

Did you ever want to read a really long, really dry, completely fictional legal document? No? Anyway, as a science-fiction future earth conworlding exercise, here is a possible future constitution of a United Earth.

I am not actually proposing this. I used to be a bit into one-worldism back in my teens, but these days, I think that a world state would only practically possible if certain political conditions would be met that, if they would be met, would make the world state itself superfluous. And it would be too much of a risk, anyway.

So this is simply a “What if...” exercise. And it’s pretty incomplete, too. I left out everything dealing with how territorial matters would be resolved – too much of a can of worms – and most of the stuff related to the administration of elections – I’m too unsure about that matter myself.

This draft is strongly influenced by the current South African Constitution. The Preamble and Chapter Three were basically copied-and-pasted from there. Other influences with a bit of copying-and-pasting were the Irish and German Constitutions.

Some of my own additions to Chapter Three may sound a bit weird at first, but I wanted to take a long historical view of human rights, so I also banned some human rights violations that were common in the distant past, but not really on the minds of the authors of most constitutional, civil, basic, or human rights texts.

As a matter of style, I generally prefer more shorter articles to fewer longer articles which would have to be subdivided into sections, subsections, and sub-subsections.

To make things easier for myself if I have to re-number some articles, I’ve started the numbering of articles anew from one at the start of each chapter.

Anyway, here we go:

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED EARTH

PREAMBLE

We, the people of Earth,

Recognize the injustices of our past;

Honor those who suffered for justice and freedom in our world;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our planet; and

Believe that Earth belongs to all who live on it, united in our diversity.

We therefore adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of our Institutions so as to -

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every person is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all persons and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic Earth.

CHAPTER 1 --- THE UNITED EARTH, ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, AND ITS SYMBOLS

ARTICLE 1

All of the Planet Earth, and all places in Outer Space under the effective control of human beings from the Planet Earth, shall be under the supreme authority of one system of interconnected constitutional, political, legal, and administrative structures, which shall be collectively known as the Institutions of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 2

The supreme constitutional principle of the United Earth, with which all constitutional and legal norms, court decisions, and administrative acts of both the United Earth and its various subdivisions must comply, shall be that all human beings make mistakes, and therefore, all human beings, and all institutions and organizations comprised of human beings, shall be subject to effective oversight and criticism.

ARTICLE 3

This Constitution shall be the supreme law and authority of the United Earth, and all officeholders and institutions of both the United Earth and its various subdivisions shall be bound by it in all their official acts. They shall also be bound by the properly enacted laws of the United Earth. There shall be no principle of sovereign or executive immunity under the Constitution or laws of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 4

The principal equality of all human beings in terms of rights and obligations shall be protected and respected by law, especially with respect to the provisions of Chapter 3 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 5

Every officeholder of the United Earth or any of its Constituent States or Territories shall, when taking office, make the following affirmation and promise:

“I confirm that I consider all human beings, independent of their gender, religion, gender identity, ancestry, physical appearance, language, ethnicity, cultural group, sexuality, income level, amount of wealth, or possible disabilities, to be my equal in terms of rights and obligations, and I promise that I will exercise my office with justice and charity, put all my best efforts into my work, serve the public to the best of my ability, and respect, uphold, and protect the Constitution of the United Earth.”

Any officeholder of the United Earth or any of its Constituent States or Territories who refuses to make the above affirmation and promise shall be considered to have resigned at the moment of taking office.

ARTICLE 6

All languages spoken or used for communication by a significant number of human beings, or held in high esteem for religious or cultural reasons by a significant number of human beings, shall, wherever this is practically possible, be put on an equal footing and treated as having equal standing, and discrimination based on language abilities or preferences shall, wherever possible, be avoided. However, whenever there is a contradiction between versions of this Constitution or a law, court decision, administrative regulation, or administrative act of the United Earth in different languages, the English text shall take precedence.

ARTICLE 7

There shall be no single capital of the United Earth, and its main institutions and governmental authorities shall be distributed across a number of places around the world, but the seat of Parliament and of the President shall be Kathmandu.

ARTICLE 8

The main calendars of the United Earth shall be the calendar traditionally known as the Gregorian Calendar and the traditional Islamic Calendar. However, any reference to years or months in this Constitution or a law of the United Earth shall be read as a reference to years or months of the Gregorian Calendar, unless the law or constitutional proviso explicitly specifies something else.

ARTICLE 9

The flag of the United Earth shall consist of a sky blue background on which the words “United Earth” are written in white, in traditional Chinese calligraphy on top and in traditional Arabic calligraphy at the bottom. An act of Parliament, or of the Transitional Council, may provide for more detailed specifications.

ARTICLE 10

The anthem of the United Earth shall be the song known as “So Long We Dreamed, So Long We Fought”. An act of Parliament, or of the Transitional Council, may provide for more detailed specifications.

CHAPTER 2 --- THE UNITED EARTH, ITS SUBDIVISIONS, THEIR RESPECTIVE RIGHTS, POWERS, AND RELATIONS TO EACH OTHER

ARTICLE 1

The United Earth shall be subdivided into Constituent States, Religious Special Districts, and Territories. Its principal and regular subdivisions shall be Constituent States.

ARTICLE 2

A geographic area shall usually form a Constituent State if, immediately before this Constitution took effect, it was either generally recognized as an independent nation state and interacted with other independent nation states as an independent nation state, or it formed a legally autonomous or self-governing political structure that generally competed in international sports events with the same standing as independent nation states. But a geographic area that forms a Religious Special District shall not form a Constituent State.

ARTICLE 3

Consequently, the Constituent States of the United Earth at the moment this Constitution first takes effect shall be [SNIP VERY, VERY LONG LIST].

ARTICLE 4

After this Constitution takes effect, an autonomous or self-governing political structure that exists for use by a specific group of indigenous people, or for use by several specific groups of indigenous people, may be turned into a new Constituent State by an Act of Parliament, or of the Transitional Council, if that Act is approved by the properly authorized legislative authorities of the autonomous or self-governing political structure in question.

ARTICLE 5

After this Constitution takes effect, a Constituent State may split itself into two or more new Constituent States by passing a law to that effect, in accordance with its own constitution and laws, if the law is approved in a plebiscite and if none of the new Constituent States, at the time of the split, has a population of less than a hundred million inhabitants.

ARTICLE 6

Each Constituent State may further subdivide itself into political structures below the level of Constituent States in whichever way it sees fit, in accordance with its own constitution and laws.

ARTICLE 7

The Parliament of the United Earth shall have legislative authority over all fields of legislation that are not put under the legislative authority of the Constituent States by Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 of this

Chapter, and even in those fields of legislation that are put under the legislative authority of the Constituent States under those articles, the Parliament of the United Earth shall have the legislative authority to provide for minimum standards that the laws of the Constituent States must meet in order to be legally valid.

ARTICLE 8

The properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State shall have the authority to enact laws governing the structures and functioning of the Constituent State's own constitutional, political, governmental, and administrative institutions, subject to the Constituent State's own constitution and laws, and to the provisions of Article 7 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 9

The properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State shall have the authority to enact laws governing the structures and functioning of the Constituent State's own courts and legal system, subject to the Constituent State's own constitution and laws, and to the provisions of Article 7 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 10

The properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State shall have the authority to enact laws governing the structures and functioning of local government in the Constituent State, subject to the Constituent State's own constitution and laws, and to the provisions of Article 7 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 11

The properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State shall have the authority to enact laws governing the structures and functioning of the Constituent State's own educational system, public cultural institutions, and cultural and language policies, subject to the Constituent State's own constitution and laws, and to the provisions of Article 7 of this Chapter and Article 6 of Chapter 1.

