



## Preamble

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As the Party places a high priority on gender equality, the use of the terms member, activist, branch secretary, First Federal Secretary, First State Secretary, First County Secretary, First Secretary, candidate or supporter is gender-neutral.

The bylaws are organized according to the same plan as the statutes. However, it only specifies the terms of implementation of certain articles.

## Title 1 – General Dispositions

### Chapter 1 - Party identity

#### Section 1.1.1 – Party name

The name of the party is: "Social Democrats of America".

#### Section 1.1.2 - Statement of principles

The declaration of principles of the party expresses its fundamental values and constitutes the first part of the preamble of the present statutes.

#### Section 1.1.3 - Socialist International

The Social Democrats of America is a member of the Socialist International (SI). Any member of the Social Democrats of America may at the same time join another party affiliated either to the Party of European Socialists or to the Socialist International, subject to reciprocity.

### Chapter 2 - Principles

#### Section 1.2.1 - Ethical charter

The Social Democrats of America has an Ethics Charter that each member undertakes to respect. It constitutes the second part of the preamble of the present statutes.

#### Section 1.2.2 - Party loyalty

Members of the party accept the declaration of principles and undertake to respect the statutes, the ethical charter and the decisions of the party. They may not belong to another party or political group that is directly or indirectly related to a party other than the Social



Democrats of America, except in the case provided for in Section 1.1.3. They undertake to support only those candidates for elected office who are effectively nominated or endorsed by the Social Democrats of America.

*(We need to rewrite this one to include the Republican and Democratic Party, in relation with the parties that control the Board of Election.)*

### **Section 1.2.3 - modalities of discussion within the party**

There is complete freedom of discussion within the party, but no organized tendencies will be tolerated. Debate within the party must be in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.2.2.

### **Section 1.2.4 - rules of procedure and circulars**

The organization and functioning of the party are governed by the present statutes. The internal regulations and the circulars of the national authorities specify the modalities of implementation.

## **Chapter 3 – Proportional representation**

### **Section 1.3.1 - Principle**

The rule of proportional representation by the highest average applies to the election of party organizations at all levels. Only the general policy motions proposed in the framework of the congress opens the right to representation. Amendments, contributions and other particular or thematic texts are not taken into account in the implementation of proportional representation.

### **Section 1.3.2 - Implementation of proportional representation at the national level**

At the federal level (Federal Council, Federal Conflict Commission, Federal Financial Control Commission, Federal Membership Office), proportional representation shall be applied according to the results obtained in the voting on the motions.

### **Section 1.3.3 - Implementation of proportional representation at the State, County and local levels**

At the State, County and local levels, proportional representation is applied according to the indicative vote on the general orientation motions submitted to the ordinary national party congress. The lists of candidates are attached to the general policy motions before the indicative vote, and must respect the principle of parity.

### **Section 1.3.4 - Threshold of representation in the bodies**



Representation in the Federal, State, County and local management and control bodies of the party is open only to motions that have obtained at least 5% of the votes cast nationally in the vote of the militants and at least 5% in a minimum of 15 state branches.

In the governing bodies of Sections, federations and regional unions, this representation is also open to motions that do not meet the condition laid down in the first paragraph but have exceeded 10% of the votes cast in the body concerned.

### **Section 1.3.5 - Constitution of delegations to conventions and congresses**

The delegations of the different organs of the party to the congresses or conventions are composed by proportional representation, respecting the principles established in the following section 1.3.1. and 1.4.1. of these bylaws.

## **Chapter 4 – Parity, renewal, diversity and non-cumulation**

### **Section 1.4.1 - Gender parity**

The various management and supervisory bodies of the party shall strictly respect the principle of parity at both the federal and state levels. The candidacies presented by the party for national and local elections must ensure that this principle is respected.

### **Section 1.4.2 - Renewal and diversity**

At each congress, the objective is set that all lists of elected members and substitutes in the management and control bodies include at least one third of new members. The establishment of the lists of titular and substitute elected members must endeavor to ensure that the diversity of American society, particularly in geographical and sociological terms, is represented.

### **Section 1.4.3 - non-accumulation of mandates and functions**

The party shall ensure compliance with the rules it has set for itself regarding the non-accumulation of mandates and functions, including over time.

## **Title 2 – Organization of the party**



## **Chapter 1 - The activists and the Sympathizers**

### **Section 1: Activists**

#### **Section 1.1: Membership**

##### **Section 2.1.1.1.1 – Principles**

Membership in the Socialist Party is not coerced. It is done individually at the federal or local level. No one can prevent someone from joining the Socialist Party for individual reasons. The minimum age for membership is 15 years.

##### **Section 2.1.1.1.2 - membership applications**

Applications for membership are individual. They must be in writing, dated and submitted to the Section secretary, the federation or the national headquarters. No one may carry more than one party card. The place of membership is free. Membership becomes definitive after implementation of the provisions of section 2.1.1.1.4 and following.

##### **Section 2.1.1.1.3 - Presentation in Section**

Membership becomes effective upon presentation to the branch. Any applicant for membership is invited to appear personally before the branch at the meeting following receipt of the application for membership by the Branch secretary. The date of membership in the party shall be the date of application for membership as shown in the national roster. Membership fees are due as of this date as soon as the membership is validated.

##### **Section 2.1.1.1.4 - Refusal of membership**

In the event of a reasoned objection by a member of the branch, membership may be denied only after hearing from the individual concerned and by a three-fourths majority of the votes cast by those present in a secret ballot. The same provisions apply to transfers from one branch to another.

##### **Section 2.1.1.1.5 - Membership Litigation**

The State Membership Office shall be competent to examine membership disputes in the first instance. Its decisions may be appealed to the Federal Membership Office in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.2.1.

##### **Section 2.1.1.1.6 - membership outside the locality of residence**

Membership in a branch outside the locality of residence shall be reported immediately to the



First Secretary of the State by the branch secretary. It shall remain an exception. The State Party shall immediately inform the branch secretary of the place of residence.

#### **Section 2.1.1.1.6 - YSDSA membership**

Any member of the YSDSA, whose card for the current calendar year has been centralized at the YSDSA National Office and who applies for membership in accordance with Section 2.1.1.1.3 and following shall become a member of the Social Democrats of America without additional dues for the first year.

The conditions governing the voting rights of the comrades benefiting from this provision are the same as those of the other members of the party.

#### **Section 2.1.1.1.8 - Membership of members of other left-wing parties**

When comrades from political parties and groupings directly or indirectly derived from left-wing parties apply for membership in the Social Democrats of America, the Branches and State Chapters are free to accept or refuse their individual registration according to normal party rules.

### **Section 1.2: Obligations**

#### **Section 2.1.1.2.1 - Contributions**

The first year's membership fee for a new member is a modest amount, identical for all new members. The amount of the membership fee for renewal of membership is set on the basis of a progressive scale taking into account the contributory capacity of the members. The Federal Council shall determine each year the fee schedule and the portion of the fees to be paid to the national treasury. The State Council shall determine each year the portion of dues paid by members to be paid to the State treasury. All members shall be informed of the fee schedule established by the National Council.

#### **Section 2.1.1.2.2 - political obligations**

Members of the party may not lend their support to a political demonstration organized by one of the groups referred to in section 1.2.2 without the prior consent of the local branches, the state branch and the regional union in the case of a demonstration of a local, county or state nature, or without the prior consent of the Federal Political Committee in the case of a demonstration of a national nature.

#### **Section 2.1.1.2.3 - union and association activities**

Party members are encouraged to belong to a trade union organization in their profession and



at least one association, notably for the defense of human rights, solidarity, consumers, popular education, parents or local life.

