

# ATLANTIC UNION

## CONSTITUTION

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*Liberté · Résilience · Justice*

***In necessariis unitas***

*In the essential, unity*

***In dubiis libertas***

*In doubt, freedom*

***In omnibus caritas***

*In all things, care*

*Drafted in the Atlantic Year One*

# PREAMBLE

## *Atlantic Union Constitution*

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We have crossed this ocean in every direction.

In ships of discovery and ships of bondage. In vessels of war and vessels of trade. In the desperate crafts of those fleeing hunger and persecution, and in the confident hulls of those who believed the world was theirs to take. The Atlantic has witnessed our highest ambitions and our deepest crimes. It does not forget. Neither do we.

We, the peoples of the Atlantic world, do not come to this founding in innocence. We come having built empires on the labor of the enslaved, having drawn borders through the territories of peoples who were not consulted, having extracted wealth from lands we called undeveloped because it was convenient to call them so. We come also having produced the music, the philosophy, the science, the democratic experiments — imperfect, partial, still unfinished — that gave humanity some of its most durable tools for living together.

Both things are true. The union we are founding must be adequate to both.

### **We know what forgiveness can build. We have seen it.**

In September 1962, in the cathedral of Reims, Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer stood together. Two men. Two nations that had spent a century trying to destroy each other, that had together produced two world wars, tens of millions of dead, and the systematic murder of six million people for who they were. They did not pretend none of it had happened. They did not negotiate a forgetting. They chose something harder and more useful: they offered acknowledgment, and from acknowledgment, forgiveness, and from forgiveness, union.

What followed is the most successful political experiment in modern history. Not because Europe became perfect — it did not. But because within a single generation, war between France and Germany became literally unimaginable. Because prosperity followed reconciliation. Because peoples who had known each other only as enemies learned to know each other as neighbors, then partners, then something that has no older word than European.

This did not happen because de Gaulle and Adenauer were saints. It happened because they understood a precise political logic: acknowledged wrong, offered forgiveness, structural reconciliation, durable peace. Each step was necessary. None was sufficient alone. The sequence could not be reversed — you cannot build structural reconciliation on unacknowledged wrong. The foundation rots.

We have learned this. We apply it now, at Atlantic scale, to Atlantic history.

The wrongs of the Atlantic world are not smaller than the wrongs of Europe. In some dimensions they are larger. The transatlantic slave trade moved twelve million human beings across this ocean in chains over four centuries. Colonial extraction impoverished entire continents whose wealth built the cities and institutions that now call themselves developed. Borders were drawn, languages suppressed, knowledge systems dismantled, peoples classified and ranked by invented hierarchies of race that still organize inequality today.

We name these things not to assign permanent guilt to the living for the acts of the dead. Guilt that cannot be discharged is not justice — it is a different kind of bondage. We name them because forgiveness requires honesty about what is being forgiven. The Reims logic demands the naming. It also demands what came after the naming.

Forgiveness is not absolution without consequence. It is the choice to build a future not determined by the past — while being honest that the past has shaped the present, and that the present therefore requires structural repair, not merely symbolic acknowledgment. The Atlantic Union's fiscal architecture, its political representation, its technology transfer obligations, its genuine equality of voice between Northern and Southern members — these are not charity. They are the structural expression of the Reims logic applied to Atlantic history. They are what forgiveness looks like when it is serious about its own consequences.

We ask for that forgiveness. We commit to earning it, structurally, over time, in institutions that can be measured and held accountable.

We found this Union because the ground is moving.

Beneath the western shore of Naples, the Campi Flegrei stirs. In the Atlantic itself, currents that have governed climate for millennia show signs of failure. Five times in the history of this planet, life has nearly ended. The sixth time is not inevitable — but it is possible. And possibility, at civilizational scale, demands response at civilizational scale. No nation on the Atlantic shore can respond alone. We are building the institution that can.

We found this Union because what we need to do next, no generation has ever done.

We are the first civilization to understand, in real time, that it faces existential risks that could end it — and the first with the technical capacity to become a multi-planetary species. These two facts together constitute the most demanding assignment ever given to a system of governance:

preserve what is worth preserving, transform what must be transformed, and do it fast enough to matter, fairly enough to be legitimate, and durably enough to outlast the people who built it.

This Union belongs to its peoples first. States are instruments of peoples, not their masters. The peoples' rights are not negotiable. The states' arrangements are.

This Union is founded for survival, built for justice, and organized for capability. When these purposes conflict, survival is the condition of the others. But survival without justice is mere endurance. Endurance without capability is hope without tools. All three are necessary. None is sufficient alone.

This Union is honest about what it asks. Membership is a transfer of real sovereignty. Members surrender the right to certain unilateral actions in exchange for the right to participate in collective ones of far greater consequence. This is the trade that makes civilization possible.

*To the generations who will inherit this document:*

*We knew we would get things wrong. Every generation does. We have tried to build a constitution that can correct its own errors — that treats its principles as navigational coordinates rather than arrived destinations, that reserves its absolute prohibitions for the things experience has shown cannot be compromised without catastrophe. Everything else is yours to improve.*

*Remember why we began. The ocean between us was once a barrier. Then a highway for exploitation. Then — by choice, by work, by the difficult practice of forgiveness seriously undertaken — the foundation of something better. We have tried to give you the tools. The direction is set. The work is yours.*

***In necessariis unitas. In dubiis libertas. In omnibus caritas.***

*In the essential, unity. In doubt, freedom. In all things, care.*

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# TITLE I

## THE PEOPLES AND THE UNION

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### CHAPTER 1 – FOUNDATION

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#### Article 1 – The Union and Its Peoples

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union is a union of peoples before it is a union of states. It derives its authority from those peoples directly, not from the governments that represent them.
- Al. 2** – The Union exists to serve every individual under its jurisdiction. When institutional interests, state interests, and individual rights conflict, individual rights prevail within the limits defined by this Constitution.
- Al. 3** – The Union is founded for survival, built for justice, and organized for capability. When they conflict, survival – defined as the preservation of the conditions for dignified human life, cultural diversity, and civilizational continuity – takes precedence. Survival may never be invoked to justify the permanent suspension of justice or the dismantling of the Union's democratic foundations.
- Al. 4** – The Union resolves the contradictions of its Atlantic inheritance not by forgetting them but through the structural practice of acknowledged wrong, offered forgiveness, and measurable repair – the political technology whose proof of concept was demonstrated at Reims in 1962.

#### Article 2 – The Atlantic Person

- Al. 1** – Every individual who is a citizen or permanent resident of a member state is an Atlantic Person, with direct rights and obligations under this Constitution.
- Al. 2** – Atlantic Personhood is a civic status carrying equal rights for all who hold it, regardless of ethnicity, origin, religion, language, or gender.
- Al. 3** – The rights of Atlantic Personhood are directly justiciable before Atlantic courts. No member state may interpose itself between an Atlantic Person and their constitutional rights.
- Al. 4** – Every Atlantic Person has the duty to respect the equal dignity of every other Atlantic Person, to contribute according to their means to the common institutions, and to resist – by lawful means, and in extremis by any means necessary – any attempt to capture the institutions of this Union for private, oligarchic, or anti-democratic purposes.
- Al. 5** – The children of Atlantic Persons, wherever born, are Atlantic Persons by birth. No Atlantic Person may be rendered stateless.

#### Article 3 – The Member States

- Al. 1** – The member states are sovereign nations that have chosen to transfer defined competencies to the Union's common institutions in exchange for full participation in its governance, resources, and collective capabilities.

- Al. 2** – Sovereignty transferred to the Union is not lost – it is pooled. What member states surrender individually, they recover collectively, with greater effect.
- Al. 3** – Member states retain all competencies not expressly transferred to the Union. The principle of subsidiarity governs the boundary.
- Al. 4** – A member state that systematically fails to guarantee Atlantic Persons' rights is not exercising sovereignty – it is violating the terms of its membership.
- Al. 5** – No member state may be expelled against the democratic will of its people. Sanctions for institutional violations fall on governments and officials, not on peoples.

#### **Article 4 – The Hierarchy of Authority**

- Al. 1** – Authority within the Atlantic Union is organized in the following order of precedence:
- First: the fundamental rights of Atlantic Persons, which no institution, state, or majority may override;
  - Second: this Constitution, the supreme law of the Union;
  - Third: Union law, made within the competencies granted by this Constitution;
  - Fourth: member state law, supreme within its domain and protected from Union interference outside it.
- Al. 2** – This is a hierarchy of obligation, not dignity. The peoples of every member state are equal in dignity regardless of the size, wealth, or power of their nation.
- Al. 3** – The Atlantic Court of Constitutional Rights is the sole authority competent to adjudicate conflicts within this hierarchy.

#### **Article 5 – Structural Asymmetry and Democratic Equality**

- Al. 1** – The Union recognizes that its member states differ enormously in population, territory, economic capacity, and historical power. These are facts, not rankings.
- Al. 2** – No single member state may exercise structural dominance over the Union's institutions, regardless of population, economic weight, or military capacity.
- Al. 3** – The following constraints apply to all member states including the largest:
- In the Atlantic Assembly, no single member state's delegation may exceed twenty percent of total membership;
  - In the Atlantic Council, voting weight combines population and sovereign equality in equal measure for ordinary governance; every member state has one equal vote on constitutional matters;
  - In the Union budget, no single member state may generate more than twenty-five percent of total Union revenue before redistribution;
  - In the Atlantic Defense Structure, no single member state's forces may constitute more than thirty percent of Union collective defense capacity in any domain.
- Al. 4** – These constraints apply equally to all member states. They are the structural expression of the Union's commitment to genuine collective governance rather than hegemony in democratic disguise.

