

The By-Laws of the Green Party of Lebanon

Article One: General Assembly

- 1) The General Assembly (GA) is composed of all members of the Green Party (GP);
- 2) The GA meets once a year. It may have extraordinary meetings if called for by the President of the GP or following a written request by one-third of the political bureau.

Article Two: Membership in the Green Party of Lebanon

- 1) Any Lebanese or a person of Lebanese descent who is eighteen years of age and has not been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or attempted felony may join the GP;
- 2) Requests for membership shall be sent electronically through the GP's website or in writing, hand-delivered to the GP's headquarter or to a branch of the party or to any of the caza councils;
- 3) Applications for membership shall be sent to the GP's office along with two passport size photos and a photocopy of the applicant's ID card;
- 4) Applications for membership shall be submitted to local committees or to the National Secretariat (NS) who, in collaboration with the head of recruitment and mobilization at the local committee or the executive one, will review the applications. The reviewers may request a face-to-face interview with the applicant and subsequently decide whether to accept or reject the request for membership with a justification of the decision within two months of its issuance;
- 5) The NS may consult Caza councils or request additional information on the applicant from the Caza coordinator or from the head of recruitment there;
- 6) The applicant has the right to protest within a month the rejection of his/her application. The local committee or the executive committee shall give the answer which shall be considered final without any means of review or appeal. The applicant in this case may not apply again for membership before at least one year following the decision by the local or executive committee;
- 7) In order to ensure continuity of party activity, any member who misses five meetings a year shall be considered resigned from the council or committee to which he/she belongs. The council, committee or political bureau to which the member belongs shall give a grace period of two additional meetings, should they deem it justified.

Article Three: The Role of Members of the GP

- 1) Members of the GP express their opinions democratically and participate through meetings in party decision making at the council or committee levels;

- 2) Every member of the GP shall have the right to run for elections and vote in a way that guarantees his right and opportunity to reach the top, provided he meets all appropriate criteria and pay his dues;
- 3) No member shall occupy more than a single position of responsibility at any given time in the political bureau, the executive committee, Caza council secretariat, governorate council, arbitration committee or expatriate council. Only students and unionists may occupy, in addition to their student and union duties, one regional responsibility; the inverse is true;
- 4) It is not possible to be a Member of Parliament (MP) and a government minister at the same time. It is not possible either to be at the same time an MP, a minister or occupy any other party position other than membership in the political bureau;
- 5) It is possible to occupy concurrently a position of responsibility in the GP and the municipality;
- 6) Each member of the GP has the duty to commit to the party's decisions, aspirations and resolutions and to effectively take part in party life including meetings, activities and various forms of championing causes, in addition to paying their yearly membership fees;
- 7) Members shall lose their membership in one of the following instances:
 - a. Death or written resignation;
 - b. Publicly severing their political relationship with the party in an audiovisual or written press medium;
 - c. Committing felony, attempting felony or committing misdemeanor;
 - d. By failing to pay membership dues for two consecutive years;
 - e. By being suspended or fired in a disciplinary action by the arbitration committee.
- 8) Members shall have their membership revoked if they join another political party or political group or if they run for legislative, administrative, union or other elections under the name of another political party or political group;
- 9) Disciplinary decisions issued by the arbitration committee shall be considered final and cannot in any way be appealed; such decisions cannot entail any civil or penal responsibility against the GP;
- 10) Any member who loses membership in any of the instances mentioned above may apply for new membership two years later. In this case the application for membership shall be made to the political bureau which may accept or reject the application. In case of acceptance, the applicant shall keep his/her seniority within the party and in any case the political bureau's decision here shall be considered final and sealed and hence not subject to review or appeal.

Article Four: Membership and Application Fees

- 1) Application or membership fees are composed of units. Each applicant or party member shall commit to contribute at least one unit per year. An applicant may contribute more than one unit. The application unit becomes a membership unit after the first year of membership;
- 2) The yearly application and membership unit for members as well as students in the GP is ten thousands Lebanese pounds (LL 10,000.00);
- 3) The executive committee may suggest the modification of the yearly membership fee following the approval of its recommendation to the political bureau which has the authority to approve or reject the modification. In case of approved modification, the latter will only be in effect at the beginning of the fiscal year that follows the year in which the modification was made;
- 4) The new committed member shall pay, as soon as he/she is accepted, the entire yearly fee for the year in which he/she was accepted.