### **Section 1.3 - Activists' Rights**

#### **Section 2.1.1.3.1 - right to information**

Every member of the Social Democrats of America has the right to regular information on the work of the party.

All candidates for membership shall be provided with national and federal party publications as soon as possible. All party federations and local chapters must subscribe to the national party press.

#### **Section 2.1.1.3.2 - right to training and reception**

Every member of the Social Democrats of America is entitled to training on the history and orientations of the party. When joining, they receive a guide for new members, a copy of the party's statutes and the federal and state internal regulations, if applicable. A welcome and presentation meeting in the branch must be organized for all new members.

### **Section 1.4 - Termination, Resignation, Exclusion**

#### **Section 2.1.1.4.1 - Loss of party membership**

Membership in the party is lost by striking off, resignation or exclusion. A leave of absence from the party for a certain period of time can be decided.

#### **Section 2.1.1.4.2 - Cancellation**

Striking off the membership list can only be done for prolonged delay in the payment of dues, the minimum delay being one year. It ceases automatically if, within a period of six months from the date of notification, the struck-off member pays all his arrears of dues. After this period, the striking off is considered as an automatic resignation.

#### **Section 2.1.1.4.3 - Resignation**

Resignation entails, for the resigning member wishing to be a member of the party again, the obligation to apply for membership under the conditions defined in section 2.1.1.1.3. The branch secretary or, failing that, the Federal Membership Office shall consider as an automatic resignation the case of any member who has not paid any dues for two full years.



#### **Section 2.1.1.4.4 - exclusion**

Exclusion may only be pronounced in accordance with sections 4.4.2.3, 4.4.3.1, 4.4.4.1, 4.3.3 or 4.6.2 of these statutes. It shall take effect only after the decision notifying it has been received and has become final.

## **Section 2 – Sympathizers**

### **Section 2.1.2.1 - Participation of the sympathizers in the life of the party**

The sympathizers registered on the file of the sympathizers of the branch have the right to the expression and the right to vote in the party at the time of the debates where their presence is solicited, with the exception of the votes of orientation of the congresses, the votes of designation of the leading authorities and the votes of nomination to the various elections except the case of the designation of the candidate to the presidential election.

### **Section 2.1.2.2 - Representation of supporters at national conventions**

An additional number of delegates for national conventions may be decided by the National Office depending on the number of supporters per department.

## **Chapter 2 - Branches**

### **Section 1: Constitution, Role and Representation of the Branches**

#### **Section 2.2.1.1 - Constitution and role of the Branch**

The basic structure of the party is the Branch. It is formed by at least five members in agreement with the county concerned, either in a given administrative or geographical area, or in a company or university, or around a professional activity. It is the place where all members debate and meet. This essential structure of the militant life has the responsibility to establish a real militancy of proximity.

#### **Section 2.2.1.2 - Disagreement on the constitution of a Branch**

In case of disagreement on the constitution of a Branch, the decision is referred to the National Office or to a commission it appoints in accordance with the principles defined in Section 1.3.2 of the Statutes.

#### **Section 2.2.1.3 - Partition of a Branch**

A branch can be divided into several branches on its own initiative. Partitioning is mandatory



above a certain threshold. The modalities of partition are specified in the internal regulations.

## **Section 2 - Branch Administrative Committee and Branch Secretary**

### **Section 2.2.2.1 - chapter Administrative Commission**

The Branch Administrative Commission ensures the management of the Branch between two congresses. Its membership is determined by the Branch's internal regulations or, failing that, by a vote at the Branch General Assembly. It is composed of the members representing the federal orientation motions, in accordance with article 1.3.3.

### **Section 2.2.2.2 - Branch Secretary**

The branch secretary is elected by secret ballot by all the members of the branch after the national convention. An absolute majority of the votes cast is required to be declared elected in the first round. Only the two candidates who came first in the first round may stand in the second round, which is organized under the same conditions as the first. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates who came in second in the first round, the candidate who has been a member of the party the longest shall qualify for the second round.

In the event of a tie in the second round, the candidate who has been a member of the party the longest shall be declared elected. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Branch Secretary, the position shall be replaced under the same conditions, except when the vacancy occurs after the opening of the convention procedure. The function is then assumed by the administrative commission or by a comrade designated by the administrative commission.

The chapter Secretary shall chair the Administrative Committee.

### **Section 2.2.2.3 - Election of the treasurer and the chapter's board**

After the election of the branch Secretary, the chapter Administrative Commission appoints the branch Treasurer and the members who may constitute the branch Board.

## **Chapter 3 – City or Agglomeration committees**

### **Section 2.3.1 - Constitution of city or agglomeration committees**

In the communes or groups of communes on the territory of which several branch exist, it is constituted of a committee of city or agglomeration. The committee is responsible for ensuring the unity of action and propaganda of the party. It is consulted on the problems specific to the town or group of towns. It brings together the members of the branch concerned at least once a





year in a general assembly on local problems.

### **Section 2.3.2 - Chapter representation on city or agglomeration committees**

The federal statutes and internal regulations determine the representation methods of the branches participating in the work of the various city or agglomeration committees of the party existing on their territory.

## **Chapter 4 – County and State Federation**

### **Section 1 - General Provisions**

#### **Section 2.4.1.1 Constitution of Federations**

The branches constitute a single federation in each county with its own federal administration. Only the federations have legal personality, and their statutes are those of the party.

The federation of French people abroad brings together socialists living abroad. For each country where the location allows it, a branch is constituted. The union of these Sections constitutes a Federation which functions according to rules similar to those of the county federations, as specified in the national rules of procedure.

By way of exception, individual members are brought together in a common at-large branch administered by the National Membership Office.

#### **Section 2.4.1.2 - Role of federations**

The federations organize the militant work in the county and the state. They must respect and ensure respect for the principles of the party, the decisions of the various national bodies of the party, the national congresses and conventions.

#### **Section 2.4.1.3 - Federal Constitution and Bylaws**

The federations shall adopt their own statutes and rules of procedure. These must fully respect the party's constitution and by-laws. The federal statutes and rules of procedure may be updated at each federal convention.

The federations must communicate their statute and their internal regulations, as well as the modifications they make to them, to the national authorities of the party. They shall become applicable after a decision by the Federal Council, which shall give its opinion after consultation with the Federal Conflict Commission.



#### **Section 2.4.1.4 - establishment of the federation's membership list**

At the end of each semester, the Federal Membership Office draws up a list of the federation's members by branch. At the same time, it sends each branch secretary a list of the members of his branch.

The National Membership Office, in conjunction with the Federal Membership Offices, shall determine for each ballot the list of members entitled to vote.

### **Section 2 - Federal Bodies**

#### **Section 2.4.2.1 - Federal Council**

The Federal Council shall ensure the management of the federation between two federal conventions. its membership shall be determined by the federal Constitution or bylaws or, failing that, by the federal convention. Two thirds of its members are representatives of the national policy motions elected by the delegates to the federal convention in accordance with section 1.3.1 to 1.4.1 and for one third, Section secretaries, elected by the college of Branch secretaries, respecting a good geographical representation of the Branches within the department.

#### **Section 2.4.2.2 - Federal Office**

The Federal Council elects from among its members, by proportional representation of the national policy motions, a joint Federal Bureau, the size of which is determined by the statutes or internal regulations of the federation or by the Federal Convention.

#### **Section 2.4.2.3 - Federal Secretariat**

The Federal Council shall elect from among its members, on the proposal of the First Federal Secretary, the members of the Federal Secretariat in accordance with the principle of parity.

#### **Section 2.4.2.4 - The First Federal Secretary**

The first federal secretary is elected by secret ballot by all the members of the federation after the national convention. An absolute majority of the votes cast is required to be declared elected in the first round. In the event of a second round, only the two candidates with the highest number of votes may stand. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates who came in second in the first round, the candidate who has been a member of the party the longest shall advance to the second round.



