**CONSTITUTION OF THE REFUGEE WELFARE ASSOCIATION CAMEROON (REWAC)**

**PREAMBLE:**

 Whereas the United Nations Charter recognizes the inviolable nature of human rights as enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

 Whereas the government of Cameroon has achieved much in the promotion of human rights;

 Having due regard to the integrity, status and identity of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a special group of persons under International law;

 Considering the need to create a forum to discuss, advocate for and foster mechanisms for the protection of the rights of this group of vulnerable persons;

 WE, the founding members of this association have created same and given to ourselves the Constitution herein below:

**Section 1: NAME (APPELLATION)**

 The association shall be known and called ‘REFUGEE WELFARE ASSOCIATION CAMEROON’ abbreviated **‘REWAC**”

**Section 2: SEAT**

 The Seat of the association shall be in Tiko, P.O Box 420, Tiko, South West Region, Cameroon which shall be its registered Office. However, the association is authorized to open branches and to operate from other towns in Cameroon as per Section 12 of this Constitution.

**Section 3: DURATION**

 The association shall exist in perpetuity. In case of a Winding up, the procedure laid down in Section 13 shall apply.

**Section 4: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the association shall be:

1. To increase public awareness on the rights and plight of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cameroon
2. To empower these vulnerable group of persons in their efforts at re-integration
3. To support and foster solidarity amongst refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) vis a vis their local communities for enhanced societal cohesion.
4. To assist these persons in legal, administrative, and livelihood programs.

**Section 5: METHODS**

To achieve its objectives, the association shall:

1. Organize seminars, conferences, workshops and other activities on the rights, plight and actions of these group of persons
2. Set up a refugee rights Information Clearing House and Documentation (ICHD) Center
3. Develop a network of trained legal professionals in refugee law, refugee protection mechanisms, and humanitarian law in Cameroon
4. Produce a monthly newsletter on refugee related matters in Cameroon and the world
5. Identity and reach out to other refugee rights organizations in Cameroon for networking and information sharing as well as joint ventures
6. Liaise with other relevant international and Regional organizations like the UN, UNHCR, IOM, the AU etc for mentorship, knowledge sharing, best practices, skills transfer, capacity building initiatives etc for enhanced service delivery to these group of persons.

**Section 6: MEMBERSHIP**

 Membership is open to any person who is interested in the welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

**Section 7: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The association shall have three main Organs as follows:

1. General Assembly

It shall be the decision making body of the association.

It shall meet once a year, notwithstanding that an extra ordinary session may be summoned at the instance of the Management board

1. Management Board

It shall be made up of a gender balanced group of 07 persons elected by the General assembly.

Their mandate shall be for 5 years, renewable once

It shall be headed by a Coordinator, who shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the association.

The Coordinator shall be assisted by a Vice Coordinator. Other members shall include the Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and a Technical Adviser.

Their detailed functions shall be spelt out in the Internal Rules and Regulations as per Section 11 of this Constitution.

 C. Advisory Board

 It shall be made up of 05 persons of high moral and international repute

 They shall be appointed by the Coordinator upon the recommendation of the Management Board and endorsed by the General Assembly

 They shall serve in their personal capacity and their role is advisory

 They may not be removed from their office except upon resignation or death.

**Section 8: RESOURCES**

 The resources of the association shall come from its membership dues, annual contributions, funded projects, donations and royalties as well as sales of publications of the association.

**Section 9: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

 The association shall maintain an account with BANQUE ATLANTIQUE Cameroon SA, Bamenda Branch.

 The Coordinator shall authorize all expenditure as approved by the General assembly

 Any withdrawals shall be countersigned by the Coordinator, the Secretary General and or the Treasurer.

**Section 10: AUDIT**

 The association shall appoint an external auditor 15 days after the end of the financial year

 The financial year runs from the 1st of January to the 31st December annually

 An internal auditor shall however be appointed by the Management board to produce Quarterly reports. He/She shall work with the Financial Secretary.

**Section 11: INTERNAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

 The association shall draw up its internal rules and regulations within one year of its existence. It shall be presented to the 1st General assembly Meeting for adoption.

 **Section 12 : BRANCHES**

 The association shall be free to create branches and Ad hoc Committees as may be deem necessary in fulfilling the objectives , provided that the Management Board shall validate the creation.

 **Section 13: WINDING UP**

In the case of a Winding up approved by 2/3 of the General Assembly and endorsed by the Management Board, the assets of the association shall be bequeathed to a sister Charity to be approved by the General Assembly after liquidating any pending debts and/or engagements.

**Section 14: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

 The association shall be free to liaise, network, co-operate and work with any individual, structure or group in furthering her objectives.

**Section 15: AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

 The association shall be free to amend her constitution upon a Motion approved by 2/3 of the General Assembly, provided that the Management Board shall validate the amendment.

**Section 16: ADOPTION**

 This Constitution has been read, approved and thus adopted by the Founding Members of the Association.

**DATED AT TIKO, SOUTH WEST REGION, CAMEROON, THIS SATURDAY THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2008**

 **SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

**JUDGE MUKETE TAHLE ITOE,**

**COORDINATOR**