Article Five: Local Committees

- 1) The local committee is the committee of villages and cities and is composed of at least five members of the party. The committee shall be established in every village or city neighborhood following the guidelines set by the governorate council;
- 2) The local committee shall be run by six people: the representative of the committee, the deputy representative, the secretary general, the environment representative, the recruitment representative and the treasurer. The committee's representative shall run its local affairs;
- 3) The term of representatives in the local committee shall be for three years;
- 4) Each member of the local committee shall have the right to run for a leadership position in that committee, especially when it is founded. No member may run for the position of head or deputy head of a committee that has been established for more than a year unless that member has been in the Party for more than a year. The Caza Council may override seniority in the case of unavailability of candidates for these positions;
- 5) The secretary of the Caza Council shall prepare a list of electors in the local committee two weeks prior to its elections;

- 6) Each member shall present a candidature to the secretariat of the Caza Council;
- 7) Members of the Party at the local committee level shall vote for the leadership positions in the committee via secret ballot. Whoever wins the highest number of votes shall be considered a winner. In case of a tie, voting shall be cast one more time; in case of another tie, the eldest candidate shall be considered a winner;
- 8) The head of the committee shall assign the work and follow it up; and shall receive the communication from the Caza Council;
- 9) The secretary of the committee shall call for meetings that should be held periodically;
- 10) Local committee meetings shall be held at least once a month;
- 11) The local committee shall, and before implementing any new event related to the party, inform the secretariat of the Caza Council at least fifteen days prior to the event. The Council may decide within forty-eight hours of its receipt of notification to reject the event if it deems the event in contravention with the Party's principles and guidelines set by its leadership; and its silence may be considered as acceptance. In the case where the view of the local committee differs from that of the Caza Council, the former may appeal the decision before the central Party secretariat within five days of the rejection. The Party's central secretariat shall issue its final, non-negotiable decision within two days of the appeal;
- 12) The Party's political bureau shall decide on each assignment of responsibility for every position via decisions issued by the national secretariat.

Article Six: Caza Council

- 1) Caza Council is the council representing party members in local committees that are functional at the Caza level. Work at the Caza level shall be as a geographic party work unit, and conforms to administrative divisions as decreed in Lebanese laws.
- 2) The Caza Council shall be composed of senior leaders as well as two additional representatives of local committees elected via proportional system as well as the selection of one member to represent ten local committee members. Additional Caza Council members in local committees shall be elected during the elections of local committee leaders. Mayors who are party members shall be considered de facto members of the Caza Council for the entire duration of their municipal term.
- 3) The Caza Council shall be administered by a team of core leaders composed of the coordinator of the Council, his deputy, the secretary general, the environment expert, the mobilization expert and the treasurer;
- 4) The term of the Caza Council is three years;
- 5) Candidates to the Caza Council should have spent at least one year as members of the Party and have paid their dues for the current year. The governorate council may supersede seniority in case no candidates were available for these positions;