In the event of a tie between two or more candidates in the second round, the candidate who has been a member of the party the longest shall be declared elected. In the three months following a vacancy in the position of First Federal Secretary, the members shall vote under the same conditions, except when this vacancy occurs after the opening of the convention procedure.

The position is then filled by a collegiality of the Federal Council or by a comrade designated by the Federal Council.

The First Federal Secretary must ensure the regular operation of the political and administrative bodies of the federation, as well as the implementation of the political line resulting from the Convention. He or she ensures compliance with the declaration of principles and the statutes of the Social Democrats of America.

He must be the guarantor of the political agreements signed by the party before the Federal Council.

It ensures that the principle of parity is respected and applied in the setting up of our bodies and in the establishment of our electoral lists.

It must propose to the Federal Council a Federal Secretary for Coordination from the majority motion to replace him in case of absence.

It must propose to the Federal Council the federal secretaries and the definition of their attributions.

He presides over the Federal Secretariat and the Federal Bureau.

#### **Section 2.4.2.5 - Federal working committees**

The federations may organize permanent commissions as a departmental extension of the national commissions. They shall take all necessary steps to invite every member of the party to join them. The Federal Council may organize each year departmental meetings of these commissions, places of meetings and debates open to the outside world.

### **Section 3 – Federal convention and federation representation at national conventions**



### **Section 2.4.3.1 - Federal Congress**

Each federation shall hold its federal convention prior to the national party convention. The federal convention must proceed to the recount of the votes cast on the national policy motions in the Sections of the federation, to the election of the members of the federal council representing the national policy motions, to the election of the delegates of the federation to the regional committee and to the national convention in accordance with the principles defined in Section 1.3.4 and 1.3.5 of the statutes. The principle of parity between women and men applies to all these elections.

### **Section 2.4.3.2 - Representation of federations at national conventions and congresses**

A federation may not be represented at national conventions and party congresses unless it has at least 50 paid-up members and five branches.

## **Chapter 5 – Regional unions**

### **Section 2.5.1 - role of regional unions**

The federations in a region are grouped together in a regional union. The regional union has the following missions:

- the development of the party's regional platform prior to each regional election in conjunction with the leading socialist candidate.
- The day-to-day determination of the party's regional policy and the monitoring of the Socialist Group in the Regional Council.
- the determination of the position and proposals of the party on the various regional development plans as well as on the regional programs of environmental protection. The regional union can organize thematic conventions on regional politics open to the outside world.
- the organization of the preparation of regional elections, preceded, if necessary, by the necessary discussions with the various partners of the party at the regional level.
- the federations intervene only in a subsidiary capacity in the competences attributed to the regional unions. The regional union may also be called upon by a federation to arbitrate its internal disputes, before possible referral to the National Council. There is no regional union in single-department regions: in this case, the federation exercises the powers conferred on the regional unions by this section.

### **Section 2.5.2 - Regional Committee**

The regional union is directed by a regional committee of the party, set up within two months of



the national convention. The size of each regional committee is determined by the party's internal regulations. Each federation is represented by a delegation respecting the principle of parity between men and women.

### **Section 2.5.3 - Bureau of the Regional Committee and Regional Secretary**

At its first meeting, the Regional Committee shall set up a bureau, constituted according to the principle of parity and in accordance with the modalities provided for by the internal regulations of the party. It also elects a regional secretary by a majority vote in two rounds and by secret ballot. In the event of a second round, only the two candidates who came out on top in the first round may stand. The regional secretary may not simultaneously be the first secretary of one of the federations in the region, the president of the group on the regional council or the president of the regional council.

### **Section 2.5.4 - Regional business committees, regional business conference**

Each regional committee has regional company committees for each branch of public or private activity. Each Committee gathers all the members and sympathizers of the party, active or retired, working or having worked in the branch concerned. a regional business conference gathers all the different regional business Committees. This conference appoints a joint permanent Bureau whose secretary, a member of the party, participates in an advisory capacity in the work of the Regional Committee.

## **Chapter 6 – National Instances**

### **Section 1: The National Council**

#### **Section 2.6.1.1 - role of the National Council**

Between two congresses, the leadership of the party is assured by its National Council.

#### **Section 2.6.1.2 - term of office of the National Council**

The powers of the National Council elected at a convention shall expire at the opening of the first session of the new Council, which shall be formed no later than the tenth day after the election of the First Federal Secretaries. On that day, the Council shall elect its chairperson, who shall become an ex officio member of the National Board.

#### **Section 2.6.1.3 - Composition of the National Council**

The National Council is composed of:



- of the first secretary of the party,
- 204 (number need to be updated for the US size) members elected by the National Convention in accordance with Sections 1.3.2, 1.4.1 and 1.4.2
- of the First Federal Secretaries.

Members of parliament and members of the government who are members of the Social Democrats of America shall be ex officio members of the National Council.

#### **Section 2.6.1.4 - appointment of National Council members**

The delegates to the National Convention, grouped according to the motions they have signed, shall adopt a list of their candidates for the National Council, at least up to the number of seats allocated to their motion, plus two-thirds of the seats allocated to replace the members of the National Council elected under their motion and whose seats become permanently vacant. The lists of candidates shall be equally divided between men and women and shall ensure renewal.

#### **Section 2.6.1.5 - Attendance of Regional Secretaries at the National Council**

The Regional Secretaries, if not members under the provisions of Article 2.6.1.3, shall attend the National Council in an advisory capacity.

#### **Section 2.6.1.6 - Representation of the Party of European Socialists in the National Council**

Removed as pertain of the European Socialist.

#### **Section 2.6.1.7 - National Council Call and Agenda**

The National Council shall be convened by the National Board or jointly by the First Secretary and the Chairperson of the National Council at the request of the National Board as necessary. The National Council shall hold at least four sessions per year. The agenda of the National Council shall be set by the National Board at least two weeks in advance.

#### **Section 2.6.1.8 - National working committees**

The National Council may decide to organize itself into standing committees, the number, title and jurisdiction of which shall be decided at the first meeting of this body following the National Convention.

## **Section 2: The National Office**



### **Section 2.6.2.1 - Role of the National Office**

Between sessions of the National Council, the leadership of the party is provided by the National Office.

### **Section 2.6.2.2 - Composition of the National Office**

The National Council shall elect from among its members the National Board at its first session following the National Convention. It shall be composed of the First Secretary of the party and, by proportional representation of the motions, 54 members elected in accordance with sections 1.3.2, 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 and 18 members appointed from among the First Federal Secretaries, taking into account the geographical and numerical diversity of the federations.

The chairpersons of the National Council and of the FNESR (union of government elected officials), if he or she is a member of the party, are ex officio members of the National Board.

The president of the National Conflicts Commission may attend the National Board as often as necessary

### **Section 2.6.2.3 - Competence of the National Office**

The National Council may delegate to the National Office the power to decide matters which could not be dealt with in plenary session. All urgent matters shall be referred to the National Office. However, the National Office may not be delegated:

- the election of the national secretariat,
- the adoption of the general orientation texts and the electoral programs of the party,
- the final decisions on the attitude of the parliamentary groups or the party in matters arising from the application of Articles 11, 35 and 89 of the Constitution,
- substantive political agreements with other formations,
- the final ratification of candidates for public elections during the general ratification process,
- decisions concerning the organization of national congresses,
- the approval of the federal statutes and by-laws,
- the decision to dissolve a federation or a regional union,
- the control of the attitude of a Member who has broken group discipline in a vote in public session.

## **Section 3: The National Secretariat**



#### **Section 2.6.3.1 - role of the national secretariat**

The national secretariat implements the orientations defined by the national authorities.

