

Wolayta Organization of Lasting & Quality Alliance (WOLQA)

Constitution (Founding Charter)

Preamble

We, the members of the Wolaita diaspora, united by our heritage, culture, and common destiny, establish the Wolayta Organization of Lasting & Quality Alliance (WOLQA) to promote solidarity, preserve identity, and contribute meaningfully to the wellbeing of Wolaita people at home and abroad. We are committed to strengthening community bonds, mobilizing resources, and building partnerships that uplift Wolaita and ensure its rightful place within Ethiopia and the global community.

Article I – Name

The organization shall be known as the **Wolayta Organization of Lasting & Quality Alliance (WOLQA)**.

Article II – Purpose and Objectives

WOLQA shall serve as a platform for collective action and representation of the Wolaita diaspora. Its purposes are:

1. Cultural Preservation & Identity

- Promote Wolaita history, language, music, arts, and traditions.
- Organize cultural festivals, educational programs, and heritage initiatives.

2. Unity and Community Support

- Build solidarity among diaspora communities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and beyond.
- Provide social, educational, and professional support systems.

3. Resource Mobilization for Development

- Collect and channel resources such as **medical equipment, school materials, fire trucks, and emergency supplies** to Wolaita.
- Coordinate diaspora fundraising for infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

4. Investment Promotion

- Facilitate diaspora business and investment initiatives in Wolaita.
- Support sustainable industries, agriculture, and entrepreneurship projects.

5. City-to-City Partnerships

- Promote **sister-city agreements** between Wolaita towns and international cities.
- Encourage cooperation in health, education, municipal services, and cultural exchanges.

6. Advocacy & Global Representation

- Represent diaspora interests in host countries, policy forums, and Ethiopian affairs.
- Serve as a recognized, legitimate voice of Wolaita abroad.

7. Youth and Women's Empowerment

- Ensure representation and leadership roles for women and youth in diaspora structures.
- Provide mentorship, scholarships, and leadership training.

8. Public Engagement & Communication

- Operate a **homepage/website** and maintain **official social media accounts** to inform, mobilize, and connect members.
- Disseminate newsletters, reports, and updates on TWDA activities.

Article III – Legal Status and Bases

1. WOLQA shall be a **nonprofit, nonpolitical, and nonreligious association**, incorporated in the United States.
2. **Headquarters:** Based in the United States, with authority to establish registered chapters in other regions.
3. **Chapters:** Chapters shall be organized in **each U.S. state and in major European regions**, reporting to the central leadership while retaining autonomy in local matters.
4. WOLQA shall comply with U.S. nonprofit law and applicable laws in host countries where chapters operate.

Article IV – Membership

1. **Eligibility:** Open to Wolaita-origin individuals and allies supportive of WOLQA's mission.
2. **Rights:** To participate, vote, and contest for leadership roles.
3. **Duties:** Uphold WOLQA values, contribute actively, and pay dues.
4. **Membership Dues:** \$2 per month (or \$24 annually).

5. **Registry:** A **centralized membership registry** shall be maintained and regularly updated by the **Membership Coordinator**, with data shared across chapters for transparency.
6. **Categories:** Ordinary, Youth, and Honorary/Associate members.

Article V – Structure

1. General Assembly (GA)
2. Board of Directors
3. Executive Committee (Officers)
4. Regional/State Chapters
5. Advisory Council (elders, cultural leaders, professionals)

Article VI – Leadership & Elections

- Democratic elections every **3 years**.
- Gender and youth inclusion required in leadership positions.
- Secret ballot voting overseen by an independent electoral body.

Article VII – Finance

- Income: dues, fundraising, donations, and grants.
- Annual audits required.
- Full transparency of finances via reports and website updates.

Article VIII – Amendments

Amendments require **2/3 majority** approval by the General Assembly.