- 6) Members of the Caza Council shall represent at the National Council all party members of the Caza;
- 7) The secretary of the Caza Council shall publish a list of council members and invite them in writing within a period of no more than 10 days of the date of publication to a meeting designed only to elect new council members, via secret, direct ballot through absolute majority, on condition that quorum is in effect with the presence of more than half of the members;
- 8) Candidates for leadership position in the Caza Council shall submit a written expression of interest to run for the Secretariat of the governorate. Election shall be done by secret ballot directly by all party members in the Caza, following the publication by the governorate's secretariat of the Caza electors lists;
- 9) The candidate with the highest number of votes shall win the position and in case of a tie, the eldest shall prevail;
- 10) Secretary of the Caza Council shall call, based on a request by the coordinator or his deputy in case of his absence, for a first meeting within maximum one month.
- 11) The Caza Council shall represent the concerns and aspirations of the Caza residents. It shall work to monitor environmental issues and suggest solutions to environmental problems that need the approval of the governorate council. The Caza Council may establish expert committees, when needed, and follow up on their work and approve their projects;
- 12) The Council shall meet once a month at least following a call by its secretary, and may convene extraordinarily when the need arises and following an initiative by the Caza coordinator or a request from quarter of its members at least. In all cases, the call for a meeting and the agenda shall be handled by the Council's secretary in consultation with the coordinator;
- 13) Quorum shall be assured in ordinary meetings by a simple majority (half plus one), and in extraordinary meetings such as meeting for votes of confidence in the coordinator of the Caza the quorum shall be two third. In case the council convenes extraordinarily the secretariat of the Caza Council shall send the invitations, along with the agenda at least a week prior to the session. In case of withdrawing confidence, suspended members shall be replaced by new members to be elected or appointed as per the rules detailed in this by-law.
- 14) The political bureau shall assign the duties and mandates of the Caza Council;
- 15) Voting shall be done directly and publicly;
- 16) In case of vacancy in any of the core leadership positions, the vacancies shall not be filled as long as the Council still comprises at least three members. In case of vacancy of the coordinator position, however, his deputy shall replace him; and the secretary shall replace the deputy. In case where the Caza Council comprises at most two members, and its term is for less than six months, the Caza Council shall be considered under the administration of the governorate council; in case where the council's mandate is longer than six months, the governorate council shall organize elections for the Caza Council within one month of the vacancy. In case of delay, the Central Party Secretariat shall handle this matter. The Central Party Secretariat shall be the acceptable reference to address all situations not explicitly mentioned in the text as to the filling of vacancies;

Article Seven: The Governorate Council

- 1) The governorate council is a coordination authority between Caza councils at the level of administrative governorates as specified in Lebanese law. The political bureau shall adopt different criteria for the governorates as it sees fit;

- 2) The governorate council shall be composed of six core people; it includes the coordinator of the governorate council, the deputy-coordinator, the secretary, the treasurer, the leader of logistics, the leader for the environment, and the leader of recruitment and events, in addition to members named by coordinators of Caza Councils proportionally equivalent of one representative for every 50 members of the Caza Council. The Political bureau may also add to the governorate council former MPs and government ministers from the governorate;
- 3) Each Caza Council shall have at least one representative; and no additional group that does not comprise additional 50 members shall be given a representative;
- 4) The term of the governorate council is for three years;
- 5) All party members in the governorate shall have the right to run for the six core positions in the governorate council, and they shall be bearers of vocational or university degrees, on condition that their party membership is at least two years-old. The political bureau may supersede seniority during the transition period. Candidates for any position in the governorate council shall present their candidacy in writing to the central party secretariat;
- 6) The elections commission for the governorate council shall be the sum of members of the Caza Councils; the party central secretariat shall prepare a list of the elections commission;
- 7) The central party secretariat shall call for the election of core members of the governorate council, while members of the proportional representation in the governorate council shall be elected during the election of the Casa Council after having their number specified by the governorate council. The central party secretariat may specify that number in case the governorate council fails to do so.
- 8) Elections shall be held secretly by direct vote by the sum of members of Caza Councils; the candidate with the highest number of votes shall win. In case of a tie, the eldest candidate shall prevail.
- 9) It shall not be possible to hold a leadership position in the governorate council and at the same time hold another regional party leadership position. Members of the Caza council shall resign from the casa council if elected to the governorate council; members of the governorate shall resign from council membership if elected to the political bureau;
- 10) The governorate council shall administer the casas that fall under its jurisdiction; as for the student and syndicate commissions that fall under its jurisdiction they shall answer directly to central student and syndicate commissions that answer directly to the political bureau;
- 11) The governorate council shall be tasked with executing party policies as set by the political bureau. The former shall transmit to the latter the concerns and aspirations of residents of the governorate. The governorate council shall monitor environmental issues and recommend solutions to environmental problems that require the approval of the political bureau. It shall also establish expert committees as needed, follow their work and instate their projects;
- 12) The secretary of the governorate council shall, following a request by the coordinator or his deputy in case of the coordinator's absence, call for the first council meeting within a maximum of one month;
- 13) The council shall meet at least once a week and may meet extraordinarily as needed following an initiative by the governorate coordinator or a request by at least a quarter of its members. In all cases, the call for a meeting and the meeting agenda shall be sent by the council's secretary in consultation with the coordinator. Voting shall be by direct, public ballot.
- 14) Quorum of ordinary meetings shall be assured by a simple majority (half plus one). Extraordinary meetings such as those for the vote of confidence in the coordinator shall require a quorum of two-third. In case of an extraordinary meeting, the governorate