#### **Section 2.6.3.2 - appointment of the National Secretariat**

The National Secretariat is elected by the National Council upon the proposal of the First Secretary of the party. It is composed of national secretaries and deputies.

### **Section 4: The First Secretary of the Party**

#### **Section 2.6.4 - role of the First Secretary of the party**

The First Secretary of the party must ensure the regular functioning of the political and administrative bodies of the party, as well as the application and implementation of the political line resulting from the Congress. He/she shall ensure compliance with the declaration of principles and the statutes of the Social Democrats of America.

He must be the guarantor of the political agreements signed by the party before the National Council.

It ensures the application of parity in the establishment of our bodies and in the establishment of our electoral lists.

He/she shall propose to the National Council a National Coordination Secretary from the majority motion to replace him/her in case of absence.

He shall propose to the National Council the list of national secretaries and assistant delegates, specifying their duties. He shall preside over the National Secretariat and the National Bureau, and shall set the agenda for these meetings.

### **Section 5: Seniority Requirements for Membership in National Bodies**

#### **Section 2.6.5 - Seniority requirements for national positions**

Except as expressly provided in the decisions of the party convention, no person may be a member of the National Council, the National Board of Directors, the National Conflict Committee, the National Financial Control Committee or the National Membership Committee unless he or she has been a member of the party for at least three consecutive years.

## **Chapter 7 – The economic, social and cultural committee**





### **Section 2.7.1 - role of the Economic, Social and Cultural Committee**

The Economic, Social and Cultural Committee brings together, at the national level, the skills and experience of representatives of the trade unions and associations. Its role is to study, assess and monitor economic and social issues for the National Council. Its Bureau participates, in an advisory capacity, in meetings of the National Council.

### **Section 2.7.2 - Composition of the Economic, Social and Cultural Committee**

The members of the Economic and Social Committee shall be appointed by the National Council upon the proposal of the First Secretary of the party, after each ordinary convention and in accordance with Section 1.4.1.

## **Chapter 8 – The corporate sector**

### **Section 2.8.1 - Socialist business groups**

National socialist enterprise groups (SEGs) are formed in federations and at the national level. Each of the national branch ESGs meets in a General Assembly during the ordinary national congress to designate its authorities: board and secretary.

### **Section 2.8.2 - the federal secretaries in charge of companies**

Each federation appoints within its secretariat a person in charge of corporate issues.

### **Section 2.8.3 - the National Business Commission**

The National Company Committee shall include all Regional Company Secretaries and Secretaries of National Socialist Company Groups. The national rules of procedure shall determine the conditions under which compatibility between the above provision and the principles laid down in Section 1.3.1 et seq. is ensured.

## **Chapter 9 – The national standing committees**

The party sets up permanent national commissions as needed.

## **Chapter 10 – Associated organizations**



## **Section 1: Principle**

### **Article 2.10.1.1 - associated organizations**

In order to relay its political project in various sectors of society, the party supports and recognizes associated organizations that are open to non-members of the party. These associated organizations have a capacity for political expression in their field of intervention.

Their internal rules and the appointment of their leaders are coordinated with the competent authorities of the party.

## **Section 2: The Young Social Democrats of America Movement**

### **Section 2.10.2.1 - purpose of the young socialist movement**

The Young Social Democrats of America Movement is the organization of reflection and intervention specific to young people, whether or not they are members of the party, who wish to work in the field of youth with socialists.

### **Section 2.10.2.2 - age of membership in the young socialist movement**

The age of membership in the Young Social Democrats of America Movement is between 15 and 29 years old.

### **Section 2.10.2.3 - Statutes and internal rules of the YSDSAM**

The statutes and internal regulations of the YSDSAM are submitted to the National Council of the party for approval.

### **Section 2.10.2.4 - Statutes and internal regulations of the YSDSAM**

In order to coordinate the action of the party and the YSDSAM in the youth, the elected leaders of the YSDSAM are members by right of the equivalent bodies at their level of responsibility. The president attends the National Bureau and the National Council, the regional delegate attends the Regional Committee, the federal animator attends the Federal Council and the Federal Bureau, the team coordinator attends the Administrative Commission of the Sections corresponding to the team's territory.

## **Section 3: The National Federation of Socialist and Republican Elected Officials**



### **Section 2.10.3.1 - role of the national federation of socialist and republican elected representatives**

The National Federation of Socialist and Republican Elected Officials (FNESR) brings together all Socialist Party activists holding an elected mandate as well as elected officials who share its values even though they are not party members.

### **Section 2.10.3.2 - operation of the national federation of socialist and republican elected representatives**

The National Federation of Socialist and Republican Elected Officials has a President, a National Council and a National Bureau. The FNESR organizes a Forum of Territories, open to elected officials and activists, to discuss issues related to territorial reforms.

The First Secretary proposes to the National Bureau the Socialist Party candidate for the presidency of the FNESR. The presidents of the departmental unions of socialist and republican elected representatives (uDEsR), who are members of the party, are ex officio members of the Federal Council and the Federal Bureau.

## **Section 4: Other Organizations**

### **Section 2.10.4.1 - other associated organizations**

Specialized bodies for reflection, study and research, without the power to make political decisions and associating, when possible, sympathizers in their work, participate in the life of the party. The sectors of activity entrusted to these bodies are fixed and may be modified either by the Congress or by the National Council. At all levels of party life, the members of these bodies elect their own officers. They shall be represented in an advisory capacity in each of the corresponding party structures. These representatives must be chosen from among the members of these bodies who are members of the party.

## **Title 3 – Operation of the party**

### **Chapter 1 – Organization of debates and votes: general dispositions**

#### **Section 3.1.1 - Voting conditions**

All the votes intervening for the choice of the political orientation of the party (congress, convention, militant conference, direct consultation of the members) for the choice of the leading bodies or for the designation of candidates, are obligatorily organized in the form of a polling station, on a day distinct from that of the section meeting.



Only members with at least six months' seniority and who are up to date with their membership fees may vote. Elected members must also be up to date with their membership dues. It is possible to be up to date with the annual dues due on the day of the vote, prior to the vote. The vote is secret. No proxy is allowed and each member must prove his identity before voting.

### **Section 3.1.2 - organization of the debates preceding the votes**

Each vote must be preceded by a debate ensuring the equality of the parties involved.

## **Chapter 2 – the national congress**

### **Section 3.2.1 - Periodicity of the National Convention**

The National Convention meets within six months of the presidential and legislative elections. It also meets at mid-term.

### **Section 3.2.2 - Convening of the National Convention**

The national congress is convened at least three months in advance by the national council, which sets the place, date and agenda. The National Council sets the timetable and, with the assistance of the federations, makes the material arrangements for it. an extraordinary national congress may, if necessary and without any time limit, be convened by the National Council.

### **Section 3.2.3 - Congress preparation committees**

A National Convention Preparatory Commission shall be established by the National Council. a federal commission for the preparation of the congress is set up in each federation. The composition of the commissions for the preparation of the congress is determined by the internal regulations. The purpose of the National Commission for the preparation of the congress is, under the control of the National Office, to ensure the proper material functioning of the operations and the equal treatment and access to administrative facilities between all the contributions.

### **Section 3.2.4 - Contributions to the debate**

A meeting of the National Council, held at least one month after the meeting at which the convention was convened, is devoted to recording the contributions to the convention debate. The members are made aware of the general and thematic contributions submitted and the party authorities organize a debate on the general contributions. The National Council may decide, by a two-thirds majority vote, to abolish the debate phase on the contributions.



