IPC In The Gambia: Supporting Peaceful Elections

Fostering Understanding Between Political Parties
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

BACKGROUND

The Inter-Party Committee (IPC) was established by political parties as a forum for dialogue and cooperation to promote adherence to MoU and Code of Conduct, promote national reconciliation and ensure consensus building amongst political parties on contested political and electoral issues.

Before 2016, the IPC was a dormant institution largely because of regular disputes between representatives of the Government and stakeholders in opposition but with support from UNDP, it was revitalized in 2016 by all political parties registered by IEC to address the political challenges ahead of the presidential elections. A memorandum of understanding and MOU and Code of Conduct was later signed on 7th March 2017.

The 2019 Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) report recognized the unique role of the Inter-Party Committee (IPC) as a key driver of peace and stability given its natural mandate as a democratic institution to coordinate inter-party relationships and as a non-partisan forum to facilitate and promote accommodative politics across the political spectrum.

The CDA report also identified IPC’s ability to deliver on its mandate, 3 years after revitalization, as considerably constrained due to limited capacity and dedicated funding and recommended more support for its capacity building needs. Subsequently and with support from UNDP and other partners, the IPC has become more institutionalized with better capacity to deliver on its programmes.

The next presidential, parliamentary, and local council elections will be a defining moment in consolidating democratic governance and social cohesion in The Gambia and the role of IPC will be critical not only in promoting peace and stability, but also continuing to guide engagements on several democratic reforms and processes that are overlapping during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic period.

18 registered political parties currently exist, 4 additional parties are fulfilling the registration requirements and 12 independent aspirants for the December 2021 presidential elections in The Gambia
ACHEIVEMENTS

1. A fit for purpose IPC headquarters and its secretariat were established and inaugurated in June 2021 as part of UNDP’s governance mandate to strengthen democratic institutions in The Gambia. The institutionalized IPC is a model for championing more collaborative and meaningful inter-party dialogues. The secretariat was established in partnership with the UNDP and ECOWAS.

But building democratic institutions is a process, and additional support is therefore needed especially in strengthening its secretariat with extra capacity to support IPC and its newly established sub-branches, and effective coordination of growing donor support.

2. Registration of IPC by the Registrar of Companies in May 2021. IPC now enjoys all the rights of a corporate body registered under the Companies Act of the Republic of The Gambia.

3. Inter-party dialogue and engagements between political party leaders have increased and parties with divergent opinion on political issues are increasingly using the space created by the IPC to discuss common issues of concern including making their inputs in strategic documents such as the draft constitution, gender policy, elections bill, among others.

4. Three quarterly sessions for political leaders held to date. The sessions provided space for frank conversations and commitments to the vision of IPC foundational documents, gender equality in political representation and holding of peaceful elections.

At the first quarterly session of 20th March 2021, leaders reviewed the MOU/Code of Conduct of political parties and recommitted to respecting all its provisions before, during and after elections.

During the second quarterly session of 19th June 2021, political leaders committed to promote women political participation, including increasing the number of elected women in the next national assembly. The leaders also approved IPC’s proposal for the establishment of a women wing to advance gender equality in political parties and elective politics.

The third quarterly session for political leaders on 25th September 2021 witnessed a commitment by to peaceful elections and dialogue during the campaign period in line with legal and policy frameworks for elections. The leaders validated and signed a peace pledge (Janjanbureh Peace
Accord) as part of this commitment. This activity was supported by UNDP and NDI.

5. **Dialogue and joint review of the elections bill 2020.** The 16 political parties registered at the time reviewed all sections of the Bill, built consensus on contentious issues and made concrete recommendations for improvement, including retention of the marbles system for voting, creation of a boundaries commission, relaxing requirements for the registration of political parties, among others. However, the bill is yet to be ratified by the National Assembly.

6. **Holding of inter-party press conferences on topical political developments** to communicate to the public key IPC decisions and recommendations such as the elections bill, outcomes of breakfast meetings, creation of IPC sub-branches, among others. Questions and answers sessions with the media clarified IPC position on these reforms, including issues such the use of marbles or ballot papers for voting in elections, amount of money to be deposited to the ICC by candidates, etc. The engagements enhanced IPC’s visibility but also made the public to understand the role of IPC in the reform agenda.