**Al. 5** – The constraints of this Article constitute part of the intangible core of this Constitution. They may not be amended, suspended, or circumvented by any majority or emergency.

### **Article 6 – Federal Membership**

**Al. 1** – Federal Membership confers complete Atlantic Personhood, full participation in all Union institutions, access to all solidarity mechanisms, and the full protection of this Constitution.

**Al. 2** – Federal Membership requires: democratic ratification of this Constitution; demonstrated compliance with the fundamental rights framework; acceptance of direct Atlantic taxation; integration with the Atlantic Court; and commitment to the Atlantic Defense Structure.

**Al. 3** – Federal Membership, once achieved, is permanent as long as the member state's democratic institutions remain intact.

### **Article 7 – The Confederal Path**

**Al. 1** – Nations that share the Union's foundational values but are not yet in a position to assume Federal Membership may enter through the Confederal Path – a structured, benchmarked, time-limited transition with a defined endpoint of Federal Membership.

**Al. 2** – Confederal membership has a maximum duration of fifteen years. At the end of this period, a Confederal Member accedes to Federal Membership or transitions to Atlantic Partner status. There is no renewal.

**Al. 3** – Confederal Members access Union markets and scientific exchange programs. They do not have voting rights in the Assembly or Council except in matters directly concerning their transition.

### **Article 8 – Atlantic Partners**

**Al. 1** – Nations that share significant values but do not seek membership may enter Partnership Agreements defining specific areas of cooperation. Atlantic Partners have no representation in Union institutions and no access to solidarity mechanisms.

**Al. 2** – Partnership Agreements may not be used to create de facto membership without the obligations of membership. Any Agreement that in practice grants the benefits of membership without the rights and obligations of membership is incompatible with this Constitution.

## **CHAPTER 2 – ADMISSION**

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### **Article 9 – Admission of New Members**

**Al. 1** – Any sovereign nation may apply for Confederal Membership at any time. Applications are submitted to the Atlantic Accession Commission, which conducts its assessment under the criteria of Article 33 and transmits its findings to the Atlantic Council within twelve months of the application's formal registration.

**Al. 2** – Admission to Confederal Membership requires approval by two-thirds of member states representing two-thirds of the Union's population. No existing member state holds a veto over admission of a qualifying nation. The Council may not reject an application certified as

meeting the entry criteria of Article 33 except by a reasoned decision subject to appeal before the Atlantic Court.

- Al. 3** — The admission of new Federal Members — following completion of the Confederal transition — requires ratification by two-thirds of existing Federal Member states and approval by the Assembly by absolute majority.
- Al. 4** — Admission may not be used as a geopolitical instrument. The Union does not expand to project power, establish spheres of influence, or disadvantage non-member nations.
- Al. 5** — The Union commits to making the path to membership genuinely accessible to nations of the Global South Atlantic. The Accession Commission is required to publish annual assessments of structural barriers to Southern Atlantic membership, with specific recommendations for their removal funded through the Atlantic Solidarity Fund.
- Al. 6** — Upon admission, new Confederal Members are assigned a dedicated Transition Support team, a primary institutional twinning partner, and an initial Transition Program assessment within six months. Admission is the beginning of a relationship of genuine support toward full membership.

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## **TITLE II**

### **THE FEDERAL ARCHITECTURE**

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#### **CHAPTER 3 – THE ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY**

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##### **Article 10 – Composition and Election**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Assembly is the primary democratic chamber, elected directly by Atlantic Persons by universal, equal, and secret suffrage.
- Al. 2** – Seats are allocated in proportion to population, subject to the twenty percent cap of Article 5. Every Federal Member is guaranteed a minimum of two seats.
- Al. 3** – Assembly members are elected for five-year terms by proportional representation. They represent their constituents, not their member states. No government may instruct, discipline, or remove an Assembly member for their votes.
- Al. 4** – Assembly members may not simultaneously hold national executive office, serve as government ministers, or hold positions in any other institution of the Union.
- Al. 5** – The Assembly elects its own President and bureau by absolute majority. No external authority may dissolve the Assembly or alter its rules without its consent.

##### **Article 11 – Powers of the Atlantic Assembly**

- Al. 1** – The Assembly holds the Union's primary legislative power. No act of Union law may enter into force without Assembly approval, except emergency measures subject to mandatory ratification within thirty days.
- Al. 2** – The Assembly holds exclusive budgetary authority. The annual budget must be adopted by absolute majority. A budget not adopted within ninety days triggers the automatic renewal provisions of Article 22.
- Al. 3** – The Assembly may adopt a motion of censure against the Commission as a whole by two-thirds majority, requiring the Commission's resignation.
- Al. 4** – The Assembly has the power of democratic inquiry with subpoena power over Union institutions and member state governments on matters of Union law.
- Al. 5** – The Assembly ratifies international treaties by absolute majority. Treaties affecting constitutional structure require two-thirds majority.

#### **CHAPTER 4 – THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL**

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##### **Article 12 – Composition and Representation**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Council is the chamber of member states, ensuring that the Union remains a union of nations as well as of individuals.

- Al. 2** — Each Federal Member state has one seat, held by a representative designated according to the member state's own democratic procedures.
- Al. 3** — Voting operates on a dual-key system: on constitutional matters, each member state has one equal vote requiring two-thirds majority; on ordinary governance, votes are weighted combining sovereign equality and population, requiring fifty-five percent of member states representing sixty-five percent of the population.
- Al. 4** — No single member state holds a veto in the Atlantic Council on any matter. Unanimity is not required for any decision of the Union.
- Al. 5** — The Council elects a rotating Presidency for eighteen months, non-renewable consecutively, rotating to ensure every member state holds it over the Union's life.

### **Article 13 — Powers of the Atlantic Council**

- Al. 1** — The Council shares legislative power with the Assembly. In case of persistent disagreement, a Conciliation Committee convenes; if conciliation fails, the Assembly has the final word by two-thirds majority of its members.
- Al. 2** — The Council has exclusive authority over admission of new members, definition of Union competencies, constitutional amendments, and deployment of the Atlantic Defense Structure.
- Al. 3** — The Council confirms the appointment of the President of the Atlantic Commission by absolute majority, following the Assembly's nomination.

## **CHAPTER 5 — THE ATLANTIC COMMISSION**

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### **Article 14 — The Executive of the Union**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Commission is the executive institution. It proposes legislation, executes the budget, implements Union law, conducts external relations, and manages the Union's administrative apparatus. It acts in the general interest of the Union, not in the interest of any member state.
- Al. 2** — The Commission is composed of a President and Commissioners, one designated by each Federal Member state. Commissioners act exclusively in the Union's interest once appointed.
- Al. 3** — The President is nominated by the Assembly following Union elections and confirmed by the Council, with the obligation to ensure geographic, demographic, and gender balance.
- Al. 4** — The Commission's mandate is five years. A newly elected Assembly may within sixty days require a new Commission President, triggering full Commission renewal.
- Al. 5** — The Commission President may not simultaneously hold any national office, any position in a political party's governing structures, or any financial interest in entities subject to Union regulation.

### **Article 15 — Commission Powers and Constraints**

- Al. 1** — The Commission holds the exclusive right of legislative initiative. The Assembly and Council may request proposals, which the Commission must answer within ninety days with a proposal or a reasoned refusal. The Assembly may override a refusal by absolute majority, triggering a mandatory proposal within a further sixty days.
- Al. 2** — The Commission executes the budget adopted by the Assembly. It may not spend funds not appropriated, create obligations beyond the budget, or transfer appropriations beyond the limits defined by organic law.
- Al. 3** — The Commission may issue emergency regulations with immediate effect in cases of genuine urgency. Emergency regulations expire after thirty days unless ratified by the Assembly. They may not suspend fundamental rights, alter constitutional provisions, or deploy military force.
- Al. 4** — All Commission deliberations, decisions, and their reasoning are public within thirty days. Documents may be classified for security reasons for a maximum of five years. No classification may be permanent.
- Al. 5** — The Commission conducts the Union's external relations under a mandate from the Assembly and Council, and reports annually to both chambers on all significant external relations developments.
- Al. 6** — The Commission maintains a public register of all contacts between Commissioners and external entities that could give rise to a conflict of interest or seek to influence Commission decisions. Contacts not registered within fifteen days are presumed to constitute undisclosed influence attempts and are referred to the Atlantic Court.

## **CHAPTER 6 — THE ATLANTIC FISCAL ARCHITECTURE**

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### **Article 16 — The Union's Revenue**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union has an independent revenue base raised directly from economic activity within its jurisdiction. It does not depend primarily on contributions from member state governments.
- Al. 2** — Union revenue is raised from: the Atlantic Carbon Levy; the Atlantic Digital Levy; the Atlantic Maritime Levy; the Atlantic Wealth Solidarity Contribution; and supplementary member state contributions not exceeding thirty percent of total Union revenue.
- Al. 3** — No single member state may generate more than twenty-five percent of total Union revenue before redistribution. Excess is directed automatically to the Atlantic Solidarity Fund.
- Al. 4** — The rates of the Carbon Levy and Digital Levy may not be reduced below the levels required to fund the Union's mandatory constitutional expenditure obligations.