### **Section 3.2.5 - National Synthesis Council and tabling of national policy motions**

The meeting of the National Council intended to establish the proposals for a summary text shall be held at the latest on the seventh Saturday before the opening of the Convention. The national policy motions submitted to the vote of the members according to the modalities provided for in Section 3.2.7 shall be recorded there.

### **Section 3.2.6 - organization of the debate in the party on the national motions of orientation**

The national policy motions are sent to the members at the latest one month before the date of the national congress. a departmental day of debate is organized in each federation, as soon as the motions are received, according to the methods decided by the federal Council.

### **Section 3.2.7 - vote on the national motions of orientation and election of the first secretary of the party**

On the third Thursday before the national congress, the members vote for one of the motions submitted to the vote. The representation in the bodies is done by proportional representation on the basis of the result of this vote in accordance with articles 1.3.1 and following.

On the second Thursday before the national convention, the first secretary of the party is elected by secret ballot by all the members of the party. The first signatory of the two leading motions who wishes to do so, is candidate. The candidates present themselves to the suffrages with a profession of faith which can have been elaborated, at the time of a Commission of the resolutions following the vote of the motions, with the motions other than the two motions arrived in head.

In the event of a prolonged vacancy in the office of the First Secretary of the party, the National Council shall elect a new First Secretary who shall hold office until the next convention.

### **Section 3.2.8 - central agency activity reports**

The central bodies prepare their activity reports which are submitted to the national convention. These reports are published and sent to the sections and federations at least six weeks before the opening of the national convention.

### **Section 3.2.9 - Federal Congress**

The federal convention shall meet according to the schedule established by the National



Council, at the latest on the Sunday preceding the national convention.

### **Section 3.2.10 - delegates to the national convention**

Delegates to the national convention shall be elected by the federal conventions in accordance with Section 1.3.2 of this Constitution. The delegates regularly elected by the federations and whose names have been communicated by the First Federal Secretaries to the National Office of the party, the members of the National Council, the members of the parliamentary groups and the national representatives of the organizations provided for in Section 2.9.1, 2.9.2, 2.9.3 and 2.10.1.1 to 2.10.2.4 of the national statutes shall participate in the work of the national conventions.

### **Section 3.2.11 - representation of the federations at the national congress**

The calculation of the number of delegates of each federation is fixed in proportion to the number of members who took part in the vote on the national policy motions.

The number of delegates is established as follows:

- one delegate for a number of voters at least equal to 50 and less than 100.
- two delegates for a number of voters at least equal to 100 and less than 250 voters.
- one delegate for every 250 additional voters and, if necessary, one delegate for the last fraction less than 250 but equal to or greater than 125.

The delegations must be constituted with respect to the principle of parity between women and men.

### **Section 3.2.12 - election of the First Federal Secretary and election of the Branch Secretary**

The first federal secretary and the section secretary are each elected by secret ballot by all party members after the national convention. An absolute majority of the votes cast is required to be declared elected in the first round. Only the two candidates who came out on top in the first round may stand in the second round, which is organized under the same conditions as the first. In the event of a vacancy, the position is replaced under the same conditions, except when the vacancy occurs after the opening of the congress procedure. The function is then ensured for the secretary of section by the administrative commission or by a comrade designated by the administrative commission, and for the First federal secretary by a collegiality of the federal Council or by a comrade designated by the federal Council.

## **Chapter 3 – the national congress**



### **Section 3.3.1 - organization of a national convention**

Without prejudice to the application of the provisions of Section 3.3.2, the national convention of the party shall meet twice a year on a topic of discussion determined by the National Council. The decision to convene shall specify the number of delegates and the methods of collective discussion. Any national convention shall be preceded by a federal convention and, if the subject matter so requires, by a regional convention.

### **Section 3.3.2 - national convention agenda**

An issue is placed on the agenda of the national convention when 5,000 members in at least 20 federations, with a maximum of 500 signatures and a minimum of 25 signatures per federation, request it.

## **Chapter 4 – the activist conference**

### **Section 3.4.1 - purpose of the activist conference**

A militant conference is held at least once a year by the National Council, which sets the agenda. Its purpose is to allow members to express their opinions on current national or international political issues.

### **Section 3.4.2 - Convocation and agenda of the activist conference**

A question is placed on the agenda of the activist conference either at the proposal of the national office or when 5,000 members in at least 20 federations with a maximum of 500 signatures and a minimum of 25 signatures per federation request it. The decision to convene an activist conference is the responsibility of the National Council, which shall determine the procedures for appointing and staffing its delegates, as well as the procedures for collective discussion. The electoral programs remain the responsibility of the convention or of a national convention. Political agreements are decided by the National Council.

## **Chapter 5 – National response of the Secretary of the Board**

### **Section 3.5.1 - national meeting of section secretaries**

A national meeting of section secretaries is organized once a year by the national office, which sets the agenda.

The national secretariat presents, at its opening, an activity report and a program of militant action.



## **Chapter 6 – Direct consultation of members**

### **Section 3.6.1 - Direct consultation with members**

on the proposal of the First Secretary of the party, the National Bureau, 35 federations or at the request of at least 15% of the members (based on the number of members as of December 31 of the previous year), the National Council may decide, after discussion and by a qualified majority of two-thirds of its members, to organize a direct consultation of the members by submitting to them a simply worded question. The National Council shall determine the procedures for collective discussion and the organization of the resulting votes.

## **Title 4 – Controls and dispute resolution**

### **Chapter 1 – Commissions of financial control**

#### **Section 4.1.1 - the National Financial Control Commission**

Each ordinary national convention shall appoint a National Financial Control Commission composed of equal representation. This Commission is composed of 33 members, elected in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 of Title 1. The members of the National Financial Control Commission may not be members of any other national body.

The National Financial Control Commission meets at least twice a year, and each year it issues an opinion on the party's draft budget and on the accounting balance sheet for its consolidated implementation. At its own initiative or whenever the latter so requests, the National Financial Control Commission is heard by the National Council.

The president of the National Financial Control Commission, or his representative, participates in the national congress in an advisory capacity.

#### **Section 4.1.2 - Federal Financial Control Commissions**

In each federation, a federal financial control commission is elected by the ordinary federal congress in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 of title 1, respecting the principle of parity between men and women. The number of its members shall be determined by the statutes or internal regulations of the federation or, failing that, by the federal congress. The members of the Federal Finance Control Commissions may not be members of any other federal body.





The Federal Financial Control Commission issues an opinion each year on the federation's draft budget and on the accounts of its execution. It meets at least twice a year. one third of its members may decide to refer the matter to the national Financial Control Commission in the event of doubt as to the sincerity and transparency of the federation's budget or accounts.

The chairman of the Federal Financial Control Commission or his representative shall attend the federal congress in an advisory capacity.

## **Chapter 2 – membership offices**

### **Section 4.2.1 - National Membership Office**

The National Membership Office establishes the electoral body for the various internal votes. It may be called upon by a federal membership office to validate the creation or dissolution of a section. It verifies the terms of reinstatement of members of the party who have been excluded. The National Membership Committee, which shall be composed of equal numbers of men and women, shall consist of 33 members and 10 alternates appointed on a proportional basis according to the provisions of the sections 1.3.2 and 1.3.4. The chairperson of the National Membership Office shall be elected at its first meeting.

### **Section 4.2.2 - the Federal Membership Office**

In each federation, the federal congress shall elect a Federal Membership Bureau, made up of equal numbers of women and men and separate from the other bodies of the federation, in accordance with Section 1.4.2 of the Constitution. The number of members of the Federal Membership Bureau shall be determined by the federation's internal regulations or, failing that, by the federal congress. The members of the Federal Membership Bureau may not be members of any other federal body.