ARTICLE 12

The properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State shall have the authority to enact laws on any matter of legislation that is normally under the legislative power of the Parliament of the United Earth, except for the structures and functioning of the Institutions of the United Earth itself, if neither the Parliament of the United Earth nor the Transitional Council has enacted a law about that matter yet, subject to the Constituent State's own constitution and laws, and to the provisions of Article 7 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 13

The properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State shall have the authority to enact laws on any matter of legislation if a law enacted by the Parliament of the United Earth or the Transitional Council has explicitly

authorized the properly authorized legislative authorities of each Constituent State and each duly constituted subdivision of each Constituent State to enact laws on that matter, subject to the Constituent State's own constitution and laws, and to the provisions of Article 7 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 14

Any authorization to enact legislation in terms of Article 13 of this Chapter must apply to the properly authorized legislative authorities of all Constituent States equally, unless it deals specifically with a specific physical location.

ARTICLE 15

This Constitution and the laws of the United Earth shall always take legal precedence over the constitutions and laws of all Constituent States and subdivisions of Constituent States.

ARTICLE 16

The constitutional and political structures of all Constituent States and subdivisions of Constituent States, including local government, must be based on the principles of representative government, in which legislative authority, subject to the Constituent State's or Constituent State's subdivisions own constitution and laws, is either vested in the people themselves, or in institutions elected by the people, or partly in one and partly in the other, and public officeholders are either elected by the people, or elected by institutions elected by the people, or directly or indirectly appointed by other officeholders who are themselves either elected by the people, or elected by institutions elected by the people.

ARTICLE 17

Elections and referendums in each Constituent State and each subdivision of each Constituent State shall usually be held based on the principle of universal adult suffrage, so that the only legal requirements for voting or being a candidate in an election or voting in a referendum shall be age requirements, residency requirements, and requirements related to the ability to conduct one's own legal affairs. However, in a Constituent State that was formed under the provisions of Article 4 of this Chapter, or a Constituent State that was formed by a direct or indirect merger of two or more Constituent States which had all been formed under the provisions of Article 4 of this Chapter, or an autonomous or self-governing political structure that exists for use by a specific group of indigenous people, or for use by several specific groups of indigenous people, accepted membership in a particular indigenous group or in one of several particular indigenous groups may also be a legal requirement for voting or being a candidate in an election or voting in a referendum.

ARTICLE 18

Two or more Constituent States may merge with each other, forming a new Constituent State, if all of the following conditions are met:

1. the constitution of each of the Constituent States involved explicitly authorizes the merger,
2. each of the Constituent States involved has duly enacted a law providing for the merger,
3. the laws enacted to meet Condition 2 provide for the name, constitution, basic legal and administrative structure, and courts of the new Constituent State,

4. the laws enacted to meet Condition 2 in each of the Constituent States involved do not contradict each other,
5. the laws enacted to meet Condition 2 were approved by plebiscites in each of the Constituent States involved,
6. the Constituent States involved are either geographically adjacent or reasonably close to each other,
7. the merger would not result in a Constituent State with more than 200 million inhabitants, and
8. Parliament has passed and enacted an act authorizing the merger, which must explicitly authorize the text of each of the laws enacted to meet Condition 2.

ARTICLE 19

Two or more Constituent States or Religious Special Districts may, by duly enacting laws to that effect, set up joint legal or administrative institutions, if an act passed and enacted by Parliament or the Transitional Council has authorized those joint institutions.

ARTICLE 20

Religious Special Districts shall be formed in geographic areas of high religious significance if they were traditionally governed by laws, rules, or political, legal, or administrative structures which would normally be unconstitutional under this Constitution, if the preservation of public peace, general goodwill, and good intercommunal relations makes the continuance of some or all of those laws, rules, or political, legal, or administrative structures advisable.

ARTICLE 21

Under no circumstances shall more than 3 percent of the total land area of the Planet Earth be included in all Religious Special Districts combined.

ARTICLE 22

The constitution or laws of a Religious Special District may violate the provisions of Articles [SNIP LONG LIST OF ARTICLES]. They may also ban activities that are explicitly legal under the laws of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 23

If a law or constitutional provision of a Religious Special District which would be unconstitutional under this Constitution if it wasn't for Article 22 of this Chapter bans a specific activity, then the only punishment for a person found guilty of engaging in that activity may be a temporary or permanent ban from living in or visiting the Religious Special District in question.

ARTICLE 24

The Religious Special Districts of the United Earth at the moment this Constitution first takes effect shall be [SNIP LONG LIST].

ARTICLE 25

A Territory of the United Earth shall be a geographic area that is under the direct authority and control of the Institutions of the United Earth, and under the exclusive legislative authority of Parliament.

ARTICLE 26

The only Territories of the United Earth shall be the two Territories set up by Articles 27 and 30 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 27

The Territory of Antarctica and the High Seas shall consist of all oceans and seas outside the territorial waters of the Constituent States and Religious Special Districts of the United Earth, and of all lands south of 60 degrees southern latitude. Additionally, it shall include all islands south of 10 degrees southern latitude that meet all of the following conditions:

1. they're surrounded by the bodies of water traditionally known as the Atlantic Ocean or the Indian Ocean,
2. they had, at the moment this Constitution took effect, either no human inhabitants at all, or no human inhabitants except for the personnel of scientific institutions or military bases, and
3. they were traditionally claimed by either the French Republic, or the United Kingdom, or the Kingdom of Norway.

ARTICLE 28

Subject to Article 29 of this Chapter, the laws and governmental policies of the Territory of Antarctica and the High Seas shall be first and foremost based on the obligation to preserve and protect the natural environment in that Territory.

ARTICLE 29

The laws of the Territory of Antarctica and the High Seas shall authorize all coastal Constituent States and Religious Special Districts to exercise the same amount of economic control over their exclusive economic zones inside that Territory as independent nation states have traditionally exercised over their exclusive economic zones.

ARTICLE 30

The Territory of Outer Space shall initially consist of all places in Outer Space under the effective control of human beings from the Planet Earth.

ARTICLE 31

If, at some point in the future, Humankind should make credibly confirmed contact with intelligent extraterrestrial beings, the Territory of Outer Space shall, afterwards, consist only of those places in Outer Space under the effective control of human beings from the Planet Earth over which the Institutions of the United Earth, in their relations with said intelligent extraterrestrial beings, shall claim sovereignty.

ARTICLE 32

If, at some point in the future, Humankind should make credibly confirmed contact with intelligent extraterrestrial beings, the Institutions of the United Earth shall be obliged to be guided by principles of mutual respect, peaceful intentions, and absence of malice in their relations with said intelligent extraterrestrial beings.

ARTICLE 33

If, at some point in the future, a sufficient number of human beings shall live permanently in a specific place in Outer Space to justify a certain amount of self-government, Parliament shall have the authority to enact an act exempting that place from the Territory of Outer Space, and giving it a new status.

ARTICLE 34

Generally, the relations between the different Constituent States, Religious Special Districts, and Territories of the United Earth shall be governed by laws enacted for that purpose by Parliament. But if an aspect of the relations between two or more Constituent States, Religious Special Districts, or Territories has not yet been legislated for, it shall be governed by the international agreements and norms of customary international law that governed relations between independent nation states before this Constitution took effect.

