for the realization of its objectives. Party members and sympathizers are to circulate the Programme among the Kurdish masses and expound the Party views on political, social, economic and cultural issues. It is necessary that the peoples of other regions in Iran become informed of the Kurdish and our Party's essential claims.

PDKI is the main political force in Iranian Kurdistan that has the support of the majority of the Kurdish population; therefore, we must do all we can to mobilize the considerable forces of our people to carry out objectives that have been put into our Party's Programme. In such a case the Party will become a powerful material force, and will be able to fulfil the legitimate rights of the Kurds in Iran within the framework of a democratic Iran.

PDKI has documented its objectives in this Programme. It will be up to the future autonomous government within a democratic Iran to achieve these goals.

Chapter I

General Objectives

1- PDKI is the pioneer party of the people of Iranian Kurdistan, and together with the progressive forces all over Iran struggles to safeguard Iran's independence, and establish a democratic regime in Iran to obtain the rights of the Kurdish people in Iranian Kurdistan to self-determination.

2- The long-term objective of PDKI is to establish a democratic socialist society.

3- The strategic motto of PDKI is Democracy for Iran and Autonomy for Iranian Kurdistan.

3- PDKI supports the liberation struggle of all the people of the world, and supports peace and friendship of the people in all the countries.

Chapter II

Principles of Autonomy

5- The autonomous region comprises of the whole territory of Iranian Kurdistan. The geographical dimension of the autonomous region of Kurdistan will be defined by taking into account the geographic and economic factors, and the demand of the majority of the people living in every region inhabited by Kurds.

6- In the autonomous region of Kurdistan, the power in its totality is derived from the people, and will be exercised through their representatives at the Supreme Council of Kurdistan (SCK) and the autonomous governmental bodies.

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7- Affairs concerning international relations (political and economic), national defence (the army), long-term economic planning and the monetary system will be the prerogatives of the central government. Aside from the mentioned cases, the legitimacy of administering the governmental institutions in Kurdistan is under the supervision of the Autonomous Government of Kurdistan (AGK). The people of the autonomous region of Kurdistan and their compatriots throughout Iran will take part legally and without any discrimination in the administration of the country's affairs.

8- The SCK is the highest legislative authority in the autonomous region of Kurdistan. The Council's representatives are elected by direct suffrage, secret ballot and equal vote; women and men have equal voting rights to elect or to be elected.

9- The SCK designates the AGK, which will be answerable to the SCK.

10- Internal order and security are in the hands of the Peshmergas and other law enforcing institutions in the autonomous region. The army is responsible to defend the country's sovereignty and national borders, and does not have the right to interfere in maintaining internal security and internal law enforcing affairs.

11- The Kurdish language is the official language of education and correspondence within internal administration in the autonomous region of Kurdistan. At all levels of education, the right to pursue studies in Kurdish for the inhabitants will be recognized, and necessary facilities will be provided. Persian will also be the official language of the region, as well as other regions of Iran, and will be taught in schools along with Kurdish.

The administrative correspondence between the autonomous region of Kurdistan and the central government, and other regional administrations related to the central government will take place in Persian.

All the non-Kurdish inhabitants of the autonomous region of Kurdistan are free to promote their own culture, and they have the right to be educated in their own language.

Chapter III

Rights of the Autonomous Region's Inhabitants

12- All the rights and freedoms defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the conventions related to the Declaration regarding freedom of thought and expression, freedom of the press, freedom of association political and other organizational activities, workers and farmers unions and councils, democratic associations, freedom to choose one's occupations and residence, and finally freedom of religion will be guaranteed in the autonomous Kurdistan as in the other regions of Iran.

All the inhabitants of Kurdistan region have equal social, economic, political and cultural rights without any discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity and religion.

13- Religion is separate from the state. At the same time the AGK supports religious centres, and will grant patriotic religious dignitaries material and moral assistance.

14- Men and women have equal rights within the family and society, and receive equal pay for equal work. The AGK must provide the female workers and employees with 3 months rest with pay for the period before and after accouchement.

Chapter IV

Economic and Social Policy

15- The AGK is responsible for providing economic development basis through scientific planning in the autonomous region. The distribution of resources by the central government will be arranged in a way that the income per capita of the inhabitants of the autonomous region of Kurdistan is more considering its present state of under-development, in order to compensate the effects of under-development resulting from national oppression.