The Federal Membership Office ensures that all the provisions relating to membership are complied with, issues membership cards and draws up the list of members by section in conjunction with the Federal Financial Control Commission and the sections. It examines the evolution of the number of members in the sections and can question the sections on the variations in the number of their members. It may be seized by the First Federal Secretary, a section secretary, a member or an applicant for membership, of difficulties related to membership.

## **Chapter 3 – General dispositions on dispute resolution**



### **Section 4.3.1 - competent authorities according to the nature of the litigation**

Disputes concerning the composition, operation and decisions of the local party organizations shall be referred in the first instance to the Federal Council and in appeal to the National Council or to a commission designated by it, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 of Title 1.

Membership disputes shall be handled in the first instance by the Federal Membership Office and on appeal by the National Membership Office.

Litigation relating to departmental and regional organizations is the direct responsibility of the National Council or of a commission it appoints in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 of Title 1. If they belong to different federations, the National Conflict Commission alone is competent.

Whenever a member of Parliament, the National Council or any other national body is the cause of or the subject of a review of his or her actions, the National Office may refer the matter directly to the National Conflict Commission.

### **Section 4.3.2 - Oversight of the actions of parliamentarians**

Each member as an elected official and the entire group as a group shall be subject to the control of the National Council. Elected officials who violate discipline shall be reminded of the party's decisions by the National Council. The National Council may, if necessary, issue a warning, pronounce one of the sanctions provided for in Section 4.4.2.3. The National Council shall hear the parties concerned, their federations and the chairperson of their parliamentary groups before taking its decision. The decisions of the National Council shall be immediately enforceable. However, they may be appealed to the National Convention, but such appeal shall not be suspensive.

### **Section 4.3.3 - The National Council shall deem excluded from the party**

any elected official who claims to resign from the party without resigning from the electoral mandate he/she holds on behalf of the party. When a member of the party is a candidate for an elective position for which the regular party authorities have invested another candidate, the National Council, when seized by one of the parties in question, shall note that the undisciplined member has placed himself outside the party and shall deem him excluded.

In exceptional cases of serious indiscipline occurring after the party's qualified bodies have granted the candidates their nomination, the National Council or the National Board of



Directors, between two meetings of the National Council, may, after hearing the chairman of the National Conflict Commission, impose one of the sanctions provided for in Section 4.4.2.3. The decision of the National Council is immediately enforceable. It may be appealed only under the conditions set forth in Section 4.4.4.1.

## **Chapter 4 – Conflict commissions**

### **Section 1 - Composition conflict commissions**

**Section 4.4.1.1 - Each federation elects, at its ordinary federal convention,** in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 of Title 1, a Federal Conflicts Commission, the number of members of which is determined by the federal Constitution or bylaws or, failing that, by the federal convention. This Commission is composed, on a parity basis, of members who have been in the party for at least three consecutive years and who may not be members of another federal body or of a regional body. The Commission shall appoint its chairperson and secretary from among its members.

### **Section 4.4.1.2 - Composition of the National Conflict Commission**

The ordinary national convention shall elect every three years, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 of By-Law 1, a National Conflict Commission composed of 33 members. These members may not be members of any other national body. The Commission shall appoint its President and Secretary from among its members. The National Conflict Commission shall submit a report to the National Convention.

### **Section 2 - Referral Procedures and Powers of Conflict Commissions**

article 4.4.2.1 - procedures for referral to the Conflict Boards

Any referral, whose parties (members or groups) belong to the same federation, is brought before the Federal Bureau. The latter transmits it immediately and automatically to the Federal Conflicts Commission, without commenting on the decision to be made, but may request a hearing before the Federal Conflicts Commission when the matter is discussed. Any request for control concerning two or more federations of different regions is brought Commission. No request for control can be introduced after a period of one year following the facts on which it is based. In the event of the resignation, striking off or exclusion of the claimant, occurring between the registration of the claim and its examination by the (National or Federal) Conflicts Commission, the claim is deemed null and void. If the respondent resigns or is struck off the list within the same period of time, the (National or Federal) Conflicts



Commission may deem the respondent to be excluded for the facts attributed to him.

#### **Section 4.4.2.2 - Controversial nature of the debates within the Conflicts Committees**

No sanction may be taken without the parties having been summoned to be heard. The agenda, indicating the list and the nature of the cases dealt with, shall be sent at least two weeks before each meeting to all members of the Conflicts Committee (federal or national).

#### **Section 4.4.2.3 - Powers of Conflict Commissions**

The (Federal or National) Conflicts Commission may reject the referral or apply the sanctions provided for below. It may also, at the request of the parties, conclude an arbitration for which it shall designate the third party arbitrator, who shall rule within three months. The sanctions that may be pronounced for failure to comply with the principles and regulations of the party, for definite violation of the commitments entered into in the context of an arbitration, or for acts or conduct likely to cause serious prejudice to the party are :

- WARNING;
- blame;
- temporary suspension;
- temporary or permanent exclusion.

These sanctions may be partially or totally suspended. The annexed penalty of temporary suspension of delegation may also be imposed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.4.2.4

#### **Section 4.4.2.4 - Temporary suspension of delegation**

The temporary suspension of any delegation entails, for the member who is hit by this penalty, the prohibition to be a candidate of the party, to represent it, to speak or write in its name or to hold a position (function or delegation) at any level of the organization. However, in the case of a member holding an elective mandate, the Conflicts Commission (federal or national) has the right to allow him to continue to fulfill his mandate, if it judges that it is in the interest of the party to do so.

#### **Section 4.4.2.5 - Penalties for abusive procedures**

if the complaint is found to be ill-founded and abusive, the same Commission may impose the same sanctions on the party that lodged the complaint.

### **Section 3 - Remedies**



#### **Section 4.4.3.1 - Appeal of decisions of the Federal Conflict Commissions**

The decisions of the Federal Disputes Commission shall not become final until thirty days after notification of the decision taken. During this period, an appeal may be made to the National

Commission must be communicated to the parties concerned and to their section. It must be stated that in the event of an appeal, the decision is suspended until the National Conflicts Commission has made its decision.

#### **Section 4.4.3.2 - Suspensive nature of appeals**

The appeal is, in all cases, suspensive. However, the penalty of exclusion pronounced by a Federal Conflict Commission entails the cessation of all delegations on behalf of the party.

### **Section 4 - Reinstatement and permanent exclusion**

#### **Section 4.4.4.1 - Reinstatement**

Any member who has been expelled or excluded from membership may be reinstated only after two years have elapsed. The decision to reinstate shall be taken by the National Council or National Membership Bureau, after receiving the consent of the federation and the section to which the person concerned belonged before being expelled. In the event of a new expulsion, this will be definitive without the possibility of reinstatement.

#### **Section 4.4.4.2 - notification of final exclusion decisions**

All federations shall be notified of any final exclusion from the party by the National Office.

## **Chapter 5 – Trusteeship and dissolution of branches, federations and regionals unions.**

### **Section 1 - Trusteeship and Dissolution of branches**

#### **Section 4.5.1.1 - reasons for trusteeship or dissolution of a Chapter**

The Federal Council, in light of the conclusions of a Commission of Inquiry, whose creation it decides and whose members it appoints in proportion to the national motions of orientation represented on the Federal Council, which must carry out all the necessary hearings and investigations on the spot, may pronounce the placing of a section under trusteeship or the dissolution of the leading bodies of a section, when the latter has been guilty of serious acts of indiscipline or actions likely to be seriously prejudicial to the party, or in the event of a characterized lack of functioning. The dissolution can only be applied to collective acts of



indiscipline, while individual acts remain under the jurisdiction of the Conflicts Commissions (federal and national).