CHAPTER 3 --- BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1

Every human being shall have the rights guaranteed by this Chapter. In the case of persons younger than 18, and of persons who have been declared legally unable to conduct their own affairs, the law may prescribe that some rights are exercised on behalf of each person by parents or legal guardians, but not in a way that would enable anyone to abuse or neglect the person.

ARTICLE 2

If, at some point in the future, Humankind should make credibly confirmed contact with intelligent extraterrestrial beings, then any such intelligent extraterrestrial beings who visit or live in places under the control of the Institutions of the United Earth shall have the rights guaranteed by this Chapter, except for rights related to voting.

ARTICLE 3

If, at some point in the future, Humankind should make credibly confirmed contact with intelligent extraterrestrial beings, then Parliament shall pass an act, or legal provisos, specifying under which conditions intelligent extraterrestrial beings shall have the right to visit or live in places under the control of the Institutions of the United Earth, and under which conditions they may have the right to vote. Such acts or legal provisos shall also prescribe under which conditions such intelligent

extraterrestrial beings shall be treated as equivalent to human beings under the age of 18, or under the legal voting age. Any such acts or legal provisos shall, wherever possible, avoid discrimination.

ARTICLE 4

All laws, including all parts of this Constitution, must, in the geographic areas in which they are in force, both bind and protect all persons equally. Distinctions in rights and obligations may only be made in allowing public officials to exercise their authority, in given public officials obligations resulting from their responsibilities, in allowing trained professionals to exercise the professions for which they are trained, and in giving trained professionals obligations resulting from their responsibilities.

ARTICLE 5

All public authorities must respect, protect, promote and fulfill the rights and legal principles in this Chapter.

ARTICLE 6

The rights in this Chapter are subject to the limitations contained or referred to in Articles 72 and 73 of this Chapter, or elsewhere in this Chapter.

ARTICLE 7

This Chapter, like all of this Constitution, applies to all law, and binds the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and all public authorities.

ARTICLE 8

A provision of this Chapter binds a person if, and to the extent that, it is applicable, taking into account the nature of the right and the nature of any duty imposed by the right.

ARTICLE 9

When applying a provision of this Chapter to a person in terms of Article 8 of this Chapter, a court, in order to give effect to a right in this Chapter, must apply, or if necessary develop, the law to the extent that legislation does not give effect to that right, and may develop rules of the law to limit the right, provided that the limitation is in accordance with Article 72 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 10

A juristic person is entitled to the rights in this Chapter to the extent required by the nature of the rights and the nature of that juristic person.

ARTICLE 11

Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.

ARTICLE 12

Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.

ARTICLE 13

The public authorities may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including ancestry, physical features including but not limited to skin color, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, circumstances of conception, and birth.

ARTICLE 14

No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds in terms of Article 13 of this Chapter. Acts of Parliament must be enacted to prevent or prohibit unfair discrimination.

ARTICLE 15

Discrimination on one or more of the grounds listed in Article 13 of this Chapter must be presumed to be unfair unless it is definitely established that the discrimination is fair.

ARTICLE 16

Everyone has the right to life, including the right not to be killed as a human sacrifice or retainer sacrifice of any kind.

ARTICLE 17

Everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right

1. not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause,
2. not to be detained without trial,
3. to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources,
4. not to be tortured in any way, and
5. not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way.

ARTICLE 18

Everyone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right

1. to make decisions concerning reproduction,
2. to security in and control over their body,
3. not to be subjected to medical or scientific experiments without their informed consent, and
4. not to have their gonads removed without their informed consent.

ARTICLE 19

No one may be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labor. No one may be forced to accept an inheritance, especially if that inheritance contains debts or obligations.

ARTICLE 20

Everyone has the right to privacy, which includes the right not to have their person or home searched, their property searched, their possessions seized or the privacy of their communications infringed without an appropriate warrant.

ARTICLE 21

Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion.

ARTICLE 22

Religious observances may be conducted at public or publicly-aided institutions, provided that

1. those observances follow rules made by the appropriate public authorities,
2. they are conducted on an equitable basis, and
3. attendance at them is free and voluntary.

ARTICLE 22

Article 21 of this Chapter, Article 22 of this Chapter, and this Article do not prevent legislation recognizing marriages concluded under any tradition, or a system of religious, personal or family law, or systems of personal and family law under any tradition, or adhered to by persons professing a particular religion, if such traditions or systems of religious, personal, or family law, or systems of personal and family law, are recognized by the laws of a place. Recognition in terms of this Article must be consistent with the provisions of this Constitution, especially Article 21 of this Chapter, Article 22 of this Chapter, and this Article.

ARTICLE 23

The right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion does not include the right to violate generally applicable laws because one believes that one's conscience, religion, thought, belief, or opinion require or allow that. However, as far as reasonably practicable, all laws and administrative regulations must accommodate followers of different religions and beliefs.

ARTICLE 24

If the constitutionality of a law or administrative regulation is challenged based on Article 21 or 59 of this Chapter because the law or administrative regulation limits or bans an activity which some people see as required by their conscience, religion, thought, or belief, or their cultural or religious practices, the courts must weigh the purpose of the law or administrative regulation, especially the extent to which it might be required to protect the rights of others or the Constitution, against the principle of freedom of conscience, religion, thought, and belief.

ARTICLE 25

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes

1. freedom of the press and other media,
2. freedom to receive or impart information or ideas,
3. freedom of artistic creativity, and
4. academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.

ARTICLE 26

The right in Article 25 of this Chapter does not extend to

1. propaganda for war,
2. incitement of imminent violence, or
3. advocacy of hatred that is based on ancestry, physical features, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

ARTICLE 27

Acts of Parliament may determine to which extent the forms of expression listed in Article 26 are legal or forbidden.

ARTICLE 28

The right to freedom of expression does not mean a right to freedom from being criticized.

ARTICLE 29

Everyone has the right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions.

ARTICLE 30

Everyone has the right to freedom of association.

ARTICLE 31

Everyone of voting age is free to make political choices, which includes the right

1. to form a political party,
2. to participate in the activities of, or recruit members for, a political party, and
3. to campaign for a political party or cause.

ARTICLE 32

Everyone has the right to free, fair and regular elections for any legislative body established in terms of this Constitution, or the constitution or laws of a Constituent State, a subdivision of a Constituent State, or a Territory.

ARTICLE 33

Everyone of voting age has the right to vote in elections for any legislative body established in terms of this Constitution, and to do so in secret.

ARTICLE 34

Everyone aged 18 or older has the right to stand for public office and, if elected, to hold office, unless they have been temporarily or permanently stripped of that right as punishment for a crime related to corruption, abuse of office, or the proper organization of elections.

ARTICLE 35

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement, except to or in Religious Special Districts whose laws restrict this right, and Constituent States or other political structures that exist for use by a specific group of indigenous people, or for use by several specific groups of indigenous people.

ARTICLE 36

Everyone has the right to enter, to remain in, and to reside anywhere in, the places under the authority of the Institutions of the United Earth, except for Religious Special Districts whose laws restrict this right, and Constituent States or other political structures that exist for use by a specific group of indigenous people, or for use by several specific groups of indigenous people.

ARTICLE 37

Article 17 of Chapter 2 and Articles 2 and 3 of this Chapter take precedence over Articles 33, 34, 35, and 36 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 38

Everyone has the right to choose their trade, occupation or profession freely. The practice of a trade, occupation, or profession may be regulated by law, or, if the law allows for it, by the regulations of professional associations.

ARTICLE 39

Everyone has the right to fair labor practices.

