

ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM FRAMEWORK



1. ESTABLISHING THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSION

Timeline: Within the first 100 days in office.

Composition: The Commission shall include representatives from government, opposition, civil society, trade unions, the private sector, religious groups, youth and women's organizations, Indigenous Peoples, and the diaspora.

Support Structures: A fully funded

Secretariat will be established to provide administrative, technical, and legal expertise to the Commission.

Mandate:

- Conduct widespread national and diaspora consultations.
- Review existing constitutional provisions against international democratic standards.
- Produce and publish a **Draft Revised Constitution** for national debate within two years.



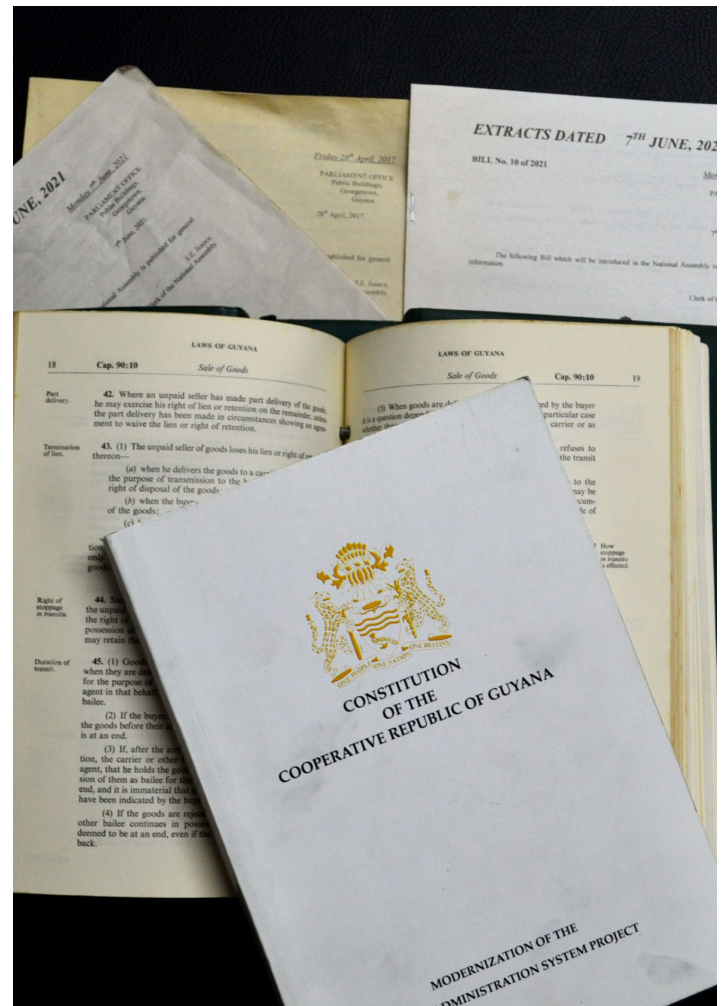
2. PRIORITY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The AFC will advance reforms that address the core weaknesses of Guyana's governance structure, including:

- **Limiting Executive Power:** Reform the powers of the executive presidency to strengthen parliamentary oversight and cabinet accountability.
- **Diaspora Inclusion:** Enshrine the participation of the Guyanese diaspora in national decision-making and implementation.
- **Inclusive Governance:** Introduce mechanisms to guarantee ethnic security, fair political representation, and shared governance models.
- **Judicial Independence:** Reform the process for appointing the Chancellor, Chief Justice, and other senior constitutional officers to ensure independence, merit, and transparency.
- **Rights Commissions:** Strengthen the roles, powers, and resources of Rights Commissions to safeguard the rights of all Guyanese.
- **National Patrimony:** Guarantee in the Constitution that every Guyanese has a right to benefit equitably from the nation's natural wealth.
- **Electoral Reform:** Reform GECOM and the broader electoral system to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections.

3. PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

The AFC will champion reforms that make Parliament more effective, accountable, and responsive:



- Transitioning to **full-time Members of Parliament**, compensated fairly with salaries pegged at two-thirds of a Minister's pay.
- Providing MPs with **technical and administrative staff** to enhance law-making and oversight capacity.
- Establishing a **bi-partisan Standing Committee of the Future**, with civil society and academic input, to assess long-term challenges and opportunities.
- Constructing a **permanent, fully resourced Office of the Leader of the Opposition**, including adequate space and staffing for all Opposition MPs.
- Strengthening Parliament's independence through:



- Increased subventions to support Opposition operations.
- An **Office of Budget Control** to provide independent analysis of government spending and ensure fiscal accountability.

4. REGIONAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

The AFC will democratize and empower local and regional governance structures to ensure balanced national development:

- **Fair Compensation:** Mayors and RDC Chairpersons will receive salaries equivalent to MPs.
- **Support for Councillors:** Regional councillors will receive a monthly package of \$120,000 plus allowances to enable effective part-time service.
- **Decentralization:** Encourage meaningful devolution of power and resources to local government organs, consistent with international models of subsidiarity and citizen participation.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthen local governance institutions through training, modernized systems, and transparent

resource allocation.

IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES

To ensure legitimacy and public trust, the AFC's reform process will be guided by the following principles:

- **Inclusivity** – Every voice matters, from grassroots communities to diaspora Guyanese.
- **Transparency** – All stages of the reform process will be open, with public access to documents, deliberations, and draft proposals.
- **Public Participation** – Nationwide consultations, town halls, digital platforms, and diaspora forums will ensure broad citizen input.
- **International Standards** – The process will draw on global best practices, including models from South Africa, Kenya, and New Zealand, where reform was achieved through consensus-building.
- **Time-bound Deliverables** – The AFC will ensure that constitutional reform is not an indefinite promise, but a structured process with clear deadlines.

CONCLUSION

Constitutional reform is not merely a legal exercise—it is the cornerstone of a **new Guyana**. By building an inclusive governance system, protecting the rights of all citizens, empowering local institutions, and ensuring accountability at every level, the AFC will lay the foundation for national unity and sustainable development.

The AFC commits to delivering a **Revised Constitution within two years**, to be approved through parliamentary consensus or, where necessary, by **national referendum**, giving every Guyanese the power to shape the nation's future.