council's secretariat shall send invitations along with agendas at least one week prior to the meeting's date. In case of no confidence, the suspended members shall be replaced by new ones elected as per the stipulated regulations in this by-law;

- 15) The coordinator shall be tasked with administering matters of the governorate council and shall execute the assignments delegated to him by the party's political bureau or executive committee. In case where the coordinator is unable to carry on his duties for any reason, his deputy shall replace him and in case the latter's position is vacant then the secretary shall take on his duties;
- 16) In the case of vacancies in the governorate council, none of these vacancies shall be filled as long as the council comprises at least five members. In case of vacancy of the coordinator's position, his deputy shall replace him, and in case of vacancy in the latter's position the secretary shall replace him. In case where the governorate council comprises at most four members and its mandate is for less than six months, the governorate council shall be considered under the administration of the political bureau. IN case the remaining term is longer than six months, the central party secretariat shall organize a governorate council election within one month of the date of vacancy. The central party secretariat shall be the legitimate authority to handle the affairs not explicitly mentioned here concerning the filling of vacancies;
- 17) The governorate council shall answer directly to the political bureau and shall be bound by the decisions of the executive committee. The political bureau shall determine the duties and mandate of the governorate council.

Article Eight: Syndicate Commissions

- 1) The syndicate commission comprises all party members who are member of a given syndicate;
- 2) The Green Party Political Bureau shall determine a regulatory framework for each syndicate that comprises more than 10 members;
- 3) Syndicate party members shall elect via direct secret ballot and with absolute majority a coordinator's office to run the affairs of the syndicate to which they belong. The coordinator's office shall be comprised of six people: sector coordinator, deputy coordinator, secretary, treasurer, leader of recruitment and environmental expert;
- 4) Syndicates shall be represented in the national council at the rate of one representative for every ten members;
- 5) Members of syndicate proportional representation in the national council shall be elected during the elections of the coordinator's office;
- 6) Should the need for organization arise and in case the texts do not define it, the criteria for organization at the Caza council shall be adopted;
- 7) The political bureau shall organize a special commission for businessmen should it deem it appropriate.

Article Nine: Expatriate Councils

- 1) The local expatriate commission comprises in a foreign city at least ten members of the Green Party. Local expatriate commissions shall be established and organized under the same conditions that establish and organize Lebanese local commissions;

- 2) The country expatriate council represents all members of the green party in a country outside Lebanon. The establishment and organization of the country expatriate council is subject to the same conditions of the Lebanese casa councils;
- 3) The establishment, organization, media exposure, movement and events of expatriate councils shall observe local laws of the host country;
- 4) The continental council shall be established by a decision of the political bureau, as needed;
- 5) Should the need be, the political bureau may establish special regulations for expatriate councils;
- 6) The membership unit and yearly subscription in any of the European countries shall be 10 Euros and in the United States of America and the rest of the world it shall be 10 US dollars. Members may contribute one or more units;
- 7) Delegates of the expatriate councils may participate in the national council election of a president, vice-president and political bureau by voting via the Party's website, or by running for office on condition of having continued residence in Lebanon;
- 8) Proportional representation members of the expatriate council shall be elected during the council elections;
- 9) All leaders of the expatriate council shall be representatives at the national council of party members in their country of residence;
- 10) Should the organizational need arise, and in case the written texts do not determine it, the criteria for organizing local commissions and a Casa council shall be adopted;