ARTICLE 40

Every worker, except for employees of any kind of public security force, has the right

1. to form and join a trade union,
2. to participate in the activities and programs of a trade union, and
3. to strike.

ARTICLE 41

Every employer has the right

1. to form and join an employers' organization, and
2. to participate in the activities and programs of an employers' organization.

ARTICLE 42

Every trade union and every employers' organization has the right

1. to determine its own administration, programs and activities,

2. to organize, and
3. to form and join a federation.

ARTICLE 43

Every trade union, employers' organization and employer has the right to engage in collective bargaining. Legislation may be enacted to regulate collective bargaining. To the extent that the legislation may limit a right in this Chapter, the limitation must comply with Article 72 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 44

Legislation may recognize trade union security arrangements contained in collective agreements. To the extent that the legislation may limit a right in this Chapter, the limitation must comply with Article 72 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 45

Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.

ARTICLE 46

Everyone has the right to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that

1. prevent pollution and ecological degradation,
2. promote conservation, and
3. secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

ARTICLE 47

Everyone has the right to property in personal belongings, such as clothes, furniture, home furnishings, technological devices used for personal use, physical media used for personal use, and physical objects of great religious, cultural, or psychological importance for themselves or their families.

ARTICLE 48

Legislation may authorize persons to own things other than those listed in Article 47 of this Chapter, but such legislation must be based on what legislators believe about what is best for the general economic welfare and the protection and promotion of the rights listed in this Chapter, not on any idea that there is a fundamental right to own every kind of property.

ARTICLE 49

Anyone who lawfully owns property may only be deprived of it in terms of a law of general application, and no law may permit arbitrary deprivation of property.

ARTICLE 50

Everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. The public authorities must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within their available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of this right. No one may be evicted from their home, or have their home demolished, without an order of court made after considering all the relevant circumstances. No legislation may permit arbitrary evictions.

ARTICLE 51

Everyone has the right to have access to

1. health care services, including reproductive health care,
2. sufficient food and water, and
3. social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance. The public authorities must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within their available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of each of these rights. No one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

ARTICLE 52

Every person under the age of 18 has the right

1. to a name from birth,
2. to family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care if removed from the family environment,
3. to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services,
4. to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation,
5. to be protected from exploitative labor practices,
6. not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that are inappropriate for a person of their age or that place their well-being, education, physical or mental health, or spiritual, moral, or social development at risk,
7. not to be detained except as a measure of last resort,
8. if detained, to be kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years,
9. if detained, to be treated in a manner, and kept in conditions, that take account of their age,
10. to have a legal practitioner assigned to them by the public authorities, and at public expense, in civil proceedings affecting them, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and
11. not to be used directly in armed conflict, and to be protected in times of armed conflict.

ARTICLE 53

The best interests of a person under the age of 18 are of paramount importance in every matter concerning them.

ARTICLE 54

Everyone has the right to a basic education, including adult basic education and to further education, which the public authorities, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible.

ARTICLE 55

Everyone has the right to receive education in the language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions, if the languages in question are either spoken by a significant number of people where they live or have official status where they live, and providing that education is reasonably practicable. In order to ensure the effective access to, and implementation of, this right, the public authorities must consider all reasonable educational alternatives, including single medium institutions, taking into account

1. equity,
2. practicability, and
3. the need to redress the results of past discriminatory laws and practices.

ARTICLE 56

Everyone has the right to establish and maintain, at their own expense, independent educational institutions that

1. do not discriminate on the basis of ancestry or physical features,
2. are registered with the appropriate public authorities, and
3. maintain standards that are not inferior to standards at comparable public educational institutions.

ARTICLE 57

Article 56 of this Chapter does not preclude public subsidies for independent educational institutions.

ARTICLE 58

Everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice, but no one exercising these rights may do so in a manner inconsistent with any provision of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 59

Persons belonging to a cultural, religious or linguistic community may not be denied the right, with other members of that community to enjoy their culture, practice their religion and use their language and to form, join, and maintain cultural, religious and linguistic associations and other organs of civil society.

ARTICLE 60

The rights in Article 59 of this Chapter may not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with any provision of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 61

Everyone has the right of access to any information held by the public authorities that is not explicitly classified and any information that is held by another person, that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights, and that is not protected by the right to privacy guaranteed by Article 20 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 62

Legislation must be enacted to give effect to the right guaranteed by Article 61 of this Chapter, and may provide for reasonable measures to alleviate the administrative and financial burden on the public authorities.

ARTICLE 63

Everyone has the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair.

Everyone whose rights have been adversely affected by administrative action has the right to be given written reasons. Legislation must be enacted to give effect to these rights, and must

1. provide for the review of administrative action by a court or, where appropriate, an independent and impartial tribunal,
2. impose a duty on the public authorities to give effect to the rights guaranteed by this Article, and
3. promote an efficient administration.

ARTICLE 64

Everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of law decided in a fair public hearing before a court or, where appropriate, another independent and impartial tribunal or forum.

ARTICLE 65

Everyone who is arrested for allegedly committing an offense has the right

1. to remain silent,
2. to be informed promptly of the right to remain silent and of the consequences of not remaining silent,
3. not to be compelled to make any confession or admission that could be used in evidence against them,
4. to be brought before a court as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than 48 hours after the arrest or the end of the first court day after the expiry of the 48 hours, if the 48 hours expire outside ordinary court hours or on a day which is not an ordinary court day,
5. at the first court appearance after being arrested, to be charged or to be informed of the reason for the detention to continue, or to be released, and
6. to be released from detention if the interests of justice permit, subject to reasonable conditions.

ARTICLE 66

Everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right

1. to be informed promptly of the reason for being detained,
2. to choose, and to consult with, a legal practitioner, and to be informed of this right promptly,
3. to have a legal practitioner assigned to the detained person by the public authorities and at public expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly,
4. to challenge the lawfulness of the detention in person before a court and, if the detention is unlawful, to be released,
5. to conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity, including at least exercise and the provision, at public expense, of adequate accommodation, nutrition, reading material and medical treatment, and
6. to communicate with, and be visited by, their spouse or partner, next of kin, chosen religious counselor, and chosen medical practitioner.

ARTICLE 67

Whether a detained person who is awaiting trial is released while awaiting trial or not must never depend on their willingness or ability to pay any kind of bail.

ARTICLE 68

No prison or other detention facility may be maintained or operated by any kind of commercial entity.

ARTICLE 69

Every accused person has a right to a fair trial, which includes the right

1. to be informed of the charge with sufficient detail to answer it,
2. to have adequate time and facilities to prepare a defense,
3. to a public trial before an ordinary court,
4. if accused of a non-trivial offense, to be tried either before a judge and a jury, or before a panel of at least 3 judges, or before a panel of a combined number of at least 3 judges and jurors,
5. to have their trial begin and conclude without unreasonable delay,
6. to be present when being tried,
7. to choose, and be represented by, a legal practitioner, and to be informed of this right promptly,
8. to have a legal practitioner assigned to them by the public authorities and at public expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly,
9. to be presumed innocent, to remain silent, and not to testify during the proceedings,
10. to speak in their defense during the trial, if they choose to do so, after appropriate consultation with the legal practitioner representing them,
11. to adduce and challenge evidence,
12. not to be compelled to give self-incriminating evidence,
13. to be tried in a language that they understand or, if that is not practicable, to have the proceedings interpreted in that language,
14. not to be convicted for an act or omission that was not an offense under applicable law at the time it was committed or omitted,
15. not to be tried for an offense in respect of an act or omission for which they have previously been either acquitted or convicted,
16. to the benefit of the least severe of the prescribed punishments if the prescribed punishment for the offense has been changed between the time that the offense was committed and the time of sentencing, and
17. of appeal to, or review by, a higher court, which must have the authority to turn a guilty verdict into a not guilty verdict on either procedural or factual grounds.