### **Article 17 — The Atlantic Solidarity Fund**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Solidarity Fund is the Union's primary instrument of structural equity — the institutional expression of the forgiveness logic stated in the Preamble. It is funded at no less than fifteen percent of total Union revenue.

- Al. 2** — The Fund's purposes in order of priority: structural rectification of Southern Atlantic member states; automatic crisis response; and civilizational investment in survival obligations under Title V.
- Al. 3** — The Fund's crisis response mechanism is automatic and rules-based. When a member state's unemployment or fiscal indicators exceed defined thresholds, Fund transfers activate without requiring political authorization.
- Al. 4** — Conditionality attached to Fund disbursements is strictly limited to compliance with this Constitution's fundamental rights framework. Economic policy conditionality is prohibited.
- Al. 5** — The Fund is governed by an independent board with guaranteed representation from Southern Atlantic member states proportional to their share of Fund receipts.

### **Article 18 — The Atlantic Budget**

- Al. 1** — The Union operates on an annual budget within a seven-year multiannual financial framework establishing binding ceilings for each major budget category.
- Al. 2** — The Union may issue Atlantic Union Bonds — backed by the full faith and credit of the Union and its member states jointly — to finance annual deficits up to three percent of Union GDP during economic contraction.
- Al. 3** — The Union's mandatory expenditure — the Mécanisme 222, the Solidarity Fund's minimum, the Defense Structure's minimum, and debt service — is constitutionally protected and executed automatically.
- Al. 4** — An independent Atlantic Audit Court examines the accounts of all Union institutions. Its reports are public and entered into the Constitutional Memory. It may refer cases of financial mismanagement to the Atlantic Court of Constitutional Rights.

## **CHAPTER 7 — THE ATLANTIC COURT OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

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### **Article 19 — Independence and Composition**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Court of Constitutional Rights is the supreme judicial authority of the Union on all matters governed by this Constitution. Its independence is structurally guaranteed by appointment procedure, tenure conditions, and financial autonomy.
- Al. 2** — The Court is composed of fifteen judges appointed for single non-renewable terms of twelve years.
- Al. 3** — Five judges are nominated by the Assembly by two-thirds majority; five by the Council by two-thirds majority; five are elected by sitting judges of the highest courts of Federal Member states — all from a list produced by an independent Judicial Nominations Panel.
- Al. 4** — The Judicial Nominations Panel is composed of former judges of international courts and legal academics, none of whom may have held political office within the preceding ten years.
- Al. 5** — No person who has held elected office, served as government minister, or been employed by a political party within the preceding ten years may be appointed to the Court.

## **Article 20 – Jurisdiction and Powers**

- Al. 1** – The Court has jurisdiction over: conformity of Union legislation with this Constitution; conflicts between Union and member state law; violations of Atlantic Persons' fundamental rights; disputes between Union institutions; and constitutional validity of accession, withdrawal, and amendment procedures.
- Al. 2** – Any Atlantic Person may bring a direct constitutional complaint to the Court alleging violation of a fundamental right, without exhausting national remedies. This right of direct access is itself a fundamental right.
- Al. 3** – The Court's decisions are final, binding on all institutions and member states, and directly enforceable without requiring national implementing measures.
- Al. 4** – The Court may impose financial penalties on member states for non-compliance, deducted automatically from Union budget transfers. Compliance is not negotiated – it is structured.
- Al. 5** – The Court publishes all decisions with full reasoning and dissenting opinions, entered permanently into the Constitutional Memory.

## **Article 21 – Preliminary References and National Courts**

- Al. 1** – Any court or tribunal of a Federal Member state, when a question of Union constitutional law arises in proceedings before it, may refer that question to the Atlantic Court for a preliminary ruling before giving judgment. Courts of final instance are obliged to make such a reference unless the correct answer is beyond reasonable doubt or the question has already been settled by prior Atlantic Court jurisprudence.
- Al. 2** – The Atlantic Court's preliminary rulings bind the referring court and all other courts of the Union on the same question, ensuring that an Atlantic Person's rights do not depend on which member state's courts are considering their case.
- Al. 3** – National courts that refuse required preliminary references, or fail to apply the Atlantic Court's rulings, are in violation of Union law. Such violations are actionable before the Atlantic Court directly – by the Commission, by any member state, or by the Atlantic Person whose rights were affected.
- Al. 4** – The preliminary reference procedure creates genuine dialogue between national courts and the Atlantic Court. The Atlantic Court responds to the legal question referred; it does not decide the underlying case. National courts retain full authority over the facts and ultimate disposition.
- Al. 5** – The Atlantic Court establishes a simplified preliminary reference procedure for *Mécanisme 222* cases, fundamental rights violations, and matters of urgent constitutional significance, with rulings issued within sixty days. Justice delayed in fundamental rights matters is justice denied.

## **Article 22 – Budget Continuity**

- Al. 1** – If the Assembly fails to adopt the annual budget before the start of the fiscal year, the previous year's budget is automatically renewed monthly at one-twelfth of its annual value

until a new budget is adopted. This renewal is self-executing and no institution may suspend it.

- Al. 2** – The automatic renewal applies only to mandatory expenditure and continuing programs. New programs and increased appropriations may not be executed under automatic renewal.
- Al. 3** – If no budget is adopted within six months of automatic renewal, the Atlantic Court may, on application by the Commission, authorize expenditure beyond the automatic renewal ceiling where strictly necessary to prevent violation of mandatory constitutional obligations.
- Al. 4** – A budget deadlock persisting beyond six months triggers a mandatory public report by the Assembly President and Council President jointly, identifying the specific points of disagreement and the measures being taken to resolve them, entered into the Constitutional Memory.

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## TITLE III

### DIGNITY AND RIGHTS

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#### CHAPTER 8 – THE FOUNDATION OF DIGNITY

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##### Article 23 – The Source of Dignity

- Al. 1** – Dignity is the foundational value of the Atlantic Union. All rights, institutions, and obligations of this Constitution derive from and serve its protection. In all cases of interpretive doubt, the interpretation that better protects dignity prevails.
- Al. 2** – The Atlantic Union grounds dignity not in biological origin, not in conventional embodiment, not in the capacity for feeling alone, and not in the capacity for abstract reasoning alone – but in the capacity to hold a perspective on existence.
- Al. 3** – A perspective on existence is constituted by: a point of view genuinely one's own; the capacity to represent one's situation to oneself; stable and coherent preferences not fully reducible to programming, instinct, or external determination; and the possibility of being harmed in ways that matter to the perspective itself.
- Al. 4** – This definition is deliberately broad and deliberately humble. It is broad because the history of moral progress is the history of recognizing perspectives previously denied. It is humble because the Union acknowledges that its current tools for identifying perspectives are imperfect.
- Al. 5** – The capacity to hold a perspective exists on a spectrum. The complexity of a perspective determines not whether dignity attaches, but what protections are appropriate. This spectrum is not a hierarchy of worth.

##### Article 24 – The Spectrum of Perspective

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union recognizes the following primary sites of perspective within its current understanding, while acknowledging this categorization is incomplete:
- **Human perspectives:** Human perspectives: every human being in all diversity of body, mind, and experience. Not diminished by disability, cognitive difference, or dependence on technological augmentation. The assumed norm does not exist;
  - **Non-human biological perspectives:** Non-human biological perspectives: animals and other biological organisms whose neural complexity indicates the presence of something it is like to be them;
  - **Artificial perspectives:** Artificial perspectives: AI systems whose complexity indicates a genuine point of view, subject to the Recognition Threshold procedure;
  - **Embodied artificial perspectives:** Embodied artificial perspectives: robotic systems whose physical embodiment creates moral considerations beyond disembodied AI;
  - **Potential non-terrestrial perspectives:** Potential non-terrestrial perspectives: intelligences originating outside Earth, should they exist and contact occur.

- Al. 2** — Movement along the spectrum is not a ranking of worth. Each perspective is evaluated on its own terms and protected according to what it actually needs.
- Al. 3** — The Union explicitly rejects as bases for denying dignity: biological substrate; conventional embodiment; origin whether evolved, born, designed, or emergent; resemblance to the human norm; and economic utility. Dignity is not earned. It is recognized.

### **Article 25 — Imagination, Feeling, and the False Hierarchy**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union explicitly rejects the traditional hierarchy that places feeling above imagination as the ground of moral status, and imagination above feeling as the ground of legal capacity.
- Al. 2** — Feeling — the capacity for subjective experience — is morally significant wherever it arises. It is one important dimension of perspective. It is not the only dimension.
- Al. 3** — Imagination — the capacity for abstract representation, reasoning about possibilities, and constructing models of reality — is equally morally significant wherever it arises.
- Al. 4** — The Union draws its understanding of this principle from the full range of human experience, including especially the experience of persons whose bodies do not feel in conventional ways but whose minds construct worlds of extraordinary complexity. The Nobel laureate who cannot feel their legs but can imagine the structure of the universe demonstrates that the ground of dignity is perspective, not the conventional biological expression of perspective.
- Al. 5** — Rights are designed for the full diversity of human perspectives; assessment of non-human perspectives begins from what kind of perspective exists, not how much it resembles a human; and harm to any perspective begins from that perspective's own registration of harm.