Article Ten: Student Commissions in the Green Party of Lebanon

- 1) The student commission shall comprise all university and vocational students who are active in the Green Party;
- 2) Any student who is 18-years of age and is studying at a university or one of the vocational institutes in Lebanon or overseas shall be considered member of the Green Party Student committee. The student committee shall be considered the general assembly of the Green Party students;
- 3) Each vocational or university campus shall organize its commission based on the criteria of geographic continuity on campus;
- 4) Each university or campus commission shall organize its affairs and activities under the supervision of the administrative commission of the coordinator's office of the Party's student commission;
- 5) Each vocational or university class or year in each branch shall have its representative on campus;
- 6) The coordinator's office of the student commission shall comprise two representatives (a coordinator and a deputy) for every campus, in addition to proportional representation that equals one member for every twenty students in the vocational or university campus;
- 7) The coordinator's office of the student commission shall elect its administrative commission that comprises twelve members;
- 8) The administrative commissions shall include the coordinator, deputy-coordinator, recruitment person, secretary, education person, treasurer, media person and environment person. The coordinator may create new positions of responsibility should the need arise;
- 9) The administrative commission of the coordinator's office of the student commission shall be responsible for drawing general policies for the entire student commission, and shall review political and electoral affairs with each university or vocational commission, and shall reserve the final say on the adopted political decision;

- 10) The coordinator's office of the student commission shall lay out its yearly program and put it for discussion to seek the approval of the political bureau;
- 11) The administrative commission shall be accountable to the coordinator's office of the student commission;
- 12) The administrative commission shall organize at least two yearly events for all the student commissions in the Green Party;
- 13) The term of the coordinator's office as well as the administrative commission shall be for two years;
- 14) Should the need arise for organization for the student commission, and in case written texts do not determine it, it shall adopt the criteria of organizing the casa council or any other commission in the Green Party following the approval of the central secretariat;
- 15) As needed, the organization of the student commission shall be governed by an independent charter produced by the central secretariat which it shall review with the administrative commission of the student commission and with the political bureau.

Article Eleven: The National Council

- 1) The National Council is the central commission that represents all the leadership of the green party and shall be composed of members of the political bureau, the executive committee, members of governorate councils, all leaders of Casa councils, lead coordinators of syndicates, businessmen, administrative committee of student commissions and members of expatriate councils. It shall also comprise green party MPs for their entire term in office, incumbent party government ministers as well as former ministers and MPs;
- 2) The term of the national council shall be for three years;
- 3) The president of the party shall preside over the national council;
- 4) The council shall hold two ordinary meetings a year and may convene, if needed, following an initiative by the president or a request from at least one third of its members, but in all cases meeting invitations shall be sent by the central party secretary or his legal replacement in case of his absence. This is on condition that quorum is assured by the presence of at least half the council members;
- 5) The national council shall elect the party president, vice-president and the political bureau for three years;
- 6) Decisions shall be taken by absolute majority and secret voting;
- 7) Members of the national council shall present their recommendations and suggestions for drawing the general policy of the party to the political bureau which shall review them and make a final decision;
- 8) The council shall discuss reports presented by the president and central party cadres and may take necessary decisions or recommendations;
- 9) The council shall discuss all projects and business related to party activities and may accept or reject them;
- 10) The council shall discuss the party's annual budget and pass the balanced account of each closed financial year in light of a general report by the treasurer, following its approval by the political bureau;
- 11) The council shall follow up on the work of all party commissions including local committees, casa and government councils, syndicates, expatriate councils and youth and student commissions, and may take the necessary decisions;

- 12) The council shall approve any amendment to the party's by-laws suggested by the presidency or at least one third of council members at an extraordinary session devoted to this matter with two-third of the members;