7. Increased participation of the youth in political and peace activities following the establishment of the Youth Branch of Inter-party Committee (YOBIPC) and nomination of two Co-Chairpersons. Each political party is represented by two members, one woman and one man while representation of PWDs is encouraged. The Youth branch is responsible for the implementation of youth activities, including promotion of peace and addressing gaps or barriers to youth inclusion in decision making. The Co-Chairpersons participate in IPC meetings and activities.

The youth branch will be instrumental in advocating for a rethinking and reviewing of national legal and policy frameworks to guarantee a commanding representation of youth in parliament, and executive branches of governments at national and local levels.

8. Establishment of Women Branch of IPC to promote women political participation in elections and political processes. The Branch will be instrumental in encouraging women to vote in the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. A strategic plan and resource mobilization strategy will be developed while
mentorship program will be established to mentor potential women candidates to assume public leadership positions. The women branch will be instrumental in advocating for equal representation of women in parliament and executive branches of governments.

9. **Establishment of IPC’s Mediation Committee**, Including the development of mediation and communication strategies to enhance the capacity of the IPC to mediate and resolve complaints against its members and affiliated political parties, and to provide the Mediation Committee with relevant tools to handle disputes and communicate its activities to members and the public. The two strategies are in alignment with the IPC’s MoU and Code of Conduct that mandates the inter-party committee to enforce its code of conduct and communicate its activities to electoral stakeholders.

10. **Community sensitization on the content of MOU and Code of Conduct** for political parties. Joint sensitization campaigns by political parties have been held through community radios before and during breakfast meetings and radio/social media platforms sessions with Co-Chairpersons. Printing of 5,000 copies of the code of conduct has been done for dissemination to senior secondary schools across the country. The Code will be published in the national newspapers, discussed in community radios, and translated in collaboration with the University of The Gambia (UTG) into local languages for wider dissemination in the communities across the country.

11. **IPC video documentary** on historical work of IPC in promoting democracy and peaceful elections in The Gambia is at the final stage of production. The video emphasizes the role of IPC in promoting democracy and peaceful elections. Coming at a time when the country is headed towards a highly contested presidential election, the video also voices messages of political tolerance, non-violence, and reconciliation. A media strategy is being designed to disseminate the video and key messages to the public using

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*Launch of the Women Branch of IPC, October 16th, 2021*

*IPC Working Session on Mediation and Communication Strategies, October 21st, 2021.*

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social media, national and community radios, tv stations, etc.

12. 23 IPC members (123 Male, 100 Female) from 16 political parties, at national and regional levels, have been trained on facilitation of dialogue process and mediation efforts across party lines in collaboration with WANEP. This contributes to building capacity of political parties’ members to address challenges encountered during the electoral process and beyond. The benefit of the strengthened capacity is demonstrated by consensus building as a decision-making approach in all IPC meetings/engagements, including making decision on highly contested issues.

13. The IPC strategic plan was developed and validated in June 2021 to guide strategic interventions and activities at the national and regional levels.

THE IPC SO FAR

1. Holding of joint inter-party press releases/conferences on topical political developments to ease tensions and deepen reconciliation amongst political operatives.

2. Establishment of Women Branch of IPC to promote women political participation in elections and political processes. The Branch will be instrumental in encouraging women to vote in the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. Upon operationalization of the Women Branch, a strategic plan and resource mobilization strategy will be developed. A mentorship programme will be established to mentor potential women candidates to assume public leadership positions. The women branch will be instrumental in advocating for equal representation of women in parliament and executive branches of governments.

3. Research on drivers of electoral violence in The Gambia and the role of political parties in preventing and mitigating electoral violence. The study is being done in partnership with University of The Gambia and will be expected to be released at the end of September/early October. Key messages will be used to promote peace ahead of the elections.

4. Development of gender policy for political parties to enhance gender equality within political parties. The policy will guide political parties in the process of both candidate selection for elections and party leadership to
ensure women inclusion, improve internal party democracy and accountability mechanisms for compliance. The policy is being developed in partnership with University of The Gambia (UTG).

5. **Establishment of regional branches of Youth Branch of IPC (YOBIPC)** to assist in promoting youth inclusion and political participation in the regions. This will be followed by training on leadership skills, political dialogue, negotiation, mediation and communication skills.