#### **Section 4.5.1.2 - procedures for placing a Chapter under trusteeship or dissolution**

In this case, the Federal Council must decide to place the association under trusteeship or to dissolve it, provided that it has been convened for this purpose and that the majority of its members are present. However, if the quorum is not reached, the Federal Council shall be reconvened within a maximum of one month and may then decide, regardless of the number of members present.

#### **Section 4.5.1.3 - notification of dissolution decisions**

A dissolution decision must be submitted to the National Council within eight days, together has examined and confirmed the decision. During the time required for this review, the dissolved Chapter is no longer entitled to take public action.

#### **Section 4.5.1.4 - reconstitution of dissolved sections**

Any federation that has dissolved a section has the duty to reconstitute it. To this end, the Federal Council shall lay down the rules governing this reconstitution. Any federation which has dissolved a section must ensure its reconstitution within a period of one year, after which a group of at least five members of the dissolved section may refer the matter to the National Council to ask it to proceed with its reconstitution.

### **Section 2 - Trusteeship and dissolution of regional federations and unions**

#### **Section 4.5.2.1 - placing under trusteeship or dissolution of a federation or regional union**

The National Council (or by delegation the National Board between two National Council meetings), based on the conclusions of a commission of inquiry, whose creation it decides and whose members it appoints (in proportion to the national policy motions represented on the National Council), which must conduct all necessary hearings and investigations on the spot, may pronounce the placing under trusteeship or dissolution of a federation or regional union which, as such, has been guilty of serious acts of indiscipline or actions likely to be seriously detrimental to the party. It may also dissolve a federation or a regional union in the event of serious malfunctioning. It may dissolve the Federal Council, the Federal Bureau or the federal secretariat of a federation when these entities are guilty of such actions.

#### **Section 4.5.2.2 - reconstitution of dissolved federations and regional unions**

The National Council shall proceed as quickly as possible with the reconstitution of any dissolved



federation or regional union. It shall lay down the rules which shall govern this reconstitution.

## **Chapter 6 – High authority of the Socialist Party**

### **Section 4.6.1 - Composition of the High Authority**

The High Authority of the Socialist Party, responsible for enforcing the rules of ethics and law that apply to the Socialist Party and its members, is independent of the leadership of the Socialist Party. It is composed of nine men and women, including five socialists, and its composition is subject to a qualified majority vote (2/3) of the National Council, which appoints its president from among its nine members. The members of this body who do not belong to the Socialist Party are proposed because of their legal competence or the moral authority they embody for the left.

The rules of procedure set out in detail the regime of incompatibilities that applies to members of the High Authority.

### **Section 4.6.2 - The High Authority is competent to rule**

on all disputes mentioned in Section 4.3.1 of these Articles of Association.

In these various cases, the matter may be referred to the High Authority only after a final decision has been taken by the competent party authorities. The matter is referred to it by the First Secretary or one of the local, departmental or regional organizations in the cases provided for in the first paragraph and third, by the President of the National Membership Office or the person requesting membership in the case provided for in the second paragraph, by one of the parties to the dispute in the case provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Section 4.3.1. In the latter cases, the provisions of Section 4.4.3.2 concerning the suspensive nature of the appeal shall apply to the decisions of the National Conflicts Commission.

It is also competent to hear decisions taken in application of the provisions of Section 4.3.3. In such cases, the matter shall be referred to it by one of the parties concerned.

The First Secretary or the National Bureau may refer to the High Authority for an opinion on situations of great importance for the life of the party. Exceptionally, when the seriousness of the facts so requires and in view of the consequences for the life of the party, the First Secretary may refer the matter to the High Authority in the first and last instance for an individual examination. In such cases, the High Authority shall apply the provisions of Section 4.4.2.2 to 4.4.2.5 of this Constitution.



### **Section 4.6.3 - decisions of the High Authority**

When a case is referred to it, the High Authority appoints a rapporteur who investigates the case by conducting any hearings he or she deems useful and by hearing the parties. Voting is by secret ballot and the rapporteur does not participate. In the event of a deadlock or a tie, the chairman has a casting vote. The decisions of the High Authority are not subject to appeal.

## **Title 5 – Political elections, nominations of candidates, specialty groups**

### **Chapter 1 – General dispositions**

#### **Section 5.1.1 - national agreements and decisions**

The national agreements signed by the national leadership, after consultation with the federations and ratification by a national convention, are binding on all levels of party nominations, regardless of the type of election. In the case of single- member elections, national decisions on the distribution of male and female candidates are binding on all levels of party nominations.

#### **Section 5.1.2. - determination of designation schedules**

The decision of the National Office organizing the nomination process includes a timetable that applies to all the organizations of the party. This decision is communicated in the form of a numbered national circular to the First Federal Secretaries, the members of the National Council, the parliamentarians and the members of the National Conflict Commission.

#### **Section 5.1.3 - Candidates for political elections**

shall be nominated by the entire membership of the party entitled to vote under the provisions of section 3.1.1 of the bylaws and registered on the electoral list of the district concerned. The presentation of a voter's card or, failing that, a certificate of registration on the electoral roll prior to the required date shall be requested prior to voting. Minors and foreigners vote in the section of their domicile. They will be asked for proof of residence prior to voting.

#### **Section 5.1.4 - quorum for candidate nominations**

if the number of members registered in the sections concerned by the choice of a candidate is





not equal to at least one five-hundredth of the number of voters registered in the municipality (for towns with more than 3500 inhabitants), the canton, the district concerned, the sections, establish a preferential list of candidates. The decision is taken by the Federal Council for municipal and cantonal elections, by the National Council for parliamentary, European, regional and municipal elections for municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

### **Section 5.1.5 - Conditions for submitting applications**

Candidates for public office must be up to date with their membership dues and elected office at the time of filing their candidacy, they must meet the conditions of eligibility defined by the electoral code and fulfill the conditions set forth in article 2.6.5 of the bylaws for national elections. Any candidate for parliamentary election shall make a written commitment, before ratification of his or her candidacy, that he or she will respect the rules set out in Section 1.4.3 of the bylaws.

Any candidate for local or national office must file a notice of direct debit with his or her federation or Dominion Command at the same time as his or her nomination papers. except for exceptions expressly decided by the National Council, no one may be a candidate in the legislative, senatorial and European elections if he or she has not been a member of the party for at least three consecutive years.

### **Section 5.1.6 - voting process**

The rules of procedure detail the internal campaign and voting procedures.

### **Section 5.1.7 - undertaking on the candidates' honour**

Every candidate who is a member of the party shall, before ratification of his or her candidacy, give a written undertaking on his or her honour to resign from his or her office if, after being elected, he or she leaves the party for any reason.

### **Section 5.1.8 - role of federations in the nomination process**

The federations are mandated to ensure the application of the rules and principles set by the party, particularly with respect to parity and electoral agreements with other parties.

### **Section 5.1.9 - ratification of applications**

For all local nominations, with the exception of nominations of the first socialist candidates in cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants and in prefectures, the nominations are not final until they are ratified by the Federal Council. For national, regional and European nominations, and those of the first socialist candidates in cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants and



prefectures, the nominations are not final until they are ratified by the National Council.

#### **Section 5.1.10 - membership of elected officials in the national federation of socialist and republican elected officials**

All socialist elected officials must join the National Federation of Socialist and Republican Elected Officials.

#### **Section 5.1.11 - incompatibility between elected offices and party functions**

The duties of mayor of a city with a population of more than 3,500 are incompatible with those of branch secretary.

The functions of President of the General Council are incompatible with those of First Federal Secretary.

The functions of President of the Regional Council are incompatible with those of First Federal Secretary and Regional Secretary.

## **Chapter 2 – Designation of party candidate for certain electives positions**

#### **Section 5.2.1 - nomination of candidates for president of the senate, the national assembly and for mayor of Paris**

The nominations of the candidate to the functions of president of the Senate, president of the National Assembly, mayor of Paris, require the assent of the National Office.