Article Twelve: Political Bureau

- 1) The political bureau is the highest commission in the green party;
- 2) The political bureau shall be formed of fifteen members, in addition to five members elected to replace members whose positions may become vacant by death or resignation, based on the sequence of the sum of their votes. The political bureau includes as well green party MPs and incumbent ministers for the duration of their term;
- 3) Any member who occupied a party leadership position shall have the right to run for the political bureau. Candidates could be former members of political bureau, government council, casa council, syndicate councils, administrative committee of student commissions, expatriate councils, arbitration commission or executive committee, or to have been a member of the party for more than five years (The political bureau may shorten this duration to three years for the first election that follows the transition period).
- 4) The national council shall elect members of the political bureau. The national council elects the president, the vice president and thirteen other members in addition to the five replacement members;
- 5) Any candidate who wins the highest number of votes, as per the sequence of the sum of votes, shall win a seat in the political bureau;
- 6) In case where there are two candidates for the presidency or vice presidency of the party, the one with the highest number of votes shall win, and in case of a tie the eldest shall prevail.
- 7) Should there be several candidates for the presidency and vice-presidency, he shall be a winner whoever gets the absolute majority of the first round of voting. In case where no candidate wins the absolute majority, the two candidates who received the highest proportion of votes shall go on to the second round of voting and be subject to the provisions of Article (6);
- 8) The President of the party shall preside over the political bureau;
- 9) The president shall choose the party's central secretary form among members of the political bureau and following the approval of the absolute majority of members of the bureau;
- 10) Responsibilities shall be apportioned to members of the political bureau and shall include a political relations person, foreign relations and other responsibilities to be determined as needed. Each member of the political bureau may present himself as a candidate to any of these positions;
- 11) Candidates for each of the leadership position shall be chosen after winning the absolute majority of the political bureau votes. Voting shall take place for each individual candidate or in the case of multiple candidates for the position;
- 12) In the case where more than one candidate is running for a given position in the political bureau, the one with the highest number of votes shall win. If more than two candidates run and none of them won the majority in the first round, then the two candidates with the highest number of votes shall stay in the race and voting shall take place again. The winner of the higher number of votes shall win and in the case of a tie, the eldest shall prevail;
- 13) The term of the political bureau shall be for three years;

- 14) The political bureau shall meet once a week, following an invitation from the president or the central secretariat. The political bureau may convene in emergencies similar to the above or upon the request of at least one-third of the members who present it to the central party secretary who calls for the meeting as per the set procedures;
- 15) Decisions shall be taken by public voting and absolute majority. The president's vote shall prevail with one side in case of a tie;
- 16) The political bureau shall set the general policy of the party and take decisions regarding it, and may set the dates for general party elections, and determine the fees of membership as well as the value of monetary contribution by incumbent party MPs and government ministers from their official allocations;
- 17) The political bureau shall nominate party candidates for ministerial portfolios and for legislative, local and syndicate elections, or for assuming other important positions;

Article Thirteen: The Executive Committee

- 1) The executive committee is the team that helps the president in executing duties delegated to him by the political bureau;
- 2) The president of the green party shall preside over the committee;
- 3) The president of the party shall appoint members of the executive committee following each of them winning the confidence of the absolute majority of the political bureau. The executive committee shall comprise in addition to the president, vice-president and secretary general, the treasurer, head of recruitment and membership, head of research and studies, head of media, head of party education, head of student commission and head of syndicates and liberal professions committee;
- 4) The president shall have the right to appoint other people as needed in IT, logistics, events, etc... following the approval of the political bureau;
- 5) The background of members of the executive committee shall fit professionally with the positions that they occupy. If this is not the case, the president shall suggest non-specialized members after the approval of the political bureau of each suggested person;
- 6) The term of the executive committee shall be for three years, and shall end with the mandate of the political bureau;
- 7) The executive committee shall execute decisions of the political bureau as per the timeline and priorities set by the bureau;
- 8) The executive committee shall meet at least once a week following an invitation by central party secretary, and may convene extraordinarily following a request by one third of its members after the president's approval;
- 9) The president of the party shall preside over the meetings of the executive committee, and may delegate this task in his absence to the vice-president or to the secretary should the former be absent as well.

