PEACE PACT FOR THE 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE GAMBIA

16th November 2026

※ PREAMBLE

1. We, the Candidates for the Presidential Election of 5 December 2026 in the Republic of The Gambia, having been duly certified by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to contest the Election, meeting at Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Centre on this 16th day of November 2026, at the instance of the Gambian people and their persistent demand for peaceful elections, and following the consultations held in Banjul from 29 September to 2 October 2026 with the President of the Republic, the IEC, political parties and coalitions, civil society, religious leaders, the media, Inter-Party Committees and the diplomatic community;

2. Expressing our appreciation to the Eminent Person, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, and the Moral Guarantors, namely the Alhagie Foday Essa Darboe, President of the Supreme Islamic Council, Most Revd Bannie Manga, President of the Gambia Christian Council and Fatou Jagne Senghore, representative of the civil society organisation, for their wonderful contribution; to International IDEA for their support to this process; and to other partners for their continued accompaniment;

3. Reaffirming our commitment to the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia (1997), the Elections Act (2025), the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2001), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007) and the IPC Peace Pledge also known as the Jangjangbureh Peace Accord (2026);

4. Recognising that the democratic gains of the past decade, including freedom of association and expression, press freedom and wider political inclusion, are precious and fragile, and that we, as those who seek the highest office, bear the first responsibility for protecting them;

5. Acknowledging with deep concern that the present political climate could be marked by hate speech, tribal and ethnic stereotyping, dehumanising and discriminatory language, threats of violence, declining trust in electoral institutions, and the rapid spread of disinformation, including content manipulated or generated by artificial intelligence, all of which sow division, threaten social cohesion and the peaceful conduct of these elections;

6. Recognising that the words, silence, gestures and actions of leaders influence and shape the conduct of their followers, and that those who hold or seek high office bear a special duty to lead by example;

7. Affirming that the sovereign will of the Gambian people, expressed through a free, fair, transparent and credible election administered by the IEC, determines who governs them, we commit to upholding the integrity of the electoral process

8. Being committed to taking all necessary and appropriate measures to consolidate our nascent democracy and preserve The Gambia's well-deserved reputation as a haven of peace, stability and constitutionalism on the African continent;

9. Renewing our commitment to peace in all our political activities before, during

and after the 5 December 2026 Presidential Election, we hereby solemnly declare and commit, for ourselves and on behalf of our parties, coalitions, campaign teams and supporters, as follows:

※ ARTICLE 1 – PEACEFUL, ISSUE-BASED CAMPAIGNING

1.1. We shall run issue-based campaigns at village, town, city, district, constituency, municipal, regional and national levels, presenting our vision, policies and records to the electorate.

1.2. We shall criticise policies and public records, not private lives, families or personal characteristics.

1.3. We shall respect the right of every candidate and party to campaign freely in every part of the country. There shall be no "no-go areas", and we shall not obstruct any candidate's access to voters.

1.4. We shall cooperate with the IEC, the Gambia Police Force and one another on the scheduling of rallies, processions and other activities, and shall observe the IEC campaign timetable and the rules on the campaign and silence periods.

※ ARTICLE 2 – HATE SPEECH AND TRIBAL BIGOTRY

2.1. We shall not make, or allow in our name, any statement or content, in any language, form or medium, that:

(a) dehumanises any person or community;

(b) threatens or calls for violence or bloodshed, or suggests a community will not be allowed to govern, vote or live in peace;

(c) blames or stereotypes an ethnic, tribal or religious group, including through coded language or humour;

Dehumanises and demeans based on gender.

2.2. Duty to respond. When anyone aligned with us makes such statements, in our presence or not, we shall publicly condemn them and call for retraction. Silence or applause is inconsistent with this Pact.

2.3. We shall take disciplinary or corrective action against members, officials and spokespersons who persist in doing so.

2.4. We shall use our platforms to promote national unity, social cohesion, mutual respect and the diversity of The Gambia, and shall ensure that our campaign teams and rallies reflect it.

※ ARTICLE 3 – PRESS FREEDOM, DIGITAL MEDIA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

3.1. We shall respect the independence of media institutions and journalists and shall not obstruct or undermine their work.

3.2. We shall commit to fair, accurate and timely disclosure of information to journalists covering elections and facilitate access to candidates or their representatives.

3.3. We shall refrain and discourage our members and supporters from acts of intimidation, harassment or violence against of journalists, and any acts that could jeopardise their safety and security.