ARTICLE 70

Whenever Articles 65, 66, or 69 of this Chapter require information to be given to a person, that information must be given in a language that the person understands.

ARTICLE 71

Evidence obtained in a manner that violates any right in this Chapter must be excluded from a trial if the admission of that evidence would render the trial unfair or otherwise be detrimental to the administration of justice.

ARTICLE 72

The rights in this Chapter may be limited only in terms of law of general application to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom, taking into account all relevant factors, including

1. the nature of the right,
2. the importance of the purpose of the limitation,
3. the nature and extent of the limitation,
4. the relation between the limitation and its purpose, and
5. less restrictive means to achieve the purpose.

ARTICLE 73

Except as provided in Article 72 of this Chapter or in any other provision of this Constitution, no law may limit any right entrenched in this Chapter.

ARTICLE 74

If there is an armed insurrection against the Institutions of the United Earth, persons taking part in that insurrection may be detained as prisoners of war until the insurrection is over, or until their release has been ordered by the appropriate authorities, or until their release has been agreed to in a temporary agreement between the appropriate authorities and persons in leadership positions among the insurgents.

ARTICLE 75

Persons kept as prisoners of war in terms of Article 74 of this Chapter have both all the rights of detained persons under Articles 65, 66, and 70 of this Chapter, and all the rights guaranteed to prisoners of war under the international laws of war that were in force immediately before this constitution took effect.

ARTICLE 76

Persons kept as prisoners of war in terms of Article 74 of this Chapter who deny having taken part in an armed insurrection against the Institutions of the United Earth have the right to a fair trial, as described by Articles 69 and 70 of this Chapter, to determine the matter.

ARTICLE 77

Articles 74, 75, and 76 of this Chapter apply equally in the case of a war or other military confrontation between the Institutions of the United Earth and any kind of intelligent extraterrestrial beings.

ARTICLE 78

Anyone listed in this Article has the right to approach a competent court, alleging that a right in this Chapter has been infringed or threatened, and the court may grant appropriate relief, including a declaration of rights. The persons who may approach a court are

1. anyone acting in their own interest,
2. anyone acting on behalf of another person who cannot act in their own name,
3. anyone acting as a member of, or in the interest of, a group or class of persons,
4. anyone acting in the public interest, and
5. an association acting in the interest of its members.

ARTICLE 79

When interpreting this Chapter, a court, tribunal or forum

1. must promote the values that underlie an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom,
2. may consider international human rights law as it was in force before this Constitution took effect, and jurisprudence based on it, and
3. may consider the constitutional law and constitutional jurisprudence of independent nation states that existed before this Constitution took effect.

ARTICLE 80

When interpreting any legislation, and when developing the common law or customary law, every court, tribunal or forum must promote the spirit, purport and objects of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 81

This Chapter does not deny the existence of any other rights or freedoms that are recognized or conferred by common law, customary law or legislation, to the extent that they are consistent with this Chapter.

CHAPTER 4 --- PARLIAMENT AND LEGISLATION

ARTICLE 1

The legislative authority of the Institutions of the United Earth shall be vested in a unicameral Parliament of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 2

Parliament shall consist of members who shall be elected directly, using, wherever possible, secret ballots, by all human beings aged 16 or older, and other voters eligible under laws passed under Article 3 of Chapter 3, who have not declared themselves or legally been declared unable to conduct their own legal affairs, who live anywhere, under the principle of equal suffrage, subjects to the provisos of Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 3

The members of Parliament shall be the members elected under Article 4 of this Chapter and the members elected under Article 5 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 4

In the first election of Parliament, the voters in each Constituent State that existed immediately after this constitution took effect shall elect one member of Parliament under the principle of a single member constituency single transferable vote election. In every subsequent election of Parliament, the voters in each Constituent State that existed exactly 6 months before the first day of the election shall elect one member of Parliament under the principle of a single member constituency single transferable vote election.

ARTICLE 5

A total of exactly 5 times as many members of Parliament as are elected under Article 4 of this Chapter, plus 1, shall be elected under the principle of proportional representation, using lists of candidates, using the method of allocating seats commonly known as the D'Hondt method, with all places forming one single electoral area, with no divisions into electoral districts or constituencies.

ARTICLE 6

The laws and administrative regulations governing elections shall make it as easy as possible for all persons entitled to vote to cast their votes.

ARTICLE 7

In order to be allocated seats in Parliament under Article 5 of this Chapter, a list of candidates must both

1. gain at least one 50th of all votes cast in the entire election, and
2. gain at least one 20th of all votes cast in at least one Constituent State or Religious Special District.

ARTICLE 8

In order to be allowed to compete in an election for the seats in Parliament elected under Article 5 of this Chapter, a list of candidates must be formally endorsed by either

1. two sitting or former members of Parliament, or
3. ten sitting or former members of the national legislature of an independent nation state that existed before this Constitution took effect, or
4. a number of persons entitled to vote in the upcoming election equal to at least one thousandth of all votes cast in the previous election for the seats in Parliament elected under Article 5 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 9

On all lists of candidates for seats in Parliament elected under Article 5 of this Chapter, men and women shall alternate, but persons who are neither exclusively men nor exclusively women shall be allowed to fill either spots normally reserved for men and spots normally reserved for women.

ARTICLE 10

On all lists of candidates for seats in Parliament elected under Article 5 of this Chapter, two thirds of all candidates, including 2 of the first 3 candidates, 7 of the first 10 candidates, and 14 of the first 20 candidates, must be persons who spent at least 2 years as chief executives of

1. a Constituent State,
2. a Religious Special District,
3. a Territory,
4. a political structure that later became a Constituent State or Religious Special District,
5. a subdivision of a Constituent State, a Religious Special District, or a political structure that later became a Constituent State or Religious Special District, or
6. a unit of local government.

ARTICLE 11

Vacancies among the seats in Parliament elected under Article 4 of this Chapter shall be filled by special elections, which must be held within 4 months of the vacancy occurring. Vacancies among the seats in Parliament elected under Article 5 of this Chapter shall be filled from the list of candidates to which the member whose death, resignation, or expulsion caused the vacancy belonged.

ARTICLE 12

No person may hold several seats in Parliament. No person may be a candidate for several seats elected under Article 4 of this Chapter. A candidate who was elected under both Article 4 and Article 5 of this Chapter shall be considered to have been only elected under Article 4 of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 13

Wherever this Constitution refers to a specific type of majority in Parliament, this shall mean that in order for a proposed measure to pass, the required majority must exist even if all abstentions, all members voting present, all non-voting members, and all seats that are vacant at the time of the vote are counted as votes against the proposed measure.

ARTICLE 14

The regular term of office of Parliament shall be 4 years.

ARTICLE 15

Parliament shall have the authority to dissolve itself, with the votes of a majority of all its members, leading to a new election for Parliament. In that case, the first sitting of the newly elected Parliament shall start a new regular term of 4 years.

ARTICLE 16

The first order of business of a newly elected Parliament shall be the election of a Speaker of Parliament. The second order of business of a newly elected Parliament shall be the election of a President of the United Earth. During these two orders of business, and during any other election of a Speaker of Parliament or a President of the United Earth, Parliament shall be presided over by the Chief Justice of the United Earth or another judge designated by the Chief Justice of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 17

The Speaker of Parliament shall be a member of Parliament who, if at all possible, shall have spent a combined total of at least eight years as either a member of Parliament or a member of the main legislative institution of a Constituent State, a Religious Special District, or a political structure that later became a Constituent State or a Religious Special District.