Article Fourteen: The President and the Vice-President of the Green Party

- 1) The national council shall elect via direct, secret ballot the president and the vice-president (details in paragraphs six and seven of the previous article);
- 2) The central party secretariat shall organize the voting process;
- 3) The term of the president and vice-president shall be for three years and shall end with the term of the political bureau;

- 4) The president and vice-president may run for only two consecutive terms in any of the two positions. They may each run again after the passing of one full term of another president;
- 5) A party member may run for president or vice-president of the green party if he is fully aware of the affairs and organization of the party. To this end, the candidate shall have necessarily been in one of the following positions: current or former member of the political bureau; incumbent or former MP or government minister from the green party; coordinator or deputy-coordinator of a governorate council, or president of the arbitration commission. Additionally, the candidate shall have been in the party for more than five years (the political bureau may shorten this duration to three years for the first election that follows the transition period);
- 6) The political bureau may in its two-third majority refer the president or the vice-president to the arbitration commission in case where any of them violates the party core principles, or commits a felony or misdemeanor or attempted felony;
- 7) The president or vice-president shall be considered effectively resigned from their positions if they join another political party or a political group, or if they run for administrative, syndicate, legislative or other elections in the name of another party or political group.

Article fifteen: Mandate of the president of the green party

- 1) He shall preside over all party commissions and bureaus; he shall preside over the political bureau, executive committee, national council and national conference and shall represent the party before other entities and official authorities. He shall be the primary responsible for executing decisions of the political bureau and national council;
- 2) He shall appoint the party's secretary general in addition to appointing the entire members of the executive committee in consultation with the political bureau and after the latter's approval of each member;
- 3) May suspend in a justified decision the general secretary or any responsible member of the executive committee in case of dereliction of duty, on condition of having the approval of the absolute majority of the political bureau;
- 4) He shall run the party's financial matters in cooperation with the treasurer;
- 5) May refer any party member to the arbitration commission following the approval of the governorate council or expatriate, syndicate or student commissions or based on their suggestion.

Article Sixteen: The Mandate of the Vice-President

The Vice-President (VP) shall replace the president in all his duties during the latter's absence. The VP fills in the eventual vacancy as president and in this case the central secretary replaces the VP until the end of the president's term in office. Appropriate decisions shall be left to the political bureau in the absence of a clear text in emergency cases.

Article Seventeen: Central Secretary

- 1) The central secretary of the green party shall be appointed by the President from among members of the political bureau. The president may appoint a secretary from outside the political bureau should no member express a desire for that position, on condition of approval from the political bureau. The secretary shall be suspended or replaced by a justified decision from the president following the approval of the political bureau;

- 2) The term of the central secretary shall de facto end with that of the president and the vice-president. The secretary shall stay in his position with the VP should the presidency become vacant. He shall handle the duties of the VP should the latter's position become vacant;
- 3) Should, or any reason, the position of central secretary become vacant, a new secretary shall be appointed in the same way within a maximum of two months of the date of vacancy. The president may designate an interim secretary until a new one is appointed;
- 4) The party central secretary shall organize and run the party secretariat and the political bureau and prepare the agendas of the sessions. He shall also aid the president in heading and managing the top of the executive hierarchy and supervise the work progress of all party units and commissions. He shall also co-sign with the president on the minutes of meetings of the political bureau;
- 5) He shall assure communication and interaction between local commissions, casa councils, political bureau, national council and various party commissions in Lebanon and abroad; he shall also supervise the execution of their decisions by the executive committee and other related units. The secretary shall assume all duties explicitly mentioned in the by-laws;
- 6) He shall follow-up on managing the work of the executive committee and issue organizational directives dictated in this by-law and as needed following the president's approval;
- 7) Suggest to the president the referral to the arbitration commission of party members who committed violations;
- 8) The receipt of all courier, communications, reviews and complaints and presenting them to the arbitration commission;
- 9) The receipt of all party election results dictated in this by-law and keeping them in a special register;
- 10) The central party secretary may form a central secretariat composed of a number of aides.

Article Eighteen: Arbitration Commission

- 1) The Arbitration Commission (AC) is the commission of wise people that is tasked with keeping a balance in the party;
- 2) The AC shall comprise seven people designated by the political bureau of members widely known for their wisdom. Commission members may choose from among themselves a president, a vice-president and a secretary general;
- 3) The term of the AC shall be for three years;
- 4) The AC shall review and decide on objections and appeals resulting from elections in the party;
- 5) The AC shall decide on internal party conflicts when presented before it;
- 6) The AC shall be tasked with explaining the party by-laws or any of its articles in case of ambiguity or confusion, based on the party's main principles;
- 7) The AC decisions shall be final and in effect on their own and obligatory to all party positions and commissions and may not be appealed or be subject for review;
- 8) The AC shall meet once a month to address violations attributed to party members and that have been referred to it and shall decide on them and communicate these decisions by known channels to concerned members and to the central secretariat for execution. As for disciplinary sanctions that the commission may impose, they include suspension of membership for one or three months or six months, or expelling members or preventing members from running for elections or voting for party positions temporarily or for good.