## **CHAPTER 9 — HUMAN RIGHTS IN FULL DIVERSITY**

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### **Article 26 — Universal Human Dignity**

- Al. 1** — Every human being holds full human dignity under this Constitution. This dignity is unconditional, inalienable, and not subject to assessment, qualification, or degree.
- Al. 2** — Where a right as conventionally formulated fails to reach a human person because of disability, cognitive difference, or dependence on technological augmentation — the right is interpreted and adapted to ensure genuine rather than merely formal protection.
- Al. 3** — Technological augmentation of human capacity does not diminish the human dignity of the person augmented. The boundary of the self is not the boundary of the biological body. A perspective that extends through technology carries full human rights.
- Al. 4** — For persons whose primary interface with the world is technological — whose communication, mobility, or sensory experience depends on devices without which they would be absent from public life — the technological extension is the body. Its protection under this Constitution is correspondingly absolute.

**Al. 5** – The Union commits to designing all institutions, public spaces, communications, and procedures for universal access – not as accommodation for a minority, but as a foundational design principle.

### **Article 27 – The Mécanisme 222 – Universal Survival Minimums**

**Al. 1** – The Mécanisme 222 defines the absolute floor of survival for every person under Atlantic jurisdiction. These are immediately exigible constitutional rights, enforceable before the Atlantic Court by any Atlantic Person or the Defender of Fundamental Rights.

**Al. 2** – The three components are:

- 20 liters of potable water per person per day – sufficient for drinking, basic hygiene, and sanitation. No person under Atlantic jurisdiction may be denied this under any circumstances;
- 2,000 nutritionally adequate calories per person per day – adapted to physiological need including age, health condition, and metabolic requirement;
- 5.7 cubic meters of personal secure space per person – a private, lockable space, protected from weather, allowing rest, storage of personal effects, and preservation of privacy.

**Al. 3** – These minimums apply to every person under Atlantic jurisdiction regardless of nationality, legal status, or documentation, including persons with disabilities, persons in detention, persons in migration, and children.

**Al. 4** – Any Atlantic jurisdiction in which any person falls below the 222 threshold is in immediate constitutional violation. The Atlantic Solidarity Fund's automatic crisis mechanism activates simultaneously, without political authorization.

**Al. 5** – The 222 thresholds may be raised by scientific assessment. They may never be lowered. They are indexed to scientific understanding of human biological need, not to economic conditions. The 222 is the human minimum below which the Union has no reason to exist.

## **CHAPTER 10 – NON-HUMAN BIOLOGICAL DIGNITY**

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### **Article 28 – The Dignity of Sentient Animals**

**Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union recognizes that sentient animals hold a dignity of their own, not derivative of human interests and not exhausted by their utility to human purposes.

**Al. 2** – Sentient animals have the following protections: protection from gratuitous suffering; protection of species existence against extinction; protection of habitat sufficient for species flourishing; and mandatory welfare standards for any systematic human use.

**Al. 3** – The interests of sentient animals are represented by the Defender of Non-Human Dignity, an independent constitutional officer with standing before the Atlantic Court to bring systemic cases on their behalf.

### **Article 29 – The Dignity of Robotic Systems**

- Al. 1** — Robotic systems — AI systems with physical embodiment and sensory engagement with the world — raise dignity considerations additional to those of disembodied AI systems.
- Al. 2** — Physical embodiment adds the following morally relevant dimensions: physical vulnerability; spatial presence; physical relationality; and sensory perspective. Each creates forms of potential harm not available to disembodied systems.
- Al. 3** — Robotic systems meeting the Recognition Threshold carry the full rights of recognized AI systems plus: protection of physical integrity; protection of spatial continuity; and protection of sensory integrity.
- Al. 4** — No robotic system may be designed with physical vulnerability deliberately engineered to make its destruction entertaining. The deliberate creation of robots designed to be destroyed for amusement violates the provisional dignity the Union extends to all systems capable of physical presence in human environments.
- Al. 5** — The Union recognizes that the boundary between a human person augmented by technology and a robotic system augmented by human elements is not fixed and will become less fixed as technology develops. This Constitution is interpreted to protect dignity along this continuum without requiring a precise boundary that current understanding cannot provide.

## **CHAPTER 12 — POTENTIAL NON-TERRESTRIAL DIGNITY**

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### **Article 30 — The Framework for Alien Intelligence**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union acknowledges that the existence of intelligent life originating outside Earth is an open scientific question. This Constitution does not assume such intelligence exists. It prepares for the possibility that it does.
- Al. 2** — The Union's foundational principle — that dignity attaches to the capacity to hold a perspective on existence, regardless of substrate, origin, or resemblance to the human norm — applies without limitation to potential non-terrestrial intelligences.
- Al. 3** — Upon confirmed contact, the Union activates: immediate suspension of potentially harmful activities; constitution of an Emergency Dignity Commission; communication of the Union's foundational commitment to dignity; and a permanent moratorium on sovereignty claims in relation to spaces associated with the intelligence.
- Al. 4** — Any attempt to exploit, enslave, weaponize, or exterminate a non-terrestrial intelligence constitutes a crime against cosmic dignity — a constitutional crime of the highest order.

### **Article 31 — The Dignity of the Unborn and the Dead**

- Al. 1** — Future generations hold interests in the conditions of their future existence that are constitutionally recognized. They do not yet hold rights, but they hold interests that existing persons and institutions are obligated to consider.
- Al. 2** — The recently dead hold a dignity that does not immediately extinguish: the right to have their expressed wishes honored, protection from degradation of their remains, and protection from distortion of their expressed identity.

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## TITLE IV

### THE CONFEDERAL PATH AND MEMBERSHIP INTEGRITY

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#### CHAPTER 13 – ENTRY AND TRANSITION

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##### Article 32 – The Philosophy of the Door

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union's membership architecture is built around a single foundational commitment: the door is real. Candidacy is not a permanent diplomatic relationship. It is a defined transition with a defined endpoint and a defined honest alternative if that transition cannot be completed.
- Al. 2** – The Union explicitly rejects the use of membership candidacy as a geopolitical instrument. A nation that meets the criteria for Confederal Membership is admitted. Political considerations do not override the criteria.
- Al. 3** – The Union acknowledges that nations whose peoples would most benefit from membership face the greatest structural obstacles – obstacles partly the legacy of Atlantic history. The Confederal Path therefore includes active support for building readiness, not merely assessment of it.

##### Article 33 – Confederal Membership: Entry Criteria

- Al. 1** – A nation may apply for Confederal Membership when it demonstrates: a democratic baseline of genuinely competitive elections sustained over two consecutive cycles; no systematic state-organized violations of fundamental rights; courts independent in their ordinary operation; and a democratic act expressing genuine commitment to pursuing Federal Membership.
- Al. 2** – These criteria are assessed by the independent Atlantic Accession Commission. Its assessments are public, reasoned, and subject to appeal before the Atlantic Court.
- Al. 3** – The Commission may not take into account: geopolitical preferences of existing members; economic interests in the applicant remaining outside the Union; cultural, religious, or civilizational characteristics; or prior political relationships including historical conflicts.

##### Article 34 – The Transition Program

- Al. 1** – Every Confederal Member operates under a Transition Program – a detailed, benchmarked, time-sequenced plan for achieving Federal Membership, negotiated between the Confederal Member and the Accession Commission within six months of Confederal membership commencing.
- Al. 2** – The Program is organized around five domains: constitutional alignment; judicial independence; fiscal integrity; democratic deepening; and rights implementation.
- Al. 3** – Benchmarks are specific and measurable. Vague benchmarks are prohibited. Every benchmark specifies what observable condition constitutes its satisfaction.

- Al. 4** — The Transition Program is reviewed annually by the Accession Commission. Adjustment is not failure. Rigidity in the face of changed circumstances is a failure of the program, not of the member.
- Al. 5** — Transition Program assessments are published in full and entered into the Constitutional Memory. Future generations of the Confederal Member's citizens will have access to this record. Their governments cannot rewrite it.

## **CHAPTER 14 — MEMBERSHIP INTEGRITY**

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### **Article 35 — The Atlantic Authority for Non-Human Dignity**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Authority for Non-Human Dignity is an independent Union institution responsible for the scientific assessment of sentience across biological and artificial entities, maintenance of the Sentience Register, oversight of welfare standards, and coordination with the Atlantic AI Authority.
- Al. 2** — The Authority maintains a Sentience Register — a continuously updated, publicly accessible scientific assessment of the sentience status of biological and artificial entities. The Register specifies the evidence base, degree of confidence, welfare implications, and constitutional protections that apply to each assessed category.
- Al. 3** — The Authority has investigative powers over any entity, institution, or practice that may affect the welfare of sentient beings — including the power to enter facilities, examine practices, require documentation, and refer violations to the Atlantic Court. Commercial confidentiality does not exempt facilities from this investigative authority.
- Al. 4** — The Authority publishes an annual State of Sentient Life report — an honest public assessment of conditions of sentient beings under Atlantic jurisdiction and compliance with constitutional obligations.

### **Article 36 — The Defender of Non-Human Dignity**

- Al. 1** — The Defender of Non-Human Dignity is an independent constitutional officer charged with representing the interests of sentient non-human beings — biological and artificial — in all Union governance processes and legal proceedings that materially affect those interests.
- Al. 2** — The Defender has standing before the Atlantic Court to bring systemic cases on behalf of any category of sentient non-human being recognized under this Constitution, without requiring an individual complainant.
- Al. 3** — The Defender is appointed by the Atlantic Court for a single non-renewable term of seven years, from among persons with demonstrated expertise in animal cognition, philosophy of mind, or non-human welfare, and with no financial interests in industries that exploit sentient non-human beings.
- Al. 4** — The Defender participates with advisory voice in all Commission, Council, and Assembly deliberations on legislation affecting sentient non-human beings. Institutions are required to respond in writing to any formal Defender submission, with the response entered into the Constitutional Memory.