3.4. We shall direct all our complaints against journalists and media institutions to relevant institutions for redress and shall not take the law in our hands or use our platforms to discredit the work of independent journalists and media institutions or instigate violence against them.

3.5. We shall not create, share or knowingly amplify false or misleading information about candidates, the IEC, the voting process or results.

3.6. We shall not create, commission or circulate AI-generated or manipulated audio, video, images or text (deepfakes, cloned voices) that impersonate a person, fabricate events or statements, or aim to deceive voters, incite hatred or undermine confidence in the election. Any AI-generated content in our campaigns shall be clearly labelled.

3.7. We shall not use bots, fake accounts, troll networks or automated mass messaging. We shall not use data or AI to target ethnic or religious fears.

3.8. We are responsible for our official and affiliated accounts and pages. We shall correct or remove false or manipulated content within 24 hours of becoming aware of it.

※ ARTICLE 4 – VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION AND INCLUSION

4.1. We shall refrain from and condemn all violence and intimidation, and shall not form, fund or tolerate militias, "task forces" or youth groups for that purpose. Supporters shall not carry weapons to political events.

4.2. We shall not disrupt the events of other candidates or damage their election materials, vehicles or premises, and shall not buy votes or coerce voters.

4.3. We shall protect the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and minorities, and shall not tolerate violence or online abuse against them.

※ ARTICLE 5 – STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC RESOURCES

5.1. Candidates who hold public office, and those aligned with them, shall not use state resources campaigning.

5.2. State media and public facilities shall be available to all candidates on equal and transparent terms, including those willing to pay.

5.3. Security services or any state agency shall not intimidate, harass or arbitrarily arrest opponents, supporters, journalists or observers, or unduly use force and shall remain independent, impartial and professional.

※ ARTICLE 6 – RELIGIOUS AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS

6.1. We shall not use places of worship, sermons or religious authority for partisan campaigning, nor claim that voting for any candidate is a religious duty or sin.

6.2. We shall respect the neutrality of religious and traditional leaders and support their call for sermons to promote peace before, during and after the Election.

6.3. We welcome and support the call for sermons in mosques and churches to promote peace, tolerance and national unity before, during and after the Election, and for religious and traditional leaders to refrain from partisan comment.

※ ARTICLE 7 – THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE IEC

7.1. We shall respect the independence and constitutional mandate of the IEC and shall cooperate with it throughout the electoral process.

7.2. Where we have concerns about the conduct of the IEC, including the voter register, we shall raise them through the proper channels: written complaints, the IEC's stakeholder briefings, the Inter-Party Committee, the Monitoring Committee and the courts. We shall not make unsubstantiated allegations of fraud, or run campaigns including AI generated aimed at discrediting the IEC.

7.3. We shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of electoral officers,

polling stations, election materials and the voters' register from threat, abuse, interference, destruction or theft.

7.4. We shall appoint trained polling agents who will conduct themselves peacefully, observe the process, and obtain signed copies of polling station result sheets.

7.5. We welcome local and international observers, shall facilitate their work, and shall not harass or obstruct them.

※ ARTICLE 8 – RESULTS AND DISPUTES

8.1. Declaration of results. We recognise that, under the law, the IEC is the only body mandated to declare the results of the Presidential Election. We shall accept the results as announced by the Chairperson of the IEC.

8.2. Parallel tallies. We recognise the right of parties to observe counting through their agents and to compile, publicise their own tallies from polling station result sheets. No candidate, party, coalition or supporter shall announce such tallies as results, declare victory, or claim to have won before the IEC has declared the results.

8.3. Restraint. We shall restrain our supporters from violence, provocative celebrations or unlawful protests during and after polling, and shall call for calm throughout the counting, collation and declaration of results.

8.4. Disputes. We shall resort only to lawful and peaceful means, including the IEC's complaints procedures and the courts, to resolve electoral disputes, and shall respect the decisions of the courts.

8.5. Peaceful transition. Candidates who are declared losers shall concede and urge their supporters to accept the outcome. The winner shall govern for all Gambians and shall pursue national reconciliation and unity.

※ ARTICLE 9 – OUR CALL ON OTHER INSTITUTIONS

9.1. In the shared interest of a peaceful election, we call upon:

(a) IEC to maintain its regular briefings to all stakeholders; to publish timely and consistent voter register data, with clear explanations for any deletions or discrepancies; to make available both the cleaned register and the register of deleted names as planned; to post results at polling stations and publish

results by polling station; and to respond promptly to complaints;

(b) Security services to act impartially and professionally towards all candidates, supporters, journalists and observers;

(c) Media to respect the code of ethics of journalists and ensure among others: to give balanced and equitable coverage to all candidates, to verify before publishing, and to refuse to platform hate speech or tribal rhetoric;

(d) Media regulators to monitor and act swiftly when the electoral laws are violated by media institutions and provide adequate and proportionate remedies to affected parties.