Article Nineteen: The Treasurer

- 1) The treasurer shall be a member of the executive committee, appointed by the president having won the confidence of the political bureau;
- 2) The president of the party shall assist the treasurer in running the party's financial matters. The treasurer shall manage the party's logistical affairs;
- 3) Before November 30 of every year, the treasurer shall present at the yearly budgetary session the fundraising plan to the national council so as to become in effect and obligatory after the council's approval;
- 4) The yearly budget shall be accompanied by the yearly fundraising plan, and both shall be approved together. The refusal by the national council of any of the two shall mean an effective rejection of the other.

Article Twenty: Sources of Income of the Green Party

- 1) The Green Party financial resources are from:
 - a- member dues
 - b- donations, contributions and transfers
 - c- various events, sports and art festivals
 - d- marketing the Party's produce
 - e- governmental and nongovernmental assistance
 - f- interest and revenues on fixed and mobile assets of the party
 - g- all legitimate sources of revenues as per laws in effect
- 2) The money of the green party shall be spent to realize the party's goals;
- 3) The president of the green party or whomever he designates explicitly shall run the party financial matters in cooperation with the treasurer. He shall prepare and manage investment and funding proposals as per published regulation;
- 4) All party commissions shall present their yearly budget on the first month of every year.

Article Twenty-One: Money Expenditure

- 1) The President shall have the right to spend the sum that he chooses after the approval of the political bureau. He shall also have the right to co-sign bank checks with the treasurer;
- 2) The president shall have the right to order the expenditure of a sum that does not exceed one and a half million Lebanese pounds (L.L. 1,500,000) on condition of approval by the political bureau in the first session that follows the approval. The president shall have the right of individual signature on any sum or banking check that does not exceed one and a half million Lebanese pounds;
- 3) The treasurer may not pay any of the party money except with a payment request signed by the president and detailing the reason and purpose of the expense;
- 4) The president shall open an account in any bank he chooses after the approval of the political bureau.

Article Twenty-two: The National Conference

The yearly conference shall be an obligatory yearly meeting for the general assembly, during which party commissions and leaders shall present their ideas and projects before all members of the

general assembly. The central party secretariat shall supervise the organization of the conference. The political bureau may conduct a referendum on any of the substantive topics; the results of the referendum shall be compulsory for all party councils and commissions.

Article Twenty-three: Friends of the Party

Friends of the party shall be composed of expert consultants, financial backers, volunteers, youth and those who choose to help the party in a specific task without joining its ranks. They may be invited to attend meetings but they shall not have the right to vote, elect or run for office in any of the party's positions.

Article Twenty-Four: General Rules

- 1) There shall be no quorum in any of the party commission meetings unless more than half of the members are present. Decisions shall be made by direct secret voting and by an absolute majority. In case of a tie, there shall be reelection by public voting and in case of a tie again, the vote of the president of the meeting shall prevail on one side, unless in cases that are indicated otherwise in this by-law;
- 2) The basis for all party work shall be ensuring continuity, hence commissions, councils and secretariats shall continue assuming their duties until alternative commissions, councils and secretariats have been elected. The political bureau may take necessary decisions to ensure and protect the continuity of party work. In cases where the political bureau is incapable of meeting for national emergency reasons, the party shall be under the leadership of an emergency troika composed of the president, vice-president and central secretary until the end of this situation.

Concluding Rules

This by-law shall be in effect as soon as it is ratified as per the regulation and shall encompass a three-year transition to completely build the structure of the party. The political bureau shall organize matters as needed during the transition. Following the transition, there shall be de facto annulled all arrangements or decisions in violation of the articles herein.