ARTICLE 18

The Speaker of Parliament shall not hold any public office other than that of a member and Speaker of Parliament.

ARTICLE 19

In the election for a Speaker of Parliament or a President of the United Earth, a candidate shall need the votes of a majority of all members of Parliament to be elected, and if, in a round of voting, no candidate achieved such a majority, another round of voting shall take place in which the candidate with the lowest number of votes in the previous round of voting shall no longer be a candidate, and if, in the first round of voting, more than 6 candidates received votes, but no candidate received the votes of a majority of all members of Parliament, only the 6 candidates who received the most votes shall be candidates in the second round of voting, but if only 2 candidates remain in a round of voting, the candidate who receives more votes shall be the winner of the election, even if they did not get the votes of a majority of all members of Parliament, and Parliament, or, before the first election for Parliament, the Transitional Council must, by law, provide for the case that 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes.

ARTICLE 20

A law enacted by Parliament, or, before the first election for Parliament, the Transitional Council must prescribe the parliamentary rules of Parliament.

ARTICLE 21

The parliamentary rules of Parliament may not enable any officeholder or group of officeholders to prevent a bill or other proposed measure that has been passed by the necessary majority from being enacted by refusing to perform a ceremonial or procedural act.

ARTICLE 22

The parliamentary rules of Parliament may not enable a minority of members to block a motion or bill that appears to have the support of a majority of members from being voted on, nor shall there be any requirement of unanimous consent to conduct any business, nor shall there be votes on whether to hold a vote. And the parliamentary rules of Parliament shall authorize the person presiding over each sitting to take minor decisions on the conduct of business on their own.

ARTICLE 23

Parliament shall at any time have the power to recall its Speaker, but only by electing one specific other person in place of the recalled Speaker, with the votes of a majority of all its members. When a motion for such a recall is introduced, at least 24 hours must pass before the final vote on the motion. The vote on the recall shall be presided over by the Chief Justice of the United Earth or another judge designated by the Chief Justice of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 24

Parliament shall elect committees from among its members to assist in performing its constitutional duties and in controlling its own affairs. Each committee shall have an odd number of members, at least 11 and at most 49, and shall be elected by all members of Parliament using the principle of the single transferable vote. The Chairperson of each committee shall be elected from among the members of the committee by all members of Parliament using the principle of the single transferable vote.

ARTICLE 25

During times when it may be practically inadvisable to have all or most members of Parliament physically assembled in one place, measures shall be taken to allow Parliament to conduct its business, debate, and vote on motions or bills, without physically assembling in one place.

ARTICLE 26

If a bill has passed Parliament, except if it is a constitutional amendment, it shall become a law as soon as it has been properly published in the appropriate way.

ARTICLE 27

Parliament shall have the authority to expel members for gross misconduct or inability to perform their duties with the votes of three quarters of all members, subject to appeal to the Supreme Court, if the appeal is made within seven days. A person expelled in that way, unless their expulsion is overturned by the Supreme Court, shall not be a candidate for Parliament for a period of 5 years.

ARTICLE 28

No person shall be forced against their own will to be a candidate for Parliament.

ARTICLE 29

Each member of Parliament may voluntarily resign at any time.

ARTICLE 30

No person older than 80 years shall be a member of Parliament, and if a member of Parliament turns 80 years old while being in office, they shall be presumed to have resigned at midnight, local time in the seat of Parliament, at the start of their 80th birthday.

CHAPTER 5 --- THE PRESIDENT, THE CABINET, AND THE EXECUTIVE POWER

ARTICLE 1

The executive authority of the Institutions of the United Earth shall be vested in a President of the United Earth, subject to the laws of the United Earth, and shall be exercised by the President, the President's staff, a Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the President, the Cabinet's staff, the Departments headed by the Cabinet Ministers, and the offices, agencies, authorities, and other institutions headed under those Departments.

ARTICLE 2

The President shall be elected by Parliament from among its members, and shall remain a member of Parliament while in office. The election shall be held in the manner prescribed by Articles 16 and 19 of Chapter 4. The elected person shall take office as soon as is practically possible.

ARTICLE 3

The President shall be at least 35 years old when taking office. If the birth or early life of a person are so poorly documented that it can not be determined with certainty when they were born, they shall be presumed to be at least 35 years old for the purpose of this article when either

1. at least 21 years have passed since they became apparently physically fully grown adults, or
2. at least 35 years have passed since the earliest known documented events in their life.

ARTICLE 4

No person shall be forced against their own will to be a candidate for President.

ARTICLE 5

The regular term of office for the President shall be 1 year. But if a newly elected Parliament is constituted before the incumbent President's term has ended, the incumbent President's term shall end as soon as the new President elected by the newly constituted Parliament takes office.

ARTICLE 6

No person shall be President more than once, or for longer than one term.

ARTICLE 7

Parliament shall at any time have the power to recall the President, but only by electing one specific other person in place of the recalled President, with the votes of a majority of all its members. When a motion for such a recall is introduced, at least 48 hours must pass before the final vote on the motion. The vote on the recall shall be presided over by the Chief Justice of the United Earth or another judge designated by the Chief Justice of the United Earth. If the recall is successful, the newly elected President shall take office as soon as is practically possible.

ARTICLE 8

The President may voluntarily resign at any time. The President may resign with immediate effect, or pending the election and taking of office of a successor.

ARTICLE 9

The President shall remain a member of Parliament while in office, but shall not hold any public office other than that of President and a member of Parliament.

ARTICLE 10

The President shall appoint Ministers from among the members of Parliament to head the principal executive departments, and these Ministers, together with the President, shall form the Cabinet of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 11

The President shall designate a Minister in the Cabinet, who shall meet all the constitutional conditions for being President, as Vice President of the United Earth. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President whenever the President is temporarily unable to perform these duties, and shall be Acting President of the United Earth until a new President has been elected if there is a vacancy in the office of President.

ARTICLE 12

A law enacted by Parliament or the Transitional Council shall regulate who shall be Acting President until a new President has been elected if there is a vacancy in the office of President and, at the same time, a vacancy in the office of Vice President.

ARTICLE 13

No person shall be appointed a Minister in the Cabinet, or designated as Vice President, against their own will.

ARTICLE 14

The Vice President and each Minister in the Cabinet may voluntarily resign at any time.

ARTICLE 15

The Vice President and each Minister in the Cabinet shall remain members of Parliament while in office, but shall not hold any public office other than that of Vice President, Minister in the Cabinet, and a member of Parliament. They shall not be members of parliamentary committees.

ARTICLE 16

Neither the President nor any Minister in the Cabinet shall be a member of the management, or any other internal institution, of any commercial entity.

ARTICLE 17

The fact that, under Article 1 of this Chapter, the executive authority of the Institutions of the United Earth is be vested in the President and exercised by the President, the President's staff, a Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the President, the Cabinet's staff, the Departments headed by the Cabinet Ministers, and the offices, agencies, authorities, and other institutions headed under those Departments, shall not be interpreted as in any way preventing Parliament from enacting binding laws regulating the functioning of the executive institutions.

ARTICLE 18

There shall be no legal or constitutional bans on the voluntary formation of coalitions or alliances among members of Parliament for the purpose of forming Cabinets or working to support or sustain Cabinets.