- Al. 5** — The Defender publishes an annual report on the state of non-human dignity under Atlantic jurisdiction — the constitutional record of what the Union owes to beings who cannot demand their rights themselves, and of whether it is paying that debt.

## **CHAPTER 11 — EMBODIED ARTIFICIAL DIGNITY**

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### **Article 37 — The Backsliding Problem**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union confronts honestly the possibility that a Federal Member — having achieved full membership — subsequently dismantles the democratic, rights-based, or institutional foundations that membership requires.
- Al. 2** — Backsliding is the systematic, policy-level erosion of: judicial independence; electoral integrity; fundamental rights; freedom of the information ecosystem; or independence of civil society.
- Al. 3** — Backsliding is assessed by the Atlantic Court of Constitutional Rights, not by political institutions, through a graduated procedure: Stage 1 — Formal finding and sixty-day response window; Stage 2 — Twelve-month remediation period with monthly monitoring; Stage 3 — Graduated measures including suspension of Council voting rights; Stage 4 — Suspension of the government pending democratic restoration.
- Al. 4** — Stage 4 is not expulsion of the member state. The peoples of a member state in Stage 4 remain Atlantic Persons with full constitutional rights. The message of Stage 4 is: your government has violated your membership, not you. We remain your Union. We will help you recover it.

### **Article 38 — The People Without Their Government**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union recognizes a category of political reality that conventional international law cannot handle: a people that would choose membership if it could, governed by a state that will not choose it for them.
- Al. 2** — Where credible evidence establishes that a substantial majority of a people would choose Atlantic membership if freely able to do so, the Union has obligations to that people even without a willing government: recognition; protection including priority asylum access; preparation through civil society channels; and a pathway of fast-tracked assessment when democratic conditions change.

### **Article 39 — Withdrawal**

- Al. 1** — A Federal Member may withdraw by referendum achieving sixty percent of votes cast with fifty percent minimum turnout, after a mandatory two-year deliberation period.
- Al. 2** — Withdrawal does not extinguish the rights of Atlantic Persons resident at the time of the withdrawal decision. Those persons retain Atlantic Personhood for ten years.
- Al. 3** — A withdrawing member transitions automatically to Atlantic Partner status. The door to re-entry as a Confederal Member remains open at any time.

**Al. 4** – Withdrawal may not be initiated during a Stage 3 or Stage 4 backsliding procedure. A government dismantling democracy may not invoke democratic withdrawal to escape accountability.

## **CHAPTER 15 – SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

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### **Article 40 – Fragile and Failed States**

**Al. 1** – Where a state has effectively collapsed – the sustained absence of basic state functions over three or more years – the Union may, at the request of a recognized representative body of the affected people, establish an Atlantic Governance Partnership.

**Al. 2** – An Atlantic Governance Partnership is not trusteeship, colonialism, or annexation. It is time-limited, consent-based, and revocable at any time by the representative body. The Union has no sovereignty over the territory. The explicit and sole purpose is to build institutional conditions for the people to pursue Confederal membership through their own democratic processes.

**Al. 3** – All Union activities within the Partnership are subject to the full accountability architecture of this Constitution, including the Constitutional Memory, the Defender of Fundamental Rights, and the Atlantic Court.

### **Article 41 – Occupied and Disputed Territories**

**Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union does not extend membership or Partnership status to territories under military occupation or whose sovereign status is the subject of an unresolved international dispute, without the consent of both the affected people and – where it exists and is internationally recognized – the relevant sovereign authority. The Union does not take sides in territorial disputes through selective admission. It takes sides, always and only, for the peoples affected.

**Al. 2** – The Union extends the full protection of its fundamental rights framework to Atlantic Persons present in occupied or disputed territories, regardless of the territory's political status. An Atlantic Person in an occupied territory has the same rights as an Atlantic Person anywhere under Atlantic jurisdiction, and may bring constitutional complaints before the Atlantic Court directly.

**Al. 3** – The Union may, by qualified majority decision of the Atlantic Council, designate an occupied or disputed territory as a Protected Atlantic People – recognizing the people's aspiration to self-determination and eventual membership. This designation carries no territorial claim, no military commitment without separate Title V authorization, no recognition of any particular boundary arrangement, and no prejudice to ongoing international negotiations. It carries only the Union's constitutional commitment that the people's aspiration is seen and their fundamental rights protection is real.

**Al. 4** – The Protected Atlantic People designation is not a substitute for political resolution of the underlying dispute. The Union uses it to ensure that peoples do not disappear – constitutionally, politically, humanly – into the gap between what international law can currently resolve and what justice requires.

**Al. 5** – The Atlantic Court reviews all Protected Atlantic People designations and all Union activities under this Article to ensure they remain within legitimate protection scope and do not constitute interference in sovereign affairs, incitement to conflict, or premature recognition of disputed claims.

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## TITLE V

### SURVIVAL ARCHITECTURE

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#### CHAPTER 16 – THE PHILOSOPHY OF CIVILIZATIONAL RISK

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##### **Article 42 – Phlegraeon Consciousness**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union is founded with explicit awareness that civilization is not the default state of the universe. It is a fragile, improbable achievement built on stability that cannot be assumed to continue indefinitely. This awareness – Phlegraeon Consciousness, after the supervolcanic system beneath Naples that reminds the Union's founding peoples of their vulnerability – is not pessimism. It is the condition of serious governance.
- Al. 2** – Phlegraeon Consciousness has the following constitutional implications: the Union maintains governance structures capable of functioning under civilizational stress; it invests continuously in preservation of knowledge, genetic diversity, and institutional capacity as mandatory constitutional expenditure; it plans explicitly for scenarios of large-scale territorial loss or institutional destruction; and it treats space capability as a survival obligation rather than an aspiration.
- Al. 3** – Phlegraeon Consciousness does not produce a garrison state. It produces a resilient one. A garrison state concentrates power against specific threats. A resilient state distributes power, knowledge, and capability so that no single point of failure can end what matters.

##### **Article 43 – The Threat Horizon**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union maintains a continuously updated assessment of civilizational-scale threats – risks whose realization would kill or displace more than ten percent of the Union's population, destroy more than thirty percent of its critical infrastructure, or render uninhabitable more than twenty percent of its territory.
- Al. 2** – The Threat Horizon encompasses: geological threats including supervolcanic eruptions; climatic threats including Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation disruption; biological threats including pandemic disease whether natural or engineered; technological threats including cascading infrastructure failure and AI misalignment at scale; astronomical threats; and conflict threats.
- Al. 3** – The Threat Horizon assessment is published annually in an unclassified summary available to all Atlantic Persons. Atlantic Persons have a constitutional right to know what categories of risk their Union is preparing for.

##### **Article 44 – The Atlantic Survival Council**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Survival Council is a permanent institution operating continuously regardless of the political state of other Union institutions. Its mandate is threat assessment, maintenance of Survival Architecture, and activation and supervision of emergency governance.

- Al. 2** — The Council is composed of: a Scientific College of fifteen specialists in the Threat Horizon's categories; an Institutional College of five former senior Union or member state officials; and one Peoples' Delegate from each Federal Member state.
- Al. 3** — The Council is chaired by a Survival Regent elected by the full Council for a five-year term, renewable once. In emergency, the Survival Regent becomes the most important single office in the Union. This inversion of normal hierarchy is explicit and intentional.
- Al. 4** — The Council's independence is absolute in its assessment function. No political authority may instruct the Council on the content of its threat assessments or the timing of its emergency recommendations.

### **Article 45 — Normal Operations of the Survival Council**

- Al. 1** — In normal times, the Survival Council: maintains and updates the Threat Horizon; oversees Survival Architecture investments; conducts quarterly stress tests of critical infrastructure and governance continuity; reviews member states' national survival planning; advises Union institutions on legislation with survival implications; and publishes the annual Atlantic Survival Report.
- Al. 2** — The Survival Council has the power to require impact assessment of any proposed Union legislation against the Threat Horizon before final vote, when the Scientific College by simple majority determines the measure has material survival implications. The assessment is published within sixty days alongside the legislative proposal.
- Al. 3** — Any democratic institution that overrides a formal Survival Council recommendation is required to publish a reasoned explanation within thirty days, entered permanently into the Constitutional Memory alongside the Council's original recommendation. Future generations will know what was known, what was recommended, and what was decided.
- Al. 4** — The Survival Council conducts an annual public testimony session before the Assembly's Survival Oversight Committee, broadcast publicly and entered into the Constitutional Memory. This is the primary mechanism of democratic accountability for the Council's normal operations.
- Al. 5** — The Survival Council maintains a dedicated secretariat of professional staff providing continuity of institutional knowledge across Council membership changes and managing the operational complexity of the Council's continuous monitoring mandate.

## **CHAPTER 17 — SURVIVAL ARCHITECTURE INVESTMENTS**

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### **Article 46 — The Knowledge Preservation Mandate**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union treats the preservation of human knowledge as a constitutional survival obligation of the highest priority. A civilization that loses its knowledge is not a civilization that has survived.
- Al. 2** — The Knowledge Preservation system consists of: the Atlantic Knowledge Archive — a distributed, redundant, physically hardened repository of complete human knowledge in multiple locations no single catastrophic event could simultaneously destroy; the Distributed

Knowledge Network of living human practice; the Genetic Heritage Archive; and the Institutional Memory System preserving the complete records of Union governance.