6. **Peace promotion among the youth** across the regions. YOBIPC will organize football matches and meetings with regional and district stakeholders to promote peace among the youth from different political parties and communities in the regions. The matches will be preceded by youth panels in the community radios discussing issues of youth and peace. This activity will take place during October-November period.

**PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED:**

- **University of The Gambia (UTG).** The university is currently implementing two project activities: Research on drivers of electoral violence in The Gambia and the role of political parties and other actors in preventing electoral violence. The second activity relates to the development of a gender policy for political parties to increase women political participation in party leadership structures, national assembly and local councils.

- **National Development Institute (NDI).** The partnership has led to information exchange and avoidance of duplication, collaboration in organizing the 3rd quarterly breakfast meeting for political leaders and planned inauguration of the women branch of IPC in October.

- **International Republican Institute (IRI).** The partnership has led to successful training of trainers (ToT) of 15 trainees from IPC, academia, CSOs and government on women leadership and political participation. Step down training in the regions are ongoing, targeting women leaders from the village development committees (VDCs), community women organizations, youth groups and women aspiring for elective positions.

- **ECOWAS.** The partnership succeeded in the establishment of IPC headquarters and has continued to grow as a result of regular information sharing. Joint training of IPC youth branches, once established, is under consideration.

**BUILDING ON LESSONS LEARNED:**

- The IPC is yet to be self-reliant in financing its activities. It is largely dependent on donor support to finance its programmes and activities. If donor support is to stop, its activities are likely to cease.

Such dependency is unsustainable in the long term and it is therefore important to prepare the ground for its evolution into a statutory institution that would finance its operations from revenue allocated by an Act of the National Assembly from the consolidated fund.

A round table discussion might be needed on the need to transform IPC into a statutory
architecture of the IPC with a stand-alone act that is fully financed from public resources.

- Partner’s interventions targeting to support political parties are growing. Such interventions should be made and coordinated through the IPC with formal agreements, not outside it, to eliminate potential duplication and build synergies.

A quarterly IPC-Partners meeting is therefore important to review ongoing activities and make recommendations for improvement. At the beginning of 2022, a joint Planning session with partners might be needed to map partners’ interventions and possibly develop a joint work plan for 2022.

- AU and ECOWAS should consider fostering networking among IPC like institutions in the regions and nurture inter-party frameworks to strengthen support the building of a democratic culture.

- A reflection session will be needed in December 2021 to review IPC work in 2021, achievements and challenges. Consideration should be made to review the Code of conduct to mainstream gender, incorporate the youth and women branches, align it with mediation and communication frameworks, etc.

**MOVING FORWARD**

IPC will significantly contribute to the strengthening of peace and social cohesion before, during and beyond the electoral period. The role of political parties and their National Assembly members will also be key to democratic consolidation, development agenda, including implementation of SDGs and recovery from the COVID-19. Sustained engagement and support to the IPC, political parties and National Assembly is therefore important through a forum (IPC) outside parliament that will allow interactions with CSOs, stakeholders and the society as a whole.

**THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM**

Held on 26th October 2021, the stakeholders’ forum was organized by the Inter-Party Committee with support from UNOWAS, ECOWAS, RCO, UNDP and NDI to provide a platform where political leaders in The Gambia could commit — in the presence of national and international stakeholders — to the highest standards of electioneering in support of the organization of peaceful and credible elections, with a special emphasis on the need to avoid incendiary language and hate speech before, on and after election day.

