

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOVEREIGN REPUBLICS

(Interim Constitutional Extract Adopted Pursuant to the Treaty on the Union
of Sovereign States, 1991)

Preamble

In accordance with the Treaty on the Union of Sovereign States, and in recognition of the sovereign equality of the constituent republics, the Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics is hereby constituted as a federal and multinational state founded upon the principles of sovereignty, cooperation, constitutional legality, collective security, economic integration, and socialist democracy.

Pending the adoption of a permanent Constitution, the following provisions shall possess constitutional force throughout the territory of the Union.

CHAPTER I

FOUNDATIONS OF THE UNION

Article 1

The Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics shall constitute a voluntary federation of Sovereign Soviet Republics and Autonomous Soviet Republics united under a common constitutional order.

Article 2

The sovereignty of the Union shall derive from the freely expressed will of its constituent republics.

Article 3

The constituent republics shall retain all powers not expressly delegated to Union institutions by this Constitution or by the Treaty on the Union of Sovereign States.

Article 4

The territory of the Union shall consist of the territories of its constituent republics.

Article 5

No alteration of the constitutional status of a constituent republic shall take place without its consent and without approval of the State Council.

CHAPTER II

THE STATE COUNCIL

Article 6

The State Council shall be the supreme coordinating institution of the Union.

Article 7

The State Council shall consist of:

1. The President of the Union;
2. Such Union officials as may be designated by constitutional law;
3. The Heads of the Sovereign Soviet Republics;
4. The Heads of the Autonomous Soviet Republics represented within the Union framework.

Article 8

The State Council shall:

1. Ensure the stability and integrity of the Union;
2. Coordinate relations among constituent republics;
3. Resolve disputes arising between constituent republics and Union institutions;
4. Coordinate responses to emergencies affecting the Union;
5. Adopt measures necessary for the implementation of this Constitution and the Union Treaty.

Article 9

Decisions of the State Council shall be binding upon Union institutions and constituent republics in matters falling within Union jurisdiction.

CHAPTER III

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

Article 10

The President of the Union shall be the Head of State and guarantor of the Constitution.

Article 11

The President shall:

1. Represent the Union in international affairs;
2. Preside over the State Council;
3. Ensure observance of the Constitution;
4. Coordinate the activities of Union institutions;
5. Direct the foreign policy of the Union;
6. Serve as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

Article 12

The President shall exercise such additional powers as may be conferred by constitutional law.

CHAPTER IV

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION

Article 13

The Government of the Union shall be headed by the Prime Minister.

Article 14

The Government shall ensure the execution of Union laws and policies.

Article 15

The Prime Minister shall:

1. Direct the activities of the Government;
2. Coordinate economic policy;
3. Supervise federal ministries and agencies;
4. Ensure implementation of economic and infrastructure programs approved by the State Council.

CHAPTER V

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Article 16

The defence of the Union shall be entrusted to the Armed Forces of the Union.

Article 17

The Armed Forces shall be placed under the authority of the President and administered by the Ministry of Defence.

Article 18

The Ministry of Defence shall exercise authority over:

1. Strategic military planning;
2. Military districts;
3. Strategic military installations;
4. Strategic weapons systems;
5. Defence procurement and military readiness.

Article 19

Operational authority over strategic nuclear forces shall belong exclusively to the institutions of the Union.

Article 20

The Committee for State Security shall be the principal organ responsible for intelligence, counterintelligence, border security, and the protection of the constitutional order.

Article 21

The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall coordinate federal law enforcement, public order, emergency response, and inter-republic criminal investigations.

CHAPTER VI

THE UNION FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Article 22

The monetary system of the Union shall be unified and indivisible.

Article 23

The State Bank of the Union shall be the sole institution authorized to issue currency and conduct monetary policy.

Article 24

The State Bank shall regulate financial institutions, inter-republic settlements, and monetary circulation throughout the Union.

CHAPTER VII

THE SOVEREIGN SOVIET REPUBLICS

Article 25

Each Sovereign Soviet Republic shall possess:

1. Its own Constitution;
2. Its own legislative institutions;
3. Its own executive institutions;
4. Authority over internal administration;
5. Authority over economic development within its territory;
6. Authority over natural resources situated within its territory, subject to obligations established by Union law.

Article 26

The Head of a Sovereign Soviet Republic shall:

1. Represent the republic within the State Council;
2. Direct the executive institutions of the republic;
3. Ensure implementation of republican laws;
4. Protect the constitutional rights of the republic.

Article 27

The Sovereign Soviet Republics may enter into economic agreements with foreign entities insofar as such agreements do not contradict the foreign policy, defence, or monetary authority of the Union.

CHAPTER VIII

THE AUTONOMOUS SOVIET REPUBLICS

Article 28

Autonomous Soviet Republics shall enjoy constitutionally protected autonomy within their respective constitutional jurisdictions.

Article 29

Each Autonomous Soviet Republic shall possess:

1. A representative legislature;
2. An executive administration;
3. Authority over cultural and linguistic affairs;
4. Authority over local economic development;
5. Such additional powers as may be established by law.

Article 30

The Head of an Autonomous Soviet Republic shall:

1. Represent the interests of the Autonomous Republic before the State Council;
2. Direct the executive institutions of the Autonomous Republic;
3. Protect the constitutional autonomy of the Autonomous Republic.

Article 31

Autonomous Soviet Republics shall possess the right to petition the State Council directly regarding disputes with Union institutions or with the governments of Sovereign Soviet Republics.

Article 32

The constitutional autonomy of an Autonomous Soviet Republic may not be abolished, suspended, or altered without the approval of the State Council.

CHAPTER IX

PROCEDURE OF THE STATE COUNCIL

Article 33

At the commencement of each ordinary or extraordinary session of the State Council, the members of the Council shall elect from amongst themselves two Joint Chairmen of the State Council.

Article 34

The Joint Chairmen shall be elected by majority vote of the State Council and shall collectively preside over meetings, regulate debate, maintain order, determine the sequence of business, and perform such procedural functions as may be necessary for the conduct of Council proceedings. In the exercise of these functions, the Joint Chairmen shall conduct meetings and sessions fairly, impartially, and with due propriety.

Article 35

The Joint Chairmen shall be drawn from the representatives of the Union institutions, the Sovereign Soviet Republics, and the Autonomous Soviet Republics.

Article 36

The President of the Union may, whenever he considers that circumstances affecting the constitutional order, security, integrity, or stability of the Union so require, convene an Extraordinary Session of the State Council.