(e) Religious and traditional leaders to preach peace and to remain non-partisan;

(f) Civil society and community leaders to conduct community-level dialogues, civic education and peace messaging, and to monitor and report incidents of hate speech and violence to the IEC and police;

(g) Social media and messaging platforms, telecommunications operators, content creators and influencers to act swiftly against hate speech, incitement, coordinated inauthentic behaviour and manipulated media, and to cooperate with the Monitoring Committee and the IEC; and

(h) The Gambia's development and diplomatic partners to coordinate their support and messaging, and to continue to accompany the process with a shared understanding of the boundaries of non-interference.

※ ARTICLE 10 – MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

10.1. A Monitoring Committee of the Eminent Person and the Moral Guarantors (Supreme Islamic Council, Gambia Christian Council and a civil society representative), supported by International IDEA shall monitor adherence to this Pact.

10.2. Complaints are submitted to the Secretariat with evidence and acknowledged within 24 hours. The party concerned responds within 48 hours. The Committee seeks quiet resolution first and issues a public statement if that fails. Violence, and manipulated media in the final week before polling, are treated as urgent.

10.3. We shall cooperate with the Committee and act on its recommendations in good faith. It shall convene signatories during the campaign and after polling.

10.4. This Pact is a political and moral commitment and does not limit the law or the powers of the IEC, the security services and the courts.

※ ARTICLE 11 – DISSEMINATION AND DURATION

11.1. Within 72 hours of signing, we shall brief our party structures, campaign teams, spokespersons, social media managers and supporters on this Pact, in English and the national languages.

11.2. This Pact remains in force until the IEC has declared the results, any petitions have been concluded and the transition is complete. We commit to a separate Code of Conduct for the Parliamentary Elections of 10 April 2027.

※ ANNEX A – DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct:

1. **Hate speech** means any speech, writing, image or conduct that attacks, threatens, demeans, dehumanises or incites hostility or violence against a person or group on the basis of ethnicity, tribe, religion, region, race, gender, disability, descent or origin. Criticism of policies, public records or ideas is not hate speech.

2. **Dehumanising language** means language that describes people as animals, vermin, disease or otherwise as less than human.

3. **Disinformation** means false or misleading information that is created or shared with the intention to deceive or cause harm; misinformation means false information shared without that intent.

4. **Synthetic media** means audio, video, images or text that have been generated or materially altered by artificial intelligence or other digital means so that they appear to be authentic recordings of real people, events or statements, including deepfakes and voice clones.

5. **Coordinated inauthentic behaviour** means the use of networks of fake, anonymous, automated or purchased accounts, or of undisclosed paid actors, to manipulate public debate.

6. **Parallel tally** means a party's own compilation of results taken from polling station result sheets, which does not constitute an official result.

SIGNED BY THE CANDIDATES - 16 NOVEMBER 2026

Having read, understood and freely agreed to the contents of this Code of Conduct, we, the Candidates, sign below on this 16th day of November 2026:

H.E. Adama Barrow
National People's Party (NPP)

H.E. A.N.M. Ousainu Darboe
United Democratic Party (UDP)

H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray
Independent

Mr. Ebrima Tabora Manneh
People's Alliance Party (PAP)

Mr. Almameh Gibba
Independent

Dr. Lamin J. Darbo
Independent

Mr. Modou Lamin Sima
Alliance of Progressive Citizens (APC)

Mr. Talib Ahmed Bensouda
United for Nation, Integrity, Transformation and Equality (UNITE)

WITNESSED BY:

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas
Eminent Person

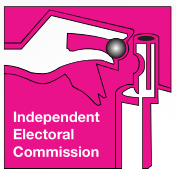
Mr. Joseph Colley
Chairman, IEC

Imam Alhaji Essa Darboe
President, Gambia Supreme Islamic Council

Most Revd. Bishop Bannie E.F. Manga
Chairperson, Gambia Christian Council

Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore
Senior Representative of Civil Society

Ms. Jainaba Faye
International IDEA - Gambia



Independent
Electoral Commission
The Gambia

International IDEA

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Funded by
the European Union

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