The forum was attended by leaders of registered political parties, IPC Co-Chairs and members, prospective independent presidential candidates, representatives of the 3 branches of government (Executive, National Assembly, and the Judiciary), National Stakeholders (IEC, NHRC, Religious Leaders, CSO Coalition on Elections, TANGO, WANEP, GBA, GPU, private sector, etc.) and international partners including United Nations, ECOWAS, African Union, NDI. Members of the diplomatic community included EU, UK, Senegal, Nigeria, Germany, China, Turkey, among others.
The forum was structured in two sessions. The morning session covered the 4th IPC quarterly breakfast meeting for political party leaders, IPC members and selected guests. It was primarily designed to provide an opportunity for leaders of political parties to collectively ventilate their concerns and make recommendations for a peaceful presidential poll in December 2021. The afternoon session was attended by all participants who attended the Quarterly Breakfast meeting in addition to other stakeholders, including prospective independent candidates, high-level participation from the UN, ECOWAS and the AU, as well as representatives of civil society, private sector, UTG, the media and religious leaders.
OUTCOME OF THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM
The forum witnessed the signing of Peace Pledge (aka the Janjanbureh Pledge) two more political parties. The peace pledge commits leaders and their parties to the undertakings contained in the IPC Code of Conduct and the IEC Code of Ethics. Statements were made by representatives of the UN, ECOWAS and the AU to express their support for peaceful, free and fair elections in The Gambia. A press conference was held at the closing of the forum to share information, including the outcome of the forum and next steps to the public. To date, 17 out of 18 political parties have committed and signed the peace pledge with NP yet to sign.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS’ FORUM
Two main follow-on activities are envisioned after the Forum:

1. **Regional sensitisation** on the Peace Pledge will be carried out by IPC Regional Sensitisation Teams (RSTs) (supported by UNDP using funding from UNOWAS). The regional sensitisation activities will cover all regions of The Gambia and will take place in two rounds. The first was on **27-28 October 2021** (4 RSTs to cover Upper River Region, Central River Region, Lower River Region and North Bank Region) and **on 6-7 November 2021** (3 RSTs to cover West Coast Region, Kanifing and Banjul).

2. **Media trainings** on hate speech will be carried out by the Gambia Press Union (GPU) with support from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (supported by UNDP using funding from UNOWAS). Three, 2-day trainings will take place on **8-13 November 2021** targeting journalists from (1) print and online media, (2) radio and television and (3) community radio.

IPC co-chair Mr. Nyassi engaging the press
ANNEX 1: MEDIA COVERAGE:

The coverage of some of activities by the media can be viewed or accessed through the following links:

i. [https://standard.gm/political-leaders-commit-to-violence-free-election0/](https://standard.gm/political-leaders-commit-to-violence-free-election0/).

ii. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epwHpcDRy98](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epwHpcDRy98).

iii. [https://fatunetwork.net/nations-political-parties-prepare-for-huge-summit-where-they-are-set-to-sign/](https://fatunetwork.net/nations-political-parties-prepare-for-huge-summit-where-they-are-set-to-sign/).

iv. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlFHTKxAXJA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlFHTKxAXJA).


vii. [https://www.voicegambia.com/2021/05/31/opposition-leaders-commend-ipc-on-political-tolerance-and-inclusiveness](https://www.voicegambia.com/2021/05/31/opposition-leaders-commend-ipc-on-political-tolerance-and-inclusiveness/).

ANNEX 2: BIOGRAPHY OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEADERS

ALL PEOPLES PARTY (APP)

**All Peoples Party (APP)** was registered on 6th January 2020. Mr. **Alhagie Gumbo Ali Touray**, the former director of international affairs at the University of The Gambia, is the interim party leader. The party’s motto is Putting “People First” and the symbol is a book, a rice plant and stethoscope. Its colour is sea blue and white with secretariat’s located at Wellingara, West Coast Region. The party headquarter is at Sinchu Alhaji Highway.

![All Peoples Party](image)

Dr. Bai Biran Jagne, APP party leader

ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL RE-ORIENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ANRD)

**Alliance for National Re-orientation and Development (ANRD)** was registered on 28th April 2021 with the IEC. The party leader, **Mr. Lamin Sutu Bojang**, a native of Brufut, was a career military officer who served as Commander of the Army, head of the State Guards among other senior positions before retiring to serve in Gambia’s diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia and Russia. The party motto is Justice, Freedom and Development and its colours are orange and green while a bundle of harvested rice is its symbol.

![Alliance for National Re-orientation and Development](image)

Lamin Bojang, ANRD Party Leader

ALLIANCE FOR PATRIOTIC REORIENTATION AND CONSTRUCTION (APRC)

The **Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction** was founded by army officers who staged a coup in 1994 and it was the dominant ruling party from 1996 until 2016 during the regime of President Yahya Jammeh. The party leader is **Mr. Fabakary Tombong Jatta** who assumed office in 2017. Mr. Jatta was the National Assembly Member (NAM) for Serekunda East from 1997-2016. He was majority leader for 10 years and head of government business. The APRC motto is Unity, Self-Reliance and Progress and a palm tree is its symbol. The party colour is green and the secretariat is located at Manjai Kunda, KMC.

![Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction](image)

Fabakary Jatta, APRC party leader
GAMBIA DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (GDC)

The Gambia Democratic Congress Party was established on 11th May 2016 by its current leader, Mama Kandeh. Its motto is “One Gambia, One People” and the symbol is open calabash in two hands while its colour is purple. The secretariat is located at Brusubi, Kombo North. The party leader and presidential candidate, Mama Kandeh, attended Crab Island School in Banjul and Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) in Jeshwang KMC. On completion of Secondary school, he worked with Gambia Ports Authority, Senegambia Insurance, Sunwing and Friendship hotels. He was elected in 2007 as Member of Parliament for the then ruling party, the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC), for Jimara constituency, defeating the UNDP candidate and current President, Adama Barrow.

Website: https://www.gdc.gm/

Mama Kandeh, GDC Party Leader

GAMBIA MORAL CONGRESS (GMC)

The Gambia Moral Congress got its registration certificate on 27th January 2009. The party leader, Lawyer Mai Ahmed Fatty, was Minister of the Interior in President Adama Barrow’s cabinet from 1st February to 10th November 2017. He fled Gambia in 2011 after being threatened following the 2011 presidential election but returned in November 2016. The party’s secretariat is at Kerr Sering, Western Region. Its motto is “Dialogue, peace and forgiveness” and the slogan is building a strong faith nation. The party colour is red with eight white stars. The party head office is located at pipeline, after the American Embassy.

Mai Ahmed Fatty, GMC party leader

GAMBIA PARTY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (GPDP)

The Gambia Party for Democracy and Progress (GPDP) is led by General Henry Gomez who is also a presidential adviser on youth matters. Mr. Gomez founded the party in 2004. He initially worked as a businessman in New Jeshwang. In 2017, President Adama Barrow appointed Gomez the minister for youth and sport, but he later resigned in 2018. The GPDP motto is In God We Trust, and the secretariat is located at New Jeshwang, KMC. The party colour is orange, with two elephants as its symbol.

Mr. Henry Gomez, GPDP Party
The National Convention Party (NCP) was founded on 7th September 1975 under the leadership of Sheriff Mustapha Dibba and was among the political parties that were banned after the military takeover in 1994. Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources is the Party leader. The party’s secretariat is at The party Secretariat is at Bakoteh, opposite AGIB Bank, West Coast Region. Its motto is Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful) and has boat as its symbol and green as its colour.

The party was founded in 1996 by Mr. Hamat Ngai Kumba Bah, the current Minister of Tourism and Culture in President Adama Barrow’s cabinet. The party motto is Hon esty, Equ ality and Justice and its secretariat is located at Kairaba Avenue, KMC. Its colour is blue and a white cow as its symbol. Mr. Bah was born in Upper Saloum, Central River Division and was the National Assembly Member for Upper Saloum from 1997 to 2005. He was also a member of the National Alliance for democracy and development (NADD).

The Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) was founded in 1959 and it was the dominant ruling party from 1962 to 1994 during the regime President Kairaba Jawara. It fell from power after the 1994 coup. The party motto is Vox Populi Vox Dei. The PPP secretariat is located at Fajara M section, Axe and Hoe is its symbol while hot Pink is its colour. Kebba E. Jallow is the secretary general and party leader. Mr. Jallow was first elected as a councilor in 1977 and became the first Chairman/Mayor of KMC in 1992. He also served as national coordinator for the PPP Youth Wing from 1992 to 1994. After the military coup in 1994, he condemned overthrow of a democratically elected government and fled the country to live in exile for over 22yrs. While in the USA, he was among the pioneers
who established the PPP USA chapter and helped many Gambians by supporting their asylum cases.