16- Kurdistan and all of Iran's main path to economic development is possible through industrialization of the country through scientific and technological attainments on one hand, and the needs and natural capabilities of the country on the other. Introducing fundamental economic and social changes that are necessary for industrialization is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of the central government and the AGK.

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17- The AGK uses public economic sector, which is considered as the main segment for development, to establish developed industries in Kurdistan, and also supports local and national industries. Aside from the public sector, the cooperative and private sectors also participate in the industrialization of the country.

18- All the mineral resources, including waters, forests and pastures of Kurdistan that are considered as public riches, will be nationalized, and the AGK with the cooperation of the central government will use these resources to the best interests of all the people of Iran.

19- Increasing agricultural production via mechanizing the industry and utilizing scientific methods in agriculture, planning, conducting irrigation programs and the construction of dams comprise major segments of economic policies of the AGK.

20- The AGK will work for the development of domestic trade, and encourage commercial and professional activities in Kurdistan. If and when the implementation of certain economic projects by the public sector at a specific period would not contribute to the country's economic progress, they will be transferred to the private sectors, but through taxes and price controls, the irregular spread of private capital will be prevented. The intention is to make use of all the existing financial resources for the development of Kurdistan's economy.

21- Raising the standards of living, particularly of the toilers of Kurdistan, is the underlying economic policy of the AGK. The AGK will use all the forces and capabilities at its disposal to pull the Kurdistan inhabitants out of the abyss of poverty and privation, and will provide them with a livelihood suitable with the current century.

22- The principle of 40 hours of work a week will be applied everywhere. Workers subjected to hard physical labour must work fewer hours. Minimum wages will be determined taking into account the costs of living, and will increase with the raise in the standards of living. Workers are insured against industrial injuries, sicknesses, disability and old-age. The employment of youngsters below the age of 15 is prohibited. Adequate social and economic conditions should be created to reduce unemployment and eventually to eradicate it.

23- There still exists injustice in agricultural ownership; therefore, it is necessary to introduce important changes into the existing agricultural ownership to the benefit of toiling villagers who own no land. The AGK will assist and support the development of cooperative agricultural societies created voluntarily by the farmers.

24- The AGK must help farmers to attain modern agricultural equipments. Also the AGK must purchase their products at appropriate prices, and grant them long-term loans with low rate of interest. Farmers will gradually be insured first against work symptoms and accidents, and then disability and old-age.

25- Youth are country's future assets; therefore, the AGK pays great attention to the issues of education and training, and provides all necessary training, educational and safe recreational facilities for them.

26- The AGK pays special attention to the issue of livestock, and grants the breeders the most favourable grazing conditions, and acquaints them with modern, scientific breeding methods.

27- The protection of the environment, natural resources, lakes, forests, and protection of wild species such as birds and water creatures are among the major tasks of the AGK; therefore, unregulated and excessive hunting will be prevented. In addition, choosing types and locations of new industries such as building roads and rail roads must take place along with protecting the environment and their compatibility with nature, and particular attention must be paid to the protection of historical monuments and relics of the past.

Chapter V

Cultural and Health Policies

28- All the children in Kurdistan, boys and girls must attend school until fifteen years old. The AGK will endeavour to eradicate illiteracy as quickly as possible. In the autonomous region the government takes care of educational fees for primary studies, and at other levels, education will be free of charge. The AGK also takes care of educational expenses for the children of workers, farmers and other low-income social categories in all educational centres, and it also takes care of university fees for gifted and advanced students of low-income families. Moreover, the AGK will also support denominational schools.

29- The AGK will be committed to develop and increase the cultural level of the population and to create cultural, scientific and sport foundations, such as cinemas, national theatres, sport centres, universities and higher educational centres, and it will do all it can to collect and preserve the cultural heritage of the Kurdish nation.

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30- Paying attention to the development of Kurdish language and literature, and supporting Kurdish writers, artists and scientists will be one of the basic tenets of the autonomous Government's cultural policy.

31- The Kurdish intellectuals will be given employment according to their competence. The AGK will pursue a policy that will encourage experts and intellectuals to serve their country with fervour and dedication.

32- The AGK will strive to improve sanitary conditions for all citizens, and creates conditions to afford every citizen free medical and health services. The AGK will take necessary actions for the creation of convalescent homes, day nurseries, maternity homes, and forborne and will establish specialized institutions for the protection of the disabled and the solitary elderly people.