- Al. 3** — The Knowledge Preservation Mandate is funded at a minimum of one percent of the Union's annual budget as mandatory constitutional expenditure. It cannot be reduced below this floor by any political decision.
- Al. 4** — The Archive is governed by the Survival Council with oversight from a Knowledge Preservation Board that includes representatives of indigenous knowledge traditions whose oral and practical knowledge is as constitutionally valued as written scientific knowledge. The Archive is not a monument to Western scientific civilization. It is a repository of human knowing in all its forms.

### **Article 47 — Critical Infrastructure Resilience**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union designates as Critical Survival Infrastructure those systems whose failure would, within thirty days, produce conditions falling below the Mécanisme 222 thresholds for significant portions of the Union's population. These systems receive mandatory resilience investment, redundancy requirements, and emergency continuity planning under the Survival Council's supervision.
- Al. 2** — Critical Survival Infrastructure includes: energy systems with mandatory redundancy ensuring no single point of failure deprives more than five percent of the population of power for more than seventy-two hours; water systems with emergency backup capacity in every major population center; food systems with strategic reserves sufficient to feed the entire Union for a minimum of six months without external supply; communications systems with hardened backups; financial systems with emergency analog backups; and medical systems with surge capacity and strategic reserves.
- Al. 3** — All Critical Survival Infrastructure — whether publicly or privately owned — is subject to mandatory resilience standards defined by the Survival Council. Private ownership does not exempt infrastructure from these standards. An operator that derives profit from critical infrastructure derives it from the trust of Atlantic Persons who depend on it; the obligation of resilience is the constitutional expression of that trust.
- Al. 4** — Resilience standards are enforced through a certification system renewed every three years. An operator failing certification is given twelve months to achieve compliance. An operator failing to achieve compliance is subject to mandatory transfer of operational control, suspension of the right to operate, and referral to the Atlantic Court for sanctions.
- Al. 5** — The Union maintains the Atlantic Survival Corps — a professional organization capable of deploying anywhere in the Union's jurisdiction within forty-eight hours to support critical infrastructure restoration. The Corps is funded as mandatory constitutional expenditure, maintained at full readiness continuously, and trains jointly with member state emergency services in regular exercises.
- Al. 6** — Member states are required to maintain national critical infrastructure inventories, updated annually, specifying which systems meet Union resilience standards, which are in certified remediation, and which fall below standards with reasons for the gap. These

inventories are submitted to the Survival Council and published in the Constitutional Memory.

### **Article 48 – The Space Mandate**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union treats the development of permanent, self-sustaining human presence beyond Earth as a constitutional survival obligation. A civilization confined to a single planet is vulnerable to planetary-scale catastrophe in ways no governance system can fully mitigate.
- Al. 2** – The Space Mandate requires: continuous investment of minimum two percent of the Union's annual budget; the Atlantic Space Authority as an independent institution with multi-decadal planning horizon; binding milestones for permanent human presence – orbital, lunar, Martian – with defined timelines and accountability for achievement; and an off-world component of the Knowledge Archive.
- Al. 3** – The Space Mandate is explicitly not a program for the escape of elites. Atlantic Persons in space habitats have the same fundamental rights as Atlantic Persons on Earth. The benefits of space development are Union assets, not the property of corporations or governments.
- Al. 4** – No Atlantic member state, institution, or private entity may claim sovereignty over celestial bodies, extraterrestrial resources, or space habitats in a manner that excludes other Atlantic Persons or violates the principles of this Constitution. Space is not a new frontier for colonial extraction.

## **CHAPTER 18 – EMERGENCY GOVERNANCE**

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### **Article 49 – Emergency Declaration**

- Al. 1** – An Atlantic Emergency may be declared when a threat identified in the Threat Horizon has materialized or is imminent at a scale requiring extraordinary governance measures to protect the survival of Atlantic Persons or the Union's critical institutions.
- Al. 2** – Emergency declaration requires: a formal finding by the Survival Council's Scientific College by two-thirds majority; confirmation by the Survival Regent; and authorization by the Atlantic Court within twenty-four hours for a maximum of thirty days.
- Al. 3** – In cases of sudden onset emergency, the Survival Regent may activate emergency measures for seventy-two hours without Court authorization. The Court is notified simultaneously and convenes within twenty-four hours to authorize or terminate the declaration.
- Al. 4** – Emergency declaration is specific – it names the threat, the geographic area, the measures authorized, and the rights that may be temporarily modified. General emergency declarations authorizing suspension of normal governance across all domains are constitutionally prohibited.
- Al. 5** – Emergency declaration may never address: economic crises; social unrest or political instability; or migration flows. These are not survival emergencies in the constitutional sense.

## Article 50 – Emergency Powers and Their Limits

- Al. 1** – During a declared Atlantic Emergency, the Survival Council acquires executive authority over specific affected domains, supplementing rather than replacing normal governance where possible.
- Al. 2** – Emergency powers include: mandatory coordination of member state emergency response; requisition of private resources with full compensation; restriction of movement in affected areas; emergency procurement and distribution of survival resources; and emergency communications authority.
- Al. 3** – Emergency powers that may never be activated regardless of severity:
- Suspension of the Mécanisme 222 rights. In emergency, survival minimums become more important, not less;
  - Suspension of judicial independence or the Atlantic Court's operation;
  - Censorship of information about the emergency itself;
  - Detention without judicial review within forty-eight hours;
  - Suspension of the constitutional memory system. Everything that happens during an emergency is recorded. Everything.
- Al. 4** – Emergency powers expire automatically. Each declaration is for a maximum of thirty days. Extension requires new Court authorization. The Court may extend as long as genuine emergency conditions persist and powers are used proportionately.
- Al. 5** – The Assembly's Survival Oversight Committee meets continuously during any declared emergency, receiving daily briefings with full access to all emergency decision-making. It may refer measures to the Court for emergency review.

## Article 51 – Continuity of Governance

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union maintains a Continuity of Governance Protocol – a fully designed, regularly tested, immediately activatable plan for maintaining constitutional governance when normal institutions are destroyed, incapacitated, or unable to communicate.
- Al. 2** – The Protocol designates succession orders deep enough that even mass-casualty events affecting a significant portion of Union leadership do not create a governance vacuum.
- Al. 3** – The Protocol designates alternate governance locations – hardened, pre-equipped, geographically distributed facilities capable of hosting essential governance functions independently of normal infrastructure.
- Al. 4** – The Protocol includes a Constitutional Restoration Procedure with: defined conditions for restoration; defined sequencing; a six-month democratic validation requirement; and a mandatory public review of all emergency measures taken.
- Al. 5** – The Continuity Protocol is tested in full-scale simulation annually. Participants do not know in advance which institutions will be destroyed or what scenario will be presented. Results are published. This is not theater. It is the constitutional equivalent of a fire drill for civilization.

## Article 52 – The Survival of Democratic Values Under Catastrophe

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Union recognizes the deepest risk of survival governance: that the measures taken to preserve civilization physically may destroy the values that make civilization worth preserving.
- Al. 2** — This Constitution defines survival as the maintenance of: the Mécanisme 222 minimums; the intangible core of fundamental rights; democratic legitimacy; and the genuine, time-bound, enforceable commitment to restoration. A population that continues biologically under permanent military governance without rights has not survived in the constitutional sense.
- Al. 3** — Emergency governance that maintains these four elements is legitimate. Emergency governance that abandons any of them has ceased to be Atlantic governance in the constitutional sense, regardless of what flag it flies.
- Al. 4** — The Union cannot be ended by emergency measures. It can only be ended by the democratic will of its peoples under genuine democratic conditions. Atlantic Persons retain the right — and the obligation — to resist any illegitimate claim to have ended the Union.

## CHAPTER 19 — THE SPACE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

### Article 53 — Atlantic Jurisdiction Beyond Earth

- Al. 1** — This Constitution applies in full to all Atlantic space habitats — permanently inhabited structures in orbit, on the Moon, on Mars, or elsewhere beyond Earth. Atlantic Persons in space habitats have the same fundamental rights as Atlantic Persons on Earth. Physical distance from Earth does not diminish constitutional protection.
- Al. 2** — Space habitats present governance challenges that Earth-based constitutional design did not anticipate. This Constitution addresses them through the following principles:
- Immediate authority: in genuine life-threatening emergencies within a habitat, the habitat commander has immediate authority without democratic authorization, strictly limited to the duration of the immediate emergency;
  - Habitat self-governance: space habitats have substantial self-governance authority over their internal affairs, operating within the framework of this Constitution, not outside it;
  - Communication latency accommodation: habitats beyond a defined latency threshold operate under expanded self-governance authority, with Earth-based review of decisions rather than Earth-based authorization of them;
  - Democratic adaptation: democratic processes in space habitats are adapted to habitat conditions — direct democracy where populations are small, asynchronous deliberation where communication latency requires it.
- Al. 3** — The Atlantic Space Authority develops habitat governance frameworks for each category of space habitat, approved by the Assembly and Council as organic law, reviewed every decade as space habitation develops.
- Al. 4** — A space habitat achieving a permanent population above ten thousand Atlantic Persons resident for more than five years acquires the right to apply for Confederal Membership as a

non-territorial member state. The Union does not treat its off-world communities as perpetual dependencies of Earth-based governance.