#### **Section 5.2.2 - nomination of candidates for the legislative elections**

Nominations of candidates for the legislative elections shall be adopted by the National Convention or by delegation by the National Board.

#### **Section 5.2.3 - nomination of candidates for the senatorial elections**

Nominations of candidates for senatorial elections shall be adopted by the National Convention or by delegation by the National Board.

#### **Section 5.2.4 - nomination of candidates for the European elections**

Candidatures for the European elections shall be submitted in writing to the First Secretary of the party, in accordance with the timetable established by the circular provided for in Section 5.1.2 of the Constitution. The candidacies are brought to the attention of the First Federal Secretaries concerned.

#### **Section 5.2.5 - nomination of the candidate for President of a General Council**

The nomination of the party's candidate for the presidency of a General Council is made by



direct vote of the members of the federation according to the rules applicable to the nomination of the First Federal Secretary.

#### **Section 5.2.6 - nomination of a candidate for the chairmanship of a Regional Council**

The nomination of the candidate for Regional Council Chair shall be by direct ballot of the entire membership of the region. Political agreements regarding regional presidencies are the responsibility of the National Office.

#### **Section 5.2.7 - designation of the first candidate of the socialists municipal elections or presidency of a group of municipalities**

The nomination of the leading socialist candidate on the municipal list shall be by direct ballot of all the members of the municipal jurisdiction. The nomination of the candidate for the presidency of a grouping of municipalities is made by direct vote of all the members of the grouping of municipalities concerned. Political agreements concerning the presidency of groups of municipalities are the responsibility of the federations, subject to national agreements.

### **Chapter 3 – Nomination of candidate at the presidency of the republic**

#### **Section 5.3.1 - Principle of the Citizens' Primaries**

The candidate for the presidency of the Republic is designated through Citizen's Primaries open to all citizens adhering to the values of the Republic and the left and co-organized by the left-wing political parties that wish to participate.

Candidates for the Primary must pledge to publicly support the nominated candidate and to engage in his or her campaign. At least one year prior to the presidential election, the National Council shall set the timetable and procedures for the organization of the primaries.

#### **Section 5.3.2 - Voting requirements**

To participate in the vote, the following three conditions must be met

- Belong to the electoral list of the Republic drawn up the year preceding the presidential election, or prove on the day of the vote that they are registered on the electoral list (by producing a certificate of registration in the area covered by the polling station), or be 18 years old between the date of the primaries and the date of the presidential election, or be a member of one of the parties participating in the primaries or one of the political youth organizations of these parties and not be able to register on this electoral list (foreigner and/or underage).
- Adhere to a declaration of principle (via a sign-in sheet) committing to support the values of the left.



- Contribute 1€ minimum.

### **Section 5.3.3 - organization of the Citizens' Primaries**

The organization of the primaries is entrusted to a National Committee composed of representatives of the parties co-organizing the primaries and representatives of the candidates. This committee is duplicated with the same composition in all departments. The holding of the polling stations and the counting of votes shall be carried out in accordance with the rules applicable to elections in the Republic and an ad hoc High Authority, composed of the co-organizing parties, proclaims the final national result.

## **Chapter 4 – Parliamentary groups**

### **Section 5.4.1 - Principles**

The socialist group in Parliament is made up of deputies and senators. It is distinct from all other political formations and composed exclusively of the members of the party. Even in exceptional circumstances, the group cannot commit the party without its consent.

Each elected member of parliament is subject to all the obligations of a militant in his section and his federation, but litigation is the direct responsibility of the National Conflicts Commission, but his parliamentary activity and his votes in parliament are the sole and exclusive responsibility of the parliamentary group and the National Council. These provisions apply to the French socialist delegation to the European Parliament.

### **Section 5.4.2 - functioning of the parliamentary groups**

except for the votes concerning the appointment of persons and the internal administration of each group, in each assembly, all parliamentarians belonging to the group have an equal right to discuss and vote in all meetings held, both in the National Assembly and in the Senate. The Deputies and senators must register with the party committees and study groups corresponding to the parliamentary committees of which they are members. The same obligation applies to members of the French socialist delegation to the European Parliament.

### **Section 5.4.3 - obligations of members of parliamentary groups**

Members of the Socialist Group in Parliament accept the internal rules of the party and conform to its tactics. In all circumstances, they must respect the rule of unity of vote of their group. In the event of a breach of this rule, the National Council may invoke the provisions of Article 4.3.2. Members of the French Socialist delegation to the European Parliament shall be subject to



the same provisions. For their organization within each assembly, deputies and senators constitute separate administrative groups.

#### **Section 5.4.4 - Members' contributions**

The national congress determines the amount and the distribution of the national contributions paid by the French and European parliamentarians who are members of the party. The parliamentarians contribute directly to the national treasury for the national part of their contributions.

#### **Section 5.4.5 - parliamentary activity report**

every three years, a special Chapter of the general activity report must be devoted to the activity report of the socialist group in parliament and that of the French delegation to the European Parliament.

#### **Section 5.4.6 - joint deliberation of the National Council and the parliamentary groups**

The National Council and the parliamentary groups shall deliberate and vote jointly whenever so requested, either by the National Council or by the parliamentary groups. If these conditions are not met, the National Council shall take up the matter and take the decision by an absolute majority of its members.

## **Chapter 5 – Groups of elected officials in local and regional authorities**

#### **Section 5.5.1 - operation of elected groups in local authorities**

In the communes and public establishments of inter-communal cooperation, the departments and the regions, the Socialist Councillors must form a group distinct from all the other political fractions and they must, in all circumstances, respect the rule of the unity of vote of their group. In the event of a breach of this rule, they may be brought before the Federal Conflict Commission of their federation.

The First Secretary of the corresponding level participates by right in the meetings of the Socialist Group or their representatives, as well as the Regional Secretary, participate ex officio in the meetings of the Socialist Group in the Regional Council.

#### **Section 5.5.2 - Elected officials' contributions**

With the exception of members of parliament as provided for in article 5.4.4, all elected officials receiving an allowance for the exercise of a mandate are required to pay a contribution to the departmental funding association of their federation. The rate of this contribution, applicable to



all net allowances received (after deduction of social security contributions and taxes), is set by decision of the Federal Council. Each section may add its own share to the federal share. The rate is set by a decision of the section's Administrative Commission, which is forwarded to the Federal Financial Control Commission for approval.

As part of their membership of the national federation of socialist and republican elected representatives, each socialist elected representative pays a contribution consisting of a departmental share (UDEsR) and a national share (FNEsR). This contribution is collected at the departmental level by the ADFP concerned. the amount and distribution of the contribution are decided jointly each year by the national office of the FNEsR and the national office of the party.

## **Title 6 – Revision of statutes and the declaration of principles**

### **Article 6.1 revision of the constitution and declaration of principles**

The amendment of the constitution and the declaration of principles is the exclusive competence of the ordinary national convention. No proposal for amendment may be submitted to the convention for deliberation unless it has been sent to the sectors and federations at least three months before the meeting of an ordinary national convention.

### **Section 6.2 revision of the internal regulations and the ethical charter**

The modification of the rules of procedure and the ethical charter is the exclusive competence of the National Council. No proposal for amendment may be submitted to the National Council without having been sent to its members two weeks before the meeting.

### **Section 6.3 - experimentation**

The National Council may authorize, by a three-fourths majority vote and on the proposal of the National Office or the First Secretary, the experimentation within one or more federations of new organizational and operational procedures, including the designation of party candidates for elections.

This experimentation must be the subject of an evaluation report presented to the National Council at the latest one year after its implementation.