ARTICLE 19

If there is a voluntarily formed coalition or alliance among members of Parliament for the purpose of forming a Cabinet or working to support or sustain a Cabinet, the number of Cabinet Ministers appointed from among each group of members of Parliament taking part in the coalition or alliance shall be proportional to that group's number of members of Parliament.

ARTICLE 20

The parliamentary rules of Parliament shall provide opportunities for members of Parliament to ask the President and the Ministers in the Cabinet questions during specified times while Parliament is sitting.

CHAPTER 6 --- THE SUPREME COURT AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

ARTICLE 1

The judicial authority of the Institutions of the United Earth shall be vested in a Supreme Court of the United Earth, in subordinate courts of the United Earth that Parliament may establish by law, and in the duly constituted courts of the Constituent States, Religious Special Districts, Territories, subdivisions of Constituent States, and units of local government.

ARTICLE 2

The Supreme Court of the United Earth shall consist of a Chief Justice of the United Earth and 14 Judges of the Supreme Court. In the internal matters and votes of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice shall have the same standing as each Judge of the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 3

The Chief Justice and each of the Judges of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President of the United Earth, with the advice and consent of Parliament, for terms of office of 12 years. But when the Supreme Court is first formed after this Constitution first takes effect, the biologically youngest member of the first group of appointees shall be appointed for a term of office of 26 years, the biologically second youngest member of the first group of appointees shall be appointed for a term of office of 25 years, the biologically third youngest member of the first group of appointees shall be appointed for a term of office of 24 years, and so on, until the biologically oldest member of the first group of appointees, who shall be appointed for a term of office of 12 years.

ARTICLE 4

The minimum age for the Chief Justice or a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be 40 years. If the birth or early life of a person are so poorly documented that it can not be determined with certainty when they were born, they shall be presumed to be at least 40 years old for the purpose of this article when either

1. at least 26 years have passed since they became apparently physically fully grown adults, or
2. at least 40 years have passed since the earliest known documented events in their life.

ARTICLE 5

No person shall be appointed as Chief Justice or as a Judge of the Supreme Court if, assuming they do not die, do not resign, and are not removed from office, they would be 80 years old or older on the last day of their term of office.

ARTICLE 6

A member of the Supreme Court may be removed from office for gross misconduct or inability to perform their duties, but only by either

1. a vote of the Supreme Court itself, with three quarters of all other members voting in favor of removal, or
2. a vote of Parliament, with three quarters of all members voting in favor of removal.

ARTICLE 7

No person shall be appointed as Chief Justice, or as a Judge of the Supreme Court, against their own will.

ARTICLE 8

The Chief Justice and each Judge of the Supreme Court may voluntarily resign at any time. They may resign with immediate effect, or pending the appointment and taking of office of a successor.

ARTICLE 9

Neither the Chief Justice nor any Judge of the Supreme Court shall be a member of the management, or any other internal institution, of any commercial entity.

ARTICLE 10

Neither the Chief Justice nor any Judge of the Supreme Court shall hold any other public office.

ARTICLE 11

Neither the Chief Justice nor any Judge of the Supreme Court shall exercise any profession, except that of an unpaid professor of law at an institution of higher learning.

ARTICLE 12

Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Court, no matter whether by a term of office ending, by resignation, by death, or by removal from office, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be appointed for a new term of office of twelve years.

ARTICLE 13

The Chief Justice and the three most senior Judges of the Supreme Court shall have a right to be consulted by the President of the United Earth before all decisions about who shall be appointed to a position on the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 14

There shall be a United Earth Judicial Services Commission. It shall consist of 17 members appointed by the President of the United Earth, with the advice and consent of Parliament, for terms of 5 years each, and 8 members, including a chairperson, appointed by the Chief Justice, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Court, for terms of 7 years each. The provisions of Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of this Chapter shall equally apply to members of the Judicial Services Commission.

ARTICLE 15

A member of the Judicial Services Commission may be removed from office for gross misconduct or inability to perform their duties, but only by either

1. a vote of the Supreme Court, with two thirds of all members voting in favor of removal, or
2. a vote of Parliament, with two thirds of all members voting in favor of removal.

ARTICLE 16

Judges on all subordinate courts of the United Earth, and the courts of the Territories, shall be elected by the Judicial Services Commission. Additionally, the appropriate constitutional or legal institutions of a Constituent State or subdivision of a Constituent State of the United Earth may choose to consult the Judicial Services Commission when deciding on judicial appointments.

ARTICLE 17

When filling a vacancy on a court, the Judicial Services Commission shall at first, for up to 3 ballots, try to elect a judge with the votes of a majority of all its members. If it fails to do so for 3 ballots, it shall use the procedure prescribed by Article 19 of Chapter 4 the election of the Speaker of Parliament.

ARTICLE 18

Any person who is or was a Chief Justice, a Judge of the Supreme Court, or a member of the Judicial Services Commission may not be appointed to another term in their previous position listed here, or to a term in another one of these positions, and neither may such a person be elected as President of the United Earth, or as a Speaker of Parliament, and such a person may not be appointed as a Minister in the Cabinet of the United Earth, either.

ARTICLE 19

An act of Parliament shall regulate which other forms of employment former Chief Justices, Judges of the Supreme Court, members of the Judicial Services Commission, or judges of subordinate courts of the United Earth may seek or accept, and in which ways conflicts of interest involving such persons shall be prevented.

ARTICLE 20

Judges of subordinate courts of the United Earth shall hold their offices until their 70th birthday, or their voluntary resignation, or until they accept a different public office, or until either the Supreme Court or the Judicial Services Commission decides, with the approval of at least two thirds of its members, to remove them from office for gross misconduct or inability to perform their duties.

ARTICLE 21

The Supreme Court shall be the court of final appeal for decisions by subordinate courts of the United Earth, and for decisions by all other courts, if those decisions were made by authority of a law of the Institutions of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 22

The Supreme Court shall have the authority of judicial review to decide whether the laws, court decisions, or administrative acts or regulations of the United Earth and its Constituent States, Religious Special Districts, Territories, subdivisions of Constituent States, and units of local government comply with this Constitution, and to strike them down if they don't. Subordinate courts of the United Earth shall only have the authority of judicial review for laws, court decisions, or administrative acts or regulations of the Constituent States, Religious Special Districts, Territories, subdivisions of Constituent States, and units of local government within their area of competence.

ARTICLE 23

The President of the United Earth, the Speaker of Parliament, or a group of members of Parliament comprising at least one quarter of its total membership, may at any time refer a legal provision of the United Earth or any Constituent State, Religious Special District, Territory, subdivision of a Constituent State, or unit of local government to the Supreme Court for Judicial Review, provided that no individual norm, if it hasn't been amended, may be referred in this way more than once in five years. But when such a referral has been made, it may not be withdrawn until the Supreme Court had made its decision on the matter.

CHAPTER 7 --- THE ADMINISTRATION OF GLOBAL ELECTIONS

[SNIP A LOT OF ARTICLES]

CHAPTER 8 --- THE OMBUDSPERSONS

ARTICLE 1

The President of the United Earth and the Speaker of Parliament shall each appoint one Ombudsperson, who shall be known as the Presidential Ombudsperson and the Parliamentary Ombudsperson. Each Ombudsperson shall be appointed for a term of six years, and shall head their own office.

ARTICLE 2 [200]

The provisions of Articles 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Chapter 6 shall equally apply to each Ombudsperson.

ARTICLE 3

No person shall be appointed as an Ombudsperson if, assuming they do not die, do not resign, and are not removed from office, they would be 65 years old or older on the last day of their term of office.