**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM**

The People's Democratic Organisation for Independence and Socialism (PDOIS) was founded on 31 July 1986. Its motto is Liberty, Dignity and Prosperity and the secretariat is located at Churchills Town, Serrakunda. The party colour is brown and a sun with sixteen rays is its symbol. The party leader, Honourable Halifa Sallah, a co-founder of the party, was educated in the United States, graduating with a degree in sociology. He returned to the Gambia in 1977 and worked as a social worker in the Social Welfare Department. Hon. Sallah is a member of the National Assembly representing Serekunda area. PDOIS began publishing its own newspaper, Foroyaa, in July 1987, where it was critical of the pro-Western foreign policy of Dawda Jawara and opposed the Senegambia Confederation. It was not banned following the 1994 coup as it did not publicly denounce the power grab, but both Jatta and Sallah turned down the cabinet posts they were offered.

**UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY (UDP)**

The United Democratic Party (UDP) was founded in 1996 by the current party leader, Ousainou Darboe. Mr. Darboe is a human rights lawyer and former vice president of the Gambia Bar Association. He was appointed by President Adama Barrow the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad in 2017 and later the Vice-President and Minister of Women’s Affairs from June 2018 to March 2019. He studied in the Gambia, Nigeria and Canada where he obtained a master’s degree in law. The UDP was part of the 2016 coalition that won elections against former president Yahya Jammeh. The party motto is Justice, Peace and Progress and the secretariat is in Banjul. Its colour is Yellow, with unity handshake as its symbol.
GAMBIA ACTION PARTY (GAP)

The party was registered on 17th January 2019 and its secretariat is located at Antu Badgan street, Latrikunda German. The party colour is silver with River Gambia as its symbol. The Party leader and Secretary General, Musa Yalli Batchilly, studied in the Gambia, US and Sierra Leone. Mr. Batchilly was the CEO of the Batchilly & Son international Trading Corporation. The GAP motto is Mass Development Through Mass Action. The secretariat/headquarter is located at 10 East Street Fajara.

CITIZEN’S ALLIANCE (CA)

Citizen’s Alliance was founded on the ideals of democracy, civil liberties, economic prosperity, social cohesion and social justice. The party leaders and presidential candidate, Dr. Ismaila Ceesay, was a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Political Science department at the University of The Gambia (UTG). Born and raised in Kombo Brikama, Dr. Ceesay holds a PhD in African Studies from the University of Edinburgh. The party’s Secretariat is located at Brikama in West Coast Region. CA was registered on 29th November 2019 and its motto is Patriotism, Integrity and Development while a Baobab tree is its symbol. Party colours are dark blue and white stripes. The party headquarters is at D107 Kanifing House Estate and the political bureau is in Brikama. CA’s website: https://www.citizensalliance.gm/

NATIONAL PEOPLE’S PARTY (NPP)

The National People’s Party was founded in December 2019 by President Adama Barrow as a vehicle to seek a second term in the 2021 Gambian presidential election after relations deteriorated between Barrow and his former party, UDP. In 2019, Barrow dismissed UDP party leader Ousainou Darboe as his Vice-President following disagreements. Mr. Barrow was a former member of the United Democratic party (UDP), which later formed a Coalition with seven opposition parties that won the 2016 presidential elections.
elected in Basse, he studied in the UK and he is the third president of the republic of the Gambia. The party is said to be here to solve the problems of the country. White horse is its symbol and dark grey as its colour. Its motto is Peace Progress and Unity, and the secretariat is located at Churchills town.

**GAMBIA FOR ALL (GFA)**

The Gambia For All Party was registered 2nd January 2020. The party’s vision is of a society at peace with itself. The party leader, **Mr. Bakary B Dabo**, worked in public sector management before serving successively as ambassador, state Minister, and 10 years as Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia. His work included being an Assistant Commissioner in Basse (Upper River Region) and in Kerewan (North Bank Region), former Gambian Ambassador to Senegal 1979, Senior Political Adviser to the UN Secretary General 2000-03, Chief of Staff to UN Mission in Ethiopia & Eritrea 2004-07, Chief of Staff and Liaison Officer of UN Mission to Western Sahara, MINURSO 2007-09, and UN Senior Political Adviser in the Republic of Guinea/Conakry 2010-11. GFA motto is Tesito, Justice and Discipline and colours are light blue and Gold. Swarm of bees and corn cob is the party symbol, and its Secretariat is located at Fajara M section, KMC.