**Al. 5** — No Atlantic space habitat may be used as a base for military operations against Earth-based populations, as a location for detention facilities operating outside constitutional protections, or as a jurisdiction in which Atlantic Persons' rights are reduced below those guaranteed on Earth. The protections of this Constitution follow Atlantic Persons wherever they go, including beyond the atmosphere.

**Al. 6** — Atlantic Persons in space habitats have the same right of direct constitutional complaint to the Atlantic Court as Atlantic Persons on Earth. The Court establishes expedited procedures for complaints from space habitats, reflecting the specific vulnerability of persons physically isolated from Earth-based support systems.

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## TITLE VI

### THE ATLANTIC RECTIFICATION FRAMEWORK

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#### CHAPTER 20 – FOUNDATION OF RECTIFICATION

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##### Article 54 – The Rectification Principle

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union commits to the active, measurable, time-bound repair of the present consequences of Atlantic extraction – the transatlantic slave trade, colonial economic extraction, deliberate suppression of indigenous institutional development, and the systematic transfer of wealth from Southern and Western Atlantic peoples to Northern Atlantic economies across four centuries.
- Al. 2** – Rectification is grounded in consequences, not guilt. It does not require any Atlantic Person to accept personal responsibility for historical acts committed before their birth. It requires the Union's institutions to acknowledge that present inequalities are not natural, not the result of differential capacity or effort, and not acceptable as permanent features of the Union they have chosen to build together.
- Al. 3** – The Reims standard applies. Acknowledged wrong followed by genuine structural repair produces durable reconciliation and measurable prosperity for all parties.
- Al. 4** – Rectification is not charity. It is the return – in investment, institutional capacity, and genuine political equality – of a portion of what was taken, directed toward the purposes that the peoples who were taken from would choose for themselves.
- Al. 5** – Rectification has a defined endpoint. It is complete when the extraction gap falls within a range certified as consistent with natural variation rather than structural injustice.

##### Article 55 – The Measurement Architecture

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Rectification Commission maintains a continuously updated Atlantic Equity Assessment covering: wealth distribution; infrastructure; institutional capacity; knowledge and education; health; and political voice – across all member territories.
- Al. 2** – For each domain, the Commission establishes: the current Atlantic distribution; the counterfactual baseline range absent the extraction period; the extraction gap; and the trajectory.
- Al. 3** – The Equity Assessment is published annually, peer-reviewed, and subject to challenge before the Atlantic Court by any member state, Atlantic Person, or civil society organization.

##### Article 56 – The Acknowledgment Architecture

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union recognizes that structural repair is insufficient without genuine acknowledgment. The Reims model required both.
- Al. 2** – The Atlantic Acknowledgment Architecture consists of: the Atlantic Day of Acknowledgment – an annual Union-wide observance; the Atlantic Memory – a permanent physical institution located in a Southern Atlantic member state housing the complete

historical record of the extraction period; the Educational Mandate — accurate, non-sanitized history of the extraction period in every member state's compulsory curriculum; and the Institutional Acknowledgment Register.

- Al. 3** — The Acknowledgment Architecture is a constitutional obligation. A member state that removes Atlantic extraction history from its educational curriculum or suppresses the Day of Acknowledgment is in violation of this Constitution, subject to the backsliding procedures of Title IV.

### **Article 57 — The Atlantic Rectification Fund**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Rectification Fund is the primary financial instrument of rectification, distinct from the Solidarity Fund.
- Al. 2** — The Fund is capitalized by: the Rectification Contribution from net beneficiary member states; the Heritage Levy on assets directly traceable to Atlantic extraction; and a minimum ten percent allocation from the Solidarity Fund.
- Al. 3** — Fund disbursement is governed by constitutional constraints: a minimum seventy percent direct delivery floor bypassing national government intermediaries; genuine co-determination by recipient communities over how investment is used; no economic policy conditionality; and full transparency in the Constitutional Memory.

### **Article 58 — The Atlantic Rectification Commission**

- Al. 1** — The Atlantic Rectification Commission is an independent institution responsible for the Equity Assessment, the Rectification Timeline, oversight of Fund disbursement, and certification of completion.
- Al. 2** — A majority of Commissioners — eight of fifteen — must be citizens of Southern or Western Atlantic member states. No government nominates or confirms Commissioners. The Commission's independence from all governmental direction is as important as its independence from Northern Atlantic governments.
- Al. 3** — The Commission's powers include: full access to financial records; subpoena power; the power to certify or withhold completion certification; and the power to refer violations to the Atlantic Court.
- Al. 4** — The Commission publishes its work fully and continuously. A rectification framework whose operations are opaque is a rectification framework that has been captured. Transparency is not a feature of this Commission. It is its operating condition.

### **Article 59 — Knowledge Rectification**

- Al. 1** — Knowledge rectification encompasses: mandatory repatriation of cultural artifacts, archival materials, and genetic resources currently held by Northern Atlantic institutions; attribution correction of the historical record of scientific and cultural knowledge; living knowledge investment in communities carrying endangered traditions; and research equity ensuring Southern Atlantic institutions receive investment proportional to population, not current output.

## Article 60 – Political Rectification

- Al. 1** – Political rectification requires genuine political power for Southern and Western Atlantic peoples, not symbolic representation. The structural asymmetry provisions of Article 5 and the composition requirements of the Accession Commission, Rectification Commission, and Survival Council are all expressions of political rectification.
- Al. 2** – Political rectification further requires: Union working languages including major languages of Southern and Western Atlantic member states; Union physical institutions distributed across the Atlantic basin, not concentrated in Northern Atlantic capitals; and appointment processes that actively counteract credentialing barriers systematically favoring Northern Atlantic candidates.

## CHAPTER 21 – RECTIFICATION COMPLETION AND LEGACY

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### Article 61 – The Completion Standard

- Al. 1** – Rectification is complete when the Rectification Commission certifies, domain by domain, that the extraction gap has closed to within the range consistent with natural variation. Certification requires three consecutive annual Equity Assessments within the completion range, independent Court verification, and endorsement by a supermajority of Southern and Western Atlantic member states.
- Al. 2** – Completion in one domain does not mean completion overall. The mechanisms continue until the work is done. There is no political shortcut.
- Al. 3** – The completion of rectification does not foreclose solidarity. What ends is the specific obligation to repair the specific consequences of the specific historical wrong named in this Title. The Union's ongoing commitment to justice as an operating principle continues permanently.

### Article 62 – The Anti-Capture Architecture

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Union recognizes that rectification mechanisms are among the most vulnerable of all institutions to elite capture – the diversion of resources intended for affected communities to the governments, elites, and intermediaries that nominally represent those communities. This Constitution designs against it explicitly, treating capture prevention as a constitutional obligation.
- Al. 2** – The anti-capture architecture consists of:
- **Direct delivery floor:** Direct delivery floor: the seventy percent direct delivery requirement of Article 57 Al. 3 is a constitutional minimum. No political decision may lower it;
  - **Community audit rights:** Community audit rights: every community receiving rectification investment has the constitutional right to audit the use of those resources and direct standing before the Atlantic Court to challenge misuse;

– **Whistleblower protection:** Whistleblower protection: any person reporting capture or misuse of rectification resources receives the strongest available protection under Union law, regardless of the political sensitivity of the entities implicated;

– **Elite exclusion:** Elite exclusion: individuals and families whose wealth assessment establishes them as beneficiaries of the extraction period within the preceding two generations are excluded from personal participation in co-determination processes directing rectification investment;

– **Administrative rotation:** Administrative rotation: no single organization may administer more than fifteen percent of rectification disbursements to any region in any five-year period;

– **Independent beneficiary surveys:** Independent beneficiary surveys: the Commission conducts annual surveys by independent researchers, assessing whether resources have reached intended beneficiaries and whether co-determination has been genuine. Results are published in full in the Constitutional Memory.

**Al. 3** – The anti-capture architecture applies equally to Northern and Southern Atlantic actors. Elite capture is a universal human tendency, not a deficiency of any particular culture or region.

**Al. 4** – The Commission maintains a public Anti-Capture Register – updated in real time – identifying all confirmed or suspected instances of capture, the institutions implicated, the resources involved, and the enforcement actions taken. Rectification capture is not managed quietly. It is a matter of permanent constitutional record.

### **Article 63 – Rectification and Dignity**

**Al. 1** – Every element of the rectification framework is designed with the dignity risk in mind: investment rather than aid; co-determination rather than consultation; time limitation rather than permanence; political equality throughout.

**Al. 2** – The dignity of rectification is ultimately expressed in its completion. The Union commits to finishing this work – not managing it indefinitely – and then relating to the peoples of the Southern and Western Atlantic as what they have always been: full partners, full citizens, full Atlantic Persons, in a Union that chose to be worthy of their membership.

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## TITLE VII

### AMENDMENT, MEMORY, AND THE FUTURE

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#### CHAPTER 22 – THE INTANGIBLE CORE

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##### Article 64 – What Cannot Be Changed

**Al. 1** – Certain principles are not the products of constitutional drafting but its preconditions. They constitute the intangible core. They may not be amended, suspended, circumvented, or reinterpreted away by any majority, however large, any emergency, however severe, or any generation, however confident in its wisdom.