Chapter VI

Foreign Policy

Regarding foreign policy, which comes under the authority of the central government, PDKI asserts that:

33- The central government of Iran should establish relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect and the recognition of national sovereignty right, and establish friendly relations with progressive and democratic countries that respect human rights.

34- The central government of Iran should support the anti-imperialist and anti-despotic liberation struggle of all the people and should endorse the right of all the people to self-determination.

35- The central government of Iran should defend international peace and peaceful coexistence among the states within the United Nations and elsewhere, and support the resolving of international conflicts peacefully and by negotiations unless the international community deems it necessary to pursue other options.

36- Iran should become a centre for assisting the struggle of oppressed nationalities of the world, particularly those in the Middle East, and it should grant political asylum to the freedom-loving patriots. Within the framework of such policy acknowledged and endorsed by the central government, the AGK will support every means of liberation struggle of neighbouring countries, and will grant political asylum to any Kurdish patriot who seeks asylum.

PART II

INTERNAL REGULATIONS

Article I: Name and Identity of the Party

1- The Party's name is: "Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan" (PDKI).

2- PDKI is the revolutionary Party of the people of Iranian Kurdistan that particularly absorbs workers, farmers, and progressive intellectuals into its ranks.

Article II: Party Membership

All citizens residing in Iranian Kurdistan and all the Iranian Kurds have the right to become members of PDKI on the following conditions:

- Not to be less than eighteen years old.
- To accept the Party's Programme and Internal Regulation.
- To be a patriotic and progressive citizen of certified good character.

N.B.:

None-Iranian Kurds are entitled to join organizations and associations affiliated with PDKI.

Article III: Terms of Admission

For one to be granted membership, one must:

- Be sponsored by two Party members.
- Go through a probationary period of at least six months.
- Not to be member of another party or any other political organization.
- Be accepted with the approval of the majority of the members of a cell or a higher organ of the Party.

N.B.:

Members who have obtained residency abroad, and are recognized as official citizen of that country, can become members of organizations of their residing country.

Article IV: Duties of a Party Member

A Party member is obligated to:

- Work for the realization of the Party's objectives as set forth in its Programme.
- Strive for the preservation of the Party's political and organizational unity with all capabilities.
- Obey Party disciplines as defined in Internal Regulations.
- Be active in one of the Party organs.
- Maintain Party confidentialities.
- Strive to widen her/his level of political and social knowledge and awareness.
- Distribute Party policies among popular masses, and strengthen the Party's relations with the people, and apply their ideas and experiences.
- Pay membership fee.

N.B.:

Individuals who are not in a position to perform the full duties of a member, but have organizational ties with the Party and support its policies are called "organizational sympathizers".

Article V: Rights of a Party Member

A Party member has the right to:

- Be admitted to each organs of the Party.
- Criticize any member or organ during Party meetings.
- Express viewpoints, ask questions or submit proposals to any Party organ via organizational method.
- Lodge complaints against any organ to a higher authority.
- Be present at any meetings of her/his organ that analyses her/his political and Party activeness, and decides about her/him.

Article VI: Punishment of a Member

Members who do not perform their duties or behave in a manner contrary to the Internal Party Regulations or commit acts harmful to the Party's reputation will be punished according to the degree of the offence. Punishments consist of:

- Verbal reprimand
- Written reprimand
- Withdrawal of responsibility
- Suspension of membership
- Expulsion from the Party

N.B.:

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1- The longest suspensions period is one year. The suspended member will be deprived of her/his rights as set forth in Article V for the period of the suspension; therefore, after the end of the suspension period, she/he can be given responsibility according to her/his Party record and the opinion of the concerned organ.

2- Party punishments will be imposed with the agreement of the majority of the members of the Party organ to which the member belongs.

3- The objectives of the punishment is to discipline the member, and will be imposed only when other means such as criticism and advice are not effective in her/his behaviours.

4- An expelled member has the right to appeal to a higher Party authority or can also send her/his appeal to the Congress.

5- A suspended member retains only her/his membership not organizational status after finishing the suspension period.

Article VII: The Organizational Structure of the Party

1-Democratic centralism is the fundamental structure of the Party.

2-Democratic centralism is defined as the following:

- From top to bottom in the hierarchy all Party bodies are elected.
- All the Party organs regularly submit reports of their activities to their respective electorates and to the higher authorities.
- Member is subject to the organization, and minority follows majority of members.
- Party disciplines apply to all the Party members equally without any discrimination.
- A lower level authority must carry out the decisions of a higher authority.
- From top to bottom in the hierarchy, decisions are taken collectively. Self-centredness and egotism is condemned in the Party.