GFA’s website: [https://www.gfaparty.org/](https://www.gfaparty.org/)

**GAMBIA ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL UNITY (GANU)**

**GANU** was registered on 15th June 2020 with the aim of initiating real change and progress as indicated in its motto “GANU is the solution”. The Party leader is **Mr. Sheikh Tijan Hydara**, former Attorney General and Minister of Justice who also lectured law at the university of The Gambia. A native of Brufut, Mr. Hydara studied law at University of Sokoto, Nigeria; Nigeria Law School in Lagos, Lok-Shaba, New Delhi, India; and obtained his LLM at the University of West Indies, Barbados in 2002. Among his titles at the Ministry of justice was state counsel, principal legal draftsman, curator of intestate to registrar of companies. The party symbol is a circle of people holding hands as a sign of unity and
its colour is sea green, grey and white. The secretariat is located at Bertil Harding Highway, Bijilo, West Coast Region.

**NATIONAL UNITY PARTY (NUP)**

The National Unity Party (NUP) was registered on 6th October 2020. The party leader is Mr. Ousman Jammeh, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2009-2010, educated at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, at the Finafrica Institute in Milan and the University of East Anglia. He was also Energy Minister from 2008-2009 and served as Secretary General and Head of Civil Service in 2011. The NUP motto is Unity in Strength, depicting that in unity lies the solutions to the challenges the country currently faces. The party’s Secretariat is located at Brusubi Phase II in West Coast Region and its colours are orange and white. Tractor and plant stalks are its symbol.

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP)**

Registered on 1st March 2021, the Democratic Party (DP) is led by the Secretary General and Party Leader, Mr. Yusupha Dumbuya, who was born and raised in Banjul. Mr. Dumbuya is currently pursuing a PhD in accounting and business at the University of Maryland. His vision is of a DP led government that will change the system of governance by protecting the country from foreign dependency and creating local solutions to Gambian problems. The DP Motto is Awakening Gambia, and its symbol is torch light while the colours are light blue and black.
THE GAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2021: POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS' PEACE PLEDGE (aka, JANJANBUREH PEACE ACCORD) MADE ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

We, the undersigned leaders and representatives of registered political parties in The Gambia, met at its 3'm Quarterly Breakfast Meeting at Janjanbureh, in Central River Region at the instance of the Inter-Party Committee (IPC), with the objective to pledge and secure our total commitment to peaceful election campaigns ahead of the December 2021 Presidential election and subsequent elections in The Gambia.

Reaffirming that registered political parties in The Gambia through their leaders have subscribed to the Inter-Party Committee's Memorandum of Understanding and Code of Conduct to promote peaceful political dialogues, credible electoral process, and foster national unity; and understand the imperatives for its leaders, officials and supporters to adhere to the terms of the MoU as well as the IEC's Code on Election Campaign Ethics (The Order);

Determined to avoid any conduct or behavior that will endanger the political stability or security of the country, and to place national interest above personal and partisan considerations;

Reaffirming that the IPC, political parties and party leaders in The Gambia are committed to peaceful, inclusive, and issues driven campaigns in the run up to and beyond the 2021 Presidential election;

Conscious of the fact that the struggle among the various political parties and their supporters over the votes of the Gambian electorates in the impending December 2021 Presidential election have continued to generate fear and apprehensions among electoral stakeholders including the electorates;

Cognizant of the need to take proactive measures to prevent and/or mitigate hate speech, fake news and electoral violence, before, during and after the Presidential election, and reaffirm our commitment to the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia, as well as the unity and existence of The Gambia as an entity.

We hereby reaffirm and commit to fully abide by all the rules and regulations as laid down in the legal framework for elections in The Gambia, especially the 1997 Constitution; the Elections Act 2009; the IPC MoU and Code of Conduct and as well as the IEC Code on Election Campaign Ethics as our guiding principles in the run up to the 2021 presidential election, and totally submit ourselves and our parties as follows:
Voter Education

a. Intensify and expand the scope of our civic and elections education activities to improve our members’ awareness and understanding of relevant electoral laws, IEC guidelines, and the normative codes of conduct;
b. Strengthen the policy and institutional capacities of our political parties so that internal compliance with the electoral laws and normative codes of conduct ratified by our political parties will be stronger and become widespread;
c. Promote respectful and productive dialogue by organizing our campaigns around constituency and national issues that affect the present and future of Gambian citizens, rather than on tribal, religious or personal considerations, and to discipline party members and candidates who engage in personal attacks;