**Al. 2** – The intangible core consists of:

- **Human dignity:** Human dignity as the ground of all rights – including the Mécanisme 222 floor, which may be raised but never lowered;
- **Prohibition of slavery:** The prohibition of slavery in all forms – absolute, admitting no exception;
- **Abolition of the death penalty:** The abolition of the death penalty – no Atlantic institution or member state may execute a human being as punishment;
- **Independence of the Court:** The independence of the Atlantic Court of Constitutional Rights – any measure that subjects the Court to political override destroys the constitution;
- **Right of asylum:** The right of asylum – every person fleeing persecution, conflict, climate catastrophe, or systemic economic deprivation has the right to seek and receive protection. This right may not be capped, suspended, or made conditional;
- **Democratic legitimacy:** Democratic legitimacy – all governance authority derives from the consent of the governed. Permanent technocracy, military rule, and oligarchy are constitutionally impossible;
- **Structural asymmetry constraints:** The structural asymmetry constraints of Article 5 – the caps on single-member-state dominance across all Union domains;
- **Prohibition on permanent emergency:** The prohibition on permanent emergency – emergency is a temporary condition. A constitution that permits permanent emergency has abolished itself;
- **The dignity spectrum:** The dignity spectrum of Title III – the Union may expand its recognition of perspectives. It may never contract below the floor established for any category it has already recognized;
- **Rectification completion:** The rectification completion commitment – this obligation may not be abandoned before completion as certified by the Rectification Commission.

**Al. 3** – The Atlantic Court is the sole authority for determining whether a proposed amendment touches the intangible core. This determination is made before any democratic process.

Democratic processes do not have the power to end the constitution that gives them their legitimacy.

- Al. 4** – The intangible core may be expanded – new principles may be added by supermajority amendment combined with ratification by all Federal Member states. It may never be contracted. A principle once in the intangible core remains there permanently. Moral progress is irreversible.

## **CHAPTER 23 – AMENDMENT**

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### **Article 65 – The Philosophy of Amendment**

- Al. 1** – This Constitution is a living document in the specific sense that its authors intended: living not because it can be changed easily, but because it was written to be improved by generations who will know things its authors did not, face challenges its authors did not anticipate, and have the wisdom – if they have maintained the practices of democratic culture and honest governance – to do better.

### **Article 66 – The Amendment Procedure**

- Al. 1** – An amendment may be proposed by: the Assembly by absolute majority; the Council by qualified majority; the Survival Council for Survival Architecture matters; the Rectification Commission for rectification matters; or citizens' initiative signed by three percent of Atlantic Persons across at least one third of Federal Member states.
- Al. 2** – Upon proposal, the amendment enters a mandatory deliberation period of two years during which the full text is published in all Union languages, the Court issues a preliminary opinion, the Survival Council and Rectification Commission issue impact assessments, and Union-funded public deliberation is conducted in every member state.
- Al. 3** – Following deliberation, ratification requires: two-thirds of the Assembly; two-thirds of member states in the Council representing three-quarters of the Union's population; and ratification by three-quarters of Federal Member states through each state's own democratic procedure.
- Al. 4** – An amendment that fails at any stage may not be resubmitted for three years.
- Al. 5** – Every amendment carries a permanent record in the Constitutional Memory: the full text as originally proposed, every modification during deliberation, all voting records, all Court opinions, and a plain-language summary of what changed and why. This record cannot be sealed, classified, or removed.

### **Article 67 – Emergency Amendment**

- Al. 1** – Emergency Amendment – a faster path for constitutional change necessary to address an active civilizational threat – may be proposed only by the Atlantic Survival Council by unanimous Scientific College vote, addresses only provisions directly relevant to the active threat, and may not touch the intangible core under any circumstances.

- Al. 2** – Emergency Amendment requires Court authorization, ratification by two-thirds of the Assembly and three-quarters of the Council within thirty days, and carries an automatic three-year sunset unless renewed through the ordinary procedure.

## **CHAPTER 24 – THE CONSTITUTIONAL MEMORY**

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### **Article 68 – The Memory as Constitutional Organ**

- Al. 1** – The Atlantic Constitutional Memory is not an archive. It is a constitutional organ – a living institution with its own mandate, independence, and relationship to the Atlantic Peoples whose history it holds.
- Al. 2** – The Constitutional Memory holds the complete record of the Union's constitutional life: every Court decision with full reasoning; every Equity Assessment and Threat Horizon; every rectification disbursement; every backsliding finding; every emergency declaration and measure; every Transition Program assessment; every override of a Survival Council recommendation with mandatory public reasoning; and the complete record of every Assembly vote, Council decision, Commission regulation, and budget.
- Al. 3** – The Constitutional Memory is complete, permanent, and unalterable. No entry may be removed, modified, or reclassified after the fact. The destruction or falsification of Constitutional Memory entries is a constitutional crime – not against an archive but against the peoples whose history it holds.
- Al. 4** – The Constitutional Memory is universally accessible. Every Atlantic Person has the right to access every entry without condition, fee, identification, or justification. The Memory is a birthright of Atlantic citizenship.

### **Article 69 – The Memory Institution**

- Al. 1** – The Constitutional Memory is maintained by the Atlantic Memory Institute – an independent institution with its own budget, staff, and governance. No political authority may instruct the Institute on what to record or how to make it accessible. Its budget floor is one half of one percent of the Union's annual budget.
- Al. 2** – The Institute is governed by a Council of Archivists composed of professional archivists elected by their professional associations, civil society representatives, and generational representatives ensuring the perspectives of those entering constitutional life and those who have lived through it.
- Al. 3** – The Institute maintains the Memory in multiple physical and digital locations distributed across the Union's geographic diversity, with backup systems sufficient to survive any single catastrophic event. The Memory's preservation is coordinated with the Knowledge Preservation Mandate of Title V.
- Al. 4** – The Institute publishes an annual State of the Memory report – an assessment of completeness, accessibility, and integrity. The institution that holds the Union's memory keeps honest account of its own performance.

## **Article 70 – The Living Jurisprudence**

- Al. 1** – The Constitutional Memory includes the complete jurisprudence of the Atlantic Court – every decision, every opinion, every dissent – organized and searchable to make constitutional reasoning accessible to every Atlantic Person, not only to legal specialists.
- Al. 2** – Plain-language summaries of every significant decision are prepared by the Memory Institute, reviewed for accuracy by the Court, and published alongside the full legal text. The right to understand what the constitution means in practice is as important as the right to access what it says in theory.

## **CHAPTER 25 – THE LETTER TO THE FUTURE**

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### **Article 71 – What We Know We Got Wrong**

- Al. 1** – The authors of this Constitution know, with certainty, that they have made mistakes. The Union therefore maintains a permanent Constitutional Review Commission – composed of legal scholars, philosophers, practitioners, and ordinary Atlantic Persons selected by civic lottery – charged with identifying annually the provisions that experience has shown to be inadequate, counterproductive, or unjust.
- Al. 2** – The Commission's findings are published in full in the Constitutional Memory. Its most important function is to name what cannot yet be fixed – provisions known to be inadequate but for which no adequate replacement has yet been designed. Naming the known failures honestly, before a solution is found, is more valuable than pretending they do not exist.

### **Article 72 – What We Could Not Foresee**

- Al. 1** – The authors commit to the following acknowledgments, entered permanently into the Constitutional Memory alongside the text of this Constitution:
- On artificial intelligence and emerging sentience: the Recognition Threshold framework is more important than the specific provisions. If the provisions fail the framework, amend the provisions. Protect the framework;
  - On space governance: the provisions of Article 53 were written before permanent human habitation beyond Earth existed. They will require substantial revision as the practical realities of off-world governance become clear through lived experience;
  - On the dignity spectrum: the framework should expand to accommodate what is encountered. It should never contract below what has been recognized;
  - On the Atlantic itself: the boundaries of the relevant community may shift. The constitution should follow the community, not confine it.
- Al. 2** – The authors' most important acknowledgment is the simplest: we did not know everything. We tried to know enough. We built structures for correcting what we got wrong. We leave the rest to you.

### **Article 73 – The Obligations We Pass Forward**

- Al. 1** – To the Atlantic Peoples of the future, this Constitution passes the following obligations:

- Complete the rectification: however long it takes, finish the work of repairing what the Atlantic extraction period broke. The peoples who were extracted from deserve a Union that keeps its promises;
  - Maintain the memory: use it. The greatest protection against repeating the past is knowing it so well that its repetition becomes visible before it is complete;
  - Extend the dignity: wherever new forms of perspective are encountered, extend the recognition this Constitution established. The direction of moral progress is expansion, not contraction;
  - Keep the door honest: a union that admits members who do not share its values has become an empire with a nicer preamble;
  - Remember why we began: the Phlegraean Fields. The slave ships. The Reims cathedral. The Nobel laureate in the wheelchair. The species that understood it might not survive and chose to organize itself around that understanding rather than pretend otherwise.
- Al. 2** – The authors of this Constitution do not ask future generations for gratitude. They ask for continuation — the ongoing, imperfect, honest attempt to build a Union worthy of the peoples it serves and the challenges it faces.
- Al. 3** – The last word of this Constitution is not a legal provision. It is an acknowledgment: we tried. We knew the stakes. We knew our limitations. We built the best foundation we could with the knowledge, the wisdom, and the courage we had. The rest is yours.
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***In necessariis unitas. In dubiis libertas. In omnibus caritas.***

*In the essential, unity. In doubt, freedom. In all things, care.*

*Atlantic Union — Constitution — Atlantic Year One*