Article VIII: Party Congress

1- The Congress is the most supreme organ of the Party.

2- The Congress convenes every four years. It comprises of main members, alternate and advisory members of the Central Committee, and the delegates of other Party members according to the proportion that the Central Committee determines.

N.B.:

1- Whenever 25 percent of the member-delegates of the Congress for whatever reason leave the ranks of the Party membership, the Congress sessions will become without jurisdiction.

2- Six month before the convening of the new Congress, the meetings of the previous congress can not be concluded unless circumstances have been created that the holding of a new Conference or Congress is impossible.

3- Whenever the Central Committee concluded that it should not decide independently in solving a difficulty, the member-delegates of the Congress will be called to an extra-ordinary meeting. In this meeting a new leadership will not be chosen.

The duties and the powers of the Congress are as follow:

- Discussing the Central Committee's report, and make decisions about it.
- Determining the Party's general, political, strategic and tactical policies.
- Ratification of the Party's Programme and Internal Regulation, and its amendment if necessary.
- Electing main and alternate members of the Central Committee.

N.B.:

1- The Central Committee has the authority to invite Party members with voting rights to the Congress up to a maximum of one-third of its main members. Such an action must take place before conducting conferences, and these invited members lose the right to vote in the conferences.

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2- Any candidate running for election as main or alternate member of the Central Committee must have served in the Party for the period of at least three years.

Article IX: Party Conference

1- The Party's Conference convenes in a case when:

- It is not possible to convene the Congress.
- More than fifteen percent of the member-delegates of the previous Congress have left the Party ranks of active members.
- Issues have emerged that the Central Committee is unable to solve.
- In these cases the Conference will have the same legitimacy as the Congress.

2- The Conference comprises of the main and alternate members and the advisors to the Central Committee, delegates of the district and regional committees as well as delegates of the commissions and committees associated with the Political Bureau.

3- The number of delegates of such committees and commissions will be determined by the Central Committee, but the number of elected delegates must exceed the total number of regular and alternate members and advisors in all cases.

Article X: Central Committee

1- The Central Committee is the highest authority during the period between the two Congresses, and conducts the Party affairs.

2- The responsibilities and the prerogatives of the Central Committee are as follow:

- Implements the decisions of the Congress.
- Is responsible for the establishment of Party relations with other parties and organizations.
- Elects the Political Bureau, and the secretary-general, all of whom are accountable directly to the Central Committee.
- Determines membership fees, and is responsible for the Party's finances.
- Regulates and approves the Internal Regulation concerning the Central Committee and coordination between committees affiliated to itself.
- Convenes sessions at least three times a year. The alternate and advisory members of the Central Committee participate in the meetings of the Central Committee with consultive vote.

N.B.:

1- If necessary, the Central Committee can choose advisors among Party members maximum up to half of its main members.

2- The Central Committee meetings can have a quorum with the participation of two-third of its main members, and the adopted decisions can be certified with the approval of more than half of the main members present at the meeting.

3- No one can be elected to the office of Secretary-general more than two consecutive terms.

4- In the absence of Secretary-general for more than a week, one of the Political Bureau members proposed by Secretary-general will take on her/his duties.

Article XI: Political Bureau

1- During the period between the two meetings of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau takes over the Central Committee's duties and is responsible for the implementation of its resolutions.

2- The Political Bureau convenes based on necessity and submits reports on its activities to the Central Committee.

Article XII: Organizational Structure of the Party

1- The basis of Party organization is cell. The number of members of a cell should not be less than three.

2- The Party's organization is led by the village committee for the village, the district committee for the district, the regional committee for the region, the town committee for the town, and the provincial committee for the province.

3- It is the responsibility of the cell, village, district, regional, town, and provincial committees to advertise the Party policies among the masses, and to implement the Central Committee's resolutions and to administer the Party's affairs.

4- The Committee of each organ will be elected by the organ's members or their representatives.

5- The highest authority of each organ is the organ's Conference, which must be held at least once every two years, comprised of the delegates of all the Party members of the concerned organ.

N.B.:

Under certain circumstances, the Central Committee can adopt other appropriate methods for the Party structures.

Article XIII: Party Income

The Party's incomes consists of:

- Membership fees
- Income of Party institutions and centres
- Contributions of Party members, sympathizers and friends.