Conduct of Political Parties/ Candidates

a. To support all institutions of government involved in conducting or securing the elections - in particular the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the security forces - to act with professionalism, impartiality and transparency;
b. Respect the right of all other parties to campaign freely and to disseminate their political ideas and principles without fear;
c. Refrain from disrupting or frustrating the legitimate activities of other political parties, including the holding of political rallies and meetings;
d. Conduct our political campaigns in such a manner that the ability of the Police or other security agencies to perform their roles and duties in enforcing the law and maintaining law and order will not be hindered whatsoever whether at the polling station, constituency, regional or national levels;
g. In this Pledge, references to "political parties", shall, as provided in the context, include independent candidates.

Language

a. Organize and conduct all our campaign activities in a manner that contributes to a congenial and peaceful atmosphere;
b. Take a definitive stand against hate speech, misinformation or fake news news (online or offline), intimidation of opponents, and other forms of electoral impunity and unfair electoral practices;
c. Avoid any action that threatens or incites violence against any person or group of persons, and to publicly and regularly speak out against provocative utterances perpetuated by our supporters, especially the youths and party agents;
d. Refrain from making or causing to make in our names or that of our party any public statement, pronouncement, declaration or speeches that have the capacity to incite any form of violence before, during or after the election;
e. Commit not to issue advertorials, pamphlets, newsletters or posters containing language or materials that threaten or incites disorderly conduct or violence;

Violence and Intimidation

a. Hold ourselves mutually accountable as peers, especially, in promoting effective political leadership in the campaign against electoral violence, impunity and injustice;
b. Issue directives expressly forbidding our party officials, candidates, members, and supporters from intimidating any person anywhere and at any time;

c. Campaign against violence and all acts of vandalism or public disorder committed or threatened by our party officials, candidates, members or supporters;

d. Respect other competing parties, persons, and their properties;

e. Respect constituted authorities on election management and refrain from violence towards agents of the government including IEC officials and security agents;

f. To accept the outcome of the votes and the results announced by IEC as long as the election is adjudged to be free, fair and credible, devoid of intimidation, violence and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the law; knowing that our laws provide avenues for legal redress should that be necessary.

Inclusion and Diversity

a. Promote meaningful and peaceful participation of women, youths and persons with disabilities in all the phases of the electoral process, and to advocate for policies and programs that advance their interests.

ENDORSED BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTY LEADERS HEREUNTO THIS 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>POLITICAL PARTY</th>
<th>PARTY LEADER / REPRESENTATIVE</th>
<th>SIGNATURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>People’s Progressive Party</td>
<td>Khellah E. Jalloh</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>National Convention Party</td>
<td>Lamin B. Jallow</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>People’s Democratic Organization For Independence and Socialism</td>
<td>HALFA SALLAY</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Alliance For Patriotic Reorientation and Construction</td>
<td>FALSARA YOMBOX</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>United Democratic Party</td>
<td>QUSAYN Y JARRRO</td>
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<td>National Reconciliation Party</td>
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<td>Gambia Party For Democracy and Progress</td>
<td>Hon. Henry Gom</td>
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<td>Gambia Moral Congress</td>
<td>Bai Ahmad Fsg</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Gambia Democratic Congress</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Citizens’ Alliance</td>
<td>Dr. Ismaula Ceesay</td>
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<td>Gambia Action Party</td>
<td>Musa Ousmane</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Gambia For All</td>
<td>Ensa Baldi fo Bakary B. Dabo</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>National People's Party</td>
<td>Hi E. Abubakar Barrow</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>All People’s Party</td>
<td>Dr. Ebrahim Jagne (aka Bai Biram Jagne)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Gambia Alliance For National Unity</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>National Unity Party</td>
<td>Abubacar C. James</td>
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<td>Alliance For National Re-orientation and Development</td>
<td>Lamia Satu Bojang</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
<td>Y. S.-awaye</td>
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As witnessed this day by The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of The Gambia

Name of IEC Representative: **Joseph Colley - Vice Chairman**

Signature: [Signature]

*This Code of Conduct reinforcement and Peace Pledge event was made possible through technical and financial support from IPC’s development partners, The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)*