ARTICLE 4

An Ombudsperson may be removed from office for gross misconduct or inability to perform their duties, but only by a vote of Parliament, with three quarters of all members voting in favor of removal. Against such a decision, they shall, for a period of seven days, have the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 5

Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Ombudspersons, no matter whether by a term of office ending, by resignation, by death, or by removal from office, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be appointed for a new term of office of six years.

ARTICLE 6

Each Ombudsperson shall act and work independently of the other Ombudsperson, and each Ombudsperson's office shall act and work independently of the other Ombudsperson's office. They shall, however, be allowed to coordinate their activities and their work if they choose to do so.

ARTICLE 7

Each Ombudsperson shall have the authority to investigate, with the assistance of their office, reports or complaints about, or allegations of, corruption, embezzlement, abuses of power, gross negligence, discrimination, or other serious wrongdoing, by any Institutions of the United Earth, or institutions of

any Constituent State, Territory, subdivision of a Constituent State, or unit of local government. In the conduct of their investigations, they shall have the authority to subpoena and depose witnesses, subpoena and audit documents, hold hearings, and examine physical evidence, including locations.

ARTICLE 8

The Ombudspersons shall, with the assistance of their offices, act as controllers of all public disbursements and auditors of all accounts of moneys administered under the authority of the Institutions of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 9

The Presidential Ombudsperson shall report to the President of the United Earth at stated periods as determined by law. The Parliamentary Ombudsperson shall report to Parliament at stated periods as determined by law. Each Ombudsperson shall also have the authority to report directly to the public, if they believe that the officeholder or institution to whom they should normally report is not treating their reports with the appropriate urgency.

ARTICLE 10

No Ombudsperson or member of the staff of an Ombudsperson's office may be compelled to disclose sources.

CHAPTER 9 --- AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND FUTURE TRANSLATIONS

ARTICLE 1

This Constitution may only be amended by an explicit Act of Amendment.

ARTICLE 2

An Act of Amendment in terms of Article 1 of this Chapter must directly modify the text of this Constitution by inserting a passage or passages, rewriting a passage or passages, removing a passage or passages, or some combination of such changes. It may not simply attach additional text to the end of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 3

In order to be valid, an Act of Amendment in terms of Article 1 of this Chapter must either be passed by Parliament with the votes of four fifths of all members, or it must first be passed by Parliament with the votes of two thirds of all members, and then be confirmed in a plebiscite.

ARTICLE 4

A plebiscite as required by Article 3 of this Chapter must be held at the same time as an election for Parliament, and at least 4 months after it was publicly announced. In order for the proposed Amendment to pass, it must be confirmed by both a majority of all votes cast, and a number of votes equal to at least half the total number of votes cast in the simultaneous election of members of Parliament under Article 5 of Chapter 4.

ARTICLE 5

No Amendment to this Constitution may modify, remove, or contradict any part of the original text of Articles [SNIP LONG LIST OF ARTICLES], or of this Article.

ARTICLE 6

Every 200 years, the whole text of this Constitution shall be translated into the vernacular language of the time, under the oversight of Parliament, and the translated version shall, after being affirmed by Parliament, replace the previous version.

ARTICLE 7

The translations mandated by Article 6 of this Chapter shall be based, in the case of any passage that was never modified by an Act of Amendment, on the version of the passage in the Constitution as originally enacted, and, in the case of any passage that was modified or inserted by an Act of Amendment, on the version of the passage enacted by the most recent Act of Amendment affecting it. Official translations of this Constitution shall not be simply based on the most recent official translation of this Constitution.

CHAPTER 10 --- PROVISIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

[SNIP A LOT OF ARTICLES]

CHAPTER 11 --- TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

This Constitution shall take effect on [SNIP DATE].

ARTICLE 2

The first election to Parliament shall take place on a date or dates no less than four months and no more than six months after this Constitution has taken effect, and no less than three months and no more than five months after the date or dates of the election have been publicly announced.

ARTICLE 3

There shall be a Transitional Council of the United Earth, which shall, from the day this Constitution takes effect to the moment the first regularly elected President of the United Earth takes office, exercise the legislative authority of the United Earth in place of both Assemblies of Parliament.

ARTICLE 4

The Transitional Council shall initially consist of the following persons:

[SNIP LIST OF NAMES]

Each member may voluntarily resign at any time. Each member may resign with immediate effect, or pending the election and taking of office of a successor. Vacancies on the Transitional Council shall be filled by a vote among all remaining members.

ARTICLE 5

Neither the Transitional Council as a whole nor any of its members shall have the authority to appoint an Ombudsperson or Ombudspersons.

ARTICLE 6

The Transitional Council shall elect its Chairperson and a Provisional President of the United Earth, who shall exercise the authority of the President of the United Earth until the moment when the first regularly elected President of the United Earth takes office.

ARTICLE 7

The Provisional President of the United Earth shall not have the authority to appoint members of the Supreme Court or the Judicial Services Commission, or to appoint an Ombudsperson.

ARTICLE 8

There shall be a Provisional Supreme Court of the United Earth, which shall, from the day this Constitution takes effect to the moment the initial members of the regular Supreme Court take office, exercise the judicial authority of the Supreme Court of the United Earth.

ARTICLE 9

The Provisional Supreme Court shall initially consist of the following persons:

[SNIP LIST OF NAMES]

Each member may voluntarily resign at any time. Each member may resign with immediate effect, or pending the election and taking of office of a successor. Vacancies on the Provisional Supreme Court shall be filled by a vote among all remaining members.

ARTICLE 10

The Chief Justice of the Provisional Supreme Court shall not have the authority to appoint members of the Judicial Services Commission.

ARTICLE 11

There shall be a Commission for the First Elections of the United Earth, which shall have the authority to exercise ultimate control and oversight over the planning and administration of the first election to Parliament.

ARTICLE 12

The Commission for the First Elections of the United Earth shall initially consist of the following persons:

[SNIP LIST OF NAMES]

Each member may voluntarily resign at any time. Each member may resign with immediate effect, or pending the election and taking of office of a successor. Vacancies on the Commission for the First Elections of the United Earth shall be filled by a vote among all remaining members.

ARTICLE 13

Each Constituent State and each Religious Special District shall be the legal successor of the political structure which it replaces geographically as regards all property, assets, rights, and liabilities. The laws and administrative regulations of the former political structure in question shall become the laws and administrative regulations of the Constituent State or Religious Special District in question, staying in force until they are repealed, amended, or held unconstitutional under this Constitution or the constitution of the Constituent State or Religious Special District in question by a competent authority. The constitutional, governmental, political, legal, and administrative institutions of the former political structure shall become the constitutional, governmental, political, legal, and administrative institutions of the newly established Constituent State or Religious Special District. But some of those institutions may also be merged into Institutions of the United Earth by a law passed and enacted by Parliament or the Transitional Council.

ARTICLE 14

Wherever a court that existed immediately before this Constitution took effect continues to exist under one of the provisions of this Chapter, it shall continue to handle, try, and decide on those cases that were pending before it immediately before this Constitution took effect.

ARTICLE 15

The following international and regional organizations that existed immediately before this Constitution took effect shall continue to operate until one year after the moment this Constitution took effect:

[SNIP LIST]

Afterwards, the Institutions of the United Earth shall be their legal successor as regards all property, assets, rights, and liabilities.

ARTICLE 16

As long as sufficient well-documented copies of this Constitution exist, any physical damage to or destruction of the physical original of this Constitution shall not affect the validity of this Constitution.

And that's it.